To fulfill our promise to Penn State students and build upon the tradition of excellence that has defined our University, we ask you to join us in the future. The Campaign for Penn State Students. Over the next six years, University and volunteer leaders will join forces to raise private support with six initiatives with the power to transform our institution.

www.givepennstate.edu

Ensuring Student Opportunity
Students with the ability and ambition to attend the University will have this opportunity through scholarship support.

Enhancing Honors Education
Students of exceptional ability will experience the best honors education in the nation.

Enriching the Student Experience
Students will thrive in a stimulating atmosphere that fosters global involvement, community service, creative inspiration, and personal growth.

Building Faculty Strength and Capacity
Students will study with the finest teachers and researchers.

Fostering Discovery and Creativity
Students and faculty members will come together within and across disciplines to pioneer new frontiers of knowledge.

Sustaining a Tradition of Quality
Students will continue to work and study with faculty whose scholarship is enhanced by continuing philanthropic support.

For the future
The Campaign for Penn State Students

Penn State Berks
Celebrates 50 Years
1958–2008

In This Issue:
• Penn State Berks Celebrates 50 Years 1958–2008
• Students and Faculty Explore Alternative Energy
• 2007–2008 Annual Report

Penn State Berks
OPERATING BY DESIGN

The Pennsylvania State University has always been diligent about creating a new Strategic Plan every three years. While this was a way for the individual units of the University to look towards managing budgets, it did not really focus on philosophical perspectives. In the past, we at Penn State Berks have tried to include philosophical perspective, but we were restricted by the three-year cycle. Finally, University Park decided to move to strategic planning every five years and this allowed our campus to put together a document that really demonstrates a paradigm shift for how we operate.

In July 2008, Penn State Berks submitted a Strategic Plan that would, as usual, inform our financial decisions, but we also wanted the plan to have more impact on our day-to-day life on campus. In order to do this, a tighter timeline was assigned to each action item. We have assigned fifteen individuals to shepherd the thirty-six different plans to fruition in the first year.

When you create a Strategic Plan and just say “we will do this” but not assign someone to oversee, the item rarely gets done because no one takes responsibility for completion. This time around, not only have we assigned several units to be responsible for the action items, but we have identified individuals who will be responsible for overseeing and reporting the progress. The good news is that while our Strategic Plan is in its first months (technically awaiting approval), three of the thirty-six items are already completed and several others are well on their way to being completed.

The Strategic Plan was created by the combined input and work of several hundred folks. We want the plan to be something with which everyone feels a connection, and believe we are making it to that goal. There are a few action plans that need more specific measurable parameters, but it is good to see so many faculty, staff, students, and community members truly embracing the 2008-2013 Penn State Berks Strategic Plan.

By operating by design, Penn State Berks can continue to lead the way within the University and reach out to even more of our local community.

Dr. Susan Phillips Speece, Chancellor, Penn State Berks

CHANCELLOR’S PODCASTS KEEP ALUMNI AND FRIENDS INFORMED

Want to know more about what’s happening at Penn State Berks? Now you can receive regular updates about the college through Chancellor Speece’s monthly podcasts. Podcasts are digital audio recordings that are available on the Internet and can be accessed on a computer or portable MP3 player. Just visit berks.psu.edu and click on Chancellor’s Podcasts under News & Events.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CLASS NOTES

Alumnus/Alumnae Name
Attended PSU Berks O P
Other Degree Discipline (Do Not Abbreviate)

Speaker’s Name
Attended PSU Berks O P
Other Degree Discipline (Do Not Abbreviate)

Address City State Zip
Phone (home) City State Zip
Phone (day) City State Zip
Fax of Employer

Address City State Zip
Special News (degrees earned at other colleges/universities, awards, etc.)

Return this form (with photos) to: Ryan Savice, Penn State Berks, PO Box 7009, Reading, PA 19610-6009; or send information via e-mail to rcs212p@psu.edu or visit our Web site: berks.psu.edu/alumni/classnotes.htm

Jan. 22, 2009 – Art Exhibition: Peter Jon Snyder: From Studio to Gallery. For more information, contact Ryan Szivos, 610-396-6057, rcs212@psu.edu.

Jan. 22–March 5, 2009 – Art Exhibition: Peter Jon Snyder: From Studio to Gallery. For more information, contact Ryan Szivos, 610-396-6057, rcs212@psu.edu.

Feb. 12, 2009 – Lecture: Alan Weisman, author of The World Without Us: How Things End And What Happens Next, imagines what might happen to the Earth if humans vanished and challenges us to reimagine our planet.

Feb. 17, 2009 – WPI Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

Feb. 26–March 5, 2009 – Lecture: The Bob & Al Alumni Society will hold a dinner theater benefit for the Penn State Berks HRIM Program.

March 11, 2009 – Alumni Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

April 20–24, 2009 – Theatre: Berks Theatre Annual Student One-Act Play Festival, a collection of new, one-act plays written, performed, and directed by students, 8:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Auditorium.

April 21, 2009 – Annual WPI Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

April 22, 2009 – Alumni Society Spring Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.

May 13, 2009 – Alumni Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

June 16, 2009 – WPI Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

Parents Association keeps families informed

In an effort to involve and engage the parents of students with each other and with the campus, a new group called the Penn State Berks Parents Association is being formed. The goal is to promote an ongoing relationship between the parents and families of all Penn State Berks students and to provide opportunities for interaction and programming that is directed to parents.

Future opportunities for parent involvement include:
- helping to develop communication vehicles such as a parents newsletter and Web site,
- organizing a parents peer network,
- planning and hosting campus events, and
- serving on a parent’s council.

If you are a parent of a Penn State Berks student or know someone who is and would like more information on the Penn State Berks Parents Association, contact Dave Delozer (also a parent of a Berks student) in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 610-396-6056 or dc118@psu.edu.
Featuring 50 Alumni for 50 Years

In honor of the fiftieth anniversary of Penn State Berks, the BLUE & WHITE has featured 50 alumni over the course of the year. Although this is the final issue of the magazine featuring 50 alumni for 50 years, we are always interested in learning about interesting and unusual alumni stories. Please contact Lisa Weidman with your story or ideas at 610-396-6054 or via e-mail at lrw6@psu.edu.

Douglas Stone, 1977, African Studies, Department Head, Marketing Communications, Taconic

I remember...
"The wonder years (in so many ways)."

Amy (Hewitt) Matusheski, 1999, Food Science and Nutrition Science, Food Product Development Manager, Kraft Foods

I remember...
"Although I was at main campus for all four years, the summer between my freshman and sophomore year, I took a chemistry lab at Berks. I enjoyed the small classroom setting and the students."

Emily Damasceno, 1999, Spanish, Fraud Analyst, EDS/Wendover (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."

Steve Savitski, 1994, Physics, Client Application Manager, AccuWeather, Inc.

I remember...
"Taking the hardest class of my life ever from Dr. Ansari. I thought since it was a summer class it would be easy…. boy was I wrong. Instead of a summer full of sun and fun, it was full of homework and quizzes. Thanks Dr. Ansari!"


I remember...
"The overnight camp out in Rec. Hall playing RISK for over thirty-two hours. I was president of the Strategic Games Club."

Robert Correll, Jr., 1963, Drafting and Design Technology, Retired Principal Engineer, Tyco Electronics (formerly Amp, Inc.)

I remember...
"The first baseball team in the Rec. League and the first female students at Berks in 1962."

Amy (Hewitt) Matusheski, 1999, Food Science and Nutrition Science, Food Product Development Manager, Kraft Foods

"Our time at Penn State Berks allowed us to make friends on campus, which became a support group at University Park and lifelong friendships. We continue to stay in contact with friends from our days at Berks and those friends provide us a great personal as well as professional network."

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

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Charle J. Adams, III, 1969, Business, morning personality on WEEU-AM, author of several books about the supernatural, and travel writer

I remember...
"I am, in the classic sense of the word, an ‘old school’ Penn State Berks guy. I can trace my desire to write and to communicate directly to English and Speech classes with Mr. Simboli and Mr. Moehling, respectively. And, I can relive my days in those classes as I’m chowing down on a Quarter-Pounder at McDonald’s, where Berks Campus’ ‘Old Main’ once stood!"

Alexa (Cavalieri) Wojciechowski, 1980, Social Welfare, Coordinator of Placement and Internships, Penn State Berks

I remember...
"The thing I liked most about Penn State Berks was that it provided a big college feel at a small campus."

Charlie J. Adams, III, 1969, Business, morning personality on WEEU-AM, author of several books about the supernatural, and travel writer

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James Weber, 2000, Business Logistics, Associate Buyer of Freight, Carpenter Technology

I remember...
“Dinner dates with my wife, Pamela, in the dining hall.”

Briana Lee Shealer, 2005, Animal Sciences, Business Management, 4-H Youth Development Coordinator, Schuylkill County (pictured second from right)

I remember...
“During my freshman year, my suite mates and I took garbage bags, new I might add, from the dorms and decided to go ‘surfing’ down the dorm hills one rainy night. We were covered head to toe in bruises, mud, and freshly cut grass. We then proceeded to walk back to the dorms and track mud and grass to our dorm rooms. Sorry Residence Life!”

Chris Riegel, 2003, Business, Network Services Manager, Penn State Berks

I remember...
“Seeing the growth of the campus over the last ten years. It was great to be able to get a Penn State degree without leaving Berks County. Go Nittany Lions!”

Mike Reinert, 1978, Journalism/Broadcasting, “Berks Time Train” Host, Senior Account Executive, WFMZ-TV 69 Berks Edition

I remember...
“Going back to the mid-1970s, I remember Penn State Berks campus as three buildings with helpful professors and new friends. I have enjoyed the opportunity to watch it grow and keep in contact. And three decades later, I am still working in my chosen field of TV news. May God bless you all, and may your skies be … blue and white!”

Thomas Miller, 2007, Elementary Education, Teacher, Middletown High School

I remember...
“I enjoyed Berks because of the small size. Attending Berks for two years allowed me to make a good group of friends before moving up to University Park.”

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Information:

- Please deduct (check box)
  - $30/month (for 20 months) – individual
  - $30/month (for 25 months) – joint
  - $15/month (for 20 months) – individual or joint 60+
  - $6/month (for 25 months) – second person at same address

- Please deduct from my account. I have attached a voided check that provides my account number:

  [Signature] Date

Please send completed membership application form to:
Penn State Berks Alumni Relations
Attn: Heather Angstadt
PO Box 7009, Reading, PA 19610-6009

For more information or questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 610-396-6052 or hla2@psu.edu.
Penn State Berks alumni had an opportunity to socialize and trade stories about their days at Penn State Berks during the college’s first annual alumni reunion luncheon. Alumni were joined by Penn Staters from other campuses who have, at some point, had the opportunity to share in the Berks tradition.

The luncheon served to bridge a gap between the campus we see today and the one remembered by our Wyomissing tradition.

The day’s success was rooted in its capacity to connect generations of Berks alumni, and this is only the first of many such endeavors, says Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Penn State Berks.

“The reunion is something we hope to cultivate and see grow. Hopefully we can build on the success of this year and bring back even more alumni for next year’s reunion.”

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Penn State Berks Holds First Annual Alumni Reunion — by Ryan C. Szivos

Later that evening, alumni had the chance to walk in the shoes of a 1950s high school student at the Murder Mystery Dinner. As a student of Roley City High School, it was their responsibility to track down the killer of the cities most recognizable resident, Rock N. Roley, the internationally famous rock star.

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Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations
WPI Alumni Gather at 15th Annual Reunion

—by Heather A. Angstadt ’04

I t’s been fifty years since Wyominging Polytechnic Institute (WPI) closed its doors, but its faithful alumni still reunite once a year to reminisce about their school days and stay connected to each other and Penn State Berks. On Saturday, November 1, 2008, more than forty graduates and spouses gathered for the fifteenth annual WPI Reunion at the Inn at Reading in Wyomissing.

The program kicked off with a welcome by Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Penn State Berks. Delozier expressed his gratitude to all those who have made contributions to the WPI Engineering Scholarship, which is currently valued at $95,524.

Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece shared an update on the campus and discussed plans for the new classroom building, which will house the Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology Division, as well as provide additional office space and meeting rooms.

The keynote speaker for this year was Eric Byrne, Mechanical Labs Supervisor. Byrne spoke to the alumni about several projects involving engineering students at the college. One project in particular that Byrne highlighted was a proposed alternative energy project with BARTA, in which students hope to retrofit a BARTA bus to run on biodiesel fuel. In this project, students would volunteer their time to convert a donated BARTA bus (pending government approval) to run on both conventional diesel fuel and biodiesel made from reclaimed oil salvaged from local restaurants. (For more information, see related article on page 19.)

For more information about WPI alumni programs, contact Heather Angstadt, Coordinator of Alumni Relations, at 610-396-6052 or hla2@psu.edu. www.psu.edu.

Entrepreneurship Speaker Series Offers Insider Advice to Students

—by Matt N. Kunkelman

Nearly eighty students filed into the Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room on November 5 to hear from a panel of successful entrepreneurs; a title many of the students in attendance are hoping to achieve.


“Too many people tend to look at jobs only for pay. I think that’s the wrong approach. I want to stress the importance of getting into something you’re passionate about—aft that the pay will come,” explained Weaver.

Schorle also had an interesting story. A Penn State Berks alumnus, he started his first business at age sixteen when he offered his technological expertise to fix PCs at local schools and churches. By the time Schorle graduated from Berks, he turned his computer experience into an information technology business, TS Tech Enterprises Inc.

Schorle explained the importance of being able to adapt and grow your business as the industry changes.

Students received a glimpse of an entrepreneur’s work ethic, as Schorle humbly stated, “I don’t work long hours—I only do about fifty hour weeks now.”

“Seeing all these young people who want to get into business and entrepreneurship breathes new energy in me,” explained Schorle, “It’s great to see so many people from Berks interested in what I love.”

Dr. Sadan Kulturel-Konak, Associate Professor of Management Information Systems and coordinator of the event, explained the importance of the Entrepreneurship minor to the college.

“In a world facing harsh economic times, self-employment is escalating, and research has shown that education is the best indicator of entrepreneurial success. It is essential that higher education train people in entrepreneurial skills.”
Advisory Board Members Help College Reach Goals
Interview with Ann Gallen Moll, President, Gallen Insurance —by Lisa R. Wiedman

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, Ann Gallen Moll, Financial Secretary of the Advisory Board and President of Gallen Insurance, discusses her reasons for joining the board and her vision for the college.

Staying connected to the Berks County community is very important to Ann Gallen Moll, who runs a family-owned business, Gallen Insurance, founded by her father in 1957. One can see the importance of family and tradition to Moll in the many handmade quilts on the walls of Gallen Insurance, all created by Moll’s mother. In fact, at one time, nine of her family worked at Gallen Insurance; today, only she and two of her brothers–Joseph and David–are employed with the company. Her other five siblings (she is one of eight children) have gone on to start other companies and get involved in various business ventures.

“I am personally committed to being involved in the community,” explained Moll. “Penn State Berks has such a good reputation. I wanted a better understanding of what it encompasses.”

As President of Gallen Insurance, Moll knows the value of community connections. She joined the company after graduating from the University of Pittsburgh with a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1978. She assumed the role of president of Gallen Insurance in 1988.

When Moll was asked about her goals as a board member, she commented, “We are ambassadors for the college and we’re looking for ways Penn State Berks can work with the business community. One of our goals is to highlight and help support the internship program—it’s one of the major strengths of the college.”

In addition to her professional ventures, Moll also serves on the executive committee for the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce and she serves on the board for Children and Youth Services. As President, Moll and her husband, Donald, reside in Lincoln Park. They have three adult children.

New Student Enrollment Reaches Record High

Following another year of record applications, Penn State Berks is continuing to grow and expand modestly, and this is reflected in the fall enrollment numbers. Enrollment for new baccalaureate students has reached an all-time high of 926 students, an increase of 78 students from fall 2007. The total fall 2008 enrollment is 2,800 students. Total minority enrollment increased to 454 students this fall and represents 16.2% of the total enrollment at Penn State Berks.

Nearly all of the University’s twenty-four campuses experienced enrollment increases this year over the fall 2007 figures.

In an effort to enhance academic competitiveness and maintain the individual attention for which Penn State Berks is known, the college plans to reduce the size of the incoming class by approximately 12% and will do by raising admissions requirements for fall 2009, according to Dr. Blaine Steensland, Senior Director of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management.

“The continued growth that Penn State Berks has been experiencing over the past years speaks volumes about the quality of the educational experience our students find here,” comments Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece. “Top notch faculty and staff, beautiful surroundings, and solid curriculum and extracurricular experiences are key to our success.”

Bus Shelter Transformed into Interactive Exhibit

When students wait for the bus at Penn State Berks, they will enjoy an interactive experience of sight and sound. Faculty and staff at the college recently collaborated on a special project, combining the arts and engineering to create an interactive exhibit titled “Knowledge Is Power” in the bus shelter, located in front of the Franco Building.

Arts Coordinator Marilyn Fox wanted to design and create an installation that would identify the unique spirit of Penn State Berks and, using visual devices and sound, project our mission to visitors.

“Ideally visitors will be able to walk into the shelter and get a flavor of our academic life, the students, the faculty, and the campus in just three to four minutes,” Fox explains.

Enlisting the support of engineering faculty, Fox joined forces with Dr. Dale Litwhiler, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering, who liked the idea.

“This is a unique opportunity to integrate art and engineering technical education,” Litwhiler explains.

With the help of Jeff Wike, Supervisor of Electrical Engineering Laboratories, and Frances Jallu, a junior majoring in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology, the installation incorporates snippets of student voices, ranging from a tour given by a Lion Ambassador, to discussions on scholarships and financial aid, to a student reciting poetry, to a tutorial by a mathematics instructor. There is also conversation with a very famous Penn State alumnus, and other interesting tidbits.

Jallu worked closely with Litwhiler and Wike in circuit assembly, circuit design, layout, and testing the enclosure, which needed to house a solar cell to create renewable energy to power digital sound recordings.

“I’ve learned a lot of things in this project—working with renewable energy, which is what powers the battery to run the MP3,” comments Jallu. “It’s the first time I worked on a project of this kind.”

Litwhiler worked on recording the audio files, editing the sound, designing the circuits, and creating an enclosure for the solar cells and circuitry.

“I’ll also be using the information gained in the classroom,” Litwhiler adds. “We can transmit out the telemetry on the solar panel and battery status to use in studying energy conversion and ‘green’ energy sources.”

Fox designed visuals for the glass windows on the shelter that show students and faculty working together, as well as the Nittany Lion mascot and scenes of the campus. Coupled with images and sound, the phrase, “Knowledge is Power”—in several languages—is stenciled in and around the shelter.

“As a naturally curious person, I would walk right up the shelter and press the sound button to see what it’s all about,” Fox says. “I hope students, visitors, and the academic community will do that as well.”

The project was sponsored by college funds raised through the Office of Gifts and Endowments.
College Celebrates Past, Present, and Future at 50th Anniversary Celebration

Hot air balloon rides, evening fireworks, and ice cream were just a few of the highlights of Penn State Berks' fiftieth anniversary celebration on Wednesday, September 10. Approximately 500 students, faculty and staff members, alumni, and friends of the college gathered under a large tent in front of the Perkins Student Center for the celebration.

To the surprise of the audience, the Nittany Lion tore through the tent, followed by students riding in the baja, cheerleaders, athletes, and Lion Ambassadors. Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece brought up the end of the “parade” in her segway and took her place on stage.

Penn State President Graham Spanier addressed the crowd, calling the Berks campus one of the finest campuses in the Penn State system.

Dr. Harold W. Perkins, the campus’ first CEO, fondly remembered the early days of the campus when it was located at Eighth and Hill Avenues in Wyomissing, where McDonald’s now stands. He jokingly referred to Berks as the “main campus of Penn State.”

Perkins was followed by Dr. Frederick H. Gaige, CEO and Dean Emeritus, who expressed his gratitude to Berks County leaders for helping the campus achieve its growth over the years.

Finally, Speece spoke about the college’s bright future, which includes the addition of new degree programs and construction of a new classroom building, which will begin in spring 2009.

“It will be a beacon with respect to where we are going,” commented Speece.

After the program, Spanier, Speece, and the Nittany Lion took the maiden hot air balloon ride. Attendees continued to enjoy the hot air balloon rides throughout the day, in addition to birthday cake and “Berks Bits” ice cream, chocolate ice cream with chocolate covered pretzel pieces named by the Penn State Creamery in honor of the anniversary.

In addition to these festivities, the post office was on campus with a commemorative fiftieth anniversary postage stamp. There was a book signing of the college history book, We Are … Penn State Berks, by the college’s three leaders and authors of the book.

Finally, the evening concluded with a breathtaking fireworks display, which culminated in the number “50” blazed across the night sky.

Sophomore Kaitlyn V. Anderson summarized the spirit of the day. “It’s Berks, it’s our day. This is Penn State pride.”
John Romano and Harold Perkins took a moment to reminisce before the celebration.

CoLLEGE NEWS

CoLLEGE NEWS

John Romano (third from left) and Graham Spanier (center) met with the Student Government Association to discuss student issues.

Spanier took time to pose for a photo by the 50th anniversary quilt with quilt project coordinator Connie Dunston, Speece, and Romano.

The campus baja vehicle, built and designed by students, helped kick off the celebration.

Frederick Gaige mingled with the attendees under the tent.

As part of the anniversary celebration, there was a brief dedication of a 50th anniversary mosaic mural created by Beverly Leviner, artist and adjunct faculty member.

The evening concluded with a breathtaking fireworks display.

Penn State Berks alumnus Paul Frankhouser drove his special “Penn State” limited edition Hummer in the Penn State Homecoming parade. Chancellor Speece rode shotgun during the day’s festivities.

Members of the Development and Alumni Relations Office represented Berks and kept the 50th anniversary theme going at the parade. Pictured (left to right) are Laura Harak, Kim Schreiffer, Dave Delozier, Lauren Herb, and Heather Angstadt.

“It’s Berks, it’s our day. This is Penn State pride.”

~Kaitlyn V. Anderson, Penn State Berks Sophomore
Students and Faculty Explore Alternative Energy by Partnering with Local Businesses —by Lisa R. Weidman

In two separate initiatives, students will explore the possibility of retrofitting a BARTA bus to run on vegetable oil and building a hybrid vehicle that achieves 80 mpg with local company eCycle.

In October, BARTA officials stated that they would explore the possibility of donating a bus to the college. The donation would need approval from the federal government. Students would then turn the bus into a prototype that runs on both conventional diesel fuel and biodiesel made from reclaimed vegetable oil salvaged from local restaurants.

“The bus would have the capability to run on conventional petroleum-based diesel fuel or vegetable oil,” explains Byrne. “Petro-diesel, a blend of petro and biodiesel, would be used for initial engine start-up, and then the engine will switch to running on straight reclaimed waste vegetable oil once it is warm.”

As part of the same initiative, Byrne is encouraging the city to help establish a system for collecting the vegetable oil from restaurants, which currently have to pay to dispose of it.

There is no shortage of students who are interested in the initiative. A group has been meeting and researching various aspects of the project since the beginning of the fall semester.

Luke Lichtenwalner, a sophomore majoring in Civil Engineering, volunteers his time to work on the project. “My family has a farm and we burn biodiesel fuel that my uncle produces in tractors, combines, and other machinery,” explains Lichtenwalner. “I wanted to get more information about the process from an academic standpoint.”

“Penn State and Berks County have a long history in agriculture; creating ways to use biodiesel fuel as an alternative energy source is just a continuation of that history,” Byrne adds. “Penn State and Berks County have a long history in agriculture; creating ways to use biodiesel fuel as an alternative energy source is just a continuation of that history; I think this is just the beginning of a passage into renewable energy programs; renewable energy is key for the nation’s energy independence.”

Byrne hopes that the BARTA proposal will serve as a model for ways the college can use applied research to make a positive impact on the community. He also wants to continue finding ways to provide unique learning experiences for students outside the classroom.

In addition to his work on the BARTA proposal, Byrne is actively involved in the college’s annual Baja Competition, sponsored by the Student Chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

“Eric Byrne has been with the SAE Student Club in all the competitions in which Penn State Berks has participated over the last four years,” comments Dr. Paul Esqueda, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. “He has provided the students with guidance in engineering design, manufacturing, testing, and teamwork.”

Another example of a unique extracurricular experience that Byrne is coordinating is a project in which students are working in partnership with eCycle, Inc., a local manufacturer of brushless motors/generators and controls. In this initiative, students are retrofitting a 1995 Dodge Neon, converting it to a hybrid vehicle that hopes to achieve 80 miles per gallon.

The eCycle project began when Garrett Golberg, a first-year student majoring in Mechanical Engineering, approached Byrne and said that he would like to work on building a hybrid vehicle. He had worked on a similar project at his former Iowa high school.

Byrne approached eCycle, and the company stated that they were planning to work on a similar project. He submitted a proposal for funding and received $4,000 for the project through the college’s Office of Gifts and Endowments.

The goal of this project is for students to learn the concepts and processes of projects give students an advantage in the job market.

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Summer Camps at Penn State Berks

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPS

ENVIRONMENTAL ECOLOGY AND SCIENCE
Explore and learn about the life forms that inhabit the world around us.
For students entering grades 5-8.
JUNE 22–26

KEEP ON TOP OF IT WEATHER CAMP
NEW! Learn the science behind the forecasts and tune a weather and TV station.
For students entering grades 6-9.
JUNE 29–JULY 3

DISCOVERING FILM AND TV
Go behind the scenes and learn how films and television shows are produced from a technical point of view.
For students entering grades 5-8.
JUNE 22–26

DISCOVERING VETERINARY SCIENCE
Learn the methods used by veterinarians to provide care for large and small animals.
For students entering grades 5-8.
JUNE 22–26

IMAGINATION STATION CAMP
Immerse yourself in an adventure through literature centered around J.K. Rowling’s novels about Harry Potter involving science, crafts, drama, games, and more.
For students entering grades 6-9.
JUNE 22–26

HIGH SCHOOL CAMPS

DISCOVERING ENGINEERING
Learn how engineers solve problems and create products with a special focus on robotics, rockets, and race cars.
JULY 6–10

DISCOVERING FORENSICS SCIENCE
Investigate the fascinating world of forensics science and learn the tools and techniques of CS professionals.
JULY 6–10

A residential option is available for high school camps. Scholarships are available.

DISCOVERING TECHNOLOGY
Learn about the world of engineering and technology through building bridges.
For students entering grades 5-8.
JULY 6–10

BOYS’ & GIRLS’ SOCCER CAMP
Participants in both the boys and girls camps will develop ball-handling skills as well as speed, training and agility. Camps will be conducted by Penn State Berks NCAA Division III head men and women coaches, Laszlo “Billy” Balazs and Frantisek Munteanu, both former professional European soccer players.
For students entering grades 9-12.
JULY 6–10

It Shows

It’s time to think about a New Year’s resolution. Well, here’s one you can keep—it’s a promise to continue your education.

Penn State for your career—it shows.

Certificate in Information and Cyber Security

Companies are investing heavily in information security. Want to be on the front line in protecting vital information? Then the Information and Cyber Security Credit Certificate is for you. For more information, call 800-BERKS-CE or visit the Web site: berks.psu.edu/ce

College Launches Practical Nurse Program

— by Elaine M. Berish, Continuing Education Area Representative

Penn State Berks, in partnership with The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, has launched a part-time evening and weekend Practical Nursing Program that truly fits a working individual’s needs. The program is unique from other nursing programs in Berks County because it is the only one in which participants do not have to give up their day jobs: they attend class three evenings a week, as well as every other weekend, and achieve their dream of becoming a nurse in just eighteen months.

The college’s partnership with The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, a state-of-the-art facility that opened in January 2008, provides tremendous opportunities to students. Clinical work will take place primarily at The Reading Hospital, with The Phoebe Village, an adult retirement and care facility in Wernersville, serving as a secondary clinical site.

Another unique advantage to the program is the “open door” invitation from The Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences. Upon completion of our program, earning PA state licensure, and successful completion of testing, students wishing to continue toward their Registered Nurse certification will be able to enter The Reading Hospital’s Nursing School as advanced-standing students. Students who then wish to continue on to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing can take advantage of The Reading Hospital’s degree completion agreement with Kutztown University.

The State Nursing Board approved the Penn State Berks nursing program in September 2008. During the approval process, the college started recruiting its first nursing class. Through information sessions and a direct mail campaign, word spread quickly about this exciting new nursing opportunity.

Penn State Berks’ first nursing class is a diverse and multi-talented pool of individuals. Many have worked for a number of years in elder care, some are making a complete career change, and others are just beginning their nursing education. While their stories may be different, they all share one common denominator: caring about people. These twenty-five strangers who met for the first time on January 6, 2009 will graduate together in June 2010.

Jennifer Njuki, a native of Kenya who is a member of this class, stated that she hopes to use her nursing training to go back to her homeland and provide free clinical care to residents. She has family members who have also trained in nursing with this goal in mind.

Patricia K. Russell, RN, has been named coordinator of the Practical Nurse Program. She comes to Penn State with more than thirty-two years of nursing experience. Russell stated that she is excited about the program content and knows that the graduates will have a solid foundation to begin their nursing career or pursue advanced studies in nursing.

The Practical Nurse Program is a non-credit program and it is priced competitively; program costs cover not only instruction, but also books, uniforms, shoes, nursing supplies, and malpractice insurance. For more information about the Practical Nurse Program, contact Elaine Berish, Continuing Education Area Representative, at 610-396-6230 or via e-mail at emb1@psu.edu.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

Recently I sat at the Chancellor’s Circle Dinner here on campus and listened while two of our Penn State Berks students gave heartfelt speeches. Both stated that without the help of private scholarships, they would not have been able to attend college. As I looked around the room, the emotions of the audience—mine included—were truly stirred as each of the students looked at their donors and said, “Thank you for making my dream of a college education a reality. Please realize that your gift is making a great difference.”

That’s why we do what we do here in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at Penn State Berks. And I know that’s why many of you have been moved to give of your time, treasure, and talents—it’s all about our students. It’s also true of the many talented people who work here at this institution. Every day our faculty, administration, and staff work together for one common purpose: to educate and prepare tomorrow’s leaders in business, education, technology, and many other fields for the future. Our central mission remains, and always will be, our students.

That is also why the University has embarked on a new initiative that will be the most ambitious fund-raising campaign in Penn State’s history. The goal of For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students is to increase scholarship support to keep a Penn State education affordable for all families. As we move forward in this campaign, we’ll ask you to consider what you might do to make the dream of a college education a reality for students such as those I mentioned above.

On the pages of this issue, you will find many examples of those who have chosen to become a part of our efforts in helping Penn State Berks and its students achieve the highest success. To learn more about how you can help continue our tradition of excellence, please contact me at 610-396-6056 or via e-mail at dcd11@psu.edu. Should your plans ever bring you to campus, please feel free to visit our offices in the Janssen Office Building. Also, please don’t ever hesitate to let us know if there is anything we may do for you.

As always, thank you for your support,

Dave Delozier ’79
Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Penn State Berks

—by Lauren A. Herb

Students had an opportunity to thank the donors who made their dream of attending college a reality at the fifth annual Chancellor’s Circle Dinner, a special event that honors individuals and organizations that have demonstrated exceptional generosity to the college over the past year. This year’s event was held on October 23, 2008.

During the evening’s program, senior Amro Fadel expressed the importance of receiving the Irvin and Lois E. Cohen Trustee Scholarship to his education. A native of Egypt, Fadel moved to the United States at the age of nine. He is a Business major with a minor in Communications. He concluded by thanking the Cohens and all the donors who have supported students like himself.

Heather Stoneroad, recipient of both the Doris S. Stapleton Scholarship and Penn State Berks’ Pennsylvania Governor’s Conference for Women Scholarship, designated for an adult student, expressed her gratitude to the donors and to the college. Stoneroad, an Air Force veteran, will complete an associate degree in Business Administration this year and then matriculate into a bachelor’s degree in the college’s Business program. With a Penn State degree on her resume, she hopes to attain a position in supply chain management and procurement.

Other highlights of the evening included a musical performance by the Penn State Berks Choir and brief overview of the college’s growth and strategic initiatives by Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece. As the event drew to a close, Speece concluded the evening with remarks on the importance of support from alumni and friends of the college. She thanked the donors for their generosity to Penn State Berks.

For more information about becoming a member of the Chancellor’s Circle and membership benefits, contact Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at 610-396-6056 or e-mail at dcd11@psu.edu.
Projects Supported by the Annual Fund

When you contribute a gift to the Penn State Berks Annual Fund for Academic Excellence, you invest in the college and help develop new programs for our students. Donations to the Annual Fund help provide students with enhanced courses, service-learning opportunities, guest speakers, field trips, and special extracurricular activities. This funding helps creative new ideas come to life. For more information on how you can contribute to the Annual Fund for Academic Excellence, contact the Office of Development at 610-396-6056.

• Alumni Relations received funding for several programs including the first annual Alumni Reunion, an Easter Egg Hunt, and Lion and Santa Sightings. Funding also supported eight alumni mentoring programs. These sessions provide career guidance to students and allow alumni to become more involved and connected with our current student body. Alumni Relations also provides an opportunity for graduates of the Wyomissing Polytechinic Institute to attend an alumni breakfast and publishes a newsletter to inform WPI alumni of current campus events.

• Berks Academic Achievement Awards ceremony is held every April and recognizes student academic excellence at the college in each discipline. Students are encouraged to invite their families to attend this event.

• Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair is supported in part by the Penn State Berks Annual Fund and the Science Division. The event assists area high school students in their efforts to pursue their interests in science and engineering.

• Lion Ambassadors play an important role in the recruitment of new students, providing campus tours, hosting open houses and group campus visits, assisting with college fairs, and conducting phone-a-thons.

Eugene and Eleanor Curry Memorial Trustee Scholarship

Eugene R. Curry, Jr.’s 59 and his wife, Frances Franks Curry, created this scholarship in memory of his parents, Eugene and Eleanor Curry, to provide recognition and financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled or planning to enroll at Penn State Berks who have demonstrated the need for funds to meet their college expenses. First preference will be given to those students who major or plan to major in Business.

Eugene Curry Jr., graduated from Penn State with a bachelor’s degree in Insurance. He has since spent his entire career in the Reading area as an independent insurance broker. Curry is one of the co-chairs of Penn State’s current campaign, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students. He has also participated in mentoring sessions at the college along with being a keynote speaker at both the Chancellor’s Circle Dinner and Student Scholarship Reception. He currently serves as a member of the Berks Campus Advisory Board. The Currys are also members of the Mount Nittany Society.

“My wife Fran and I feel a Penn State education can enrich the lives of others the way it has enriched our lives,” states Curry. “It is a source of personal satisfaction for us to create a scholarship that will assist students at Penn State Berks to realize their potential.”

VIST Financial Establishes Business Scholarships

VIST Financial, a new institution that formed from the merger of Leesport Financial and its divisions, announced plans to establish scholarships for business students at local colleges and universities during the unveiling ceremony of the institutions new brand and corporate identity on February 27, 2008. The scholarships will range from $10,000 to $25,000 over five years and VIST Financial will offer these scholarships to outstanding business students at Albright College, Alvernia College, Community College of Philadelphia, Kutztown University, Montgomery County Community College, Penn State Berks, and Reading Area Community College. The scholarships are aimed at retaining area business students in the Berks and Philadelphia regions upon graduation.

“The VIST Financial brand represents the next stage for our company and underscores our commitment of being a trusted adviser for all our customers’ financial needs,” said VIST President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Davis.

For the Future
Barrie and Barbara Pease Scholarship

Barrie ’74, ’78 and Barbara Ann Pease created this scholarship to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled or planning to enroll at Penn State Berks who have a demonstrated need for funds to meet their college expenses. First preference will be given to students who are interested in pursuing a degree in Crime, Law, and Justice. Barrie Pease was born and raised in Reading and graduated from Reading High School. He served in the United States Army as a member of the military police and served in Vietnam. After his tour of duty, he began working for the Pennsylvania State Police and taking classes at Penn State Berks.

After retiring from law enforcement in 1985, Pease became self-employed as Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Insurance Fraud Investigator. He retired from the insurance field in 2006.

“My wife Barbara and I feel that we should make it possible for Penn State students to have the same opportunity that I had,” states Pease. “My Penn State education gave me the knowledge I needed to have a fulfilling career in law enforcement, the private sector financial crimes investigations, and now as a fulfilling career in law enforcement, the private sector financial crimes investigations, and now as the President of the Animal Rescue League of Berks County.”

Penn State Berks is the recipient of a new Trustee Scholarship, established by the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA). In support of the University’s new fund-raising drive, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, the PSAA has pledged a gift of $2.1 million to support students across the University. The gift will establish Penn State Alumni Association Trustee Scholarships, funded at $50,000, in each of Penn State’s colleges and campuses.

“The Alumni Association wanted to step up in a big way to address the concerns of Penn State students—our future alumni—over rising tuition,” said David Han, president of the Penn State Alumni Association. “In the land-grant college tradition, we believe this gift will help to keep open the doors of opportunity and ease the financial burden for generations of students to come.”

“This is a pace-setting leadership gift for the University’s campaign,” said Penn State President Graham Spanier. “Although our donors have established more than 450 Matching Trustee Scholarships over the last six years, this pledge to establish the new Penn State Alumni Association Trustee Scholarships is the largest single gift thus far for this purpose.”

The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program was established by the University in 2002. It offers a novel approach to providing incentives for setting private gifts to establish new undergraduate scholarships (for which $50,000 is the minimal amount needed). The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program matches income from private scholarship endowments with funds from the University’s operating budget. Thus, a $50,000 gift for this purpose, which would generate $2,500 per year or five percent in spendable income, is matched by an additional five percent or $2,500 from the University every year in perpetuity for this same scholarship. Penn State Berks alumni and friends wishing to establish a Trustee Scholarship in their own name or interested in making a personal contribution to the newly established Penn State Berks Alumni Association Trustee Matching Scholarship may contact Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at ddelo@psu.edu or 610-396-6056.

Penn State Alumni Association

ENDOWMENTS ARE INVESTMENTS IN THE COLLEGE’S FUTURE

Penn State’s benefactors are as diverse as their endowments. While donors may establish these funds to perpetuate a special cause or interest close to their hearts, one common thread unites these special alumni and friends. In every case, this common thread is a profound and abiding commitment to the protection and endowment of Penn State’s future. The foresight and generosity evidenced by our benefactors today will perpetually shine through the endowment they each create. They become part of a rich tapestry of endowment tradition at the University—a legacy of caring individuals providing support today to ensure the strength of Penn State for all time.

Alumni and friends who invest in Penn State through endowments can be certain that their philanthropy will benefit the University community far into the future. Named endowment opportunities are available in four strategic support areas: undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and program support. The Board of Trustees has established minimum support levels (shown right) to guarantee that income will remain adequate to achieve the benefactor’s intent.

The special provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 that permitted Charitable IRA Rollovers has been extended to include gifts from IRAs in 2008 and 2009. This tax-free gift option was included as part of the recently passed Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

The provision allows individuals age 70 1/2 years and older to transfer up to $100,000 per year directly to a qualified charity, such as Penn State Berks, from a traditional or Roth IRA without having to claim any increased income or pay any additional tax. If you are required to receive minimum distributions from your IRA and you do not need the money for personal use, consider using those funds as a charitable gift. While you cannot claim a charitable deduction for the IRA gifts, you will not pay income tax on the amount.

Make a difference at Penn State Berks and save taxes at the same time. For more information, please call our Office of Development at 610-396-6056. We are here to answer your questions and help you plan for the future of Penn State Berks!

Encore: Charitable IRA Legislation Passed

The charitable IRA legislation is back for a repeat performance—don’t miss this second-chance opportunity to make tax-free gifts from your IRA!

For more information about endowments, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 610-396-6056.