

Penn State Harrisburg

Fall 2017

# Currents

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**PennState**  
Harrisburg

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Mukund S. Kulkarni

# Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

The philanthropic spirit thrives at Penn State Harrisburg. We recognize that we are growing the future leaders of the world and an essential part of leading is giving back. Penn State is one community impacting many. You will see that illustrated throughout the magazine.

You will find stories on the many service projects our students are involved in; how a group of students' technology idea is aiming to help fight hunger; how alumni connect with and mentor students; how two alums are providing a unique economic development experience to the Capital Region; how one alum shares his singing talents; and how a former Penn State football player now encourages kids to pursue their love of math.

Currently we are in the midst of a fundraising effort, "A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence," which is a comprehensive campaign focused on the three key imperatives of a public university – keeping the door to higher education open and enabling students to graduate on time and on track to success; creating transformative experiences at home and around the globe; and improving the world through discovery, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Scholarships to students in need are Penn State Harrisburg's highest priority. Currently there are scholarship matching programs available that can double or triple the impact of your gift. To learn more, visit [greaterpennstate.psu.edu](http://greaterpennstate.psu.edu).

This summer, we were pleased to welcome to campus the Penn State Board of Trustees. They were given the opportunity to tour our beautiful campus and listen to presentations on the innovative research of our faculty and students. The meeting was a tremendous success. Officials left with a positive impression of our campus, our people, our grounds, our facilities, and everything they saw and experienced.

This fall, I announced my intention to retire at the end of the current academic year, on June 30, 2018. The Penn State Harrisburg community has become my second family. I know that I will leave with warm feelings about the college and a strong sense of accomplishment.

Teaching and scholarship are often individual endeavors. However, leading a campus requires a team of dedicated colleagues and a strong network of people who provide support from beyond the campus corridors. I have been fortunate in that respect. I have received immeasurable encouragement and cooperation from you – our alumni, donors, advisers, and friends. You have committed your time and talents, your resources and good counsel to this college. I am extremely grateful to you. Together, we have achieved a great deal.

Penn State – and all of you – have been good to me. For that, I will always remain indebted. The months until my retirement will be busy, as we work on many promising initiatives that are underway. I hope that your support and interest in the college's success will continue now and well into the bright future that is ahead.

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

# Currents

Vol. 29 No. 2

## CHANCELLOR

Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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4

## Giving Back



7

## A Good Idea



9

## Alums in Action



10 College News



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**Penn State Harrisburg students have a passion for giving back to the community. While organizations and clubs are required to complete at least a couple of community service projects a semester, students go above and beyond that requirement, giving their time to senior citizens, elementary and secondary school students, children suffering from cancer, shelters, soup kitchens, hospitals, and much more.**

From student clubs and Greek organizations, to student athletes, to individuals, philanthropy thrives at Penn State Harrisburg. Students travel throughout the region touching lives, growing their résumés, and solidifying a commitment to serving the community.

TaLisa Ramos, assistant director in the Office of Student Engagement, said that while the college has a history of connecting to the community, lately, students want to get even more involved in service.

“Our students are proactively doing community service on their own,” Ramos said. “Clubs are also reaching out to us to see if there is a need for volunteers, and we ask groups what they would like to do, or if there is an issue they want to support. We recognize the great work our student organizations are doing and we hope it inspires others.”

Students are matched with local organizations who have contacted the office requesting volunteers. The office also posts opportunities to their Facebook page. “The response is overwhelming,” Ramos said. “The students are open to diverse and different opportunities.”

“We want students to get engaged,” she added. “That is where the experiential affects the work they do in the future. It shapes the professional they will become. That is the culture we want to promote at Penn State Harrisburg.”

## Connecting with the oldest and youngest community members

Community service helps students reach a wide spectrum of individuals, from the elderly to the young.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity spends many weekends with senior citizens at the Middletown Home near campus, where they read, play games, and talk with the residents. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity visits local high schools to talk about academic achievement and to teach young men and boys life skills, like how to tie a tie. They also read to preschoolers.

“That we are able to just touch a life [is rewarding],” said Clinton Asalu, a Kappa member. “Something as simple as teaching a middle school or high school student how to tie a tie can be life changing. When it’s time for that first job or interview, that tie, that professionalism, could be the difference between them getting that job or not.”

The Homework Club, which meets at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Middletown, began as a way to assist refugee students who had no after-school support. During the first hour, Penn State Harrisburg students assist elementary students with homework and language. The second hour is reserved for socializing and mentorship. The campus Latino Club is also involved in mentoring and tutoring English as a second language students in the Harrisburg School District.

For its first community service project, the Penn State Harrisburg Chapter of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society, known as Alpha Phi Sigma, collaborated with the Middletown Police Department on “Operation Tactical Teddy Bear,” a drive to collect stuffed animals for officers to use while on calls that involve children.

“Alpha Phi Sigma believed that the ‘Tactical Teddy Bear’ toy drive was important because it was about more than just collecting stuffed animals. It was about innocent children who unfortunately get caught up in very real situations,” said Michael Imbrogno, vice president of Alpha Phi Sigma. “The officers of the Middletown Police Department can hand these stuffed animals to children who might be affected by a situation going on around them. This not only calms the child, but also helps their parents relax and lowers the overall stress level of the whole situation.”

Imbrogno added that the collection not only allowed local police and the campus to interact, but also showed the community that Penn State Harrisburg cares about the people of Middletown and “more important, that we want to make a difference and help improve the community.”



“We recognize the great work our student organizations are doing and we hope it inspires others.”



“Any way we can help, we carry one goal – to serve.”



Kappa Alpha Psi members volunteer for highway cleanup.



Ashley Williams

“It’s not always about athletics, it’s about giving back and not forgetting where you came from.”

### Student athletes in the community

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), a liaison between the college administration and student athletes, includes a community service committee. Past projects have included volunteering at the Bethesda Mission, a homeless shelter in Harrisburg, collecting and distributing toiletries.

“Community service is important,” said Sephora Senestant, cross country team member. “As a student athlete, we have the academic base and the athletic base, but to be hands-on in the community gives you another support system. Not only do we have our teammates as support, we also now have the surrounding community as well.”

SAAC is currently holding a water and food drive for communities affected by the recent devastating hurricanes and flooding nationwide and in the Caribbean, as well as for local organizations in need, including the Boys and Girls Club in Harrisburg.

“When students give back in the local communities, it helps them to see how diverse the region is in terms of the people, socioeconomic backgrounds, and ethnicities,” said Danielle Lynch, head track and field and cross country coach and SAAC adviser. “It is one thing to collect items; it’s an entirely other experience actually handing it to the person in need and seeing how they receive the gesture. I think it is a transformative experience for the student athletes.”

The athletes agree that community service is a necessary part of the college experience that connects them to the community where they live and study. “When you give back to the community, it reconnects you to the people who support you,” said Sharai Taylor, a member of the track team.

“Helping people in need is the number one thing to make a student athlete successful,” said Ashley Williams, track team member. “It’s not always about athletics; it’s about giving back and not forgetting where you came from.”

*continued on page 6*



### Reaching out to those most in need

Community service performed by Penn State Harrisburg students also focuses on giving back to those most in need – the homeless and the sick.

The Greek Life Council, the Caribbean Student Union, and the Black Student Union are among the organizations who have volunteered at soup kitchens in Harrisburg.

“We try to go big on community service,” said Shamar Wiltshire, a member of Kappa and the Greek Life Council. “We reach out to local shelters and the community to give out food or clothing. We carry one goal – to serve.”

Early in the fall semester, Harrisburg Benefitting THON joined with the Office of Student Engagement to create Little Lion Care Packages for pediatric hospital patients. The entire college community was invited to join in, creating and filling bags with coloring books, crayons, and other fun activity items, along with messages of support and encouragement for the children.



## Enhancing the college experience and the future

Students also see the importance of volunteering and community service to their college experience and future careers.

“It gives you a better impression of who you are, as you learn more about yourself,” said Wiltshire. “When you are involved, it’s one more step to being better-rounded and building up yourself in the work field.”

“College students should definitely get into that volunteering mind,” Asalu agreed. “You are gaining that sense of, ‘I did something to help someone change their life. I learned a skill I didn’t have.’”

Asalu, who traveled to Atlanta, Georgia with fellow fraternity members to build homes with Habitat for Humanity as part of the Kappa Alpha Psi Undergraduate Leadership Institute, said that these experiences have a dual benefit of helping those in need and enhancing career goals.

Asalu added that while doing a good deed, you gain skills that can help you in your future career. “I helped give a family a place to live while learning to build a fence,” Asalu said. “So not only did I do something good for somebody, which is heartwarming, but I also learned skills that I could possibly put on my résumé. It makes you a well-rounded person.”



*“It gives you a better impression of who you are, as you learn more about yourself.”*

## Alumni link with students through professional development series

Hosted by the Penn State Harrisburg Office of Alumni Relations, the professional development series acts as an outreach and networking opportunity for alumni to connect with current students. Through mentorship, alumni from various industries are helping students get ready for the workforce, get hired, and advance in their careers.

Alumnus H. William Weik, (’97, accounting), CEO of Orthopedic Associates of Lancaster (OAL), participates in the professional development series and other campus events designed to link alumni and students. He said he relishes such opportunities to give back to the college and its students.

Weik’s experience is also a testament to the value that networking has for everyone involved.

A former Alumni Achievement Award winner, Weik returns to campus to speak to classes. At one of these visits, Weik met finance major Kyle Vogeler. Although Vogeler was not yet employed, he handed Weik a personal business card. Weik was impressed with Vogeler’s initiative.

“This really struck me,” Weik said. “I just thought that was such a great idea, and one that most students wouldn’t have considered.”

The two stayed in touch, and when Vogeler needed an internship, Weik offered him that opportunity at OAL. Vogeler did so well at the internship that he was then offered part-time employment at OAL, which is continuing while he finishes school. There is also the possibility for full-time employment at OAL for Vogeler upon graduation.



H. William Weik



*“It is a reflection of the generosity and commitment of our alumni...”*

“Bill and Kyle’s connection demonstrates how beneficial these outreach and networking events are to alumni and students,” said Laurie Dobrosky, associate director of alumni relations. “These events offer unique, valuable opportunities for all involved. It is also a reflection of the generosity and commitment of our alumni, to take time from their professional schedules to mentor current students is sincerely appreciated.”

Dobrosky added that there are many ways for alumni to be involved in the professional development series to mentor students and even each other.

Events include “Senior Seminars,” designed to give students insight into life after college; Résumania, where alumni who make hiring decisions review student résumés and offer guidance; mock interviews at which alumni volunteers provide feedback on answering general questions, mannerisms and eye contact; an etiquette dinner that provides students a hands-on experience with proper business

etiquette during a meal; the “Making the Most of Penn State Harrisburg” panel, where alumni discuss their own college journey and reveal personal keys to success; and “Harrisburg Hang-out” is designed for young alumni to get career advice, résumé reviews, and interviewing tips from more seasoned alumni.

Learn more about how you can participate. Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu) or 717-948-6715.

## Students' technology idea aims to help fight hunger

A supply chain management platform developed by five students could one day play a key role in fighting worldwide hunger.

The students include Howie Andersen, Alex Bouril, and Michael Li of Penn State Harrisburg, as well as former Penn State Harrisburg students Brandon Daubenspeck and Pranav Jain, now at Penn State's University Park campus.

Last spring, the team took their idea to Amsterdam to join other entrepreneurs at the Thought for Food Global Summit. There, the team pitched their concept to the international Thought for Food organization, which has the goal of feeding nine billion people throughout the world by 2050.

Connecting people and food sources "was the perfect supply chain application for our platform named NuntAgri," explained Daubenspeck, a computer science major.

The journey to Amsterdam began with a hackathon competition in fall 2016, followed by the Penn State Smeal College of Business 2017 Supply Chain Entrepreneurship Pitch Contest. The contest judged 26 submissions from students from seven Penn State campuses. The Harrisburg team took second place and a \$4,500 prize for the platform they developed.

The students were excited about networking with Thought for Food, which acts as a catalyst for bold ideas to address food and nutrition. The organization engages college-aged students to become the next generation to make inroads in solving food security issues and has helped launch more than 30 startups from locations around the world.

As Bouril explains, NuntAgri is not an app or a website. It is a chatbot, a computer program that mimics conversation with people using artificial intelligence. NuntAgri is designed to offer a quick, easy method of connecting players in the supply chain with a seamless platform of logistics via texting. The chatbot uses algorithms, mathematical instructions used for calculation, data processing and automated reasoning. The chatbot is an artificial intelligence that allows for coordination of services among various providers.

"It's a service offered through SMS, short message service, that can

revolutionize regional distribution logistics by using crowd-sourcing," says Michael Li, a senior majoring in information sciences and technology.

"It's intended to streamline and simplify logistics," says Bouril, a computer science major. NuntAgri is ideal for operations that require quick turnaround, immediate response and flexibility, he adds.

One such organization is Daily Table, a non-profit organization that runs a discount grocery in the low-income Dorchester section of Boston. The students have had discussions with Daily Table, which is interested in the NuntAgri platform.

As Jain explains, restaurants, grocery stores, farm markets and others with



Alex Bouril and Michael Li

Connecting people and food sources "was the perfect supply chain application for our platform."

leftover or near-expiration food can simply call or text to arrange for pick-up of the food products. The chatbot coordinates the pick-up with volunteer drivers, who deliver the food to those in need, at homeless shelters, food banks and other sites.

"We got a very good response in Amsterdam. They were very supportive of our idea," says Jain. "Now the next step is to figure out how we can move this forward."

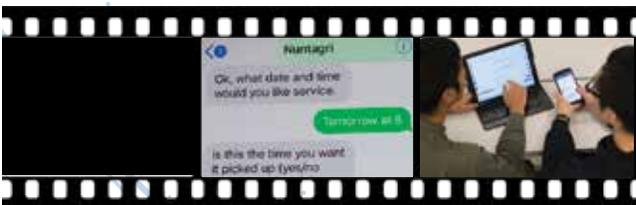
While the NuntAgri developers continue to work toward their goal of matching excess food with those who need it, they've been able to prove the usefulness of their concept with their first real client. Harrisburg-based Dirty Dog Hauling junk removal business utilizes the chatbot to connect the three players in the junk hauling business: the client who wants to get rid of junk, the Dirty Dog company that will handle disposal of unwanted items, and the haulers who pick it up.

A simple phone call or text message requests junk removal. That's when the supply chain platform kicks in. The client lets Dirty Dog know what they want to get rid of. The platform coordinates the pick-up with other pick-ups in the same area and the junk is removed by the driver in that area and transported to a disposal site. For the clients, it's much easier than downloading an app.

Still pursuing their degrees, each team member is considering how to incorporate NuntAgri into their future careers. While they continue to work on their ultimate goal, they are continuing to test their business model through Dirty Dog and other local clients.

"We have developed an ideal customer profile," explains Daubenspeck, noting that their ideal clients are smaller, approachable, open-minded, low- or no-tech and located within a concentrated geographic area.

"This has been an excellent experience. We have learned how to make connections, how to network and develop a system that will effectively manage supply and demand," says Li.



## Alums' business venture combines support for the arts and local development

On the ground level of a one million square-foot mixed-used facility in the heart of Pennsylvania's capital city, over 50 local artists, craftsmen, and vendors set up shop for the popular HBG Flea, a curated pop-up market founded by Mary Imgrund ('15) and Meghan Jones ('16), graduates of the English program at Penn State Harrisburg. The flea takes place on the first Saturday of the month in Harrisburg, attracting hundreds of shoppers to Strawberry Square, the retail complex that hosted the winter markets this year.

After taking the summer of 2015 to lay the foundation for their venture, Imgrund and Jones held the first flea in November that same year at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center (HMAC). The initial goal was to feature 25 vendors, Imgrund said, but they ended up accepting 40.

"We didn't realize how much interest there was for something like this," she said, "which means we were tapping into something that people wanted."

As interest increased, Imgrund and Jones needed to expand their space, settling on Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg. The HBG Flea now averages 50 to 60 vendors and roughly 1,500 shoppers per market with a total of 18 events per year. What sets them apart and encourages constant growth, Imgrund said, is their dedication to local artists and their skills in branding and advertising.

"Everything has our ideology of helping vendors make a living, encouraging people to enter into the arts, and encouraging shoppers to support their neighbors and shop locally," she said. "Those are things that we're really passionate about, that we really believe in."

According to Imgrund, the pair taught themselves the marketing skills needed to be successful in their endeavor, a feat made possible by their education in humanities



more valuable."

The other key to their success, according to Jen Hirt, assistant professor of creative writing and English composition, is the pair's innate vision and ambition.

"I knew Mary and Meghan through classes ranging from general education to advanced writing to practicums," she said. "They each had an idea of what they wanted to do, and they did not let doubt curtail their plans. That's not something I can teach, but I can recognize it and nurture it."

Exploring elements of curiosity and teaching students to question the world around them, Hirt said, is not only her goal in the classroom but also the goal of the humanities in general. Imgrund and Jones' success story is one of many that has been influenced by an education at Penn State Harrisburg.

"Our students get everything they need for careers just by engaging in our courses in literature, writing, and the wide spectrum of the whole humanities," she said. "If you can appreciate a novel or a painting or a classic movie, you can transfer those skills to appreciating the motives of a customer, the needs of an organization, or an opportunity to innovate while building on the past."

HBG Flea will be in Strawberry Square on the first Saturday of each month this winter. Imgrund and Jones also have plans to add new aspects to the market involving many of the tenants of Strawberry Square.

Aside from the HBG Flea, Imgrund is currently studying for her master's of arts in political communication at American University in Washington, D.C. and Jones is currently studying for her certification in secondary education: English at Penn State Harrisburg.



Meghan Jones and Mary Imgrund

"They each had an idea of what they wanted to do, and they did not let doubt curtail their plans."

and the abundance of support they received from their professors at Penn State Harrisburg.

"Because we started out in the humanities, [marketing] flows really well," she said.

"When you're a writer or when you study literature, you understand people. You know that whatever makes a good story is compelling, whether it's a best-selling novel or a really great brand name. There's a lot of overlap there."

The two mastered using social media as a marketing platform, earning over 75,000 mentions on Instagram with their hashtag "#hbgflea." Imgrund's writing and advertising expertise also

landed her an internship with Revolution Messaging, the company responsible for Bernie Sanders' digital operations during his political campaign.

Imgrund extols the value of a humanities background, crediting her success in part to her ability to think critically. "Especially as things become more automated," she said, "a critical thinker, someone who can look at things from outside the box, is becoming more rare and

## For the Glory of Old State: Alumnus gives back through song

If you have been at any of Penn State Harrisburg's formal ceremonies in the last two decades, such as commencement and convocation, you have heard a familiar rich tenor singing the National Anthem and the University's alma mater.

Christyan Seay, a 1987 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's business administration/management program, has been performing at the college's ceremonies since his own commencement ceremony. Although he has missed several years, he's been performing regularly for about 15.

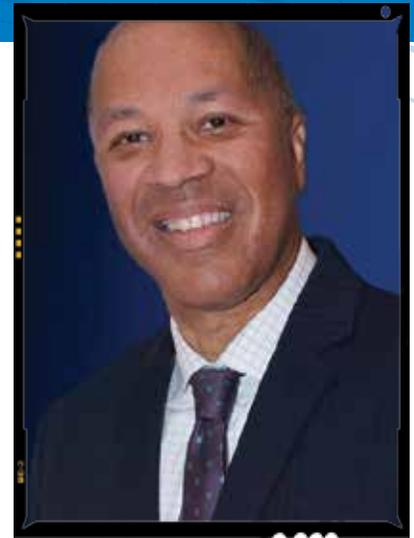
Seay said that all of the moments he has performed at the college's ceremonies have been memorable. "It is a great pleasure for me to give back to Penn State Harrisburg through my gift of music," Seay said. "Singing is an emotional and religious activity for me. It is an opportunity for me to share my gift from God with others for many purposes – joy, sorrow, celebration, commemoration and communion with others in praise and worship."



Seay, who grew up in Steelton, Pennsylvania in a family of 10 siblings and now resides in Harrisburg, is a manager at the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. He started singing at a young age, but began taking voice lessons in 1978. "My singing basically took off from that point," he added.

Aside from singing at Penn State Harrisburg, Seay is also involved in the college in other ways. He is a member of the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society Board and currently serves as the chairman of the Mentor Committee.

In the community, he serves as part of the Development Committee of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. He was recently appointed chair of "A Taste of Jazz" fundraising event for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Harrisburg, as well as artistic director of the Capital Area Music Association, a community choral organization in Harrisburg with emphasis on music of African American composers and culture.



*"It is a great pleasure for me to give back to Penn State Harrisburg through my gift of music."*



## Job fair with a twist

Penn State Harrisburg Career Services, in partnership with the Office of Student Engagement, recently hosted the first C.A.R.E. (Career, Agency, Recreation, and Education) Fair on campus. More than 40 local businesses, organizations, and groups discussed job, internship and volunteer opportunities with students in areas such as health and human services, recreation, education, and the humanities.

More than a traditional job fair, the fair focused on community outreach initiatives in an effort to strengthen the relationship between Penn State Harrisburg and surrounding communities, as well as provide a gateway to expanded Penn State Harrisburg student opportunities.

"The C.A.R.E. Fair was created in response to students' increasing interest to extract more meaning from careers and their desire to make a positive impact in the lives of others," said Kathryn Rush, interim associate director of the college's Career Services Office.



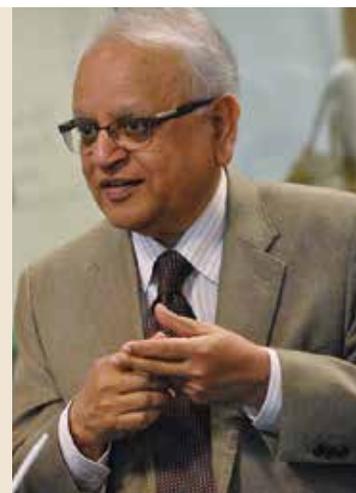
## Chancellor Kulkarni to retire in 2018

“Dr. Kulkarni came to the position of chancellor as an accomplished educator and with excellent knowledge and leadership experience, having served the University as a faculty member and administrator for many years,” said Madlyn Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses and executive chancellor. “Under Dr. Kulkarni’s leadership, Penn State Harrisburg has prospered and grown, securing its standing as a vital regional asset. Dr. Kulkarni’s many contributions to the college, the University, and the broader region have earned him high regard.”

Kulkarni became the chancellor of Penn State Harrisburg in 2010. He joined the University in 1985 as a member of the business faculty at Penn State Harrisburg, and advanced in faculty rank and leadership posts at the college prior to becoming chancellor. He also has served as director of undergraduate studies, director of the School of Business Administration, and senior associate dean for academic affairs.

During Kulkarni’s tenure, Penn State Harrisburg has experienced substantial growth in its student population, including a record number of international students. He continued to build upon the college’s reputation for attracting high-caliber students and highly credentialed faculty members. In support of the growth in enrollment, Kulkarni has overseen the successful introduction of new degree programs, the development of new and enhanced academic and student life facilities, the expansion of teaching and learning support to faculty, and the enhancement of instructional technology. He also has guided the college’s increasing impact as an economic development engine in the region.

In addition to his administrative appointment, Kulkarni holds the rank of professor of finance. An accomplished teacher and scholar, he is widely published in academic journals and has presented papers at several scholarly conferences. His research interests are in the areas of capital budgeting, banking operations, and information content of stock prices. Kulkarni earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in his native India, an M.B.A. from Marshall University, and a doctorate from the University of Kentucky.



**“Under Dr. Kulkarni’s leadership, Penn State Harrisburg has prospered and grown, securing its standing as a vital regional asset.”**

## College announces new graduate programs, new scholarship



### **Penn State Harrisburg recently introduced several new graduate programs, as well as a new scholarship for incoming graduate students.**

The Chancellor’s Award, a \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 per semester) will be awarded to the top 100 new graduate students for fall 2018. Students may be full or part time, in resident instruction.

The School of Science, Engineering, and Technology is now enrolling students in its new master’s degrees in civil engineering and mechanical engineering. In addition to providing professionals and recent graduates with the necessary skills to advance their careers, the programs will create an environment to better serve technology, research and human resource needs in central Pennsylvania.

With the addition of these programs, Penn State Harrisburg now offers master’s-level studies in all three of the major engineering disciplines offered at the college—electrical, civil and mechanical. The college also has undergraduate programs in these three disciplines.

The School of Business Administration now offers six integrated bachelor’s/M.B.A. degree programs in which bachelor’s degree students may enroll in a continuous program of study leading to a Bachelor of Science degree and the Master of Business Administration, with the ability to earn both degrees in five years.

Programs available include the Bachelor of Science in Accounting and M.B.A.; Bachelor of Science in Finance and M.B.A.; Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and M.B.A.; Bachelor of Science in Management and M.B.A.; Bachelor of Science in Marketing and M.B.A.; and Bachelor of Science in Project and Supply Chain Management and M.B.A.

The School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, in conjunction with the Penn State College of Medicine, is offering the joint M.D./M.Ed. in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education, aimed at those who are interested in pursuing careers as medical doctors with a special interest in lifelong learning and adult education, in academic medicine, patient education, or in continuing professional education in the health and medical professions.

## ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

### TRACK AND FIELD

Jalil Clayton and Cameron Yon represented men's track and field at the Eastern Capital Athletic Conference Championships (ECAC), May 17-18. Clayton finished first in the 110-meter hurdles and third in the 400-meter hurdles. Yon took second place in the discus with a toss that also qualified him for the NCAA Track and Field Championships, May 25-27. This was his second trip to nationals. Last year Yon finished as the third best discus thrower in Division III, earning him the bronze and All-American status.

This year Yon also was named Second Team All-Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) in men's outdoor track and field when he finished second in the CAC Conference Championships. Yon also finished second at the ECAC Championships.

### WOMEN'S GOLF

Allison Cooper won the Bay Creek Women's Invitational Tournament, capturing her first individual championship in this inaugural season for women's golf at Penn State Harrisburg. This was first time the Bay Creek Invitational Tournament included a women's tournament.

She also won the Ursinus Fall Invitational and the Penn State Harrisburg Invitational.

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's soccer, 12-9 overall, earned the team's first ever conference tournament berth and first ECAC playoff appearance, advancing to the quarterfinals.

Kristen Stark and Madison Hemler were named Second Team All-CAC.

### MEN'S SOCCER

Men's soccer finished the year 11-9 and advanced to the ECAC Tournament, the team's third post-season trip in the last four seasons.

Chase Vilga and Victor Weaver were named Second Team All-CAC. Vilga ranked first in the conference in assists, second in points, and third in goals. Goalkeeper Hunter Cooper was also among the leaders in the conference ranking second in goals against and third in save percentage.

### VOLLEYBALL

Senior Casey Stump broke a five-year-old record becoming the all-time leader in service aces in Penn State Harrisburg history. Kari Ammerman also became a school record holder in career digs.

Stump was second in the CAC in service aces per set and third in assists per set.

## In memoriam

### Dr. Thomas Eberlein

Dr. Thomas "Tom" Eberlein, associate professor of chemistry, passed away October 25, 2017. Born on February 19, 1957 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio and residing in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, he was 60 years old.

Tom graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1975. He received a bachelor of science degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio and then went on to earn his doctorate in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Penn State became Tom's professional academic "home" for the span of his career, at Penn State Schuylkill and Penn State Harrisburg.

Tom joined Penn State Harrisburg in fall 2006. He served as program chair for environmental engineering from 2006 to 2014 and biology and science from 2010 to 2015. He was also well known for sharing his passion for chemistry, coordinating the American Chemical Society's local Chemistry Olympiad competition at Penn State Harrisburg for 18 years.

Tom is survived by his wife, Kristina Machusick; his two children, Gus and Tessa Eberlein; two step-children, Cara Meglio, and her fiancé, Haider Shamsuddin, and Seth Kodner; his mother, Jean Nicholls; six siblings: David, Barbara, Tamara, Sam, Willy, Jennifer "Freddie;" and his former spouse, Kelli Kauterman.

Tom's wife shared the following with the college community upon his death, "Tom was taken away from us in bits and pieces over the last two years, as glioblastoma stole his words, memory, ability to walk, and even his sense of humor. The last bit was taken yesterday. What it never got was his shining spirit and positive outlook. All of him is restored now in my heart, and in the hearts of all who love him."

### Lt. Gen. Emmett Paige Jr.

Lieutenant General and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence, Emmett Paige Jr., 86, died at his Fort Washington, Maryland home on August 31, 2017.

A 1974 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's master of public administration program, Paige was named a Distinguished Alumnus by the University in 1988. The award is the highest honor that Penn State bestows upon an alum. Paige was also named an Alumni Fellow by the Penn State Alumni Association in 1993.

Paige's military career spanned over 41 years. He served with the 57th Signal Company in Korea, with responsibility for all fixed plant communications serving the United Nations Command, U.S. Forces Korea, and the Eighth Army. During the Vietnam War, he commanded the 361st Signal Battalion in Vietnam and the 11th Signal Group based at Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

Paige served two tours with the Defense Communications Agency; commanded the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Engineering and Installation Agency at Fort Huachuca, the Army's Communications Systems Agency and Communications Research and Development Command at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey; the Army's Electronics Research and Development Command, Adelphi, Maryland; and the Army Information Systems Command at Fort Huachuca.

Following his retirement in 1988, Paige became president and COO of OAO Corporation, an aerospace and information systems company. He was "recalled" to active duty in 1993, when he was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Defense. He served in this post until 1997, when he returned to OAO.

He is survived by his daughter Sandra Alexander and two sons, Anthony Paige and Micheal Davis. He is preceded in death by his wife, Gloria.

## Board of Trustees meet at Penn State Harrisburg

Penn State's Board of Trustees met at Penn State Harrisburg July 20 to 21. The meeting was the fourth time the campus has hosted a meeting of the trustees, including in 1999, 1988, and the first time in 1980. The trustees last visited Penn State Harrisburg in 2000 for the dedication of the college library.

Along with conducting official meetings, the trustees toured the campus and interacted with faculty and students who presented their latest research initiatives.

"We were very pleased to host the Board of Trustees this year, as we concluded the celebration of Penn State Harrisburg's 50th anniversary," said Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni. "The campus has grown tremendously and has truly begun to realize its full potential as a place of intellectual engagement, vital to the local economy. We welcomed the opportunity to share this with the trustees."



## around campus



Former NFL player Wade Davis visited the college in November to discuss intentional diversity and inclusion.



The college held a Latino Heritage Month kickoff celebration featuring traditional folk dancing, authentic Latino foods, and speakers celebrating Latin culture.

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



## Heard on Campus: Mathematician John Urschel



During the same time period John Urschel was launching his 313-pound brawn against opposing teams as an offensive lineman for the Baltimore

Ravens, he was publishing papers on such topics as “Laplacian Eigenvalues in Graph Disaggregation” while pursuing his doctorate in mathematics at MIT.

It’s an unlikely combination. Urschel managed to juggle both positions simultaneously for several years. But he surprised the sports world when he announced his retirement in July of this year to devote his time to math.

Urschel, a Penn State graduate and standout on the University’s football team, spoke of his twin passions to educators and college, high school, and middle school students recently at Penn State Harrisburg.

While he spoke fondly of his years with the NFL, he waxed poetic when he spoke about mathematics.

**“Math is beautiful. It explains the way the world works,” he said. “It’s a language that describes nearly everything.... Math asks why something is true, then asks to prove it.”**

So for him, the decision to leave football was difficult but made sense. Not everybody sees it that way. The world treats sports figures far differently than it treats top academic achievers, he said.

When he was in high school and said he wanted to play football, everyone understood.

“You don’t have to explain that to anyone,” he said. “Thousands of boys want that. Football is cool. You see how it is treated in movies, by your friends, by your fathers. It’s athletics, action, competition. But nobody talks about who won the Fields Medal, the highest award in mathematics.”

His high school coaches kept pushing him, telling him he could someday play for the NFL, even though at that time he was undersized for an offensive lineman.

“The odds of a high school football player reaching the NFL were so small, it seemed foolish for them to encourage me,” he said. “But my high school coaches convinced me that if I worked hard, my efforts would pay off.”

That was different on the academic side. While Urschel excelled in the classroom, “not one of my teachers told me I could be a mathematician, that I could chase becoming the next Einstein,” he said.

He started at Penn State as an engineering major, because his mother wanted him to become a rocket scientist, but he soon realized that mathematics was his passion. Aside from earning a 4.0 grade point average at Penn State, he also won athletic awards, including the Campbell Trophy, known as the “Academic Heisman,” and the Sullivan Award for the most outstanding athlete in the U.S. based on the qualities of leadership, character, and sportsmanship.

Following his college career, he was recruited by the Baltimore Ravens as a fifth-round pick. He was in contention to be their starting center when he decided to focus his attention elsewhere.

In his statement on his retirement, he said, “I’m extremely grateful to the Ravens, and blessed to have been able to play the game I love at the highest level.”

He was asked at the Penn State Harrisburg lecture whether the evidence of brain damage among NFL players led to his decision. While he did not reply directly, he talked about a concussion he received playing football. While he was back on the field in three weeks, it took longer for his math acuity to return, he said.

Urschel said he “breathes mathematics,” but he understands not everyone feels the same way. He believes a good math education is important for everyone, however – to balance budgets, figure mortgage interest, understand statistics, analyze risks – in general, to be able to use logic to make good decisions.

He has been active in encouraging math education, and was brought to Penn State Harrisburg through the college’s Student Activity Fund and the Central Pennsylvania Mathematics Content and Coaching Project in the college’s School of Behavioral Sciences and Education. The project brings together teacher education faculty at the college with school teachers in the region, with the goal of improving mathematics teaching skills.

While football and math might not seem to have much in common, they both taught Urschel resiliency, mental toughness, discipline, and flexibility in thought, he said.

“Math is difficult, but I have learned to embrace the difficulty,” he said. “The rewards are pretty much the result of the difficulty. Math is a thrilling search for knowledge, and what is cooler than that?”



The college held several events related to Penn State Reads, a common reading program that is a collaborative initiative for first-year students throughout the University. This year’s book was “It’s What I Do,” by photographer Lynsey Addario.



The School of Humanities presented the fall play, “Death of a Salesman.”

## Alumni Society awarded for “We Are Weekend” event

Penn State Harrisburg’s Alumni Society recently received the Penn State Alumni Association’s Ned Brokloff Award for Alumni Association Affiliate Group Innovation for the “We Are Weekend” event held in October of 2016 to celebrate the college’s 50th Anniversary.

The award was presented during the Alumni Association’s Annual Awards dinner on October 20 at the University Park campus.

About the event, Helen Klinger, president of Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society, said, “We Are Weekend” brought hundreds of people back to campus to celebrate all things Penn State Harrisburg, from our unique history, to our exciting future and from our differences, to our similarities. This event had something for everyone.”

## Save the Date

**What:** “Roses and Rosé”

**When:** June 13, 2018  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

**Where:** Hershey Gardens

The Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society will host its first “Capital Connections” program, designed to provide networking and educational opportunities for alumni. **“Roses and Rosé”** will feature educational information by the Hershey Gardens staff on the care and history of the world class rose garden, and will also feature a discussion of rosé wines.

The Alumni Society strives to provide educational opportunities and a forum for networking for alumni. We’d love to hear your suggestions for locations and topics, including family-friendly events. Please email [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu).

Additional Information for “Roses and Rosé” will be available March 1.

## About the Artist



This year’s Alumni Achievement Award was designed by Sharon Siegfried. Siegfried’s career as a graphic artist spans decades. Her one-of-a-kind artwork was created especially for the award winners using various graphic design techniques. Siegfried is the manager of visual communications at Penn State Harrisburg, where she is responsible for the graphic design and visual standards of printed and digital materials. She also is an accomplished photographer.

Siegfried is a graduate of the Antonelli Institute of Art and Photography in York, Pennsylvania, with a degree in commercial art.

Before joining Penn State Harrisburg, she worked for Hershey Entertainment & Resorts as creative production manager and at Penn State’s College of Medicine as a graphic artist in BioMedical Communications.

**Got stories?**

**We want to hear them!** Share them with the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Office, [hbgalumni@psu.edu](mailto:hbgalumni@psu.edu) • 777 West Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898 • 717-948-6715

## around campus



The college community ventured outdoors this fall to catch a glimpse of the historic total solar eclipse. It was the first time since 1918 that a solar eclipse had been visible across the entire contiguous United States.



The college welcomed Pennsylvania high school juniors and seniors to the second STEM Summer Enrichment Program, a free camp that allowed them to explore a variety of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses.

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



## Penn State Harrisburg celebrates alumni achievement

Penn State Harrisburg recently presented Alumni Achievement Awards to one graduate of each of the five academic schools who demonstrates outstanding professional accomplishment. The awards were presented during the Alumni Awards Dinner on October 18.



**Cate Barron '13g**  
American Studies

A leader in Pennsylvania journalism, Cate Barron, honored by the School of Humanities, began her career as a radio news director before joining the *Lewistown (Pa.) Sentinel* newspaper as a reporter. During her 30-plus years at *The Patriot-News* in Harrisburg, she held positions including features editor, managing editor, and editor. She was one of the supervising editors during the Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Penn State/Jerry Sandusky scandal.

In 2013, when the newspaper and its PennLive website became PA Media Group, Barron was named vice president of content. She led the transition to a digitally-based newsroom that included converting the paper to a three-day-a-week publication. Since then, PennLive has become one of the largest news and sports websites in the state.



**Dennis Butler '93**  
Mechanical Engineering Technology

Honored by the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology, Dennis Butler is a partner at intellectual property law firm Panitch Schwarz Belisario & Nadel LLP. He advises clients ranging from individual inventors to Fortune 500 companies on protection and enforcement of their intellectual

property rights.

Butler joined the Panitch attorneys in 2000, after having worked as an engineer for Boeing Defense and Space Group and United Technologies – Pratt & Whitney Division. Butler's current work focuses on protection of intellectual property for medical device and equipment companies resulting from his time as patent counsel for the spine division of Synthes, Inc., now Johnson & Johnson's Depuy Synthes Companies.

He holds a J.D. from Temple University and an M.S. in engineering mechanics from Penn State. Butler and wife, Haley, also a Penn State graduate, maintain a scholarship at Penn State Harrisburg to assist engineering students seeking internships.



**Robert M. Francis '72**  
Social Science

The School of Behavioral Sciences and Education honored Robert Francis who has worked for over 40 years in leadership positions at the local, state and national levels in service to young people and families.

His experience includes work in community and youth development, juvenile justice, child welfare, and behavioral health. Since 1991, he has been the executive director of RYASAP:

Catalyst for Community Change, a youth and community leadership development and social change coalition in Connecticut. He founded the Connecticut Juvenile Justice Alliance, a statewide advocacy organization for youth involved with the juvenile justice system and Public Allies of Connecticut, a leadership development program for young adults.

Francis is a graduate of The Health Forum's Creating Healthier Communities Fellowship in San Francisco, California, which consists of 50 leaders nationally who focus on addressing leadership, community development, and policy change in healthcare.



**Heather Neary '90g**  
M.B.A.

Heather Neary, honored by the School of Business Administration, was named president of Auntie Anne's, the world's largest franchiser of hand-rolled soft pretzels, in November 2015.

Neary joined Auntie Anne's in 2005 and has held various roles in which she was responsible for the oversight of marketing, communications, the franchise business consultant team, research and development, product innovation, and the franchisee leadership team. Most recently, she served as vice president of global marketing.

She serves on the Board of Directors for the Lancaster YMCA and the Board of Advisers for Penn State Harrisburg, and is a mentor for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Women in Business program. Neary received the Penn State University Alumni Achievement Award in 2009.



**Michael C. Potteiger '89**  
Criminal Justice

Michael Potteiger, honored by the School of Public Affairs, has served as a member of the PA Board of Probation and Parole since 2011. He was appointed chairman in January 2012, a position he held until September 2014.

Potteiger served as the chief adult probation officer of Northumberland County, where he implemented Treatment Courts for offenders with behavioral issues. In 2006, he was recognized by the Pennsylvania Association of Probation, Parole and Corrections with the Probation and Parole Professional of the Year award.

In 2008, Potteiger became director of Adult Probation and Parole Services in Dauphin County. As director, he focused on developing and utilizing programs with an emphasis on re-entry that engaged family members in the process. He was instrumental in bringing specialized courts to Dauphin County with the implementation of Drug and Mental Health Courts.

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**PennState**  
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## There has never been a better time to invest in the future.

*A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence* represents an unprecedented opportunity to double or triple the impact of philanthropic gifts to create scholarships. Penn State Harrisburg aims to raise \$15.2 million to support the students who are following in your footsteps. The focus of this campaign is to create transformative experiences, impact the world, and open doors to affordable education.

Penn State Harrisburg has made opening doors the highest priority of the campaign. To inspire new gifts to create scholarships, the University has introduced powerful new matching programs. Supporters can multiply the impact of their gifts, seeing immediate and long-term results as we work to support students with the greatest financial challenges. [greaterpennstate.psu.edu](http://greaterpennstate.psu.edu)

# 2:1

PERMANENT MATCH FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS

### The Open Doors Scholarship Program

(Available until June 30, 2018 or  
until matching funds are expended.)

The University will provide a 2:1 permanent match for scholarships created to support the Complete Penn State initiative. Complete Penn State supports students who are within 30 credits of graduation who have encountered unexpected financial hardship, and helps ensure they are able to finish their degree.

# 1:1

PERMANENT MATCH FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS

### The First-Time Scholarship Donor Program

The University will provide a 1:1 permanent match for scholarships. This program allows donors to designate preferences for academic programs and other specific student populations.

Please contact the Office of Development at 717-948-6316 to discuss these opportunities. It is our hope that one of these programs will inspire you to create a lasting legacy.