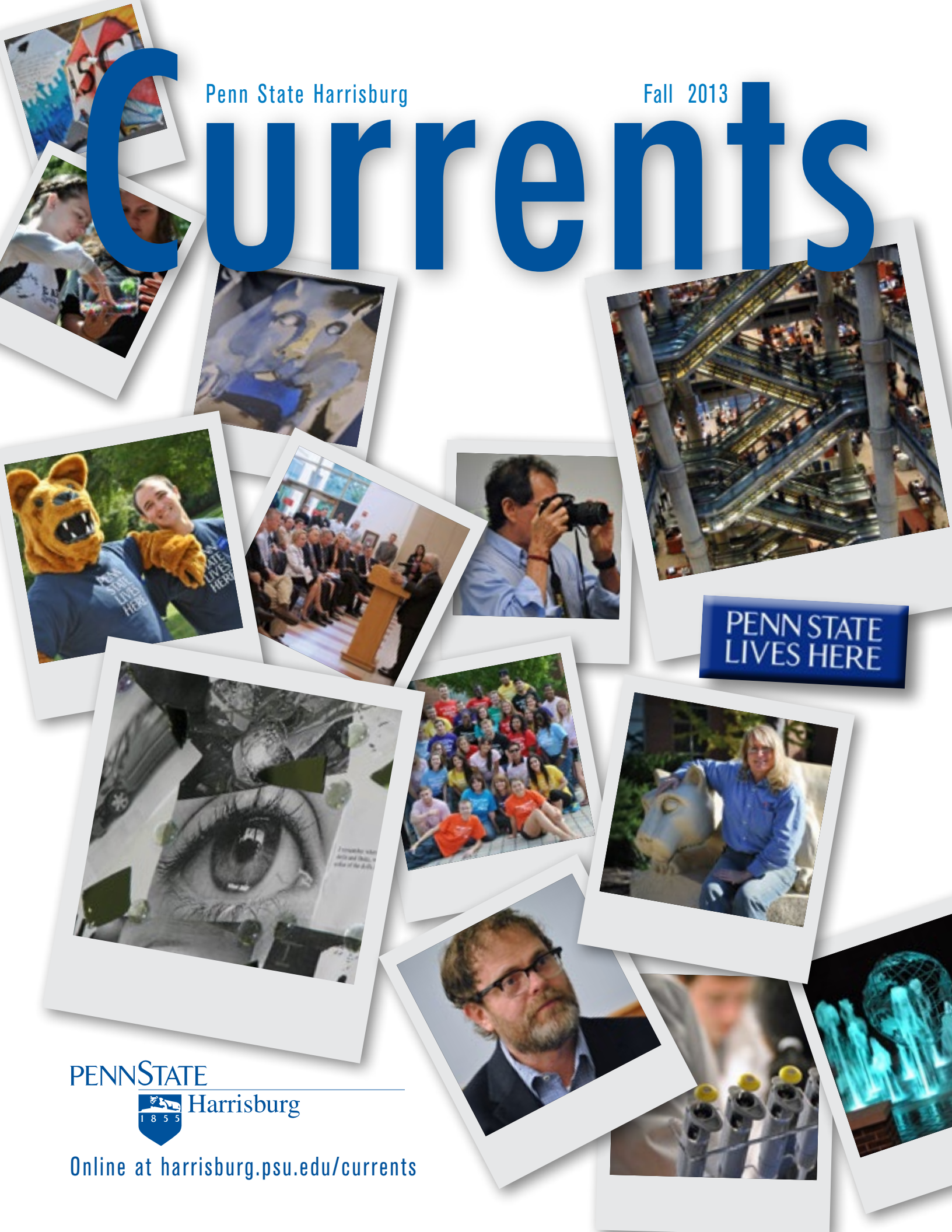


Penn State Harrisburg

Fall 2013


CURRENTS



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Mukund S. Kulkarni

Greetings FROM THE CHANCELLOR

This has been a very exciting start to the academic year. Our enrollment continues to climb, with the total enrollment rising slightly again this year, standing at a record 4,441 for fall 2013. This continued growth is a clear reflection of the college's commitment to high-caliber academics, cutting-edge research and a truly diverse campus.

This year, Penn State unveiled a new campaign that showcases and celebrates Penn State and the entire Penn State community. "Penn State Lives Here" is a testament to Penn Staters' hard work, high achievement, and commitment to service, and highlights the impact we are making in the classroom, in research facilities, in our communities, and around the world.

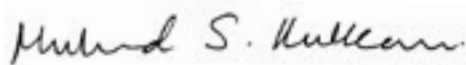
Several stories in *Currents* exemplify this theme: an alum who is helping at-risk eighth graders transition to high school through storytelling and the personal narrative; students studying in London who are benefitting from an alumna's connection to the insurance market; a mother and her two sons studying alongside each other at Penn State Harrisburg; and an alumnus so moved by his educational experience that he is giving back to help others.

At Penn State Harrisburg, we work diligently to carry out to the community the benefits of the research and scholarship that take place at the college. Outreach, whether through research partnerships with local industries or through community service in aid of our neighbors, makes us vital to the region. As an example, we were recently pleased to accept a \$500,000 gift from TE Connectivity that will create the Capstone Design Endowment and a Lecture Series in Connector Design, both of which will provide our engineering students with expanded experiential learning opportunities.

Philanthropy such as this continues to greatly and positively impact our students and enhances the quality and accessibility of a Penn State education. As we push toward the finish line of *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, I am pleased to report that we have reached over 90 percent of our goal, having raised more than \$13 million. The generosity of our alumni and friends is unparalleled.

As evidenced in this issue, Penn State Harrisburg students and alumni continue to make significant contributions and a positive mark. To continue this achievement, it is critical that we work together – administrators, faculty, staff, students and alumni – and maintain the spirit of being one community.

Our success in this endeavor will define the institution's future. With the help of our dedicated alumni, we are making good investments in people, quality education, and research. I look forward to your continued support and participation as we forge ahead.



Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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Mukund S. Kulkarni, Ph.D.

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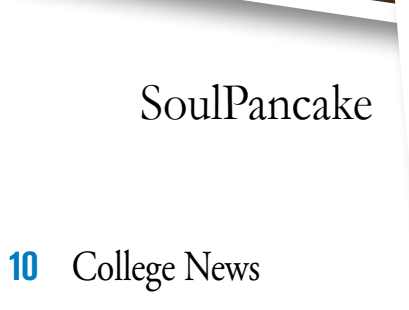
London Calling



Breaking Tradition



Gift Honors Faculty Member, Program



SoulPancake



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Telling the Story of Their Lives

Storytelling and personal narrative help adolescents in transition

Anthony Sedun, a 2009 graduate of Penn State Harrisburg's Teaching and Curriculum master's degree program, believes that we all have valuable life stories to tell, no matter who we are or where we come from. In fact, his own personal story is quite interesting. In 1985, at four years old, he and his sister were adopted from South Korea by an American family.

"The circumstances of my life story have a pronounced and lasting impression on my identity," Sedun said. "I've learned to value my story and embrace the attempts at understanding, that in these attempts, I may grow more self-aware." This "self-awareness," he said, leads to a greater engagement with others.

Now a husband, father, and teacher at Linglestown Middle School in the Central Dauphin School District, Sedun is using storytelling and the personal narrative to help students in his eighth grade summer school English class not only transition to the ninth grade, but make valuable gains in their personal lives, with their families, and in their communities, all while telling the stories of their lives.

Called the Life Writes Project, this pilot program turns the traditional summer school English class experience into a personal journey of self-discovery. Sedun created the program with Dr. Matthew Skillen of Elizabethtown College and Ryan Chrusch, a student in Messiah College's adventure education program. Supported by the Central Dauphin School

Board and administration, he implemented the program this past summer.

The plan is to help adolescents in transition develop resiliency and make gains in writing through narrative inquiry and adventure education. Sedun said that making sense of self is part of the premise on which the project was created.

The students in the program failed eighth grade English and are considered "at-risk learners." They came from four different middle schools in the district and varied in age and socioeconomic backgrounds. One student had emigrated from Puerto Rico within the past two years.

Most of the students were males and most were also non-white minorities. Some of the students were special education students.

These students may have otherwise fallen through the cracks of the education system without teachers like Sedun there to help them realize that they had something significant to contribute to society.

Influences

Sedun said that his experiences in the Teaching and Curriculum program were punctuated by relevant learning and robust expectations from his professors to engage more deeply with his work as a classroom teacher.

"I am especially indebted to the mentorship my advisor, Dr. Martha Strickland, provided through my time at Penn State," he added. "The insistence on teacher-research in the program serves me well as a teacher, and certainly this spills over to initiatives like the Life Writes Project."

Sedun also highlights his experience in the 2011 Capital Area Writing



Project's Invitational Summer Institute at Penn State Harrisburg. He calls it "one of the most effective and meaningful professional development opportunities" in which he has participated and adds that "its footprint is evident in the Life Writes Project."

Sedun also utilized his own personal experiences and situations in creating the project.

"I realized how everyone has a pattern of narratives that their life experiences fit into: tragedy, triumph, and tribute," Sedun said. "I designed a unit of narrative inquiry with three interwoven pieces called 'The Triptych Narratives.'"

The Life Writes Project allowed him to leverage these three specific types of personal stories for re-storying young people's identities and building their capacities to be resilient, reflective, and engaged people.

Sedun's summer school students never imagined that they would embark on a great adventure that would challenge them to confront their obstacles, motivate them to make the transition to ninth grade, and ultimately inspire them to change their lives for the better.

He urged the students to take a personal story and "make something out of the mess." The result was a truly transformational experience for the students, the instructors, and the project itself.

"We helped them chase their stories and as we did so, we chased the story of this project and what it could be."

To execute the project, Sedun utilized several different learning platforms, including one in which literacy is used to immerse teachers and students in an ongoing conversation with the texts of their lives. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening are seen as tools for making meaning rather than as ends unto themselves.

Sedun asserted that this gets children to think better as individuals and as a group and allows them to share the thinking and work together.

He also used mentor texts from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, which identifies teenagers with exceptional artistic and literary talent.

These texts were a guide to the students as they wrote their own narratives.



Alumnus Anthony Sedun’s program utilized art and writing to help students share their personal narratives.

Leveraging a constellation of personal writing, art, text, movies, YouTube, and more, Sedun sought to teach the students what it takes to be a writer by making sense of their own lives and the life stories of others without limiting or stifling their experience.

“In creating this program, I wanted to bring forth meaningful and lasting learning,” Sedun said. “I wanted these students to become writers for the world and learners for life. I wanted to show them that not only could they be writers, they could be better writers and they had something to share.”

Over five weeks of intensive instruction, students learned that making sense of one’s life is valuable, practical, and essential in moving forward toward a better future.

Challenges

As with many pilot programs, Sedun and his team faced some challenges. One of the more significant – how to build an interpersonal relationship with the students, most of whom were from different backgrounds than his. He knew that in order to engage them, he had to find a way to communicate with them and to build a rapport and trust.

Sedun said that building relationships was huge in design and success of the project. “I often wrote alongside students,” he said. He utilized collaborative writing opportunities, culminating in the students’ individual multi-modal, multi-genre projects, to value the students as capable, credible, and quotable. “My job was to build their capacities and invite them at every occasion I had to deeper engagement, more meaningful reflection about themselves, their texts, and their world,” he added.

He acknowledged that establishing and honoring mutual trust and respect contributed to the students’ willingness to open up.

As a part of his multiple approaches to building relationships with students, Sedun also enlisted the help of his former faculty advisor, Strickland, associate professor of education, who specializes in building the relationship between teachers and students who come from different backgrounds.

“Anthony really wanted to build relationships and transform identities...and wanted to do it well,” Strickland said.

Strickland and Penn State Harrisburg honors student Hannah Warfel designed research that studied the use of photographs to enhance teacher – student relationships across differences. They evaluated how Anthony Sedun responded to the cultural differences of the students that he was teaching and how that responsiveness influenced the teacher-student relationship.

While the data they collected during their time with the project is still being analyzed, Strickland and Warfel see that providing space for the students to bring their home context into the classroom has merit in portraying important relationships and relevance – vital to the learning process. Through the students’ expressions of their lives using video, photos, narratives, and class discussions, they brought their worlds outside of school into the classroom; Sedun was able to strengthen his pursuit of a relationship with them.

“Valuing students’ lives and their voices is the effectiveness of projects like this,” Strickland said. “I believe that this project was a success and I hope they build on that success in the future.”

“Chase Your Story to the Very End”

The students’ efforts culminated in an exhibit at the Friendship Community Center in Lower Paxton Township, Pa. in July. The exhibit offered a rare opportunity for these young people who have faced difficulties or challenges in life to showcase their talents to the larger community. It allowed them to engage with their community in ways that they never had before and gave them an opportunity to increase their resiliency by displaying their most personal stories.

More than 150 people attended the exhibit where the students’ 60 original works of art and writing were on display. Their personal narratives were presented through various modes, including personal essay/memoir, poetry, creative nonfiction, and digital and visual artwork.

At the end of the program, all 20 students passed Sedun’s eighth grade summer English class. In November, Sedun and Skillen presented their findings at a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference in Boston and already are looking forward to continuing the Life Writes Project.

Sedun said that through the first year of Life Writes he discovered that these students in transition want to learn, they want to write and want to make sense of their lives and their learning.

“We plan build on what we started and [foresee] even greater outcomes for student-participants, for the school district, and for the larger community,” he said.

“My job was to build their capacities and invite them at every occasion I had to deeper engagement, more meaningful reflection about themselves, their texts, and their world.”

Acknowledgements

Anthony Sedun wishes to acknowledge key supporters and volunteers for the success of the Life Writes Project: Dr. Carol Johnson, Superintendent, Central Dauphin School District; the Central Dauphin School Board; Rebecca Fairchild and Jesse Shenk, Millersville University; Alvia Walters, Penn State; Rebecca Kremer and Lexy Viscardi, Elizabethtown College; and Angela Sedun, Artist and Wellness Consultant.

LONDON CALLING

Alum's connection leads to rare opportunity

You don't just stop by Lloyd's of London for an unannounced visit. Even if you happen to be in London.

Access to the world's most famous insurance market is limited to registered Lloyd's brokers or invited visitors. But a group of Penn State Harrisburg finance majors was able to get a rare look inside Lloyd's during the college's most recent international study tour to London in March. Their visit was possible through a connection with Lloyd's that was made by Penn State Harrisburg alumna Christine Sears. Sears, a long-time member of the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers, is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Penn National Insurance in Harrisburg.

When Sears learned that Lloyd's was not on the itinerary of the finance students' nine-day tour of London, she took action.

Sears knew more of Lloyd's than the company's renowned reputation for insuring everything from prized art on ocean-crossing vessels to body parts of models, athletes, and entertainers. As a property and casualty insurer, Penn National did business through Lloyd's.

She also knew of Lloyd's penchant for privacy and security. Sears said even Penn National does not deal directly with Lloyd's of London, but works through intermediaries.

Yet Sears was not deterred. Once Penn State Harrisburg expressed an interest in the students visiting Lloyd's, Sears sent an e-mail to the Penn National intermediary in London, who connected her to a contact with Lloyd's in London, to begin working out the details.

Sears may see her role as no big deal. But her willingness to get involved made all the difference, said Nihal Bayraktar, an associate professor of economics, and the faculty member who leads the London study tour. Simply put, the students' visit to Lloyd's of London would not have happened without Sears stepping forward.

The London tour is jam-packed with corporate visits, many of which are set up by a travel agency. But access needed to get students through the doors of companies like Lloyd's comes only from the direct involvement of Penn State itself, starting with alumni like Sears.

"We have a much better connection when it is arranged through the school," Bayraktar said. "You have to differentiate yourself and tell why your visit is important."

Bayraktar said this type of connection is more than just getting students past the gates. Students also have the opportunity to meet face to face with top managers and executives who wouldn't otherwise be available.

Sears' connection with Lloyd's has paid dividends for the finance students beyond their initial visit. Months after the London tour, Glenn Dorr, Northeast U.S. Regional Director for Lloyd's America, came to Penn State Harrisburg from Boston for a personal visit with the finance students.

"Educating students around the world about how Lloyd's works

is an important goal of ours," Dorr said. "Further to the London student visit, I had the opportunity to visit Penn State Harrisburg and the Finance Club myself to meet the faculty, administrators and more of the students to educate a wider group about the insurance industry. Hopefully a few of them may have even considered a career in what I personally consider to be a very fulfilling and exciting industry to be a part of."

Penn State Harrisburg started the London tour in 2004. The tour is part of a finance course created by Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor Mukund Kulkarni, who was director of the college's School of Business at the time.

London is among three international study tours being offered to Penn State Harrisburg students this spring. The others are to China and Guatemala.

Bayraktar, a World Bank economist before joining Penn State Harrisburg in 2003, will lead the London course and study tour for the third time this spring.

She said London is the world's most international finance market. Nowhere else affords the students a better opportunity to see the global world of finance in action. New York City's financial market is bigger in size, but the New York City market is mostly domestic.

The London market is unique in other ways. Among stops during the tour is a visit to the London Metal Exchange, where students see and hear intense face to face negotiations between buyers and sellers that set the price for metals like copper, iron, and steel all over the world.

The London tour is not a vacation. Bayraktar said the compressed schedule is such that the students probably see more companies in nine days than if they spent an entire semester in London.

Bayraktar welcomes the involvement of more Penn State Harrisburg alumni, who by opening doors to more companies can further enhance the educational benefit of the tour to the students.

Sears encourages alumni who do business or have contacts with companies internationally to contact Penn State Harrisburg and see how they can help.



"Educating students around the world about how Lloyd's works is an important goal of ours."

Glenn Dorr, Lloyd's America



London is the world's most international finance market. Nowhere else affords the students a better opportunity to see the global world of finance in action.



Breaking Tradition

Now that they're all Penn State Harrisburg students, Tracy McHenry helps her son Dietrik study calculus and he helps her with chemistry. Dietrik's twin Michael steps in to help Tracy learn computer programs.

McHenry has no empty nest. Instead her driveway in West Hanover Township, Pa., is full of cars with Penn State bumper stickers. And that's fine by her.

After many years in construction, in 2011, McHenry returned to college to further her career. This fall her twin sons, Dietrik and Michael Ferster, began their studies at Penn State Harrisburg, too.

Michael's studying elementary education. Dietrik is following his mom's field, learning architectural engineering. McHenry is earning her bachelor's degree in structural design and construction engineering technology with a concentration in construction management.

As a kid, Dietrik loved job shadowing his mom whenever he could, visiting construction job sites and learning about the field.

"I really do like that she took the initiative to go back and get a four-year degree," he said. "That definitely steered me toward getting a degree."

Because his mom worked in construction, Dietrik never really saw it as a male field, he said.

Inspired by their mother's success, both at work and at college, Michael and Dietrik applied only to Penn State Harrisburg, no other colleges. "The school is obviously a great school. My mom's been very successful," Michael said.

As for McHenry, after years of being the only woman at a construction site, she now also finds herself the oldest student in class. "I feel like the class mom," she said, often explaining concepts and directing students what to do next.

"Some of those kids had never been on a construction site and didn't know about contracts. I brought specifications and contracts in so they could see them. I used my [company's] construction site up the road for them to walk through. I brought in PowerPoints to show what I've done," she said.

"Older students bring real-world experience to the classroom, giving younger learners an extra perspective," said McHenry's advisor, Dr. Joseph Cecere, chair of the Structural Design and Construction Engineering Technology and Civil Engineering programs at Penn State Harrisburg.

That's what Penn State Harrisburg senior Gunnar Rhone found. He is McHenry's intern at TE Connectivity, where she is construction manager of facilities services.

"She works really hard and she tries to make sure I know what I'm doing," he said. "She kind of seems like one of the guys. She gets along really well."

McHenry learned early how to thrive in a traditionally male career. In her high school in rural Sullivan County, Pa., McHenry was the only girl in shop class. The teacher encouraged her, and McHenry went on to earn her architectural engineering technology associate's degree at Penn State Worthington Scranton in 1986. She was one of only three women in her major. Since then, she's worked for a modular home company and an architect.

"With some workers, you have to earn their respect, especially when they see blond hair sticking out of a hard hat," McHenry said. "I try to be more of a take charge person so they realize I know what I'm talking about."

At TE Connectivity, her supervisors have encouraged her educational goals, even asking whether she'll continue on for a master's degree.

McHenry has taken all the night classes she can. Now she needs to fit daytime classes into her work day and international travel schedule. "I was just in Mexico last week for the renovation of a manufacturing site," she said.

McHenry knows she's a role model not only for her own sons, but for young men and women in her program.

"I try to really show them how it's good to set goals and how good it feels to achieve the goals. I take a lot of pride in my work," she said.

There are a few young women in her major and she especially thinks about them when she brings students to her construction sites. "I think they were inspired that I knew so much about construction," she said. "I hope I will inspire them."

"Older students bring real-world experience to the classroom, giving younger learners an extra perspective."



Alum's gift honors faculty, American Studies program

"I was so awakened by this new exposure to liberal arts. I hadn't experienced anything before like this."

– Alumnus Leroy Toddes



Dr. Irwin Richman, professor emeritus of American Studies

For Leroy "Skip" Toddes, of New Cumberland, Pa., not having to be in college was actually the best time to go.

He had already earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Penn State, which he parlayed into a successful 30-year marketing career at IBM.

At age 55, Toddes returned to Penn State Harrisburg for what would become a second degree – he wasn't seeking a career but a new outlook on life.

He found that, and more, thanks to Dr. Irwin Richman, professor emeritus of American Studies, and others in the American Studies program.

Grateful for the educational experience he received, Toddes recently donated a gift of stock, which he had accumulated over several decades from his IBM portfolio to fund up to seven student scholarships per year within the American Studies program, through provisions of the University's Trustee Matching Scholarship Fund.

The value of his gift will be expanded exponentially. When a pledge is made, the fund donates an amount equal to 10 percent of the pledge, and continues to provide this same 10 percent match to the original pledge each year in perpetuity. In addition, a percentage of the endowment's market value – currently about 4.5 percent – is directed each year toward the original pledge in perpetuity.

Toddes' first exposure to the American Studies program was a series of Richman's "traveling courses." Richman, who retired in 2003, assigned students books to read on a specified topic before the class began. The students would meet at Richman's house, attend a classroom lecture the next day, and then take a bus trip to locations where they could learn more about the topic.

"It wasn't just sitting in a classroom having someone share information with you," Toddes said. "No matter how effective and interesting that is, there's nothing like being out there and seeing it firsthand. [Dr. Richman] made it just extremely interesting."

Toddes' Penn State Harrisburg experience culminated in his master's thesis on the correspondence between Harrisburg businessman and entrepreneur Vance McCormick and President Woodrow Wilson.

While going through boxes at the Dauphin County Historical Society, Toddes found a series of letters written between Wilson and McCormick. In one, Wilson wrote to McCormick of how McCormick had rescued Wilson's floundering re-election campaign.

Toddes drew on what he had learned from the American Studies program to place the letters in historical context – to go beyond just names, places, and dates.

Toddes' master's thesis inspired a flood of other research on McCormick that Professor Michael Barton eventually compiled into the book *Citizen Extraordinaire: The Diplomatic Diaries of Vance McCormick*.

Toddes said his primary motivation for donating the gift for American studies students is to honor Richman, but also to make it possible for others to benefit from the program as he did.

"I was so awakened by this new exposure to liberal arts. I hadn't experienced anything before like this," he said. "I finally got a liberal arts education, albeit pretty late in life...but none the less. Both my wife and I think these were the two happiest years of my life, and she's known me since I was 15."

"My best friend danced at THON last year and I was by her side the whole time. Just seeing that was an amazing experience, and I knew then I wanted to experience it myself."

In 2013, Penn State Harrisburg raised more than \$53,000 for THON, the 46-hour Penn State student dance marathon that benefits the Four Diamonds Fund and its goal to aid pediatric cancer patients.



Penn State Harrisburg Inspiration meets perspiration here. Head meets heart here.

PENN STATE LIVES HERE



Rafic A. Bachnak

Bachnak named director, School of Science, Engineering, and Technology

In August, Penn State Harrisburg appointed Dr. Rafic “Ray” Bachnak as director of the college’s School of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Before his appointment, Dr. Bachnak was professor of electrical and computer engineering and chair of the Department of Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU) in Laredo, Texas. Prior to joining TAMIU in 2007, he had held academic positions at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi, Northwestern State University (Natchitoches, La.), and Franklin University (Columbus, Ohio).

Throughout his career, Bachnak has served as a principal or co-principal investigator on more than \$14 million in research, outreach, and infrastructure grants. He received a Fulbright Scholar grant in 2009-10 to lecture and conduct research at Notre Dame University, Lebanon, and also has held several fellowships with NASA and the U.S. Navy Laboratories.

Bachnak earned his doctorate, as well as master’s and bachelor’s degrees in electrical engineering from Ohio University. He is a registered professional engineer in Texas and a senior member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society (ISA).

The School of Science, Engineering, and Technology is the home to bachelor’s programs in civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, electrical engineering technology, mathematical science, mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technology, science, and structural design and construction engineering technology and master’s programs in computer science, engineering management, engineering science, environmental engineering, electrical engineering, and environmental pollution control.

Rainn Wilson: actor, philosopher, nerd

Actor Rainn Wilson, best known as Dwight on the award winning show “The Office,” set a few things straight when he visited Penn State Harrisburg November 15. He admitted that, like Dwight, he is a bit nerdy. And, for those who have read his book, he really does have an Aunt Wendy who smoked a pipe and inspired him to do the same.

Part stand-up comedy act, part philosophical discussion, Wilson’s performance focused on his project SoulPancake. Wilson co-created SoulPancake in 2008 with two friends out of their desire to create a space where “people from all walks of life could discuss and question what it means to be human—a place to wrestle with the spiritual, philosophical, and creative journey that is life.”

But before getting into serious topics, Wilson told the audience to get out their cellphones. “Feast your eyes, Instagram,” he said, prancing around the stage mimicking a model on the runway.

“When I started getting well known for ‘The Office,’ I wanted to do something really cool on the web,” Wilson said. “That’s how SoulPancake was born. It quickly morphed into a social media networking site to bring people together to discuss life’s big questions . . . the basic human questions that make us who we are.”

SoulPancake now spans multiple distribution channels – web, print, video – and also encourages social consciousness and service to community. SoulPancake recently teamed with MTV to present “Life Continued: Defeating Depression,” a documentary about

young people overcoming mental health conditions.

What can technology never replace? What can you do to make the world a little less screwed up? What is love? These are among the host of life’s questions that SoulPancake asks.

“SoulPancake is an extension of who I am and it sums up a lot of what I believe in,” Wilson said. So what did Wilson hope students would

take away from his presentation? “That life is a long rich journey, but you really have to engage with it,” he said.

“SoulPancake is an extension of who I am and it sums up a lot of what I believe in.”

One other big question from the evening’s presentation – why the name SoulPancake? Wilson said they wanted an irreverent name, since their goal was do “de-lamify” spirituality, and they liked the idea of food, because they were cooking up something new. Plus, Spirit Taco and Transcendental Tapas were already taken, he said.



TE Connectivity enhances engineering education

A gift from TE Connectivity, a world leader in connectivity, will provide Penn State Harrisburg engineering students in the School of Science, Engineering, and Technology with expanded experiential learning opportunities. The \$500,000 gift creates the TE Connectivity Capstone Design Endowment to fund Penn State Harrisburg senior engineering capstone projects as well as create the TE Connectivity Lecture Series in Connector Design, which will provide opportunities for students to network with industry experts.

Penn State Harrisburg senior engineering students are required to complete a capstone project. The culmination of their educational experience, the project combines classroom learning with real-life applications and often involves area industries. The students also formally present their projects publicly at a conference each spring. The TE Connectivity Capstone Design Endowment provides funds for students to tackle more ambitious projects and helps fund the annual conference to facilitate the spread of new ideas.

The TE Connectivity Lecture Series in Connector Design provides a forum to feature industry and higher education speakers on current topics in connector design. The series provides opportunities for networking and the exchange of information with the goal of inspiring innovation.

The gift capped a longtime relationship between Penn State Harrisburg and the corporation, dating back about 30 years. Currently, TE employs several hundred Penn State alumni.



On hand to recognize the gift from TE Connectivity were: (from L to R) Dave Rupnik '81, TE Connectivity Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, Appliances; Tom Lynch, TE Connectivity Chairman and CEO; Mukund Kulkarni, Penn State Harrisburg Chancellor; Madlyn Hanes, Penn State Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses; Jane Leipold '88, TE Connectivity Senior Vice President, Human Resources.



Haddad's Fulbright leads to latest book

In his latest book, John Haddad, associate professor of American studies and popular culture, provides a colorful narrative history of how China and America first met. The book is a culmination of the research Haddad conducted during his 2010-11 Fulbright grant experience in China.

In *America's First Adventure in China*, Haddad explores the 1784 first voyage to China by Americans. What followed was a long, complicated, fruitful trade relationship and a history of cultural exchange and interactions between these two dominant countries. The book recounts how American expatriates used savvy business skills, religion, and opium to establish a unique presence in China.

During his Fulbright, Haddad also taught American studies, pop culture, and literature at the University of Hong Kong. He said that it was interesting to teach American studies in a city that received most of its information about American culture from the media.

"While the students were more interested in Apple computers, movies, television, and video games," Haddad said. "I wanted to show them the rest of America – the Amish, Gettysburg – they didn't know rural America at all."

His teaching experience proved also to be a learning experience for him as he worked to overcome cultural barriers and adapt to the contrasting learning styles of the students. He added that he had to not take their reticence as disinterest in the topics that he was teaching.

"These students came from a different educational model than what I was used to," Haddad said. "I thought that I was failing at first until I saw how outstanding their papers were. I knew then that I had to develop a strategy to get them to talk."

"These were high caliber students. I had to be more sensitive to the backgrounds of the students and develop classroom strategies to engage them to participate," he said.



around campus



Penn State Harrisburg Chef David Cramer was one of eight Penn State chefs to win a culinary competition at the 2013 Chef Culinary Conference.



In September, students Larry Asu and Brandon Sik met with Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Sri Haji Mohammad Najib to talk about their Penn State Harrisburg experiences.

Read more online at harrisburg.psu.edu/currents





High school students learn cutting-edge STEM research on campus

Harrisburg area high school students had a chance this past summer to do the type of cutting edge research at Penn State Harrisburg that would be impossible in a high school classroom.

For some, it could be a life changing event leading them into one of the STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering, and math – that are becoming increasingly important in today's job market.

"We wanted to prepare them for the 21st century," said Penn State Harrisburg's Dr. Sairam Rudrabhatla, director of the Central Pennsylvania Research and Teaching Laboratory for Biofuels and associate professor of biology. "We wanted them to go back to school with renewed passion."

The program was a joint effort by the Capital Area Institute for Mathematics and Science (CAIMS), Penn State Harrisburg, and the Penn State College of Medicine. Students and teachers attended free of charge through a Science Education Partnership Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This was the last year of the five-year, \$1.5 million grant, which has also benefitted students from Middletown, Steelton-Highspire, and East Pennsboro high schools.

The 19 students who participated in this year's programs are now seniors at Susquehanna Township High School. They spent a week living in the dorms at Penn State Harrisburg while working in the college's state-of-the-art biofuels lab, as well as spending a day at the College of Medicine.

The type of research in which these students participated is impressive.

For instance, the students had the opportunity to see how soybean plants are used to express vaccines against avian flu virus and they were also involved in extracting proteins from the soybean plants. They also experimented with developing tomatoes containing larger amounts of the cancer-fighting antioxidant lycopene.

Susquehanna student Monica Feeley said she was extremely grateful for the opportunity to participate. She was considering becoming either a geneticist or a medical doctor, but discovered this past summer, to her surprise, that she thinks she may want to become a surgeon.

Four of their high school teachers accompanied the students for the week, learning techniques they could bring back to their classrooms. The experience gave them a chance to interact with their students more informally than they can during the school year.

Rob McDonald, a biology and environmental science teacher at Susquehanna Township High School, said it gave him an opportunity to "learn things more cutting edge than when I was in college."

"The students are getting an experience you don't get until almost graduate level courses," he said. "It invigorates them. It shows how cool science can be."

"We wanted them to go back to school with renewed passion."

2013



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

- This fall, the college joined the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC), recognized as one of the most competitive NCAA Division III conferences in the country.
- The college announced that the new indoor and outdoor track and field programs will begin competing in 2014-15.
- This fall, Danielle Lynch began as head coach for the men's and women's cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field teams. Lynch is the first men's and women's track and field head coach at Penn State Harrisburg. She previously served as an assistant for eight years at Bucknell University.
- Don Friday joined the college as the men's head basketball coach. Prior to joining Penn State Harrisburg, Friday served as the head coach at Division I Saint Francis University.
- To support our student-athletes, the college hosted its fourth annual Penn State Harrisburg Golf Tournament in September. "Thanks to donors' philanthropy, nearly \$51,000 was raised for the athletic program," said Rahsaan Carlton, Penn State Harrisburg athletic director. "The golf tournament serves as a critical fundraising step for the college to transform its vision for our athletics program into a reality. The college strives to provide more facilities and programs that will enable student-athletes to reach the highest levels of individual and team achievement."

harrisburg.psu.edu/currents



Penn State Harrisburg enrollment hit a new record this fall – 4,441 students. After Convocation ceremonies in August, new students posed for a class photo.



Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist and speaker José Galvez discussed his craft during a September visit to campus.



Jane Leipold named University Alumni Fellow

Penn State Harrisburg alumna Jane Leipold was recognized with a 2013 Penn State Alumni Association Alumni Fellow Award.

She was recognized for her “outstanding professional accomplishments” and given the lifelong title of Alumni Fellow. The award, established in 1973, is the highest award given by the association.

Leipold, who received her MBA from Penn State Harrisburg in 1988, is senior vice president of global human resources for TE Connectivity, a multi-national company involved in the design and manufacture of products that connect and protect power and data flow. She also holds a Penn State bachelor’s degree in quantitative business analysis.

Leipold develops and implements human resources processes, policies, and programs and manages the company’s global security, compensation, benefits, employee relations, payroll, legal compliance, and human resource information systems functions. She has held human resources roles in training and development, organizational development, executive education, and leadership development.

Leipold has offered her business expertise through board memberships and as a guest lecturer to college students. She was instrumental in the establishment of the TE Connectivity Capstone Design Endowment to fund Penn State Harrisburg senior engineering capstone projects and to create the TE Connectivity Lecture Series in Connector Design, which will provide opportunities for students to network with industry experts. She serves on the Penn State Harrisburg Board of Advisers and recently worked with students to improve their résumé writing skills during the “Résumania” event on campus.



About the artist

Paul Manlove, instructor in art and humanities, created a one of a kind painting of the Nittany Lion as a gift to this year’s Alumni Achievement Award winners. Each painting also bears his signature.

Manlove holds a B.F.A. from Millersville University and an M.F.A. from Brooklyn College in New York.

In addition to his current teaching

position at Penn State Harrisburg, he has held visiting and full-time faculty



appointments at a number of American colleges and universities. Manlove also received the Charles G. Shaw Painting Award, as well as a teaching fellowship under William T. Williams, from Brooklyn College. He debuted his work in New York City in 2002 and has shown nationally in California, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.



Doctoral Information Night

Thursday, January 16, 2014

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Library, Penn State Harrisburg

Graduate Programs Open House

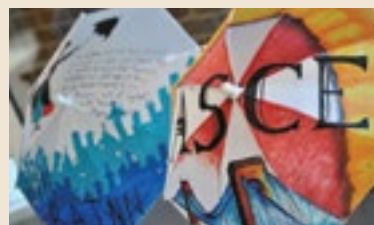
Thursday, March 13, 2014

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Library, Penn State Harrisburg



Distinguished American legal historian Richard B. Bernstein discussed his book, *Reconsidering the Founders* as part of a Constitution Day recognition.



Every fall, Penn State Harrisburg events support RAINN Day, an annual campaign of the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network to raise awareness and fight against sexual violence on college campuses.



College honors Alumni Achievement Award winners

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, bestowed during the Alumni Awards Dinner in October, honor a diverse collection of talents and accomplishments from across the college.

The School of Science, Engineering, and Technology honored Michael Gurreri, who graduated in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering technology, and in 2005 with a master's degree in engineering science.

Gurreri serves as a principal engineer at TE Connectivity, where he leads a team responsible for the development of next generation optical connectors. He has been responsible for the engineering of network hardware for various aerospace, military, government, data communications, and telecom applications.

Gurreri holds 26 U.S. patents in the field of optical interconnections, has published widely, and has presented work at national and international conferences.

Andy Hoover, a 2008 graduate with a master's degree in community psychology and social change, was honored by the School of Behavioral Sciences and Education. He is legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization dedicated to defending and protecting individual rights and personal freedoms.

Hoover is responsible for state and federal lobbying efforts. In 2010, he was the lead lobbyist in passing the Healthy Birth for Incarcerated Women Act; last year, he played a major role in the passage of legislation to block the implementation of the federal Real ID Act.

The School of Public Affairs honored Leah Kithcart, a 2003 graduate with a bachelor's degree in public policy. She serves as a public

policy coordinator with the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Pennsylvania, the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Kithcart has worked on legislation to expand the Amber Alert System in Pennsylvania to include adults who are cognitively impaired and has assisted with adult guardianship legislation. Most recently, She worked on an Executive Order to establish the Pennsylvania Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Planning Committee.

The School of Humanities honored Matthew Singer, who earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from Penn State in 1985 and a master's degree in American studies from Penn State Harrisburg in 1992.

Singer is a senior museum writer and communications officer at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, one of the largest museums in the United States. He leads efforts to bring the full breadth of the museum's activities to public attention. He also serves as the museum's in-house reporter and historian, as well as a curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art.

Douglas Wisehaupt, a 1986 graduate with a bachelor's degree in management, received this year's award for the School of Business Administration. He serves as vice president of human resources for Ollie's Bargain Outlet, where he oversees human resources and corporate office administration. He also serves as a corporate liaison with Bucknell University's Institute for Leadership in Technology and Business.

Wisehaupt actively participates in several community organizations, including serving as board chair and treasurer for Leadership Harrisburg Area, and participating on the board for the Harrisburg Rotary Foundation.

Douglas Wisehaupt, '86

Vice President of Human Resources,
Ollie's Bargain Outlet

Andrew Hoover, '08g

Legislative Director, American Civil
Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania

Matthew Singer, '85, '92g

Senior Museum Writer and
Communications Officer, Philadelphia
Museum of Art

Leah Kithcart, '03

Public Policy Coordinator, Alzheimer's
Association of Greater Pennsylvania

Michael Gurreri, '97, '05g

Principal Engineer, TE Connectivity



alumninews

We want to hear from you!

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

Send updates to:

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

777 West Harrisburg Pike
 Middletown, PA 17057-4898

For the future

THE CAMPAIGN FOR PENN STATE STUDENTS

is a shared vision of Penn State as the most comprehensive, student-centered research university in the United States. The campaign's top priority is ensuring that a Penn State degree is affordable for students and families.

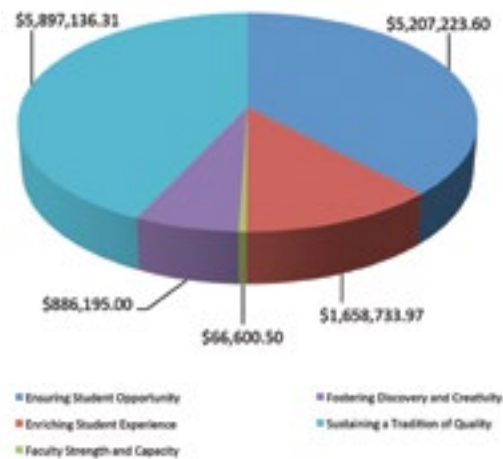
At Penn State Harrisburg, 126 major gifts have been committed to this goal, including grants, awards, scholarships, endowments, program funds, and gifts in kind.

Goal: **\$15,000,000** Pledged: **\$13,740,889.38**

Remaining: \$1,259,110.62

91.6% of goal reached

Campaign Progress



As of 11/5/13