

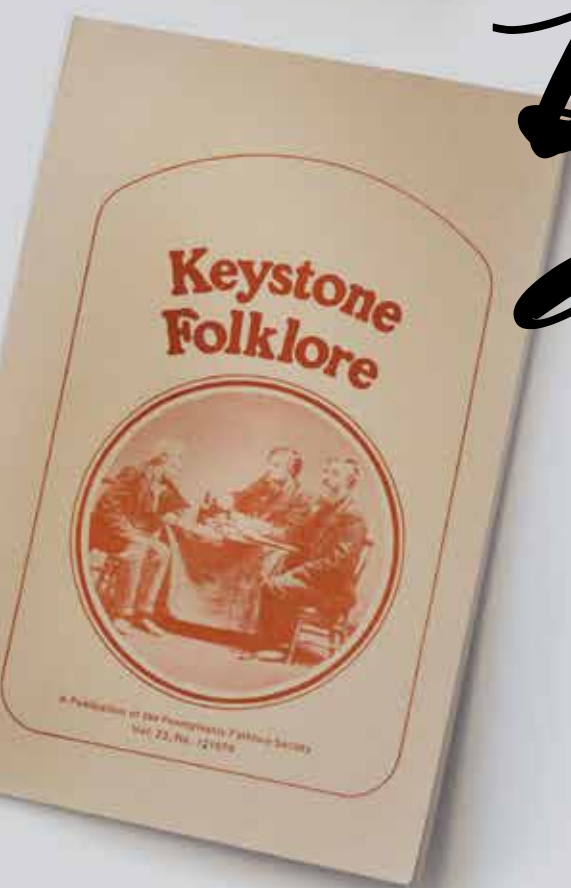
Penn State Harrisburg

Fall 2015/Winter 2016

# Currents

Preserving Pennsylvania's

*folk  
arts*



**PennState**  
Harrisburg

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Mukund S. Kulkarni

# Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

It is a busy and exciting time at Penn State Harrisburg. As we move closer to our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2016, construction on the new Student Enrichment Center is progressing steadily. It will be a pleasure to welcome you back to see the finished building and help us celebrate 50 years as a learning institution.

It is you, our alumni, who are one of the greatest measures of our success. It is visible in your dedication to your careers, your community, and to this college. It is always wonderful to see our illustrious alumni return to campus to network and share their knowledge and expertise with current students. We are very grateful for your willingness and your generosity in sharing your time and experience.

In this issue, you will read about this year's outstanding Alumni Achievement Award winners. The honorees represent a unique and diverse collection of expertise and accomplishments. We also profile our two Penn State Alumni Fellows.

For the first time, the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society has recognized outstanding students for their accomplishments in the classroom and the community with a scholarship funded through our alumni's generosity. Their stories are featured in this issue, as well as a story on the honor given to the college's Alumni Society for its career development events for students held throughout the year.

Whether through the giving of their time and expertise or through philanthropic donations, our alumni support many initiatives that improve the lives and educational experience of our students, and the quality and breadth of academic programming and opportunities. The Student Emergency Assistance Fund is one such initiative. This issue features a story on how several, unique efforts helped to boost the fund.

As part of the "50 for the 50th" campaign, the college's goal is to secure funding to impact at least an additional 50 students with private philanthropic support as a part of our anniversary celebration. If you are interested in supporting students through this fund or creating a scholarship or award on your own, please contact our Office of Development at 717-948-6316.

I continue to be in awe of the work our faculty and students undertake here on campus and abroad. This issue of *Currents* features a story on a recent acquisition of Pennsylvania folk art by the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies at Penn State Harrisburg. This addition to the center's collections gives the center the designation of the largest academic repository of folklore research in Pennsylvania. Also featured in *Currents* is a story about a group of honors students who traveled to Peru to undertake service learning projects in the Amazon Rainforest.

Wonderful things continue to happen at Penn State Harrisburg, and I thank you for your continued dedication to supporting the college through time, service, and sponsorship. You have truly been partners in our success.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.



# Currents

Vol. 27 No. 2

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# folk arts

## Preserving Pennsylvania's cultural past

Penn State Harrisburg's Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies, affiliated with the college's School of Humanities, recently acquired a treasure trove of Pennsylvania folk art and folk life materials, which weave a unique, colorful tale about the diverse people and communities in Pennsylvania.

Folk and traditional culture tells the story, orally or by example, of the ideas and values of a particular group. Preserving, documenting, and studying the rich culture and traditions of the people of Pennsylvania has been the focus of the center since it was established in 1990. The center provides programs, resources, and support for the study of Pennsylvania's cultural heritage, ensuring that the folk life or traditional culture unique to Pennsylvania is accessible to everyone.

The new collection, the Pennsylvania Folk Life Archives, was once maintained by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. With this collection, the center received a grant from the American Folklore Society to participate in the National Folklore Archives Initiative, an effort to document and provide access to information about folklore archival collections held by folklore programs at academic institutions, community-based cultural and ethnic organizations, non-profit organizations, and state government-based arts and cultural agencies in the United States.

The collection also features materials from the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, which conducted projects with the arts of refugee communities, as well as the Governor's Heritage Affairs Commission.

Permanently housed in Church Hall on campus, the collection joins other major folklore collections at the center, including the Mac Barrick Folklore Collection, the archives of Pennsylvania Folklore and Ethnography, and the Sue Samuelson Collection, giving the center the designation of the largest academic repository of folklore research in Pennsylvania.

The college received the collection after the closing of the Institute for Cultural Partnerships, which had managed the apprenticeship program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and accumulated the folk life archives. It was the council's desire to connect the materials to an

academic center, because after 30 years of the apprenticeship program, rich potential existed for research, outreach, new fieldwork, and exhibitions.

"Based upon this and the fact that we have a Ph.D. program in American studies with a folk life concentration and a certificate in folklore and ethnography, as well as an archival presence at our Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies, it seemed to be a very good match," said Dr. Simon Bronner, Distinguished Professor of American studies and head of the center.

The vast collection is rich with materials from the apprenticeship program, which was established in the 1980s, including documentation of individuals who were masters of folk arts, as well as their apprentices. It includes a wide variety of audio and video recordings, manuscripts, and photographs illustrating the crafts, music, dance and story from all over Pennsylvania, as well as the actual pieces crafted by individuals in the program. "It is a multi-media collection," Bronner said. "It will help us conduct generational studies in time, to see what happened to those younger people who learned from the older masters."

The collection features the work of folk art masters skilled in arts from all over the world. Representation includes European American – Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Balkan, and Polish.

As the Institute for Cultural Partnerships was involved in refugee programs, there are also folk arts from recent refugee populations and immigrant populations from Africa.

Bosnian, Latin American, and African American techniques are included, as well as post-Vietnam War Asian, such as the Hmong, who settled in the Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Lebanon areas and produced a stunning textile art. There is also Chinese papercutting, Indian dance, Pennsylvania German foodways, and Native American material. Other expertise includes lace making, embroidery, decorative egg making, calligraphy, oud and bouzouki playing, ethnic dancing, and hair braiding techniques.

Photographs in the collection chronicle cultural and social experiences of America, including weddings, Jewish bar mitzvahs, and Latin American quinceañeras.

"Pennsylvania has always had a rich, multicultural heritage, that's part of what this project – the folk and traditional arts program of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts – was set up to document and preserve," Bronner said.





# The Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies has the designation as the largest academic repository of folklore research in Pennsylvania.



Bronner added that the collection is important because it “is a legacy of creativity that one is not going to find in the schools or the galleries,” and noted that these cultural traditions belong to Pennsylvania families and communities – in churches and synagogues, as well as cultural institutions like festivals and county fairs.

“In one sense, it is a legacy of creativity that I think can be inspiring and gives us a rich sense of diversity,” Bronner said. “On the other hand, it’s very important for the identities of many of those people who may not have a connection to their culture, but want to gain from what their forebearers have been able to do.

“We have a record of it now, and we take it seriously. We want to promote it and disseminate it.”

The goal is to make the collection accessible to the public, and use the materials for outreach programs, exhibitions, and hands-on workshops of some of the arts, as well as hold public performances of these artists.

“It will be a living archive in a sense that we will document, catalog and archive the collection, but we want to use it to promote those people – in performance and practice, as well as encourage faculty, staff,

and students to utilize the materials for projects and publications.”

Several graduate students – Lesley Ham, Nate Davis, David Beecher, and Cory Hutcheson – are assisting Bronner with archiving and cataloging the collection, with plans to add another student thanks to the American Folklore Society grant.

The students’ tasks include assisting scholars with research, inventorying holdings and digitizing material and storage.

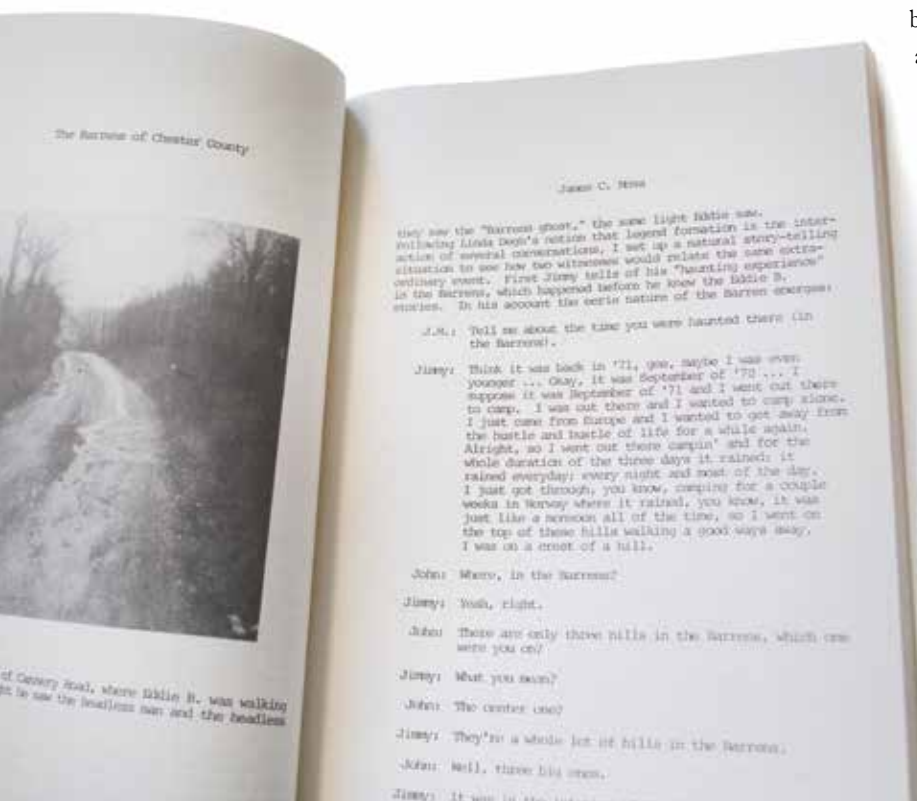
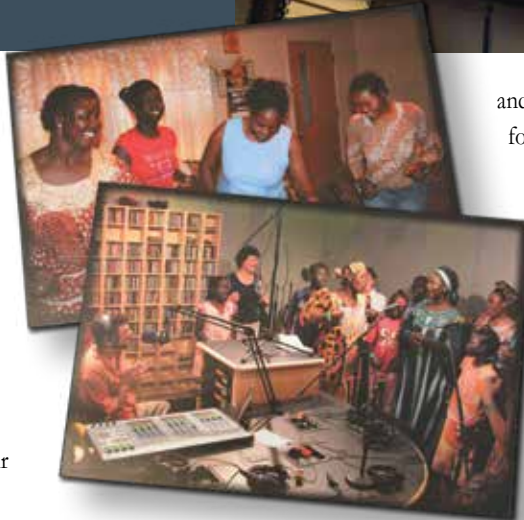
Davis stressed the importance of preserving these items so that future generations can learn from the past. “Collections such as this recognize the hard work of many people over the years,” he said. “Not everything is a brilliant article or work of art. The day-to-day items are a part of history, too.”

Beecher added that “folklore is broad – it includes written history, oral history, stories, pictures and more. Because it is sort of ambiguous, it becomes even more important to properly catalogue and store anything you can get, otherwise this information, which typically defines the past of a group of people, can be lost forever. It’s exciting to be part of a project that will be a useful research tool for the future.”

Bronner hopes to have the collection accessible to the Penn State Harrisburg, local and statewide community in the spring. He is working with the college library on curatorial practices and would like to catalog the media in a way that it will be available through Penn State’s library catalog system.

Bronner also sees a material cultural lab in the future, a place where artifacts could be stored and displayed on campus, for study and observation, as well as conferences discussing the archival process and the state of folk art in America.

“There is a lot of public interest in handcrafts and the do-it-yourself movement. It’s exciting and something we can get our students involved in,” Bronner said. “So rather than talking about art, we can say ‘here it is to enjoy, study and exhibit.’”



# SERVICE IN LEARNING: FROM MEDICAL KITS TO MARKETING PLANS

In March 2015, nine Penn State honors students, including five from Penn State Harrisburg, travelled to Peru for a study tour that focused on how to learn and serve in a cross-cultural environment. They visited the Amazon Rainforest; Puerto Maldonado, the town at the opening to the rainforest; and Lima, Peru's capital and largest city.

It was the first time that a Penn State Harrisburg honors program trip centered on service learning. The tour also focused on ecotourism, leveraging travel, conservation and community with as little impact on the environment as possible.

During the tour, students were tasked with developing a service project that utilized their particular area of study. Their majors included biological sciences, American studies, finance, marketing, math education, and environmental science. They were given a few days to explore Peru, immersing themselves, and instructed to view the location through the lens of their discipline and decide how that could translate into a project that would be an asset to the environment and community.

Accompanied by Dr. Martha J. Strickland, assistant director of Penn State Harrisburg's Honors Program, and Dr. Gloria Clark, associate professor of Spanish at the college, the group also interacted with the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, the Penn State University Global Engagement Network university in Peru.

Several Penn State Harrisburg students decided on projects for the tourist lodge where they stayed, seeing the value in helping to improve lodge operations and tour guide and visitor safety. Posada Amazonas is a 30-bedroom rainforest lodge, located a 45-minute boat ride from Puerto Maldonado.

## Rainforest first aid

Mario Soliman, a senior biology student, created an emergency medical kit for rainforest tour guides. He said that after meeting with the shaman and getting an understanding of medicine in the Peruvian culture, he saw a need for the people to trust medicine and its benefits. He said that community members had their own beliefs and no real trust in modern, western medicine.

**"I saw this medical kit as a way to slowly introduce western medicine. It was tough to tell someone that there are ways other than how they have done it for hundreds and hundreds of years,"**

Soliman said. "You have to be sensitive and introduce it in addition to what they already have."



*Mario Soliman (r.) with rainforest tour guide*

He said he found the medical kit important because the tour guides travel with 15 to 20 tourists and the closest hospital is five to six hours away by boat and bus, and nothing is available for immediate critical care.

Soliman consulted with emergency medical professionals and physicians that he had previously worked with at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and Medical Center and for suggestions on the components and necessities of a first aid kit. He also visited a small clinic near the rainforest for information on the health dangers that people might face there.

"I took all of this information and came up with a document of what a first aid kit should contain and the cost," Soliman said. "I used local materials where possible, so the kit was very accessible and very cost effective to put together. Now they are using this kit in the community and at the lodge, for visitors." People of the community also added things to it, based on their needs, he said.

Soliman said it was important to him to get community input, to get their approval of the idea. He also said that the project made him more aware of medicine and culture. "It's interesting how careful you have to be with the views and cultures of other people in respect to medicine," he said. "It seems like a common thing. At first, I would have never thought that [acceptance of] modern medicine would be an issue . . . but then I came across this unique situation where not everyone believes of the use of western medicine and technology.

"That was one of the most interesting aspects of the trip . . . This was one of the most unique and different experiences I ever had."

## Marketing a tourist destination

Recent graduate Nabilah Abu Bakar, and Meng Li, both marketing and finance students, centered their project on creating a marketing and financial plan for Posada

Amazonas and a new lodge the manager was going to oversee nearby.

Abu Bakar had observed how marketing was used in the Amazon and the different advertisements shown around Lima and



*Meng Li*

Puerto Maldonado. After learning from the lodge manager that they relied on outside marketing agencies – which was costly for them – she and Li decided to create a marketing and financial plan for the lodges to reduce marketing costs and reliance on outside help.

Using what they had learned in their classes at Penn State Harrisburg, Abu Bakar and Li incorporated the basics of marketing/financial plans into their plan for the lodge, including an analysis of the new lodge, target customers, and the external environment; an analysis of competitor lodges; marketing goals and financial objectives, including creating a lodge with



simple amenities that reflect how the locals live and calculating profits and wages; and how and where to market the lodge.

Abu Bakar said that the trip “really opened my eyes to ecotourism and the Amazon.” She added that “as someone who is aspiring to become a global marketer, this trip really furthered my passion in cultural differences and allowed me to observe the different marketing and advertising messages employed around the country.”

Li said that non-verbal communication was critical to overcoming the language barrier in Peru. “Being in a foreign country without knowing the language was the biggest obstacle I had in Peru,” she said. “However, communication is not only limited to verbal expression. I was able to communicate with others by using hand gestures, facial expressions and simple drawings.”



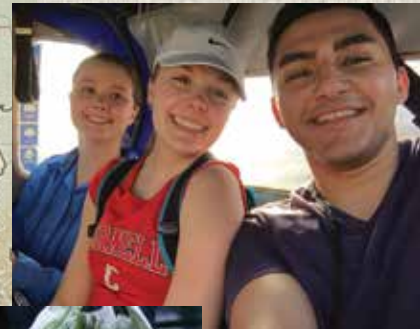
*Dr. Martha Strickland*

Although they ultimately lost contact with the lodge manager, the students are hopeful that the next group that goes to Peru can propose their plan to the management team to see if it would be beneficial to them. Plans are well underway for the next study tour, which will take place in March 2016, when ten new honors students from the University Park and Harrisburg campuses will travel to Peru funded by the Global Honors Faculty Program Grant of Schreyer Honors College and a Penn State University Global Programs GEN travel grant.



## PERU STUDY TOUR

Photos courtesy of Meng Li, Janine Mistrick, Zhao Shen, Mario Soliman, and Dr. Martha Strickland







## Unique efforts help to build Student Emergency Assistance Fund

They say sometimes it's the little things. Penn State Harrisburg's Student Emergency Assistance Fund is designed for just that – helping students with the little things – and sometimes even the big ones – that can prevent them from graduating. Maybe it's money for a car repair so a commuter can get to campus or for groceries to get a student through to the semester's end. Through small and large contributions, donors can provide for school supplies, transportation fees, meals, and tuition costs for students in need.

This past year, the fund received an unprecedented boost from several, unique sources. It began when alumnus Ted Kauffman learned that there are some students each year whose education is in jeopardy because of unexpected financial hardship. Kauffman wanted to do something that would make a lasting impact – he donated \$100,000 to create an endowment so that students' financial limitations would not prevent them from achieving their goals and he challenged others to give as well.

Kauffman is a long-time supporter of Penn State Harrisburg. A 1970 graduate of the college's School of Business Administration, Kauffman set out to build his own business and co-founded Eastern Connections, the East Coast's largest regional transportation and logistics provider. Entrepreneur Magazine named him Entrepreneur of the Year in 1994. In addition to his philanthropic commitment, Kauffman has served the college in other ways. He is member of the supply chain management program advisory council and co-chaired the college's multi-year "For the Future Campaign." He was named a Penn State Alumni Fellow in 2001.

Taking Kauffman's challenge, the college's Board of Advisers helped raise funds and awareness through a social-media based crowdfunding effort the University recently piloted in partnership with USEED for targeted philanthropic giving. Penn State Harrisburg was one of the first Penn State locations to run a USEED campaign.

The college launched the emergency assistance fund campaign page in May 2015 and, thanks to the efforts of board members and inspired alumni who reached out through their social networks, the campaign surpassed its original fundraising goal in a week. When the campaign closed 30 days later, more than 100 donors contributed to the total of more than \$17,000.

When Penn State Harrisburg alumnus R. Barry Uber, of New Hope, Pennsylvania, passed away on December 31, 2014, his family requested donations be made, in his memory, to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. By May of 2015, \$20,000 had been raised.



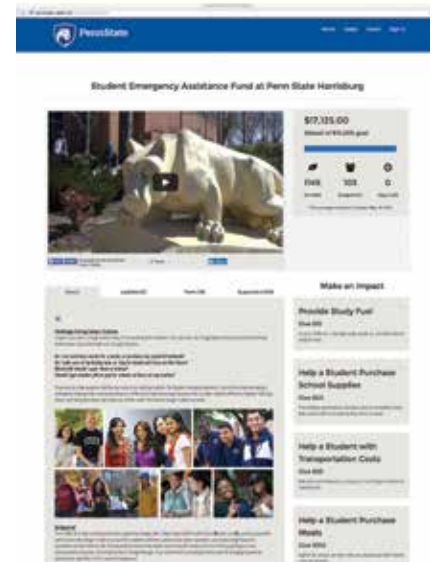
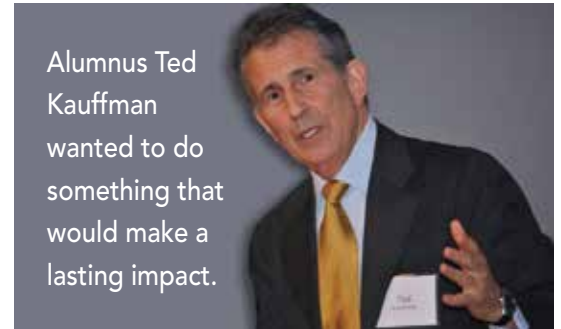
*Memorial donations for the late Barry Uber helped students in need.*

According to his wife, Kathy, Barry knew the value of a good education and also the struggles that come along with funding it. Uber graduated in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in business administration, but had to drop out of school at one point to find work to support himself.

Uber went on to a successful career as a manufacturing executive, starting full-time at Ingersoll-Rand while still an undergraduate and spending 30 years there, eventually becoming a company officer. He then served as president and CEO of North American Van Lines and operating executive for Argosy Capital, a private equity investment firm. Throughout his lifetime, he expressed his awareness of the importance of a good education and remained an avid donor to scholarship funds at Penn State Harrisburg. He was named a Penn State Alumni Fellow in 1996.

Support from the unique USEED effort added substantially to the giving legacy that began with the generosity of Kauffman's endowment and Uber's memorial funds. More than \$137,000 was raised in less than six months to provide funding for students.

Growing the Student Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be a priority for the college going into its 50th anniversary year (2016), and will be part of the "50 for the 50th" campaign, the college's effort to secure private philanthropic support to impact at least an additional 50 students. For information, visit [harrisburg.psu.edu/philanthropy](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/philanthropy).





## Writing for the Web course leads student to write for The Huffington Post

While at Penn State Harrisburg, 2015 graduate Cindy Withjack took “Writing for the Web,” a course taught by Dr. Rodney Zink, assistant professor of English. “This course was a major catalyst in the creation of my blog,” she said. With Dr. Zink’s guidance, she said she turned, “I should really make a blog” into “I finally made a blog!” Cindy currently blogs on writing, books, and lifestyle.

After changing her major three times and receiving her first degree in visual arts, Withjack decided to look into programs at Penn State Harrisburg. Pleased by the fact that she could combine her three previous majors – journalism, psychology and visual arts – she decided to enroll. In spring of 2015, she received a bachelor’s degree in English and writing.

Withjack attributes her growth as a student writer to the courses and texts she was exposed to as an English major. “In one semester alone I went from Shakespeare to Nietzsche to Morrison, with countless others in between,” Withjack said. She felt as though she thrived as a Penn State student and is proud to have been a part of what she describes as a “wonderfully gifted community.”

In addition to writing for her blog, Withjack’s writing also was published on The Huffington Post, an online news page and blog. So far, she has written for their blog section on marriage counseling and divorce. “After the first essay went live on their site, I started getting emails from people expressing how helpful and encouraging it was to read my work,” Withjack said. “It has been, without a doubt, immensely humbling.”

In addition to being published at The Huffington Post, Withjack has also had her work featured in theBurg, greater Harrisburg’s community magazine, and From the Fallout Shelter, Penn State Harrisburg’s creative writing and arts journal.

Withjack will pursue her master’s degree in creative writing at the University of Birmingham in England and eventually hopes to finish her doctorate. “Ideally, in the next few years I will have travelled extensively and started teaching,” Withjack said. “It would be wonderful to experience both with a completed manuscript on my coffee table, but one never knows – maybe two completed manuscripts on my coffee table.”

“After the first essay went live on their site, I started getting emails from people expressing how helpful and encouraging it was to read my work.”



Cindy Withjack

## Panel examines race in the media

Penn State Harrisburg’s Diversity and Educational Equity Committee recently hosted a panel discussion on “Race and the Media.” Panelists included: Penn State Harrisburg alumna Ophelia Chambliss, artist and graphic designer; James Crummel, news anchor for Harrisburg’s ABC27; John Price, a doctoral student in American studies; and Laura Roy, associate professor of education. The following are highlights from the discussion.

“After Hurricane Katrina, news photos had captions showing white people carrying bread they found in a store ‘to get through hard times.’ With black people, captions said they were looting. When I first moved to York, I looked through the newspapers and there were no black people except for mug shots. Fifty years from now, when people look through archives, they’ll think all black people were criminals.”

• *Ophelia Chambliss, on how the media portrays people of color*

“As a black person in the media, I’m kind of split. One of our first goals at ABC is how can we be first to get news out. Mug shots are easy to get [compared to other types of photos] because they’re public records. It may taint perceptions. It’s a fine line. I do think it is our job to get information in the most responsible way we can . . .”

• *James Crummel, on how the station chooses which photos to use*

“The root issue here is objectivity in the media. Most assume when they watch the main network news they’re watching something objective. Media has always been biased. Media has an agenda . . . Can you blame a newspaper in 2015 for going with what sells? Crime, sex, conflict – we’re the ones clicking on those stories.”

• *John Price, on how the media can be more responsible*



James Crummel of ABC27 and Laura Roy, associate professor of education, were among panelists discussing race in the media.

“All this is an issue of power. We’re asking questions about power and who’s in control . . . There has to be change at the top.”

• *Laura Roy, on responsibility in the media and the lack of diversity among high level decision-makers*

“If there is a murder in Harrisburg overnight and a murder in the suburbs overnight, which is more newsworthy? I think they are both newsworthy. But you could argue it’s not as common in the suburbs. We have these debates . . . A lot of people say they don’t want to see crime in the news, but if you go on our websites, the biggest stories clicked on are crime stories.”

• *Crummel, on how viewer feedback affects news story decision-making*



## Harter named professor of practice for new entrepreneurial center

Penn State Harrisburg has named alumnus Kevin Harter as the college's first professor of practice. The former chairman, president and CEO of Saladax Biomedical, Inc., will lead Penn State Harrisburg's new entrepreneurial center and serve jointly as faculty in the School of Business Administration and the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

As part of Penn State President Eric Barron's INVENT Penn State initiative, Penn State Harrisburg was awarded \$50,000 in seed funding to help the college develop the center, whose mission will be to leverage the breadth and depth of the college's expertise and intellectual capital to stimulate new business and economic development in the region. The center will provide entrepreneurial resources for faculty, students, and the community.

Harter has more than 30 years of experience in new business development, including in all aspects of developing, managing, and financing life science and technology businesses. He also has volunteered extensively in these areas, as well as in entrepreneurship, economic development, and education.

Harter served at Saladax, a leader in personalized medicine and diagnostics, since 2007. He was also co-founder and senior vice president of

the Life Sciences Greenhouse of Central Pennsylvania. Harter also co-founded Keystone Medical Systems, previously the largest independent supplier of information technology and electronic medical record solutions to physicians.

Harter holds a bachelor's degree in information systems and an M.B.A. from Penn State Harrisburg. In 2010, he was named a Penn State Alumni Fellow. He is emeritus member and past chair of the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers and is an active member on several Penn State Harrisburg program advisory boards. In 2014, he received the Ben Franklin of NorthEast PA Entrepreneurial Achievement Award.

The professor of practice title is given to individuals who have accumulated a decade or more of high level and leadership experience in the private or public sectors and can provide a unique background and wealth of knowledge to the academic community.



## Students learn to pitch their big ideas

This past fall, Penn State Harrisburg's Business Management Club held the second annual Elevator Pitch Competition – imagine a college version of the television show Shark Tank – to help students learn how to present a “big idea” in a professional and convincing way.

Ten contestants, or teams, presented their innovative, original ideas to judges in under four minutes, followed by a question and answer session during which they also received valuable feedback from a panel of judges composed of experienced faculty and professionals.



Judges evaluated students' new business ideas.

Judges included: Ozge Aybat, assistant professor of marketing; Larry Dittman, CEO/President of ExecuStar; Kevin Harter, professor of practice in the School of Business Administration and the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology, and head of Penn State Harrisburg's new entrepreneurial center; and Scott Van Tonningen, senior lecturer of electrical engineering.

Participants were graded on innovativeness, feasibility, and effectiveness of presentation, with students who developed Loudhouse LLC, a music-based social networking website, taking top honors. Second place went to Elektron Systems, the focus of

which is developing software to compare and customize alternative energy sources in hopes of assisting the global transition to a sustainable future. Third place was awarded to Authors Unite, a student's online publishing website that helps authors publish and market their original work.

In its second year, the event had a successful turnout of more than 60 attendees who were involved in the question and answer sessions.

“The event turned into a networking opportunity,” said senior Brian Gerrard, president of the Business Management Club. **“Not only did students have the opportunity to pitch their ideas, but they were able to get feedback after the event and have one-on-one conversations about their projects with the judges and with each other.”**

The club officers attribute the success of the competition to the unique ideas brought to the table. This real world experience serves as the beginning stages for Penn State Harrisburg students to move their ideas into realities.



Manley Wong  
Idea: Device allowing a person to check their vehicle brake lights



Hakeem Muhammad  
Idea: Music-based social networking site



Abhishek Jain  
Idea: Online student meal plan benefitting non-profits



## College offers new academic programs

Penn State Harrisburg recently has added new residential degree programs to expand study options for students and meet workforce demand. The college now offers more than 65 associate, bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs.

**Biology:** The new bachelor of science degree program in biology offers two options: general biology or genetics/developmental biology.

**Health Policy and Administration:** The bachelor of science in health policy and administration features a multidisciplinary curriculum that allows students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand the complex societal problems of providing access to quality healthcare at a reasonable cost.

**Kinesiology:** The kinesiology program prepares students in the science of human movement. Students have the choice of two emphases of study: science – focusing on courses such as chemistry, biology, physics and math; or business – emphasizing the skills of accounting, marketing, management and entrepreneurship.

**Project and Supply Chain Management:** The bachelor's degree in project and supply chain management provides students with a comprehensive foundation of business knowledge, a deep understanding of project management, purchasing, production and inventory control, warehousing, and transportation management.

**Humanities:** The new bachelor of arts in humanities provides students with more flexibility to tailor the program to their interests, and offers a more robust presence in the fields of history, philosophy, and the arts than the former bachelor of humanities program. Changes focus on research and writing to provide a solid

foundation for individuals interested in creative writing, writing instruction, history, literature, philosophy, and the performing and visual arts.

### Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate:

Integrated programs allow strong undergraduate students to earn a bachelor's and master's degree in five years.

The new integrated program in **applied psychological research** allows students in the psychology undergraduate major to gain more comprehensive research experience while earning two degrees. Students would earn a bachelor of science in psychology and a master of arts in applied psychological research. The new integrated **electrical engineering program** offers an accelerated path for any student who wishes to earn bachelor and master of science degrees in electrical engineering.

The college also added a **new option within the bachelor of science in sociology**. The community organization and social services option complements the existing option in general sociology and provides students with in-depth education in diverse sociological topics. It includes a required internship to facilitate students' career preparation.



## around campus



Daniel Tramper, a Cherokee Hoop Dancer, performed on campus this fall. Founder of the dance troupe Native Movements and an original member of the American Indian Dance Theatre in New York, Tramper traces his heritage to the Eastern Band of Cherokee in North Carolina and the Chippewa-Cree Nation.



Each Veteran's Day, Penn State Harrisburg honors those who have served the United States military with a ceremony on campus.

Read more online at [harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents)



## Penn State Harrisburg announces \$6 million goal to expand athletics

In an effort to upgrade and expand the college's athletic facilities and program support and help student athletes reach individual and team success, Penn State Harrisburg has announced that it will aim to raise \$6 million.

An NCAA Division III member, Penn State Harrisburg currently has 16 varsity sports and competes in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC).

"Penn State Harrisburg continues to grow into an ever more vibrant and comprehensive institution, providing students in the Capital Region with all the benefits of a first-class Penn State education," said Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni. "To complement this growth, we are affirming our commitment to athletics as an integral part of today's college experience."

The campaign will focus on raising funds for the construction of a new synthetic-turf soccer field and a multipurpose track-and-field facility. The soccer field will meet NCAA tournament requirements and will provide bleacher seating for more than 1,000 spectators. The multipurpose facility will also feature an eight-lane running track and a natural grass field.

These new facilities would more effectively serve the student and spectator needs for Penn State Harrisburg's growing athletics program, and will allow the college to add several new sports. Funding would also allow the college to establish more programs and staff positions in the athletics department.

"Adding new sports means giving more students the opportunities for fulfillment and personal growth that athletics provide," Kulkarni said. "It also means generating even more excitement in the larger Harrisburg area and building connections between the college and the surrounding community. Sports unite individuals and communities with a collective sense of pride."





# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS


- The Penn State Harrisburg golf team set new school records at the Tom Kreider Memorial Tournament. On the first day, the Nittany Lions finished with a score of 296, and by the end of day two, had a cumulative score of 600. Both of these scores set new school records for the Nittany Lions in the first match of the year.
- Penn State Harrisburg women's soccer player Kristin Stark (Lancaster, Pa./Donegal) was named the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Rookie of the Year and a First Team All-Conference Selection. She scored ten goals and had five assists in her first season.
- At a recent meet at Ursinus College, the Penn State Harrisburg indoor track team broke seven school records, three students qualified for the CAC Championships, and one student qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference Championships.
- This fall the college opened its new soccer field at Nittany Place, adjacent to campus, courtesy of alums John Tierney and Matt Tunnell, of the Lift Development, LLC. The new field will allow Penn State Harrisburg to host playoff games and will permit more people to support the Nittany Lions. Primarily intended for men's and women's soccer, the field will also benefit all athletic programs.

[harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents)

### ABOUT US


## 4,678

students



## 65+


degree programs





## 16

varsity sports



## 218

campus acres

## around campus



One of the few Holocaust survivors still living, Lancaster County resident Joseph Hirt spoke as part of the college's Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies speaker series. He detailed his personal experience of one of history's cruelest periods, with the hope that the Holocaust and its lessons will always be remembered.



Campus police provide educational programs to remind students of the dangers of alcohol abuse.

Read more online at [harrisburg.psu.edu/currents](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/currents)





*Dr. Daniel Borsch*



*Dr. Richard C. Ciocci*



## College helps teachers integrate STEM in the classroom

Eighteen elementary, middle and high school teachers from eight Pennsylvania and Maryland school districts this summer participated in a free week-long institute presented by Penn State Harrisburg, in partnership with ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel and mining company, with a facility located in Steelton, Pa. Catalyst IV STEM, held on campus this past July, focused on helping teachers to integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics into their curricula and classrooms. The institute featured presentations by Penn State Harrisburg faculty in biology, engineering, and computer science; hands-on activities and lesson plan creation; and keynote speaker Dr. Chris Rogers, of Tufts University, who shared project ideas to encourage students in problem-solving and critical thinking.



*Dr. Chris Rogers, Tufts University*

*Dr. Linda Null*



Pumpkins were popular on campus this fall, from the 529-pounder that adorned the Olmsted Building entrance to the electronic and Star Wars themed entries in the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology decorating contest.



During the Topping Out ceremony, contractors working on the new Student Enrichment Center fitted the building's last beam into its permanent position. The beam had been signed by students, faculty, staff, and the Nittany Lion!

## Harrisburg alums named Alumni Fellows



Brian S. Funkhouser

Two Penn State Harrisburg alumni were among 19 recently honored by the University for outstanding professional accomplishments, and given the lifelong title of Alumni Fellow, the highest award given by the Penn State Alumni Association.

Brian S. Funkhouser, a 1980 water resources engineering technology graduate, is president and chief executive officer for Buchart Horn Inc./BASCO Associates, a full-service engineering and architectural company. Buchart Horn is among the top 200 environmental firms, and one of the top 300 engineering and design firms in the U.S., ranked by Engineering News-Record magazine. Funkhouser is noted for bringing the company through the economic downturn, keeping the company growing and thriving. Prior to becoming president and CEO in 2008, Funkhouser was executive vice president and chief operating officer of PACE Resources, Buchart Horn's parent company. Funkhouser also holds an associate degree in engineering from Penn State Mont Alto.



Rosaclara Solines Stroh

Rosaclara Solines Stroh, a 1979 M.B.A. graduate, is vice president and treasurer of The Hershey Company, the largest producer of quality chocolate in North America. Stroh is responsible for managing the company's corporate liquidity; the financial risks of the company and the relationship between the company and commercial banks, pension managers, and insurance providers. Stroh's other responsibilities at Hershey include implementing the appropriate capital structure of the company, managing relations with the securities industry, and acting as the principal negotiator with banks. She is the program director for Hershey's risk management activities. Stroh had an active role in the financing arrangements of Hershey's recent acquisitions of confectionery companies in Canada and China.

Since the award was established, more than 750 alumni – out of more than 645,000 living alumni – have been honored as Alumni Fellows.

## Alumni Society receives award

Penn State Harrisburg was recently honored with the Professional Development Award by the Penn State Alumni Association.

The Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society received the award for sponsoring events at which alumni mentor students on various professional development topics. These events include an etiquette dinner, where alums teach students the fine art of business etiquette over a four-course meal; Résumania, where alumni provide feedback on students' résumés; international student networking, where alumni help ease international students' transition in the U.S.; and mock interviews, at which alumni help students practice their interviewing skills.

Mentor Committee Chair Karen Dielmann, a 2009 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's doctoral program in adult education, accepted the award. She serves as department chair for health care programs at the Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

## About the Artist

Catherine McCormick, Penn State Harrisburg associate professor of communications and humanities, crafted this year's alumni achievement award using an alternative photography process called Van Dyke Brown, in which a photo-reactive emulsion is brushed on to the paper before exposing the paper and negative to ultraviolet light.

McCormick's artistic career spans decades. As a clay artist, she produced functional and decorative work in Harrisburg and Pittsburgh where she also started commercial pottery studios. She also has won several photography awards, and has had three images used as the cover art for magazines.

She earned a M.A. in humanities and a bachelor's degree in communications from Penn State Harrisburg.

## Alumni Society honors exceptional students

Penn State Harrisburg's Alumni Society honored three outstanding students with the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society Scholarship. These students are the first recipients of the award, which is funded through the generous support of alumni with additional funds generated through Alumni Society events. The scholarship award is based on academic excellence, participation in extra-curricular activities and a student's essay on their college experience.

The recipients included:



**Jonathan Garber**, a senior accounting major from Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, is president of the Lion Ambassadors and the Accounting Club, as well as a member of the Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society and the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. He also has participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and other volunteer organizations.



**Christopher Spittle**, a senior majoring in structural design and construction engineering technology from Tower City, Pennsylvania, is a member of the golf team, serves as president of the Penn State Professional Engineers and Contractors Club, and is a member of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. Spittle came to Penn State Harrisburg after completing an associate's degree in architectural technology at Harrisburg Area Community College. After working in that field for five years, he decided to pursue an advanced degree full-time.



**Naseem Zomorodi**, a junior majoring in life science from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, is the vice president of Lion Ambassadors, president of the STEM Club, a member of the Health Sciences Club and a member of the Food Advisory Board. She was a research intern at Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center this summer and tutors for the Russell E. Horn Sr. Learning Center on campus. She conducts cancer immunology research at the Medical Center and was accepted into the mentoring program there with the goal of one day becoming a physician.





## Penn State Harrisburg recognizes alumni achievement

Alumni from each of Penn State Harrisburg's five academic schools were recently honored for their outstanding professional achievements.

The School of Behavioral Sciences and Education honored **Dr. Mmantsetsa Marope**, a 1985 graduate of the master's program in teaching and curriculum. Marope is the director of the UNESCO

International Bureau of Education, a global center in the area of curriculum development and a field-oriented institute supporting UNESCO actions aimed at attaining quality education for all.

Marope has served several key roles within UNESCO, including director of the Division for Basic Higher Education and Learning. She has also held a variety of other high-profile positions, including 10 years at the World Bank, 11 years teaching at the University of Botswana, two years as executive secretary of The Educational Research Network in Eastern and Southern Africa, and provided extensive consultancy and advisory services to ministries of education, regional economic communities, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa and other agencies.

**Carlton (Andy) Klinger**, a 1981 graduate with a Bachelor's degree in business and a 1990 M.B.A. graduate, was honored by the School of Business Administration. Klinger currently serves as the senior vice president and market president for BB&T's York, Pennsylvania market.

Klinger has more than 30 years of experience in banking with over 20 years of experience managing line banking groups at Mellon, Citizens, and PNC Bank in Central Pennsylvania, as well as in Delaware and Maryland.

Klinger serves on the executive committee of Penn State Harrisburg's Board of Advisers, and as an advisory council member for the Business Administration program.

Klinger and his wife, Helen, also a Penn State Harrisburg graduate, established the Klinger Family Business School Endowed Program Fund in 2007 and have supported the college's Board of Advisers Scholarship, the Student Emergency Assistance Fund, and the campus veterans organization Chi Gamma Iota.

The School of Humanities honored **Ophelia Chambliss**, a 2013 master of arts in communications graduate. Chambliss also earned a bachelor's degree from Penn State York in 2008.

Chambliss has 25 years of experience in graphic design for marketing and publishing firms. She also donates her time to multiple socially-oriented projects, and has worked with troubled youth in York, Pennsylvania, and contributed her design know-how to community service programs, political campaigns, and art education for at-risk youth.



Mmantsetsa Marope '85 • School of Behavioral Sciences and Education



Carlton (Andy) Klinger '81 • School of Business Administration



Ophelia Chambliss '13 • School of Humanities

Her most visible work is a combination of more than 20 murals she has installed around the city of York. She is also artistically active in Gettysburg and Harrisburg.

Much of her artwork incorporates an approach to local and regional history of African Americans. For example, her collection titled, "Monumental Stories," is an art installation in Gettysburg that incorporates the stories of the descendants and relatives of the United States Colored Troops and their actions during the Civil War.

**Martin Ciccocioppo**, honored by the School of Public Affairs, holds three Penn State Harrisburg degrees: a bachelor's degree in business administration ('86); a master's degree in business administration ('87); and a master of health administration ('98).

For more than 25 years, Ciccocioppo has served as the vice president of research for The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), where he is responsible for research and data initiatives in support of HAP's policy and research efforts.

In 2005, he was instrumental in founding the Pennsylvania eHealth Initiative and has represented hospitals on the board since its inception and currently serves as board chairman. He also was a catalyst in the creation of the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority through legislation in 2012, and instrumental in the creation of the Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research in 2009.

He is an affiliate of the American College of Health Care Executives, a member of the Health Information Management Systems Society, and a registered Pennsylvania lobbyist.

The School of Science, Engineering, and Technology recognized **Daniel Fichtner**, a 1974 graduate in structural design and construction engineering technology.

Fichtner serves as the executive vice president of Providence Engineering Corporation (PEC), which provides structural engineering services to contractors, owners, architects, and fabricators. PEC has several offices across Pennsylvania.

Major projects that Fichtner and his company have worked on include the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatres; the QVC Garment Facility; the Chobani HTST4 Yogurt Process Addition; and the American Music Theatre.

Prior to founding Providence Engineering Corporation, Fichtner worked for 11 years in project management for general contractors in the Lancaster area. He also worked with Webber/Smith Associates as a project manager and was promoted to vice president of engineering.

Fichtner has served on the Penn State Harrisburg Structural Design and Construction Engineering Technology and the Construction Engineering Advisory Boards since their inception.



Martin Ciccocioppo '86 • School of Public Affairs



Daniel Fichtner '74 • School of Science, Engineering, and Technology

alumni news

**We want to hear from you!**

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

Send updates to:

Penn State Harrisburg, Alumni Office, [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu) or 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715



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Harrisburg

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Middletown, PA 17057-4898

# Penn State Harrisburg to celebrate 50 years

Join us as we kick off our 50th anniversary this spring!  
Visit [harrisburg.psu.edu/50th-anniversary](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/50th-anniversary) for a list of activities during our year-long celebration.

