

Penn State Harrisburg

Spring/Summer 2016

Currents



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Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

It is hard to believe that when Penn State Harrisburg opened in 1966 as the Capitol Campus, there were eight faculty members and 18 students. During the coming academic year, as we celebrate the college's 50th anniversary, we will enroll nearly 5,000 students who will be taught by over 400 faculty members.

Today, we are at the forefront of bringing a Penn State education not only to this region but around the world. Our students and faculty members come from all over the country and around the globe. And, the impact of our research and scholarship is far reaching, benefiting businesses, industries, government, education, and much more.

During this 50th anniversary, we will seize the opportunity to celebrate and rededicate ourselves to our mission of teaching, research and service. We hope that you will join us in celebrating.

Our "50 for 50th" campaign for the anniversary is going strong! To date, we have raised more than \$930,000. As a part of that effort, our goal is to secure funding to assist at least 50 additional students with private philanthropic support. If you are interested in supporting students through this fund or creating a scholarship award on your own, please contact our Office of Development at 717-948-6316.

Construction of the new Student Enrichment Center on campus is nearly finished and there is an air of excitement as the college gets a much needed new building for student services, especially as we continue to grow with each new semester. You are all welcome to campus to see how far we've come in 50 years, from a former Air Force base to one of the region's largest academic, research and innovation hubs. It gives me great pride to serve as chancellor at such an exciting time in our history.

As we celebrate our past, present and future, the stories in this issue of "Currents" certainly fit that theme, including a fun look at commencement, then and now. You will also read a story about the research of an American studies graduate student on the little known history of a popular segregated beach in Atlantic City. Also featured is a student who connected with the college's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to develop his own business selling handcrafted drums.

This is a unique time for Penn State Harrisburg, as we reflect on our humble beginnings, we celebrate our achievements over the years, and we look forward to all of our future successes. I am honored that you, our alumni have been a large part of all of it and I hope that we can count on your continued support over the next 50 years.

Information about our 50th anniversary celebration will continue to be forthcoming. Visit harrisburg.psu.edu/50th-anniversary for all of the details.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.



Currents

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CHANCELLOR

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Commencement



That was then

In 1968, Penn State Harrisburg, Capitol Campus as it was then known, graduated its first class. Twelve students traveled to University Park for the commencement ceremony. In 1969, the college held its first graduation on campus and awarded 251 degrees.



This is now

In May 2016, Penn State Harrisburg celebrated its 109th commencement. Approximately 500 students, 150 faculty and staff, and 4,100 guests attended the ceremony held at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania. More than 1,800 people from around the world viewed the ceremony via live stream. More than 500 degrees were conferred that semester.



The Class of 2016

Number of U.S. states they call home: 12, including California, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico

Number of foreign countries they're from: 12, including Bahrain, Canada, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

Most popular majors: 1. Mechanical Engineering 2. Civil Engineering 3. Criminal Justice 4. Computer Science; Psychology (Tie)

The cap, as part of the academic regalia at graduations, was first conferred as a symbol of the master's degree and varied greatly by institution. Some were stiff, some soft, some square, others round. All were decorated with a tuft at the center, the precursor to the tassel used on today's American "mortarboard." The flat-topped mortarboard style generally followed throughout the U.S. as borrowed from Oxford University in England. Today, the mortarboard has also become an artist's palette for many graduates.



Let the ceremony begin

Since 1973, Penn State Harrisburg graduation ceremonies have begun with an academic procession led by a member of the faculty carrying the official mace of Penn State Harrisburg.

Originally an instrument for battle, the mace has an interesting history in academic ceremonies. In 1588, Queen Elizabeth visited Oxford University, where she gave a speech at the conclusion of which she presented Oxford with her personal royal mace. The second record of a mace being presented to a university came in 1629 when King Charles I presented his to Cambridge, establishing a custom that the mace be used at all academic ceremonies. The mace came into use in the U.S. in the nineteenth century when academic ceremonies were being modeled on European customs.

Two Penn State Harrisburg faculty members and a student designed and created the college's mace because the University mace could not be made available for all occasions.

Created by retired faculty members David Kravitz and William K. Aungst, the mace was designed similarly to those throughout history. Shaped from solid walnut, it was fabricated in one of the college's engineering laboratories. One end holds a solid cast aluminum flame designed by Rege Wynn Leach, chosen from among others submitted in a competition for students enrolled in an art technology course. The other end is shaped like a crown and is decorated with highly polished Nittany Lions, replicas of the famed University shrine.

The mace is carried in the procession with the device head up, symbolic of the University. After the ceremony is completed and credentials bestowed upon graduates, the mace is carried with the flame up, symbolizing the recognition of the knowledge they have acquired.



Regal in regalia

The practice of wearing academic dress dates in the United States from 1754, when King George I chartered King's College (now Columbia University) and translated to the colonies academic regulations from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

In 1895, a commission of leading American educators devised a standard code of academic dress and adopted black as the standard color for academic robes.

Still in effect, this code was modified slightly in 1935 and 1960. Many universities, under the new rules, adopted colored robes instead of black. Today, Penn State permits degree holders to wear blue gowns.

The hoods of those receiving graduate degrees vary in shape and size, with the trimming around the hood's edge varying in color based on the discipline of the degree holder. The hood's satin linings are customarily drawn from the institution's official colors; Penn State degrees are designated by blue and white satin.



For the first time, at spring commencement 2016, Penn State recognized graduating students for their academic achievement or military service. The academic honor cord recognized the top 12 percent of baccalaureate degree candidates, with those who earned Highest Distinction wearing a blue and white cord, those who attained High Distinction wearing a blue cord, and those who earned Distinction wearing a white cord.

Undergraduate and graduate students serving the military received an honor cord to wear in recognition of their duty and sacrifice.

The red, white and blue cords were given to students in the following groups: active duty, reserve and National Guard service members; veterans; and graduates receiving a commission through Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and official U.S. Armed Forces recruiting programs.

In fall 2016, Penn State Harrisburg will issue legacy cords to graduates whose parents/grandparents also graduated from Penn State Harrisburg.



A commencement cancelled but not forgotten

A commencement ceremony is often one of the most memorable days in a person's life, not to mention quite an undertaking to orchestrate. Rarely, does anything stand in the way of this important event. But in 1972, when Hurricane Agnes poured some 19 inches of rain on Central Pennsylvania in a two-day period and flooded much of the area, Penn State Harrisburg was forced to cancel the official commencement ceremony. Many seniors instead helped the nearly 1,000 people who fled their homes and sought shelter on campus. Trailers were set up in front of the Olmsted Building and 100 families lived there for months in what became known as "Flood Village." Some students organized their own commencement ceremony with several faculty members in what was called the "Rump Ceremony." In 1997, members of the Class of 1972 were invited to be officially recognized during that year's commencement at the Hershey Theatre.



First Commencement Ceremony, 1968



The first graduating class of just 12 students traveled to University Park for a commencement ceremony held at Beaver Stadium.

Commencement Ceremony, May 2016



More than 500 graduates filled the Giant Center in Hershey for the spring 2016 commencement.

A HISTORY DISCOVERED CHICKEN BONE BEACH

Cheryl Woodruff-Brooks, a graduate student in Penn State Harrisburg's American studies program, thought she would do her thesis on the history of hip-hop. But a chance sighting of black-and-white photos in a Philadelphia gallery window in 2014 would eventually change her mind and open up to her a world during the 1930s to 1960s in which African Americans ruled a section of Atlantic City beach, known as "Chicken Bone Beach."

"We went inside the gallery and looked at the photographs, but I didn't think anything of it," Brooks said. "I bought a few postcards and that was it."

The next semester, she heard that the American Studies Conference was being held in New Jersey and they were looking for papers about Jersey shore history.



"I had that **LIGHT BULB MOMENT**, thinking of those gallery pictures," she said. A new thesis was born.



Chicken Bone Beach was a segregated beach for African Americans, and the photos were taken by John W. Mosley, a self-taught Philadelphia photographer. They tell an intriguing portion of American history about how African Americans, isolated from the rest of Atlantic City, created their own uniquely attractive haven. Mosley took thousands of photographs of African American residents of Atlantic City, as well as the visitors attracted to Chicken Bone Beach each summer.

"In his own way, he provided America with what we didn't get in our history books," Brooks said. "When you look back on that era, you don't see a lot of pictures of African Americans having a good time and smiling and laughing and dressing well. He took so many great pictures that really captured what life was like for these people. The pictures and the stories are really quite special."

The beach was nicknamed when workers would find the sand littered with chicken bones, because African Americans were not allowed to patronize the restaurants and had to bring their own food to the beach.

Brooks contacted Temple University library in Philadelphia, home of the John W. Mosley Photograph Collection, to view the extensive photograph collection. She was fascinated by what she saw. "There were families, there were kids, there were mixed race couples, there were celebrities rubbing shoulders with the general public," she said.

She also saw photos of civic leaders and entertainers, like Sammy Davis Jr., Martin Luther King Jr., Joe Louis, Josephine Baker, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and Dorothy Dandridge, to name a few.

According to Brooks, people were eager to have their picture taken by Mosley, and dressed accordingly. "The beach had its own 'Hollywood-ness,' it was important to make a fashion statement."

“There were families, there were kids,
there were mixed race couples,
**THERE WERE CELEBRITIES RUBBING SHOULDERS
WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC.”**



Empowered race by the sea

Seeing these images led Brooks to research more about how Atlantic City beaches came to be segregated and about the neighborhood that ran alongside Chicken Bone Beach, the Northside, where many African American people lived and worked.

She did extensive research, travelling to Philadelphia and Atlantic City and conducting interviews. Brooks spoke with a woman in her 90s who had visited the beach, and even discovered that her own uncle had met his wife there.

“The people I have talked to are so proud of their history and what their ancestors built in Atlantic City,” Brooks said “They were really happy to see someone like me take an interest in their story.”

Atlantic City was built by African Americans. During the Great Migration, blacks began seeking their fortune out of the South and into the industrialized cities of the North. During this time, resorts of Atlantic City were being built, offering African Americans opportunities to help build and work in the hotels and on the railroads.

Atlantic City was one of the first U.S. cities to build a resort near an ocean, which people heard about and wanted to visit. Whites from the Jim Crow South saw that blacks were allowed to be on any beach, and complained to hotel owners, who then sent letters to the black churches in Atlantic City, telling the people that Chicken Bone Beach was their beach and if they wanted to keep their jobs on the hotels, they would stay on that beach only.

“It was a desegregated town that was forced to segregate because of the rest of the world, particularly white southerners,” Brooks reflected.

Because Atlantic City became segregated, the African American community in the Northside banded together to empower their community. “Blacks were helping blacks, they were raising each other up so that they would be able to take care of themselves,” Brooks said. “They essentially created their own prosperous community, separate from Atlantic City.”

Brooks said the Northside had a strong, middle class society. They created literacy programs, entrepreneur schools for women and provided swim lessons to children not allowed to visit the YMCA. “They became self-sufficient by mirroring what Atlantic City did, but for their own people. They made Chicken Bone Beach a tourist attraction for blacks,” Brooks said.

This helped the beach become the shore’s most popular, attracting African American celebrities, civic leaders, athletes, entertainers, and tourists

from around the United States, as well as serving as an attractive beach for white Americans who were anti-racist or were rejected at other beaches due to their hippie or gay lifestyles.

Bringing Chicken Bone Beach to the masses

Brooks not only wanted to share the stories of Chicken Bone Beach visitors, she wanted to give people the opportunity to see Mosley’s photos, to provide the visual story through a gallery exhibit.

The idea caught the interest of Lawrence Knorr, owner and operator of the 2nd Floor Gallery in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

In February 2016, Brooks opened her gallery exhibit of the Chicken Bone Beach images, many of which had never been displayed publicly. The exhibit featured images from the Temple University Libraries; the Alfred M. Heston Collection; Atlantic City Free Public Library; and others given to Brooks by Atlantic City residents, friends and family members. The photos remained on display until April 2016.

“I wanted to incorporate what I have found, through research and interviews, and inform people on what the culture was like at Chicken Bone Beach, what the lifestyle was like for these African Americans,” Brooks said. “I wanted to emphasize what it was about them and the beach that made it so popular. These people are why the beach was so popular, because they weren’t allowed to fraternize on the boardwalk or go to the restaurants, so they had to create their own, very prosperous community.”

At the opening, Brooks said she talked with a woman, about 70 years old, who had been to the beach in her 20s. She said that she hadn’t even known that Chicken Bone Beach was the segregated beach; it was just “the place to be.”

Brooks is also working with Knorr to publish a book about the photos through his company, Sunbury Press. The concept combines a coffee table book and a scholastic work, telling a piece of history that hadn’t been shared.

While some books have been published about the Northside, little has been written about Chicken Bone Beach. “It’s not that the story of African American history in Atlantic City is not interesting; it just hasn’t been told in that way before,” Brooks said.

“There are a ton of interesting stories to be told,” she said. “The stories behind Chicken Bone Beach are the ones that I enjoy hearing, about how people built a community and helped each other make it during a difficult time in African American history.”

Historical photos courtesy of the John W. Mosley Collection, Charles L. Blockson Collection at Temple University Libraries.



He uses “a few hand tools and an extraordinary amount of patience and determination.”

Student drums up new business venture

Mechanical engineering technology is Allan Fausnaught's major. But music is his passion, and it has driven him to combine his affinity for working with his hands and his entrepreneurial spirit into a business – Woodland Percussions – creating handcrafted drums.

The Penn State Harrisburg junior has received help in establishing his new business from a student club for prospective entrepreneurs and the college's new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, headed by Professor of Practice Kevin Harter, the center's director.

The club lets students network, collaborate and support each other in endeavors from making drums to “creating the next great internet sensation,” Harter said. The center, which includes dedicated space for student entrepreneurs in its Innovation Den, provides student innovators with educational and advisory opportunities and helps connect them in the local community.

Harter assisted Fausnaught by reaching out within the community to find contacts in the music industry. Matt Bloom, founder of CrimeWatch Technologies, offered up several good contacts. One of those was Jason Rubal, owner of Seventh Wave Studio, a recording studio in Palmyra, Pennsylvania. Rubal now has one of Fausnaught's drums in his studio, and it has become a favorite for clients from around the world, he said.

“When I told Allan what I wanted, he nailed it exactly,” Rubal said.

Rubal asked for a snare drum with both a bright, crisp sound and a low end, chesty deep thump. “Usually a snare drum is good for one or the other. He was the first to give me both,” Rubal said.

Fausnaught said he first started banging on drums when he was three years old. With music-loving parents, he grew up listening to Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd. He got more serious about learning to drum in middle school, and loves anything rock and heavy metal.

Last summer, Fausnaught decided to build a drum from scratch as a hobby. The prototype turned out well. He took it to Dale's Drum Shop in

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for an honest opinion. The owners not only liked it, they put it on the shelf for sale.

Fausnaught has now made a half dozen drums, and each one gets better.

He starts at the lumber yard to choose the type of wood he wants. He cuts it into staves, glues it into a cylinder shape, and mills it with a lathe. He drills the holes for the hardware, which have to be very precise, and he stains the outside to make the drums look rustic but classy.

His promotional brochure describes them as “handcrafted solid wood drums with one-of-a-kind finishes” that he made “using little more than a decades old table saw, a few hand tools and an extraordinary amount of patience and determination.”

The first drum took him about 40 hours to make, but he now has it down to 12 to 14 hours. He is selling them for about \$650 each.

Fausnaught is also learning marketing. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center provided him and other students with opportunities to talk about their business ideas to people within the University community, including Penn State President Eric Barron and his wife, Molly, who have become fans. Barron highlighted the efforts of Fausnaught and other Penn State Harrisburg student entrepreneurs during a presentation for the Penn State University Board of Trustees in March, to which the students were invited guests. Fausnaught, who also is planning a professional video, continues to approach drum stores and attend music conferences to promote his fledgling business.

He plans to find a job in his major when he graduates, and make the drums on the side unless and until it looks like he can make a career of it. It's not really about the money, he said, it's about the music. He would like to join a professional band when he graduates as well.

Rubal thinks Fausnaught can make a living with his drums. One has already been used on albums by musicians from Berlin, Belgium, Los Angeles and other locales.

Harter said he does not know much about the music industry, but he is sure Fausnaught will be successful in whatever he does.

“Allan is all substance,” Harter said. “He is a hardworking student and committed. I gave him a couple of contacts, but he did all the follow-up, which is impressive for a young person.”



Penn State Harrisburg launches Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center

Penn State President Eric Barron and other University officials in February joined with David Black, president and CEO of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC, to launch the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Penn State Harrisburg. The center will enhance the entrepreneurial environment in Central Pennsylvania and encourage students, faculty and community members to transform their intellectual property and creative works into local businesses and industries.

In May 2015, President Barron awarded Penn State Harrisburg \$50,000 as a part of his INVENT Penn State initiative, focused on leveraging Penn State's research, knowledge and entrepreneurial spirit to bring to market needed ideas, products and services. The seed funding helps to support the center's activities.

As a part of this effort, Penn State Harrisburg has aligned with the Penn State Dickinson School of Law – Dickinson Law and the Penn State College of Medicine to create Invent Penn State in the Capital Region. This regional alliance will lead implementation of the Invent Penn State initiative in Central Pennsylvania, with support from the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC.

Penn State Harrisburg also has partnered with a local developer, Campus Heights, to provide the "Innovation Den," a space where students and teams can collaborate and develop their emerging innovations.



Professor helps revamp police training abroad

Nigeria is committed to improving the training of its police force, and Jennifer Gibbs, Penn State Harrisburg assistant professor of criminal justice, is helping the African country get there.

Gibbs was part of a three-member team that spent a week with six members of Nigeria's governmental police force. The Nigerian Fellows then visited police academies in Virginia and Maryland to see how their training might work in practice.

Gibbs said the trainees were enthusiastic about what they learned, which included a lot of hands on practice.

"Our role was to give them some information, then let them develop the knowledge," she said. "One Fellow said that if they do this right, they have the potential to change an entire generation of policing in Nigeria."

The training was coordinated through the Penn State Justice and Safety Institute (JASI) and was held in January in State College, Pennsylvania.

Gabriel Onyilo Elaigwu, chief superintendent of police for the Nigeria police force, said the training is valuable. "The program has shown us new ways on how to revamp our training institutions," he said. "We have our own methods – largely with a concentration on classroom work – but

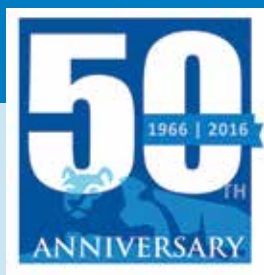
we now realize we also have to do a lot of physical activities and exercises, too. I'm confident it will help us, to a large extent, in remodeling our training needs."

Nigeria plans to hire an additional 10,000 police constables, and they will all need training, Gibbs said. It seemed a good time to revamp the agency's training methods.

Although she was one of the trainers, Gibbs said she learned from her pupils, too. Nigeria's police force is structured very differently than that in the U.S., she said. "Theirs is centralized, with only one police agency for the whole country – as opposed to some 18,000 police agencies in the U.S. – and all police are responsible to the inspector general."

Working with the Nigerian police officials reminded Gibbs of the need to adapt her teaching techniques for adult learners.

"The approach is very different and much less focused on lecturing," she said. "Our main role was as facilitators. We would deliver short pieces of information, say it in as many ways as possible, and then let the Fellows run with the ideas."



First Convocation Ceremony, October 1967



The convocation ceremony marks the formal entrance into the life and traditions of the University.

Convocation Ceremony, August 2015



Today, a tradition following the formal ceremony features the taking of a class photo. In 2015, some 850 students participated.

Experts discuss Flint water crisis, effects of lead in water

A panel of experts gathered at Penn State Harrisburg recently to discuss the water contamination crisis in Flint, Michigan, its effects on residents, the health impacts of lead, and public policy repercussions.

The discussion, featured Beverly Cigler, distinguished professor emerita of public policy and administration, Penn State Harrisburg; Rodney Nesmith, safe drinking water program manager, Southcentral Region, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Kandiah Sivarajah, state toxicologist, Pennsylvania Department of Health and adjunct professor of public health sciences, Penn State College of Medicine; and Yuefeng Xie, professor of environmental engineering, Penn State Harrisburg.

Summarizing media coverage of the water crisis in Flint, Xie stressed why Flint is an important case study.

“We see Flint in the news, we see the demonstrations, and political debates,” he said. “Many other cities have similar issues with lead and exposure and financial crises. We cannot rely on the media to tell the story; I think it is important to have experts here to discuss the issue.”

How the Flint water crisis began

Nesmith explained that hard economic times forced Flint to seek an alternative water supplier, which needed a year or so to be able to sell water to Flint. The city chose to use a standby filter plant on the Flint River that had been rarely operated, which lacked corrosion controls.

“The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) told Flint officials that they would have to protect against corrosion” and placed the city on six-month monitoring of the water system, a twice yearly sampling effort, Nesmith said.

“The first six months, there were no issues, or at least the public hadn’t become aware of them. The second six-month period, things began to snowball,” he said.

Residents reported issues with the taste, smell, and color of their water. Children reportedly were developing unexplained rashes and other illnesses.

“Michigan DEQ required Flint to do additional evaluations, but before those evaluations were done, some customers did their own and found lead violations. . . . That’s when Virginia Tech University researchers became



Rodney Nesmith, Kandiah Sivarajah, Beverly Cigler (left to right).
Yuefeng Xie (below).



involved, which got public attention,” Nesmith said. According to CNN, the researchers declared the water unsafe for drinking or cooking. “Flint officials and the Michigan DEQ realized the mistake they had made,” Nesmith said.

The impact of lead in the water

The general public is exposed to lead through drinking water, Sivarajah said, as well as other sources: contaminated dust; soil; deteriorated lead-based paint (pre-1978); imported foods and beverages; products such as cosmetics, jewelry, automotive batteries, computers, and toys; and activities such as mining, smelting, and other manufacturing processes.

Health effects related to lead exposure include blood issues, colic in children, elevated blood pressure, vision problems, neurological issues, and infertility. While adults and children are susceptible to health effects from lead exposure, children are

more sensitive because of their developing brains, nervous system, and other organs, according to Sivarajah. He noted that children also absorb more ingested lead than adults. “Adults absorb 10 to 20 percent of lead, while children absorb 40 to 50 percent,” he said.

Framing the issue in Flint

Describing the Flint situation as “entirely avoidable,” Cigler said that mistakes were made “by everyone everywhere,” noting that Flint’s problem is a part of a larger infrastructure investment problem in the United States. “Water and sewer are major parts of infrastructure. Our investment has been lacking,” she said.

Cigler cited lack of respect for the public as a lesson learned from the crisis.

“When citizens and external groups were doing their studies, they were laughed at, scorned, and ignored. There was no respect whatsoever for the general public,” she said.

She added that the Flint case “shows that essential, effective government policies have to be in place to deal with health and welfare, as that is government’s main purpose, to protect health and safety.”

Cigler said the situation in Flint resulted from cutting government to the point where it didn’t have the capacity to function properly. “Instead of using this as a reason to distrust government, we should realize the importance of these life and death decisions that people in government make, and provide the adequate capacity and capability to deal with them,” Cigler said.



Capstone projects keep it real

One team of senior mechanical engineering students at Penn State Harrisburg spent eight months designing a device for a real world client. Their project was needed by the company to scale down its 3D printing application for smaller volumes.

The project was among more than 50 innovative projects on display on May 6 during the senior Capstone Design Conference at Penn State Harrisburg. A long-standing tradition, senior engineering students are required to complete a capstone project, which combines classroom learning with real-life applications and is the culmination of their educational experience. In addition, students often collaborate with industry sponsors, like TE Connectivity and other companies, on projects of interest to the businesses.

“There is a real benefit to us and it is meaningful to the students,” said Brett Miller, senior engineering manager for TE Connectivity.

Among the projects were bots that battle, a virtual art gallery, a solar powered lawn mower, an eco-wall built of tropical plants and a phone charger that operates on body heat.

Jeremy Blum, associate professor of computer science, said the value in the capstone project is that the students learn to work together in teams and satisfy clients.

“They have to understand what the client really wants, even when the client doesn’t know,” he said.

Blum is a client himself for one of the teams that designed the Bot!Battle! system, an educational system that teaches computer science through computer games. Beginners learn programming by writing bots, programs that compete to solve various challenges. Blum plans to use the system over the summer during a workshop for high school students interested in the STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering, and math.

Computer science major Joshua Riojas was helping design various challenges that the bots will play including checkers, tic-tac-toe, Frogger, and other games. The programming becomes progressively more difficult



Senior engineering students are required to complete a capstone project, which combines classroom learning with real-life applications. Each spring, during the Capstone Design Conference, students present their projects, the culmination of their educational experience. Among this year’s projects were a body heat operated cell phone charger (l.) and a solar-powered lawn mower (r.).

as skills improve. “For young beginners, programming can sometimes feel overwhelming,” he said. “This tries to make it fun.”

Electrical engineering student Colt Stuckey devised the body heat charger. He built a battery into a cell phone case, which charges due to the temperature differential.

He found the process challenging, but satisfying. “There was a lot of pulling my hair out and late nights, but I really immersed myself in the design process,” he said. “It’s been awesome.”

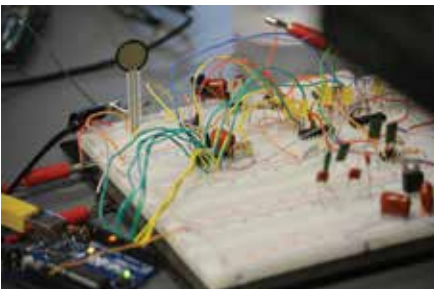
The civil engineering students designing an eco-wall were inspired by something similar at Drexel University.

The wall built of tropical plants naturally filters the air, keeps temperatures more level, lowers noise, helps recycle rain water and improves morale, according to student Zach Gregory.

“We had to design it top to bottom,” Gregory said. “Figuring out what needed to be done, scheduling, marketing, assigning tasks, pricing.”

Student Rieley Loch summarized the capstone experience: “It takes all the theoretical and makes it real.”

And there’s an added value – the experience can lead to good future prospects. One student had an interview with Google coming up, Stuckey has a job with TRC Solutions lined up after graduation and also is working on a patent for his cell phone charger, and Riojas will be returning to Penn State Harrisburg on an assistantship to get his master’s degree.



around campus



The African American Read In on campus promoted diversity in literature, encouraged people to read, and shined a spotlight on African American authors.



Award winning Chinese calligrapher Dianfu Li demonstrated his art this spring, which has been exhibited around the world.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





Yon makes Penn State Harrisburg history

Penn State Harrisburg track and field athlete Cameron Yon, of Patuxent River, Maryland, made college history on May 26 at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, claiming the bronze medal in discus, with a career high toss of 53.19 meters

Yon is the first Penn State Harrisburg track and field athlete to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Championships in school history. He came into the contest ranked 14th in the country.

A freshman, Yon claimed multiple wins at various competitions, including a Capital Athletic Conference championship. He also took second in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships.

“We are proud of Cameron’s performance all season long. He has set a standard for all Penn State Harrisburg athletes,” said Danielle Lynch, head track and field coach. **“Cameron rose to the level of his competition and came to play improving from 14th to finish third. This is an amazing feat and one that will be talked about for years to come.”**

This is a major accomplishment for Penn State Harrisburg’s young track and field teams, entering just its second year of competition.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



- Baseball pitcher **Mark Artley** and three-sport standout **Kiara Carter** were named Penn State Harrisburg’s 2015-2016 Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.
- In women’s basketball, Carter led the Lions with 9.4 points a game and was the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) second leading rebounder, averaging 10 rebounds a game. She was named a CAC Second Team All-Conference player.
- Baseball made the CAC playoffs for the first time since joining the conference and came away with a first round win over top seed Frostburg State. Mark Artley was named to the CAC All Conference First Team; **Brendan Riotto** received Second Team honors.
- Senior softball player **Rieley Loch** led the team in every offensive category on her way to being named to the CAC All-Conference Second Team.
- The indoor track and field teams crowned their first Indoor CAC Champion on the men’s and women’s sides. **Ashley Williams** and **Jalil Clayton** claimed CAC Indoor Track and Field individual championships, both being the first in program history. Williams finished first in the 60-meter hurdles; Clayton claimed the high jump title.
- In indoor track and field, Ashley Williams and Cameron Yon took home individual CAC championships while Jalil Clayton placed second in the high jump and 400-meter hurdles. All three qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships.
- Golfers **Tyler Massar**, **Keith Miller** and **Tyler Shank** all were honored with CAC Second Team All-Conference honors.

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around campus



Holi, also called the Festival of Colors, is a popular Hindu festival which the college community celebrated at the end of the winter season.



Students and staff joined with Penn State Extension to harvest and plant over 650 live stakes on the stream that drains the campus to help strengthen the banks and reduce erosion.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Program aims to help launch careers

TJ became the first student to complete Penn State Harrisburg's Career Studies Program in spring 2016. He now holds two jobs, one in retail services at JCPenney, and one in nursing and personal care at Homeland Center, Harrisburg. He also graduated high school in June 2016.

Available to students with intellectual and other disabilities, ages 18 to 25, the Career Studies Program, with the support of a grant from the D.R.E.A.M. Partnership, was launched in fall 2015. Students combine coursework with campus activities and career exploration onsite in the workplace.

When TJ's school district transition coordinator suggested the new program at Penn State Harrisburg that helps students earn certificates in customer relations, it seemed like the right fit. TJ's mother said she is very proud.

"I think the program was excellent for him," Brenda Wooding said during a ceremony on campus to mark the end of the program's inaugural year.

TJ works best in small groups and in settings where he can perform a variety of tasks and apply his academic knowledge and skills. With the program's small group interactions, the help of peer mentors and individual instruction, he was able to focus well, Wooding said.

The opportunity for work experiences at Homeland Center also led to a permanent job. TJ always liked older people and wanted a career working in a field where he can provide help and support to them, she said. At the center, he leads activities like Bingo and cards, interacts individually with residents, and helps during outings with them.

"They love him at Homeland," said program director Dr. Linda Rhen, assistant professor of special education. "He's very personable; he spends time with residents and helps them to stay active." Before he began his practicum at Homeland, we had numerous meetings with the administration and staff there to ensure that he completely understood the importance of service being provided to the residents.

"We are able to offer the career studies program to those who may not typically qualify for post-secondary education at a university," Rhen said. "We work to match the student's talents and interests with jobs in the workplace. I am proud to be part of a university that welcomes diversity and inclusion, and I hope the success of this program will lead to our ability to offer more of these opportunities."

Originally intended as a one-year program, it has already been expanded to two years for new students and current students who made progress and want to continue. Donhelen Hodges is one of them. She graduated from Cedar Cliff High School in 2012, and enrolled in the customer relations program in the fall of 2015. She plans to continue next year, and also hopes to take some academic courses at Penn State Harrisburg.



Students in the Career Studies Program take courses in customer relations and explore careers firsthand.

At the culminating event, she stood in front of students, families and teachers to deliver a PowerPoint presentation about Hershey's chocolate. She began by handing out bite-sized chocolates and asking, "Don't you feel better?"

She had never done anything like this before, she said. She was scared, but kept telling herself, "You can do this." The program has given her confidence, she said.

The poster she created to describe her experience with the program had the theme, "If there is only one thing you should love, it's Penn State Harrisburg."

Her dream is to one day open a café welcoming to all races and abilities.

Donhelen's mother, Susan, said her daughter entered a sheltered workshop after she graduated from high school, but didn't like it.

"She wanted to go back to school," Susan Hodges said. "She just loves it."

Ashley Norton, Jason Moffitt and Jeanine Todd are secondary education majors at Penn State Harrisburg who volunteered to mentor the students. Moffitt said the program is about "helping to remove barriers for people who are marginalized in society."

Todd said it is good that higher education institutions are beginning to help students with intellectual and learning disabilities meet their potential.

"Before, inclusive education had been K to 12," she said. "Now colleges are taking up the baton."



Sofie Karasek, anti-sexual violence activist and co-founder of End Rape on Campus, spoke after a screening of the Oscar nominated documentary, "The Hunting Ground," in which she was featured.



Earth Day advocates environmental awareness and conservation, and features guests and educators from various organizations.

Penn State Harrisburg to help fight heroin and opiate abuse in region

Penn State Harrisburg has been awarded \$77,250 from the Dauphin County Commissioners to develop a website that would provide streamlined information on heroin and opiate prevention and treatment services in Dauphin County. The project, in partnership with Dauphin County Drug & Alcohol Services, will make it easier for those seeking information by narrowing and organizing a multitude of local resources into an easy, convenient, user-friendly format.

The project will be headed by Dr. Weston Kensinger, lecturer in health education. Dr. Judith Witmer, assistant professor of education and director of the Capital Area Institute for Mathematics and Science (CAIMS), will lead a future aspect of the project, developing community and school-based heroin and opiate prevention programming. CAIMS will also serve as the project management center.

Heroin addiction has risen in Pennsylvania and has become a serious public health crisis. Since 2000, there has been a 162-percent statewide increase in heroin overdose hospitalizations and 225-percent increase in opiate overdoses. In Pennsylvania's South Central Region, where Dauphin County is situated, the increases are 305 percent and 442 percent for heroin and opiate overdose hospitalizations.



Integrated program leads to bachelor and master engineering degrees in five years

Penn State Harrisburg now offers an option for bachelor's of science candidates in civil engineering to enroll in an integrated, continuous program of study leading to both the bachelor's, as well as a master's of engineering in environmental engineering. The ability to coordinate as well as concurrently pursue the two degree programs enables students to earn the two degrees in five years.

In the civil engineering program, emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of civil engineering principles and design techniques. The master of engineering in environmental engineering program focuses on the delivery of clean water to the public, plus the prevention and treatment of environmental pollutants. The program has a strong water focus as a result of the campus location in the Lower Susquehanna River watershed, a critical drainage area that affects the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.

"We are excited to provide this opportunity to our exceptional undergraduate students in civil engineering," said Dr. Shirley Clark, program coordinator for the environmental engineering master's program.

"Giving students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge in environmental engineering is critical in an era where environmental pollution is posing new challenges to our health and sustainability."

around campus



The 44th annual Model United Nations conference provided more than 300 high school students from 21 Pennsylvania schools the opportunity to discuss solutions for major international issues.



Noted military historian and Penn State laureate Carol Reardon discussed the importance of studying and understanding war.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Book captures college history through vintage images

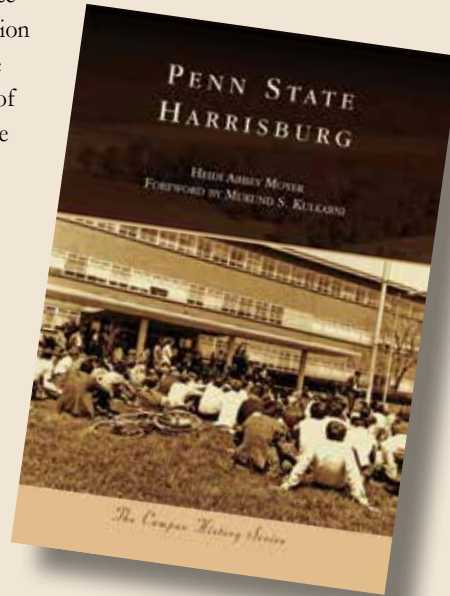
Penn State Harrisburg archivist and humanities reference librarian Heidi Abbey Moyer has authored the newest addition to Arcadia Publishing's Campus History Series, "Penn State Harrisburg." The book includes 200 vintage images, many of which have never been published, and chronicles Penn State Harrisburg's history.

Established in 1966, Capitol Campus as it was first named, was the first upper division and graduate center established in Pennsylvania and one of only three in the nation at the time. Penn State Harrisburg now has served the vital role of bringing a Penn State education to the South Central Pennsylvania region and well beyond for more than half a century.

Located in Middletown, eight miles east of Harrisburg and on the site of the 19th-century Keystone Farm, the college occupies 218 acres that operated as the Olmsted Air Force Base until it was purchased by the University 50 years ago.

Penn State Harrisburg has grown from only 18 students to become a comprehensive four-year college and graduate school with an enrollment of nearly 5,000. Featuring rare photographs and unique publications from the college's extensive archives, "Penn State Harrisburg" illustrates the college's journey – the people, places, events, and activities that have influenced its progress since the 1960s.

The book is available at the Penn State Harrisburg bookstore and other area bookstores, independent and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing.



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Bathtub Races, 1972



A Penn State Harrisburg tradition, the first bathtub race was held in May 1972 and featured five teams, including one from Penn State Berks. The winner finished the four mile race in 18 minutes.

Bathtub Races, 2016



Bathtub races were revived 10 years ago. The competitors still race in the homemade tubs, but now the race is roughly a 50-yard dash to the finish line.

Got stories?

We want to hear them! As we celebrate Penn State Harrisburg's 50th anniversary, we'd love to hear about your best campus memories. Share them at Penn State Harrisburg, Alumni Office, hbgalumni@psu.edu or 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715

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WE ARE! WEEKEND OCTOBER 14-16, 2016



More on We Are Weekend and other 50th anniversary events at harrisburg.psu.edu/50th-anniversary.

Want to schedule a reunion for your program, class, club or other group? Contact lad4@psu.edu.

Friday, October 14

- Alumni Awards Dinner, honoring the 2016 and past recipients.



Saturday, October 15

- **Reunite** with classmates. **Reconnect** with faculty and staff at program and club reunions.
- **Relive** those concerts on the lawn with **Britishmania**, a Beatles cover band, and local artist **Corinna Joy**.
- **Enjoy** food, ice cream, and a local 50th anniversary commemorative wine.
- Turn back time with campus tours. **Reminisce** in our memorabilia room and a historic dorm room.
- **Visit** other campus stops and enter to **win Penn State Football tickets**.
- **Shop** at the brand new bookstore.
- **Learn** about college traditions old and new with featured speaker Dr. Simon Bronner.

Sunday, October 16

- **Join activities** with the Penn State Harrisburg Benefiting THON organization, the Criminal Justice Program Reunion, and much more.