

# Currents

*Penn State Capital College Alumni Magazine*



## Generosity aids students

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## Campaign to **upgrade classrooms**

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PENNSTATE



Capital College





Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

## *A message from the Provost and Dean...*

The Fall 2001 semester brought with it unimaginable events. The tragedies of September 11 rocked our nation and the world and forever changed us. As we tried to make sense of the horrific acts of terror and the aftermath, we clung to hope. And we are hopeful still. We clung to our basic tenets of life in a free society. We hold them dearer now. We were moved by stories of extraordinary heroism and strength of character told to us by survivors, friends and loved ones of those lost. And we are inspired by their example.

Our College responded in meaningful ways. We came together as a community of learners, scholars, colleagues, and friends. Within hours of the morning attacks, students on the Schuylkill campus filled the Morgan Auditorium where senior administrators, student services staff and faculty engaged them in dialogue, lessened anxieties, and offered support. Prayer vigils on our campuses invited local clergy of different religions on September 12. We observed the day of National Prayer and Remembrance on September 14. We came together — we filled each room where these events were held — we took solace in each other's company. In the days and weeks that followed, students initiated fund drives and raised money for the families of victims.

The grave challenges ahead of us and a heightened immediate need to know about events as they unfolded sparked classroom discussions, hallway conversations, and intense reading and news watching. Our faculty, with expertise to lend, developed courses and held panel discussions and seminars that were attended by the campus and surrounding communities and aired throughout the central region and the state. Many were and continue to be tapped by the media to give thoughtful and critical comment on topics of terrorism, national security and emergency, public health and transportation, foreign affairs, politics, world religions, and cultures

The impact of September 11 was felt deeply on our Schuylkill campus and the nearby community of Palo Alto. News came that we lost one of our alumni and native sons, Michael Ferugio, in the World Trade Center. Michael attended the Schuylkill campus from 1982-1984 before completing his studies at University Park ('87 B. S. I.E.). We offer our deepest condolences to the members of Michael's family and share in their grief.

Fall 2001 semester also brought celebration and the making of new traditions. In October we came together again but this time for the happiest of reunions. The first—and annual—Alumni Weekend on the Harrisburg campus was a homecoming success. Over 100 alumni and their families returned to campus for a weekend of activities to renew ties with friends, faculty and staff. The weekend was joyful and made particularly poignant by the keener sense of homecoming we all felt. We honored a number of our accomplished alumni who are featured in this issue of *Currents*. Your College gave special tribute to its newest Alumni Fellow, Ted Kauffman ('70 B.S. BUS) also featured in this issue. Their achievements raise our sights with hopeful expectations. As part of the weekend, we held a special reunion of our Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Fellows who came from up and down the eastern seaboard to welcome Ted into this honored society of Alumni Fellows. Alumni were thrilled with the changes to campus. They toured our new student housing, now nearing completion, and our beautiful new library. They saw a campus transformed. I enjoyed meeting the many alumni who attended and look forward to meeting many more in October 2002. Our Schuylkill Alumni Society is hosting a similar inaugural event this April. I look forward to meeting many more of our Schuylkill alumni then.

In Fall 2001, we saw increased philanthropic interest in Capital College. Our Grand Destiny Campaign remains at the fore of our activity. We are fortunate to have the goodwill and support of so many. The creation of scholarships, such as the one from David A. Brinjac, profiled in this issue of *Currents*, strengthens our efforts to attract the best and brightest to our campuses. The generosity of alumni, friends and partner organizations has enabled deserving and financially disadvantaged students to achieve their educational goals here with us. Our Schuylkill campus is launching a local public campaign this spring to enhance the technology capability of its Conference Center and classrooms and to refurbish the former Agricultural Extension Building at the entrance to campus for greater programming opportunities. We are grateful for the support we receive as we enter the final phases of our Campaign.

In closing, I want to offer some assurances. Your College continues to move forward, creating new partnerships and introducing innovative and timely programs. We are planning for the future, holding ourselves accountable to a vigorous strategic planning process that will keep us visionary, keep us relevant and ever-attentive to quality and access and to the educational needs of our students and the broader communities we serve. I want to take this opportunity to wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

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

Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.  
Provost and Dean  
Penn State Capital College

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Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

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# Inside Currents...



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**7** Campaign kicks off

## Alumni Fellow, HACC president address graduates

Penn State Capital College December commencement ceremonies this year featured keynote addresses from Harrisburg Area Community College President Edna V. Baehre and Schuylkill campus Alumni Fellow Michael Coleman.

Coleman addressed the Schuylkill campus graduates Dec. 13 in the gymnasium and Dr. Baehre delivered remarks at the Harrisburg campus commencement Dec. 15 at the Hersheypark Arena.

Coleman is President of Alcoa Rigid Packaging and Vice President of Alcoa in Alcoa, Tenn. He has the distinction of being an alumnus of both Capital College campuses, earning an associate degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Penn State Schuylkill in 1975 and a bachelor's degree in EET from Penn State Harrisburg in 1977. He also served five years in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of staff sergeant.

In 2000, he was honored as Penn State Schuylkill's Alumni Fellow. The award is the Alumni Association's most prestigious.

Dr. Baehre has served as the President of HACC, the first such institution in Pennsylvania, since 1997. Founded in 1964, HACC has evolved to become one of Pennsylvania's largest undergraduate institutions with nearly 12,000 students enrolled in credit programs and courses each year at four campuses — Harrisburg, Lebanon, Lancaster, and Gettysburg — which deliver more than 120 associate degree, certificate, and diploma programs.



Michael Coleman



Dr. Edna Baehre

## Dr. William Mahar named Associate Provost



Dr. William Mahar

Long-time Capital College faculty member and administrator William J. Mahar is its new Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Provost and Dean Madlyn L. Hanes made announcement of Dr. Mahar's appointment after a national search.

Professor of Humanities and Music and Director of the School of Humanities, Dr. Mahar joined the Penn State Harrisburg faculty in 1972 and has served as school director since 1984.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Hanes said, "Dr. Mahar brings extensive experience and knowledge to the Associate Provost/Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs position. Under his leadership, the School of Humanities has grown and thrived. We will benefit from his demonstrated commitment to academic quality. He is an accomplished leader in curriculum development and reform and an advocate for active and collaborative learning and scholarly teaching."

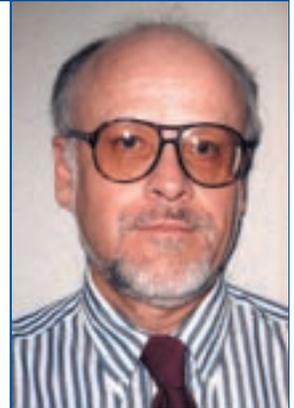
Dr. Mahar's appointment was effective Jan. 1, 2002.

Dr. Hanes also announced a national search for a Director of the School of Humanities. Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore Simon J. Bronner has been appointed interim school director.



# 'Groundhog Day' and 'Ground Zero' in Manhattan

(Editor's note: Dr. Robert Colman, who spent nearly 30 years on the Penn State Harrisburg Behavioral Sciences faculty prior to his recent retirement, spent 10 days at "Ground Zero" in New York City, counseling workers at one of the respite centers. What follows are his personal reflections on the aftermath of the tragedy. While a member of the faculty, Dr. Colman was coordinator of the master's program in Community Psychology and Social Change and served as director of the Center for Community Action and Research.)



Dr. Robert Colman

Trapped in a time loop, Bill Murray's character in the 1993 film "Groundhog Day" asks, "What would you do if you were stuck in one place and every day was exactly the same and nothing that you did mattered?"

You'd get to feeling worn down, is what you'd do, and you wouldn't be particularly hopeful.

I worked a 10-day stint recently at a respite center set up by the American Red Cross for workers at the site of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks in New York. The men and women coming in for respite, for food and rest, a phone, and maybe some quiet talk, were firefighters, police, construction and cleanup workers, and an amazing array of other people all with official reason to work at what America has come to call ground zero. Again and again, the workers spontaneously offered "Groundhog Day," with its time loop, as the best metaphor for working there. And at the World Trade Center site, just as it turns out in the movie, there is more reason for hope than one might think to begin with, maybe because of the time loop, with its repetitive chances to figure out how best to respond.

No one who works at the World Trade Center, by the way, calls it "ground zero." It's "the site."

The work at the site is grinding. As it grinds down the pile of rubble it grinds down people. By late October, 2001, when I got there as a psychologist in Disaster Mental Health Services, the work had gone on for more than six weeks.

What we did as mental health people was roam the building, maybe sit and eat with people, opening conversations and talking about whatever the workers wanted to discuss: material that was touchy or not, personal or not. We offered emotional support, a good ear, and a knowledge of stress in disasters.

Three themes in those conversations pop out for focus here. One has to do with how long the work had been going on (again, "Groundhog Day"), another with the mind-boggling scope of the work, and

And sometimes, bravely, for themselves. They hugged them. Even the idea of going home and giving a bear to a kid helped.

*"Words simply do not describe the scene and its demands. People who thought they'd 'seen it all' came to the site and realized they hadn't."*

The scope of the work was part of the problem. For all of us. Words simply do not describe the scene and its demands. People who thought they'd "seen it all" came to the site and realized they hadn't.

the last with the nature of social support in chaotic disaster situations.

The psychology of disaster response isn't rocket science; it's more complex. Firefighters, for instance, are notorious for the tightness of their workplace support system: they work and live together when on the job. But if part of the support system is blown away, then the loss, the grieving, the emotional impact is huge, even with tight social support from the survivors. Police support each other, and so do construction workers, but they and the firefighters and all of us were working so hard that families were off in the periphery, and feeling it. How can a spouse give support or get it if the worker is simply not at home? Or maybe worse, at home but not really present?

Both police and firefighters talked about their exhaustion: at the time I was there, many were working at the site on their days off, getting overtime pay, but working day after day after unending day. A good day off, a "real vacation," was one in which they didn't have a funeral to go to. They could play with their kids without the guilt of a missed funeral. Person after person said that she or he had been working 12, maybe 16-hour shifts, maybe on guard duty, maybe dealing with body parts, barely able to keep emotions tamped down, but feeling that to let the emotions out into play would make the work impossible. Hearing this, to commiserate, to lend emotional and cognitive support, was the least one could do.

But there was social support in the respite center, of each by the other. I simply have never seen a setting where there were so many people of such different backgrounds who were so considerate of each other.

We handed out box after large box of teddy bears. Big dust-covered men, and women, too, would come in shyly, asking for bears for their kids.

The workers at the respite center were surprisingly willing to discuss their current lives and their needs. With open discussions, they shared clues about what to look out for, about how they were coping, and what was working for them.

It might help to remember that the movie "Groundhog Day" is a comedy, after all.

Looping back through the same day, day after day, Murray's character, Phil, has a chance to get it right, to wear down self-centeredness and find ways to develop real contact with other people. At "Groundhog Day" at ground zero, with all the death and stench and destruction and pain, being there day after day, workers give each other a chance to get it right. Maybe there's hope in Punxsutawney and in New York, after all.



*Following the terrorist attacks on America, the students on the Schuylkill campus lined up to sign a banner expressing their thoughts and concerns. The banner was forwarded to New York City.*



# Terrorist attack claims life of former Schuylkill student

“Michael D. Ferugio lives on in God’s love.”  
With those words, the Rev. Edward B. Connolly sought to comfort more than 800 people at an October memorial mass in Pottsville for the 37-year-old Penn State Schuylkill alum missing since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

The native of Palo Alto, Pa., earned a bachelor’s degree in industrial engineering in 1987 from the University Park campus after beginning his collegiate studies at Penn State Schuylkill.

Ferugio worked in New York City’s financial district for the last 10 years. Ironically, he was employed on the 31<sup>st</sup> floor of the World Trade Center when it was bombed in 1993. He was out of the building at lunch at the time of the bombing and was uninjured.

While no longer employed at the WTC, he had a 9 a.m. meeting there Sept. 11 on the 105<sup>th</sup> floor of the second tower that was hit by an airliner hijacked by terrorists.

A few days after the terrorist attacks, more than 500 people attended a candlelight prayer service for Michael in Palo Alto. Bacon Street was closed for the evening while family, friends, neighbors, and others gathered at the tiny borough’s war memorial. And an estimated 1,500 turned out for a prayer service in Michael’s memory in Brooklyn, N.Y.

He is survived by his wife of four years, the former Susan Carroll, and his sister, Joan M. Koslosky.



Michael D. Ferugio  
Schuylkill alum

# Course links pop culture and disasters

Professor of Sociology Stephen R. Couch is recognized nationally for his research and teaching on the sociological impact of technological and natural disasters.

The aftermath of September 11 has taken the Capital College faculty member in another research and teaching direction.

In the past, he has offered special topics courses focusing on the sociological impact of disasters. This spring, he will be teaching a “Current Topics in the Social Sciences” course entitled “Disasters and Popular Culture” at the Schuylkill campus with a “considerable” change in content.

Previously, the course included a major section on the Titanic and the popular culture that followed its sinking. “It (the Titanic) is one of the few instances in which the popular culture of a disaster has been studied in detail,” he adds.

He continues, “For the spring course, I thought it made sense to parallel the popular culture which followed the Titanic and that which is following September 11. There are some similarities, which jump out. They are both technological disasters. And they were disasters that, according to experts, could not happen. The Titanic was ‘unsinkable’ and the World Trade Center towers were designed to withstand a collision by a 707 aircraft. Both were technological marvels of the age and their destruction put a dent in our faith in technology.”

Dr. Couch has also refocused a portion of his scholarly research on what he terms “collective witness.” It basically centers on victims of a catastrophe who “collectively define the meaning of the disaster to help them recover or heal from it. For example, most of my fieldwork has involved long-term technological disaster sites such as Three Mile Island and Love Canal. I’ve found that people who experienced this type of disaster often find meaning in trying to prevent such a disaster from happening to others. Producing culture is one way in which they do this, define it and find some kind of meaning to make sure it doesn’t happen to others. One of the ways this manifests itself is through various forms of popular culture. Some people may write about it, some may build monuments, and so on.

“One thing I’m going to be focusing on is the site of the World Trade Center. What type of memorial will be placed there and the role of the groups in the process. They will most likely create something to help them define and put forth their interpretation of the disaster in memory of the victims.”



Samuel Wiand

# PSH employee called to active duty at airport

Samuel Wiand’s career at Penn State Harrisburg has been put on hold as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America.

A senior research technologist in the Center for Geographic Information Services of the Institute of State and Regional Affairs on campus, Wiand has been called to active duty with the Air National Guard and is now among those providing security duty at Harrisburg International Airport.

Activated Nov. 4, Wiand is a technical sergeant in the Air National Guard’s 193rd Special Operations Wing. He has been in the military for 15 years including eight years of active duty with the U.S. Air Force.

A Penn State Harrisburg employee since 1998, Wiand is a resident of Bresler, holds a criminal justice degree from the College, and is married with two sons, ages 10 and 13.



## Journey to ‘Ground Zero’ reinforces course on terrorism

Dr. Toni DuPont-Morales recalls talking with her father, a Pearl Harbor survivor, about that infamous day. They would watch World War II films together and reflect how that day, Dec. 7, 1941, changed the world. Her father would talk about coming out of his barracks when the attack began: “just a young, snappy Marine ... and the sky fell down.” He remembered it was a normal, beautifully clear day in Hawaii and the air so quiet “it was loud.”

He told his daughter, “When you’ve seen that, you understand the world will never be the same.” On Sept. 11, 2001, another clear, beautiful day, Dr. DuPont-Morales was watching television and saw the plane plunge into the second World Trade Center tower. Like that day on Oahu in 1941, the sky once again fell down and she knew nothing would ever be as it was before.

The Associate Professor of Criminal Justice in the School of Public Affairs thought of the students at Penn State Capital College who had thought they knew what they were going to do with their lives. Suddenly, unknown people thousands of miles away had changed everything.

During Penn State’s fall break in October, Dr. DuPont-Morales went to the site of the former World Trade Center towers. People still seeking lost loved ones after nearly a month bore posters and requests for any information on them. Workers sifted rubble by hand, side-by-side with huge earth-moving machinery. The wreckage still smoldered and empty buildings with lightning bolt-size cracks in their facades shuddered as heavy equipment went by.

She was stopped by security personnel as she entered the site from which visitors are barred, but showing them her Penn State ID, she explained she intended to teach a course in the spring on the subject. Security permitted her to enter, leading her closer and closer into the site which, she relates, was so huge and incomprehensible that it took her about 20 minutes of looking before she could see anything that made sense. A piece of rubble became a chair and a fractured piece of wood a desk.

Dr. DuPont-Morales reflects on the strong vein of patriotism running through her family. Until the day he died, her father was a proud veteran. Her daughter is married to a Marine awaiting possible call-up — both are Penn State grads.

The coordinator of both the Capital College Criminal Justice and Honors programs stresses that the new course, “Ground Zero,” will not be about patriotism per se, but about rebuilding and reintegrating our lives with the future threat of international terrorism. That malevolent morning of Sept. 11 changed reality, as Dec. 7 did for her father at Pearl Harbor 60 years ago. She adds that, “Terrorism has now fallen on our people and we must learn from the historic and heroic manner in which other cultures have learned to endure.”

The course, open to all interested students, will analyze and explore the changing and evolving patterns of targeting, lethality, and other acts of violence which cross borders for mass disruption of economics and social practices. A goal of the class is to determine how to rebuild and reintegrate ourselves in a different world, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, after Columbine, and after Oklahoma City.

Dr. DuPont-Morales, an expert on victimology, sees these events as attacks upon our values, when we as a nation became the victim.

**“When you’ve seen that, you understand the world will never be the same.”**



*Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Toni DuPont-Morales, center, meets with students in the Penn State Harrisburg library.*

## Campuses respond to Sept. 11 attacks

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America prompted an immediate outpouring of emotions on both Capital College campuses.

Staff, faculty, and students at both locations quickly joined together in an effort to make sense of the tragedy.

Within hours of the morning attacks, students on the Schuylkill campus filled the Morgan Auditorium as trained staff attempted to ease fears and lend any support necessary. The attacks were particularly personal to more than 80 students who are from the metropolitan New York area.

Sept. 12 prayer vigils on both campuses featured local religious

leaders of many denominations and both locations observed the day of “National Prayer and Remembrance” designated by President Bush on Sept. 14.

Student-initiated fund drives on both campuses raised funds for the families of the victims of the attacks.

On the Harrisburg campus, faculty brought their respective expertise to panel discussions focusing on the attacks and the impending American reaction. One of the discussions, coordinated by the School of Public Affairs, was broadcast throughout the state by the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

## Schuylkill campus unveils \$500,000 campaign to upgrade classrooms and refurbish building

A newly initiated \$500,000 Schuylkill capital campaign targets a comprehensive technology upgrade in six classrooms and the Conference Center and an expansion of the campus.

The campaign, which is being chaired by Joe Schlitzer and Mike Mahalchick, is an extension of the University's Grand Destiny Campaign and begins a "quiet phase" in January with a public and media effort to be initiated after March 1, 2002.

"As Schuylkill's student body grows, the needs of our campus also continue to grow," points out campus Director of Development Jane Zintak. "In order to continue providing the high quality education expected of us, we need to upgrade our classrooms for our students and the general public."

"In business, government, education, service, and other sectors of the community, it is crucial for professionals to have the ability to put technology to work," Zintak adds. "To achieve these goals, classrooms must provide more than blackboards and desks. Classrooms need to be upgraded to incorporate the latest technological aids for teaching and learning."

The technology classrooms serve two major purposes on the Schuylkill campus. First, they permit the College to provide world-class instruction to traditional, on-campus students to keep pace with the rapidly changing environment. Second, they enable the campus to meet the education, training, and business needs present in industry, government, and the general public.

The classroom and Conference Center renovations will provide the educational advantages students need. The upgrades will include: state-of-the-art facilities and equipment for courses in all instructional levels; instructional technology including computers, projectors, and screens; and seminar rooms, lecture halls, and a large multi-purpose area for campus and community programming.

The second portion of the capital campaign involves the renovation of a building located along the University Drive entrance to the campus which the Schuylkill County Board of Commissioners has agreed to donate. The nearly 3,000-square-foot building was formerly occupied by the Cooperative Extension Service and has been vacant since 1995.

The renovated building would serve the needs of the entire Penn State Schuylkill community while greatly enhancing the entrance to campus.

The building needs to be completely wired for technology, its exterior must be refurbished, a new heating and cooling system must be installed, and its interior brought up to ADA and other standards. A deck off the east side of the structure is also envisioned for student and visitor gatherings.



*Building on campus formerly occupied by the Cooperative Extension Service*



*Dr. Sylvester Kohut Jr.*

### Campus assists new Technology Incubator

The newly created Pottsville/Schuylkill Technology Incubator is receiving a sizable helping hand from the Schuylkill campus.

Campus Executive Officer Sylvester Kohut Jr. has been chosen as a member of the board of directors of the new facility that will draw upon the expertise of faculty and students to enhance the economic and business climate in the region.

The technology center housing the incubator is the former post office in Pottsville. The building has been modified for office space and high-speed Internet connection. Shared services, including secretarial, fax, copying, purchasing, and conference rooms will be available for businesses along with business advice, mentors, training courses, business plan and financial reviews, and access to venture capital groups.

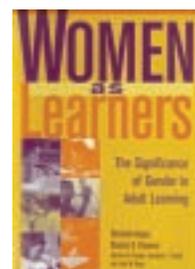
As part of its ongoing commitment to the community, Schuylkill business, science, and engineering faculty would be able to provide expertise in locating and developing new technologies and assist in formulating ideas around which a product or service firm could be established. In addition, the incubator could provide internship opportunities for students.

### Dr. Flannery's book earns national award

A Capital College faculty member has captured a national award for her recently published book focusing on women and adult education.

Associate Professor of Education Daniele Flannery and her co-author, Elisabeth Hayes from the University of Wisconsin, earned the Houle Award for Outstanding Literature in Adult Education for their book entitled *Women as Learners: The Significance of Gender in Adult Learning*, published by Jossey-Bass, a leading publisher of books in the education field.

The annual Houle Award was created in 1981 by the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education to honor the scholarship of Cyril O. Houle, a Professor of Adult Education at the University of Chicago, and is intended to recognize a book "...that reflects universal concerns of adult educators and is considered to be outstanding literature in Adult Education." It was presented to Dr. Flannery and Dr. Hayes at the organization's annual meeting in October in Baltimore.



## Alumni lend a hand to students



Schuylkill Alumni James O'Brien and Lananh Rissmiller

One focus of the recently introduced alumni mentoring program coordinated by the Schuylkill Alumni Society is to bring graduates to campus to share their expertise with students.

In its first year, more than a dozen alumni volunteered their time and talent to meet with students.

The alumni spent time in classes speaking with students in the first-year seminar, discussing their experiences at Penn State Schuylkill, their reasons for choosing their major, and their particular career path. Students were then given the opportunity to question the alumni.

The first-year seminar (FYS) is a one- to three-credit class designed to acquaint first-year students with the academic community from the beginning of their undergraduate studies. Statistically, most students fail in college after their first semester. The challenges of balancing freedom and studying often end in disaster. The FYS program attempts to give students the skills necessary to succeed in college.

Alumni participating in the program include: Francis Sonne '73, Lananh Rissmiller '88, John Barton '89, James O'Brien '75, Michael Catino '70, Joseph Salla '83, Daniel Wiekrykas '80, and Ronald Litwak '83.

If you can take time to visit a class of students, please contact the alumni office at 717-948-6715 or visit the web site at [www.sl.psu.edu](http://www.sl.psu.edu) and click on the alumni page.

## Endowed Brinjac Scholarship to benefit Harrisburg campus engineering students



David A. Brinjac

A prime focus of the University's Grand Destiny Campaign has been to increase the number of endowed scholarships to assist deserving, qualified students.

Students will now have the advantage of such a scholarship through the generosity of Harrisburg engineer David A. Brinjac.

The Director of Operations and one of two principals in Brinjac Engineering, Inc., located in Harrisburg, Brinjac has endowed a scholarship, which is earmarked for a student in one of Penn State Harrisburg's bachelor of science programs in engineering.

The scholarship was presented to the College and Director of Development Marie-Louise Abram in memory of Brinjac's late father, John J. Brinjac, who founded the engineering firm in 1955. Along with his engineering career, Mr. Brinjac also taught at the University Park campus. He passed away in 1983.

"The scholarship is based on merit and academic performance,"

Brinjac points out. "We're looking for the best students for the scholarship."

In honoring his father with the scholarship, he adds, "Dad taught at UP in the architectural engineering program and with my involvement with the Harrisburg campus I thought that now is the time to do this."

Penn State Harrisburg currently offers bachelor of science programs in environmental and electrical engineering.

With a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's in environmental engineering from University Park, David Brinjac's commitments to Penn State go far beyond the endowed scholarship. He serves on the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers and also as a member of its environmental programs advisory board.

Brinjac Engineering provides high-quality professional engineering services to educational, health care, industrial, commercial, institutional, governmental, and municipal clients in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. The firm has had a role in a number of Penn State projects including: the Bryce Jordan Center, Keller and Sparks buildings renovations, Pattee Library, the Mont Alto campus Multi-Purpose Activities Center, the Altoona campus Eiche Library addition, the Berks campus Thun Library, Student Center addition and bookstore, and the Penn State Harrisburg Library.

## Funding effort to assist female undergraduate students

Carole Forker Gibbons' commitment to Penn State Harrisburg is much more than serving on advisory groups.

A member of the campus Board of Advisers, Gibbons also plays a vital role on the Penn State Harrisburg Grand Destiny Campaign Committee. And through her philanthropic focus, the Mechanicsburg resident has initiated an effort to assist deserving female undergraduate students.

She and other members of the campaign committee are actively seeking financial support for "Women Helping Women — A Fund for Undergraduate Female Students."

The scholarship fund, to which Gibbons has already made a pledge, is designed "to provide recognition and financial assistance to outstanding undergraduate female students enrolled or planning to enroll at Penn State Harrisburg who have a demonstrated need for funding to meet college expenses."

A selection committee will determine the amount of each annual award and the number of recipients.

If you are interested in assisting the "Women Helping Women" effort, contact Penn State Harrisburg Director of Development Marie-Louise Abram at 717-948-6316 or e-mail [mla9@psu.edu](mailto:mla9@psu.edu). Commitments to the fund are needed as soon as possible.

## Alumni Fellow, award winners applauded

Among the highlights of the Alumni Weekend festivities on the Harrisburg campus was the formal presentation of the Alumni Fellow medallion to Ted Kauffman.

Kauffman, a 1970 graduate with a degree in Business, is a resident of New York City and is chairman of Eastern Connection Operating, Inc., a package delivery company operating on the East Coast.

The Alumni Fellow Award is the most prestigious honor given by the Penn State Alumni Association. Administered in cooperation with Penn State's academic colleges, the program gives recipients the opportunity to return to campus to share their knowledge and expertise with the University community.

The Alumni Fellow presentation was an ingredient in the annual Awards Reception, which saw three other graduates honored — Karl L. Martz Jr., Roderick L. Lee Sr., and Lori M. Koontz.

Martz, a 1993 graduate with a master's degree in Training and Development, is the coordinator of career services at Penn State Harrisburg. He was presented the Alumni Achievement Award. Martz was a previous recipient of the People to Watch Award.

Lee, a 2000 graduate and a current master's degree student in the School of Business Administration, was the winner of the Graduating Senior Award, and Lori M. Koontz, a 1993 master's degree grad, was the recipient of the People to Watch Award.



Director of the School of Business Administration Mukund Kulkarni, left, presents the Alumni Fellow award to Ted Kauffman.



Karl Martz



Roderick Lee



Lori Koontz

## Campus embraces 'Color of Water'



Dr. Billie J. Jones

Through a unique summer reading program, this year's first-year students at Penn State Schuylkill began their collegiate experience a bit early.

Focused on encouraging intellectual interaction among students even before the semester formally began, the campus asked each incoming freshman to read James McBride's *The Color of Water*. And reading the memoir was just the beginning of the Summer Reading Program that culminated with a visit to the campus by the author in early December.

Introduced to Schuylkill by Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Patti Mills, the reading program also includes an online discussion of the book, small group discussions on campus, a writing contest, and the visit by McBride.

"The need to enhance the intellectual climate on campus is a concern," Dr. Mills said. "Summer reading programs have been successfully used to this end at colleges and universities across the U.S. and abroad. They are becoming a standard retention practice for lower-division students."

A campus-wide working group selected *The Color of Water* and formalized the program's proposal with the support of Provost and Dean Madlyn L. Hanes. Assistant Professor of Humanities and Writing Billie J. Jones serves as faculty adviser to the program, preparing web-based and other study materials

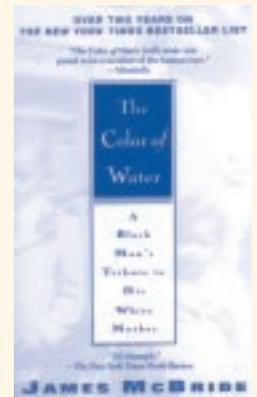
and coordinating the use of the text in the first-year writing courses.

Dr. Mills points out that the focus on *The Color of Water* was truly campus-wide. "While its focus is first-year students, all students, faculty, and staff were invited to participate and many have."

"The idea is to create a positive, common activity centered on a text, that many people across campus embrace together. The most successful summer reading programs have that quality," Dr. Mills adds.

As part of the program, each first-year student attending FTCAP received a copy of the book, study questions, and other relevant materials with the request to read them before beginning classes in August. The reading is integrated into classes, forums, and displays.

*The Color of Water* is an award-winning best-seller, which is actually two memoirs — McBride's, and his mother's. It is a book about difference — a black son and a Jewish-born mother residing in a New York City housing project. The book touches issues students will confront in contemporary society — racial, religious, ethnic, societal. The freshmen were asked to consider the campus as a learning community when reading the book.



## Penn State Harrisburg - July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001

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## Penn State Schuylkill July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001

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## Cotler earns Torch of Liberty Award

Schuylkill campus advisory board member Steve Cotler was recently presented the prestigious 2001 Torch of Liberty Award of the Schuylkill County Chapter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

President and CEO of the Cotler Group, the Pottsville native was honored for his many years of active support of community, educational, religious, and athletic organizations. The Torch of Liberty Award was established "to honor people whose lives and deeds illustrate the Anti-Defamation League's dedication to translating democratic ideals into a way of life for all Americans..."

Through the family charitable trust, established in memory of the Cotler and Yudacufski families, Cotler has directed funds to community causes including the Sol and Julie Cotler Nursery at the Pottsville Hospital, Cotler Computer Lab on the Schuylkill campus, the Children's Room at the Pottsville Library, and others. His devotion to health awareness and medical research is evident through his contributions to Alzheimer's research at Johns Hopkins and the University of Pittsburgh, as well as hematology research at the Penn State College of Medicine at Hershey and urology research at Geisinger Medical Center.

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*"This technique has given me an immediate tax break, provision of income for my mother, and the ability to establish a program to assist Schuylkill County students in future years."*

**Theodore Kantner is a 1961 University Park alumnus who earned his M.D. from the Penn State College of Medicine in 1971. He is Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine and Associate Dean of Admissions at MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine. His mother, Mildred, is a former Pottsville resident.**

**To discuss planned giving options, call the Office of University Development at:**

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## Greetings from the Schuylkill Alumni Society President

Dear Fellow Schuylkill Campus Alum:

The first year of the Schuylkill Campus Alumni Society has been filled with activities and plans for upcoming events. We held our first "Route 61 Revisited" program in April 2001, where we had a great presentation from Tina Hay, Editor-in-Chief of *The Penn Stater* magazine.

As our Society reaches its first birthday, we have plans for another, larger Alumni gathering at the campus. Watch your mail for "Route 61 Revisited II," April 13, 2002, a full day of educational activities, fun, and awards for outstanding alumni and other contributors to the growth and success of Schuylkill.

Schuylkill Campus has a new CEO, Dr. Sylvester "Syl" Kohut Jr., and he will be joining us for this program. Be sure to join us to meet this newest member of the Schuylkill campus family, and see all the many changes that have taken place on campus. If you left Schuylkill before 1990, you might not even recognize the place! In addition to tours of the campus, we will hold several brief seminars on a variety of topics ranging from the serious to the not-so-serious. We will also have a luncheon at which we will bestow the very first Schuylkill Alumni Society awards to individuals who have enhanced the campus through their success and dedication.

In addition to Route 61 Revisited II, be on the lookout for opportunities to get involved in the Society's activities. We will be actively participating in National Service Week, which is a program that the Penn State Alumni Association strongly supports – where alums can roll up their sleeves and do some good work for a worthy cause. We will participate in National Service Week with a needy organization within the Schuylkill Campus community.

The Society is also actively involved in working with current students. Several Society members made presentations at "First Year Seminars" on campus this fall, giving students some insight into what life is like after graduation. We will also work closely with the Blue and White Society, the student branch of the Alumni Association.

There are many opportunities to reconnect with Schuylkill Campus. I hope that you will take advantage of them. I look forward to seeing you at Route 61 Revisited II — April 13, 2002!



*Liz Bligan*

*Liz Bligan '81*

## A message from the Harrisburg Alumni Society leader



*Michele Hart-Henry*

Save the Date!

It's never too early to start planning for a good time, so mark your calendars now for the second annual Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Weekend set for Oct. 25-26, 2002. If you missed our first-ever Alumni Weekend, you won't want to miss our second!

This year's Alumni Weekend began with our annual alumni awards reception on Friday night. With more than 110 people attending and four outstanding Penn State Harrisburg alumni to honor, the evening was a great success.

On Saturday, Alumni Weekend included open house tours of all of the schools, educational presentations from faculty on topics ranging from the Amish in Pennsylvania to the 2001 election season, a luncheon with a virtual tour of the new and improved campus, and hard-hat tours of new construction on campus. The weekend ended in a television tailgate party for current students and alumni weekend visitors as they watched the Nittany Lions take on the Northwestern Wildcats – and win!

Alumni from all over Pennsylvania made the trek to our Harrisburg campus, with some alums traveling in from Virginia and Ohio. Attendees represented all five of our academic schools.

Much of the weekend's success is due to the cooperation of many areas of the campus including the school directors, the faculty and staff, the marketing and special events department, the instructional services department, development office and housing and food services. However, without the planning and coordination work completed by the Alumni Relations Office staff, none of the weekend's activities would have been possible.

Thanks to all of those who worked so hard to make the weekend a success and to those who took time out of their weekend to attend. We're looking forward to seeing even more alumni next year!

*Michele Hart-Henry '88*

## Harrisburg Campus

**Ray F. Hinchey**, '75 SocSci, Gettysburg, is a licensed battlefield guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park. Ray formerly taught social studies, coached girls basketball and softball, and served as athletic director at St. Clair High School. E-mail: rhinchey@yahoo.com

**Barbara A. Tarvydas**, '80 Hum, is employed by the district attorney's office in Philadelphia. She is currently writing a play for her high school's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Judith A. Cadmus**, '83 EET, Collegeville, Pa., is employed as a software engineer at Unisys Corp., Malvern. She is also a pilot and Certified Flight Instructor and owns her own flight training company, Avionics Training Unlimited, Inc. Her husband, Peter Stelzenmuller, is also a pilot and is president of Penn Avionics, Inc.

**Richard L. Crimby**, '84 MPA, Chambersburg, was recently appointed to research associate-economic and finance analyst with the Pennsylvania Healthcare Cost Containment Committee, Harrisburg. E-mail: crimbly@innernet.net

**Anne Marie Yastishock Bereschak**, '87 BS, is employed by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C. E-mail: ambschak@yahoo.com

**Barry S. Blouse**, '89 CompSci, Abbottstown, has accepted a position as database administrator for the Administrative Offices of the Pennsylvania Courts. He has been married for 15 years and has a son, 11, and daughter, 8. E-mail: barry.blouse@supreme.courtstate.pa.us

**Richard E. Yotter**, '91 PAacct, Wilmington, Del., married Barbara DiBona on April 1, 2000.

**Chris Darabant**, '92 Acct/Mktg, Springfield, Pa., recently attained Certified Purchasing Manager status and is currently manager of procurement, UNISYS Corp., Blue Bell. E-mail: chris27@rcn.com

**Daniel Smelas**, '92 CrimJ, Lehighton, Pa., is an assistant chief of police for the Franklin Township Police Department and a DARE instructor. E-mail: msmelas@justborn.com

**Michael G. Saul**, '93 PubPol, Olive Branch, Miss., has been promoted to supply chain manager with Sherwin Williams and celebrated the birth of his second daughter on Oct. 11, 2001.

**Shawn Simmers**, '94 ENVET, Altoona, is an environmental engineer with Appleton Papers, Inc. He is completing a master's degree in environmental pollution control at the University Park campus and recently obtained Professional Engineer registration for Pennsylvania. E-mail: ssimmers@appletonpapers.com

**Valerie Earhart Barowski**, '94 Mngmt, Mahanoy City, is employed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in Harrisburg. E-mail: vbarowsk@pahousegop.com

**Tommy J. Kashatus**, '95 SDCET, Ephrata, Pa., was recently promoted to Director of Estimating at Benchmark Construction Co., Brownstown. He and his wife Ann celebrated the birth of their second child, Ryan Christopher, on May 2, 2001. E-mail: saratommy@dejazzd.com

**Mark H. Kasner**, '97 EIED, Bensalem, is a fourth grade teacher in the School District of Philadelphia and earned a master's degree in education from Beaver College. He met his wife, Holly Hocker Kasner, at Penn State. She is a third grade teacher in Philadelphia.

**Christine Blasic M. Kiser**, '98 PubPol, and her husband, **Andrew J. Kiser**, '99 CrimJ, were married March 18, 2000 and reside at Ft. Bragg, N.C. Andrew is a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army, a platoon leader in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, and recently graduated from Ranger School. Christine is a teacher for an after-school program at Haymount United Methodist Church. E-mail: cmk108@hotmail.com

**Nancy E. Bachman Jorgensen**, '99 MPA, Alexandria, Va., is employed in Washington, D.C., by Manning, Selvage and Lee, an international public relations firm, where she handles all the employee communications for the company's global corporate practice. E-mail: lizbach@aol.com

**William M. Lockard**, '00 MPA, Seaside, Calif., is a major in the U.S. Army and graduated from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif., with a master's degree in systems acquisition management. Major Lockard will be assigned as a contracting officer at the Letterkenny Army Depot, Chambersburg. E-mail: wandmlock@mindspring.com.

**Sarah L. Roenning**, '01 Mktg, North Hero, Vt., is employed as a senior market analyst at Fletcher CSI in Williston, Vt. E-mail: Sroenning@fletchercsi

## Renew your Penn State connection

Do you ever feel disconnected with your alma mater? Curious about what is happening throughout the Penn State System? Do you ever wonder how you can help today's students? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then the answer might be to join the Penn State Alumni Association.

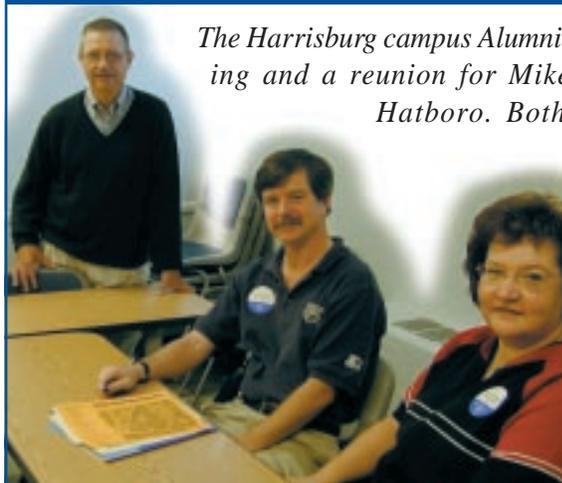
Your dues to the Penn State Alumni Association help renew your connection to Penn State. Through the various publications such as the *Penn Stater*, you will know what your fellow alumni, your university, and your campus are doing.

Your campus also directly benefits from your dues to the Alumni Association. For each Association member, the campus Alumni Society receives an allotment to carry on programming at your campus. These programs include mentoring current students, holding alumni reunion events, tackling community service projects, and recognizing outstanding alumni.

Your Alumni Association dues contribute to the welfare of today's students. By supporting Lion Ambassadors, FastStart mentoring, LionLink networking, and admissions programs, your dues are a tangible way you can help support today's Penn State students. Through the Association's entrepreneurial activities, it gives back to the University in a significant financial way that is unprecedented in higher education.

The Alumni Association makes becoming a life member easy through the payment plan. You can pay \$20 for 25 months and then become a life member of the association. Fill out the form on the facing page or check the association's web site [www.alumni.psu.edu](http://www.alumni.psu.edu).

## Classroom Reunion



*The Harrisburg campus Alumni Weekend was both a homecoming and a reunion for Mike and Debra McDonough of Hatboro. Both '82 Elementary Education grads, Mike and Debra met as undergraduates in Dr. Richard Ammon's children's literature class. They were reunited with Dr. Ammon at his presentation on the Pennsylvania Amish as part of the Alumni Weekend festivities.*

# Penn State Alumni Association Membership Application

## Annual Memberships

- Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 30
  - first 5 years after graduation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25
- Joint (2 persons at same address) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 45
  - first 5 years after graduation \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40

## Life Memberships

- Individual, single payment \_\_\_\_\_ \$500
  - 5 annual installments of \_\_\_\_\_ \$140
- Joint, single payment \_\_\_\_\_ \$750
  - 5 annual installments of \_\_\_\_\_ \$210
- Second person at same address\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$250
- Over 62, single payment only
  - Individual  Joint \_\_\_\_\_ \$250

\*Check only when second person is being added to an existing life membership

### Mail application and payment to:

Penn State Alumni Association  
Dept. BB  
University House  
University Park, PA 16802-2096

*please print*

Name (Ms./Mr./Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_ | Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ | State \_\_\_\_\_ | Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Joint member's name (Ms./Mr./Mrs.) \_\_\_\_\_ | Joint member's Social Security number \_\_\_\_\_

Is this person your spouse?  yes  no

If paying by check, make payable to **Penn State**. If paying by credit card, call our toll-free number **1-800-548-5466**, fill out the information on this card, or join through our Web site: **www.alumni.psu.edu**

Charge to:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ | Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ | Signature on card \_\_\_\_\_



*Tell us about yourself.*

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

- Harrisburg Campus
- Schuylkill Campus

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_ Years at Schuylkill \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Other news (activities, honors, births, promotions, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please send me information on:

- Harrisburg Alumni Society
- Harrisburg Volunteer Opportunities
- Harrisburg Awards Program
- Harrisburg Alumni Mentor Program
- Schuylkill Alumni Society

### Please send to:

Penn State Capital College, Alumni Office / 777 W. Harrisburg Pike / Middletown, PA 17057-4898  
or [capalumni@psu.edu](mailto:capalumni@psu.edu)

# Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Weekend

✓ **Mark your calendars for  
Route 61 Revisited  
Saturday, April 13, 2002**

## **Events will feature:**

**Educational Programs**

**Campus Tours**

**Alumni and Student Recognition  
Program**

**Updates on Campus Future**



You'll be hearing more from your  
Alumni Office in the near future.

**Hoping to see you April 13**



*Following the  
alumni activities,  
join your fellow  
alumni and cur-  
rent Schuylkill students for an  
international fair featuring  
food, fun, and educational  
programs*



**Penn State Capital College  
777 West Harrisburg Pike  
Middletown, PA 17057-4898**

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University**