Bachelor’s Degree in Professional Writing

The Bachelor of Arts in Professional Writing degree program is intended to prepare students to write effectively in a variety of workplace and academic settings. Courses in Professional Writing balance practical skills and theory, giving graduates the knowledge and problem-solving skills they will need beyond the classroom.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Christian Weisser at 610-396-6416 or crw17@psu.edu

Bachelor’s Degree in American Studies

The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies degree program is an interdisciplinary program that offers students a liberal arts education focused on the American experience. A degree in American Studies provides students with skills in communication, independent thinking, and research—skills that are highly valued in a variety of careers including business, law, education, and communications.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Michelle Mart at 610-396-6180 or mam20@psu.edu
Dr. Ray Mazurek at 610-396-6176 or ram2@psu.edu

For more information, contact:
Penn State Berks
PO Box 7009
Reading, PA 19610-6009
berks.psu.edu


T he tragic and miraculous experiences we tend to remember clearly, but it is important to focus on some of those more mundane experiences that have perhaps had more profound impacts on our lives. Perhaps one of my most recent life-changing events came this past Mother’s Day when my daughter sent me a ceramic picture frame. That in and of itself would be unremarkable, but what was painted on the frame and the image within the frame has most definitely made a difference for me. You see, the frame had the words “I Love My Grandma” painted on it and the image was a songtress. This was my daughter’s way of telling me she and her husband were expecting their first grandchild. Clearly my life will be affected permanently by this one little life-changing event.

My decision as to where I wanted to go to college equally falls into the category of being one of those life-changing events that really has made all the difference for my career. While it was not Penn State, it was another land-grant school. I hope as you reflect on your experiences at this land-grant school, you will realize that Penn State has lived up to its tag line of “Making Life Better.” When you selected Penn State and Penn State Berks, you were able to lay a foundation for a successful future.

This fall we will be concluding our year-long celebration of Penn State Berks and our commitment to making life better not only for our students, but also for our faculty, staff, and the broader community. Here’s to the next fifty years of providing life-changing experiences and being able to say, “We Are…”

---

**Class Notes Response Form**

In an effort to help alumni stay connected to the University and other alumni, we encourage you to complete this brief form.

- **Whether you spent one semester or all four years at Penn State Berks, or if you are a Penn State graduate living in the Greater Reading area, we are interested in knowing where you are and what you are doing.**

- **Address**
  - City
  - State
  - Zip

- **Phone (day)**
  - Number

- **Pass of Employment Title**

- **Address**
  - City
  - State
  - Zip

- **Special News (degrees earned at other colleges/universities, awards, children, etc.)**

- **Return this form (with photos) to Ryan Savoie, Penn State Berks, PO Box 7009, Reading, PA 19610-6009; or send information via e-mail to rs212@psu.edu or visit our Web site: berks.psu.edu/classnotes.htm.**

---

**Penn State Berks Alumni Society**
**Berkey Creamery Ice Cream Sale**

**Thursday, November 13, 2008**

**Proceeds to benefit the Penn State Berks Alumni Scholarship Fund.**

**Name**

- Address:________ State:________ Zip:________

- Phone:________ E-mail:________

- Flavor (sold by the half gallon)
  - Bittersweet Mint $6.50
  - Butter Pecan $6.50
  - Chocoholic $6.50
  - Coconut Chip Douglas $6.50
  - Cookies & Cream $6.50
  - Espresso Fudge $6.50
  - Sugar Plum $6.50
  - Peanut Butter Swirl $6.50
  - Pina Colada $6.50
  - Strawberry $6.50
  - Vanilla $6.50
  - WIPX Coffee $6.50

- Total $________

- All orders are due by Monday, October 27, 2008.

- On orders will be available for pickup in the parking lot behind the Janssen Conference Center from 5:00–6:00 p.m. on November 13, 2008.

- Un fortunately, ice cream that is not picked up that evening cannot be held and is non-refundable, no exceptions.

Please contact Dick Diehm at 610-683-5277 or via e-mail to dtiehm1@psu.edu if you have any questions.
BERKS ALUMNI 2008–2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 10, 2008–50th Anniversary Celebration, open to the community, featuring fun, food, and festivities, including remarks from Penn State President Graham Spanier, hot air balloon rides, “Berks Bits” 50th ice cream and birthday cake, 50th postage cancellation stamps, and much, much more! Program begins at 1:00 p.m., outside Perkins Student Center, FREE.

September 12–October 16, 2008–Art Exhibition: Chip Kidd: By Its Cover, Reception: Sept. 12, 6:00 p.m., Freyberger Gallery. Penn State alumni Chip Kidd, graphic artist and author of two novels and an anthology of his own work, who is often called the “rock star of book design,” will showcase his work.

September 12–October 16, 2008–Art Exhibition: Jann Jakovitz Revival Tour, spoken-word theater experience combining the cast of Buddy Wakefield, Derrick Brown, Ante Majgen, and Cezar O’Keefe Aptomzow, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.

September 15, 2008–Alumni Reunion Luncheon: 12:00–2:30 p.m., Penn State Room, Perkins Student Center. (See ad on page 2 for more information)

September 16–Junkyard Warhol: The Unfairness That is Revealed in Paulo Coelho’s The Alchemist, discusses humanity’s bestseller, published by Cleo House, Jr., deals with the issues of love, paranoia, and government conspiracy. 8:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium. Professor of biology at Brown University, Miller is one of America’s foremost experts on evolution and intelligent design and author of Finding Darwin’s God, an international bestseller.

September 29, 2008–Lecture: Joaquin Zanatta, poet and award-winning spoken-word artist who has appeared on HBO Old Poets Jazz, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.

October 3–5, 2008–Parent’s and Family Weekend, featuring 50th anniversary theme. For more information or to register, contact Campus Life, 610-396-6076.

October 4, 2008–Alumni Reunion Luncheon: 12:00–2:30 p.m., Penn State Room, Perkins Student Center. (See ad on page 2 for more information)

October 6, 2008–Lecture: Patrick Combs: The Alchemist Applied to Real Life, 7:30 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium. Combs gives a presentation illustrating how real life often adheres closely to the mystical truths that are revealed in Paulo Coelho’s international best-seller, The Alchemist.

October 9, 2008–Carlo Roboto, spoken-word artist, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.

October 14, 2008–Alumni Society Bingo Night for students, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room. Contact Wendy Kickos, 610-683-6100.

November 1, 2008–VPI Art Exhibition: For the Love of Styles and Spouses, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., Inn at Reading. Cost: $24 per person, tickets are not included. Contact Ryan Sivits, 610-966-6057, rs212@psu.edu.

November 6–December 18, 2008–Art Exhibition: Der Speer: Cityscape, Reception: Nov. 6, 6:00 p.m., Freyberger Gallery. VPI alumni Der Scutt, arguably one of the most prestigious architects in the country, showcases his architectural drawings, projects, models, and more.

November 8, 2008–Lecture: Kenneth Miller: Evolution and Intelligent Design, 7:30 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium. Professor of biology at Brown University, Miller is one of America’s foremost experts on evolution and intelligent design and author of Finding Darwin’s God, an international bestseller.

November 13, 2008–Alumni Society Ice Cream Yale, Pick-up by Clare House, Jr., deals with the issues of love, paranoia, and government conspiracy. 8:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium. For more information or to order tickets, call the Box Office at 610-396-6371.

December 3, 2008–Lecture: Peter von Puttkamer: Weird Science and Monster Hunters, 7:30 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium.

December 6, 2008–Alumni Society New York City Bus Trip. Bus departs at 8:00 a.m. from Franco Building parking lot. Cost: $33 per person. Checks made payable to Penn State Berks Alumni Society and mailed to Gretchen Mannmiller, 501 Walnut Tree Drive, Blairstown, PA 19510. RSVP by Monday, October 22 to Mannmiller, 610-507-5449, gmannmiller@verizon.net.

December 9, 2008–VPI Holiday Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

January 26, 2009–Cultural Event: Tai Yim’s Lion Dance, a spectacle of sights and sounds, 7:30 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium.

January 28, 2009– Lecture: Alan Weisman, author of the New York Times bestseller The World Without Us, discusses humanity’s true impact on the environment, 7:30 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium.

Penn State alumni events are open to all Penn State alumni and friends of the College. For more information or to RSVP to any of these events, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 610-396-6057, e-mail rs212@psu.edu, or visit berks.psu.edu/alumni.

Alumni Event Refund Policy

If you cancel your paid reservation for any event hosted by the Penn State Berks Office of Alumni Relations, Penn State Berks Alumni Society, or the Penn State Berks Blue & White Society, please note our refund policy:

Cancellation Notice: Refund Amount

- More than 41 days prior to event date: 100%
- 41 days to 21 days prior to event date: 50%
- Less than 21 days prior to event date: None

All refunds will be processed after the date of the event.

December 4, 2008–Lun & Sista Sighting, 6:30 p.m., Janssen Conference Center. Cost: $3 per child. Contact Ryan Sivits, 610-396-6057, rs212@psu.edu.
Ingham Family Donates early-1900 Slide Rule

by Ryan C. Szivos

Russ Ingham devoted much of his life to engineering, so when he passed away, it seemed only logical to his family to donate one of his favorite tools to the place where his love of engineering was born.

That’s why Craig Ingham ’70, William R. Ingham ’78, and Susan Ingham Martin ’68 decided that donating their father’s early-1900 Thacher Calculating Instrument to Penn State Berks would be the perfect way to help continue their father’s legacy.

The eighteen-inch-long, wooden slide rule—developed in 1881 by Englishman Edwin Thacher—was designed to do much more than measure inches and draw straight lines. In fact, with just a simple turn of the device’s dials, the cylindrical rule is capable of calculating nearly anything you want, explains Craig Ingham.

“Don’t confuse this slide rule with the same plastic tool you grew accustomed to in grade school,” warns Craig Ingham. “Whether it’s determining investment time this was a valuable asset to a variety of professions.”

However, the instrument, which is covered by hand-inked numbers, is not an easy tool to learn to use. Because of its capacity to calculate so much, one could spend days reviewing it and still not crack the surface of what it has to offer. Craig Ingham attributes his father’s initial interest in the instrument to its mathematical and mechanical complexity.

He remembers when his father acquired the slide rule.

“Our father was working toward a degree at Penn State and took a moving job to help make extra money,” recalls Craig Ingham. “One day, he had a job at the home of a Penn State professor. Dad saw the slide rule sitting on the mantel place and couldn’t keep his eyes off of it. My father always had a passion for anything mechanical and was instantly engaged by the intricacy of the instrument. Eventually, the professor noticed his interest and asked Dad if he wanted it. He gladly accepted. It was a tremendous gift to my father.”

“Soon the slide rule was on our mantel place at home,” says Craig Ingham. “Dad would bring it down when he had extra time and spend an afternoon studying the numbers to figure out whatever calculations he could.”

Years later, Russ Ingham, a Class of ’41 WPI graduate and ’51 Penn State alumnus, became an instructor for WPI and later Penn State Berks, teaching introductory electrical engineering for a combined twenty-six years. His connection to Penn State Berks deepened when he and his late wife, Charlotte, donated $250,000 to the Penn State Berks’ Information Commons Capital Campaign.

Although the slide rule has resided with the Ingham family for approximately sixty years, it now has a new home at Penn State Berks. The Thacher Calculating Instrument will be both on display and used as a hands-on tool to educate students.

“The Ingham family hopes that the gift can expose a new generation of students to the same enjoyment their father received from deciphering all that the slide rule has to offer. “We want students to be able to learn from it and get a chance to use it. Our father loved to educate students. We hope to continue his tradition with this gift.”

Penn State Berks and Carpenter Technology Team Up To Improve Science Education

Penn State Berks and Wyoming-based specialty materials manufacturer Carpenter Technology Corp. are partnering to help improve science education in the Reading School District. Carpenter has committed $100,000 for the first year of a three-year initiative. The school district’s fourteen elementary schools will be divided into three groups, with one group targeted for improvement each year. The plan’s objectives include revising the districts written course of study in science for grades K-5 to match Pennsylvania’s academic standards; keeping teachers and administrators better informed about national and state education standards; providing professional development to teachers and administrators so they can effectively use the standards to guide instruction; acquiring hands-on science materials to match curricular goals in a multicultural learning environment; offering graduate-level courses and workshops in science education, and holding science camps to promote learning in science.

In addition to Carpenter’s financial support, Carpenter employees will participate through mentoring and volunteerism. Penn State will provide leadership for the initiative.

“It is critical to provide a strong foundation for learning science during the elementary school years, so that children are motivated to achieve in the areas of science, math, and English early on,” Penn State Berks Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece said.

The plan’s objectives include revising the districts written course of study in science for grades K-5 to match Pennsylvania’s academic standards; keeping teachers and administrators better informed about national and state education standards; providing professional development to teachers and administrators so they can effectively use the standards to guide instruction; acquiring hands-on science materials to match curricular goals in a multicultural learning environment; offering graduate-level courses and workshops in science education, and holding science camps to promote learning in science.

To improve science education, the Reading School District, along with Carpenter Technology Corporation, is launching a multi-year initiative to improve science instruction in elementary schools.

The initiative, called “Penn State Berks and Carpenter Technology Team Up To Improve Science Education,” will provide funding to the Reading School District to support the development of a two-year, elementary science initiative that will focus on increasing student achievement in science. The initiative will be divided into three phases, with one group targeted for improvement each year. The plan’s objectives include revising the districts written course of study in science for grades K-5 to match Pennsylvania’s academic standards; keeping teachers and administrators better informed about national and state education standards; providing professional development to teachers and administrators so they can effectively use the standards to guide instruction; acquiring hands-on science materials to match curricular goals in a multicultural learning environment; offering graduate-level courses and workshops in science education, and holding science camps to promote learning in science.

In addition to Carpenter’s financial support, Carpenter employees will participate through mentoring and volunteerism. Penn State will provide leadership for the initiative.

Penn State Berks Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece said, “It is critical to provide a strong foundation for learning science during the elementary school years, so that children are motivated to achieve in the areas of science, math, and English early on.”

The plan’s objectives include revising the districts written course of study in science for grades K-5 to match Pennsylvania’s academic standards; keeping teachers and administrators better informed about national and state education standards; providing professional development to teachers and administrators so they can effectively use the standards to guide instruction; acquiring hands-on science materials to match curricular goals in a multicultural learning environment; offering graduate-level courses and workshops in science education, and holding science camps to promote learning in science.

Development and Alumni Relations Welcomes New Members

by Matt N. Kunkelman

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations recently welcomed three new members: Lauren Herb, Assistant Director of Development; Laura Harak, Development Assistant; and Ryan Szivos, Alumni Relations Assistant.

As Assistant Director of Development, Lauren Herb is responsible for raising funds for scholarships and reconnecting Berks alumni with the campus. She credits her upbringing how they can give back,” she comments. In her role as Development Assistant, Lauren conducts research to identify and cultivate alumni and other donors in support of the campus’ fundraising goals. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Exeter with their three sons.

For the past eight years, Laura Harak, Development Assistant, has dedicated herself to meeting the personal connections that are a vital resource for the college. She joined Penn State Berks in 2000 in the Dean’s Office. She also worked in University and Alumni Relations before joining Development. “Working in Alumni Relations, I was able to plan events that got alumni back in touch with their alma mater. Now I have the opportunity to show them how they can give back,” she comments. In her role as Development Assistant, Laura conducts research to identify and cultivate alumni and other donors in support of the campus’ fundraising goals. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Exeter with their three sons.

Ryan Szivos joined the department as the new Alumni Relations Assistant. In this position, he is responsible for assisting in the daily operations of the department and the planning and organizing of alumni events.

For the past eight years, Laura Harak, Development Assistant, has dedicated herself to meeting the personal connections that are a vital resource for the college. She joined Penn State Berks in 2000 in the Dean’s Office. She also worked in University and Alumni Relations before joining Development. “Working in Alumni Relations, I was able to plan events that got alumni back in touch with their alma mater. Now I have the opportunity to show them how they can give back,” she comments. In her role as Development Assistant, Laura conducts research to identify and cultivate alumni and other donors in support of the campus’ fundraising goals. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Exeter with their three sons.

Development and Alumni Relations Welcomes New Members

by Matt N. Kunkelman

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations recently welcomed three new members: Lauren Herb, Assistant Director of Development; Laura Harak, Development Assistant; and Ryan Szivos, Alumni Relations Assistant.

Development and Alumni Relations Welcomes New Members

by Matt N. Kunkelman

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations recently welcomed three new members: Lauren Herb, Assistant Director of Development; Laura Harak, Development Assistant; and Ryan Szivos, Alumni Relations Assistant.
Informative Lectures and Provocative Arts Scheduled for Fall Semester

Lecture Series

Patrick Combs, The Alchemist Applied to Real Life Thursday, September 25 7:30 p.m.

Lecture Venues: Perkins Student Center Auditorium

The Alchemist, an internationa bestseller which inspired the Coehlo, is hailed by millions as a life-changing tale. It tells the story of a shepherd boy who dreams of seeing a star in the Egyptian pyramids and leaves his homeland to follow his dream. In this presentation, inspirational speaker Patrick Combs asks how the messages of The Alchemist apply to real life since the book is just as relevant today as it was when it was written. He explores how real life often adheres closely to the mystical truths that are taught in Coehlo’s book. Join journey. Life experiences as a businessperson and professor, Combs brings the messages of The Alchemist to life.

Keneth Miller, Evolution and Intelligent Design Wednesday, December 3 7:30 p.m.

In recent years the debate between science and religion seems to have become more intense. Kenneth Miller, a professor of biology at Brown University and one of America’s foremost experts on evolution and intelligent design, is the author of the book “Why We Can’t Accept Evolution: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution.” Join this international bestseller and join him as he explores intelligent design and the evolution paradigm.

Javon Johnson, Junkyard Ghost Revival Tour Thursday, October 16 7:30 p.m.

Junkyard Ghost is a spoken-word theater experience like no other, combining the natural and world-musichemistry of Bud Wyckoff and Alexandra Garrioch with the spoken aspirations of Javon Johnson. Featuring an inspiring vocal cross-section of the world’s top performance poets, gathered together for one month, traveling cross-country as four layers of loving aimed at charging the hearts and uplifting the souls of young people. The junkyard ghost is an inspiring and moving event that has been heralded as the liveliest spoken-word experience in America.

Cultural Events

Music and Entertainment

Javon Johnson, Junkyard Ghost Revival Tour Thursday, October 16 7:30 p.m.

Junkyard Ghost is a spoken-word theater experience like no other, combining the natural and world-musichemistry of Bud Wyckoff and Alexandra Garrioch with the spoken aspirations of Javon Johnson. Featuring an inspiring vocal cross-section of the world’s top performance poets, gathered together for one month, traveling cross-country as four layers of loving aimed at charging the hearts and uplifting the souls of young people. The junkyard ghost is an inspiring and moving event that has been heralded as the liveliest spoken-word experience in America.

Taylor Mali, The World Without Us Monday, September 29 7:30 p.m.

A noted expert on campaign finance and election law scholar, Spencer Overton. A lawyer and law professor at George Washington University Law School, he is a noted expert on campaign finance and election law, voting rights law and the author of Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression. In this timely presentation, Overton articulates new ideas for enriching American democracy.

Joaquin Zihuatanejo Monday, September 29 7:30 p.m.

Born and raised in the barrio of Dallas, Texas, John Leguizamo is a New York Times Best Seller, an Emmy award-winning actor, spoken word artist, and the only human whose work strives to capture the duality of the Chicano culture. His honors include Amnesty International Poetry Slam Champ, Austin International Poetry Festival Slam Champ, National Poetry Slam Silver Medalist. Critica call him “one of the most dynamic and passionate poets in the country.” Always ahead of the curve, Joaquin’s hilarious main presentation is full of compassion and passion. His socially conscious rhymes, earning a big smile and leading many to call his poetry slam’s answer to John Leguizamo.

Jaxon Johnson, Evolution and Intelligent Design Wednesday, December 3 7:30 p.m.

It has been more than eighty years since the Scopes Monkey Trial, but the debate between science and religion still goes on today. In 2005, the case against the Dover, PA school board’s attempt to teach “intelligent design” in science classes made national headlines. The lead witness was Kenneth Miller, a professor of biology at Brown University and one of America’s foremost experts on evolution and intelligent design, the author of the book “Why We Can’t Accept Evolution: A Scientist’s Search for Common Ground Between God and Evolution.” Join this international bestseller and join him as he explores intelligent design and the evolution paradigm.

Spencer Overton, Stealing Democracy Wednesday, January 21 7:30 p.m.

Voters don’t choose politicians. Politicians choose voters by manipulating election rules. At least that’s the opinion of a leading election law scholar, Spencer Overton. A lawyer and law professor at George Washington University Law School, he is a noted expert on campaign finance and election law, voting rights law and the author of Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression. In this timely presentation, Overton articulates new ideas for enriching American democracy.

Peter von Puttkamer, Weird Science and Monster Hunters Wednesday, November 19 7:30 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed producer/director Peter von Puttkamer presents real-life evidence of the world to meet and film the world’s weirdest inventors and the strangest “sci-fi” science. Peter von Puttkamer takes audiences on a journey with ordinary people on an extraordinary search to find the strangest channel. National Geographic, Geographic Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and the History Channel have all produced major documentaries focused on the book, and 20th Century Fox has purchased the film rights to produce a major motion picture. In this presentation, von Puttkamer takes us on a visual journey through his twenty years of research, showing us the real-life adventures of the most famous and unusual inventors, including a display of Kidd’s sparkling brilliance, including books, book jackets, posters, and more.

Carolos Robos, The World Without Us Thursday, November 9 9:00 p.m.

In one of the most audacious thought experiments of our time, Without Us, Weisman’s phenomenal New York Times bestseller, shows us humanity’s true impact on the environment in a wholly original way, and challenges each of us to imagine our world—and our place within it. The strange channel, National Geographic, and Science News say that does not, such as blood-sucking alien varenges, Sasquatchs, and Jersey Devil, sea serpents, and giant tarantula spiders. Audience members feel like they are traveling with teams of monster hunters, documenting their chase and the legends that precede them.

An Alisman, The World Without Us Thursday, January 28 7:30 p.m.

An Alisman imagines what might happen to the Earth if humans vanished. The World Without Us, Weisman’s phenomenal New York Times bestseller, shows us humanity’s true impact on the environment in a wholly original way, and challenges each of us to imagine our world—and our place within it. The strange channel, National Geographic, and Science News say that does not, such as blood-sucking alien varenges, Sasquatchs, and Jersey Devil, sea serpents, and giant tarantula spiders. Audience members feel like they are traveling with teams of monster hunters, documenting their chase and the legends that precede them.

For more information on the Cultural Events and Lecture Series events, please contact 610-397-5676 or jcg@psu.edu.
Featuring 50 Alumni for 50 Years

In honor of Penn State Berks’ fiftieth anniversary in 2008, the BLUE & WHITE will feature 50 alumni over the course of several upcoming issues. Although these proud Penn Staters work in a variety of different fields, they all share one thing in common: they graduated from or attended Penn State Berks at one time.

If you would like to be included in our “50 Alumni for 50 Years,” please send us your information (full name including maiden name, graduation year, major, current position, employer, and your favorite memory of your time at Penn State Berks) along with a high quality photo. If the photo includes other people, please include names. Photos will be returned with self-addressed stamped envelopes. Information can be mailed to Heather L. Angstadt, Office of Alumni Relations, Penn State Berks, PO Box 7009, Reading PA 19610-6009, or submitted via e-mail to hla2@psu.edu. We regret that we may not be able to include all entries in the magazine.

Matthew F. Harley, Sr., 1995, Criminal Justice, Police Officer, Exeter Township

“I remember...
"My most memorable time was being on the ’91–’92 Berks basketball team under Coach Zerby. That year, we won the conference and Berks provided a great opportunity for me.


“I remember...
“My memories of Berks consist of friendships developed with fellow students and faculty.”

Merlin Dunkelberger, 1977, Accounting, CPA and Tax Partner, Beard Miller Co.

“I remember...
“I started at the current Berks campus location in September of 1973. I met lifelong friends and Berks provided a great background for the transition to University Park. I am extremely proud of my Penn State degree, glad I have been able to give back to the campus by serving in numerous volunteer capacities, and thrilled that our only child is a student at Penn State.”

Dick Diehm, 1980, Liberal Arts, Director of Special Projects, Borough of Kutztown

“I remember...
“My most memorable moment at Penn State Berks was playing the role of ‘John Proctor’ in the play The Crucible, directed by Betty Lou McClean. I thought it was a wonderful opportunity and an experience that I will never forget.”

Pete Prutzman, 1977, Hotel and Food, Vice President, Kingwood Forestry Services, Inc.

“I remember...
“The opportunity to become involved in campus activities with other enthusiastic students.”

John J. Walker III, 1991, Health & Human Development, Director of Housing and Food Services, Penn State Berks

“I remember...
“One of my fondest memories has to be Dr. Jim Bardi. He always took the time to get to know you as a person and he is committed to helping each and every student who crosses his path. I not only learned about the field of hospitality, but Dr. Bardi taught us life lessons that I carry with me every day. He is a true teacher in every sense of the word.”

Emily Damasceno, 1999, Spanish, Fraud Analyst, EDS/Wedgewood (pictured in back row, second from right)

“I remember...
“My experience at Berks was wonderful. The faculty, staff, and advisors were really neat people. They were friendly, easy to talk to, and very involved in the daily activities on campus. The campus was a great transition between high school and main campus and gave me a good foundation for the second half of my education.”

Emily Damasceno, 1999, Spanish, Fraud Analyst, EDS/Wedgewood (pictured in back row, second from right)

Andy DiNunzio, 1994, Public Policy, Staff of Senator Mike Folmer

“I remember...
“It is now seventeen years since I was a student at Berks, but I still love the campus and wouldn’t trade my years there for anything. I can only hope that many of the students there now realize how short the time can be and enjoy it.”

Dennis Mays, 1979, Finance, Financial Officer, Penn State University—Berks and Lehigh Valley campus

“I remember...
“When I was a student, there were two buildings: Laurerssen and Perkins. The Bookstore was located in what is now the Lion’s Den.”


“I remember...
“It was the second trimester of the ’81–’82 school year. Dr. Miller asked us on the first day to get together with someone we didn’t know, find out about him, and introduce him to the class. A handsome young man, clad in jeans, flannel shirt, and work boots came over to me and said ‘I want to get to know you.’ Theodore Wickert Jr. ’85 (pictured above) and I have been married ever since.”

John Angstadt, 1969, Drafting Design Tech, [Retired] Engineering Section Head, Procter and Gamble Co. (pictured second row from bottom, far right)

“I remember...
“My best memories of Berks will always be the people I met, from my classmates to the professors/instructors and others on the staff. We shared a unique experience at the old campus. I grew both intellectually and emotionally in those two years. It was a great education that took me places I never imagined.”

Emily Damasceno, 1999, Spanish, Fraud Analyst, EDS/Wedgewood (pictured in back row, second from right)

“I remember...
“My memories of Berks consist of friendships developed with fellow students and faculty.”

John Angstadt, 1969, Drafting Design Tech, [Retired] Engineering Section Head, Procter and Gamble Co. (pictured second row from bottom, far right)

“I remember...
“My best memories of Berks will always be the people I met, from my classmates to the professors/instructors and others on the staff. We shared a unique experience at the old campus. I grew both intellectually and emotionally in those two years. It was a great education that took me places I never imagined.”

Andy DiNunzio, 1994, Public Policy, Staff of Senator Mike Folmer

“I remember...
“It is now seventeen years since I was a student at Berks, but I still love the campus and wouldn’t trade my years there for anything. I can only hope that many of the students there now realize how short the time can be and enjoy it.”

Dennis Mays, 1979, Finance, Financial Officer, Penn State University—Berks and Lehigh Valley campus

“I remember...
“When I was a student, there were two buildings: Laurerssen and Perkins. The Bookstore was located in what is now the Lion’s Den.”


“I remember...
“It was the second trimester of the ’81–’82 school year. Dr. Miller asked us on the first day to get together with someone we didn’t know, find out about him, and introduce him to the class. A handsome young man, clad in jeans, flannel shirt, and work boots came over to me and said ‘I want to get to know you.’ Theodore Wickert Jr. ’85 (pictured above) and I have been married ever since.”

John Angstadt, 1969, Drafting Design Tech, [Retired] Engineering Section Head, Procter and Gamble Co. (pictured second row from bottom, far right)

“I remember...
“My best memories of Berks will always be the people I met, from my classmates to the professors/instructors and others on the staff. We shared a unique experience at the old campus. I grew both intellectually and emotionally in those two years. It was a great education that took me places I never imagined.”

Emily Damasceno, 1999, Spanish, Fraud Analyst, EDS/Wedgewood (pictured in back row, second from right)

“I remember...
“My experience at Berks was wonderful. The faculty, staff, and advisors were really neat people. They were friendly, easy to talk to, and very involved in the daily activities on campus. The campus was a great transition between high school and main campus and gave me a good foundation for the second half of my education.”
Advisory Board Members Help College Reach Goals

Interview with Keith Ordemann, President and CEO, Yuasa Battery, Inc. —by Lisa R. Weidman

Ever since the first Penn State Berks Advisory Board formed in 1959, it has played a significant role in helping the college to achieve its goals through connections with the community. In this ongoing series of interviews with board members, Keith Ordemann, Chairman of the Advisory Board and President and Chief Executive Officer of Yuasa Battery, discusses his vision for the future of Penn State Berks.

For Keith Ordemann, it was his interest in linking Penn State Berks to the community that steered him to join the Advisory Board four years ago and assume the role of chairman this year.

“I want to get back to the basics,” Ordemann explains. “It’s important to have institutions like Penn State Berks offering the ‘stem courses’—science, technology, engineering, and math—that are needed by the community to keep Berks County competitive.”

As President and CEO of Yuasa Battery, an international company headquartered in Japan, Ordemann knows what it takes to compete in today’s global marketplace. He joined Yuasa as Chief Financial Officer in 2001 and was named President and Chief Operating Officer in 2002. The title of Chief Executive Officer was added in 2003.

In addition to his professional ventures, Ordemann also serves as director of the boards of several nonprofit organizations, including Berks Economic Partnership, Berks County Capital Campaign Review Board, and the Greater Berks Development Fund. He chairs not only the Penn State Berks Advisory Board, but also the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and Industry Board and the YMCA of Berks County’s Capital Campaign Committee.

“There’s a synergistic need for key curriculum,” explains Ordemann. “I believe if we can link businesses that have needs with research and internships, we can keep graduates in Berks County.”

Ordemann graduated summa cum laude from Muhlenberg College with a B.A. in economics and soon became a Certified Public Accountant. He began his career at Ernst & Young in Reading in 1976 and later was named a partner and director of their tax department.

He founded Berkshire Consulting in 1994, where he concentrated on strategic restructuring, and business reorganization services.

Ordemann and his wife, Louise, reside in Mohnton. They have two adult children: one is attending Temple Medical School and the other is a broker in Charlotte, North Carolina.
College Helps Develop Future Leaders at Camp Neidig

—by Lisa R. Wiedeman and Matt N. Kuntzelman

I
t’s a hot summer afternoon in June and approximately 135 high school students are gathered in a large meet-
ing room—not for a graduation celebration or a summer
party—but to listen to Penn State Berks Chancellor Susan
Phillips Speece talk to them about leadership. While you might expect this group to become tired and
restless after a long day of group workshops and exercises, they are attentive—actually captivated—as Speece talks about her own leadership experiences at Penn State Berks and throughout her career.

Speece is one of several Penn State Berks staff members and alumni who volunteer each year at Camp Neidig, a leadership camp for high school juniors.

Founded in 1950 by Joseph S. Neidig, governing officer of Rotary District 7430, as a camp to further the leadership abilities of young boys, it was renamed Camp Neidig in 1961 in honor of its founder.

Today, Rotary District 7430, which formed after District 2654 split in 1970, continues to sponsor Camp Neidig for stu-
dents who live in its service area (southeastern Pennsylvania). Its mission is to bring together high school students entering their senior year who have exhibited leadership abilities in scholas-
tic and community activities. Campers participate in a four-day weekend of fun, friendship, and team-building activities at Camp Manatawny in Boyertown.

Penn State Berks alumnus and Camp Neidig Director Shawn Hinkle ’01 has worked at the camp for fourteen years and was largely responsible for organizing the Penn State Berks volunteers.

“Preparing for the camp is practically a year-long process and it involves preparing the schedule, selecting the staff, and recruiting guest speakers such as Dr. Speece,” explains Hinkle.

“The great staff is what makes the camp successful; they are the ones working closely with the campers all weekend. Maintaining my ties with the Berks campus as an alumnus has allowed me to tap into a pool of great people who work with students all the time.”

This year, that group included staff members and alumni of the college, pictured above: (front row, left to right) David Surratt, former Residence Life Coordinator; Iris Richardson ’07, Summer Conference Residence Coordinator; Courtney Fritz, daughter of Mary Fritz, Housing and Food Ser-
vices; John Gallagher, Assistant Director of Campus Life; Kevin Rudy, Police Services Officer; (back row, left to right) Sue Hite ’86 ’90; Shawn Hinkle ’01; Matt Hal ’05, Residence Life Coordi-
nator; Charles Jones ’71, and Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece.

Campers are divided into groups—or tribes—and each tribe has a leader who facilitates the workshops.

“The best part is the tribes and the sense of family,” commented Morgan Richman, 16, Hatboro-Horsham High School.

“Each has a spirit of its own and works together.”

On this particular Saturday afternoon, Speece related her life experiences in leadership and spoke about John Maxwell’s book, The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader. She explained how important it is for future leaders to work at the qualities of leadership detailed in Maxwell’s book, and the importance of understanding their own personal strengths and weaknesses.

The Chancellor also stressed the need for young people to have a mentor in their field of interest and to maintain strong convictions of spirit.

Many of the campers stayed after the presentation to talk with Speece, and she joined the group for a quick dinner in the camp cafeteria.

“The students had positive comments about their experi-
cences at Camp Neidig.

“The best part is meeting new people, forming friendships, and going outside your comfort zone,” stated Yanivette Ayala, 16, Liberty High School.

“Aislin Clark, 17, Mount Saint Joseph High School, had a slightly different take on the experience. “I’ve always been really shy and I’ve already met thirty to forty people. It’s really cool. I’m learning to be more outgoing.”

Despite which part of the camp the students enjoyed most, they all seem to agree that it was a worthwhile experience that will benefit them in their future educational and career pursuits.

For more information on Camp Neidig, visit their Web site: campneidig.com.

The Alchemist Selected for Common Reading

—by Luis A. Rosendal

T
he international bestseller The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho is encouraging students, faculty, and staff to follow their dreams as the entire college community participates in the fourth annual Common Reading Program. The Alchemist tells us the story of a young boy named Santiago who seeks a treasure known only to him in his dreams. Under the guidance of several people he encounters along the way, Santiago embarks on a journey with the advice from a mystifying old man, “To realize one’s destiny is a person’s only obligation,” he tells Santiago. “And, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.”

At Penn State Berks, faculty and staff are eager to guide students in their journeys toward realizing their educational and career goals, and celebrating their successes with them at commencement.

This year, that group included staff members and alumni of the college, pictured above: (front row, left to right) David Surratt, former Residence Life Coordinator; Iris Richardson ’07, Summer Conference Residence Coordinator; Courtney Fritz, daughter of Mary Fritz, Housing and Food Ser-
vices; John Gallagher, Assistant Director of Campus Life; Kevin Rudy, Police Services Officer; (back row, left to right) Sue Hite ’86 ’90; Shawn Hinkle ’01; Matt Hal ’05, Residence Life Coordi-
nator; Charles Jones ’71, and Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece.

NCAA Division III Membership Takes Athletics to Next Level

—by Kate L. Cowan

A
fter a five-year provisional process, Penn State Berks was named full NCAA Division III members on June 18, according to Director of Athletics William Sunderland.

The process actually began when Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece joined Penn State Berks in 2001 and decided that it was time to make a change with our athletic programs. In 2003, the college started the NCAA Division III provisional process, beginning the transition from the Commonwealth Campus Athletic Conference to the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

“When you look at why students select schools, one of the criteria is the quality of the athletic programs,” explains Speece.

“Each year, approximately thirty-five of our student athletes receive scholar-athlete awards, which means that they have a GPA of 3.0 or better. While our main goal is providing outstanding educational opportunities for our students, some of that education and leadership training comes from the co-
curricular experiences, the most prominent being athletics.”

Penn State Berks is a member of the North Eastern Athletic Conference, which is comprised of schools across New York and Pennsylvania. During the last five years in the conference, the college has been successful at all levels.

“Now that we are fully vested into NCAA, Penn State Berks will focus on the development of athletic facilities on campus to make the college more competitive with other NCAA Division III institutions. In order to provide the kind of facilities that reflect our excellence, we will be looking to add scoreboards for our athletic fields, dugouts on our baseball and softball fields, shot clocks for our basketball teams, tables for our basketball games, and chairs for basketball and volleyball games,” adds Speece.

For more information visit our Web site: berks.psu.edu and click on Sports on the left side of the home page.