



Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Magazine

Currents

A Survivor's Story

PENNSTATE



Harrisburg

Spring 2007

Greetings from the Chancellor

Welcome to the Spring 2007 issue of *Currents*, your Penn State Harrisburg alumni magazine.

While Spring usually comes with a sense of excitement on college campuses, the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech University has sent a harsh reminder to all of us that college campuses are not safe havens or immune to senseless acts of violence. In the wake of this incident, our Penn State Harrisburg community has reached out to friends and colleagues at Virginia Tech with offers of support, tribute, and remembrances.

Like colleges and universities across the nation, we also have used the incident as a catalyst to re-evaluate and enhance our own emergency preparedness and to instruct the College community on the safety procedures we have in place.

Currents includes coverage of the College's response to the Virginia Tech tragedy as well as other campus news and events.

This spring we continue on a fast pace of campus improvements, consistent with the master plan approved by the University trustees in January.

The master plan was developed on three primary objectives: to continue the transformation of the former military base into a college campus, to provide facilities that accommodate up to 4,500 students, and to ensure Penn State Harrisburg is a lead educational partner in regional economic development. With the significant increase in traditional full-time students and our overall enrollment growth, we have an increasing need for facilities improvements, including larger classrooms and instructional lab space, facilities designed for student engagement outside the classroom, and additional student housing. The master plan maps a course for us to realize these goals.

Construction on a beautiful new entrance to the Olmsted building will begin soon. The project will include a three-story expansion with an atrium lobby, a grand conference room overlooking the Vartan Plaza, and a much needed additional passenger elevator to improve ADA accessibility. This addition to our main classroom building will better accommodate students and will enhance our growing "quad" area.

Spring is also the time we pause to recognize milestones and the many contributions made to the College throughout the year. We recently honored 15 faculty and staff who are retiring and five who have served the College for 25 years or more. We also presented faculty and staff awards, recognizing exemplary service in areas such as research, teaching, scholarship, advising, and diversity initiatives. More about these outstanding individuals is included in this issue.

We also are pleased to note that the University has recognized Penn State Harrisburg graduate Alexander Guk with the Alumni Achievement Award. Mr. Guk is a local leader in the technology industry, and with his former associate J. Alex Hartzler, has generously established a Trustee Scholarship at the College.

Currents features several extraordinary people, members of our extended Penn State Harrisburg family, who contribute significantly to our region. Linda Schwab and her late husband Morris are long-time supporters of Penn State, most recently establishing the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room. Our *Currents* story tells how Mrs. Schwab's Holocaust survival experience has translated into a commitment to preserve an important part of history.

Mr. Schwab, a 1940 graduate of the University, passed away in December 2006. The University community is saddened by his passing but will remember his passion for helping the University through the donation of his time, talent, and resources.

As commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Jeffrey B. Miller, a 2001 graduate of our Master's of Public Administration program, leads the state's top law enforcement agency. In doing so, he oversees a complement of more than 6,000 employees, including 4,300 troopers, and the safety and security of the Commonwealth.

Currents provides a glimpse of the news, activities, and people that help make Penn State Harrisburg a regional education leader. Take pride in knowing that you are part of a growing group of alumni that adds significantly to that distinction.



Madlyn L. Hanes
Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madlyn Hanes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

Currents

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Cover photograph by Gini Woy Photography



For decades, Harrisburg's Linda Schwab didn't publicly tell her story of surviving the Holocaust. It wasn't easy to talk about, and she wasn't sure people wanted to hear about this tragic chapter in history.

Imagine her as a preschooler, her family ousted from a happy home, hiding in the woods for several years to elude German capture with no reassurance that the next hour wouldn't bring the same awful fate that befell thousands.

For years – almost 50 – she simply didn't talk about it.

Silent No Longer

Born in Vilna, Poland (now Belarus) in 1935, Linda Schwab spent her earliest years in the lakeside resort town of Mjadel, where her father, Henry Swidler, ran a successful dry goods store. She says that while her father's business prospered, he also became known for his generosity.

"If someone came for fabric – like one woman who needed to make her daughter's wedding dress – but didn't have enough money, he would tell them to take it anyway," Schwab said. "He would tell them, 'When you have money, you will pay me.'" He allowed the hungry and poor to get milk from his cows and to take fruit from the orchards on his property.

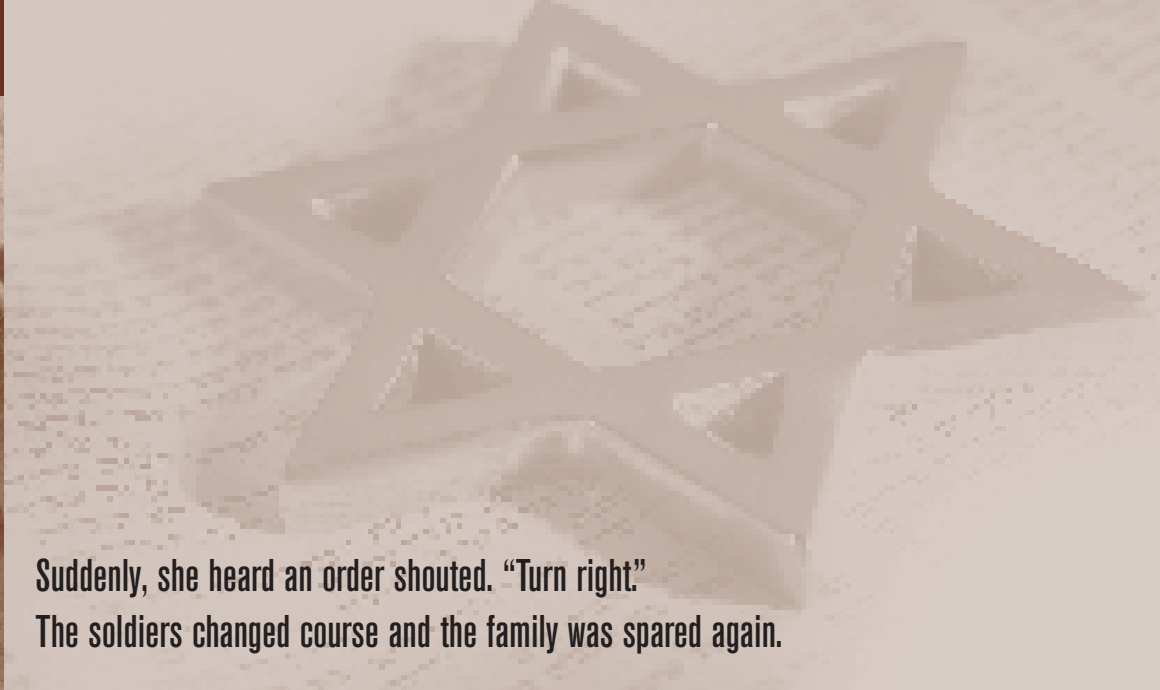
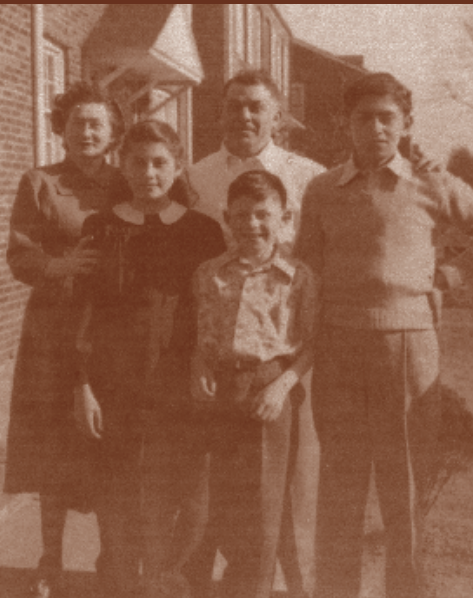
The family's serene life ended abruptly in 1941 when Germany invaded Mjadel, forcing the Swidlers and other Jews to leave their homes and move to a ghetto. Though only six years old, Schwab clearly remembers being forced to wear a yellow star on her clothing designating that she was Jewish.

She also remembers watching through a window as Jewish men were tortured, not knowing if her father was among them. And, she remembers her aunts "tearing at their hair" in grief when their husbands were killed.

Henry Swidler was spared and managed to gather his wife, his three children and his sister and her daughter and flee to the countryside. There, a Christian farmer whom Swidler had helped many times risked his own safety to hide the family in his basement. When this arrangement became too dangerous, the family fled to the forest where Swidler, again aided by the farmer, dug a cave in the ground, taking care to dump the extra dirt in the river so it wouldn't be seen, and covering the entrance with trees and brush.

Schwab and her family hid in the forest for two long years. At safe times, the adults told stories – she remembers her father telling Bible stories. Her mother taught the children arithmetic and poetry. Neither Schwab nor her brother, Harold, recall playing. At night, her father would return to the village, foraging for food and returning with bread and potatoes.

Other times were not safe. Schwab recalls once hiding among brush piles and haystacks, listening to the sounds of German soldiers advancing as she lay with her



**Suddenly, she heard an order shouted. “Turn right.”
The soldiers changed course and the family was spared again.**

cheek pressed to the ground. Her father spooned rain water from a puddle to quench her thirst while they waited

Suddenly, she heard an order shouted. “Turn right.” The soldiers changed course and the family was spared again.

Soon after, the family learned that the Russians, who they felt would save them, were approaching nearby. Schwab described the jubilant scene in a Harrisburg *Patriot News* interview in 2001:

“With that, he [her father] ran back to get all of us. Can you picture this? It’s April, just getting warm. All of us went running to the road. No one is hungry. No one is thirsty. No one is scared. You forget about everything else. We were liberated.”

Making a new life

After the war and fearing life under Russian rule, the Swidlers again fled, this time taking a train to Berlin, Germany, and hoping to settle eventually in Israel. The family instead landed in Foehrenwald, a displaced persons camp in the American zone of occupation in a small town near Munich. The U.S. Holocaust Museum lists Foehrenwald as one of the largest Jewish displaced persons centers in the American zone and describes it as having had a “rich educational and cultural life.” There, Schwab first went to school and learned how to speak Hebrew and several other languages – Russian, German, Belarusian, and Yiddish – as she encountered people of many backgrounds.

The Swidlers spent three years at Foehrenwald before deciding to travel to America where Linda’s mother had relatives. U.S. policy required immigrants to have a sponsor, so Mrs. Swidler wrote to her cousin David Schwab in Binghamton, N.Y. He agreed to sponsor them and brought them first to New York and then to Harrisburg, where he had relatives. The Swidlers created a new life in Pennsylvania and Linda eventually married David’s son Morris, her husband of 23 years who passed away in December 2006.

Preserving history

For many years, Schwab was uncomfortable talking about her Holocaust experience. Finally, in the early 1990s, at the urging of educators including professors at Penn State Harrisburg, she publicly recounted her story for the first time – to an auditorium of school children at a Christian school in Harrisburg. *(continued on page 6)*

At left: In the late 1940s, Linda Schwab (second from left), brother Harold (holding flag), and the rest of their family lived for several years in a displaced persons camp near Munich.

Above, top: The Swidler Family, soon after arriving in Harrisburg in 1949. Reva, Linda, Henry, Norman, Harold. Above: Linda, age 14.



“Morrie” Schwab remembered as volunteer extraordinaire

Throughout Penn State, Harrisburg businessman and 1940 graduate Morris Schwab is remembered as one very special person. The CEO of Credential Leasing Corporation and an officer and Board member of D&H Distributing Company, Schwab passed away December 19, 2006, at the age of 89.

Schwab and wife Linda have been long-time Penn State supporters. Most recently, a major gift from the Schwabs has established the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room in the Penn State Harrisburg Library.

“In all ways, Morris Schwab demonstrated passion for service, a warm and generous nature, and unmatched dedication to Penn State,” said Dr. Madlyn Hanes, Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor.

Schwab became a valuable University asset, serving 12 years on the Penn State Alumni Association Executive Board, much of that time as chair of the Finance Committee. In 1994, he received the University’s first Outstanding Alumni Award.

“He cared deeply for the University and only wanted it to have the best,” said Peter Weiler, Penn State vice president for development. “He treated the University’s money like it was his own, and he knew how to position the alumni association for the future.”

Previously executive director of the alumni association, Weiler worked closely with Schwab, as did Patrick Scholl, the association’s current director of planning and business development.

“Morrie was a fine gentleman and a man of integrity,” said Scholl. “Although he was a volunteer, he became like an extension of our staff. He was knowledgeable and always ready to help.”

Scholl said Schwab was instrumental in developing programs that dramatically shaped the association’s future, helping to make it the nation’s largest dues-paying alumni organization. For example, Schwab helped craft its affinity credit card program in 1985, the first such university program in the country. Scholl said the program generated “enormous amounts of money to support the University and the association” and became a national model for other schools.

“Morrie was a special guy, with an infectious smile,” said Weiler. “The world will not be as nice a place without him.”

(continued from page 5)

“They were studying the Holocaust,” she explains, “and the school wanted someone without a heavy accent to speak to the children so they would understand. How could I say no? After all, I was their age when it all happened. It hurt me to talk about it, but the experience was unbelievable.”

The children and their teachers listened intently and asked questions eagerly.

Schwab said she began to realize it was important to tell the story of the Holocaust so it would not be forgotten as the generation that experienced it firsthand passes on. In the 1990s, she also participated in Steven Spielberg’s Shoah Foundation project to chronicle Holocaust survivor memoirs worldwide. Today, the foundation has compiled an archive of nearly 52,000 testimonials in 32 languages.

Schwab also stresses the importance of young people, Jews and non-Jews, learning about the Holocaust. “They are the bridge to tomorrow,” she says.

To that end, Schwab and her husband Morris helped create an endowment fund named Geshet L’Machar, Hebrew for “Bridge to Tomorrow.” The fund supports local teenagers who wish to participate in the March of the Living, an annual trip to Poland and Israel to study the Holocaust. The Schwabs also established a Holocaust essay contest in conjunction with *The Patriot-News* that awards scholarships to winning writers in middle school and high school.

And now, Schwab has made a permanent commitment to telling the Holocaust story. Through a generous donation to Penn State Harrisburg, Schwab and her late husband have supported creation of the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room in the college library. To be dedicated later this year, the reading room will be the college’s Holocaust and Jewish Studies Center focal point, housing resources and preserving local connections to the Holocaust. Mrs. Schwab said Penn State Harrisburg was the ideal place to establish the reading room because it recognizes their family allegiance to Penn State – Morris Schwab was a 1940 University Park graduate and active alumni volunteer – at the University’s campus closest to Harrisburg, where she has spent most of her life.

Schwab’s decision to speak and her extraordinary steps to ensure that a history of the Holocaust is preserved in Central Pennsylvania are particularly relevant and timely. As recently as this past winter, Holocaust revisionists – those who believe the Holocaust did not occur – continued to make news headlines worldwide.

Linda Schwab is a witness to history and a survivor.

“I felt I was left alive – I was saved by God,” Schwab says, “so that people will remember this really happened.”

Faculty Research Spotlight

Prof digs mining for hidden patterns in data

Dr. Qin Ding sees a common denominator in farming, chemical engineering, online retailing, and professional sports. All of them have used data mining in some way to improve their operations.

“Data mining, also called knowledge discovery, is the process of trying to find hidden patterns in data by using various algorithms,” explains Ding, assistant professor of Computer Science at Penn State Harrisburg. She said she became interested in data mining partly because it can be applied in many different disciplines.

Her own data mining research projects have included analyzing remote sensing images of farm fields and yield data to make mid-season predictions about likely crop yield. “Based on this,” she says, “the farmer can make mid-season changes – water more frequently, add nitrogen to the soil – to try to affect the predicted yield.” Through a grant from the National Institute of Standard Technology, she has used data mining to analyze the properties of elements used to make cement. She also has worked with a student to determine how people will respond to banner ads on Web pages, by studying the relationship between attributes such as color or animation and the number of times an ad is clicked on.

“Data mining is a relatively new field, and at first it was mostly used for market analysis,” Ding says. “Amazon.com used it very early.” That’s why, after you order a few times from Amazon, you receive messages about new products that might interest you. By analyzing buying patterns and product selections, Amazon can be remarkably accurate with predicting what a customer will buy.

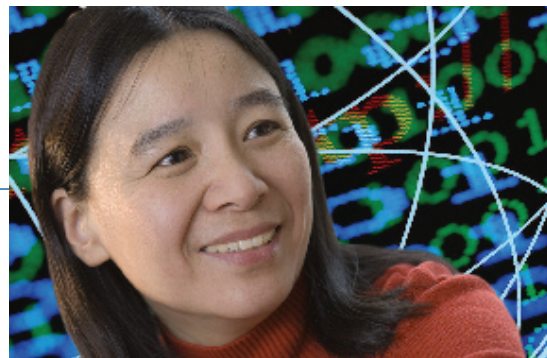
Even NBA teams have used data mining to help them develop game strategies. They might, for example, analyze how certain players perform against certain defensive schemes and then make game plans accordingly.

Ding came to Penn State Harrisburg by way of North Dakota State University where she completed her Ph.D. in Computer Science after teaching seven years at Hohai University in China. She said she was impressed with Penn State Harrisburg’s small class size because “we can really work with the students.”

“What I like most about my job is the combination of teaching and research,” she said. “I like to see students making progress with courses and I encourage them to get involved in research, too.”

Ding admits that balancing everything and keeping up with research areas that are developing quickly can be difficult. But she’s still looking for new challenges. “I have become very interested in bioinformatics – applying data mining to biology,” she says. “It’s a relatively new field. Ten years ago, not many people were doing this.”

The possibility of applying her expertise in the field of medicine is exciting, Ding says, because the results can be significant. For example, bioinformatics was one of the key research areas in the landmark Human Genome Project, which identified the approximately 20,000-25,000 genes in human DNA, information that may lead to new ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent thousands of disorders.



Dr. Qin Ding

POSITION:

Assistant Professor of Computer Science

RESEARCH:

- Data Mining
- Database Systems
- Bioinformatics

TEACHING:

- Advanced Topics on Database Management Systems
- Database Design
- Object-oriented Programming in C++
- Principles of Programming Languages
- UNIX and C

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Computer Science
North Dakota State University

M. Eng. Computer Science
B.S. Computer Science
Nanjing University, China

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

cs.hbg.psu.edu/~ding/



Gini Woy Photography

Man on a Mission

To say that Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller, '01 MPA, is driven is an understatement. He decided around junior high age to be a state trooper and centered his life around that. He took Latin in school because he knew that was the root of the law. He took the test to become a trooper while working on an associate degree at the University of South Florida, then put his higher education plans on hold when he joined the Pennsylvania State Police Academy as soon as he was old enough. (Having just turned 21, he became the youngest member in his cadet class.) After becoming a trooper, he returned to college, earning a bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College and master's from Penn State Harrisburg. At the same time, he worked his way up through the State Police ranks, and in 2003 Gov. Edward G. Rendell nominated Colonel Miller as commissioner and the Senate confirmed his appointment. At the age of 40, he became one of the agency's youngest leaders ever.

He starts his days with a four-mile run – usually in the dark because that's the only time he has available – works long days, and maintains a travel schedule akin to a commercial pilot's. Besides visiting at least half the agency's 90 stations each year, he is called upon to speak and teach at stops all over the country.

During a rare break in the action, he shared some thoughts with *Currents*.

The Energizer Bunny

Miller guesses that people describe him as being like the Energizer Bunny – “he just keeps going.” Long-time associate, Captain Lynn Hess, says with a smile, “He’s a hard charge. But we work well together.”

JM: “People who have worked with me probably describe me as someone who is very driven, focused, determined, and sometimes impatient. I would throw in a *caveat* on that one. When someone needs something from me, I go out of my way to make sure they get it right away. So when I need something as part of my job I expect reciprocity. I *am* a focus-driven person and I try to get the most out of every minute of the day. There is a lot to get done and there is just not enough time to do it all.”

Moving up the ranks

Miller began as a trooper on patrol duty with later stints in undercover narcotic operations and criminal investigations, as a station and a troop commander, and as a central office administrator. Experiences he wouldn’t trade, these roles, he says, prepared him for his current job.

JM: “I had experience in a lot of good, challenging positions. Being a trooper on the road is one of the most rewarding things you can do. I enjoyed that opportunity.”

“Most of my career was in operations. I was a section commander doing criminal investigations in Philadelphia. I was a station commander in Schuylkill Haven. I ran our largest troop, Troop H in Harrisburg, for five years, and then I had the opportunity to be director of legislative affairs and policy for the department right before I became commissioner. I had an opportunity to see how the General Assembly works, and to impact the passage of legislation.”

“When Gov. Rendell appointed me, I thought it was very helpful that I had this base of experience. It is much easier to lead a large organization when people know you’ve done the job and you’re not asking people to do something that you haven’t done.”

Leading the state’s top police agency

Miller’s is the widest-reaching law enforcement agency in Pennsylvania, covering all 67 counties, and 85 percent of the land mass, with a complement of 4,300 troopers. It also plays a significant role nationally. And while Miller’s role comes with many challenges, they don’t dampen his desire to serve nor diminish his appreciation for those around him.

JM: “We are the first State Police force of our kind in the country. We are almost 102 years old and counting me there have only been 18 commissioners in the history of the department. It’s simply a great honor for me to do this.”

“We are a big part of policing in Pennsylvania. But we’re not just the State Police. We are also an influential player in state and regional law enforcement, and actually in the national law enforcement community. The decisions we make and the way we do things has to be

respectful of that position and we try very hard to make certain that our decisions are in the best interest of Pennsylvania and in the best interest of law enforcement. Even when you do that, somebody or some group still will be unhappy with you. All you can do is your best.”

“I am glad to lead the organization, but my heart is with the troopers who are out on the street doing the job every day because that is the most important job we do.”

“Fortunately, I have a wife and two daughters who are supportive of me and my job and have always been supportive. They understand what I deal with daily, including the demands of the job, and the hours involved.”

Pressing issues

According to Miller, counter-terrorism and gang activity are two of the biggest challenges facing law enforcement agencies everywhere.

JM: “We have some issues unique to Pennsylvania, but most of our major issues are ones that other law enforcement agencies are facing, like gang activity and counter-terrorism. We are involved in everything from related federal programs to helping out our cities which often don’t have the resources to handle everything, whether it’s undercover, intelligence, or aviation resources, we try to do our part to help them.”

“Gang activity and associated violence have gone up nationwide. We are trying to stem it by working closely with cities and municipalities and with the federal government – the Bureau of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the FBI, the U.S. Marshall Service. Gang activity is going to continue to challenge us for a period of time.”

“Homeland security and counter-terrorism is another area we are involved with more than I think a lot of people realize. I actually have troopers assigned in New York who work directly with the NYPD. A great deal is going on in this regard and again we partner with [regional and federal agencies and task forces].”

The Nickel Mines tragedy

Last October, a gunman opened fire in an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pa., killing five young girls and injuring five others before killing himself. Local state troopers were on the scene and Miller was thrust into the international spotlight as news coverage of the horrific event spread worldwide. Miller has been praised for his handling of the situation, which was made more complex by concerns about the cultural differences and religious beliefs of the Amish.

JM: “In this line of work, you never know what you are going to confront on any given day. Those troopers came to work that day obviously having no idea that they would be called to respond to a situation such as that. It is almost impossible to prepare for every eventuality that could befall you on any given shift, but we try to train our people to be able to react and respond in a way that maximizes their ability to save lives. And the troopers on the scene did just that. I’m proud of them, because if not for their actions, I believe more children would have been dead.

“I was there because I felt the magnitude of the incident required

(continued on page 10)

the agency's CEO to handle it. But I also felt that [because of extensive training], I was probably in the best position to handle the media in a way that would preserve the investigation but not infringe upon the Amish community in a way more invasive than necessary."

"[Out of respect for] the obvious cultural differences of the Amish, we did have to change how we responded. But we still had the responsibility to do a massive homicide investigation. To the degree that we could, we bounced things off of their bishop and let him know in advance what we were going to be doing so he could give us some feedback and also be the go-between with the community, to brace them and prepare them for certain things. And I think that was helpful. And I would like to think that we would have handled it very similarly in any other environment, it was just that there were some cultural differences here that we needed to address."

Teaching in the aftermath

In the months since the Nickel Mines tragedy, Miller and his staff have used their handling of the experience to help others. He says this helps, at least, to bring something positive from such an event.

JM: "Anytime you have something bad happen, people learn from it. We ask, 'How can we do our jobs better next time?' You don't want to just experience it and then keep it to yourself. We have an obligation to share what we learned from it."

"I've been asked to speak all over the country and my staff and I have done as many of those engagements as we can. This unfortunate incident happened in our backyard and we're obligated to go out to our brother and sister officers whether they are in the federal government or at the state level and provide information on what happened and what we learned and on the tactics that we used to handle the investigation and the news media, and to work with the community."

"The Nickel Mines incident was something that deeply affected everyone who was there. I know it is something I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Gaining an edge

Colonel Miller's office is neatly packed with family photographs, mementoes like the U. S. flag that flew atop the Capitol the day he was sworn in, plaques and awards, pictures of him with presidents and professional athletes, and stacks of work papers, meticulously arranged on his desk. Front and center is a Nittany Lion statue, a gift from when he spoke at Penn State Harrisburg's Commencement in 2003. Prominently displayed behind his desk is his Penn State diploma.

JM: "I looked at a number of Public Administration programs and I really felt that Penn State's course selection was not only most what I was looking for, but a better representation as to what I hoped to achieve. I also thought the course of study was more rigorous than I saw at some other places. It was good for me. It kind of gave me a base from which to operate."

Next steps

Miller doesn't foresee leaving his current post any time soon. But when he does, a life of leisure is not on his agenda.

JM: "Right now I'm focused on this job. The governor has expressed to me that he is happy with the job I'm doing and I think we have some things that we still have to accomplish. So I'm focused on that."

"At some point I'll have another career – I came on this job kind of young. I'm not exactly sure what that is going to be, whether it will be in the private sector or government or policing...but I am sure that I'm not the kind of person to retire and play golf. I still have a lot to offer and I want to be involved in something like this that I really enjoy doing, that I can throw myself into and make a difference with."



The Amish presented Colonel Miller with a Bible as a token of appreciation for his help.

Fostering Forgiveness

In October 2006, Charles Carl Roberts IV entered an Amish community school house, shot 10 young girls, killing five of them, then killed himself. The outrage that followed this unspeakable act quickly became tempered. Just hours after their terrible loss, the Amish expressed forgiveness for the gunman and the family he left behind.

"If we don't forgive, we won't be forgiven," Sam S. Stoltzfus, an Old Order Amish member, told a standing-room-only crowd at Penn State Harrisburg a month after the shooting. A gazebo builder from Gordonville, Pa., Stoltzfus discussed the Amish philosophy of forgiveness during a presentation supported by the college's Diversity and Educational Equity Committee. In the tragedy's aftermath, this philosophy garnered nearly as much attention the incident had.

Stoltzfus said the Amish forgive because that's what they are taught.

"[The gunman] asked the girls to pray for him," Stoltzfus said. "He must have realized there's a higher power. We forgave him and went to his funeral. We don't have the answer to why this happened."

Typically, the Amish don't want outside help, but Stoltzfus said they agreed to accept donations that came in after the shootings "only if the money would go to Mr. Roberts' widow, too."

State Police Commissioner Jeffrey Miller played a prominent role in the hours immediately after the shooting, as the homicide investigation ensued and worldwide attention focused on Lancaster County and a community that shuns attention. He worked closely with the Amish, and like so many people, he was moved by their resilience and strength.

"The Amish community is a remarkable, unbelievable group of people. They were just tremendous... I don't really have the words to describe it," Miller said.

PENN STATE HARRISBURG CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

In October 2006, Penn State Harrisburg marked its 40th anniversary, having been transformed from a former military installation into one of the region's leading educational institutions. Faculty, staff, and friends gathered in the Capital Union Building to celebrate this milestone year and recognize the college's growth since 1966.



As part of the celebration, the college formally dedicated its own Nittany Lion shrine located on Vartan Plaza in front of the library.

Chancellor Madlyn L. Hanes greets Stephanie and Richard Ziegler. Ziegler donated the 8,500-square-foot Ziegler Commons on campus.

Grants aid college's economic development initiatives

An initiative by Gov. Edward G. Rendell to build partnerships between Pennsylvania's colleges and universities, communities, and companies includes two grants to Penn State Harrisburg totaling \$400,000.

The governor recently announced more than \$6.4 million in grants aimed at attracting leading academic faculty and researchers to Pennsylvania's colleges, universities, and medical institutions and helping to launch companies that can develop and commercialize new products and create new opportunities for Pennsylvania's graduates.

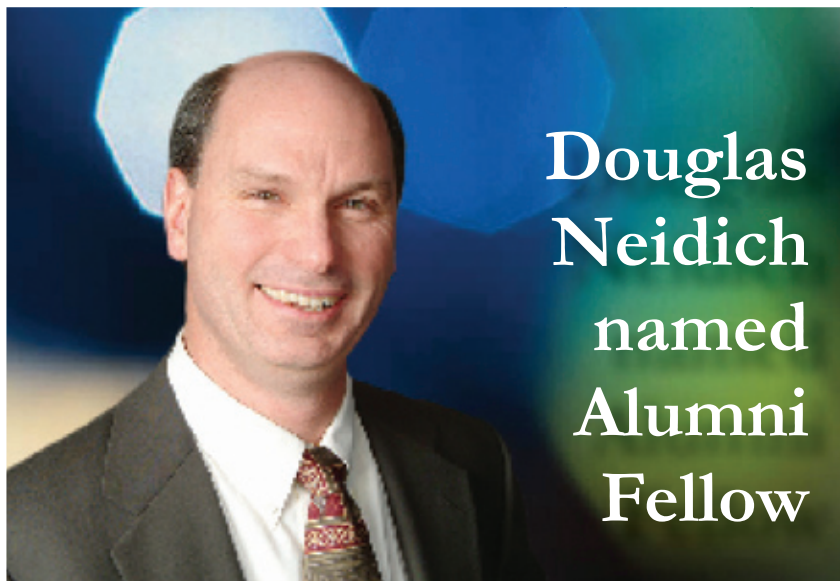
The grants to Penn State Harrisburg will support two initiatives under the state's Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) Starter Kit and Keystone Innovation Grant Programs. Penn State Harrisburg is affiliated with the Harrisburg Market Keystone Innovation Zone. The Commonwealth's 26 Keystone Innovation Zones were created to stimulate economic development by aligning the combined resources of higher education, private business, commercial lending, venture capital, and foundations.

The KIZ grants provide seed capital in the form of grants or loans for faculty and students to conduct business plan and marketing analysis, prototyping, patent research and filing, intellectual property and licensing, and royalty agreements to aid in the creation of new technologies and business opportunities.

The starter kits are designed to add faculty and support their research.



Chancellor Madlyn L. Hanes, accepts a \$400,000 check to support Keystone Innovation Zone initiatives from Rebecca Bagley, Deputy Secretary for Technology Investment, Department of Community and Economic Development. Also, left to right are Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies Marian Walters, Director of the Innovation Transfer Network Judith Sen, Vice President and CEO of the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation Linda Goldstein, and Harrisburg Market KIZ Coordinator Ryan Keith.



Douglas A. Neidich, founder of InterCon Systems in Harrisburg, is Penn State Harrisburg's 2006 Alumni Fellow. A 1980 Engineering graduate of the University Park campus, Neidich was formally honored during Alumni Awards presentations on campus in fall 2006.

The award is the Penn State Alumni Association's most prestigious, given to select alumni, leaders in their professional fields, who are nominated by an academic college and accept the University president's invitation to return to campus and share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators. The award is a cast bronze medallion and framed certificate.

Neidich is general manager of InterCon Systems which he founded in 1985 and sold to Amphenol in April of 2005. The firm offers high-density, high-speed electronic connector systems for the data processing, telecommunications, consumer electronics, and medical electronics industries.

He recently formed a real estate development business that focuses on rehabilitating existing buildings and underutilized sites in Harrisburg. He also is CEO of a new solar nanotechnology development and manufacturing company.

Neidich has been influential in creating economic development opportunities for regional businesses through work with the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation "Start me up" program.

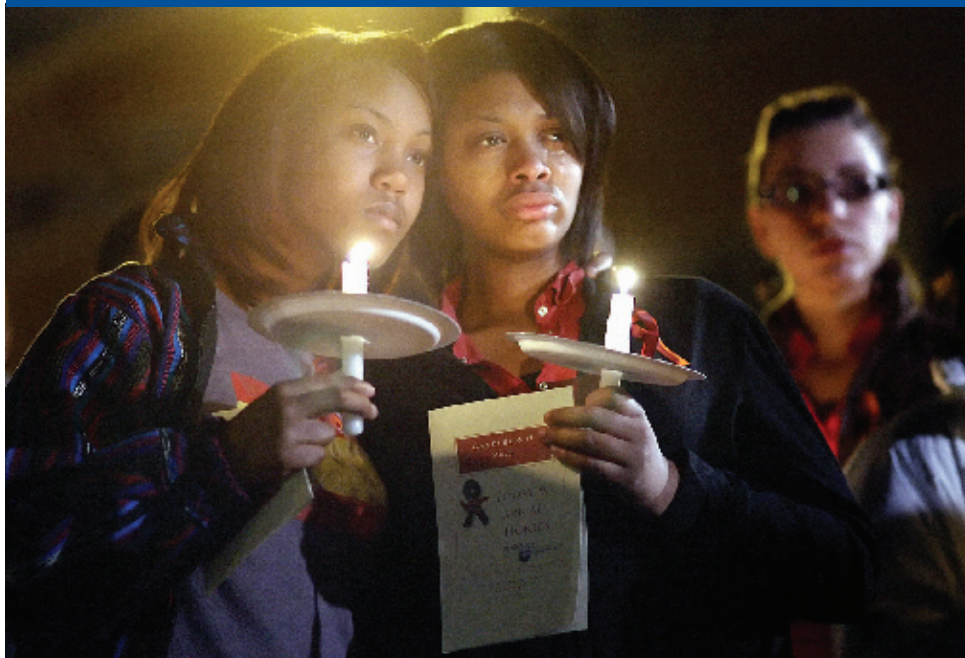
A member of the Penn State President's Club, Neidich provides generous support to Penn State Harrisburg. He has created a scholarship for undergraduate students in the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology and has made a financial commitment to enhance laboratory equipment used by the Mechanical Engineering Technology program.

40 years in pictures

Recognize anyone? Want to see more? Visit www.hbg.psu.edu and click on the 40th anniversary logo to cruise through the photo archives.



Remembering the Virginia Tech Victims

Sean Simmers, *The Patriot-News*

Several hundred people gathered on the college's Vartan Plaza on April 19 to take part in a candlelight vigil in memory of those who lost their lives in the April 16 shootings at Virginia Tech University. At left, students Ashley Azor and Kristen Gillead.



Digital tribute draws widespread attention



Penn State Harrisburg junior Brigid Wood's touching online video tribute of condolences from colleges and universities nationwide to the Virginia Tech community attracted national attention.

On the Monday evening after hearing the news about the tragedy, she assembled images from the national news media along with a slideshow of "Today, we are all Hokies" and dozens of college logos, each with a VT ribbon, accompanied by an inspirational pop music song "Keep Holding On" by Avril Lavigne.

"I just wanted to show the VT community that we at colleges nationwide were reaching out and supporting them," said Wood, a communications major and native of Hershey, Pa. Among the numerous colleges and universities were Penn State, University of Florida, Marquette University, Columbia University, Cal Tech, Notre Dame, University of Texas, and Wisconsin.

Her initial post on YouTube quickly drew nearly 60,000

hits in a day and, as of April 20, had surpassed 120,000 hits. She received hundreds of requests from other colleges to add their logos so she created a second video tribute with another inspirational song, "Lean on Me" by Al Greene.

Her online tribute was included in a national Associated Press story on digital tributes and by NBC News' Dateline.

Wood's Virginia Tech Tribute I is at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWD9tb9c6Ao>.

Virginia Tech II tribute is at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiwdS10vOdc&mode=related&search=>.

Also, both tributes can be seen at: <http://www.myiwill.com>.



College establishes emergency phone text messaging

In the wake of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, Penn State Harrisburg, as well as colleges and universities throughout the nation, quickly began an intensive process of reviewing its emergency procedures.

Chancellor Madlyn L. Hanes hosted three forums attended by faculty, staff, and students to discuss the Emergency Response Plan and also announced Penn State Harrisburg is making emergency cell phone text messaging available to the campus community.

Alexander Guk earns Alumni Achievement Award



Mechanicsburg resident Alexander Guk's rapid ascent in the business world has earned him a prestigious Penn State recognition.

The vice president of technology for the Harrisburg-based Webclients Internet firm, Guk recently received the Alumni Achievement Award from the Penn State Alumni Association during ceremonies in University Park.

The Alumni Achievement Award recognizes alumni 35 years of age and younger for their extraordinary professional accomplishments. These

prominent young alumni are nominated by an academic college and invited by the University President to return to campus to share their expertise, demonstrating that many Penn State alumni succeed exceptionally at an early age. The award is a cast bronze medallion and framed certificate.

Guk left his home in Belarus to escape religious persecution in the then-Soviet Union in 1997, following two sisters to the Harrisburg area. He first enrolled in English as a second language studies at Harrisburg Area Community College where he later added computer and general education studies. He transferred to Penn State Harrisburg in the fall of 1998 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2000.

While at Penn State Harrisburg, Guk was approached by classmate Mounir Elabridi on a concept for creating an Internet company. Guk joined Elabridi to form the firm which would become Webclients. That company, which started in the basement of a Harrisburg hotel, was sold in 2005 for \$141 million to ValueClick, a California-based leader in Internet marketing.

Guk and former Webclients associate J. Alex Hartzler committed \$50,000 to establish a Trustee Matching Scholarship at Penn State Harrisburg. The scholarship aids deserving Computer Science majors.

Too much of a good thing?

Is more than one copy of *Currents* arriving in your mailbox? Help us update our records. Go to www.hbg.psu.edu/alumni/ and click "Update Us."



Project aims to save campus energy costs, provides student real-life experience



The grass wasn't the only thing "greening" this spring on the Penn State Harrisburg campus. During winter break, many buildings received energy-efficient improvements. The College installed new lighting and plumbing fixtures, control systems for heating and cooling, weatherization upgrades to windows and doors, and made other "green" enhancements as part of a \$1.7 million energy-efficiency project.

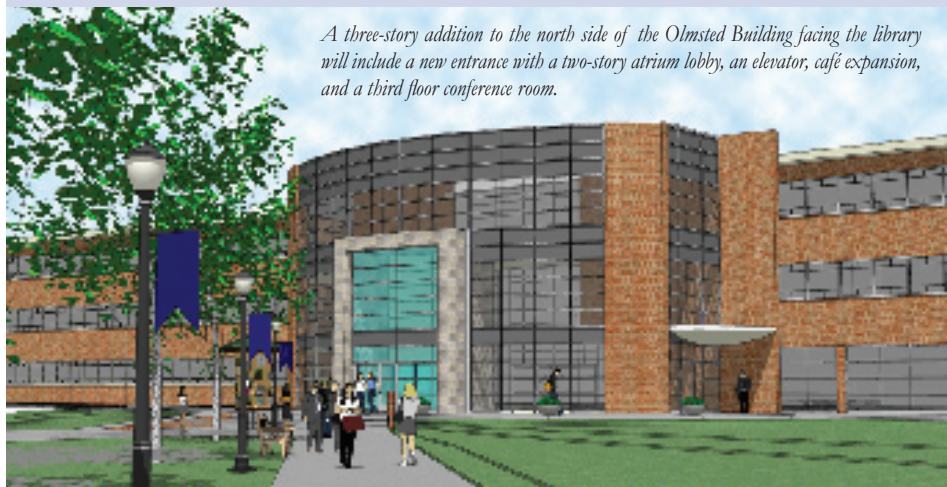
The improvements are expected to generate \$190,000 annually in energy savings that are redirected over the next 10 years to pay for the project.

The program is also providing an internship for Penn State Harrisburg Mechanical Engineering Technology student Daryl Bond. A senior, Bond is getting a first-hand look at how energy saving projects are implemented as he assists the project team.

"My internship has given me insight into the methods and execution of an energy savings project," Bond said. "I have been given the opportunity to be involved in conference meetings, review energy saving concepts and designs, and construction management techniques. I've also been given the task of initiating an energy awareness program here at Penn State Harrisburg."

The energy awareness program will encourage energy saving practices among students and staff that will become lifelong habits. Even simple activities like turning off lights and water when not in use and closing doors and windows can have a tremendous impact on campus energy use.

Bond said the internship also has given a boost to his senior project—a proposal for a wind generator to be built on campus. "If it was not for this internship my senior project would never have taken shape," stated Bond. "This project ties in my energy conservation and awareness, and will benefit the school for years to come. The experience has helped me narrow down my career choice to the energy industry, with particular interest in renewable energy."



A three-story addition to the north side of the Olmsted Building facing the library will include a new entrance with a two-story atrium lobby, an elevator, café expansion, and a third floor conference room.

Part of college master plan

Olmsted entrance getting a facelift

Construction will begin this summer on a new north entrance to the Olmsted Building, a project that is part of the college's master plan approved by University trustees in January.

The master plan has three primary objectives: to continue transformation of the former military base into a college campus, to provide facilities that accommodate up to 4,500 students, and to ensure Penn State Harrisburg is a lead educational partner in regional economic development.

University officials explain that the master plan defines possibilities for accommodating change, but is not an implementation plan. If the time comes to advance a project in the plan, the project is brought before the Board of Trustees for approval.

In addition to ongoing renovations to Olmsted Building, including construction of the new ADA compliant main entrance and a new entrance to Ziegler Commons later this year, the plan illustrates a potential outdoor sports complex. Among other current priorities, the master plan suggests a potential expansion of living space in the housing complex as well as enhancing campus landscape and signage.

Recent campus improvements have included a new food court and terrace, eight new tennis courts, an aquatic center addition to the Capital Union Building, and a new student-housing building.

Zoffinger to speak at commencement



George R. Zoffinger, '70 Bus, will deliver the keynote address at the college's May 19 commencement ceremonies at the Giant Center in Hershey.

He was honored as the college's Alumni Fellow in 2003 and in 2006 the University named him a Distinguished Alumnus, an honor bestowed on only one other Penn State Harrisburg graduate.

President and CEO of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority since 2002, Zoffinger is responsible for the continuing viability of the Meadowlands Sports Complex, which consists of the Meadowlands Racetrack, Giants football stadium, and the Continental Airlines Arena. The NJSEA also manages Monmouth Racetrack, Atlantic City Convention Center, Historic Boardwalk

Hall, Wildwood Convention Center, and the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame.

He has established a Trustee Matching Scholarship at Penn State Harrisburg for students enrolled or planning to enroll in its School of Business Administration and the Zoffinger Family Fund Scholarship for outstanding undergraduate students enrolled or planning to enroll in the school.

Take me out to the ballpark



Save the date and join us at the ballpark!

What:

Penn State Harrisburg
Family Day
at the Harrisburg Senators

When:

Sunday, June 17, 2007
Picnic at Noon
Game at 1:05 p.m.

Where:

City Island, Harrisburg

Tickets:

Adults – \$17
Children (ages 3-12) – \$7

Registration:

www.hbg.psu.edu/alumni
or
717-948-6715



College hosts region's first signal integrity symposium

Penn State Harrisburg's Center for Signal Integrity hosted Central Pennsylvania's first Symposium on Signal Integrity, April 10 on campus. Nearly 100 people attended the symposium, which featured internationally-known experts from companies such as IBM, Intel Corporation, Nuova Systems, and Samtec.

Signal integrity involves the quality of electrical signals passing through connectors used in electronic devices like computers or cellular phones. Known as the "connector capital of the world," the Harrisburg metropolitan area is home to more than 25 electrical connector companies. Dr. Sedig Agili and Dr. Aldo Morales, electrical engineering faculty members at Penn State Harrisburg, estimate that the region holds 80 to 90 percent of the U.S. connector market and about half of the market worldwide.

The Center for Signal Integrity assists Central Pennsylvania's numerous connector companies with product development by fostering collaboration between them and the college's engineering faculty and students. The center will provide employee training opportunities for these companies and serve as a clearinghouse for the latest research in the field.

Three faculty earn prestigious honors

Three Penn State Harrisburg faculty members have earned prestigious University, national, and international honors.

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Barbara A. Sims received the University's Award for Faculty Outreach, which honors those who have positively and substantially affected individuals, organizations, or communities through problem solving or development as a result of extending their scholarship.

Dr. Sims has used her research and scholarship to work with law enforcement, governmental, and other agencies to address issues in Pennsylvania communities. Her outreach initiatives have included work with the Mifflin County Police/Probation Partnership program to evaluate its effectiveness. She has served as consultant to the Pennsylvania Sex Offender Management Team and worked with the Lebanon County Crime Commission to survey citizens and police officers. She also assisted the Greater Harrisburg YWCA in evaluation of legal services to victims of domestic violence, and has worked with the Harrisburg Bureau of Police to assess community policing.

Dr. Sims' research has ranged from working to understand the nature of school-based gang activity to assessing the nature of prescription drug coverage for Pennsylvania's senior citizens. She has worked with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to develop a "Weed and Seed" conference to address crime prevention, and has researched risk assessment of at-risk youth in York.

Professor of Public Policy and Administration Beverly A. Cigler was formally honored in November as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration in Washington, D.C. The academy's elected fellows include Cabinet officers, members of Congress, scholars, business executives, labor leaders, governors, local lawmakers and others.

The Fellows advise and actively participate in academy studies and testify before Congressional committees on emerging public management challenges. Academy panels have advised top FBI leadership on the agency's transformation, assisted the National Institutes of Health with its administrative restructuring, examined the short- and long-term fiscal future of the United States, and recommended policies, procedures, prison design and surveillance systems to eliminate the problem of prison rape.

The National Academy is an independent, nonpartisan organization chartered by Congress to assist federal, state, and local governments in improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability.

Professor of Psychology Richard M. Foxx has received the inaugural John W. Jacobson Award presented by Division 33 of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Dr. Foxx received the award and delivered an invited address at the APA national convention in San Francisco. The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Jacobson, who served more than 25 years as an award-winning research scientist for the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability.

The award recognizes "meritorious contributions to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities in an area related to behavioral psychology, evidence-based practice, dual diagnosis, or public policy."

Dr. Foxx is a Fellow in five divisions of the American Psychological Association including Clinical, Behavior Analysis, Clinical Child and Adolescent, and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, which gave him the Jacobson Award.

Faculty and staff applauded at Awards Convocation

Faculty and staff received honors at Penn State Harrisburg's annual Awards Convocation on March 27.

Dr. Shaun L. Gabbidon was honored for his remarkable list of academic accomplishments in criminal justice. Since 1999, he has produced six books, more than 24 refereed articles, and a dozen additional papers. He also was honored by the American Society of Criminology with a distinguished scholar award.

The impact of **Dr. Cynthia Mara's** commitment and outreach to the college and community were cited as prime reasons for her award selection. Her efforts "have borne clear hallmarks of altruism and effectiveness in addressing a vital public interest in long-term care to undeserved sectors of society....," one administrator said. She has served on a statewide committee on long-term care and has been involved in forming national public policy.

Students and peers alike sing the praises of **Dr. Senel Poyrazli's** excellence as a teacher. Students see her as a mentor and commend her inclusion of them in her research activities. "Dr. Poyrazli's excellent teaching philosophy demonstrates that she sees teaching as a calling, and evaluations by students and peers attest to her excellence as a teacher," one nominator said.

For more than 20 years of exemplary service to graduate and undergraduate students, **Dr. Louise E. Hoffman** was named the inaugural recipient of the Faculty Advising Award. With a distinguished record of quality advising, Dr. Hoffman has mentored hundreds of students, taking into account the specific needs of different age groups and backgrounds.

Dr. Kamini M. Grahame infuses issues related to multiculturalism into her courses and her research. Ethnicity, race, gender, and social class are critical themes in her courses. A fellow faculty member said she "has been instrumental in improving the Women's Studies program at the college and attracting applicants to the area of study." Her record of service to the community includes being a founding member of the Pennsylvania Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network.

Mrs. Panna Idowu has shown a keen interest in the well-being of international students which greatly surpasses expectations. For years, she has hosted "friendship dinners," holiday meals, and other gatherings with international students, assisting greatly in their acclimation to Penn State Harrisburg. She has collected household and other items to share with international students and their families and has assisted in other ways, from grocery shopping to house-hunting.

"Personable and professional," are among the many attributes describing **Mrs. Sue Etter's** service to the School of Humanities and the college. In service to students, she is singled out for being the best advocate and helper for the many American Studies students. "Every student, every candidate receives Sue's full attention. She is the first point of contact for prospective students and remains their first stop – even after graduation," a nominator said.

As an educator, mentor, and community activist, **Dr. Holly Angelique** has established a commendable record of raising the awareness of women's issues throughout the region and beyond. She played a key role in the continued implementation of the Women's Studies minor at Penn State Harrisburg, has taught courses in its curriculum, and continues to incorporate gender-related information into her lectures and strives to enlighten students about the gender role socialization process.



Shaun L. Gabbidon

Associate Professor of Criminal Justice – Excellence in Research and Scholarly Activity Award



Cynthia Mara

Associate Professor of Health Care Administration and Policy – Faculty Service Award



Senel Poyrazli

Assistant Professor of Counseling Psychology – Excellence in Teaching Award



Louise E. Hoffman

Associate Professor of Humanities and History – Excellence in Advising Award



Kamini M. Grahame

Assistant Professor of Sociology – Faculty Diversity Award



Panna Idowu

Special Events Manager – Staff Diversity Award



Sue Etter

School of Humanities Staff Assistant – Staff Service Award



Holly Angelique

Associate Professor of Community Psychology – Kathryn Towns Women's History Month Award

Unique internship program gives students a head start

An internship program unique to the region is going a long way toward helping students in the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology decide if they have made the right career choice.

Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Jerry Shoup, the program's coordinator, explains that the school implemented a mandatory undergraduate early internship to "get students connected as early as we can with industry" – either late in their sophomore year or early in their junior year when skills learned in the classroom can contribute to a company.

The one-credit early internship, which differs from the traditional senior year on-the-job exposure many students experience, is a mandatory course designed to provide early exposure to a chosen career field.

A bonus for the students is that the early internship is preceded by a formal "externship" in their freshman year during which they tour businesses and industries similar to their planned course of study and career path.

"We try to help them find contacts to land internships, but part of the learning process is for students to contact regional industries and, looking ahead, for their potential full-time employment upon graduation," Shoup says.

The early internship requires a minimum of 90 hours on the job and has prompted students to seek additional field experience. One student said the early internship not only motivated him to return as an intern for a second summer, but to possibly pursue a career with the company upon graduation. Another student said the company for which he interned decided to fund his senior project, and is interested in hiring him upon graduation and helping him obtain a master's degree.

The early internship also helps students determine future career paths that may not be right for them – exactly what the program is designed to do. Students who decide early in their studies that their chosen discipline may not be right for them can more easily switch to another engineering or technology major.



Old tires lead to new ways to clean water

Pennsylvania produces an estimated 11 million scrap tires annually, and their proper disposal presents an environmental challenge.

But a Penn State Harrisburg faculty member's ongoing research has resulted in a patent for a method that may help ease the tire problem and clean up the environment at the same time.

Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering Yuefeng Xie has developed a method for filtering wastewater through the shredded remains of used tires, a recycled material known as crumb rubber.

Crumb rubber, Xie explains, is produced by chopping waste tires to a desired size, cleaning the rubber, and removing any metal particles. It is currently being used in highway pavement, athletic track surfaces, playgrounds, landfill liners, compost bulking agents, various manufactured products, energy recovery, and even as artificial reefs for aquatic life.

Several of Xie's studies have shown that crumb rubber filters are more cost effective than conventional sand and anthracite filters and the water filtered through them is cleaner, though not clean enough for drinking. Water filtered with crumb rubber could be used to flush toilets or irrigate gardens or in a mobile treatment unit for disaster relief operations. It could also be used on ships to cleanse ballast water before it is discharged into the ocean.

Xie said he came up with the idea to test crumb rubber as a wastewater filter about eight years ago after an acquaintance was looking for ways to reuse old tires. The studies started out small, but grew in size and scope. Penn State and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration contributed funding toward the effort.

Xie's findings have become especially timely. Standards for cleaning wastewater are becoming more stringent, sparking demand for new technologies, and wastewater plants also are looking for ways to reduce operating costs.



Christopher Millette, *The Patriot-News*

New book examines why terrorism, drug networks are difficult to eliminate

As the United States struggles to win its wars on terrorism and drug trafficking, a Penn State Harrisburg faculty member investigates in a new book how our adversaries always seem to be one step ahead.

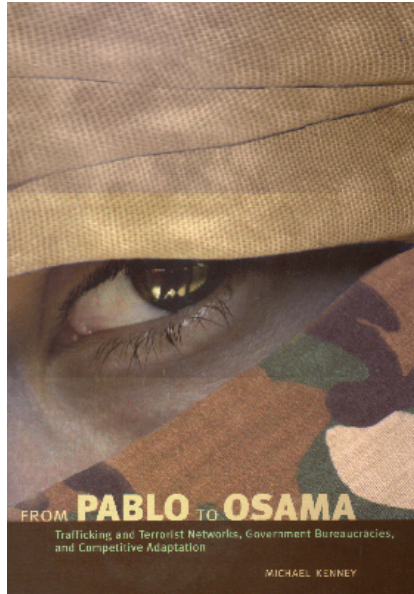
“Traffickers and terrorists ‘learn,’ building skills and improving practices, which makes it increasingly difficult for state authorities to eliminate them,” said Michael Kenney, author of the new book *From Pablo to Osama: Trafficking and Terrorist Networks, Government Bureaucracies, and Competitive Adaptation*, published by the Penn State Press.

In his book, he explains why drug enforcement and counter-terrorism policies have not worked very well in the past and are not likely to work much better in the future.

For all the traffickers and terrorists governments have captured, for all the money they have frozen, for all the activities they have disrupted, new and surviving criminals and militants continue to adapt, learning from the experiences, and failures, of their predecessors to resurrect their illicit operations.

Rejecting the popular yet misleading notion that “it takes networks to fight networks,” Kenney, who teaches in the School of Public Affairs, argues that we must fight illicit networks with strong, constitutional governments – liberal democratic states steeped in accountability, transparency, and due process protections for citizens, aliens, and enemy combatants alike.

Drawing on years of research, including interviews with drug traffickers and Palestinian militants, Kenney suggests that success in wars on drugs and terrorism depends less on fighting illicit networks with military operations and intelligence, domestically and abroad, and more on conquering competency traps – traps that compel policymakers to exploit the same enforcement strategies repeatedly without questioning whether these programs are capable of producing intended results. This requires balancing existing approaches with innovations in public diplomacy, institution building, and multilateral development assistance.



From Pablo to Osama is particularly pertinent given recent national and international developments, including:

- The growing frustration among the American public with the global war on terror and increased questioning, even among military officials, over whether the current approach is working;
- Congressional testimony and media reports suggesting that al Qaeda as an organization is resurgent in Pakistan and Afghanistan;
- Khalid Sheikh Mohammed’s incriminating confession at a military hearing in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and
- Continuing controversy inside Washington over renewing Plan Colombia, the initiative aimed at combating drug production and smuggling.

Kenney’s ongoing research most recently has been supported with a \$150,000 grant from the National Institute of Justice, the research agency of the U.S. Justice Department, “to increase our understanding of how Islamic militants learn” through studies of extremist networks in Spain and the United Kingdom – two critical theatres in the war on terrorism.

Previously, the Penn State researcher visited Israel through a fellowship from the Foundation for the Defense of Democracy for an intensive course on terrorism studies, and in particular how democracies can defeat the worldwide terrorist threat. He also was one of eight scholars from across the nation to be awarded a fellowship to investigate ways governments and agencies can be organized to respond more effectively to terrorism. The fellowship, based at Stanford University Center for International Security and Cooperation, was part of a \$1.65 million contract from the Department of Homeland Security.

Penn State couples share stories of “romance”

According to Dennis “Rick” Howard, ’78 Bus, in the late 1970s male students at Penn State Harrisburg so outnumbered females that male students visited the surrounding community in search of dating opportunities. He met his wife, Donna, ’99 Psyc/’05g, while she was working in a Jamesway Plaza drugstore. He bought cigarettes, she gave him a hard time about smoking, one thing led to another, and they wound up married.

Rick related his humorous story to fellow alumni at a recent social event on campus for couples who both graduated from Penn State. Fifty people came to campus for dinner and dancing, including Walter Hoey, ’87 SDCEI, and wife Amy ’86 FIN, who traveled from Milford, Del., and Frank Bellini, ’74 Bus, and spouse Joan, ’73 EIED, who drove from Amherst, N.Y.

(For the record, enrollment numbers today are more equal. Fifty-one percent of undergraduate students are males, while 49 percent are females.)

Lend a hand on “Moving In Day” August 25

Visit campus and lend a hand to a student on “Moving In Day” for the fall semester on Saturday, August 25.

Help a student get settled and spend a few hours on campus anytime between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at hbgalumni@psu.edu



Roundball Roundup

Hitz breaks 1,000 mark; three named first-team all-conference

A 1,000-point scorer, three first team all-conference selections, and a pair of playoff berths highlighted the Penn State Harrisburg’s 2006-07 men’s and women’s basketball seasons.

The main cog in the Lion offensive attack for the past two seasons, junior guard Abe Hitz capped off an impressive season by being selected to the All-Penn State University Athletic Conference first team in March.

Hitz, a junior Elementary Education major from Annville-Cleona High School, took only two seasons to top the 1,000 career point mark when he netted 20 against Penn State Abington in late February. For the season, Hitz averaged 22.6 points per game and now has a total of 1,039 for his Penn State Harrisburg career.

The men’s team qualified for the conference playoffs before dropping a first round decision to Abington to complete the season with an 8-11 league mark and 8-18 overall.

The women’s team backcourt duo of Brooke Conjar and Jamie Brindle also earned first team all-conference honors after leading the squad to the Final Four of the league tournament.

Conjar, a senior Communications major from Steelton-Highspire High School, averaged 17.1 points, 3.3 assists, and 3.1 steals per game this season while Brindle, a senior Elementary Education major from Pine Grove Area High School, averaged 13.5 points, 3 steals, and 5.7 assists.

The Lady Lions completed their second season with a 10-5 league record and were 13-10 overall.



When the college’s Lion Ambassadors hosted an egg hunt for children in the community, three of them also found even bigger prizes – the recently dedicated shrine and the Nittany Lion mascot – decked out in bunny ears. Seated atop the Lion are brothers Joey, left, and Jacob Spear along with friend Matthew Ricard.



Mitch Spear

“Lost Boy” finds his way

Once a “Lost Boy of Sudan” – one of the more than 20,000 children who wandered for more than a decade to escape sectarian violence in southern Sudan – Michael Paul is now a college graduate.

On Dec. 22, 2006, Paul, 26, graduated from Penn State Harrisburg with a degree in criminal justice. His next step is American citizenship.

Paul was young when Islamic raiders invaded, killed his relatives, and burned their predominantly Christian Sudanese village. Separated from his parents, on the run for 12 years, he crossed burning deserts and crocodile-infested rivers, wandering the African wilderness. He was schooled in refugee camps, first in Ethiopia and then Kenya.

His father was killed by the Islamic forces, but his mother, sisters and brothers are alive and have gone back to the family’s home in southern Sudan. Paul sends \$1,000 every year for his brother’s tuition and books and speaks regularly with all of them by phone.

“I’d like to go back,” Paul said. “But only if the country respected human rights and ethics. If not, I will stay and try to bring my family here.” He is pleased with his accomplishments which he says seemed long in coming, but at the same time happened so fast.

“I think I am almost there,” Paul said. “It is very hard for most refugees to get a college degree in four years, but I am almost across the river. I hope that in the next 10 years, I’ll be reaching the American dream.”

Harrisburg’s The Patriot-News contributed to this story.



\$1.65 million grant will fund long-term care study



The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has asked a research team at Penn State Harrisburg to develop and implement a plan to explore issues related to current and projected participation in long-term care services.

Through a \$1.65 million DPW grant – one of the largest ever awarded to Penn State Harrisburg and its Institute of State and Regional Affairs – the team of faculty and staff researchers will assess the current and projected future need for long-term care services in Pennsylvania and the associated cost of service delivery in the coming years.

Associate Professor of Health Care Administration and Policy Cynthia Mara is the principal investigator for the effort and Michael Behney, director of the

Institute of State and Regional Affairs, is serving as project director. Associate Professor of Managerial Economics and Statistics Jacob De Rooy is co-principal investigator with assistance coming from the applied research centers in the institute.

The research, which will cover 18 months through June 2008, includes six objectives:

- Production of detailed state population projections by age, sex, and race;
- Documentation of social, cultural, and other factors in the long-term care environment that affect demand;
- Gauging of consumer choice factors relating to long-term care services;
- Identification of demand for and supply of long-term care services in Pennsylvania;
- Documentation of current and projected costs of long-term care services in Pennsylvania;
- Development of a predictive model of consumer demand and cost of long-term care services in Pennsylvania.

Alumni News and Notes

1970s

Dan Patrick Mazzolla, '76 M Admin, Harrisburg, formerly president and CEO of Allhealth started his own company, Remuda Management Consulting, LLC after Allhealth was sold to Amerinet Central. He is a member of the Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Advisory Board and the Penn State Smeal College of Business Alumni Society Board. E-mail: dpmazzolla@aol.com.



Dan Patrick Mazzolla

David L. Lutz, '77 MPA, Harrisburg, is a trial lawyer in Central PA. He is past president of the PA Trail Lawyers Association and an expert in auto insurance law. E-mail: dlutz@angino-rovner.com.

Debra Vincent, '78 Bus, Reading, recently began consultant work with Directlink Technologies, Inc after working in the information technology industry for more than 15 years as a computer programmer and analysis. E-mail: Lillolme@yahoo.com.

1980s

Anne K. Hartzfeld, '83 M Ed with Reading Specialist, Hummelstown, is employed by Susquehanna Township Schools

as an elementary literacy coach, co-chair of Young Life of South Central PA, Susquehanna Township Schools Relay for Life team captain, and Susquehanna Township Achievement Gap Task Force member. E-mail: katany@aol.com.

Jeff Foreman, '85 M AM-STUD, Harrisburg, has been named chief counsel to the PA House of Representatives Majority Leader. He practices with the Harrisburg law firm Foreman & Foreman, P.C. E-mail: jeff@foreman-foreman.com.

Joseph Straw, '87 MET, Bel Air, Md., has recently become an assistant professor of Diesel Equipment Technology at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Previously, he was lead faculty in the Heavy Equipment Curriculum. E-mail: jstraw@pct.edu.

Michelle Hart-Henry, '88 HUM, Chadds Ford, PA has switched careers leaving a banking position at Wilmington Trust to become vice president of Marketing at CHD Meridian Healthcare, an onsite provider of health services for large employers across the country. E-mail: meharhenry@chdmeridian.com.

Steven A Reeder, '89 Soc Sci, Baltimore, received the distinguished service award, Maryland Rehabilitation Association for achievements in advancing equal

opportunity for individuals with disabilities and commitment to the effective participation of citizens with disabilities in the economic mainstream. He is employed at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. E-mail: sreeder@dhmh.state.md.

1990s

Suzanne S. Abel, '91 M AM-STUD, Mt. Holly Springs, is now in private practice, handling workers' comp, unemployment comp, and family law cases in Cumberland and Dauphin counties. E-mail: spencer_abel_esq@fastmail.fm.

Scott E. Schweitzer, '93 SD CET, Baltimore, is project manager with Whiting-Turner. He recently passed the exam to become a LEED Accredited Professional. E-mail: schy@comcast.net.

Wayne Luckenbaugh, CPA/ABV, CVA, '94 Acct., York, recently joined Reinsel Kuntz Leshner LLP, Lancaster, as manager in the business valuation/litigation consulting group. E-mail: wluckenbaugh@rklcpa.com.

Robert J. Bylone, Jr., '95 Env Eng '06 M ENVE, Harrisburg, has been named executive director of the Recycling Markets Center at Penn State Harrisburg. He had been recycling program manager.

Scott Livingston, '98 ElemEd, York, received master's in education administration and principalship from Shippensburg University. He is assistant principal at Central York Middle School.

Monica S. Willett, '98 HComm, Dauphin, was recently awarded the 2006 Ruth Arvanette Memorial Fund Grant by the U.S. Dressage Federation. E-mail: monkka@att.net.

Michael L. Freed, '99, INFSYS, and wife, Vanessa (St. Clair), '99 Com, Exton, Pa. have son, Braeden Michael, born January 3, 2006.

2000s

Carol Obando-Derstine, '02 M CP & SC, and husband Matthew Derstine, '02 EET, Bethlehem, announced birth of daughter Lydia Carmen, August 3, 2006.

Matt B. McGeorge, '02 MHA, Harrisburg, named provider relations manager for Magellan Health Services Central PA region in May 2006. E-mail: mbsmcge0@hotmail.com.

In Memoriam

David C. Smith, '88 M AMSTUD, died April 5, at his home. He was a high school guidance counselor at Red Lion Area School District.

Grad to direct Pa. Workforce Investment Board

A Penn State Harrisburg graduate who has led an area effort to provide skilled workers to employers is now taking the initiative statewide.

Robert Garraty '91 MPA, '03 Ph.D., a Hummelstown resident, has been named executive director of the Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board by Gov. Edward G. Rendell.

In his new position, Garraty will coordinate the activities of 22 regional boards that seek to provide trained workers to employers in the areas they serve. He was previously executive director of the South Central Workforce Investment Board, overseeing industry-driven workforce development efforts in Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Juniata, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties.

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