Greetings from

Alternative Spring Break:

COSTA RICA
As I write this message for the Blue & White magazine, Suzanne and I have just returned from an alternative spring break week with twenty Penn State Berks students and trip organizers, Andrea Pfaff, Assistant Director of Campus Life, and Kelli Meyer, Student Activities Coordinator. I cannot overstate how pleased and proud I was to observe this group of sixteen female and four male students and the outstanding job they did of representing Penn State Berks and serving as ambassadors for the College and the University. Throughout a challenging week where we spent half of each day doing heavy labor at an orphanage on the outskirts of San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, I never heard a single complaint and was so impressed by our students’ fortitude, resilience, and compassion. What a great group of Penn Staters!

Our students, of course, demonstrate their leadership skills in so many ways. As in years past, Penn State Berks students worked hard in support of THON and raised $40,390 toward the record-breaking overall THON total of $10,686,924. Students also led in organizing a candlelight vigil in honor and memory of Joe Paterno that was attended by scores of students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Elsewhere in this issue, Penn State Berks alumna April Reed Schimmel is profiled. April and colleagues from the Children’s Alliance Center have been repeat visitors to the College since their presentation in December 2011, when they were hosted by Communication Arts and Sciences students and shared their expertise on child abuse and its prevention. Later this semester, April and fellow experts returned to share their expertise with faculty, staff, and administration, as we work to do all possible to ensure that Penn State Berks remains a safe and welcoming community for people of all ages.

Beyond the accomplishments of our students and alumni, we are celebrating a number of remarkable faculty and staff accomplishments as well. Dr. Robert Forney, Professor of Physics, has been selected a Fellow of the American Physical Society. Dr. Laurie Grobman, Professor of English and Women’s Studies, has been honored with the President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Integration. Dr. David Aurentz, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has been named a 2012 Penn State Teaching Fellow. Terry Spacher, Assistant Professor of Engineering, received the Outstanding Advising Award at the Penn State Engineering Alumni Society (PSEAS) award ceremony. Finally, Kim Berry, Chief Operating Officer, has been awarded the Lauritson Award.

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All possible to ensure that Penn State Berks remains a safe and welcoming community for people of all ages.
Summer CAMPS
at Penn State Berks

Enjoy Penn State Football Away Games without ever leaving Berks County!

The Berks County Chapter of the PSAA and Crowne Plaza Reading Hotel are hosting a series of football tailgate parties for away games. Doors open at the Crowne Plaza one hour before kickoff.

Admission is just $3 per person (children under 13, free) payable at the door, and includes door prizes, trivia contests, raffles, activities for children, and fun for the whole family! The Crowne Plaza will provide tailgate refreshments and the Chapter will be selling Penn State grilled sticks and Creamery ice cream.

The Chapter will also be selling Penn State clothing, with proceeds benefitting the Chapter Scholarship Fund.

Penn State Football Bus Trips

Do you have tickets for a Penn State game but don’t want the hassle of driving? Then join the Alumni Office for one of their football bus trips to all home games with an evening kickoff. Schedule will be set when game times are announced. All bus trips depart from the Franklin Building parking lot, departure time TBD. Seating is limited, so register early by contacting the Alumni Office at berks-alumni@psu.edu.
When the Communication Arts and Sciences students who organized the "We Care" fundraiser for the victims of child abuse invited April Reed Schmehl, Executive Director of the Children’s Alliance Center (CAC) of Berks County, to Penn State Berks to speak, she was overwhelmed.

A Penn State graduate, Reed Schmehl expressed gratitude to the organizers of the fundraiser. “I was just blown away that students wanted to do this,” she said. “It’s been very touching.”

Since that event in December 2011, Schmehl has returned to Penn State Berks, where she spent part of her college career, on three different occasions to help educate faculty and staff about child abuse and the proper reporting protocols, and to raise awareness for this epidemic.

She and members of her staff, along with members of the District Attorney’s Office, held a training session for Penn State Police Services, who in turn invited colleagues from nearby Penn State campuses and the other four colleges in Berks County (Albright College, Alvernia University, Kutztown University, and Reading Area Community College).

As the executive director of not one but two nonprofit organizations, Schmehl is a busy woman. In addition to her role with the CAC, she oversees the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.

Schmehl assumed the role of Executive Director of the CASA in 2008. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the center, which works with sexually abused children, as well as non-offender family members and caregivers.

Children who come to the center enter a nonthreatening, playroom-type atmosphere, with hand-painted murals on the walls—a scene created by volunteers. Once there, the children are interviewed by trained staff just one time to avoid re-traumatizing them.

Since opening its doors in 2004, the CASA has provided services for more than 800 children, the youngest only 3-1/2 years old. They work with county detectives, prosecutors, The Reading Hospital and Medical Center, and other agencies to prepare cases against the perpetrators.

As CASA Director, Schmehl supervises volunteer advocates, who after forty hours of training are appointed by Berks County Family Court judges to speak for abused and neglected children in court. She matches the advocates with the families, and then the advocates work with Children and Youth Services caseworkers, attorneys, and other child-welfare agencies to prepare reports for court and recommended courses of action. She states that she is always looking for volunteers to serve in these important roles.

Schmehl began her studies as an Education major at the Penn State DuBois campus. She explained that since both of her parents are deaf, she wanted to work with the hearing impaired. She spent one year at DuBois, one year at Berks, and two years at University Park campus, where she completed her bachelor's degree in Health and Human Development in 1996.

During that time, she also completed an internship with the Berks County Intermediate Unit (BCIU) as a sign language interpreter, and she absolutely loved it. She was later hired by the BCIU to provide "wrap-around play therapy,” which is based on the principles of building on the child’s strengths, while addressing the child’s areas of need.

From there, she went to work as a Support Coordinator for Service Access and Management Inc., a nonprofit human services organization. She was later named Associate Vice President of Spectrum Community Services, an agency that provides long-term, community-based, residential treatment as an alternative to institutionalization for mentally and physically disabled individuals.

Then she learned about the CAC position through Opportunity House, a multi-service organization whose programs include the first 24/7 Learning Center in Pennsylvania, emergency, transitional, and permanent housing, and the CAC.

When asked how she feels about being a Penn State alumna in light of the Sandusky scandal, Schmehl responded, “When it all came out, I was embarrassed to have a Penn State license plate on my car. It was hard of the Sandusky scandal, Schmehl responded, “When it all came out, I was embarrassed to have a Penn State license plate on my car. It was hard

Despite the fact that he plays tight end for the New Orleans Saints and is a ten-year veteran of the National Football League, Penn State Berks alumna John Gilmore Jr. never forgets his roots. A native of the City of Reading, Gilmore co-founded the Gilmore | Henne Community Fund, which provides grants to revitalize parks and recreational facilities in Berks County. For these endeavors, Gilmore was honored with the Penn State Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni under the age of 35 for their extraordinary professional accomplishments, during an award ceremony at University Park campus on Friday, March 30, 2012.

“I’ve never been prouder to be a Penn State,” commented Gilmore. He went on to discuss a networking event and panel discussion that students were invited to the night before the award ceremony. “I was so impressed with the way students are getting involved, taking initiative, and asking the right questions. It has heightened my sense of pride in Penn State.”

Utilizing his Penn State degree and his strong commitment to the community, Gilmore partnered with fellow Wilson High School graduate and Miami Dolphins quarterback Chad Henne in 2010 to create the Gilmore | Henne Community Fund. The idea for the fund was inspired by Gilmore’s return to Reading, where he found the city's parks and recreation areas in extreme disarray with eons litter, vandalized equipment, and tangible evidence of drug dealing.

Since the establishment of the Gilmore | Henne Community Fund, which is administered by the Berks County Community Foundation, three parks have been renovated and more than $200,000 has been raised for park renovations and scholarships. In addition, Gilmore has been active in the community, sponsoring activities for local children at renovated parks, as well as other programs and events.

The fund also provides financial support for Berks County students who engage in scholastic sports, while maintaining a respectable GPA, and who plan to continue their education at the collegiate level.

Gilmore played for the New Orleans Saints for the 2011 season following three years with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and six years with the Chicago Bears. He was drafted into the NFL in the sixth round in 2002. Prior to his NFL career, Gilmore was a three-year letterman and was named the Outstanding Senior Player in 2001 by the State College Quarterbacks Club. In addition, he was a decorated athlete at Wilson High School, where he won numerous awards including Wilson’s 1996 Male Athlete of the Year, and the Associated Press First-Team All-State and First-Team All-County in Berks.

Gilmore graduated in 2001 with a bachelor of science degree in Recreation and Parks Management, which he has

Gilmore received an award ceremony at University Park campus on Friday, March 30, 2012.
A group of twenty Penn State Berks students traveled to a tropical island this spring, and while they did enjoy some sun and sand, this trip was no “day at the beach.” This year’s Alternative Spring Break took students, along with Chancellor R. Keith Hillkirk, to Costa Rica to help build a community center for at-risk children, which will include facilities for various professionals such as doctors, dentists, and educators who wish to donate their services to the community.

The group joined ProWorld Service in the revitalization project for Fundacion Abraham in the town of Villas de Ayarco, located on the outskirts of San Jose. Fundacion Abraham operates a home for abandoned children, and recently the foundation built a day care center that serves children ages 6 months to 12 years. These children come from impoverished homes in nearby communities where drug abuse, alcoholism, and physical and sexual abuse are common.

Students spent five of the seven days doing hard labor—preparing cement, painting, and building walls for the community center.

“My ultimate goal is that students will return from the trip inspired by their involvement in a community-based project and will continue to engage in community service in purposeful and lifelong ways.”

Andrea Pfaff, Assistant Director of Campus Life

The students stayed with host families who provided room and board—and the opportunity to learn more about the community and the local culture. During the evenings, the group participated in a variety of classes on Costa Rican cooking, dance, and Spanish.

“This trip pushed me to learn a new culture, work with strangers, and live in a house with a host mother I never met and three guys I barely knew,” stated sophomore Cory Smaltz. “However, I fell in love with the culture, made friends of those strangers, and felt as though I was with family in my home.”

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“My ultimate goal is that students will return from the trip inspired by their involvement in a community-based project and will continue to engage in community service in purposeful and lifelong ways,” explains Pfaff.

“We visited Irazu Volcano National Park, the scenic Orosi Valley, and Lankester Gardens, a University of Costa Rica Center for biological research that protects more than 800 species of orchids, bromeliads, and countless species of other plants. The students also took a “Best of the Pacific” beach tour. So, ultimately, they did get their day at the beach after all.”

The project was organized by Andrea Pfaff, Assistant Director of Campus Life, who also joined the student group, along with Kelli Meyer, Student Activities Coordinator.

“My ultimate goal is that students will return from the trip inspired by their involvement in a community-based project and will continue to engage in community service in purposeful and lifelong ways,” explains Pfaff.

“When they were not working on the community center project, the students had time to explore the region. They visited Irazu Volcano National Park, the scenic Orosi Valley, and Lankester Gardens, a University of Costa Rica Center for biological research that protects more than 800 species of orchids, bromeliads, and countless species of other plants. The students also took a “Best of the Pacific” beach tour. So, ultimately, they did get their day at the beach after all.”
Hillkirk Honored with Hendrick Award for Service to Adult Learners

D r. R. Keith Hillkirk, Penn State Berks Chancellor, has been honored with the 2012 Shirley Hendrick Award, presented by the Penn State Commission for Adult Learners. The award recognizes an administrator University-wide who has contributed to the success of Penn State’s efforts to serve adult learners. It is named in memory of Shirley Hendrick (1936–2000), the first recipient, Dean for Continuing Education in the Indiana University system, and inaugural chair of the Commission for Adult Learners.

While Chancellor at Penn State Schuylkill, Hillkirk helped bring together five campuses to collaborate in offering degree programs with the assistance of distance technology. Penn State Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington Scranton. In fall 2010, the Eastern Alliance began offering a joint baccalaureate degree in Business, with classes delivered by interactive video during evening and weekend hours and online.

Hillkirk served as chair of the University’s Commission for Adult Learners in 2009–2010. In 2010–2011, he co-chaired the Faculty Engagement Committee as it focused on a Faculty Senate recommendation that credit by exam and credit by portfolio be expanded. After serving as Penn State Schuylkill Chancellor for six years, he was named Penn State Berks Chancellor in 2011.

“Dr. Hillkirk has been a champion of adult education,” one nominator wrote, “His efforts as Chancellor at Penn State Schuylkill, including appointing an adult coordinator and instituting the 30+ scholarship programs, have resulted in a significant increase in adult students enrolling at the campus.”

Hillkirk has recently installed an Adult Learner 25+ Program at Penn State Berks. ■

New Scholarships Help Make College Affordable

By Laurie L. Redman

With the rising cost of college tuition, and incomes that are stagnant or barely on the upswing, families and individuals are now, more than ever, looking for a bit of a break.

Fortunately, Penn State Berks has two new scholarship offerings, including the Adult Learner 25+ Program and the Chancellor’s Scholarship, which will help make the cost of attending college more affordable.

Adult Learner 25+ Program

The Adult Learner 25+ Program is a newly created scholarship program that is intended to help adult students start earning credits toward a Penn State degree. The program will provide eligible adults, who are enrolling as first-time students at Penn State Berks, with a $2,000 lifetime award toward education costs.

“In these challenging economic times, Penn State Berks wants to do all it can to help make a Penn State education affordable and accessible for adult students,” explains Penn State Berks Chancellor R. Keith Hillkirk regarding the creation of the new scholarship program at the College.

Students must be at least 25 years of age to qualify, and pursuing an undergraduate degree (enrolled in degree status). In order to maintain this scholarship, adult students must be continuously enrolled. In addition, applicants must have a completed Penn State admissions application and a Penn Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the College.

There are some restrictions to the program. The $2,000 lifetime award is solely for new Penn State students. Penn State employees and their dependents are not eligible for this award. The maximum lifetime award is limited to $500 for students receiving 100 percent tuition reimbursement from their employer or military benefits. The award is given to students in increments according to semester credits (3 credits = $125, 6 credits = $250, 9 credits = $375, and 12 credits = $500).

For more information on the Adult Learner 25+ Program, contact Solange Jodai-Minto, Adult Student Recruitment Coordinator, at 610-396-6222.

Chancellor’s Scholarship

Penn State Berks now offers a scholarship for students who have demonstrated superior academic performance, and reside within the Penn State Berks service area.

Students can be awarded the Chancellor’s Scholarship upon admission to Penn State Berks, regardless of financial need. However, in order to receive the scholarship, students must attend a high school within the Berks campus service area, enroll at Penn State Berks as first-time, first-year baccalaureate candidates, enroll as full-time students, and accept the scholarship within three weeks of notification.

Matthew Suzenski from Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania is a Chancellor’s Scholarship recipient who will begin his studies at Penn State Berks in the fall of 2012. He recalls, “I’ve had a tough time running around to get scholarships, so it was a big surprise to me when I received the Chancellor’s Scholarship. I have heard so many great things from my high school teachers about the academics at Penn State Berks.”

Students are awarded scholarships based on predicted high academic achievement, reflected by the Evaluation Index (EI), a standard that is used by the University for admission purposes.

The award amount is $2,500 per year ($1,250 per semester), which can be renewed if a student’s cumulative grade point average is 3.0 or above.

For more information on the Chancellor’s Scholarship, contact Judy Rile, Financial Aid Coordinator, at 610-396-6070. ■

Thon

Berks raises more than $40K

By Lori J. Redman

S tudents kicked up their heels and raised $40,306 for THON through a variety of fundraising events and activities throughout the year, culminating in the 48-hour dance marathon to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund, held on Friday, February 17, to Sunday, February 19, 2012, at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University Park.

The THON final total was $10,468,924, earning its name as “the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.” Penn State Berks ranked fifth among all Penn State campuses for fundraising, which began in the fall of 2011, and included fundraising nights at Moe’s Southwest Grill and The Works at Wyomissing, late night skating events at the Body Zone Sports and Wellness Complex, a fashion show, “Cuts for Kids” events with the help of J & J Hair Salon, blood drives, Halloween and Valentine’s dances, a pie-in-the-face included fundraising nights at Moe’s Southwest Grill and The Works at Wyomissing, late night skating events at the Body Zone Sports and Wellness Complex, a fashion show, “Cuts for Kids” events with the help of J & J Hair Salon, blood drives, Halloween and Valentine’s dances, a pie-in-the-face.
hundreds of candles lid the cold, dark January night, and even though the temperatures dipped below the freezing mark, people left the warmth of their homes to huddle together outside on the Berks campus, by the Nittany Lion Shrine, to pay their final respects to iconic football coach Joe Paterno.

On January 24, 2012, two days after the passing of Paterno, the Penn State Berks Student Government Association organized a memorial event on campus. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members turned out in force to honor the legend.

For the last forty-six years, Joe Paterno dedicated his life to Penn State,“ said Mike Rowley, member of every decision we make,” said Peter Emerick, Residence Life Coordinator at Penn State Berks and a Penn State alumnus.

The Chamber Choir sang a heartfelt rendition of “Amazing Grace.”

“The most moving moment for me was ...” said Sue Paterno.

There were talks of the cost of a new stadium, but also of the cost of losing a coach who was a mentor, a father figure, and a true inspiration to many. It was a time of reflection and a time of celebration.

“Here I am, a freshman from Berks,” Wetmore said. “Joe came strutting into the coach’s door in State College with a tub of Peachy Paterno ice cream...”

Joe Paterno Memorial T-shirt Fundraiser

Proceeds will benefit the Penn State Berks Alumni Society Scholarship (a scholarship for Penn State Berks students). T-shirts are available in two different styles and colors at $5 each, payable by cash or check.

Orders can be placed by bringing the form and payment to the Alumni Office or by calling Sue Paterno at 610-396-5431.

Deadline for orders is May 25, 2012. T-shirts can be picked up at the Berks Campus Office in Room 200, or at the Alumni Office, Room 207, or at the Alumni Office, Room 207, or at the Alumni Office, Room 207, or at the Alumni Office, Room 207, or at the Alumni Office, Room 207.

Recipe for Alumni Tour of Poland

Pierogi, Salt, and History: Recipe for Alumni Tour of Poland

By Wendy M. Grinack

Despite record-breaking high temperatures back home in Berks County, Kraków experienced their usual winter temperatures in the 20 to 30 degree Fahrenheit range during our visit. Luckily, in addition to the plentiful pierogi shops, there were also a number of cafes serving warm beverages, including rich flavored hot chocolates and hot Kompot (honey vodka), served with hot water, honey, citrus fruit, and cloves.

On our first full day in Kraków, we were all given a hybrid (part bus, part walking) tour of the city. Highlights of the tour included the fourteenth-century Cloth Hall, where reasonable souvenirs and amber jewelry can be purchased; Jagiellonian University, the oldest university in Poland, established in 1364; the trumpeter of St. Mary’s, who performs hourly from the highest tower of the church; the Kazimierz District, now considered the artsy area of Kraków; Podgorze, where Schindler’s factory is located, and Wawel Cathedral, which includes a guided indoor tour and a stop to see its famous fire-breathing dragon (status).

Most of our group participated in one or both of the optional excursions. The first was to Wieliczka Salt Mine. Visitors here saw a salt statue of Pope John Paul II and highly detailed bas-relief wall carvings, including Da Vinci’s “The Last Supper”–two to name a few of the works of art created by talented miners. A combination of elevators and stairways (380 total steps) took us to three of the nine levels of the mine. We visited a one percent of the entire complex, which includes 2,350 chambers and over 240 km (~149 miles) of tunnels to a depth of 327 m (~1073 feet) underground. At the end of our tour, we were all delighted to learn that an elevator would take us back up the entire 135 m (~443 feet) to the surface.

Our second optional excursion was on our last full day in Poland. The Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps are a must-see for anyone who travels to Poland. From the “Hebiet Madla Fruit” (Work Makes You Free) sign to the proof displays, which include luggage, shoes, and human hair taken from prisoners, to the only remaining gas chamber, no one can leave here without experiencing chills or even a few tears. Visiting the largest cemetery in the world and realizing the atrocities committed against humanity on these grounds affected us all. Much of the tour was conducted outside on a sunny, but cold, day. This writer was tempted to complain about the chill in the air multiple times, but caught herself when she remembered that those imprisoned here worked outside in the snow with no coat... or shoes.

On the days with no excursions scheduled, the group explored different parts of Kraków and some even ventured beyond the city to Zakopane, a ski resort town at the foot of the Tatra Mountains.

Another popular site to visit was the original Enamelled Goods Factory (Fabryka Szklarska), owned by Oskar Schindler, and made famous by the film Schindler’s List, which is now a comprehensive museum of Kraków history. The Galeria Krakowska, a three-story shopping mall located next to our hotel, was another popular destination for members of our group, as we also return visits to the Cloth Hall in the Rynek Glowny market square.

From restaurants to shopping, our travelers realized what good bargains could be found in Kraków. It’s really amazing what you can buy for a mere 10 złoty (~$4.20)

While we all knew more Polish when we returned, we also found the city of Kraków to be very English and American-friendly. 
Academic News

Faculty and Administrators honored with awards

Grobman receives President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Integration
First recipient of the award from a Penn State campus outside University Park

Dr. Laurie Grobman, Professor of English and Women’s Studies, is the first faculty member from a campus outside University Park to be honored with the President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Integration, which recognizes a faculty member who has exhibited extraordinary achievement in the integration of teaching and research or creates accomplishments and service.

Grobman’s community-based research has sought to reconstruct the history of ethnic groups in Berks County by having students work in collaboration with those groups. “When We Work: A Collection of African American History in Berks County,” Pennsylvania is the result of collaboration with the NAACP Reading chapter, Histopedia Latinas in Reading and Afro: A Portrait of a Community was written in partnership with Centro Hispano in Reading.

Forrey elected Fellow of American Physical Society

Dr. Robert Forrey, Professor of Physics, has been elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS), the premier physics organization in the world, representing more than 30,000 members, including physicists in academia, national laboratories, and industry in the United States and throughout the world. Election to APS fellowship is based on outstanding contributions to the field and is limited to no more than 1/2 of 1 percent of the society’s membership.

Aurentz named Penn State Teaching Fellow

Dr. David Aurentz, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has been named a 2012 Penn State Teaching Fellow. Aurentz began teaching as a chemistry teaching assistant while earning his graduate degree from Penn State. In 2005, after spending time working in the private sector, he returned to the University as an Associate Professor of Chemistry.

One nominator said, “An industrial scientist who moved into academia, Dave could have adopted a transmission pedagogy, spending most class time telling students about chemistry. Instead, he seemed to know instinctually that the best way to help students learn is by engaging them with the subject.”

Explaining his teaching philosophy, Aurentz said, “Setting a high bar for critical thinking is important not only within the context of a specific course, but also as a lifelong skill. I encourage students to think outside the typical structure of course material and answer questions by integrating their own experiences with ideas they encounter in class.”

Outside of the classroom, he advises Life Science and Biology majors, mentors undergraduate teaching assistants, and conducts research in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Speicher receives PSEAS Outstanding Advising Award

Terry Spricher, Assistant Professor of Engineering and Coordinator of the Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology degree program, and a History of the Jewish Community in Reading and Berks County resulted from a partnership with the Jewish Cultural Center/Jewish Federation of Reading.

The professor’s current scholarship focuses on the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum in Reading. Grobman is writing a narrative history of the museum and two scholarly articles; the first grounded in scholarship on African American museums and the second on the rhetorical and communicative processes that led to the museum’s success.

Grobman also brought the Center for Service Learning and Community-Based Research (formerly known as The Laboratory for Public Scholarship and Democracy at Penn State Berks) to the College in fall 2010 and serves as its coordinator. The Center is designed to be a forum for sharing knowledge, expertise, and training among faculty who practice service learning in their courses.

Forrey was nominated for fellowship by the APS Division of Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics for “contributions to the understanding of internal energy transfers in atomic and molecular systems” and for “meaningful involvement of undergraduate students in research.”

Prior to joining Penn State in 1999, Forrey was a research scientist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. His theoretical research uses quantum mechanics to calculate fundamental properties of atomic and molecular systems. His current research focuses on structure formation in the early Universe and aims to understand the origin of molecular hydrogen and its critical role in the formation of the first generation of stars in the Universe.

Berry named Certified Auxiliary Services Professional

Kim Berry, Chief Operating Officer, was recently named Certified Auxiliary Services Professional (CASP) by the Certification Commission of the National Association of Auxiliary College Services. CASP is the highest professional credential in auxiliary services and follows the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accreditation standards. Fewer than one percent of all auxiliary service professionals have achieved this mark of excellence.

The CASP examination covers the areas of management; leadership; marketing, communications, and business relations; student services; and the operational areas of food services, bookstores, card services, and commercial/retail and physical facilities.

Berry is now a member of the Certification Commission and will help to manage the CASP examination process in the future.

CLASS NOTES

‘62 Melvin R. Noll, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, is retired from IBM Corporation. He resides in Bluffton, S.C.

‘86 Scott D. Charney, B.S. in Finance, is Vice President of Finance for KS Alley LLC in Reading. He and his wife, Betty, reside in Methuen, MA.

‘94 Rudy A. Kamp, B.A. in Communications, works for the Central Pennsylvania Teamsters as a Human Resources Manager. He is also a vendor at the Sovereign Center and FirstEnergy Stadium. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Reading, PA.

‘03 Stephen T. Melon, B.S. in Information Sciences & Technology, is employed by MEO/PCS Corporate in Richmond, VA. He resides in Copeland, TX.

In Memoriam

Harry L. Fisher, ’67, Class of 1965
Robert W. Grome, ’83, WPI Class of 1993
Ronald H. Grumbles, ’74, WPI Class of 1978
Samuel N. Krick, Jr., ’55, Class of 1978
Evlyn F. (Peterson) Thompson, ’76, Class of 1972
Judith N. Van Tosh, Class of 1970
Richard L. Westholdt, ’76, WPI Class of 1974

William E. Yoder, Longtime Campus Supporter

William E. Yoder, ’83, passed away on January 18, 2012. He was the husband of the late Jean-Pegh Yoder. Yoder was a longtime supporter of Penn State Berks and established the William Eyer Yoder Trustee Scholarship for Engineering.

Founder of W.E. Yoder, Inc. and former Vice President, he graduated from Penn State in 1940, earning a B.S. in Sanitary Engineering. He later earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lehigh University. In 1989, he was honored as Penn State University’s Outstanding Engineering Alumnus.

A Naval veteran of World War II and Korea, he later served in the Naval Reserve for twenty-seven years, having attained the rank of Captain in the Civil Engineering Corps. Yoder was also past President of the Reading Chapter of Professional Engineers. In addition, he was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, where he was a former President of Church Council; he was past President of the Kutztown Lions Club and the Kutztown Borough Council President; and was a member of the Topton Lutheran Home Board of Directors for twenty-five years.

He is survived by his children, William W., Thomas H., Sally J., and Emma J.; a sister, a brother, ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Vincent Scalaese, Wyoming Polytectic Institute Alumni Leader

Vincent “Jim” Scalaese, ’84, passed away on February 13, 2012. He was the husband of Maribeth Roberta Scalaese, to whom he would have been married for fifty-six years in May.

He was a 1947 graduate of Wyoming Polytechnic Institute, and he was employed as a plant manager with Rockwell International for thirty-seven years, retiring in 1989. He resides in Copeland, TX.

Scalaese served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. While there, he received seven bronze stars in the Pacific Arctic Theater and an Air Medal Distinguished Unit Badge with one Bronze Cluster.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Ronald J., a brother, Thomas, seven granddaughters, and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Mark J., as well as his brothers and one sister.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS NOW ONLINE!

We love to hear from you! Please keep us informed about where you are and what you’re doing. Let us know if you’ve moved, had a new job, or have other news to share.Submit your information online at berks.psu.edu/alumni/disscuss.htm

In Coppell, TX.

Stephen T. Melvin

and his wife, Susan, reside in Reading, PA.

Scott D. Charney

He and his wife, Betty, reside in Methuen, MA.

Vincent “Jim” Scalaese

was the husband of Maribeth Roberta Scalaese, to whom he would have been married for fifty-six years in May.

He was a 1947 graduate of Wyoming Polytechnic Institute, and he was employed as a plant manager with Rockwell International for thirty-seven years, retiring in 1989. He resides in Copeland, TX.

Scalaese served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. While there, he received seven bronze stars in the Pacific Arctic Theater and an Air Medal Distinguished Unit Badge with one Bronze Cluster.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Ronald J., a brother, Thomas, seven granddaughters, and nine great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a son, Mark J., as well as his brothers and one sister.

CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS NOW ONLINE!

We love to hear from you! Please keep us informed about where you are and what you’re doing. Let us know if you’ve moved, had a new job, or have other news to share.Submit your information online at berks.psu.edu/alumni/disscuss.htm

In Coppell, TX.

Stephen T. Melvin

and his wife, Susan, reside in Reading, PA.

Scott D. Charney

He and his wife, Betty, reside in Methuen, MA.

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In Coppell, TX.
FAMILY AND HOMECOMING WEEKEND
PENN STATE BERKS 2012

There's a Hero Within
October 19-20, 2012

Friday, October 19
- Float Building & Block Party
- Bonfire

Saturday, October 20
- Berks Alumni Reunion Brunch
- Carnival
- Bathtub Derby Races
- Men's Soccer Game
- Men's Rugby Game
- Crowning of the 2012 Homecoming King & Queen
- The Von Shakes Concert
- Women's Soccer Game

Visit berks.psu.edu for updated information regarding 2012 Family & Homecoming Weekend.