

Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Magazine

# Currents



## Harnessing Technology

PENNSTATE



Harrisburg

Fall 2007

# Greetings from the Chancellor

Welcome to the Fall 2007 issue of *Currents*, your alumni magazine. The start of a new academic year is an appropriate time to take stock of how we're doing as a college and to report on some of our successes.

Ours is the most comprehensive – and most complex – college outside of Penn State's University Park campus, serving freshmen to doctoral students. Proudly, this fall we welcomed our largest class ever – more than 3,900 students. We have quickly become one of the most popular campuses for incoming freshmen and we continue to be an important entry point for upper-division students. Half of our undergraduates come as juniors, making the college second only to University Park in the number of transfer students we admit. And, we are still the region's largest graduate school and the largest graduate college in Penn State.

Accreditation is a calling card for quality and another measure of success. Penn State practice requires that where there is a national accrediting body, we will compete for accreditation. Your alma mater is exemplary in that pursuit, leading the region in national accreditation holdings. Recently, two more programs have begun the accreditation process. Our criminal justice programs will undergo certification review with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and our teacher education programs in the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education are in final preparation for accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education.

With the fall semester, the college also is once again bustling with activity, much of which is chronicled in *Currents*. We recently dedicated the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room, made possible through the generosity of Linda Schwab and her late husband Morris. The Reading Room in the college library provides us a location dedicated to the preservation of local connections to the Holocaust and a focal point for our Holocaust and Jewish studies programming.

We also recently dedicated our new baseball field, an important step as our athletics program moves toward full NCAA Division III status. We are grateful for the contributions of James C. Byerly, president of HDH Byerly and chair of the college's Board of Advisers, and the donated services of John W. Gleim Jr. and his excavating company, for enabling us to have a true home field for the baseball team.

*Currents* also features a look at how technology is changing life for those of us in higher education, whether we are teaching, learning, or providing student services. Under the auspices of our new Faculty Center for Teaching and Instructional Technology, we are pleased to be involved in several pilot projects within the University that place us on the leading edge in the use of technologies such as blogs, podcasts, virtual gaming, and personal response systems. We also are one of the first campuses to open the Digital Commons. This University initiative eventually will provide all Penn State campuses with a studio equipped to support faculty and students in their use of digital media.

Appropriately for an issue featuring technology, this *Currents* also profiles Mr. Doug Neidich, a Harrisburg entrepreneur and dedicated supporter of the college who is known as an innovator in areas ranging from the electronic connector industry to nanotechnology.

We recently recognized alumni achievement during our annual Alumni Awards Banquet, held in October. This year we had the privilege to honor another group of alumni who have contributed significantly to the community and in the workplace. Alumni who received awards include: Assistant to the President of the RBA Group, William Forrey, Alumni Society President's Award; State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller, a 2007 Alumni Fellow; President and CEO of UGI Utilities David Trego, Alumni Achievement Award; and the late John O. Vartan, an area businessman and philanthropist, posthumously honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

We are proud, and trust that you are too, to have such notable people in our alumni ranks. And while we can only formally recognize a few outstanding alumni each year, we know that they represent a larger group with equally impressive credentials.

As an alumna or alumnus, you represent our foundation as a college. Penn State Harrisburg alumni now number more than 33,000, making ours the largest Penn State alumni group outside of the University Park campus. You are everywhere – 49 of 50 states and 40 countries around the world.

You are vital to the mission of the college. Without you, we cannot accomplish our goals of maintaining educational excellence and continuing to grow in reputation.



**Madlyn L. Hanes**  
Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madlyn Hanes". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

# Currents

Vol. 19 No. 2 - Fall 2007

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## Harnessing Technology



## Alumni Awards

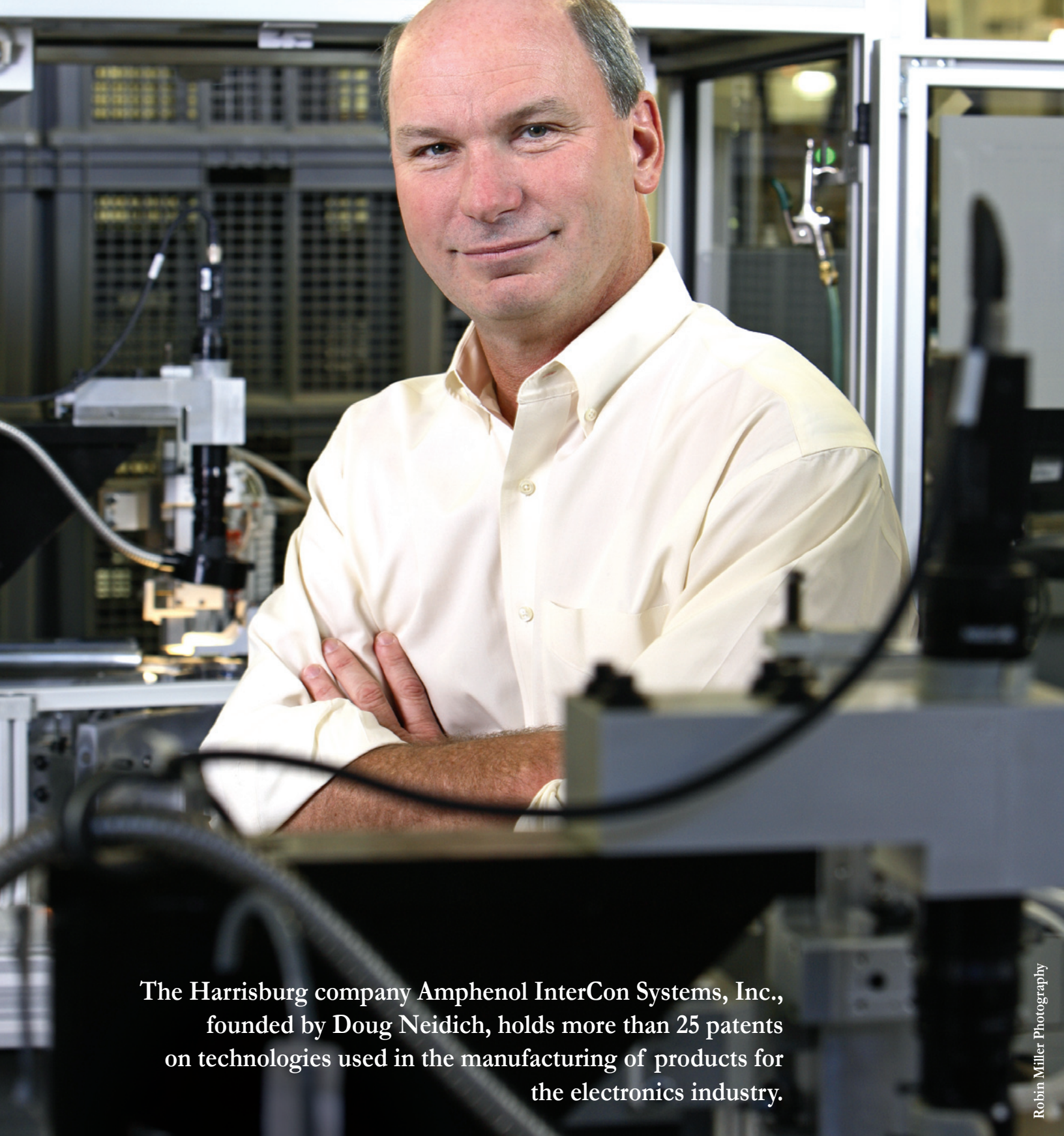


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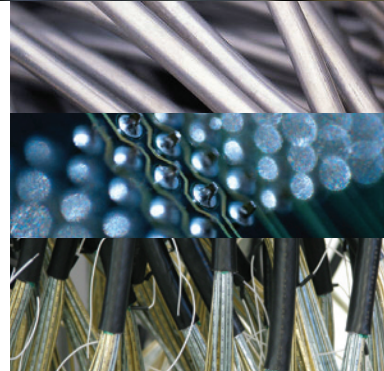
22 Alumni News and Notes



The Harrisburg company Amphenol InterCon Systems, Inc., founded by Doug Neidich, holds more than 25 patents on technologies used in the manufacturing of products for the electronics industry.

Robin Miller Photography

# Life 101



# “There are two ways to live: you can live as if nothing is a miracle; you can live as if everything is a miracle.” – Albert Einstein

Ask Harrisburg entrepreneur Doug Neidich what advice he'd give to young people starting out in careers, and he references this quote, adding “you have to get yourself in the second group.”

Neidich sees himself in that group. But listen to him for a little while and you find he lives by a few other guiding principles as well. Phrases like “do the right thing,” and “seize the opportunity” come up frequently in conversation with him. And when you observe what he's done and why, you see he has more than one good lesson to teach.

Neidich's interests lie in seemingly unrelated industries: electronic connectors, real estate development, and solar energy. Understanding how he became the general manager of Amphenol InterCon Systems, Inc. is easy when you learn his background. But understanding how the rest fit in requires a little insight into what Neidich thinks is important.

He began working at AMP, Inc. (now Tyco), a world-known electronic connector company, in high school and in the summers during college. In 1980, he graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and immediately landed a job at Berg Electronics.

There Neidich developed interconnection systems (products that connect different parts of electronic devices) for a company that made supercomputer systems that were the “fastest, most powerful machines in the world,” he says. That work blossomed into the opportunity of a lifetime, when the company, Cray Research, approached Neidich about working for them independently to develop the interconnection systems of the future.

## Seize the opportunity

“I was in my late twenties,” Neidich explains, “and I decided that these sorts of opportunities don't come up very often, so I jumped at it.” Neidich joined with a partner in 1987 and started a new company, InterCon Systems, in the partner's garage “with a couple thousand dollars of our own money.” After a year of 16-hour days, they had a prototype.

InterCon started with one solid customer, sound technology, and little overhead; today, the company boasts \$25 million in annual sales and 400 customers, including technology heavy hitters like IBM and HP. In many cases, InterCon is a sole source provider to those customers.

InterCon eventually branched from strictly developing technologies for data processing, to work in avionics, consumer and medical electronics, and telecommunications. But they continued to focus on developing only high-end products. “When you talk to someone at IBM or HP, they recognize our business as one that has technology they need for the next generation,” Neidich says.

In 2005, Neidich jumped on another opportunity. With InterCon's

growth and reputation as a problem solver came a number of suitors interested in purchasing the company when Neidich was also looking to expand the business. He settled on Amphenol, one of the world's largest connector manufacturers, not because of their offering price, but because of the company's integrity and business strategy.

“They're very aggressive in their technology,” Neidich says, “and they really value our technology base.” He says that Amphenol also has a great track record for investing in companies and then letting them grow in what they do best.

“Amphenol's a global company; Harrisburg's the connector city of the world. When they acquired us, they got a solid technology company,” he says. At the same time, InterCon gained the means to continue growing.

Penn State Harrisburg MBA graduate John Tierney helped make InterCon's sale the success that it was. Neidich hired him as InterCon's chief financial officer in 2000 when the technology market had taken a downturn. Neidich says Tierney “made the company as healthy financially as it was technologically.”

So today Neidich sits as the head of a successful, global technology company. He's happy with Amphenol's strategy for InterCon and enthusiastically predicts five to 10 years of “intelligent” growth.

Still, Neidich says the most rewarding part of his experience building the company is not about profits and products, but about having the opportunity to create an environment for InterCon's 140 employees.

“My favorite part of work is being able to create a microenvironment for the people here,” Neidich says. “The biggest upside to running a company, to me, is that you get to create the world for these people – define the values, define the mission, define the goals, establish the quality of [work] life, and challenge everybody to step up to that.”

Tierney, who stayed with InterCon until 2005, sings Neidich's praises as someone who “actually does something about what he believes in.” Tierney says, “He's a great individual – hard-working and very fair. I only wish I had met him 20 years ago.”

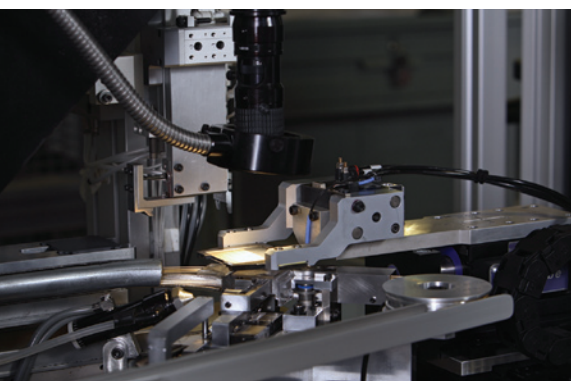
## Do the right thing

InterCon's success has provided the means for Neidich to pursue other business endeavors that appeal to his sense of social responsibility. There lies a clue to what really motivates Neidich.

In 2005, he joined real estate developer Tom Powers and John Tierney to create Powers & Associates, a real estate development company. They see themselves as unique, a development company with a social conscience.

Powers undertakes “urban rehabilitation,” turning underutilized areas into integrated communities. Integrated communities include “all of the

*(continued on page 6)*



“It's great to be alive at a time in which technology finally has the opportunity to work to the benefit of the planet, instead of working against it, as it has since the industrial revolution,” Neidich says.

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things that you would want to have in an area to create a high quality of life,” Neidich explains. People live in the same area where they work and shop and go for entertainment. Neidich says that 100 percent of Powers’ development will be rehabilitation work. “We’re not going to do green field development and tear up farmland and woodland,” he says. “There’s plenty of that already.”

But developing in urban areas comes with challenges – and associated expenses – that other development does not. Neidich explains, “When you come into an urban setting, there are many more interests involved. For example, you have to fight back opportunists, those who as soon as you begin in an area, will start grabbing up property. You have to work with the political community because public monies often are involved. Costs are just plain and simply higher.”

“But at the end of the day,” Neidich says, “going into community development is, to me, the right thing to do. It’s creating high value, high quality of life, out of a situation that, prior to your involvement, might have been a mess.”

Neidich recently found another way to satisfy his penchant for problem solving on a grand scale. He created Solarity, a company working to develop nanoscale (i.e. infinitesimally small) materials that could make solar power practical and affordable.

Solarity got its start with a Penn State connection when Neidich was introduced to Professor Steve Fonash, a world leader in the study of nanotechnology. Fonash founded the company NanoHorizons and is co-inventor of a patented technology that, according to Neidich, could solve the problems that exist with harnessing solar energy.

Although NanoHorizons held the patent to this promising technology as part of the Penn State Foundation’s research portfolio, the company was looking for a business partner to explore it further. Solarity sub-licensed the technology, set up shop next to Penn State’s Nanofabrication Facility, and has spent the last year on research and development.

## Patience is a virtue

At its most simple, the problem with current solar cell technology is that the designs can’t compete with current electrical generation technology.

Neidich says the nanotechnology-based approach offers “terrific potential” for manufacturing more efficient cells using less expensive materials. “Basically we are trying to develop the first commercially viable photovoltaic cells that would let you power any structure for less than you can from [current generation sources],” Neidich says.

“That’s the holy grail. If you’re successful, you could change the world, to a reasonable extent. So that’s what we are trying to do,” he says. “A lot of other people are trying to do it too.”

How long before any such product becomes a reality? “It could be next Tuesday, it could be five years from now, you never know,” he says. “The technology’s pretty clear and the right pieces are out there.” The answer, he says, is combining everything correctly.

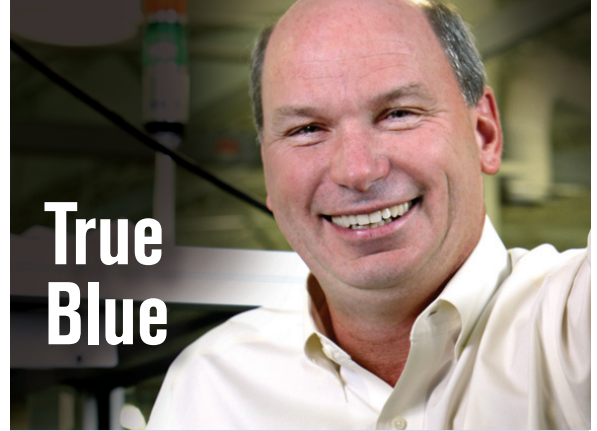
Whether unlocking the key to harness the sun’s energy or building tomorrow’s urban communities, Neidich’s zeal for what’s ahead far outweighs any challenges before him. It is this belief that he can make a positive impact that ties everything together for Neidich.

“You have to find new ways to create energy while not harming the planet, which has to be a goal of this generation. It’s great to be alive at a time in which technology finally has the opportunity to work to the benefit of the planet, instead of working against it, as it has since the industrial revolution,” he says.

“At the same time, we need a smarter growth model that doesn’t just lead to more suburban sprawl and more people driving cars,” he says. “We need to restructure the way that we live – that’s what integrated community development is all about.”

This brings us back to Neidich’s first lesson on life and miracles.

“If you imagine that everything’s a miracle and you find out as much about those miracles as possible, you realize there may be problems in the world but there are a lot of great things too. It’s tremendous fun to try to create the right quality of life, the right environment, and care for as much of the world around you as you can.”



## True Blue

A Steelton native, Doug Neidich began studying mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech until family obligations required him to return to the Harrisburg area. Determined to complete his degree, Neidich commuted to State College for nearly two years, earning a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1980.

Today, Neidich is known as a technology innovator and model entrepreneur, having created successful companies in industries ranging from electronic connectors to solar energy. He also has become known as a person who supports what he believes in and gives back to the community.

He has influenced economic development significantly through his work with the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation on the “Start Me Up” program that provides resources for new businesses. He sits on the boards of organizations like Pinnacle Health Systems, Harrisburg, and VTEL, Incorporated, Houston.

Penn State Harrisburg’s 2006 Alumni Fellow, Neidich has been a good friend to the college, having created a scholarship for students in the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology and provided funding for lab equipment as the college expanded the engineering curriculum.

He’s also sees the college as a key to the vitality of Central Pennsylvania.

“Penn State Harrisburg has a lot of the elements the area really needs,” Neidich says, “in terms of the engineering programs, in terms of the environmental programs, in terms of [its history] as the only really viable four-year education program in the area for years and years. . . .”

Neidich continued his commitment to the college this fall when he visited campus to meet with students and offer career guidance. He will have the distinction of serving as guest speaker for the Fall 2007 Commencement, scheduled for December 22 at the Giant Center in Hershey.



In ways small and large,  
technology is changing  
how we do business.

## Harnessing Technology on Campus

With technologies that today work literally at the speed of light, keeping up with change can be a challenge. But when it comes to embracing the advantages that technology offers, Penn State Harrisburg is at the forefront.

Consider that the college is one of the first in the University to implement the Digital Commons, an effort to create an on-campus digital media studio for student and faculty use. The college continues to expand its online offerings, most recently making its bachelor's program in criminal justice available through Penn State's World Campus. Begun in 2006, the program already enrolls more than 100 students. And faculty are continuing to introduce technologies like blogs and podcasting into the classroom.

In ways small and large, technology is changing how we do business. Here are just a few examples of technology's impact on everything from how we teach to the services we provide.



## Who wants to be a chemist?

If you've seen the show "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire," you're familiar with personal response systems, those clickers the audience uses to register their votes.

Thomas Eberlein, assistant professor of chemistry, is one of several Penn State Harrisburg faculty members using this technology in the classroom. He says it helps his teaching because it provides instant feedback about student understanding of materials presented during class, enabling him to adjust his teaching strategy accordingly. It also boosts interaction and student participation in class, he says.

Typically, instructors use special software to add questions – usually multiple choice – to their PowerPoint lectures. Students answer using their clicker, a handheld device programmed with their student ID number. They simply press the clicker key corresponding to their answer and hit the send button. Although individual answers remain anonymous to the class, a graph showing all responses appears on the PowerPoint screen, enabling the instructor and students to see instantly how the class answered.

"The downside of traditional lecturing is that I can't see into students' minds to know if they are really getting it," Eberlein says. "Using the clicker system is a quantitative method to do this."

Based on responses, Eberlein can adapt his lecture accordingly. If, for example, he sees that 90 percent of the class clicked the correct answer, he can move on. If fewer than 70 percent answer correctly, he can spend more time on the topic. If responses are evenly distributed, he may instruct students to turn to a neighbor and convince him or her why their answer is correct. He can also see who is consistently struggling and take steps for them to receive additional help.



"Research is showing that [the use of clickers] has a great impact on learning and mostly on teaching," says Carol McQuiggan, manager of Penn State Harrisburg's Center for Teaching and Instructional Technology, "because the power isn't in the clicker itself, but in its ability to make teaching more responsive to student's needs."

Another advantage of using this technology is that everyone participates. "Often, when you ask students if they understand, you get blank stares. No one's willing to admit that they don't understand. With the clicker, everyone responds, and although the instructor knows how individuals responded, answers are anonymous to the students," McQuiggan says.

For students, this anonymity is key.

"It [using clickers] benefits me because it benefits the teacher," says Tarick Chaleby, a sophomore chemical engineering student. "He knows what is and isn't working immediately. It also benefits me because I can see what I have to work on. And there's no embarrassment because it's anonymous."

Matt Grapes, a junior environmental engineering major, was skeptical at first when he had to buy the clicker. (The bookstore sells them for about \$47 new.) But now that he's used it, he says "it's easy to use and it's a good way to double check yourself."

Last spring, Penn State conducted a pilot project with clickers and has since adopted a standard system so that students only have to purchase one clicker for any class that might use them. The Penn State Bookstore also will buy back used clickers when a student is done with them.

## R U safe?

In the recent wake of acts of campus violence, including deadly shootings at Virginia Tech and Delaware State, colleges nationwide are searching for new ways to get important information to students.

What was cutting edge a generation ago – e-mail and the Web – is now considered conventional, as students turn to instant messaging, cell phones, and social networks like Facebook as their preferred communication tools.

A 2005 report, "Teens and Technology," by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that teenagers preferred new technology for talking with friends and that they "view e-mail as something you use to talk to 'old people,' institutions, or to send complex instructions to large groups of people." According to Wired.com, *Wired Magazine's* web site, 90% of students own cell phones.

Penn State took an early step in the trend to incorporate new technologies into the student communication mix, developing a cell phone text messaging system more than a year ago. PSUTXT, the free system to which students and employees subscribe, was introduced at Penn State Harrisburg in August 2006, adding text messaging to the options the college can use to alert students about weather closures or other events that affect college operations.

Penn State Harrisburg manager of public information Steve Hevner, a member of the college Community Action and Response Team, stresses that the addition of emergency text messaging "provides us with the opportunity to more rapidly distribute emergency messages to students, faculty, and staff. It will complement a number of established methods of communication – e-mails, phone messages, web alerts, TV monitors on campus, external media announcements – which we use to notify our campus community."

In another nod to the importance of using new communication techniques to reach students, this summer, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives adopted a resolution encouraging all state colleges and universities to adopt a security alert system similar to Penn State's.





## Barcelona and back in a day

Associate Professor of Humanities and Spanish Gloria Clark, a.k.a. “Flora,” her virtual persona, floats through cyber space navigating Penn State Island to show off the hacienda she built for her students in introductory Spanish classes.

The hacienda includes furniture that Clark covered with an Aztec print, paintings by El Greco that link to websites with more information about the famous painter, and a vintage radio linked to stations playing Spanish music.

San Francisco-based Linden Labs unveiled the computer created environment Second Life in 2003. You can visit Second Life for free by logging onto the website and creating an avatar, a virtual person. If you’d like to stay, you can rent virtual land, build on your “island,” and buy virtual goods. In Second Life, one real dollar equates to 250 Linden dollars.



*Dr. Gloria Clark's avatar Flora. Students click on the box on the table to link to a textbook web site.*

Second Life today houses thousands of islands, owned by businesses, colleges, and other entities. You can find everything there, from stores to the Sistine Chapel. Penn State owns two islands, and Penn State Harrisburg is renting one-fourth of one with funding Clark received through a University Faculty Engagement Initiative.

Clark spent last summer learning how to use Second Life, turning it into a teaching tool that she’s hooked on. Second Life makes the impractical possible, she explains, allowing students to be immersed in Spanish culture, without leaving the room.

“If you go to Barcelona Marketplace or another place I send students in Second Life, you can hear people speaking Spanish around you,” she says. The only other way to do this, she explains, “would be take them by bus to Reading or downtown Lebanon, New York City or Philadelphia and hope that somebody there would be speaking Spanish.”

Clark has built two buildings, the hacienda and one providing social space for students. The hacienda includes her office, where she will hold virtual office hours. Second Life can be voice enabled, so a student could visit the hacienda from home to talk with Clark. The hacienda also includes a virtual classroom with a white board on which Clark can type from her real office, show a video, or give a PowerPoint presentation.

Clark gives students a weekly Second Life assignment. Early on, she sent them on a scavenger hunt to find objects from that week’s vocabulary lesson. Another time, they had to take a picture of their avatar and then write a description to introduce themselves to the class. They had to visit a Mayan pyramid, and at the end of the semester, they’ll go to the Barcelona Marketplace, where they must converse with someone.

Although Second Life forbids online harassment, it remains a

concern for some. Critics question the liability associated with students who might be harassed while in Second Life for classroom purposes.

“[Second Life] has some possibilities and some pitfalls,” Clark says. “Students can go places where people are not very nice. I remind them that spaces are constructed by and open to fallible people.”

Clark required students to sign an agreement at the start of class outlining that Second Life is voluntary and that students may request alternative assignments. All of Clark’s students are participating in Second Life, however, and she reports, “They are having a blast.”

Class assignments wouldn’t take students to Second Life places they shouldn’t be, Clark adds, noting that is part of Penn State etiquette, the rules guiding University use of Second Life. “Students who want to visit other places are encouraged to get a second avatar,” she says.

Another complaint is that Second Life frequently crashes. Clark agrees that some of the technical aspects can be a nuisance. “It’s down every Wednesday morning for maintenance,” Clark says, “and I teach on Wednesdays.” Plus, the routine maintenance sometimes requires users to download a new version.

Clark has taught at all levels during the last 30 years, and says she has never had her own a classroom to decorate to enhance her lessons and immerse her students in the culture they were studying. “I’m really excited about [using Second Life],” Clark says. “It allows me to do something that I’ve wanted to do all my years of teaching.”

## Video link brings culture to life

This past spring the tragic Virginia Tech shootings, an incident that garnered worldwide attention, provided fodder for a heated discussion between American students in Dr. Carol Nechemias’ Russian culture class and Russian students at Volgograd State University to whom they were linked through a video hookup.



*Gini Woy Photography*

*Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Carol Nechemias is experimenting with video conferencing in the classroom, linking her students with a classroom in Russia.*

What ensued during this session was a spirited debate about what democracy means and how different cultures view the right to bear arms. Access to hand guns is strange from the Russian point of view, explained Russian Professor Ivan Kurilla. “Our students probably

don’t see the right to own guns as part of a democracy,” he said.

“We believe our state should protect all people,” one student said, asking, “Don’t you believe your state can protect you?”

During the semester, Nechemias’ class linked with the Russian

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class several times. Nechemias says that advances in technology have been a boon to international study. The video link was “remarkably good,” she said. They only had to overcome logistical problems, given the time difference – Volgograd is eight hours ahead – differences in the academic calendar, and some language barriers.

Nechemias used the video link with Russia to supplement her lectures, and the many special activities to which she invited students, including viewings of Russian films and a look at her personal collection of Russian folk art. The video connection provided the means for students to communicate in person and to learn lessons about each culture firsthand.

Sophomore sociology major Danny Tarrell said the video link added to his learning. “It’s one thing to read how an American or British writer interprets Russian culture. It’s another to hear it direct from the Russians themselves,” he said.

“It taught students from both countries about their own cultures, as well,” Nechemias said.

## Handle with care

A recent Penn State survey revealed that 87 percent of students use the internet social networks Facebook and MySpace. The networks can be a good place to make new friends, keep in touch with old friends – and lose the chance for a dream job.

Helping students navigate the privacy and other issues that accompany the use of new media has become a consideration for student service providers. Karl Martz,

Penn State Harrisburg assistant director of career services, cites one of many examples. He says employers increasingly are turning to social networks as a part of background checks. So a network posting that might seem harmless – say, pictures from a recent party – can send an unintended message to someone seeking information about a job applicant.

“Students need to be careful, make sure sites are secure, and consider if this will impact them negatively now or in the future,” Martz says. His office now holds workshops advising students on the careful use of social networks. For job seekers, he also recommends other sites that are respected among professionals, like LinkedIn.com, and Lion Link, Penn State’s site for students to connect with alumni.

Carol McQuiggan, manager of the Penn State Harrisburg Center for Teaching and Instructional Technology, agrees that guarding privacy and maintaining student safety in an age of online predators is a challenge. “Students have grown up with this technology, so having their whole life online doesn’t worry them,” she says. “We have to make them aware of the implications of what they put online, whether it’s YouTube, a personal blog, or MySpace or Facebook.”



## Can't live without 'em

Techno gadgets abound these days. But for many Penn State Harrisburg students, the laptop and the cell phone are the ones they can't live without. A few of them tell us why.

### Brigid Woods, 22, senior, communications

Brigid can't live without her cell phone – actually her two cell phones, one for work and one for social calls. She can text message and check her email with internet access on her phone, and her work phone literally rings 24 hours a day. Brigid “lives” soccer, playing, coaching, and attending hundreds of games around the world every year, so calls from different time zones are not uncommon. “The phone is attached to my body,” she jokes.

### Justin Weidman, 27, sophomore, English

Justin's laptop goes everywhere with him. A full-time student, he needs it to complete class work. But he also designs web pages in his spare time, supporting his daughter and wife. His cell phone doesn't rank as high. He uses it just for emergencies and family. “I don't like to be in contact all the time,” he says.

### Meaghan Hoffman, 21, junior, communications

Meaghan Hoffman's view of her cell phone is a bit different. She doesn't have a land line in her house so living without her cell phone would be impossible. She uses it daily and keeps it close, ensuring that if there is an emergency with her son she can be reached. Meaghan's computer, on which she maintains four e-mail accounts, is a close second though. She has two college accounts, one from LaSalle where she has friends and one from Penn State, a personal account she uses for eBay, and a family account.

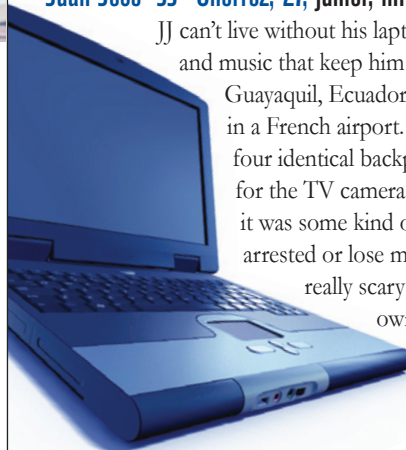
### Juan Jose “JJ” Cherrez, 27, junior, information sciences and technology

JJ can't live without his laptop because it houses the pictures and music that keep him connected with his family in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He almost lost his laptop once, in a French airport. He fell asleep and woke up with four identical backpacks around him. “I was waiting for the TV cameras to come out,” JJ said, thinking it was some kind of joke. “I thought I might get arrested or lose my bag for good, he said. “It was really scary at the time.” JJ and a man who

owned one of the other backpacks finally decided to look inside the bags, and luckily, identifying who's was who's became easy.

### Mark D. Kandryawatz, 24, MBA

Mark is the public information officer for the PA Auto Theft Prevention Authority, which puts him on the road and out of the office often. “I can't live without my BlackBerry. I travel often and need to stay connected. Mobile e-mail allows me to do my job on the road,” he said. Kandryawatz's BlackBerry is for personal and work use. The calendar keeps him on track and the free Google Maps “are a life-saver when stopping to ask for directions is out of the question,” he said.



# Alumni, faculty, and staff honored at awards dinner

Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller, the President and CEO of UGI Utilities David Trego, and the late Harrisburg businessman and philanthropist John O. Vartan were among the graduates honored at Penn State Harrisburg's Alumni Awards Dinner recently.

Miller, a 2001 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg with a master's degree in public administration, was honored as the college's 2007 Alumni Fellow. (See article on page 14). Trego, who holds three degrees from Penn State, was named the winner of the Alumni Achievement Award, and Vartan, who earned a master's in engineering in 1973, was posthumously presented the Alumni Society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Alumni Society also honored Assistant Professor of Community Systems and Afro-American Studies Clemmie E. Gilpin, Computer Support Specialist Anthony Clauto, 1971 graduate William C. Forrey, and long-time friend of Penn State Harrisburg Clifford Jones.

Trego earned an associate degree at Penn State Worthington-Scranton, followed by a bachelor's degree in 1980 in building construction technology and an MBA in 1993 – both from Penn State Harrisburg. He joined UGI Utilities in 1987 and served in a number of capacities, including vice president-electrical distribution from 2002 until his appointment as president and CEO in 2004.



*Alumni Achievement Award winner David Trego, '80 BCT, '93 MBA*

Vartan, who died in 2004, was honored for decades of commitment to the college. A chairman of six midstate companies, Vartan served on the college Board of Advisers and the Alumni Society board and generously supported its academic vision through more than \$3 million in gifts, including the Eastgate Center in downtown Harrisburg, Vartan Plaza on campus, the Science and Technology Building, and an endowment to support faculty



*President's Award winner William Forrey, '71 MURP, left and Alumni Fellow Jeffrey Miller, '01 MPA.*



*Family members of the late John O. Vartan, '73 MENG, including son H. Ralph, wife Maral, and son Armen.*

research, travel, equipment, education, and public service.

Vartan's personal art collection was also showcased at the event. An avid collector of Armenian art, Vartan's collection was displayed in the Morrison Gallery of the library while his son, H. Ralph, entertained guests with a piano performance. H. Ralph Vartan couples his passion for music with his commitment as a community leader and responsibilities as chairman of the Vartan Group, founded by his father.

One of Penn State Harrisburg's longest-serving faculty members, Gilpin is the first recipient of the Faculty Advocate Award for his tireless commitment to students and alumni. The founder of the Model United Nations on campus and its driving force for more than 35 years, Gilpin has consistently supported college alumni and the Alumni Society. He has been honored by the Student Government Association with its Faculty Adviser of the Year Award five times, serves as the adviser to the student International Affairs Association, and is involved in numerous community-based organizations.

Among Clauto's service to the Alumni Society, which earned him the inaugural Staff Advocate Award, includes his personal development of a database to serve the Alumni Mentoring Program and his willingness to give his time and assistance.

Forrey was honored by the Alumni Society with its President's Award. A former society president and current ex-officio board member, Forrey's longtime service to the college has been formally acknowledged in the past with the 1982 Alumni Achievement Award and the 1999 Mitchell Award, which recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed in the area of public service by sharing or volunteering his or her talent, time, and resources on behalf of the University.

An advocate on behalf of Penn State Harrisburg since its inception in 1966, Jones was honored with the announcement of the Cliff Jones Program Fund for Good Government, created to support students pursuing careers in government or government-related industry. (See article on page 13).

## Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room dedicated

With the creation of the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room, Penn State Harrisburg now has a visible centerpiece in its effort to establish a Holocaust Studies Center in the region.

A community and University focal point for Holocaust education, the Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room is the result of a generous donation from Harrisburg resident Linda Schwab and her husband, the late Morris Schwab.

Dedicated in formal ceremonies this summer, the Reading Room on the first floor of the college library creates a resource devoted to the study of the Holocaust and preservation of local connections to it.

“The Schwab Family Reading Room will serve as a living memorial,” said Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor Madlyn L. Hanes. “The Reading Room is unique in its design and purpose. Within this space, varied communities can gather together for inquiry into history, culture, art, ethics, and politics.”

The Reading Room includes materials from Penn State Harrisburg’s extensive Holocaust and Genocide Collection of books and other media, now totaling more than 1,000 titles, and provides space for gallery presentations of art and documents of the Holocaust and Jewish experience. The collection is the largest specifically devoted to Holocaust and genocide studies in Central Pennsylvania.

The Holocaust awareness and education effort at Penn State Harrisburg intensified in the mid-1990s when a group of donors led by Abe Cramer and his family created the Holocaust and Genocide Book Collection in the library, permitting the college to expand its Holocaust studies curriculum. The college has also offered study tours on the Holocaust to Poland and Germany and hosted a Holocaust Studies Institute for schoolteachers in the region.

The first major gift toward creating the Reading Room came in 2002 from Professor of Information Systems Gayle Yaverbaum and her husband Harry. That was followed by support from Nancy and Irwin Aronson to create a permanent endowment to support Holocaust education with programming for lectures, national and international study tours, and student scholarships to offset the cost of their participation.

Morris Schwab, who passed away in December 2006, was CEO of Credential Leasing Corp. and D & H Distributing Company and a 1940 Penn State graduate with a bachelor’s degree in arts and letters. His wife Linda is a Holocaust survivor.



*The Schwab Family Holocaust Reading Room*



*Linda Schwab and brothers, Norman Swidler, left, and Harold Swidler.*



*Artist Susan Leviton, right, with Dr. Michael Hanes and Chancellor Madlyn Hanes who commissioned her artwork which graces the entrance to the Reading Room.*



*Chancellor Madlyn Hanes, Linda Schwab, and Simon Bronner, distinguished professor of American studies and folklore.*

## New program fund honors Jones' legacy



*Clifford Jones*

Since Penn State Harrisburg's creation in 1966, Clifford Jones has been a tireless advocate on behalf of the college and its students.

That legacy is being honored through the new Cliff Jones Program Fund for Good Government, announced at the October 19 Alumni Awards Dinner.

Fred Sembach, '78 MPA and president of the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society, was instrumental in helping to create the fund "in honor of Cliff's work and in an effort to continue his legacy of service, mentoring, and community involvement." The fund will support programs for students pursuing careers in government or government-related industry. Initially, the fund will aid the Harrisburg Semester, which Jones helped to create.

This program allows Penn State students to spend a summer internship in the state capital to become immersed in the leadership of public service organizations and agencies. Jones recently served as instructor for the college's Harrisburg Semester internship classes and chairs its advisory committee. He also has been an adjunct faculty member in the School of Public Affairs and a member of the college Board of Advisers.

In 2006, the Alumni Society honored Jones with its President's Award.

Jones has been involved in shaping Penn State Harrisburg's history, from its early days as a former military installation to becoming a major university presence in the capital region. In 1965, the Department of Defense announced its intention to close Olmsted Air Force Base, one of the largest area employers. Gov. William Scranton consulted with Jones, then state Commerce Secretary, and Penn State president Eric Walker and the decision was made to create a University campus on the base.

Statewide, Jones has had a long and distinguished career of public service in Pennsylvania, serving four governors in cabinet positions including Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of Labor and Industry, and Secretary of Environmental Resources. He also has served as chairman and member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

## Endowment honors retired faculty member

Penn State Harrisburg honor students seeking to expand their education through international study are receiving financial support through a new fund created in honor of recently retired faculty member Jefferson Hartzler.

Funded by Hartzler's son, J. Alex Hartzler, the endowment's purpose is to "enrich Penn State Harrisburg by providing monies for honor students to experience international travel as part of their education."

Hartzler's Penn State teaching career began in 1965 when he served as a graduate assistant at University Park while working toward his master's in mathematics.

He retired as associate professor emeritus of mathematics in December, 2006.

Accounting major Jennifer Hannahoe participated in a spring study tour to Rome. Describing the experience as life altering, she said, "Thanks to [the] generous scholarship, I was able to participate in this international educational adventure which is something that without [the] support would not be possible for me to do."

## Russel Horn creates scholarship

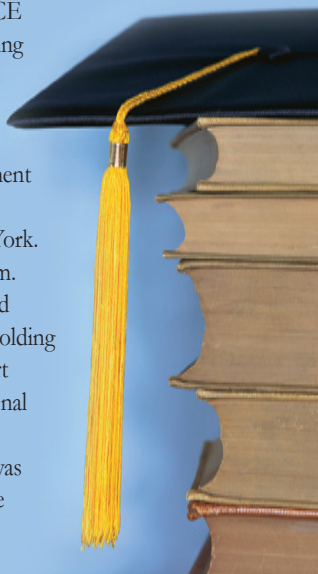
Penn State Harrisburg continues to benefit from York resident Russell E. Horn's lifelong love for the University. Horn recently established the Russell E. Horn Trustee Matching Scholarship at Penn State Harrisburg.

To date, more than 30 students at Penn State Harrisburg, York, and University Park have benefited from scholarships created by Horn. His commitment to Penn State Harrisburg also includes donations for the expansion of the Science and Technology Building in 1997 and to the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology program fund in honor of Dr. Charles A. Cole in 2006. University-wide, the Four Diamonds Fund and the Children's Miracle Network have been enhanced by his generosity.

The 95-year-old founder of Buchart-Horn, Inc.; Print-O-Stat, Inc.; and PACE Resources, Inc., — who still goes to work daily and visits every office each morning to personally greet employees — Horn's commitment to Penn State stretches some 75 years to his undergraduate days as a student at University Park, where he earned a civil engineering degree in 1933.

After Depression-era employment with the Pennsylvania Highway Department and as a salesman, Horn served the U.S. Army during World War II. Later, he joined architect Clair Buchart to form an engineering consulting business in York. He also helped organize Print-O-Stat, an engineering supply and blueprinting firm. The original engineering firm eventually was split and Horn became president and chief engineer of Buchart Horn. He and his business partners also organized a holding company, PACE Resources, to provide various administrative services for Buchart Horn and Print-O-Stat. Under his leadership, PACE has grown into an international organization.

Horn is the former president of the Penn State Club of York County and was named a University Alumni Fellow and Outstanding Engineering Alumnus by the College of Engineering in 1987.





## Miller and Nickel selected as 2007 Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Fellows



*Col. Jeffrey B. Miller*



*Shelley Clark Nickel*

Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller is one of two people selected as a Penn State Harrisburg 2007 Alumni Fellow.

The Alumni Fellow 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 come to campus and share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators.

A 2001 graduate of the college with a Master of Public Administration degree, Miller has been commissioner since 2003 and was thrust into the international spotlight a year ago over the deadly shootings in a Lancaster County Amish schoolhouse. A Harrisburg native, Miller drew accolades for his handling of the tragedy.

After graduation from Central Dauphin High School in 1981, Miller earned an associate degree from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's in criminal justice from Elizabethtown College. He enlisted in the Pennsylvania State Police in 1984, first serving as a trooper at Bedford, York, and Harrisburg. He was promoted to corporal in 1988, sergeant in 1990, lieutenant in 1993, captain in 1995, and major in 2002. He now holds the rank of colonel.

He served as keynote speaker for Penn State Harrisburg's May 2003 commencement.

Stroudsburg High School graduate Shelley Clark Nickel also is a Penn State Harrisburg 2007 Alumni Fellow.

Nickel, who earned an undergraduate degree in health and human development in 1978 and a master's in liberal arts in 1982 from Penn State, is currently associate vice chancellor for planning and implementation for the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia. She implements the board's strategic plan and system-wide projects.

Until recently, Nickel was director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for the state of Georgia, the highest state office in budget and planning management. She was the first woman to hold that position. Nickel also served as president of the Georgia Student Finance Commission, responsible for the state's scholarship, grant and loan programs, including the nationally known HOPE program which has provided more than 950,000 students with \$3.2 billion in aid.

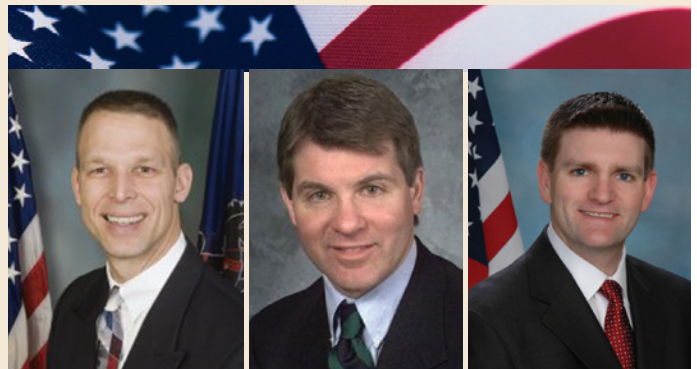
## Penn State Harrisburg graduates serve in state legislature

Adding to the list of Penn State Harrisburg alumni serving in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, Rep. Scott Perry (R-York/Cumberland), a 1991 graduate, this year began his first term with the 92<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District in the House of Representatives. Perry joins other Penn State Harrisburg graduates Rep. David Argall and Rep. John Yudichak.

Perry initially used his business degree from Penn State Harrisburg to start his own mechanical contracting firm, Hydrotech Mechanical Services, Inc., providing contract construction and maintenance services. Previously a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army, Perry currently resides in Dillsburg.

Rep. David Argall (R-Schuylkill/Berks) received his master's in American studies in 1993 and Ph.D. in public administration in 2006 from Penn State Harrisburg. In 2004 and 2006, Rep. Argall was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Republican Whip. He is a resident of Rush Township.

Rep. John. T. Yudichak (D-Luzerne) graduated from Penn State Harrisburg in 2004 with a master's in American studies. A member of the House since 1998, Yudichak serves on the Education; Environmental Resources and Energy; Local Government; and Intergovernmental Affairs committees and is co-chairman of the bicameral Penn State Forum on Higher Education. Yudichak resides in Nanticoke.



*Rep. Scott Perry*

*Rep. David Argall*

*Rep. John Yudichak*

## Construction of new Olmsted entrance underway



*Beginning in mid-summer with the removal of the roof and entryway, the new front entrance to Olmsted Building takes shape.*

A new front entrance to Olmsted Building is the latest in a list of construction projects aimed at enhancing the campus while supporting its academic mission.

The project, approved by the University Board of Trustees in late March and begun in mid-summer, is expected to be completed in early 2008. The Penn State Office of Physical Plant Design Services was the design professional for the 5,262-square-foot addition with Poole Anderson Construction as the general contractor.

The enhanced entrance to the building will be a three-story

addition that will contain a new atrium lobby, a café expansion, a new elevator to improve accessibility to Olmsted, and a third floor conference room.

Since 2000, Penn State Harrisburg has added a 115,000-square-foot technologically enhanced library, new student housing, an indoor aquatic center, a rear entrance to Olmsted Building, the Ziegler Commons outdoor plaza, the Hoverter Tennis Complex, a new baseball field, and an addition to Church Hall.

## College sets tobacco-free zone

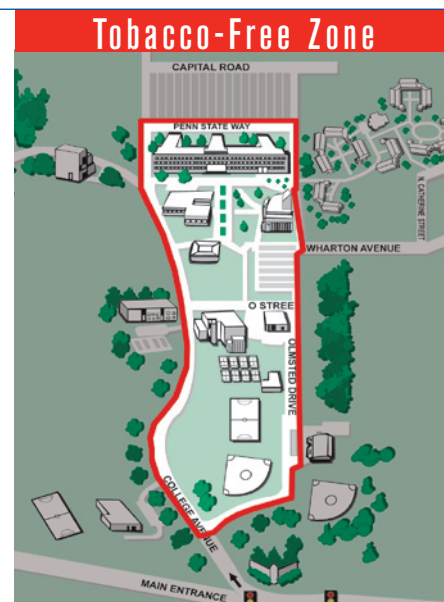
This fall the college designated a large portion of the campus as a tobacco-free zone.

The area bounded by Penn State Way, College Avenue, and Olmsted Drive (the central core of campus) is now tobacco-free. This includes Ziegler Commons, Vartan Plaza, and the athletic fields. Signage has been placed informing faculty, staff, students, and visitors of the tobacco-free zone.

A college task force recommended the expansion of the college policy and conducted a survey which indicated overwhelming support for a tobacco-free campus. In the survey, 71% of faculty, 77% of staff, and 67% of students responding favored a ban.

The college also reminded users of tobacco products that information on cessation programs is available from the Health Services Office, a personal physician, or pharmacist. Individuals may also contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health 24-Hour Quit Line at 1-877-724-1090 for cessation classes and information.

In 1989, Penn State Harrisburg was the first Penn State campus to ban smoking in its buildings. Now the college's policy has established one of the broadest tobacco-free areas among the University's campuses.



## 2008 "Alumni Couples" Valentine's dinner scheduled

*The Office of Alumni Relations is hosting the second Alumni Couples Dinner and Dance, February 9, 2008.*

If you and your spouse are Penn State Harrisburg alums, this special event is just for you. The evening begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a brief program, then dancing until 10:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 per couple and invitations will be sent in January. For more information, e-mail: [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu).

## Board of Advisers names new members, officers

Community and business leaders K.D. Patel and Harry I. Yaverbaum have been appointed to the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers.



K. D. Patel

Patel is co-founder of Hersha Hospitality Management, L.P., and serves as an adviser to hospitality industry councils, including the International Association of Holiday Inns. He has served on the American Red Cross Board of Directors and the Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Administration Advisory Council.

He holds a degree in mechanical engineering from the M.S. University of India.



Harry I. Yaverbaum

Yaverbaum, a certified public accountant, has nearly 38 years of experience with local, regional, and national accounting firms and spent 12 years as Pennsylvania deputy auditor general during which he supervised the first statewide audit of the Commonwealth.

He is on the board of the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, president of the Mt. Moriah Cemetery Association of Harrisburg's Ohev Shalom Temple, and an active member of the Harrisburg Rotary Club. He holds a bachelor's degree in business from Penn State.

Additionally, James C. Byerly, president and CEO of HDH Byerly, has been named the Board of Advisers' chair. Previously vice chair, he will serve a two-year term. Christine Sears, senior vice president and chief financial officer at Penn National Insurance, is vice chair, while Richard E. Bentz, president of Edenridge Enterprises, is the new treasurer.

## Mukund Kulkarni named senior associate dean for academic affairs

Following a national search, this May Penn State Harrisburg named Professor of Finance Mukund S. Kulkarni its senior associate dean for academic affairs.

Kulkarni had served in the position on an interim basis since July 2006.

"Dr. Kulkarni has provided outstanding leadership during his 22 years of service to the college, including his 10 years as director of the School of Business Administration and his current

appointment," Chancellor Madlyn Hanes said. "Under his stewardship, the school has experienced significant growth and received its initial AACSB accreditation. Dr. Kulkarni was also part of the inter-college leadership team that developed the iMBA, which has also realized significant growth on behalf of the broader University."

A member of the business faculty since 1985, Kulkarni had served as director of the School of Business Administration from 1996 until his appointment to succeed the retiring William J. Mahar as senior associate dean.

An accomplished teacher and scholar, Dr. Kulkarni is published in academic journals, including the *Journal of Management Research*, *The Engineering Economist*, *Journal of Business Finance and Accounting*, *Financial Management*, and *Managerial Finance*. He brought valuable corporate experience in the commercial banking industry to the School of Business Administration and is often an invited lecturer and consultant to other academic business schools, in addition to state government and nonprofit organizations.

Kulkarni earned bachelor's and master's degrees in his native India, an M.B.A. from Marshall University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky.



Mukund S. Kulkarni

## Dedication on display

Since arriving at Penn State Harrisburg's Eastgate Center, Bob Ritter has decorated the walls with his personal cache of Penn State sports memorabilia. His collection includes, among many things, photos, footballs, and clothing autographed by Joe Paterno and other Penn State football greats like 1973 Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti and NFL Hall of Famer Jack Ham. Newer items on display recognize other Penn State athletes, including former Lady Lion basketball star Kelly Mazzante. A property protection guard at Eastgate, Ritter has begun donating pieces of his collection to the college.



Gini Woy Photography



## New programs meet regional and broader needs

Several new programs at Penn State Harrisburg are designed to meet growing needs within the region, as well as nationally. With the creation of two new degree programs, the college now offers two associate's, 30 bachelor's, 21 master's, and two doctorates, plus the first two years of study leading to 160 Penn State degrees.

### B.S. in Security and Risk Analysis

Modern concerns over information security and analysis led Penn State to develop a model program to address the growing demand for specialists in security and intelligence. The Bachelor of Science in Security and Risk Analysis became available at Penn State Harrisburg this summer.

The major integrates studies in information security, intelligence analysis, and cyber forensics and strives to give students practical leadership skills essential in various of workplace settings.

In forming the new major, 15 experts — including CEOs, CIOs, and federal agency executives — joined University President Graham B. Spanier and other administrators and faculty leaders to discuss the proposed curriculum. The panelists discussed options that would best respond to society's needs in areas such as information gathering and analysis, combating identity theft and corporate fraud, intrusion detection, risk management, and national security.

At Penn State Harrisburg, the program is a joint venture between the schools of Business Administration and Public Affairs and fills a regional void in preparing graduates for careers in this field. The program is housed at University Park in the College of Information Sciences and Technology.

Assistant Professor of Information Systems Phil Hippensteel, who teaches in the program and is the Penn State Harrisburg point-of-contact, says, "Every course we have offered related to security fills quickly. The news is filled with stories of identity theft and companies losing personal information. Students and parents hear this news."

"We have great expectations for the program," he says.



### M.P.S. in Engineering Management

This fall marked the start of Penn State Harrisburg's newest master's program, the Master of Professional Studies in Engineering Management. Like the bachelor's in security and risk analysis, the new degree is offered through the joint efforts of two schools within the college.

A partnership between the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology and the School of Business Administration, the 34-credit program integrates engineering study with business and management principles and is designed to provide engineers with business perspectives to enhance their capabilities in managing major projects, participating in business initiatives, developing policies, and other activities in the public and private sectors.

"Engineering management is rapidly becoming recognized as a professional discipline. Engineering managers are distinguished by the fact that they have the ability to apply engineering principles and a skill in organizing and directing technical projects and people in technical jobs," says the American Society for Engineering Management.

### Logistics and Supply Chain Management Concentration

Central Pennsylvania has rapidly become an East Coast hub for transportation and warehousing industries, creating a need for business managers to organize and direct the movement of goods.

Penn State Harrisburg recently took another step toward meeting that need.

Building on its established certificate program in Logistics and Supply Chain Management and course offerings within the MBA, the college has introduced a supply chain concentration option in its B.S. in management curriculum.

"Penn State is a recognized world leader and pioneer in supply chain study," said Professor of Supply Chain Management Richard Young. "We are answering a voiced need from the business community by introducing the concentration within the undergraduate management program."

The 12-credit supply chain management concentration prepares students for a professional career in managing supply chain activities by developing knowledge and skills in logistics, procurement, inventory, transportation, and warehouse management.

Check the web for more information: [www.hbg.psu.edu](http://www.hbg.psu.edu).

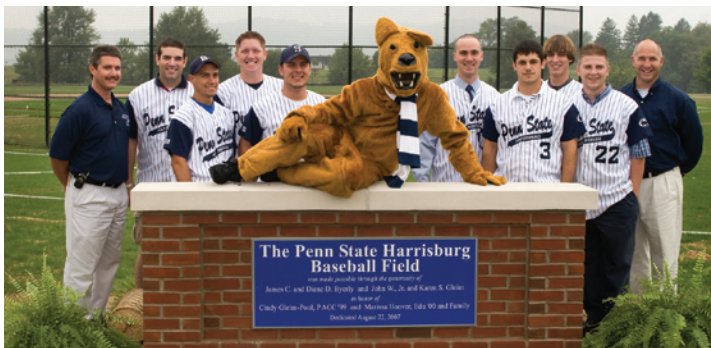
## Baseball team has a new home

The expansion of Penn State Harrisburg's intercollegiate athletic program took another noteworthy step with the formal dedication of its new baseball field in August.

Constructed through the generosity of two friends of the college – James C. Byerly and John W. Gleim Jr. – the new facility's dedication ceremonies included comments from Chancellor Madlyn L. Hanes and head baseball coach Bob Maschmeyer. Current members and alumni of the baseball team also took part.

Byerly, the president of HDH Byerly, is chair of the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers. With Penn State Harrisburg joining the North Eastern Athletic Conference this fall and beginning NCAA Division III provisional membership, he spearheaded the effort to build the field. Gleim generously donated the services of his excavating company toward construction of the field.

In addition to the new field, United Concordia provided a financial gift to construct the home team dugout on the field which will see its first action in spring 2008.



The men's baseball team and a special guest helped mark the dedication of the new baseball field.



The ceremonial first pitch, left to right, John W. Gleim Jr., Chancellor Madlyn Hanes, James C. Byerly

## New volleyball coach named

When the Penn State Harrisburg women's volleyball team began competition in a new conference this fall, a familiar name within local volleyball circles was at the helm.

This spring, the college announced the appointment of Harrisburg resident Robert L. Creason as head coach of the squad which is now competing in the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

Creason previously coached Central Dauphin High School girl's volleyball team 17 seasons and directed the boy's team for 13 seasons.

He also coached an adult team to a gold medal in the Keystone State Games.

## Justin Sheaffer, Amanda Mentzer named athletes of the year

Soccer standout Justin Sheaffer and three-sport star Amanda Mentzer are Penn State Harrisburg's 2006-2007 male and female athletes of the year.

Sheaffer, a sophomore from Middle-West High School in Middleburg, Pa., and Mentzer, a graduate student majoring in applied behavior analysis from Lower Dauphin High School, were among the student-athletes honored May 2 at the college's annual athletic awards banquet.

In his first year with the soccer team, Sheaffer quickly established himself as a "go-to player, providing the team with an unprecedented high level of work coupled with tremendous skill and speed," according to head coach Mark Brown. "He's a very team-oriented individual, unselfish in his approach and always looking to assist other players to make them better," Brown said.

Sheaffer's unselfish approach is typified by his statistics – 26 assists and 14 goals – in a season which saw the squad again reach the conference title game. A standout in the classroom as well as on the soccer field, Sheaffer carries a 3.76 grade-point average.

Mentzer not only participated in three sports, but left a lasting impact on each of them. In the fall, she was team captain of the women's soccer team, held the same leadership spot with the women's basketball squad, and finished her academic year by earning Most Valuable Player honors for the women's softball team.

Softball coach Tonya Dengler said, "Mandy is a leader among her peers and sets the benchmark on and off the field. Her work ethic is constant and unmatched as she constantly strives to improve her skills."

A master's degree student, Mentzer currently holds a 3.48 grade-point average and is a member of Pi Gamma Mu, an international honor society for the social sciences, and Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology.

## ESL certificate program earns \$1.37 million federal grant

A \$1.37 million federal grant will now enable Penn State Harrisburg to extend its successful English as a Second Language certificate program to secondary teachers in math, social studies, language arts, and science throughout the Commonwealth.

The National Professional Development Grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition builds on its \$1.27 million commitment in 2002 which established an ESL certificate program for teachers in the midstate.

The 12-credit certificate program, also an elective in the college's master's degree program in teaching and curriculum, was created in 2002 when the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) approved Penn State Harrisburg as a provider of the post-baccalaureate offering. To date, almost 300 teachers have participated in the program.

The most recent grant, awarded to the college's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education Teacher Education Unit in collaboration with PDE, will provide secondary education teachers throughout Pennsylvania access to online ESL programming and field-based coaching and mentoring. To ease the demand on teachers who would have difficulty coming to campus for traditional classroom instruction, the first course in the sequence will be delivered online beginning summer 2008.

The principal investigator and project director for the grant is Assistant Professor of Education Lisa Buenaventura. Co-investigators are Judith Zaenglein, senior research associate and director of the college's Center for the Improvement of Teaching and Learning, and Assistant Professor of Education Incho Lee.

## Education students earn national scholarships

Two senior elementary education students are the first at Penn State Harrisburg to earn national scholarships from the Kappa Delta Pi Educational Foundation.

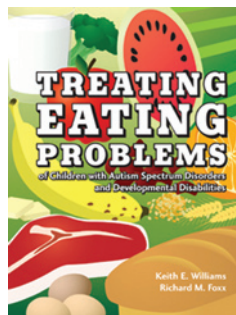
Kevin Scharlau, an elementary education/early childhood education major, has been awarded the \$1,000 Sandra Jo Hornick Scholarship and Vicki Matthey, majoring in elementary education, was presented the \$500 Harold S. Drummond Scholarship.

Scharlau and Matthey are president and vice president, respectively, of the Penn State Harrisburg chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. Membership is based on academic achievement and service to the campus and community.

## New book addresses eating problems connected with autism

A child's incessant screaming, spitting, and food throwing during mealtime are enough to frustrate any parent or caregiver. And resistance to eating can eventually lead to malnourishment. But additional concerns about physical and intellectual development arise for children with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities.

Penn State Harrisburg Professor of Psychology Richard M. Foxx is co-author of a new book, *Treating Eating Problems of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Developmental Disabilities*, which profiles interventions for professionals and parents. The two-part book was co-written with Dr. Keith E. Williams, associate professor of pediatrics at the Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey.



The book's first part was created for teachers, parents, and caregivers with no prior professional experience or training on eating problems. Part two was written for professionals, providing detailed information on how to apply behavioral assessment and developing individualized interventions based on a child's eating disorders.

Dr. Foxx, who teaches in the college's applied behavior analysis master's degree program, has written and presented extensively on the use of behavioral principles to treat individuals with autism, mental retardation, mental illness, emotional disturbances, and typical development. An internationally recognized expert, Dr. Foxx is editor-in-chief of the journal *Behavioral Interventions*.

Dr. Williams also teaches at Penn State Harrisburg in the ABA program and directs internships and research projects. He is the director of the Feeding Program at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center where he sees children with feeding problems from across the country and several countries outside of the U.S.

The Teacher Education Unit of Penn State Harrisburg's School of Behavioral Sciences and Education is scheduled for a Spring 2008 accreditation review by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Federal regulations require that accrediting agencies allow for public comment on the qualifications of institutions or programs under consideration for first accreditation or continuing accreditation.

Both NCATE and Penn State Harrisburg recognize graduates, parents, schools, and community organizations have valuable perspectives on the quality of the programs that prepare teachers and other school personnel. We invite interested parties to submit written testimony on the Teacher Education Unit of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education to:

### Board of Examiners

NCATE

2010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20036-1023

or by email to: [callforcomments@ncate.org](mailto:callforcomments@ncate.org)

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of professional education programs offered at Penn State Harrisburg, and should specify the respondent's relationship, if any, to the institution (i.e., graduate, present or former faculty member, employer of graduates). Copies of all correspondence received will be sent to Penn State Harrisburg for comment prior to the review. No anonymous testimony will be considered.

*Letters of comment should be received no later than Monday, December 31, 2007.*

## Gayle Yaverbaum to chair accreditation commission

Penn State Harrisburg Professor of Information Systems Gayle J. Yaverbaum is the chair-elect of the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the recognized accreditor for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology in the U.S. and internationally.

The Computing Accreditation Commission, along with three other ABET commissions, implements and develops accreditation procedures and decisions and academic program criteria for all types of computing-related programs.

The fastest growing of ABET's commissions, the Computing Accreditation Commission is scheduled to review more than 100 programs at 80 colleges and universities this year. Dr. Yaverbaum will serve as chair-elect this academic year and will chair the commission in 2008-09.

Currently the director of information technology programs in the School of Business Administration, Dr. Yaverbaum is recognized as a national leader in technology education. In 2005, she was named National Educator of the Year by the Association for Information Technology Professionals. She played a major role in the creation of the Information Sciences and Technology degree at University Park and facilitated its availability at Penn State Harrisburg in 2001.

## How safe are our nation's railroads?

Thousands of trains move across the American landscape daily. Any of them could present a potential threat to public safety and the continued functioning of our communities and economy.

A new national study by two Penn State Harrisburg faculty members highlights the potential threats, examines the government and rail industry response to post-9/11 security responsibilities and suggests ways public policy and rail operations can be better directed to meet security challenges.

The principal Penn State Harrisburg investigators, Professor of Public Administration and Public Policy Jeremy Plant and Professor of Supply Chain Management Richard Young, completed the study "Securing and Protecting America's Railroad System: U.S. Railroad and Opportunities for Terrorist Threats" for Citizens for Rail Safety, Inc., a national nonprofit public interest organization.

According to Plant and Young, "Resources currently directed to rail security are inadequate, given the potential for catastrophic loss of life or economic disruption from attacks on the rail system. The growing use of rail systems for work-related passenger travel and the critical role played by freight railroads in the U.S. and global commerce makes insuring their security a matter of urgent public concern."

### Among the study's other findings are:

- Traditional approaches to rail security, focusing on policing and cordoning of rail assets, are inadequate to provide security against post-9/11 terrorist threats.
- Responsibilities for rail security remain divided among a number of federal agencies, between federal and state agencies, between government and the private sector, and between shippers, users and providers.
- The role played by the rail industry in intermodal shipments, especially those involving the movement of cargo from and through port facilities, represents a major area of risk.
- Terrorist acts directed against freight railroads pose a range of threats from destruction of freight and infrastructure to harming the economy at large.

### Among the study's recommendations are:

- Congress needs to pass comprehensive rail security legislation and allocate adequate financial and administrative resources to enhance current security efforts.
- Passenger operations in major urban areas should receive increased funding security.
- Coordination between the array of law enforcement agencies and railroad police should be improved.
- A congressionally established National Commission on Rail Security should be created and empowered to study the state of rail security.

See the full report at [www.citizensforrailsafety.org/home](http://www.citizensforrailsafety.org/home).

## Kochanov is University award winner

Penn State Harrisburg faculty member Jane Kochanov received the 2007 University-wide Information Sciences and Technology Faculty Award.

Kochanov was honored for her classroom innovations, ability to inspire students, outreach efforts with middle and high school students, and for her commitment to campus and external communities.

Kochanov's nomination highlighted her roles in and contributions to the College of Information Sciences and Technology. She serves as the IST program coordinator at Penn State Harrisburg and the internship coordinator. In these roles and in her service as an adviser and mentor, she "positively influences our students every day," wrote one nominator.

Kochanov also was praised for her teaching style which, according to one student, includes "bringing real-world experiences, encouraging class participation, and respecting what students have to say..." In addition, she is a technological innovator and has integrated SAP software into courses so that students have experience with enterprise resource concepts and applications.

Kochanov has made an impact outside the classroom as well. Two years ago, she initiated "IT Day" at Penn State Harrisburg, a program which brings high school students and counselors to campus to learn about the IST curriculum and IT careers. This year, some 80 participants attended. Kochanov has also created a robotics workshop which she has offered to elementary through high school students.



Jane Kochanov



## Media ethics discussion proves “superfluous” in a nation without free press

In early September, Associate Professor of Humanities and Communication Samuel Winch was faced with a dilemma. A State Department-funded assignment took him to the Central Asian country of Tajikistan to discuss journalism ethics with media figures, scholars, and students.

The mission was complicated by the fact that the former Soviet republic does not have a free press. Despite this, Winch was successful in opening a dialog on journalism and ethics while using the failings of the American news media as a lesson.

“Most of the news media in Tajikistan are directly or indirectly controlled by the government,” Winch said. “News media are constrained by laws that criminalize criticism of government leaders. Routine information about laws and political processes is often not disclosed to the news media.

“This environment, combined with rampant government corruption, makes discussion of news media ethics somewhat premature or superfluous. What is sorely needed in Tajikistan is reform of the existing repressive media laws.... There is good, informative, responsible reporting being done on many important topics, just not about the government and the political system.”

Journalists asked Winch tough questions about American news media and current events, including coverage of the war in Iraq and the fight against the Taliban. “I was quite frank about the failings of American news coverage of these events, which seemed to impress the journalists who probably don’t often hear open and frank self-criticism from Americans – or perhaps anyone,” Winch said.

“I explained that the best way to learn journalism ethics is to learn from others’ mistakes. American journalists have made plenty of them over the years. One of my goals for the visit was to demonstrate that a strong country is one that is able to discuss its faults. And while I feel self-criticism is nearly a lost art in Tajikistan, I feel presumptuous lecturing people about it.”

One task Dr. Winch had been asked to accomplish on the trip was to help Tajik journalists develop a code of ethics. “Evidently, there has already been work done on this without much progress,” he said. “And a code already exists from the 1950s, written during the Soviet era. The need for a new code was discussed, but it seems the independent journalists were interested in pursuing it and the government journalists were not. The independents saw it as a way to pressure the government to loosen restrictions,” Winch said.

Throughout his visit, Winch suggested ways to encourage more news coverage and publicity for Central Asia, noting especially the need for better visual presentation – more and better photographs. His background in photojournalism and expertise in photojournalism education quickly spurred the interest of journalists and educators who enlisted his future assistance. He has been asked to work on a grant proposal to fund a translation of his curriculum and for him to teach a month-long photojournalism course.

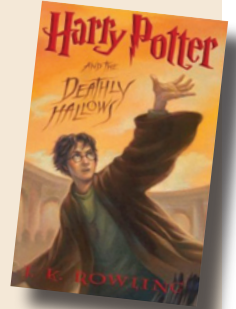


While in Tajikistan,  
Winch's expertise in  
photo journalism spurred  
the interest of journalists  
and educators.

Photo by Dr. Samuel P. Winch

## No deathly hallows for Potter’s appeal

The much anticipated final Harry Potter book has long since hit shelves and Potter mania continues a decade after the first book was published. A recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* survey of the top books being read on college campuses listed two of J.K. Rowling’s books in the top 10. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the series’ final book, holds top honors and *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is number nine.



Patricia Johnson, professor of humanities and English, has read all seven books along with her 9-year-old son. “That is really the only reason I got into the books; I started by reading them aloud to him,” Johnson said.

Why is this series so intriguing to such a broad range of readers? In a recent interview, Johnson, who teaches 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century British literature, said there are several reasons. Johnson said Rowling is a master at developing plot and compared her to writers like J.R. Tolkien, author of the *Lord of the Rings* series. Johnson also said that, like Charles Dickens, Rowling draws on themes that people can identify with – an orphan trying to find his way in life – and has a way of keeping the audience guessing.

“That (rumor of Harry Potter’s death) is the sort of drama that she is able to play out and keep building with suspense across the whole series. It is one of the reasons that it remains so exciting,” Johnson told citizensvoice.com. “(Harry’s) is a compelling world and it will be around for a while because the basic values are good and the characters are very believable,” she said.

## Curbing prison violence to improve rehabilitation

Does the traditional form of incarceration really work? Are criminals actually rehabilitated in prison or do they return to the community as violent – or more violent – than before?

The *Culture of Prison Violence*, a new book co-authored by Penn State Harrisburg Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Don Hummer, highlights the link between prison culture and community culture, demonstrating that “what happens in prison doesn't stay in prison.”

A native of Harrisburg who earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and joined the Penn State Harrisburg School of Public Affairs in 2005, Hummer co-authored the book with criminal justice scholars Dr. James M. Byrne, University of Massachusetts – Lowell, and Dr. Faye Taxman, Virginia Commonwealth University.

“Our reliance on prison over the past three decades in this country has had a negative impact on both offenders and communities,” Hummer says. “The book identifies strategies correctional facilities can employ, such as working to improve staff culture, to reduce violence and disorder in prisons.”

One of America's foremost criminal justice scholars, Todd Clear from the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice says the book is practical with its goal of changing practices to make prisons different. He writes in the foreword: “...the interest these days in the topic of re-entry has as its foundational assumption that people who leave prison bring most of their problems back to the community, intact or amplified by what happened to them behind bars.”

Hummer is also the co-editor/author of two forthcoming texts: *The Handbook of Police Administration and Parole* and *Offender Reentry: New Directions in Offender Treatment, Offender Control, and Community Change*.



## Book profiles transportation system challenges

The *Handbook of Transportation Policy and Administration*, edited by Penn State Harrisburg Professor of Public Administration and Public Policy Jeremy Plant, explores the continuing development of transportation systems in the U.S. and other nations with an emphasis on the challenges created by technological change, the globalization of the world economy, and the threat of terrorism.

The book examines the current state of major transportation modes, including air, rail, highways, waterways, ports, and urban mass transit, and considers public policies and management approaches to make transportation systems efficient, innovative, and responsive.

Dr. Van R. Johnston, Daniels School of Business, University of Denver, and Dr. Cristina Ciocirlan, Elizabethtown College, a 2006 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's public administration doctoral program, assisted in editing the book.

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## Customer service woes – and solutions – cross all sectors

Poor customer service has been a subject of attention across all professions and industries – in both the private and nonprofit sectors. Customer service breakdowns such as passengers stuck on delayed flights by Jet Blue or Pennsylvania citizens stranded for some 20 hours by a snowstorm are two of many examples.

Why and how did these dramatic failures of customer support occur? A new book by a Penn State Harrisburg faculty member presents the organizational architecture of customer-friendly organizations. How do some private companies and public agencies become customer friendly? By accident or by design? “Some advisers claim employees are the key to service while others feel product quality is critical. But the truth is that people and procedures and products co-produce a customer friendly experience,” says Professor James T. Ziegenfuss, Jr. “Academics and practicing managers know that organizational design affects behavior.”

*Customer Friendly: the Organizational Architecture of Service* by Ziegenfuss is designed to show how organizations can consistently deliver high-quality customer service. The book builds on the theory and application of “systems thinking” to organization design and behavior by showing how products, structure, psychological climate, culture, and leadership work together to produce customer-friendly experiences. The book illustrates its applications in a variety of organizations including a hospital, auto manufacturer, airline, hotel, bank, university, and library.

Ziegenfuss teaches courses in the college's master's and doctoral degree programs in public administration and health administration.



## Idowu named University Administrative Fellow

Penn State Harrisburg Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering Peter B. Idowu is one of three Penn State University Administrative Fellows for the 2007-08 academic year.

Idowu is the Administrative Fellow for Rodney A. Erickson, the University's executive vice president and provost.

The Administrative Fellows Program provides professional development opportunities for faculty and staff. By serving under the mentorship of a senior level administrator, fellows who are seeking the background necessary to compete at higher levels of administration have an opportunity to broaden their perspectives and experience.

Idowu joined Penn State Harrisburg in 1993 as an assistant professor of electrical engineering. In 1999, he was named associate professor; he also serves as coordinator for two master's-level engineering programs. Before joining Penn State, Idowu was assistant professor of electrical engineering/computer systems at Grove City College. A registered professional engineer, he worked as an electrical engineer for firms, both in the United States and Nigeria from 1979 to 1984.



Peter B. Idowu

## Team competes in programming contest

A team of Penn State Harrisburg students challenged teams from nine other colleges and universities October 27 in the regional contest of the 32nd ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) International Collegiate Programming Contest sponsored by IBM at Shippensburg University.

Teams of three students are challenged to use their programming skills, creativity, and business sense to solve complex, real world problems under a grueling five-hour deadline. Tackling these problems is equivalent to completing a semester's worth of computer programming in one afternoon.

The Penn State Harrisburg team consisted of undergraduate computer science majors Michael Kotovsky, Middletown, and Travis Hahn, Camp Hill, and graduate student Eric Liskow, Marysville. Associate Professor of Computer Science Linda Null coached the team and is adviser to the college chapter of ACM.

At press time, results of the competition had not been released.

This year's regional competition of the international contest had teams vying for slots in the world finals in which 90 teams will compete for awards, prizes, and scholarships. The world finals will be April 8 to 12, 2008 in Banff Springs, Alberta, Canada, and hosted by the University of Alberta.

## HP grant benefits students

Penn State Harrisburg has been selected as one of 42 colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico to receive a 2007 HP Technology for Teaching grant, designed to transform teaching and improve learning in the classroom through innovative uses of technology.

During the 2007-2008 academic year, HP Technology for Teaching grant projects will impact more than 6,000 higher education students. Penn State Harrisburg's School of Science, Engineering, and Technology will receive an award package of HP products and a faculty stipend with a combined value at more than \$68,000.

Grant recipients will use HP wireless Tablet PCs to enhance learning in engineering, math, science, or computer science. Penn State Harrisburg's goal is to design, develop, and implement a continuum of courses integrating active learning into the engineering discipline. Using Tablet PCs, engineering students will have access to design and computation tools to solve in-class projects collaboratively, and share their processes and results with each other.

Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering Hossein Jula, the principal investigator for the Penn State Harrisburg grant, said "Real-time learning supported through active learning and class assessments is much more transparent with the ability to see and hear students' learning during class activities. The process and product of their learning become visible. In this way, the students and instructors can take early steps to identify and resolve any gaps in the learning process."

## Faculty textbook earns top honor

The work of two Penn State Harrisburg faculty members has been honored as the best computer science and engineering textbook of the year.

*The Essentials of Computer Organization and Architecture* by Associate Professor of Computer Science Linda Null and Instructor in Computer Science Julia Lobur has been selected as the winner of the "Texty" textbook award presented by the Text and Academic Authors Association. Texty awards are given in eight categories each year and honor excellence in current textbooks.

Null has been teaching mathematics and computer science for more than 25 years and is currently the computer science graduate program coordinator.

Lobur, who earned undergraduate and master's degrees in computer science at Penn State Harrisburg, has been a practitioner in the computer industry for more than 20 years.



## Lecture series examines social justice

National political activist Donna Brazile concluded the 2007 portion of the college's diversity lecture series with observations on the upcoming presidential election and the "thirst for equality that is alive in our country." Brazile painted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of equality and justice for all people as a blueprint for action and one that "can heal a wounded nation," encouraging everyone to "stir the pot in a nation where every vote should count."



**Brazile called King's dream a blueprint for action, one that "can heal a wounded nation."**

Brazile has worked on every presidential campaign since 1984, making history in 2000 as the first African American to lead a major effort. Since running the Gore-Lieberman campaign, she has served as chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute. She is an adjunct professor at Georgetown

University and was recently appointed to the Louisiana Recovery Authority, helping to guide the state's rebuilding efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A nationally syndicated columnist, Brazile is a regular contributor/consultant for CNN, ABC News, and NPR.

Brazile is the latest speaker featured in Penn State Harrisburg's yearlong Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Lecture Series titled "The Anatomy of Social Justice: Still Dreaming."

The series continues in 2008 with four more installments, highlighted by a presentation by the founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center Morris Dees.

The reminder of the series lineup includes:

**Clayton White and the Clayton White Singers** (January 21, 2008, on campus) White is a retired professor of music and department chair at the Community College of Philadelphia. The Clayton White Singers have performed extensively throughout the Delaware Valley. Their many credits include a recording of music from the African American church entitled "Yonder Comes Day" and performances on radio and television.

**Shaun Gabbidon, professor of Criminal Justice, Penn State Harrisburg** (February 19, 2008, on campus) Dr. Gabbidon, who has authored seven books on race and crime topics, was the 2007 recipient of the college's Faculty Award for Research and Scholarly Activity.

**John W. Kinney, dean, Virginia Union University School of Theology** (March 5, 2008, 12:30 p.m., on campus, and 7 p.m., Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, Harrisburg) The Rev. Dr. Kinney, acclaimed nationally as a theologian, academician, and administrator, also serves as pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beaverdam, Va.

**Morris Dees, co-founder and chief trial counsel, Southern Poverty Law Center** (April 8, 2008, on campus) In his pioneering role at the center, Dees participates in suing hate groups and mapping new directions for the organization. Dees has received numerous awards in conjunction with his work. Trial Lawyers for Public Justice named him Trial Lawyer of the Year in 1987, and he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association (NEA) in 1990. The American Bar Association gave him its Young Lawyers Distinguished Service Award, and the American Civil Liberties Union honored Dees with its Roger Baldwin Award. In 2001, he received NEA's highest award, its Friend of Education Award.



Morris Dees, J.D.

Speakers this fall included the Rev. Dr. Ronnie B. Tucker, pastor of Steelton's Mt. Zion Baptist Church; public radio and television's Tavis Smiley; and Penn State Harrisburg's Dr. Barbara A. Sims.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas and Mississippi State University, where he earned a Ph.D., Tucker is an associate professor of political science at Shippensburg University in addition to his duties as pastor at Mt. Zion Church.

Time magazine selected Tavis Smiley as one of America's 50 most promising young leaders. Newsweek profiled him as one of the "20 people changing how Americans get their news" and dubbed him one of the nation's "captains of the airwaves." With his late-night television talk show on PBS, and his radio show on PRI, Smiley is the first American to simultaneously host signature talk shows on both public television and public radio.

An associate professor in Penn State Harrisburg's School of Public Affairs, Sims currently serves as program chair for its undergraduate and graduate programs in Criminal Justice and the online bachelor's degree offered through Penn State's World Campus. In 2006, she earned the outstanding teaching award from the college and in 2007 was presented the University's Outreach Award for her work with local, regional, and state governmental and nonprofit agencies.

## Seasonal Stats

# 47,000

Retail stores open for business in Pennsylvania on Black Friday

# 116 million

Pounds of pumpkins produced annually in PA, second only to Ohio

# 2,164

Pennsylvania Christmas tree farms, the most in the nation

# 87

years since the nation's first Thanksgiving Day parade, held in Philadelphia

*Facts provided by the Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg, 2005-2007.*

*Part of the college's Institute of State and Regional Affairs, the PASDC is the Commonwealth's official source for demographic and economic data.*



## ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY

The STORY of a BOY'S DANGEROUS ODYSSEY to REUNITE with his MOTHER  
by Sonia Nazario

"This is a twenty-first-century Odyssey. Nazario's powerful writing illuminates one of the darkest stories in our country. This is outstanding journalism. If you are going to read only one non-fiction book this year, it has to be this one, because you know these young heroes. They live next door. . . ."

—Isabel Allende



## Book inspires tales of personal journeys

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro Cortes, '00 MPA, spoke of how his mother encouraged him to get an education to make a better life than she had. Hector Blanco, '06 CRIM J, a juvenile probation officer, lamented that his mother did not attend his college graduation. He talked of seeking support from other sources, like friends and counselors, in his quest for an education. And Nydia Vazquez, '03 SDCET, told of overcoming traditional thinking and chauvinism in her native Puerto Rico to become a structural engineer.

These three alumni participated in a recent campus presentation about individual journeys to success. The panel was part of programming based on Sonia Nazario's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *Enrique's Journey*, which chronicles a Honduran boy's journey to the U.S. in search of his mother. The book was the featured text for the 2007 Summer Reading Program for first-year students and served as the focus for college events throughout the semester, including a guest lecture by Nazario.

A journalist for the *Los Angeles Times*, Nazario grew up in Argentina and has written extensively from Latin America and about Latinos in the U.S. The novel, based on her Pulitzer Prize-winning newspaper series, was heavily influenced by Nazario's own experience of physically retracing Enrique's journey to America.

Dr. Louise Hoffman, associate professor of humanities, said *Enrique's Journey* was chosen for the reading program because of the subject's timeliness. "Its link to the issue of immigration – front and center in public discussion nation-wide – made this book especially timely," she said. In conjunction with the reading program, Hoffman helped to develop a semester-long Hispanic American heritage program, the focus of which was immigration issues.

## Wilson receives Fulbright

Penn State Harrisburg Professor of Humanities and English Matthew Wilson has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Literature and Culture to teach and write at the English Institute, University of Poland, for the 2007-08 academic year.

Fulbright Distinguished Chair awards are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program, named for the late Sen. J. William Fulbright. The program funds graduate study, advanced research, and teaching abroad with the goal of increasing understanding among people of the world.

Wilson is teaching American and African American literature to students, assisting with curriculum development, and offering short-term courses for Polish faculty. He also hopes to complete two essays, one on the issue of race in Poland and the other a personal narrative comparing current experiences in Poland to those of 20 years ago, when he taught there.

A recognized authority on the works of early 20th century African American novelist Charles W. Chesnutt, Wilson came to Penn State Harrisburg in 1991 after teaching in Saudi Arabia and Poland. In 2006, he received the college's Faculty Research Award.

## College refreshes official web site

Penn State Harrisburg's new web site invites alumni, faculty, prospective and current students to explore life at the college. After a year of research, planning and design, the college launched the site in August. Jessica Roman, web manager, said the goal was to give the site a fresh, student-friendly appearance and make it more functional. The result is an easier to navigate site with clear paths for alumni, students and faculty.

On the alumni page, for example, you can register for alumni events, update your personal information and find an online edition of *Currents*. Other pages keep you up to date on campus news and events, the college's academic programs, and the intercollegiate athletic program.

To explore the web site, visit [www.hbg.psu.edu](http://www.hbg.psu.edu), or look for specific information at the following URL's:

**Alumni:** <http://www.hbg.psu.edu/alumni>.

**Campus events:** <http://www.hbg.psu.edu/about>.

**Sports:** <http://www.hbg.psu.edu/athletics>.



# Alumni News and Notes

## 1960s

**James A. Boyce**, '69 SOCSCL, '71 M ED, Birdsboro, Pa., has retired after 38 years in education as a teacher and principal from the Pottsgrove School District. E-mail: Jboyce3@hotmail.com

## 1970s

**Lawrence Bienemann**, '70 MS URBPL, New Hampshire, is a retired health care executive, currently teaching at a local community college and traveling frequently on business to Vietnam. E-mail: lawrencecb@wildblue.net.

**Richard M. Barger**, '71 BUS, Hummelstown, was recently named the Penn State Harrisburg chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma 2007 Distinguished Honoree. Barger is currently the executive vice president and CFO of Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries. In 1989, Barger was honored by the college as its Alumni Fellow. Barger is also a certified public accountant, as well as a member of the School of Business Administration's Advisory Council.

**Linda D. Orsini**, '74 ELEM, Sewickley, Pa., is currently a homemaker after retiring from the Lower Dauphin School District in 1979. She has three daughters: Christine, Carolyn and Elizabeth. E-mail: orsini5@comcast.net.

**Thomas M. Calaide**, '77 BUS, Mountain Top, Pa., recently received a fourth degree award, Sir Knight in Bishop Hafey Assembly, Knights of Columbus.

## 1980s

**Neil Gussman**, '81 B HUM '88 MA AMSTUD, Lancaster, is a communications manager at Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia. At 54 years old, he has returned to the Army. Gussman will serve in the Pennsylvania National Guard's Echo Company, 104th Battalion at Fort Indiantown Gap. His helicopter-maintenance-unit job is

expected to lead him into a chemical-weapons specialist spot.

**William H. Brownlowe**, '83 ED ET, Blue Bell, Pa., was recently promoted to associate professor of engineering at Montgomery County Community College. E-mail: wbrownlowe@mc3.edu.

**Mark D. Weidhaas**, '83 SDCET, Colorado Springs, Colo., is currently the principal at RMG Engineers and department head for the Commercial Structural Group. He just completed serving a term as state president of the National Society of Professional Engineers. E-mail: mweidhaas@rmg-engineers.com.

**Roy B. Portner**, '84 PUBPL, Glenside, Pa., has recently become director of life, health and disability and investment sales at King Financial Group/King Agency/King Asset Protection – ALL-STATE. E-mail: RBP16@aol.com.

**Bob Kunzinger**, '89 B HUM, Virginia Beach, Va., has recently written a new book *Prof: One Guy Talking* that has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, as well as three other awards. He's been appearing on national talk shows and speaking across the country. E-mail: tkunzb@tcc.edu.

**Andrew Haag**, '89 PUBPL, was recently promoted to regional immigration officer (anti-fraud) for the Department of Homeland Security/USCIS Eastern Region. E-mail: haag3@aol.com.

**Joseph Kupec**, '89 COMCL, is currently providing quality program development to Schering Plough Corporate Engineering.

**Judy L. Hricak**, '89 B HUM, Harrisburg, was recently named a stockholder at Gannett Fleming where she is a vice president and national practice manager. She is a Certified Professional Services Marketer (CPSM), and achieved the Market Performance Measurement accreditation. She is also a member of the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society Board of Directors

and serves as chair of its Student Interaction Committee.

**Robert Mazzatesta**, '89 AMSTUD, Harrisburg, has retired after 36 years of service in education, most recently as principal of Central Dauphin High School.

## 1990s

**William C. Terrill**, '92 CRIMJ, East Lansing, Mich., has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at Michigan State University, School of Criminal Justice. E-mail: terrillw@msu.edu.

**Scott D. Biggs**, '93 ACCT, Camp Hill, is currently with Verispan, LLC as consulting services manager working with retailers nationwide to improve their pharmacy operations. He was formerly a manager in pharmacy services with Rite Aid Corporation. E-mail: sdbiggs@gmail.com.

**Rebekah J. Sanders**, '93 ELEM, East Berlin, has recently given birth to a son, Parker Travis. E-mail: beknjef@comcast.net.

**Debra Carney**, '94 ELEM, Quakertown, Pa. has relocated to Berlin, Germany to teach Kindergarten at the JFK school. E-mail: debbydeb8800aol.com.

**Brian A. Champaign**, '96 MPA, Barstow, Ca. is currently deputy chief of police for the Marine Corps Police Department, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, Cali. Established in 2005, the department made United States Marine Corps history as the first civilian police department to be formed in

the 231-year history of the Marine Corps. E-mail: brian.champaign@usmc.mil.

**Allison Fulton Livingston**, '99 ABESC, York, has recently given birth to a daughter, Emma Elizabeth, born March 27, 2007.

## 2000s

**Julia Dettore Cawthra**, '05 MBA, Columbia, Md., recently married William D. Cawthra, '01 E ENG.

**Briana Poole**, '05, IST, Blue Bell, Pa. was featured in the Summer 2007 edition of *i-Connect*, Penn State's College of Information Science and Technology's publication. *i-Connect* featured five IST alumni from University Park and several other campuses. Poole is taking part in Aetna's Leadership Development Program. The article "Forging the Future: IST Alumni Profiles" can be read at <http://ist.psu.edu/newsevents/i-connect/>.

**Hector M. Blanco, Jr.** '06 CRIMJ, Harrisburg, received the Penn State Harrisburg Andrew S. Donahue Award. E-mail: hectblan@aol.com.

## Current Student

**John E. Wetzel**, pending ACPSY, Chambersburg, was recently appointed to the Board of Pardons by Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll. Prior to being appointed to the Board of Pardons, Wetzel was warden of the Franklin County Prison. E-mail: spendrak@state.pa.us.

## A Moving Experience



*When new students arrived on campus for the start of fall semester, they had plenty of help. Alumni and current students volunteered to help new students settle into the housing complex.*

## Alums named to area business leaders list

Three Penn State Harrisburg graduates have been named to the *Central Penn Business Journal's* prestigious "40 Under 40" list.

The annual listing, published for more than a decade and chosen by a team of judges, features area professionals under the age of 40 "who contribute to the vibrancy of the region's economy and their community."

Penn State Harrisburg alumni honored recently are: Tom Campton Jr., president of Kern and Company P.C. in Camp Hill (2006); Josette M. Myers, director of community relations and development at Memorial Hospital in York (2007); and Omar Shute, executive director of the Cumberland Area Economic Development Corp. in Carlisle (2007).

Campton, 35, joined Kern and Company after graduating with highest distinction in 1994 from the professional accountancy program. Kern provides accounting services to eastern and Central Pennsylvania clients. Campton's work involves a variety of accounting, consulting, and tax areas, serving clients in many industries, but with concentrations in construction and nonprofits. He also holds primary responsibility for the company's personnel and compensation policies and client-service policies.

A 1989 communications graduate, Myers, 39, has played a major role in expanding giving and shaping a positive image for Memorial Hospital. She got her start in fundraising and public relations at Bell Socialization Services, a nonprofit in York, where she organized a \$1.5 million capital campaign.

Shute, 28, who earned a degree in marketing in 2003, was appointed executive director of the economic development corporation this year after serving two years as its business outreach and finance manager. Since he joined the board, the organization has leveraged more than \$5 million in business loans to companies in Cumberland County.

## alumni news

### Tell us about yourself.

Help us keep up with your whereabouts, activities, and achievements.

Last name		First name		Middle initial
Maiden name		Graduation year		Degree
Spouse last name		First name		Middle initial
Home address				City
State	County	Zip	Phone	
E-mail				
Business Name				
Business Address				City
State	County	Zip	Phone	
Other news (activities, honors, births, promotions, etc.)				

#### Please send me information on:

Harrisburg Alumni Society    Harrisburg Alumni Events    Harrisburg Awards Program    Harrisburg Alumni Mentor Program

#### Please send to:

Penn State Harrisburg, Alumni Office, 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 or [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu)

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