A MESSAGE FROM THE
CHANCELLOR
Dr. Susan Phillips Speece

Making Life Better

I was looking over the articles that were scheduled to appear in this edition of the Blue & White and also thinking about the life of service offered by one administrator at University Park, and I realized that Penn State and Penn State Berks really do live the tag line, “Making Life Better.”

Throughout their time with us, we try to encourage our students to reach out beyond themselves and touch the lives of others. This year, our students raised $20K for THON, the world’s largest student-run philanthropic venture dedicated to pediatric cancer. Students stand outside warm buildings—in the freezing cold—collecting money from passers-by, they hold a variety of fundraising events, and then they spend nearly 48 hours dancing and celebrating their success. They do not do this for themselves; they do it to try and make the lives of the children affected with pediatric cancer better.

Our students, faculty, and staff do not stop there. Many have gotten involved with raising funds to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti. Their focus is not so much on immediate, but sustainability needs—finding ways to have long-term impacts on one of the world’s poorest economies. There are faculty who get their students involved in projects within the community—creating Web pages for not-for-profit organizations, helping the African American Museum prepare for their next phase, writing about the history of the Latino population in Berks County, and so much more.

And then there is Dr. John Romano, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses. He has dedicated more than forty years of his life in service to the students, faculty, and staff of The Pennsylvania State University. Earlier this year, John announced that he and his lovely wife Stephanie wanted to enjoy their “golden years,” and so he would be retiring this summer. John has been a Residence Life Counselor, campus CEO (at the York campus), Director of Enrollment Management for the University, and most recently the Vice President of Commonwealth Campuses. He has always maintained a wonderful and sometimes irreverent sense of humor, even during difficult times. He has, in his latest role, been a staunch advocate for the campuses and what we try to accomplish. John has never looked for accolades, but rather he has looked for ways to truly make life better for others.

When we review our lives, I hope that each of us can say that we chose to “Make Life Better,” after all, We Are ... Penn State.

Sustainable well wishes,

Dr. Susan Phillips Speece, Chancellor, Penn State Berks
On the Cover: Allison Baver

When Penn State Berks alumna Allison Baver and her teammates won the bronze medal for short-track speed skating at the Olympic Games in February, it was the culmination of many years of hard work and determination in the face of enormous obstacles. Now she is incorporating these same values in her most recent project: making a difference in the lives of youth through her foundation, “Off the Ice.” Photo by Theo Anderson.

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Social Media Sites Connect College Community

Want the latest news about what’s happening at Penn State Berks? It’s just a click away when you visit the college’s new Facebook fan page, Twitter updates, and YouTube channel.

Join the college’s 1,000+ Facebook fans by visiting the fan page at facebook.com/pennstateberks and be the first to receive news and feature stories, invitations to campus events, photos, and video footage. Additional college Facebook pages are linked to this main page, including a specific site for alumni (facebook.com/pennstateberksalumni).

Fans of the microblogging Twitter site will get the latest news, 140 characters at a time, at twitter.com/PennStateBerks. Users can sign up to follow Penn State Berks and subscribe to an RSS feed for up-to-the-minute news.

Maybe you prefer your information in video format. Just visit the college’s YouTube site to view short videos about a variety of campus topics—from campus life to adult students—at youtube.com/pennstateberks. The site includes both professionally produced and amateur videos highlighting various aspects of the campus.

All three social media sites have links on the college’s Web page: berks.psu.edu.

Chancellor’s Podcasts Keep Alumni and Friends Informed

Chancellor Speece’s monthly podcasts keep the college community informed through a series of brief interviews. Visit berks.psu.edu and click on Chancellor’s Podcasts under News & Events.
Penn State University has launched the “public phase” of its new campaign, the most ambitious fundraising initiative in the history of the college. On April 23, President Graham Spanier and the Board of Trustees announced the overall goal will be $2 billion in *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, a campaign that will continue until June 30, 2014. Penn State Berks announced their piece of that overall goal will be $11 million, of which $5 million has already been raised in gifts and pledges since January 1, 2007, the beginning of the quiet phase of the campaign.

This effort, at its heart, is a campaign for Penn State students: to enable the next generation and all succeeding generations of our graduates to realize their full potential as individuals and advance their professions. It is also a campaign to enable Penn State to realize its full potential as an institution to create prosperity, keep our nation competitive, and enhance quality of life. All of the campaign’s objectives are directed toward a single vision:

**Advancing the frontiers of learning at the most comprehensive, student-centered research university in America.**

As in the past, Penn State Berks will rely on a group of committed volunteers who will help the college achieve these goals and objectives. That group is being led by co-chairs Eugene R. Curry, President, Curry & Associates, and Steven M. Weidman, Senior Vice President, Relationship Manager, Sovereign Bank. Dr. Harold W. Perkins, Penn State Berks CEO Emeritus, is serving as honorary chair.

**New Campaign Goes Public at Penn State**

By David C. Delozier

Penn State Berks, the campaign will provide a foundation for growth in the coming decades as we meet the educational and developmental needs of our students and our region. Within this University-wide campaign, goals have been established within the following six objectives:

- **Ensuring Student Opportunity**—increasing undergraduate scholarship support for Penn State Berks students
- **Enhancing Honors Education**—providing more honors education opportunities for students of exceptional ability
- **Enriching the Student Experience**—creating quality out-of-classroom opportunities for students to serve, learn, and grow
- **Building Faculty Strength and Capacity**—giving students the chance to study with the finest teachers and researchers
- **Fostering Discovery and Creativity**—promoting ongoing research opportunities for students and faculty
- **Sustaining a Tradition of Quality**—maintaining the quality of a Penn State Berks educational experience through annual gifts, gifts-in-kind, and corporate engagement

For more information on how you can support Penn State Berks through *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, contact the Office of Development at 610-396-6056 or visit [www.giveto.psu.edu](http://www.giveto.psu.edu).

**Hillert Demonstrates Commitment to College**

By Ryan C. Szivos

As a student, Tim Hillert ‘09 left his mark on Penn State Berks as a founding member of the Berks Blue & White Society and president of a nationally ranked student bowling team. Now as an alumnus, Hillert is looking to continue his contributions on the campus. He is currently in the process of making a $50,000 gift of whole life insurance to the college, which will be used to fund a future scholarship.

“In my senior year, I received the Eugene and Francis Curry Scholarship,” states Hillert. “It was nice to know that my hard work paid off and was being acknowledged. The campus is close to my heart, I wanted to give back. Hopefully, I can inspire others to as well.”

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Hillert chose Penn State Berks because it was close to home and offered an intimate setting. He would later decide to remain at Berks for all four years of his baccalaureate degree in Business.

“I really liked that at Berks I was a person and not a number,” says Hillert. “I loved the faculty and staff and was able to develop one-on-one relationships with them. Also, the Business program was phenomenal.”

When he wasn’t on campus, Hillert spent his time with internships at the Reading Rage soccer club, the Brooklyn Cyclones baseball team, and Merrill Lynch.

After graduating, Hillert moved back to Brooklyn and currently works as a Financial Representative for Northwestern Mutual, where he specializes in risk management, wealth accumulation, and estate planning. However, he still finds time to visit the campus.

“It’s unusual to see an alumnus who is this young giving back in such a significant way to their alma mater,” states Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations. “But I’m not surprised. I worked closely with Tim in the Blue & White Society and saw that even as a student, he had a strong passion and commitment to this campus.”

For more information on innovative ways to give to Penn State Berks, contact the Office of Development at 610-396-6056 or Penn State’s Office of Gift Planning at 888-800-9170.
**GROUNDBREAKING**

Excitement builds during groundbreaking for new building  
By Lisa R. Weidman

Excitement was in the air as faculty, staff, students, alumni, and Advisory Board members gathered on an empty plot of land for a groundbreaking ceremony for the college’s new 58,000-square-foot classroom and laboratory building, which will free up much-needed space in other campus facilities.

“We are at 95 percent occupancy in our classrooms during the day, and we have 100 percent occupancy in our classrooms at night,” explained Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece.

The international architectural firm RMJM Hillier was given a daunting challenge: design an academic building that would meet the complex and varied needs of the Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology Division, meet requirements of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, and fit into the picturesque landscape of the college.

They rose to the challenge with their schematic design concept for the new building. The $25.6 million project, which is slated for completion in the spring of 2012, will make use of technology in keeping with the college’s commitment to the environment.

Alvin H. Butz Inc., Allentown, will manage construction. The terra cotta, concrete, and glass building will provide space for courses in business, engineering, and information sciences and technology, as well as hotel, restaurant, and institutional management.

The three-story facility will be the largest building on campus and it will feature nine classrooms, thirteen labs, a lecture hall, conference rooms, and dozens of faculty and administrative offices. The Chancellor’s Office, a design studio, student study areas, and a cafe also will also be housed in the building.

“It’s been a project eight years in the making,” said Speece. “Now, we will have space for student learning, faculty research, and new opportunities for students to do great work.”

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**College Celebrates Life of Dean and CEO Emeritus Frederick Gaige**

By Lisa R. Weidman

If you visited the Perkins Student Center on Saturday, March 27, you would have thought you were attending a celebration, and in fact, you would have been correct. The campus community gathered to celebrate the life of Dr. Frederick H. Gaige with a special memorial event, followed by a reception in the Freyberger Gallery.

Gaige, who passed away in August 2009, was known to many as a visionary leader. He served as Dean and CEO of Penn State Berks from 1984-2001, helping to transform the campus into a college with four-year academic programs and residence halls. During his sixteen-year tenure, the campus expanded from 1,000 students in four major buildings on 135 acres of land to 2,100 students in seven major buildings and thirteen smaller structures on 240 acres of land.

The event began with reflections on Gaige’s contributions, positive attitude, and kind spirit from former Penn State Berks colleagues and community members, followed by a discussion of his scholarly endeavors in Nepal, where he conducted research on a Fulbright Fellowship from 1966-1968. His research culminated in the publication of *Regionalism and National Unity in Nepal*.

Since Gaige was an avid futurist, the second half of the program featured a presentation titled “Envisioning Our Future” by Nancy Dorrier, President of Dorrier Underwood, executive consultant, futurist, and speaker on transformation.
### 3rd ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION

- **August 17**: WPI Meeting, 2 p.m., Janssen Office Building.
- **September 11**: Football Tailgate for Penn State vs. Alabama. (See ad on p.5)
- **October 2**: 3rd Annual Alumni Reunion, Time TBA, Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel. (See ad on back cover.)
- **October 9**: Football Bus Trip/Tailgate for Penn State vs. Illinois. **Tickets to the game are not included.** (See ad on p.5.)
- **October 14**: Chancellor’s Circle Dinner, 6:15 p.m.—reception, Freyberger Gallery; 7:00 p.m.—dinner, Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.
- **October 23**: Football Tailgate for Penn State vs. Minnesota. (See ad on p.5.)
- **October 30**: Football Bus Trip/Potluck Tailgate for Penn State vs. Michigan. **Tickets to the game are not included.** (See ad on p.5.)
- **November 13**: Football Tailgate for Penn State vs. Ohio State. (See ad on p.5.)
- **November 18**: Alumni Society Berkey Creamery Ice Cream Sale. Pick-up in parking lot behind the Janssen Conference Center. Orders/money due by Nov. 1. Order forms on the Web site: alumni@psu.edu.
- **November 20**: Football Bus Trip for Penn State vs. Indiana at FedEx Field in Washington DC, sponsored by the Penn State Berks Alumni Society. **Includes game ticket.** (See ad on p.5.)

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**Summer CAMPS at Penn State Berks**

- **Middle School**
  - **Environmental Ecology and Science**
    - June 29–July 2
  - **Film and TV**
    - June 29–July 2
  - **Imagination Station**
    - July 12–16
  - **Science of Technology**
    - August 2–6
  - **Middle and High School Boys and Girls Soccer**
    - August 2–6 (Boys Camp)
    - August 9–13 (Girls Camp)

- **High School**
  - **Discovering Engineering**
    - July 5–9
  - **Discovering Forensic Science**
    - July 5–9
  - **Discovering Veterinary Science**
    - July 12–16 (commuter only)
  - **Discovering Advanced Filmmaking**
    - July 12–16 (commuter only)
  - **Discovering Computer and Cyber Security**
    - August 2–6 (commuter only)

A residential option is available for high school camps. Scholarships are available. For more information, call 1-800-BERKS-CE or visit berks.psu.edu/summercamps.
Berks County Chapter of PSAA needs your help!

Calling all Penn State alumni, faculty, staff, and friends! If you have a passion for Penn State, or just enjoy socializing and planning events, join the Berks County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. The Berks County Chapter is revitalizing and needs your assistance. Meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Janssen Conference Center on the following dates:

- May 26, 2010
- June 30, 2010
- July 28, 2010

For more information about how you can get involved, contact Shane Hinke at 610-921-1914 or 610-790-8214 or via email at shinkle@psualum.com.

ENJOY PENN STATE FOOTBALL AWAY GAMES WITHOUT EVER LEAVING BERKS COUNTY!

The Alumni Office and Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel are hosting a series of football tailgate parties for away games. Doors open at the Crowne Plaza one hour before kickoff. The cost is $3 payable at the door; children under 12, FREE.

Tailgate refreshments will include wings, hot hors d’oeuvres, and a fruit and cheese tray, donated by the Crowne Plaza. Penn State grilled stickies and Creamery ice cream will also be available.

In addition, drink specials and bar menu items will be available for purchase. (Bring your PSAA membership card to receive discounts at the bar). There will be door prizes, games, and fun for the entire family! RSVP is required at berks-alumni@psu.edu or contact Heather Angstadt, 610-396-6052.

- September 11—Alabama
- October 2—Iowa
- October 23—Minnesota
- November 13—Ohio State

*Tailgate parties will not be held for an 8:00 p.m. kickoff.

PENN STATE FOOTBALL BUS TRIPS

Do you have tickets for a Penn State game but don’t want the hassle of driving? Then join the Alumni Office for their football bus trips on October 9 and 30. Maybe you need tickets to the game too—the November 20 trip is for you. All bus trips depart from the Franco parking lot, departure time TBA. Seating is limited, so register early. Contact Heather Angstadt, 610 396-6052.

October 9
Bus Trip/Tailgate for Penn State vs. Illinois.
Cost: $50, includes transportation to Beaver stadium, hot & cold buffet, non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, door prizes, and tailgate games. Tickets to the game are not included.

October 30
Bus Trip/Potluck Tailgate for Penn State vs. Michigan.
Cost: $40, includes transportation only. Bring a covered dish to share with the group and join the potluck tailgate or have lunch on your own. Tickets to the game are not included.

November 20
Bus Trip for Penn State vs. Indiana at FedEx Field in Washington DC, sponsored by the Penn State Berks Alumni Society.
Cost: $110, includes game ticket.
Contact Ralph Tutlane, 610-777-7312, kingutt039@aol.com.

*Attendees can bring their own alcoholic beverages on the bus.
When Allison Baver ’03 and won the bronze medal for short-track speed skating at the Olympic Games in February, it was the culmination of many years of hard work and determination in the face of enormous obstacles, the most daunting of which was recovering from an accident that resulted in a shattered leg that could have easily ended her career.

But Baver was determined, and she channeled that determination and hard work into her rehabilitation, went on to the Olympics, and won her first Olympic medal. Now she is incorporating these same values in her most recent project: making a difference in the lives of youth and inspiring them to reach for and achieve their dreams through her foundation, which she named “Off the Ice.”

“Off the Ice is all about skating your way to your dreams!” explains Baver. “It’s about separating fantasy from reality, and turning ‘I want’ into ‘I will.’”

Baver held a kick-off celebration for her foundation at Viva Good Life Bistro and Lounge in April and plans to hold a two-day fundraising event from August 8–9 at Ledgerock Golf Course in Mohnton, consisting of a “Rock the Ice” run/walk on August 8 on the trails and a golf tournament on August 9.

A three-time Olympic short-track speed skater, Baver actually started her career “off the ice,” competing in roller and inline skating. Growing up with the sport, she believes skating kept her out of trouble “off the ice” and focused on winning and being her best “on the ice.” She also believes that the lessons she learned and success she enjoyed on the ice helped her achieve her goals.

Baver, who graduated from Penn State Berks with a bachelor’s degree in Business
with a minor in Marketing and Management in 2003, is putting her degree to good use. She credits her marketing savvy to the education she received at Penn State Berks.

“I didn’t realize until I got out in the world how big Penn State really is,” comments Baver. “When I would travel and tell people that I graduated from Penn State, they were impressed. I am really proud of the education I received.”

When asked why she chose Penn State Berks, Baver explains that she had more than one dream: in addition to her Olympic goals, she also wanted to earn a college degree. Penn State Berks helped to make both dreams a reality.

“The professors were very understanding, more so than at other schools,” explains Baver. “It says a lot about Penn State taking success to the next level. Everyone there wanted to see me succeed.”

When asked how it felt to win the bronze medal at the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, British Colombia, Baver exclaimed, “It was amazing—all the sacrifices, dedication, and hard work paid off.”

For Baver, it was a long and winding road to an Olympic medal. In fact, she did not take up speed skating until her junior year of high school. She began roller skating at a young age, and at age 11, she competed in the National Roller Skating Championships in Philadelphia.

While a student at Berks, she became a member of the U.S. short-track speed skating squad and competed in the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Utah, where her 3000-meter relay team placed seventh.

From 2004–2005, she competed in Europe, China, and the U.S in the World Cup. She advanced to ten World Cup finals, winning five medals, ranking third overall, and setting a new mark for a U.S. short-track female skater.

In 2006, Baver fought through a back injury to break her own 1000-meter record at the World Cup in China. At the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy, she placed seventh in the women’s 500-meter event despite sustaining an injury during the race; she was unable to skate—or even walk—for nine months after the injury. Her 3000-meter relay team finished fourth.

Baver earned her first U.S. short-track overall national championship in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, in 2007, placing first in the ladies 500-, 1000-, and 3000-meter events. She finished fifth in the 1000- and 1500-meter at the World Short Track Championships. That same year, she earned an MBA from the New York Institute of Technology.

In 2008, she brought home three bronze medals at her only two ISU World Cup events, and led the U.S. in medals on the circuit, earning more World Cup medals than any other female short-track speed skater in U.S. history.

Then in 2009, during the third lap of a World Cup event in Bulgaria, a nasty collision launched Baver into the air. The 40 m.p.h. impact shattered her tibia so severely that she was told that she may never be able to walk without a limp or climb stairs again, and that she would be lucky to able to skate in two to five years.

But Baver was determined to compete in the 2010 Winter Games, so she trained as a guest at the U.S Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she rehabilitated strenuously. The rest is history.

In addition to her impressive sports career and philanthropic endeavors, Baver is also a model with Wilhelmina Artist Management of New York. As a powerful figure in women’s sports, she joined the agency because she wanted to be a role model for young girls and to let them know that they don’t have to drink and party to be cool; they should just be themselves.

Baver is also a media darling. Her sponsors include Penske Truck Rental, a company that is based in Reading, and Proctor and Gamble, who featured Baver in their “Fearless Women of the Olympic Games” marketing campaign.

A passport and competitive spirit has provided Baver passage across the globe: Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Slovakia, South Korea, Sweden, Russia, and the United Kingdom.

So, what’s next for Baver?

The sky’s the limit, both on and off the ice.
What motivates someone to travel three hours to University Park for a forty-six hour, “no sitting, no sleeping” dance marathon? For Penn State Berks students, their reasons for dancing were personal, from watching friends and loved ones battle cancer, to following in their families’ footsteps.

After a year of fundraising events on and off campus, Berks students put on their dancing shoes and raised more than $20,000 to help conquer childhood cancer at Penn State’s Children’s Hospital through THON, the dance marathon to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund held at Penn State every year.

From February 19–21, Penn State students from every campus gathered at the Bryce Jordan Center. Representing Penn State Berks were sophomores Alicia Gilham, Michele Pischl, and Michelle Willemin, and first-year student Dylan Miller.

Statewide, 15,000 student volunteers, including 708 dancers, raised $7.8 million, said Megan E. Allwein, co-chair of the Berks THON team.

“I wanted to be a dancer to help the fight against pediatric cancer and to show that the Four Diamonds stand for courage, strength, honesty, and wisdom, and that THON stands for love,” explains Miller who had two childhood friends overcome cancer at an early age.

“To see these kids go through something so horrible and stay so strong, you can’t help but be inspired,” comments Willemin, who watched members of her own family lose their battles with cancer.

Gilham became interested in THON when she came to Penn State and met her roommate, a former Four Diamonds child, while Pischl was following in her older sister’s footsteps as a THON dancer.

No matter the reason, these dancers and all the students, faculty, and staff members who supported their efforts were determined to make a difference in the lives of THON children and their families.
When the January 12 earthquake hit Haiti, students at Penn State Berks wanted to get involved in relief efforts. Almost immediately, they started meeting and brainstorming about ways to contribute, and soon the student group “We Are … Helping Haiti @ Berks” was formed. Meanwhile, faculty members were looking for opportunities to incorporate these philanthropic efforts into the curriculum to broaden the students’ experience.

The student group was organized by junior Brittany Chiles, a Business major with a minor in Global Studies.

“I have a few very dear friends whose families are suffering from the catastrophic earthquake events in Haiti,” states Chiles. “This vicarious experience of tragedy, unrest, and urgency has moved me to create a community effort to help Haiti.”

The group got to work planning initiatives to support relief efforts, from “canning” on campus, to designing and selling Valentine’s Day cards, to holding fundraisers at local restaurants. To date, with the support of other student clubs, and faculty and staff members, the group has raised nearly $3,500.

Working with the college’s Intercultural Communication: Theory and Research class, the group organized three fundraising events at local restaurants, including On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Moe’s Southwest Grill, and Isaac’s Restaurant & Deli. Each restaurant donated a portion of the event sales to the college’s relief efforts.

According to Dr. Cheryl Nicholas, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences and class instructor, the restaurant events raised $434 for relief efforts.

“The students really wanted to get involved in this project as part of their civic responsibility as global citizens,” explains Nicholas.

While fundraising was the first challenge, determining which charitable organization to support was another. The students wanted to be sure that the funds would go to an organization that would send the highest percentage of each dollar directly to Haiti.

To that end, the college’s Contemporary Business Skills class, taught by James Laurie, Instructor in Business, began researching charitable organizations to determine which would best meet the criteria set forth by the student group.

Beginning with a list of University-approved organizations, the class broke into small groups, and each group researched and evaluated four organizations based on their mission statements, types of services rendered, allocation of funds, and financial data.

“I realized that many of the course objectives could be applied to the fundraising efforts, such as research, collaboration, and critical thinking,” Laurie explains. “The students researched thirteen charitable organizations to determine which ones would be the most appropriate recipient of funds raised by Penn State Berks.”

As a result of this class project, the students determined that Partners in Health was the organization that best met their criteria.

Dr. Michele Ramsey, Associate Professor of Communication Arts and Sciences and Women’s Studies and coordinator of the Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) degree program, serves as the group’s adviser.

“This effort is impressive because not only did the students start making plans immediately after hearing the news about the earthquake, but they were also determined to keep the issue of relief for Haiti in the minds of students long after the news cameras left the island,” states Ramsey.

“The effort also speaks to the compassion many of our students have for their fellow humans, their willingness to put the needs of others above their own, and their ability to understand that our country’s destiny is tied to the destiny of all other nations.”

We Are … Helping Haiti @ Berks plans to expand their mission to provide relief for other areas affected by natural disasters in the future.

For more information or to find out how to get involved, contact Dr. Michele Ramsey at 610-396-6148 or via e-mail at EMR10@psu.edu.
While Penn State Berks students headed to Miami over spring break, they didn’t go to enjoy fun in the sun; rather they spent their time volunteering at the Miami Rescue Mission, a combination homeless shelter, soup kitchen, and thrift store.

Organized by Pastor David Hershey, twenty-two student members of Penn State Berks Christian Student Fellowship (CSF) traveled to Miami accompanied by Police Services Officer Mark Groff, adviser to the group. The students joined Penn State students from University Park and DuBois campuses, as well as University of Pittsburgh students, on this week-long excursion from March 5–13.

Hershey has organized past student service trips to areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, and a variety of other places, including Miami, several years ago.

“I was excited about this year’s trip because it gave our students an opportunity to use a wide variety of skills,” explains Hershey.

While past service trips have focused on rebuilding, students were able to use other skills on the Miami trip and those who don’t know much about construction felt more involved, explains Hershey.

Club adviser Groff gives credit to the student volunteers.

“I thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the students. They are young adults who have compassion and a servant attitude toward helping others,” Groff states.

The students stayed in a church and traveled by bus to the mission, where they worked from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. However, they did manage to squeeze in some time for fun, taking a day trip to Key Largo National Park, visiting a Miccosukee Indian village, and taking an airboat ride in the Everglades.

“Every so often on the trip, I would feel like I was really making a difference in someone’s life,” states sophomore Nicholas Pinn, CSF president. “It felt good to have fellowship with my friends all the while doing good deeds.”

“For me, the CSF trip to Miami was very rewarding,” comments junior Erin Koller, CSF secretary. “Hearing the stories of the homeless people and how Miami Rescue Mission helped them get back on their feet was so inspiring. The week spent working with the mission went by so fast, but the lessons I learned will stay with me forever.”

Teach for America Recruits Two Berks Students

With a record 35,000 applicants and only 4,100 openings in the Teach for America program, it’s unlikely that two students from one campus would be accepted in the same year. However, Dillon Kenniston and Matthew Werner, both Penn State Berks seniors, beat the odds and will spend the next two years in the Teach For America program.

Kenniston is a Schreyer Scholar who will graduate with bachelor’s degrees in both Professional Writing and Communication Arts and Sciences, and Werner, currently studying abroad in Ireland, will graduate with a bachelor degree in Global Studies. Both expect to be assigned to urban Texas public schools.

Teach for America is an organization that recruits outstanding recent college graduates from all backgrounds and career interests to commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools with the aim of working to eliminate educational equality. The organization provides the training and ongoing support necessary to ensure their success as teachers in low-income communities.

When asked why he applied for the program, Kenniston explained, “The ideal ‘land of opportunity’ falls desperately short when children rise and fall in academic performance based largely on social conditions that extend far beyond their control. I wanted to join Teach For America because justice and fairness are not merely abstract ideas—they are concrete principles whose realization is my top priority.”

Werner recalls his inspiration to apply to the program, stating, “I had a desire to help the kids who needed my help the most. I grew up in a good community in central Pennsylvania. However, our rival school in the city had terrible graduation rates and low numbers of students going on to higher education. I decided to apply to Teach for America so that I can give students the hope, confidence, and knowledge they need to become great students and people.”
Women’s Basketball Captures North Eastern Athletic Conference Crown

By Kate L. Corcoran

The Penn State Berks Women’s Basketball Team made college history, earning its first berth into the NCAA D-III Tournament, which takes just sixty-four D-III teams in the country to play for a national championship, and capturing their first North Eastern Athletic Conference Championship (NEAC).

The beginning of the season found the women struggling to find their rhythm, going 2-5 before the winter break. The time off proved to be good for the Nittany Lions as they found their groove opening up 2010 with a six-game winning streak and a perfect 5-0 against fellow NEAC members. The women would drop just four games during the second half of the season, finishing with a record of 16-9 heading into the NEAC playoffs.

Penn State Berks entered the NEAC Tournament as the number three seed and had the home court advantage as the eight-team tournament was held at the college’s Beaver Community Center.

The women opened up the tournament with a 78-65 win over #6 St. Elizabeth led by senior Courtney Bailey and junior Jasmine Harris-Kane, who both recorded doubles on the night. Bailey finished with 29 points and 25 rebounds, while Harris-Kane contributed 19 points and 11 boards.

The Nittany Lions faced off against #2 SUNY Cobleskill in the NEAC Semi-Finals and pulled off a 64-48 upset to earn their second straight trip to the NEAC Championship game. Bailey again led the Nittany Lions with a game high 24 points and 16 rebounds, while Harris-Kane finished with 17 points, including the 1,000th of her career.

Berks would then face the #5 University of Dallas, who pulled off a 71-58 upset of reigning NEAC Champions and top-seeded Keuka College. The Nittany Lions jumped out to an early 24-3 lead and looked as if they would coast to their first NEAC Championship, but the University of Dallas had other plans.

The Crusaders fought back from the 21-point deficit to regain the lead 58-57 with 9:09 left in the game to set up the dramatic finish. The next three minutes saw five lead changes before Berks was able to push their lead back to eight points (74-66) with 1:35 remaining behind junior Steph Binder, who recorded five points and two blocks during the four minute span.

The University of Dallas looked to extend the game by putting Berks at the foul line, and Berks converted just 5-10 from the line, keeping the door open for a Crusaders comeback. Dallas again fouled, putting Binder at the line. Binder hit 1-2, giving Berks an 80-78 lead.

The Crusaders’ Kylie Yoshimura was fouled on a jumper from the right corner and went to the line with five seconds remaining and a chance to send the game into overtime. The Nittany Lions took a timeout to ice the shooter and the Crusaders never secured the ball as time expired, allowing the Nittany Lions to celebrate their first NEAC Championship and trip to the NCAA D-III Tournament.

Bailey was awarded the NEAC Tournament MVP as she finished the three-day tournament with 74 points, 55 rebounds, 4 steals, and 4 blocks. While Penn State Berks earned the Women’s Basketball program’s first berth into the NCAA D-III Tournament, the Nittany Lions had a tough draw being ranked 63rd in the field and matching up against the #2 team in NCAA D-III, Kean University. On March 5, the women traveled to Kean University in New Jersey and saw their historic season come to an end as they fell to Kean 105-68.

Bailey, Harris-Kane and Head Coach Tim Coleman were all honored by the North Eastern Athletic Conference following the season. Coleman took home Co-coach of the Year honors for the first time since joining the NEAC Conference. Coleman led the Women’s Basketball Team to a 19-10 overall record and the team’s first NEAC Women’s Basketball Championship.
Design Challenge Creates a Whirlwind of Learning

By Matt N. Kunkelman

The challenge: design, build, test, and present a solution to an engineering challenge. Participants don’t know what the challenge is before they arrive, can only use supplies from a bag of common household items, and have a mere two hours to complete the task.

Sounds like a challenge more fit for the 1980s TV character “MacGyver” than a group of high school students? Maybe so, but this is exactly what students from sixteen high schools across Pennsylvania were tasked with when they arrived at the 2010 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Design Challenge and learned they would be competing to build wind turbines. This year’s competition was held at the GoggleWorks in Reading.

PLTW is a national nonprofit organization that works in partnership with public middle and high schools to implement a curriculum that emphasizes hands-on experiences in engineering, design, and technology. The program aims to attract a diverse group of students to become the next generation of scientists, technology experts, engineers, and mathematicians.

Penn State Berks PLTW Affiliate Director Tom Weiss was in charge of coordinating the design challenge.

“Wind turbines were a natural choice for the challenge,” says Weiss. “The campus is so involved in green technology and alternative energy, as is much of the engineering industry, that building wind turbines was a relevant choice for these budding engineers.”

Students who are enrolled in the first two courses of the PLTW curriculum are eligible to compete in the design challenge.

After the frenzy of nearly eighty enthusiastic high school students–fervidly working to beat the clock–died down, each team was required to give a five-minute presentation. Winners were selected by a panel of engineers from Carpenter Technology.

The turbine designs and the teams’ presentations were judged against a rubric, and the voltage produced was measured in a “windy alley,” an area created by a row of box fans, by connecting the turbines to a voltmeter in front of a row of box fans. Most turbines produced enough energy to power a light bulb.

“Best Design” went to Perkiomen Valley High School, who credits their performance to experience, taking home the “Best Teamwork” award last year.

“Four out of five of us came back from last year’s challenge,” says senior Nick Fisher. “That gave us an edge.”

Winning “Best Overall Solution” was Hempfield High School. “Although we didn’t produce the highest voltage, we were able to communicate our ideas in the presentation, so the judges were able to understand what we did,” says Hempfield sophomore Patrick French.

The team also employed curved turbine blades that scooped the air rather than cutting through it, increasing the design’s efficiency.

Penn State Berks co-sponsored the design challenge with KidWind, a company dedicated to wind energy science education. KidWind provided the necessary mechanical parts for the turbines, including motors and crimping hubs, as well as turbine kits and t-shirts that were awarded to the high schools.

KidWind founder/director and former science and technology teacher Michael Arquin says he started the KidWind project in response to a lack of tools available to teach about wind energy.

“There’s a lot of physics and engineering involved in these things,” explains Arquin. “I can build a turbine in a kindergarten class, then take that same turbine into a college classroom and both groups will be able to learn from it.”

“This event gives students a chance to use the skills they’re learning in their foundation courses to solve a real-life problem,” states Weiss. “Many schools concentrate on athletic competition; this gives academic students a chance for interscholastic competition.”

Eric Byrne, Mechanical Labs Supervisor at Penn State Berks, adds, “The neat thing about this competition is that each group is given the same materials, and no two designs will be the same. Seeing the creativity of these young minds out of such a simple task is amazing.”

“Being involved in Project Lead the Way is part of being true to the original mission of the Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute,” states Walt Fullam, Director of Continuing Education. “Berks was created out of an engineering institution, and this campus is still dedicated to making sure there is a strong pool of future engineers.”
William I. Wenrich, Jr., Lewis E. Schoener, George J. Kostival, James E. Koller, In Memorium

On March 24, 2009, Andrew R. Marker, B.S. in Finance, was recently promoted to Vice President at National Penn Bank. He resides in Sinking Spring.

Andrea L. (Chaposky) Tinsley, Associate Degree in Occupational Therapy, works for Penn State Counseling and Psychiatric Services. She married Carl Preston Tinsley, Jr. on October 24, 2009. They reside in State College.

On March 9, 2010, Vincent A. Iannucci, 82, passed away of WPI alumni group.

Born and raised in Pennsylvania, he was a U.S. Navy veteran serving during World War II. He graduated from Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute in 1950 and completed his apprenticeship program in 1952 as a draftsman in the engineering department of the Textile Machine Works.

Iannucci never forgot his roots in WPI, and he was one of the founding members of the WPI alumni group, which continues to meet today. He was also instrumental in compiling information for the Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute, 1927-1958: Book of Years: Graduates 1929-1960.

In 1975, he was promoted to Chief Engineer for the Braiding/Winding Division of Rockwell International, retiring in 1988.

He also attended the Pennsylvania State University, North Carolina State University School of Textiles, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During his career, he was awarded twenty-five U.S. patents, most of which were also filed in foreign countries, amounting to approximately 150 foreign patents. The patents covered the fields of automatic telephone dialers, dispensing machines, packaging machines, yarn texturing, automatic yarn winding machines, heavy industrial machines, bobbin winding machines, braiding machines, and spiral winding machines.

He was also responsible for the development and commercialization of eleven new products for Textile Machine Works/Rockwell International.

Iannucci was a charter board member of the Berks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania State Police as an Accreditation Manager.

His wife, Mary (Skias) Iannucci, passed away in 1992.

Scutt is survived by his wife, Leena, son Hagen, daughter Kirsti Scutt Edwards, and four grandchildren.

James M. Watts, B.S. in Crime, Law, and Justice, works for Prudential Financial and resides in Wyomissing, PA.

On March 14, 2010, Mary Ann Watts, B.A. in Professional Writing, is part of the exhibition Black Women of Berks, inside the Women's History Museum at the GoggleWorks. The exhibit showcases the biographies and artwork of local black women and runs through August 2010. Watts earned her second bachelor’s degree from Penn State Berks at the age of 80. She is a retired elementary school teacher and she served on the Bermville borough council from 1977 to 2003. (Photo by Tim Leedy, Reading Eagle)
Alumni Reunion and Football Tailgate
One date, one location—two great Penn State events!

Date: October 23, 2010
Location: Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel

Socialize with former classmates during the third annual Penn State Berks alumni reunion and then join local alumni to watch the Penn State vs. Iowa game.

Alumni Reunion:

Time: 2 hours prior to kick-off
Cost: $10 per person

Attendees can make their own fruit smoothie and dress their own soft pretzels. The fruit smoothie station will contain fresh berries, bananas, melon, crushed ice, and low-fat yogurt. At the pretzel station, you can top your warm unsalted soft pretzel with an assortment of mustards, chocolate, caramel sauce, cinnamon, and sugar. Penn State Creamery ice cream, grilled stickies, and a cash bar will also be available.

Open to all Penn State Berks alumni and Penn State alumni who attended Berks campus, as well as their families and friends. There will be games and the indoor swimming pool will be available. In addition, there will be door prizes and trivia questions. Join us for a fun time for the whole family!

Penn State vs. Minnesota Football Tailgate:

Tailgate Time: Doors open one hour before kickoff
Tailgate Cost: $3 per person; children under 12, FREE

Tailgate refreshments will include hot hors d’oeuvres and a fruit-and-cheese tray donated by the Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel. Penn State grilled stickies and Creamery ice cream will also be available. Drink specials (non-alcoholic and alcoholic) and bar menu items will be available for purchase.

*Bring your Penn State Alumni Association member card to receive discounts on beer.

Attendees must RSVP by calling the Alumni Office at 610-394-6052 or via e-mail at berks-alumni@psu.edu.