

Currents

Penn State Capital College Alumni Magazine

Penn State Harrisburg



Archival photographs of the Penn State Harrisburg campus. Circa 1967.



Penn State Harrisburg Campus Plaza (above) and new student housing



PENNSTATE



Capital College

Penn State Schuylkill



1971

Archival photographs of the Penn State Schuylkill campus. Right, Bunker Hill Building in Pottsville, 1950



Penn State Schuylkill Administration Building (above) and the Student/Community Center



1967



A greeting from the Provost and Dean

(Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from Provost and Dean Madlyn L. Hanes' State-of-the-College remarks to faculty and staff at the recent All-College Meeting.)

It is an absolute pleasure to greet you today and to extend best wishes for the 2001-2002 academic year. This All-College Day makes the start of a new academic year a near reality—of course the first day of classes seals the deal.

In preparation for occasions such as these, I reflect as do we all, appreciating how far we've come; appreciating the collective achievements we've managed. And I look ahead, appreciating the work yet to be done.

This is a particularly meaningful time for me personally, because I am just days away from completing my first year with you. I used this occasion to measure, quite frankly, how far I have come. I established personal goals early on and set expectations that I shared with you last year at my inaugural All-College Day. First and foremost, I said that I would learn as much and as quickly about the College as I could. This I did.

I attended a good number of the many events we sponsor—all of which, I believe, add to the intellectual vitality and cultural diversity of the College. I enjoyed brilliant presentations from our visiting scholars, artists, alumni and community leaders, and participated in the growing number of activities that bring together our respective campuses and broader communities. I attended meetings and special events, including town meetings, faculty forums, boards, councils, committees, and ceremonies – each of which has given me access to you and you to me. I learned from them all and my appreciation of the enthusiasm for the College demonstrated by our faculty, students, staff, alumni and advisers heightened with each encounter. We are indeed fortunate to have such talent and commitment to propel us.

What a remarkable year this has been. We have much to show for it. We reached new heights — admitting first year students at the Harrisburg campus for the IST degree and graduating the first class of the associate IST degree at Schuylkill. This year, we celebrated the largest graduating class at each of our two campuses. History in the making!

I want to share some personal moments as an observer and participant that I vividly recall from our first year together. Moments – and there are many— that brought me immediately closer to this College, closer to you and to our many constituents, and moments that helped to introduce me to the College's traditions and culture. I will mention just a few, and in no particular order.

Last Spring I attended the annual University's Teaching and Learning Colloquy, and I sat in the audience as a team from our Capital College Teaching and Learning Consortium presented its best practices. Proud? Yes I was, but prouder still as I became absorbed in the efforts of our Consortium colleagues from the School of Humanities to perfect the teaching-learning enterprise. Their presentation demonstrated, much to my delight, the good work we do to enhance student involvement and responsibility in their own learning, to promote the importance of collaborative and active learning, and the smart use of technology to extend learning beyond the classroom. Learning is, after all, our preoccupation; it is central to all that we do. Our colleagues reminded us that we at Capital College "do" learning exceedingly well.

I recall, too, the Alumni Mentoring Program at Harrisburg, an evening when mentors and mentees came together in a year-end celebration. I recall the Alumni Fellows honored at each of our campuses and I recall the initial dinner meeting of our newly established Alumni Society at Schuylkill. Overwhelming enthusiasm and commitment! Our alumni volunteers care deeply about our well-being and see us as vital to the well-being of their respective communities, professions and organizations. We are fortunate to have these relationships. We are now 30,000 alumni strong. That's a lot of blue and white!

Our commencement exercises— just the right touch of pomp and circumstance and individual attention. Life's memories are made here and realized in these ceremonies. Our graduates and their families are proud, happy and grateful. Graduates walk across the stage in triumph. And they should. Our students, so many of them, persist in their programs of study, balancing the demands of family and work. Their success is the truest measure of our own and we look upon their triumph as ours as well. We cannot help but rejoice in their achievement.

In November, in the midst of a most extraordinary presidential election, certainly the most extraordinary election in my lifetime, I stayed tuned to PCN in the late evenings and watched the replay of earlier live broadcasts of our political analyst colleagues from our School of Public Affairs. They spoke eloquently and tirelessly about Decision 2000 and its seemingly endless search for resolution. I never tired of their insight. I remain an avid fan.

Our commitment to diversity and global education was invigorated. Key events we'll enjoy this year were in the making a good bit of last year. This November we will co-sponsor a visit by Maya Angelou to the city of Harrisburg in conjunction with Downtown Improvement, Inc. and the Downtown Center of Penn State Harrisburg to benefit the Urban League. There will be a visit to the Schuylkill campus by James McBride, author of *The Color of Water*, in conjunction with the freshman summer reading program initiated this year at Schuylkill. We are attending well to international education. Some 500 students participated in international programs this past year alone. Expanded opportunities for our students remain central to our planning efforts.

Looking ahead. We want to be the College of first choice for our students. We want them to come to us with the wherewithal to succeed, to meet their personal and educational learning goals and to leave us prepared for life's next milestones and with an appetite for lifelong learning. Our current students rate us highly on satisfaction surveys; our incoming students tell us that our academic reputation drew them to us in the first place. We need to stay connected for all the right reasons.

Looking ahead. We want to be the exemplars—advancing in significant ways the University's long-standing vision and goals in achieving seamless education, international and global education, collaborative and interdisciplinary learning, and a climate for learning that appreciates diversity and sustains a commitment to outreach. We make important contributions to these arenas in addition to advancing the University's ultimate goal of pre-eminence in the integration of teaching, research and service. We exemplify these values.

We have accomplished much. It's been a good year, and we are poised to accomplish even more. A heartfelt thanks to you all.



Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

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

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

PROVOST AND DEAN

Madlyn L. Hanes, Ph.D.

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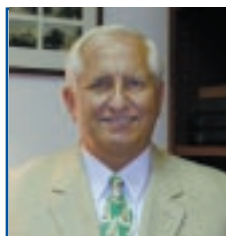
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On the cover...

Come back and enjoy the change! Both campuses of Penn State Capital College are hosting Alumni Reunions in the upcoming months with a focus on the "new." Read about the reunions in this edition of Currents. Both old and new glimpses of Schuylkill and Harrisburg on the cover give evidence to the rapidly changing faces of both campuses.

Alumni Weekend Oct. 19, 20

How long has it been since you paid a visit to Penn State Harrisburg?

If you have not strolled on campus in the past year or two, you will be pleasantly surprised. There's the new library, new student housing, new programs, and new faces.

In a word, Penn State Harrisburg is "new" and you're invited to enjoy the changes with your classmates at a gala Alumni Weekend Oct. 19 and 20, 2001.

An impressive list of activities for the entire family has been formalized from "hard hat" tours of the new housing project, to topical educational presentations from faculty, to open houses in the academic schools, to the Penn State football game on a big screen TV, and awards ceremonies.

During the noon luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 20, Provost and Dean Madlyn L. Hanes will deliver a "state-of-the-campus" talk, Alumni Society President Michele Hart-Henry will share news of the organization, and there will be a presentation on campus improvements from Dr. Donald Holtzman, Senior Director of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services, and Edward Dankanich, Director of Business Services.

This edition of Currents will profile all the Alumni Weekend events. Faculty, staff, and students at your alma mater are looking forward to seeing you. Please plan to attend.

Online registration for the weekend is available on the web at www.hbg.psu.edu/alumni or by phoning 717-948-6317.



Events Schedule

Friday, Oct. 19

Alumni Awards Reception
6 to 8:30 p.m.
Capital Union Building

Saturday, Oct. 20

9 to 10 a.m.
Activities on the new Fitness Trail

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Educational Programs with faculty

11 a.m. to noon
Academic Schools Open Houses

Noon - Lunch
Greetings from the Provost and Dean; Profile of campus improvements

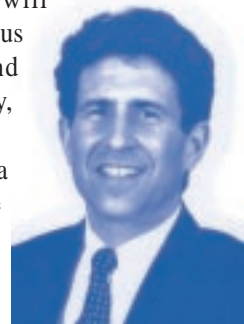
2 p.m.
Tours of the "new" Penn State Harrisburg

To Be Announced
TV Tailgate Party for the Penn State-Northwestern football game

Ted Kauffman selected Alumni Fellow

Formal ceremonies honoring Penn State Harrisburg's 2001 Alumni Fellow Ted Kauffman will kick off the campus Alumni Weekend festivities Friday, Oct. 19.

Kauffman, a 1979 graduate with a degree in Business, is a resident of New York City and is chairman of Eastern Connection Inc., a package delivery company operating on the East Coast.



Ted Kauffman

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

The Alumni Fellow presentation will be an ingredient in the annual Awards Reception from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Capital Union Building. The recipients of the People to Watch and Alumni Achievement awards will also be announced at the reception.

Alumni and their families are invited to attend the awards celebration. For information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 717-948-6715 or e-mail capalumni@psu.edu.

Kauffman made his start in business by taking a small, simple idea and seeing it grow into a multi-million dollar company. With a co-worker, he noticed packages mailed in the East stayed mostly on the East Coast. So the two became partners and decided to start their own company.

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Changing look of Harrisburg campus

Another chapter in the changing face of the Harrisburg campus will be the new entrance to the Olmsted Building from the parking lot side. The campus Office of Physical Plant supplied an artist's version of the improvement project which is now under construction.

Here's your opportunity to return to the classroom

As participants in the Harrisburg campus Alumni Weekend Oct. 19 and 20, you and your family will have the opportunity to "return to the classroom." But this time there will be no exams, papers, or projects. Information and enjoyment will be the order of the day.

As a key item in Saturday's ambitious list of events and activities for all ages, a number of faculty and staff will present educational programs on key topics of interest. And while you enjoy the presentations, a special "Kids' College" activity is planned for the younger set. The lineup of presenters and their topics includes:

The Amish – Dr. Richard Ammon, representing the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education, will use his unique work with the Amish in Pennsylvania as the basis for his presentation which will include a discussion and slide presentation on four of the books he has authored — *An Amish Christmas*, *An Amish Wedding*, *An Amish Year*, and *Amish Horses*. As a special treat, a book signing will follow his presentation.

Language and Power – Dr. David Morand, of the School of Business Administration, is well known for his research and teaching in organizational structures. His presentation will focus on how organizations (particularly businesses) are impacted by the verbal and nonverbal cues that we all use to communicate. This presentation will discuss research into the "politeness" phenomenon, which illustrates how relative power is embedded in a number of everyday, but often subtle, linguistic cues. The implications of this view of power for understanding the politics of interpersonal relations at work, and for enhancing effective communication in organizations, are discussed.

Pennsylvania Germans – Dr. Irwin Richman from the School of Humanities will use his unique style to discuss the role of Pennsylvania Germans in Central Pennsylvania. He will discuss how this group of people still characterizes the region, and influences its culture and food. Using numerous slides, Dr. Richman will introduce or re-introduce you to the architecture of the Pennsylvania German landscape. He will even answer the age-old question, "Why do Pennsylvania German houses have two front doors?"

The Race for Governor – With the political atmosphere surrounding the governor's race in Pennsylvania heating up, Director of the School of Public Affairs Steven Peterson and Dr. Michael Young will host a panel of leading political figures and journalists in discussing this important election. Since the governor of Pennsylvania has an impact on your alma mater, come and find out where the race stands.

Environmental Training Center – Berg Professor of Engineering Charles Cole of the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology and his colleagues will host a tour and discussion of the state-of-the-art Environmental Training Center in the Science and Technology Building on campus. The tour includes a working example of a wastewater treatment plant and other working exhibits of research going on to protect our environment. The facility, which houses ongoing cooperative projects among the University, Pennsylvania DEP and U.S. EPA, is the focal point for the whole University and region for operations training in the water and wastewater field.

Kids' College – Bring your children to Kids' College, coordinated by Michael Corradino with the College's Office of Continuing and Distance Education. While you are participating in some educational programs, your children can participate in age-appropriate, supervised activities. You must pre-register your children if you would like them to participate.



The new three-mile walking and fitness trail on the Harrisburg campus officially opened with a dedication ribbon-cutting and "stroll" by faculty, staff, and students in August. Activities on the trail are an ingredient in the Alumni Weekend festivities Oct. 19 and 20.



Participants in the Harrisburg campus Alumni Weekend will be among the first to take "hard hat" tours of the new student apartments nearing completion. The housing will replace the Meade Heights community on campus beginning with the January 2002 semester.

Alumni Society makes commitment to community

Penn State as a University is committed to serving the community.

The Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society is equally committed and has made excellence in community service one of its goals.

Lisa Sloane, '96 Public Policy, chair of the Society's Community Services Committee, tells alumni there's good reason to become involved. "First, doing good feels good," she says. "Giving of one's self to support those in need or to support organizations we care about brings a sense of self-worth in knowing that you have contributed to the good of the world. Second, most nonprofit organizations in this country would not function without the assistance of volunteers; third, it can provide you with practical experience; and fourth, you'll be representing Penn State Harrisburg and showing area residents the valuable contributions we grads make."

What types of service opportunities exist? The committee can accommodate a variety of needs. First there are short-term projects that only take a few hours of time. The committee already has a pair of March volunteer activities scheduled — a National Service Week project to benefit Children's Hospital and the Hershey Medical Center and one to assist WITF with its art auction.

The group will also be coordinating a project benefiting international visitors to campus.

Sloane encourages alumni to become involved with the committee's activities to serve the community. "From two hours per year to two hours per week, every moment of volunteer service helps others and contributes to the civility of our society. The committee and I look forward to coordinating many worthy community projects in which Penn State Harrisburg alumni may participate," she adds.

If you're seeking a special service opportunity, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 717-948-6715 or e-mail capalumni@psu.edu.

Ted Kauffman selected Alumni Fellow

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Now Eastern Connection covers the major metropolitan areas of the eastern United States. Both the company and Kauffman's key role in its creation have been profiled in numerous publications, including the Wall Street Journal, because of their unique niche in the overnight mail business.

Kauffman has been active in many organizations including the World Presidents Organization, TEC Group – International Organization of CEO's, and the Young President's Organization. He is a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and a participant in both the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society's mentor program and the Young Entrepreneur Organization.

Kauffman also serves on the Penn State Harrisburg School of Business Administration Advisory Board and served as a panelist for the Penn State Harrisburg Marketing Club, Psychology Club, and the Alumni Society special panel "Business Experiences: PSH to the Present." He was named the 1994 Mid-Atlantic States Entrepreneur of the Year.

Usage at campus libraries skyrockets

When you attend the Harrisburg campus alumni weekend, one of the highlights of your tour of the "new" campus most certainly will be the library.

But the new library at Penn State Harrisburg is just one of two outstanding facilities serving Capital College. The Ciletti Library on the Schuylkill campus has experienced an increase in usage by both the College community and the general public in providing reference, lending, and technology-based services.

Dr. Harold B. Shill, Director of Capital College Libraries, shares these recent, impressive library facts:

- 195,616 persons visited the Penn State Harrisburg library in 2000-01; the previous record was 149,613 in 1988-89; usage is up 34.1% from 1999-2000 level;
- Ciletti Library usage is up as much as 39.4% from 1999-2000;
- Circulation was 42,000+ at Harrisburg, increasing for the 4th consecutive year; circulation is up 14.8% at Schuylkill;
- Circulation rate at Penn State Harrisburg (18.53 books per student) is the highest in the entire University Libraries system, including University Park;
- 120,335 items were re-shelved at Penn State Harrisburg in 2000-01, showing high level of in-library collection use;
- 7% of loans at Penn State Harrisburg are by community borrowers;
- Interlibrary loan is up 97% in past three years at Harrisburg, reaching the 20,349 transaction level; and was up 53.4% in the past year at Schuylkill.



University scholar's baccalaureate success began at Schuylkill

Deer Lake resident Laura E. Loder completed her baccalaureate studies at Penn State by attaining one of the highest honors afforded an undergraduate — student marshal for Eberly College of Science commencement exercises on Aug. 4.

A biology major, Laura was selected to represent her class on the strength of her outstanding academic record. During her studies at Penn State, she amassed a 3.9 grade-point average and also conducted research in the laboratories of Professor of Biology Sarah Assmann and Professor of Plant Pathology Daniel Royse.

After graduating from Blue Mountain High School and starting her college career at Penn State Schuylkill, Laura transferred to the University Park campus. She believes the variety of educational experiences, with a mix of small and large classes, provided important challenges that helped her as a person and shaped her success as a student.

“It’s really hard to believe when you’re selected as student marshal,” Laura says. “It’s just not something you set out to achieve. There are so many strong students on campus and within our college that you could never start to consider the honor a possibility.”

At the same time, she does know exactly when her intense interest in biology, specifically plant biology, took root.

“Professor Rod Heisey at the Schuylkill campus was an inspiration,” she says. “He was always so excited about plants, and he passed that enthusiasm along to his students. He’s the reason for my interest in the biology of plants more than the biology of animals.”

Her parents, Linda and Wes Loder, the librarian at the Schuylkill campus, and her brother Scott and sister Lisa, students at the University Park campus, accompanied Laura to the ceremony.

Along with her academic achievements, Laura earned numerous awards and honors during her undergraduate career. She was honored as an Evan Pugh Scholar as a senior and junior, earned the Kramer Scholarship, and was named a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society.



Dr. Rod Heisey and Laura Loder

Assistant Director of Development

Jay Browning assumed duties as Assistant Director of Development for Penn State Capital College on Aug. 1.

A recent graduate of Penn State York with a bachelor’s degree in Business, Browning also holds an associate degree in police science.

Prior to joining the College staff, he was employed as the Development and Publicity Coordinator at Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Lancaster County and previously spent nearly 20 years in federal, state, and county law enforcement.



Jay Browning

Schuylkill to honor alumni

The new Schuylkill Alumni Society has set a goal to recognize outstanding Penn State Schuylkill students and fellow alumni for their achievements.

According to Jeffrey J. Vrabel, ’81 Accounting, a partner with Ernst & Young and chairman of the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society’s Awards Committee, “We have a number of successful alumni who have a Penn State Schuylkill education in their background and deserve to be recognized for their achievements. They have made contributions to their professions, organizations, and communities. We are proud to provide this needed recognition.”

Criteria for the first Alumni Achievement awards include being a Penn State Schuylkill alumnus who received a Penn State degree (either an associate, bachelor’s, master’s, or doctorate) and has achieved success in his or her chosen field and/or community.

In addition to the alumni awards, plans are also being made to reward an outstanding current student. Penn State Schuylkill is fortunate to have students who have achieved academic success while serving student clubs, organizations, and community groups and who otherwise demonstrate outstanding citizenship. When criteria for this award are finalized, faculty and students will be able to nominate current students for the inaugural award.

Take a moment to nominate deserving Penn State Schuylkill alumni. Nomination forms may be found on the Schuylkill Alumni Society’s website—www.sl.psu.edu. Nominations for the student award will be available in the near future.

The awards will be presented during the Schuylkill Alumni Weekend April 12 and 13, 2002 on the Schuylkill campus.

Schuylkill's CEO is no stranger to Penn State

Dr. Sylvester "Syl" Kohut, a veteran higher education administrator who began his academic career at Penn State, is the new Chief Executive Officer of the Schuylkill campus.

The former Dean of the College of Education and Human Services and Professor of Education at Seton Hall University, Dr. Kohut is not new to the University. He earned a B.S. in History and Government and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at Penn State, and began his career in higher education in the Office of Student Affairs and in the College of Education at University Park. Dr. Kohut also holds an M.Ed. in Secondary Education from Temple University.

Prior to his service at Seton Hall, he served from 1990-1994 as Dean of the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Morehead State University, in Morehead, Ky., and from 1984-1990 as Dean of the College of Education at Kutztown University. Dr. Kohut has had extensive experience in strategic planning, fundraising, enrollment management, and community and educational outreach.



Dr. Syl Kohut

Familiar faces now directing Capital College schools

Two familiar faculty faces have been named to lead Penn State Capital College academic schools.

Professor of Engineering Omid Ansary is the new Director of the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology, and Professor of Education and Reading Ernest K. Dishner is the Interim Director of the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education.

Dr. Ansary, who joined the faculty in 1985, succeeds Dr. William A. Welsh, Jr., who retired from Penn State after a distinguished teaching and administrative career spanning more than 30 years. Dr. Dishner replaces Dr. William A. Henk, who accepted an academic post in Illinois.

Active in faculty governance, Dr. Ansary served five years on the Capital College Faculty Senate, including a term as its president. He has also been a member or chair of faculty committees for academic program development, selection of new faculty, administrators, and staff, for the selection of award winners, and for promotion and tenure. He was recently honored by Penn State Harrisburg with two of its annual awards — Excellence in Faculty Service and Excellence in Research.

Dr. Dishner came to Penn State Harrisburg in 1990 and served as Associate Provost and Dean of the Faculty through 1994. A former elementary and secondary teacher, he has authored or edited numerous publications and books and serves as Associate Editor of *Reading Research and Instruction*, the journal of the College Reading Association. His current areas of special interest are content area reading, school reform issues, the use of technology in different learning environments, and the recruitment and retention of a diverse teaching force.



Dr. Omid Ansary



Dr. Ernest Dishner



Dr. William Welsh Jr.

Grad programs introduced

Three new graduate degree choices in behavioral sciences and psychology are now available at Penn State Harrisburg — Master of Arts programs in Applied Behavior Analysis, Applied Clinical Psychology, and Applied Psychological Research.

The Applied Clinical Psychology program prepares students to work as mental health professionals in a variety of settings and is intended to provide the academic training to apply for master's level licensing for mental health professionals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to the broad training provided by the required courses, concentrations in General Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology, and Health Psychology are available.

The Applied Psychological Research program focuses on the development of research skills within the context of scientific training in psychology. The program is designed to meet the needs of students planning careers in research or administration within human service or similar organizations, or who plan to pursue doctoral study.

The Applied Behavior Analysis major is designed to prepare graduates for employment as Board Certified Behavior Analysts in hospitals, medical schools, mental health centers, health maintenance organizations, a variety of educational and forensic settings, research facilities, and in centers and home-based programs for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Scholarship support increases

Talented and committed students of all ages and cultures are Penn State Capital College's lifeblood.

A major focus in the Schuylkill campus portion of the University's Grand Destiny Campaign has been to increase the number of endowed scholarships to aid deserving, qualified students.

Schuylkill campus Director of Development Jane Zintak reports the effort has been a "resounding success" with continuing community commitment. "Many people want to invest in a person rather than bricks and mortar," Zintak says of the response to the scholarship campaign. "We are beyond the \$1 million mark — about \$1.2 million — and have almost quadrupled the number of available scholarships since the beginning of the campaign. There are now 24 scholarships earmarked for students at the Schuylkill campus."

The most recent commitments to assist students at Schuylkill have resulted in three new scholarships, including one honoring the wife of long-time campus administrator Henry I. Herring.

The Isabel P. Herring Memorial Fund has been established through the estate of Henry Herring to provide support for faculty improvement and student scholarship.

Mr. Herring, who died in 1998, served as the Administrative Head of the Schuylkill campus from 1949 until his retirement in 1978. Prior to that, he was a member of the campus Mathematics Department beginning in 1946. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1934 and a master's in mathematics in 1935 from Penn State. Mrs. Herring died in 1996. They were married for 51 years.

The Mishpacha Weiss Scholarship has been established through the generosity of Sam and May Weiss, Richard Weiss, Judy Weiss Levy, and Dr. Jerome Levy. Consideration for this scholarship will be given to all full-time undergraduate students attending the Schuylkill campus who are academically capable and who have a demonstrated financial need. First preference shall be given to United Metal Receptacle employees and their children regardless of which campus of Penn State they are attending. Second preference will be given to students who are pursuing degrees in engineering or information sciences and technology at Penn State Schuylkill.

The William E. Schneider Scholarship has been established through a contribution from the estate of Mr. Schneider, who died in 2000. Consideration for this scholarship will be given to all undergraduate students attending the Schuylkill campus who have achieved superior academic records or who manifest promise of outstanding academic success. Mr. Schneider was a resident of Pottsville at the time of his death.



Isabel P. and Henry I. Herring are shown in this campus archival photograph.

Robert Lesniak, 31-year faculty member, dies

Former faculty member Robert J. Lesniak, whose teaching and administrative career at Penn State Harrisburg spanned 31 years, died Aug. 29 at Hershey Medical Center. He was 64.

Dr. Lesniak, the creator of the College's master's degree program in Training and Development, retired due to illness in December 2000 as Associate Professor Emeritus of Education.

His successful and varied career with the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education included service as Acting Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies (1986-



Robert J. Lesniak

87), Acting Division Head for Behavioral Sciences and Education (1988-90), Coordinator of the master's program in Teaching and Curriculum (1972-87), Director of the doctoral program in Adult Education (1984-88), and coordinator of the master's program in Training and Development from 1985 until his retirement.

At the time of his retirement, Dr. Lesniak's academic and staff colleagues initiated a scholarship effort in honor of his untiring commitment to students. The Robert Lesniak Scholarship Fund will provide support for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in education programs at the College.

Individuals and organizations who wish to contribute to the scholarship fund may do so by phoning the Office of Development at 717-948-6316.



Dr. William Connolly was recently honored for his 15-year commitment to the Penn State Schuylkill associate degree program in radiologic technology. Dr. Connolly is retiring as Medical Adviser to the program. He was recognized for his guidance and leadership in developing the program and presented with a Penn State Nittany Lion statue. Shown at the presentation are, left to right, Dr. Connolly, Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Patti A. Mills, and Christine M. Mehlbaum, Director of the Radiologic Technology Program.

An Evening with Maya Angelou

Penn State Harrisburg, the Penn State Downtown Center, and the Downtown Improvement District are partnering to present “An Evening with Maya Angelou” Friday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Harrisburg Forum.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Urban Youth and Young Adult Education programs of the Urban League of Metropolitan Harrisburg.

Ticket information is available by phoning (717) 214-ARTS (2787) or by e-mailing Thebox@Whitakercenter.org.

Hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature, Dr. Angelou has been acclaimed as a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer, and director.

She has authored 11 best-selling books including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* and *Even The Stars Look Lonesome*. In 1981, she was appointed to a lifetime position as the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University and in January, 1993, became only the second poet in U.S. history to recite original work at a presidential inauguration.

Dr. Angelou continues to travel the world making personal appearances.



Maya Angelou

Alumni encouraged to lend a hand at open houses

Have you ever considered sharing your Capital College academic experiences with prospective students?

Do you have an hour or two to lend a hand to your alma mater?

The two Capital College alumni societies are seeking volunteers to assist with open house programs. These programs showcase the respective campuses, their academic programs, faculty, and facilities.

The open house for all Schuylkill campus academic programs is Sunday, Nov. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Penn State Harrisburg will host a graduate programs information night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 4, and an undergraduate open house on Saturday, Oct. 13, at 9 a.m.

Your societies invite you to help with these programs. If you are interested, e-mail the Alumni Relations Office at capalumni@psu.edu for more details.

Four directors join Society Board

Four new directors have been elected to serve three-year terms on the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society Board—Janak Amin, Christopher Barrett, Evon Williams, and Doug Wischaupt.

Janak, a 1994 graduate of the MBA program, is a senior vice president, commercial real estate manager, with Waypoint Bank. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Liverpool in England. He is active with the Leukemia Society of Central Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Leadership Harrisburg.

Chris, a 1984 graduate in Professional Accountancy, is managing director, sales and

marketing, for Hersheypark and Hershey Sports and Entertainment Group. He is the first person in the history of the company to direct both the sales and marketing areas. Chris received an associate degree in business administration from Penn State Hazleton. While at Penn State Harrisburg, he was active in student government and currently serves on the Derry Township Board of Education.

Evon, a 1973 graduate of the Social Science program, is program manager for Philadelphia Health Management Corporation. While at Harrisburg she was active in student activities, including the Meade Heights Board of Governors, Black

Student Union and Delta Tau Kappa. She also holds a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. In addition, she was named winner of the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society’s Alumni Achievement Award in 2000.

Doug, who joined the board in the spring to fill another member’s unexpired term, is a 1986 graduate of the Accounting program and is chief operating officer for StaffMasters USA. Prior to joining StaffMasters, he spent 15 years in banking, most recently with the Commonwealth Region of Mellon Bank. Doug also holds a bachelor’s degree from Elizabethtown College.

\$675,000 grant supports training center

National respect for the quality of the College's environmental programs has resulted in a \$675,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The funding supports the previously established Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Center at the Harrisburg campus, co-directed by Berg Professor of Engineering Charles Cole and Associate Professor of Environmental Engineering Yeufeng Xie. The center is housed in the expanded Science and Technology Building.

The 1999 Safe Drinking Water Amendments focused attention on enhancing the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of public water systems to consistently comply with national drinking water regulations.

The amended act authorized EPA to make grants to institutions of higher learning to establish and operate small public water system technology assistance centers. The responsibility of these centers includes conducting training for small public water systems operators and the trainers who instruct them and also to serve as a source of technical information related to the performance and operations needs of the water systems.



Operators of drinking water treatment facilities across Pennsylvania are undergoing training at Penn State Harrisburg.

Dr. Sinisi named Walton Fellow

Assistant Professor of Economics John A. Sinisi has been named a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow for the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team at the Schuylkill campus.



Dr. John Sinisi

Active on more than 100 college and university campuses, SIFE encourages students to take what they are learning in the classroom, apply it to real-life situations, and use their knowledge to improve their communities through outreach projects.

Under Dr. Sinisi's direction, the Schuylkill SIFE Team presented its educational outreach project at the 2001 SIFE Regional Exposition and Career Opportunity Fair in Philadelphia. The team was named "Regional Rookie of the Year."

More than 400 Sam M. Walton Fellows nationwide educate and motivate more than 10,000 SIFE team members annually.

Schuylkill alumni invited to share their knowledge with students as mentors

Penn State Schuylkill grads are being invited to help current students chart their career plans by serving as mentors.

The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society is coordinating a program which invites graduates to serve as in-class mentors for freshman students on campus. Alumni will be asked to spend an hour or two of their time speaking to first-year seminar students within their area of expertise.

The First-Year Seminar is a one- to three-credit class designed to acquaint first-year students with the academic community at the beginning of their undergraduate studies. Statistically, most students fail in college after their first semester. The challenges of balancing a new environment with studies often end in disaster. The FYS program attempts to give students the skills necessary to succeed in college. According to program coordinator, Dr. Marianne Goodfellow, "The seminar is one of the few ways we can make sure students get adequate preparation for their college experience."

Penn State faculty members teach these seminars in small sessions divided by majors or academic school. The program teaches basic study skills, use of the library and computer systems, opportunities for extra-curricular activities, and career options. It is in the career options section where alumni are needed. According to Jim Nevada, '88 Business, chairman of the Schuylkill Alumni Society's Student Interaction Committee, "Alumni have the experience and wisdom to guide these students in the right direction. Because students in these seminars are in their first semester, they may not have thought of all the options available to them for a career."

Alumni participating in this program can share their experiences, successes and failures with current students. If you can take time to visit a class of students, please contact the Alumni Office at 717-948-6715 or visit the web site at www.sl.psu.edu and click on the alumni page.

Business students gain international experience

Five Harrisburg campus undergraduate business students spent the past summer in Germany. But the journey was certainly not a vacation.

The students participated in an innovative program in Applied International Business Studies formed through a partnership with the College's School of Business Administration, the German government, and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. The participating students, their major, and place of residence are: Kerrie Moore, Management, Harrisburg; Daniel Conklin, Finance, Greeley; Robert English, Finance, Reading; Melissa Roberts, Finance, Palmyra; and Vasna Zorkic, Finance, Harrisburg. The five classmates spent eight weeks in Germany while earning 12 credits and completing requirements for a minor in International Business.

Through the program, students are given the opportunity to: study topics covering German and European aspects of business administration and economics in courses taught in English; gain work experience in high-ranking German companies with international orientation and reputation; and learn the German language and gain insight into German and European culture.

The students spent four weeks in course study at the university and four weeks interning with a German firm.

Funding for the educational summer experience came in part through the German Academic Exchange Service's undergraduate scholarship program which "supports the increasingly recognized objective of U.S. colleges and universities to internationalize the curriculum." The program is under the auspices of the German Foreign Office and the European Recovery Program of the German Federal Government. German residents of the U.S. who support student study abroad, fund a portion of the effort.

The Penn State Harrisburg Office of International Studies also awarded each participant \$500 in privately donated funds.



Penn State Harrisburg students who spent the summer studying in Germany were, left to right, Robert English, Melissa Roberts, Kerrie Moore, Vasna Zorkic, and Daniel Conklin.

First student art show slated for library gallery

The first one-person student art exhibit in the Morrison Gallery of the Penn State Harrisburg library features the work of Dauphin resident Sally Banks.

"Shellscapes," featuring large, visually striking oils and acrylics will be on display to the public from Sept. 17 through Dec. 14.

Banks' paintings are part of a larger project toward her Master of Arts in Humanities degree, which she expects to receive at the spring 2002 commencement.

She has been employed by the Central Dauphin School District since 1981 and currently serves as an Instructional Support Teacher, coordinating team diagnostic



Sally Banks



services and designing individual programs for students and their families to reach academic, social, and/or behavior goals.

Banks notes, "The language of the creative arts is universal to me, and the more I can incorporate it into what I do at work and at play, the more connections I make."

"With the enthusiastic support and expert guidance from staff," she says her experience in the Humanities program "has been an incredible opportunity to enjoy academic growth through research and the joy of creativity."

Assistant Professor of Education and Humanities Linda Ross, thesis supervisor of Banks' production, says of the artist: "Sally's work ethic and enthusiasm have made working with her a real joy. She brought to our program a remarkable array of life experiences, accomplishments, and interests. Her extraordinary imagination and ability to integrate her diverse interests and learning have served her well in her interdisciplinary Humanities studies. Her intense passion for seashells, and their myriad historical, biological, literary, and mythological connections, is communicated in her dramatic and mysterious paintings."

The Morrison Gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The artist's gallery talk is from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 26 and the artist's reception is Sept. 28, from 6 to 8 p.m. All events are free and are in the Morrison Gallery. For more information, call the Office of Student Activities, (717) 948 6273.

A message from the Harrisburg Society leader

Volunteers are the lifeblood of organizations such as ours and this column is dedicated to the people who help the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society reach its goals.



Michele Hart-Henry

An amazing group of alumni gives us its time, its ideas and its talents to:

- *make our mentoring program successful;*
- *recognize the accomplishments of their fellow alumni;*
- *plan events for the College's current students;*
- *recommend benefits and services for our members; and*
- *represent our college while helping community organizations.*

To help us continue those programs and activities, four new volunteers joined our board this summer. It is my pleasure to welcome Janak Amin, Christopher Barrett, Evon Williams, and Doug Wisenhaupt to their first three-year terms as elected directors of the Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Society.

Also elected to his first three-year term early this summer is Steve Albert, a 1986 graduate of the business program. We actually welcomed Steve to the board in February 2000, when he was appointed to serve an unexpired term.

And while it is a joy to welcome new members, doing so means that we must say goodbye to members whose elected terms have expired. At our May board meeting, we bid farewell to Balinge "Skip" Brown and Steve Norford. Skip finished his second three-year term, served as Vice President of the board and, most recently, as chair of the Community Service Committee. Steve also completed his second three-year term this summer and served on the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the entire board and alumni society, I thank Steve and Skip for their contributions and service to our organization over the last six years.

Alumni Society board members are more than just names in a magazine article, however, and your chance to meet the board members and learn more about the Alumni Society is our Alumni Weekend in October. Come back to Penn State Harrisburg to see our new library, marvel at the other improvements to campus buildings, catch up with old friends and meet new ones. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

Michele Hart-Henry '88

Greetings from the Schuylkill Alumni Society President

Dear Fellow Alumni:

Well, we're now nine months into the life of the Schuylkill Campus Alumni Society and things are starting to happen! Our Membership and Student Interaction committees have begun to develop a schedule of activities and events that we think will enhance the work of the Society, which we hope, in turn, will enhance Penn State Schuylkill and the students' experiences at the campus.



Liz Bligan

What we have in mind, however, requires something only **you** can provide – YOU! Let me explain.

We are planning to have the Society assist recruiting for the Schuylkill campus, so we need **you** to join us in meeting with prospective students at Open Houses and other recruiting events. Some of these events are with high school juniors who are just starting to consider which college they'll attend; others are with graduating high school seniors who are deciding whether to attend Schuylkill or another campus. As a graduate of the Schuylkill campus, you can help a student understand all the benefits of attending a smaller campus.

Schuylkill gives the student an opportunity to start taking college-level courses while maintaining the ability to get some individualized attention and instruction. And **you** are just the people who can get that message across.

The Society is also planning to establish a Mentor program. Since students can now earn a baccalaureate degree at Schuylkill, there are more of them who are nearing the end of their college careers (along with the students earning their associate degrees) who need some guidance as they enter the "real world." Who better to help them through this transition than **you**, who have already gone through that experience and probably have some great ideas on how to navigate the sometimes puzzling route to establishing a career.

As we look forward to engaging in some other activities geared toward helping the campus, we also need **you** to help us in carrying out some of the ideas that are now only in our imaginations.

Contact me or anyone else on the Society Board (or e-mail us at capalumni@psu.edu) to let us know how we can integrate **you** into the continued building of the Society. It will be that much better with more of **you** on board!

Liz Bligan '81

Schuylkill Campus

David R. Rickert, '84 EET, Tower City, is a Test Technician with Tyco Electronics' Engineering Assurance Product Test Laboratory, Harrisburg.

Mary Beth Picciotti, '89, AA/'92 TheaArts, is a teacher at the Sacred Heart School, South Amboy, N.J. E-mail: bethpic@yahoo.com

Florence W. Shelley, '92, Murrells Inlet, S.C., is the General Manager at Fairfield Inn by Marriott, and is pursuing an MBA. E-mail: catdadyman@aol.com

Christine A. Dormer, '95 LAS, Pottsville, is currently attending McCann School of Business in its paralegal program and is employed at the Schuylkill County Court House, E-mail: chrisseyd@webtv.net

Monica L. Rulavage, '95 HDFS, New Philadelphia, Pa., opened Little Sunshine Day Care Center in 1996. A second location, The Kiddie Campus, opened in 2000 in Schuylkill Haven.

Harrisburg Campus

Alan A. Fishman, '70 BUS, Philadelphia, has been promoted to OIC Specialist with the Internal Revenue Service. E-mail: Frayala@hotmail.com

Leroy G. Levan, '71 SocSci, Mohnton, Pa., recently moved his office for the practice of law to Broad Street, Shillington. E-mail: leelevan@aol.com

Robert W. Bonaker, '73 SocSci, Amsterdam, N.Y., is now assistant superintendent of Capital Region BOCES, a four-county school supervisory district headquartered in Albany, N.Y.

Timothy Gillette, '77 MDET, Acworth, Ga., has been certified a Six Sigma Master Blackbelt in the last year and operates a Financial Services Business.

David L. Lutz, '77 BS, '78 MPA, Harrisburg, is president-elect of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. E-mail: dlutz@Angino-Rovner.com

Barbara A. McNamara-McAlick, '80 BHUM, Matawan, N.J., is a camera person for Eyewitness News WABC-TV in New York City. Barbara is married and the mother of two. E-mail: babsch7@aol.com

Keith A. Sanders, '82 SDCET, Corpus Christi, Texas, was recently named president of the structural engineering firm of Wilkerson and Sanders, Inc. E-mail: izzy102096@aol.com

Sandra Fanus Hockensmith, '82 BS, Newville, Pa., is co-owner of BETRA, founded in 1998. BETRA is trademarked as of April and employs an average of 50 caregivers.

Angelo M. Vecchio, '85 HUM, Gaithersburg, Md., recently joined JC Decaux Airport Advertising as Facilities Manager. E-mail: funktron@yahoo.com

Christine L. Leonhardt, '86 SocSci, Robesonia, Pa., has opened Organic Warehouse, selling natural and organic products, retail and wholesale. E-mail: gr8stuf2by@aol.com

Timothy T. Sanger, '86 BBA, Myerstown, Pa., recently graduated magna cum laude with an Master's in Religion from Evangelical School of Theology and is working as the director of student ministries at a church in Reading, Pa.

Andrew Haag, '89 PubPol, Milton, Vt., recently accepted the position of Information Services Security Manager at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. E-mail: Haag3@aol.com

Angela A. Fracalossi, '91 CRIMJ, Elysburg, Pa., graduated May 2001 with a Master's in Business Administration from Bloomsburg University. E-mail: afracalossi@aol.com

Daniel J. Rosseljong, '92 MET, Virginia Beach, Va., married in May, 2001, and is employed at Sumitomo Machinery Corporation, Chesapeake, Va. E-mail: drosseljong@home.com

Russell A. Duff, '93 InfoSys, Pittsburgh, is employed as a Technology Officer at PNC Bank in downtown Pittsburgh. E-mail: russ.duff@pncbank.com

Hosiah D. Davis, '93 SecEdEng, Jermyn, Pa., is a 12th grade teacher of English, Creative Writing, Journalism, Head Soccer Coach, and Newspaper Adviser at North Pocono High School. He earned a Master's in Education from Wilkes University in 2000 and is serving as an adjunct faculty member in Education and English at Luzerne County Community College. He and his wife Jill are the parents of a son and daughter. Hosiah encourages his classmates to contact him by E-mail at pennst81739@cs.com

Ann Underwood Burns, '93 BHUM, New Milford, Conn., and Thomas W. Burns were married October 2000, and are expecting their first child. Tom is a graduate of The University of Connecticut. E-mail: annb860@aol.com

Timothy A. Young, '93 BS-FIN, York, Pa., is Assistant Superintendent of Distribution for The York Water Company. E-mail: tyoung@paonline.com

Robert E. Shaffer, '94 ENVET, Duncannon, Pa., is employed at Act One Consultants, Inc., Harrisburg, and recently became registered as a Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania. E-mail: oneeyeloco@hotmail.com

Denise E. Clouser Kauffman, '95 CRIMJ, Duncannon, is employed as a paralegal by Jacobs and Saba/Nationwide Insurance Trial Division, Camp Hill. She and her husband Kenneth celebrated the birth of a son, Mason Edward, on Nov. 29, 2001.

Carol S. Stritikus Aitken, '95 EIED, Montgomery, Ala., is the Donor Relations Coordinator for the Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery.

Steven W. Todd, '96 ENVET, Hummelstown, is employed by Light-Heigel and Associates, Palmyra, and is preparing to take the Professional Engineer exam. E-mail: Steventodd@hotmail.com

Ali A. Pirinccioglu, '96 HCOMM, Arlington, Va., is employed as a Project Manager for The Vanguard Group. He will be leaving Vanguard in the fall to attend Georgetown University's MBA program pursuing a degree in General Management/Consulting. E-mail: alip@hotsheet.com

Kent A. Gates, '97 MPA, Harrisburg, is involved in the Fisher for Governor campaign. E-mail: kentagates@aol.com

Veronica M. Iocona, '97 PACCT, Morristown, N.J., is an auditor at Tiffany and Co. E-mail: viocona@tiffany.com

Christopher R. Stotz, '98 HCOMM, Harrisburg, is Public Relations/Marketing Manager for UCP of Central Pennsylvania, Camp Hill. E-mail: chris17109@hotmail.com

Amy J. Reiff Eckert, '99 PACCT, Palmyra, is employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue in Harrisburg. Amy and Travis Eckert, '00, married in October, 2000. E-mail: aeckert@state.pa.us

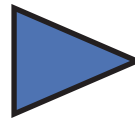
Joseph M. Kosanovic, '01 SecEd, Camp Hill, is a social studies faculty member in the West Shore School District teaching civics, world history, and U.S. history. Joe and his triplet brothers were profiled in the spring issue of Currents.

Mark Your Calendars

Penn State Harrisburg Alumni Weekend Oct. 19 and 20, 2001

All alumni, students, and their families are encouraged to attend this new event for PSH. View the Penn State vs. Northwestern football game on a large screen TV while enjoying delicious tailgate food. Events such as campus tours, children's activities, door prize drawings, and alumni award presentations are planned throughout the weekend.

alumninews



Tell us about yourself.

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

- Harrisburg Campus
- Schuylkill Campus

you spouse business etc.

Last name _____ First name _____ Middle initial _____
 Maiden Name _____ Graduation Year _____ Years at Schuylkill _____ Degree _____
 Last name _____ First name _____ Middle initial _____
 Street _____ City _____
 State _____ County _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Email _____
 Business Name _____
 Street _____ City _____
 State _____ County _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Other news (activities, honors, births, promotions, etc.) _____

Please send me information on:

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

Please send to:

Penn State Capital College, Alumni Office / 777 W. Harrisburg Pike / Middletown, PA 17057-4898
 or capalumni@psu.edu

Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Weekend

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

Events will feature:

Educational Programs

Campus Tours

Alumni and Student Recognition
Program

Updates on Campus Improvements



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

Hoping to see you April 13



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



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