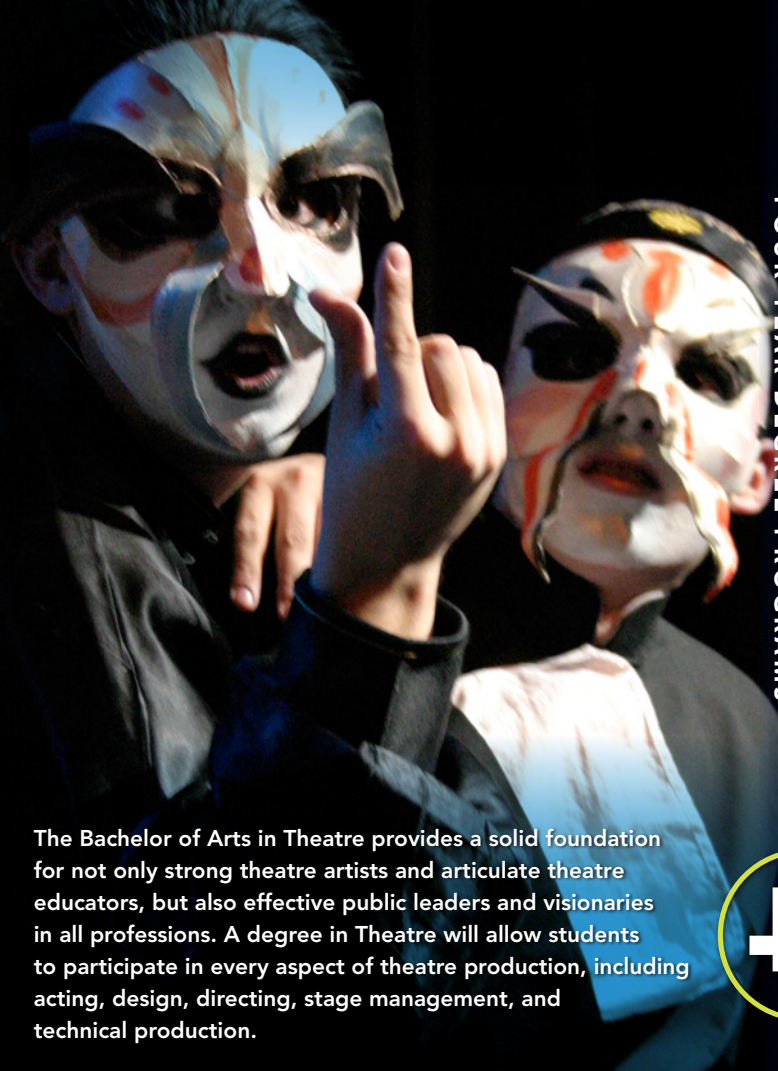


BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN

Theatre

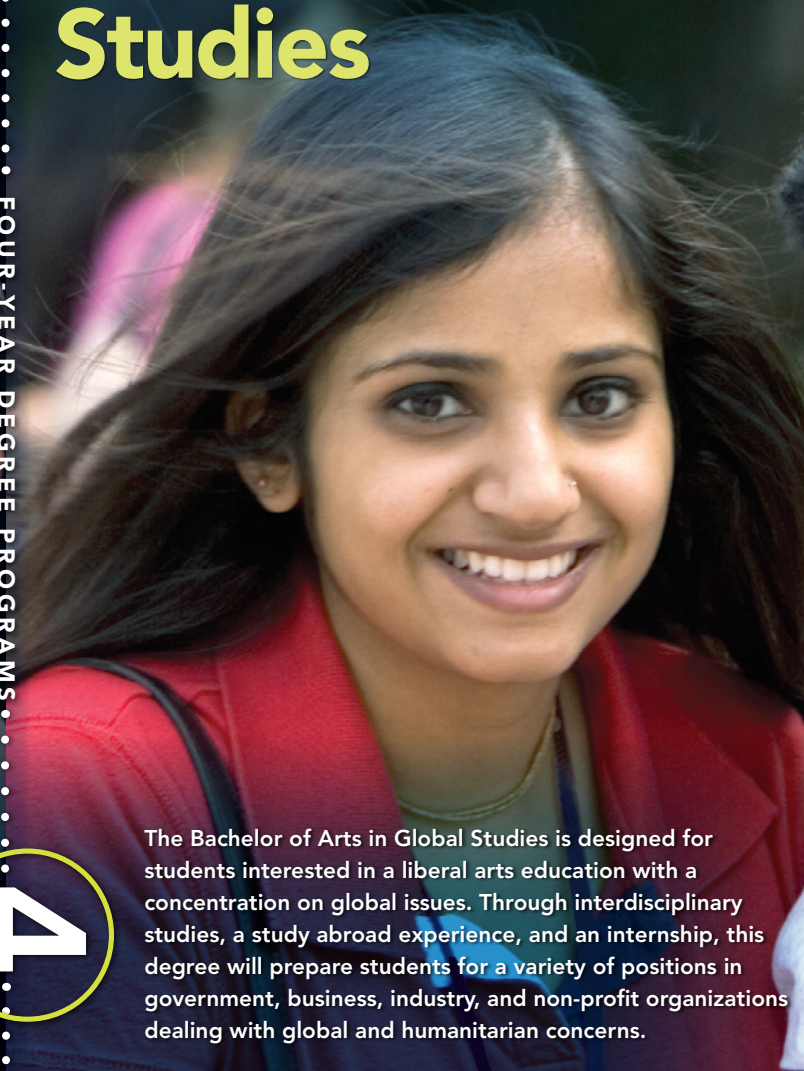


The Bachelor of Arts in Theatre provides a solid foundation for not only strong theatre artists and articulate theatre educators, but also effective public leaders and visionaries in all professions. A degree in Theatre will allow students to participate in every aspect of theatre production, including acting, design, directing, stage management, and technical production.

For more information, contact:
Cleo House
at 610-396-6419 or CZH11@psu.edu

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN

Global Studies



The Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies is designed for students interested in a liberal arts education with a concentration on global issues. Through interdisciplinary studies, a study abroad experience, and an internship, this degree will prepare students for a variety of positions in government, business, industry, and non-profit organizations dealing with global and humanitarian concerns.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Randall Fegley
at 610-396-6092 or RAF8@psu.edu
Dr. Kirk Shaffer
at 610-396-6258 or KRS14@psu.edu

FOUR-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS

4

Global Studies Degree = My Dream Job

Susan Hollingsworth's
Adventurous Journey



Theatre Degree Prepares Students
for Variety of Professions

Students Raise \$24K for
Pediatric Cancer through THON

On the cover: Susan Hollingsworth '07 is pictured surrounded by prayer flags during her recent visit to China as an instructor for the World Class Kayak Academy. See article on pages 7-8. Photo by Kristi Murrin, a fellow instructor for the academy.

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CORRECTION: In the article titled "College Launches Practical Nurse Program" in the Winter 2008-2009 issue, we neglected to mention that the State Board of Nursing approved the Penn State Berks Practical Nursing Program as a satellite of the Penn State Lehigh Valley Practical Nursing Program. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to take the National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN) for state licensure. Graduate students interested in continuing toward their Registered Nursing diploma may be able to challenge courses at The Reading Hospital's School of Nursing for advanced placement.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

"Read My Lips, It's the Economy"

Do you remember that phrase during a presidential campaign almost two decades ago? Since September 13, 2008, we have been faced with economic challenges not seen since the Great Depression. The ready access of media-driven information makes the reality of the economic problem impossible to ignore. The front page article of the February 6, 2009 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* decries that faculty at some institutions feel they are losing control over their institutions as administrators strive to keep the institutions afloat.

Many of those institutions that are gasping for breath operate significantly off endowment funds. Every institution wants to have large endowments and The Pennsylvania State University is no exception. What seems to be separating institutions that are managing these difficult financial times and those that are struggling significantly is how each chooses to use their endowments. At many Ivy League universities, 75% or more of their operating costs come from endowment. As the stock markets plummet, paying bills becomes more and more challenging.

At Penn State, however, it is a much different story. Penn State Berks has a very modest endowment, which we are seriously working to grow. This endowment funds scholarships and student/faculty/staff involvement in research and community outreach. An extremely small portion of our endowment goes towards our general operations. We are almost exclusively operated by tuition dollars. At University Park, a greater percentage of the endowment goes toward operational funds, but the percentage is perhaps 10 percent at most. Penn State as a whole has been managed in a very frugal manner and thus we have been able to weather this economic downturn without compromising our academic programming or our employees.

The Governor of Pennsylvania recently announced that he would be rolling back our appropriation to less than what it was in 2000. The good news is that we are managing, and in fact, we continue to offer more enhanced programming to our students and community than ever before.

This great nation will recover and return to stability soon, and I am convinced that it will be because solid folks like those running Penn State University will be leading the way. With a tag line of "Making Life Better," we can't miss.



Dr. Susan Phillips Speece, Chancellor, Penn State Berks



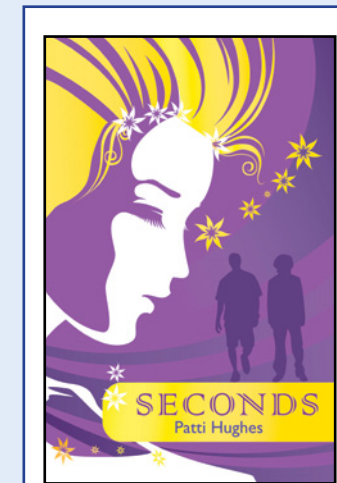
Chancellor's Podcasts Keep Alumni and Friends Informed

Want to know more about what's happening at Penn State Berks? Now you can hear current information about the college through Chancellor Speece's monthly podcasts. Just visit berks.psu.edu and click on *Chancellor's Podcasts* under *News & Events*.



CLASS NOTES

Where Are They Now?



1985
Patti Hughes, B.S. in Arts and Sciences, recently published her first novel, *Seconds*, by Outskirts Press. For a synopsis and ordering information, go to www.outskirtspress.com/seconds. She is employed as Communications Manager, National Sales for Yellowbook in King of Prussia, and she resides in Douglassville, PA.

1998

Julie Gesoff, associate degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management, works for United Technologies in Windsor Locks, CT as Human Resources Coordinator of Labor Relations. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Human Resources from Penn State World Campus. She resides in New Britain, CT.

2003

Matthew Blanski, B.A. in Labor and Industrial Relations, is currently working at Blanski, Inc. as a Boiler Technician. He lives in Reading, PA.

Births

Daryl M. Bond '06 and Laura A. Lawson-Bond '00 welcomed their first child, Michael William, on 10/8/08.

In Memory

John R. Bentz, Sr., 72, WPI Class of '54

Michael A. Colon, 66, Class of '74

Robert P. Everline, 87, WPI Class of '40

Jim Geist Jr., 70, GO-60 Program

Helen I. Handwerk, 91, wife of Thomas Handwerk, honorary Penn State alumnus and long-time friend of the campus

Richard D. Good, 87, WPI Class of '41

Richard D. Homan, 73, WPI Class of '56

Bernard E. Moll, 73, WPI Class of '58

Brian S. Rotkowski, 24, '04

Derick H. Sites, 22, '07 Electrical Engineering

OUTSTANDING RECENT ALUMNUS

EDWARD F. ANEWALT IV

Edward F. Anewalt IV '98, President of Anewalt's Landscape Contracting in Bernville, was recently honored with the Penn State Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award. Anewalt graduated from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in Landscape Contracting. He spent his first two years at Penn State Berks and then he completed his degree at University Park, commuting two hours each way three times a week, while successfully managing and maintaining his business.



Pictured are Edward F. Anewalt IV (left) and Dean Robert Steele.

After graduation, Anewalt fused his business experience with his Penn State education by introducing design/build and tree/shrub divisions into his company. He further expanded his business by purchasing an existing retail garden center and nursery in 2001 and a Weed Man Lawn Care franchise in 2005.

Anewalt has served on the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA) board of directors and has chaired several PLNA committees. In 2006, PLNA honored him with the organization's Green Achiever Award.

He is also a member of the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), the Lawn Care Association of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Home Builders Association.

Furthering his professional development, Anewalt successfully completed his national accreditation as a Certified Landscape Professional (CLP) through PLANET.

Anewalt resides in Bernville with his wife, Lori '94, and their daughter, Lucia.

The Penn State Outstanding Recent Alumnus Award was established in 2000 to recognize outstanding alumni who have graduated within the last ten years and provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and students to interact with them.

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 are a Penn State graduate living in the Greater Reading area, we are interested in knowing where you are and what you are doing.

Alumna/Alumnus Name _____ PSU Class Year _____
 Last (Maiden) First M.I.
 Attended: PSU Berks U.P. Other _____ Degrees: Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctorate
 Discipline (Do Not Abbreviate) _____
 Spouse's Name _____ PSU Class Year _____
 Last (Maiden) First M.I.
 Attended: PSU Berks U.P. Other _____ Degrees: Associate Bachelor's Master's Doctorate
 Discipline (Do Not Abbreviate) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ E-mail _____
 Place 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 Szivos, Penn State Berks, PO Box 7009, Reading, PA 19610-6009; or send information via e-mail to rcs212@psu.edu; or visit our Web site: berks.psu.edu/alumni/classnotes.htm

BERKS ALUMNI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 14, 2009—Alumni Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.



May 16, 2009—Spring Commencement, 10:00 a.m., Beaver Community Center.

June 16, 2009—WPI Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

June 30, 2009—Alumni Society Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Penn State Room.

August 18, 2009—WPI Meeting, 2:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

September 16, 2009—Alumni Society Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Janssen Office Building.

September 22, 2009—Alumni Society Texas Hold 'em Night for students, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room. Contact Ralph Tutlane, 610-777-7312, kingtut039@aol.com.



September 26, 2009—Alumni Football Bus Trip—Iowa at Penn State. Bus will depart at 9:00 a.m. from the Franco Building parking lot. Cost: \$35, tickets are not included. Contact Ryan Szivos, 610-396-6057, rcs212@psu.edu.

October 3, 2009—Alumni Reunion Tailgate for Illinois football game. Time and location TBA. Contact Ryan Szivos, 610-396-6057, rcs212@psu.edu.

October 7, 2009—Alumni Society Bingo Night for students, 9:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room. Contact Gretchen Manmiller, 610-507-5449, gnkmanmiller@verizon.net.

October 8, 2009—Chancellor Circle Dinner, 6:15 p.m.—reception, Freyberger Gallery; 7:00 p.m.—dinner, Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room. For information on joining the Chancellor Circle, contact Dave Delozier, 610-396-6006, dcd11@psu.edu.



October 22, 2009—Ghost Stories Tour with Charlie Adams '82. Join paranormal expert Charlie Adams for a tour of Berks County. Contact Ralph Tutlane, 484-364-1068, kingtut039@aol.com.

October 30, 2009—WPI Reunion, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.

Penn State alumni events are open to all Penn State alumni and friends of the college. For more information or to RSVP for any of these events, contact Ryan Szivos, 610-396-6057, rcs212@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 45 days prior to event date: 100%;
45 days to 21 days prior to event date: 50%;
fewer than 21 days prior to event date: None.
All refunds will be processed after the date of the event.

Berks Alumni Society Looking for Loyal Penn Staters

The Penn State Berks Alumni Society is currently accepting nominations for its board of directors. Nominations can be submitted online at www.berks.psu.edu/alumni. The deadline for all submissions is May 28, 2009.

The Berks Alumni Society brings together alumni of the college through a variety of events and activities. Their mission is to enhance the interests and reputation of the college and to achieve a closer fellowship between the alumni, students, faculty, staff, and the community. The society also encourages support for scholarships, promotes professional development of students and alumni, and fosters a sense of pride and commitment to the college.

The society will hold their annual meeting on June 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the Perkins Student Center Penn State Room, at which time a ballot will be conducted and the elected board of directors will be announced.

For more information contact Gregg Young at gggyoung@psulaum.com.

Alumni Profile

Kaag Overcomes Obstacles to Receive Alumni Achievement Award

—by Ryan C. Szivos

When Chris Kaag '04 graduated from high school, he planned to have a career in the military, and for four-and-a-half years, he did just that. Kaag worked in avionics for the United States Marine Corps, stationed in the U.S., Italy, and Bosnia.

Then in the fall of 1998, two weeks after his twenty-first birthday, Kaag began having trouble lifting his legs after running. He spent the next eight weeks in the hospital before he was diagnosed with adrenomyeloneuropathy, a degenerative nerve disorder. As a result, Kaag would eventually lose the ability to walk.

The revelation was jarring, and Kaag admits not knowing what to do. "I'd planned on being a Marine," states Kaag. "Having no choice but to leave was a profound and drastic change—it's nothing you expect."

Kaag decided to return to Pennsylvania, and a few months later he enrolled in classes at Penn State Berks.

"I decided to take up a Business degree at Penn State," explains Kaag, who graduated with a B.S. in Business in 2004. "I wanted a degree that was fairly universal and would help me regardless of what I decided to do. At the time I still wasn't entirely sure what that was."

Eventually, it was Kaag's continued dedication to fitness, along with his education in business and the values he learned in the Marines—teamwork and the ability to push beyond your limits—that led him to start his own fitness center, Corps Fitness.

"Technically, Corps Fitness started in 2004," Kaag explains. "However, I didn't have any fixed location at the time for the center, so it started in parks, local gyms, and wherever I could find the space to teach. I wanted to promote an active lifestyle and bring my experiences in the Marines to people."

In 2008, Kaag found a permanent facility for Corps Fitness in Reading. Today he and his instructors run several classes a day, each ranging in size from just a few to about thirty-five participants per class.

Corps Fitness served as an important launching point for Kaag, who soon looked for additional ways to promote active lifestyles and to help aid disabled persons. In 2004, Kaag started the "Got the Nerve?" Triathlon.



Chris Kaag received the Penn State Alumni Achievement Award on April 3. Pictured (left to right) are Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece; David C. Han, President of the Penn State Alumni Association; Chris Kaag; and Penn State President Graham Spanier.

"I wanted to do something to raise the awareness of the Myelin Project," states Kaag. The Myelin Project is a worldwide organization that researches myelin and nerve damage disorders. Kaag also served on the organization's board of directors. Going into its sixth year, the triathlon attracts nearly 750 participants from all over the U.S. and Canada.

Coming off the success of "Got the Nerve?," Kaag created the IM ABLE Foundation in 2007. The IM ABLE Foundation seeks to raise funds to purchase age-specific hand cycles (arm-powered bicycles) and to provide additional financial resources for disabled children. The cost to purchase a single hand cycle can range between \$1,500 to \$2,500.

On April 3, Kaag was honored with the Penn State Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni under the age of 35 for their extraordinary professional accomplishments. Kaag was honored for his achievements in business and the success of his nonprofit organizations, the IM ABLE Foundation and the Got the Nerve? Triathlon.

So what does the future hold for Kaag? He states that he is currently working to bring his message into the classroom.

"I decided to take a slow and steady approach to teaching what I've learned," explains Kaag. "I try to speak at schools to both able-bodied and disabled students. I want all the kids I meet to realize that regardless of who you are, you can stay active. I just really want people to believe in the physical and mental benefits of being healthy. I also want to raise the awareness in able-bodied kids of persons with disabilities so they are not surprised at what we're able to do."

Extremely grateful for the Alumni Achievement Award, Kaag sees this as one step in bringing him closer to the University and teaching students about the importance of hard work.

"For me, receiving this award was a huge surprise and very humbling that people thought enough of what I've accomplished that I would deserve the award," says Kaag. "This award symbolizes for me that the successes I've had in my life are the result of doing things that I love, and I hope that others who are just starting out can take that philosophy and incorporate it into their own success." ■



SAVE THE DATE!

2009 Alumni Reunion Tailgate

Saturday, October 3, 2009



The 2009 Alumni Reunion will be a tailgate party for family and friends of Penn State Berks alumni and attendees. The tailgate reunion will be held off campus, location and time TBA.

As more information becomes available it will be posted on the Alumni Web site: berks.psu.edu/alumni. If you're interested in joining the Alumni Reunion Committee, please contact Heather Angstadt at 610-396-6052 or HLA2@psu.edu.

Show Your Penn State Pride while Benefitting Alumni Society Scholarship *—by Matt N. Kunkelman*

Do you bleed blue and white? Is your Penn State pride obvious in your landscaping, tailgating area, or office? How about in your kitchen? Two products being sold as Alumni Society Scholarship fundraisers—Penn State alumni markers and crocks—make it possible for Penn Staters to showcase their pride just about anywhere.



flag that can be attached above the marker.

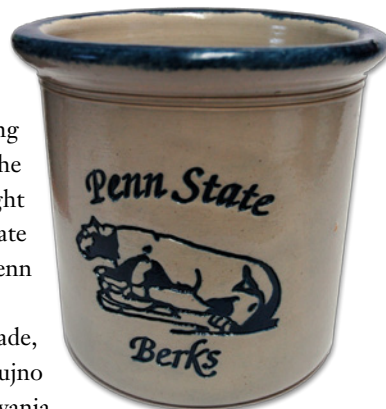
The alumni markers are produced by a family of Penn Staters, the Harleys, operating under the name Alumni Markers, LLC. All four members of the family—father Charley, mother Judy, daughter Michelle, and son Matt—are either Penn State graduates or former employees of the University.

The idea began more than fifteen years ago when Charley Harley '70 was volunteering at his church.

“My father was mowing grass at our church cemetery and noticed that many headstones had memorial markers honoring war heroes, senators, and other prominent people in the community,” explains Michelle Harley-Balliet '89, Alumni Markers Marketing Director. “The idea came to him that making markers to recognize Penn State alumni would be a great idea.”

Harley-Balliet explains that Penn State markers have almost endless uses from outdoor landscaping and floral arrangements, to indoor décor and gift baskets. She especially recommends putting them in an office to “make your mark as a Penn Stater.”

For the culinary enthusiast, or anyone who spends time in the kitchen, Penn State crocks are a great addition. Invoking memories of the days of eating in the Penn State dining hall or late-night trips to the pizza shop, Penn State crocks are a must-have for the Penn State alumnus.



The crocks are handmade, stoneware pots produced by Bujno Pottery in Adamstown, Pennsylvania. These half-gallon crocks measure 7”x 7” and are decorated with the Penn State logo and Nittany Lion imprint. Bujno crocks are high fired, making them oven, microwave, freezer, and dishwasher safe.

Steve Bujno, owner of Bujno Pottery, began creating art as a child. After earning an art degree in college, he started his own business.

“I’ve been creating art my whole life,” explains Bujno. “I decided to open Bujno Pottery to make pottery and custom work that is both functional and decorative, and it’s something that I love doing. I live in the area, and I’m happy to be able to help the Penn State Berks Alumni Society Scholarship. Not supporting Penn State would be like living in Philadelphia and not liking the Eagles—if you live here, you love Penn State.”

Bujno’s enthusiasm for Penn State runs in the family; his daughter is planning to attend Penn State Berks in the fall.

The Alumni Society Scholarship provides recognition and financial assistance to Penn State Berks students who have a proven need for funds to meet their college expenses and are in good academic standing. ■

Penn State alumni markers are 5”x 4” cast-aluminum ovals that display the Penn State Nittany Lion and read either “The Pennsylvania State University • Alumni” or simply “The Pennsylvania State University.” They come with a staff to display the collegiate, officially licensed marker and a Nittany Lion



Show off your Penn State Pride and support the Penn State Berks Alumni Society Scholarship with Penn State Alumni Markers and Crocks.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Daytime Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to:
Penn State Berks Alumni Society
 For more information, contact
 Greg Young at 610-413-3980
 or gggyoung@psualum.com

Mail this form and a check to:
 Greg Young
 317 Charles Street
 Lebanon, PA 17042



Alumni Marker with Nittany Lion Flag
\$39.99
 (includes shipping)



Alumni Crock
\$40.50
 (includes shipping)

Alumni Marker Quantity: _____ X \$39.99 = _____
Alumni Crock Quantity: _____ X \$40.50 = _____
Total: _____

Theatre Degree Prepares Students for a Variety of Professions *—by Lisa R. Weidman*

Students who want to learn to think precisely in the moment, to speak confidently, to write with clarity and intelligence, and to work productively with others will benefit from the new bachelor of arts degree in Theatre at Penn State Berks. The degree provides students with crucial life skills that can be used in a wide range of professions, from theatre artists and articulate theatre educators, to effective public leaders and visionaries in all professions including in business, government, journalism, literature, the fine arts, and related disciplines.

The bachelor of arts in Theatre at Penn State Berks is the same degree program offered by Penn State University Park. Students at Berks will benefit from the small class sizes and frequency of productions, allowing them to gain hands-on experience, to focus in their area of emphasis while completing the major requirements, to participate in multiple productions, and to experience leadership opportunities.



Students majoring in Theatre at Penn State Berks will participate in every aspect of theatre production, including acting, design, directing, stage management, and technical production. Whether on the stage, behind the scenes, in the box office, or working with the public, there are many opportunities for students to engage in real-world situations.

In the classroom, coursework provides a solid foundation in theatre history, theory, aesthetics, and technique. Students can expect to engage three complementary processes: the individual creative process, the collaborative process, and the critical/analytical process. All three processes receive equal attention. The course of study culminates in the senior project, which demonstrates students’ knowledge of theatre, integrates formerly compartmentalized areas of study, and poses new questions and challenges.

The Penn State Berks Theatre program provides a solid foundation for those wishing to pursue graduate level work in theatre, professional theatre apprenticeships, or any environment where creative problem solving, collaboration, and research/analysis skills are valued. The program is enhanced by internships with professional theatre companies.

Depending on their area of emphasis, graduates may choose careers as actors, directors, producers, playwrights, dramatic coaches, critics, dramaturges, designers, educators, administrators, and managers. These careers can be pursued within universities, performing arts organizations, related nonprofit organizations, and the media.

For more information on the Penn State Berks Theatre degree program, contact Cleo House, Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Theatre, at 610-396-6419 or via e-mail at czh11@psu.edu. ■



Cohens Establish First Theatre Scholarship *—by Ryan C. Szivos*

For nearly a decade, Irv '50 and Lois '49 Cohen have been involved with the Theatre program at University Park, and for the past year they have served on the Advisory Board for the Musical Theatre Program. So when Penn State Berks announced its new B.A. in Theatre degree program, they were excited for the opportunity to combine their passion for the college and theatre by establishing the first Theatre scholarship.

This \$50,000 scholarship will provide financial assistance to undergraduate students who are enrolled or planning to enroll in the Theatre major and have demonstrated a need for funds to supplement their college expenses.

Irv Cohen served in the Army’s Armored Field Artillery during World War II, and he went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in Arts and Letters from University Park. Shortly after graduation, he founded Construction Fasteners, Inc., located in Wyomissing, PA. Lois Cohen graduated from University Park with a bachelor’s degree in Home Economics.

They both served on the Berks Campus Advisory Board for many years. In addition, the Cohens have previously created the Irvin and Lois E. Cohen Trustee Scholarship at Penn State Berks to assist students with their financial needs.

“We are thrilled Berks is getting this program,” says Lois Cohen. “We want to find ways to encourage students looking to enter the major. Hopefully, this scholarship will be able to provide those students some support.” ■



Sebastian Scholl, student, took this photo of Susan Hollingsworth honing her kayaking skills.



Global Studies Degree = **DREAM JOB** —by Susan M. Hollingsworth '07

When Susan Hollingsworth graduated from Penn State Berks with a bachelor's degree in Science and a minor in Global Studies, she never dreamed of the opportunities that awaited her as an instructor for the World Class Kayak Academy, a traveling high school for kids who want to train and compete in whitewater kayaking. The following is an excerpt from her blog, "Love the Life You Live, Lead the Life You Love" (www.susansevolution.blogspot.com).

Typical day at work on China's Yangtze River

A alarm clock sounds. I unzip my tent, bury my feet in the sand, and prepare for another day of work. My thirteen high school students emerge from their slumber underneath the stars here on the Great Bend of the Yangtze River in China's Yunnan Province. We sort into teams for the morning workout of a game of football, have a filling breakfast, and begin our classes for the day. My biology students conduct an interview; a Chinese river conservationist has accompanied our group for this ten-day leg of our tour and can help us understand humanity's impact on nature, here on the other side of the world. Fifth period ends. We pack our gear into dry bags and suit up to kayak the colossal waves and strong currents of our next stretch of river.

The river is a home for the five teachers and up to fifteen students of the World Class Kayak Academy. Based in Missoula, Montana, this unique school brings experiential learning to a new level. Students explore history, science, math, and literature as they travel along America's mountain ranges and the rivers of foreign countries: China, Uganda, Chile, New Zealand. Additionally, the quality of whitewater kayaking decides our route and destinations. Students paddle down stretches of the world's legendary rivers, honing their skills every day. For us, the river connects it all.

From our sojourn on the banks of the Yangtze, we head over

the mountains to the Mekong Valley, our bus slowly ascending the snow-capped peaks lining the high mountain pass. Prayer flags stretch across deep valleys, worn and faded from the sun's powerful reign in this high altitude, evidence of the dominant Tibetan culture now confined within China's political boundaries.

Xidong, matrimonial dress, and family

We settle into a family's guest house in the small village of Xidong, and in the passing week, we learn the generosity and kindness for which the Tibetans are known. Though we do not speak the same language, I develop friendships with the grandmother and young daughter over yak butter tea in the kitchen. They laugh at my ignorance and I smile; we pass the time together where blissful aromas swirl and foreign languages fill the air.

On our final evening in the guest house, the women of the family dig in their trunks to reveal traditional Tibetan dresses for the female teachers to wear. They cover us in silk shirts with sleeves reaching the floor, layers of multicolored cloth wraps and bright beaded necklaces heavy with silver pendants. We gather for a family portrait: thirteen teenagers, five teachers, one translator, and the aunts, uncles, grandparents, mothers, and children of this amazing family.



Susan Hollingsworth (left) and Kristi Murrin, an instructor with World Class Kayak Academy, wore traditional Tibetan dresses during the last night of their stay with a family in Xidong.

Final destination, Nujiang River

Up and over another mountain range, we travel to our final river destination, the Nujiang, or Salween, River. Unlike the other valleys we have visited, a paved road runs alongside the banks of the river, connecting the towns and cities with the winding path of the canyon. Our time here is split between a larger city, Gongshan, and a smaller town further downstream. We spend an afternoon playing in the rapids, among the biggest I have ever seen, and trade whistles and shouts with the locals who stand along the riverbanks and bridges to watch our colorful antics.

For us, the river links our natures to its own, with raw power and the joy of motion, a heady mix that defines us as athletes and as people. But we are guests here. For millions of people living along its banks, in terraced farms or on city streets, the river is the center of life and the living history of their ancestors. Yet the days of these rivers are numbered. Soon massive hydropower projects will dam nearly every stretch of it within the country's wide boundaries.

Energy demands are high for China's booming population; China will soon harness the mighty river as an energy resource. My students struggle to understand. They speak with the villagers who will be relocated when the valley floods, they walk past farms whose lands will disappear, and they roam city streets that will be hundreds of feet underwater within a few short years. They try to comprehend the scale of imminent change for the people whose lives revolve around the river—socially, physically, spiritually,

“Just two years ago, I was wearing a dark blue gown and thanking my professors on the lawn in front of the Perkins Student Center.”

emotionally. For a group of people whose lives revolve around the river, this is a difficult concept to understand.

China's rivers not only offer challenging whitewater and exposure to a culture unlike ours in America, but also a glimpse into the difficulties of a developing nation. Our trip's itinerary was coordinated by Last Descents River Expeditions, western China's first domestic multi-day rafting company. Last Descents began organizing expeditions like ours to demonstrate to the Chinese people alternative benefits this valuable resource can provide. By sharing the pure joy felt from riding a wave train, floating through painted canyon walls, and listening to the flow of the water and its creatures, Last Descents hopes to instill a reason for the river's preservation.

Periodically, I must step outside my reality to believe it. Just two years ago, I was wearing a dark blue gown and thanking my professors on the lawn in front of the Perkins Student Center. The combination of Penn State Berks' Life Science major and Global Studies minor proved to be my ultimate ticket for the adventurous and inspiring life I lead today: teaching at World Class Kayak Academy might just be my dream job. As I return to the school's home base in Montana, I can't help but wonder what is next. Perhaps I will go back to the other side of the world someday and experience China all over again. ■



The group takes a break at the Great Bend of the Yangtze River in China's Yunnan Province.

Advisory Board Members Help College Reach Goals

Interview with John P. Weidenhammer, President, Weidenhammer Systems Corporation

—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, John P. Weidenhammer, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board and President of Weidenhammer Systems Corporation, discusses his reasons for joining the board.



During the college's Capital Campaign in 1997, Weidenhammer chaired the design committee and was instrumental in the development of the Boscov-Lakin Information Commons, a learning and technology addition to the Thun Library that contains an electronic classroom, a multimedia center, and a cyber café, providing students, faculty, staff, and community members access to teleconferencing, distance learning, multimedia production, the Internet, and a variety of University resources.

Weidenhammer's ties to Penn State Berks date back to 1996, when he first joined the Berks Advisory Board, and served as chair from 2001–2002. After his six-year term, he took the required one-year hiatus and returned to the board in 2004. He will again chair the board in May 2010. He was also the keynote speaker at commencement in spring 2002.

"I believe strongly in what Penn State Berks does for students and the Berks County community," comments Weidenhammer on why he decided to join the board. "I want to make sure the Advisory Board delivers on its mission of outreach to the community and ensure that Penn State Berks is strategically

aligned with the needs of students and the community."

In 1978, he founded Weidenhammer Systems Corporation, an information technology firm providing high value products and services to a diverse set of clients. With nearly 200 information technology professionals in seven locations, Weidenhammer specializes in working with organizations that want to use information technology as a strategic tool.

In addition to his involvement with Penn State Berks, Weidenhammer is president of the Wyomissing Foundation and chairman of the boards of the Riverplace Development Corporation and Home Healthcare Management. He also serves on the Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce board, as well as many others.

Weidenhammer graduated from Lehigh University with a bachelor's degree in engineering. He and his wife, Nadine, reside in Reading. They have one adult child.

"I'm a big fan of Penn State," Weidenhammer states. "It's the best value in our community, providing all the resources of a Big Ten university in our backyard." ■

Rodriguez-Mourelo named Division Head for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences —by Lisa R. Weidman

Dr. Belen Rodriguez-Mourelo has recently been named Division Head for Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) at Penn State Berks. In this position, she will participate in program development and evaluation, oversee long-range planning

and acquisition of external funding for the division, and act as an advocate for the faculty.

In 1999, Rodriguez-Mourelo joined Penn State Berks as Assistant Professor of Spanish and was named Associate Professor in 2005. Her primary research interest is Cuban writers in exile, and she published a book on this topic in 2006 titled *Encounters in*

Exile, in which Rodriguez-Mourelo reviews the concepts of exile and diaspora, and analyzes the narratives of Cuban authors in exile who write from different locations (Mexico, Miami, New York, Spain, France, and Sweden) and what she identifies as "mechanisms of identity" in their writing that make them belong to a Cuban Diaspora.

Rodriguez-Mourelo holds a doctoral degree in modern languages from the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve my colleagues in this capacity," comments Rodriguez-Mourelo. "This is the perfect place to make a difference and help faculty, staff, and students to succeed. I am looking forward to continuing the HASS contribution to the Penn State Berks vision to become a regional leader in the delivery of quality academic programs, scholarly research, and community enrichment." ■



Pictured (left to right) are Patrolman R. Scott Gisler, Muhlenberg Township; Officer Mark D. Groff, Penn State Berks; Sergeant Robert E. Geist, Brecknock Township; Sergeant Kevin L. Rudy, Penn State Berks.

Photo by Robert Rehrer

Active Shooter Training Prepares College for Unimaginable

—by Lisa R. Weidman

Shots rang out in the hallway, and soon the masked gunman was inside the classroom, followed by his accomplices. In a flurry of panic and confusion, students were huddled into one corner of the classroom as the gunman shouted orders at them. Fortunately, the police were not far behind and a few minutes later—which seemed like an eternity—the gunman and his accomplices were apprehended.

These staged events transpired during an Active Shooter Training held at Penn State Berks in the beginning of January, before the start of spring semester classes.

In recent years, similar events have actually occurred with devastating consequences at colleges and high schools across the country. No one will forget the massacre at Columbine High School or the more recent shooting at Virginia Tech.

Penn State Berks held the Active Shooter Training in an attempt to prepare staff and administration in the event of an unimaginable tragedy. At the invitation of Penn State Berks Police Chief Robert Rehrer, the program was brought to the college by Sergeant Randy Hoover, Patrol Supervisor and Emergency Response Coordinator for the Muhlenberg Township Police Department. Hoover is a certified instructor by the National Tactical Officers Association.

Hoover was assisted by Sergeant Ronald Mohl, Patrol Supervisor and Emergency Response Coordinator for the Northern-Berks Regional Police Department, and Craig Huntsinger, Jr., Assistant Medical Team Leader for the Berks County Emergency Response Team and a member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services Strike Team.

When asked why this training was brought to the college, Rehrer explained, "Unfortunately there is a sad new reality in our world today; reports of tragic and senseless acts of violence

seem to fill our newspapers and television newscasts with an alarming frequency. These perverse and shocking acts have even been committed at churches, nursing homes, and schools.

"Recognizing that these incidents can happen anywhere, training our own staff and preparing for a rapid response and immediate intervention by our own police officers in conjunction with officers from the surrounding municipalities is essential. A rapid response means saving lives. That is the purpose of our training."

The two-day program began with a presentation by Hoover to faculty and staff on the guidelines in the event of a crisis.

"The goal of the training is to identify what Immediate Deployment Rapid Intervention is and how police can immediately deploy to stop violence," explains Hoover. "Campus environments provide unique aspects in dealing with and planning for these situations due to their openness."

After the presentation, the remainder of the training focused on law enforcement response. In addition to Penn State police officers, police from the surrounding community were invited to participate and there was an overwhelming response.

Scenarios were staged in the college's Luerssen Building in which volunteer student resident assistants posed as unwitting students in the classroom and in the hallways. Faculty, staff, and administrators were invited to observe during the second day of exercises.

The Active Shooter Training is just one part of the college's Emergency Response and Recovery Plan. In addition to continuing education in emergency response, staff from various administrative areas meet regularly to develop and update emergency response and crisis communication plans to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, and staff of the college. ■

For the future
THE CAMPAIGN FOR PENN STATE STUDENTS

Volunteer Committee Plans for New Fundraising Initiative

In the fifty-year history of Penn State Berks, private philanthropy has played a crucial role in not only securing the present campus location, but in helping to expand both the physical plant and academic programs into what we have today—a sprawling 258 acre campus with thirty buildings, serving a diverse student population of nearly 3,000 students (800 of them resident students). The college offers eight associate and fourteen baccalaureate degrees, in addition to the first two years of more than 160 majors that can be completed at other Penn State campuses. We have come a long way in our half-century in Berks County, but not without the help of many generous donors and faithful volunteers through the years.

From the start, local philanthropy has been the driving force behind the growth and success of Penn State Berks. At certain times in our campus' history, we have engaged in periods of more intensified and focused fundraising. The first of these "campaigns" came in the late 1960s, when the "Berks Center" of Penn State still met in the old Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute buildings on Hill Avenue. In this first campaign, a goal was set to raise \$1 million for a new campus. In the end that goal was exceeded, due to a committed and talented group of volunteers, led by campaign co-chairs Louis Thun and James Stoudt. Since then, other campaigns have followed, which have helped expand our facilities and programs, thanks to the hard work of many dedicated volunteers.

Now the University has embarked on a new fundraising campaign—*For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*. At its heart, this new effort is a campaign that is truly directed at Penn State students with the following six University-wide objectives, through June 30, 2014:

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



Eugene R. Curry



Steven M. Weidman



Harold W. Perkins

"We have strong leadership and support from this great group of volunteers."

~ Dave Delozier,
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

As in the past, Penn State Berks will rely on a group of committed volunteers who will help the college achieve these goals and objectives. Currently that group includes:

- Eugene R. Curry**, President, Curry & Associates, *co-chair*
- Steven M. Weidman**, Senior Vice President, Relationship Manager, Sovereign Bank, *co-chair*
- Dr. Harold W. Perkins**, CEO Emeritus, Penn State Berks, *honorary chair*
- Dr. Mohamad A. Ansari**, Professor, Chair, Penn State Berks Faculty Senate
- Thomas A. Beaver**, CPA, Partner, Reinsel Kuntz Leshner
- Richard S. Caputo**, Esq., Attorney, Fox Rothschild
- Merlin R. Dunkelberger**, Finance Officer, Partner, Beard Miller Company
- Dennis L. Mays**, Finance Officer, Penn State Berks
- Glenn E. Moyer**, President and CEO, National Penn Bank
- Barrie A. Pease**, President, B.A. Pease Associates; President, Animal Rescue League
- Jon C. Scott**, President and CEO, Berks Economic Partnership
- Gregory G. Young**, Assistant Vice President, M&T Bank

"We have strong leadership and support from this great group of volunteers," states Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations at Penn State Berks. "As the campaign continues through the next five years, we will be looking to involve even more individuals in helping to lead the way, as so many have done in our history. We'll be asking many of our alumni and friends to consider what they might do to help keep Penn State Berks strong and vibrant as we fulfill the mission we share with Penn State as a whole: teaching, research, and service. With that kind of philanthropic support, we can build upon our past and create new strength, for our students and *For the Future.*"

Proposed Entrepreneurship Program Gets Boost

Penn State Berks plans to offer an Entrepreneurship minor, open to all students interested in learning the skills needed to be successful in starting a new business. The program is currently under review by University Park and it received a boost in the form of a check in the amount of \$1,000 from IBM Corporation, and a gift of \$1,500 from retired IBM executive and Penn State alumnus Greg Fleming '63. Pictured (left to right) are Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece; Dr. Sadan Kulturel-Konak, Entrepreneurship Program Coordinator; Dr. Janelle Larson, Engineering, Business, and Computing Division Head; Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations; and Greg Fleming.



Summer Camps at Penn State Berks

High School Camps:

- Cyber Security • Engineering
- Forensics • Veterinary

Middle School Camps:

- Ecology • Film and TV
- Imagination Station • Soccer
- Technology • Weather



A residential option is available for high school camps (not including Cyber Security). Scholarships are also available.

berks.psu.edu/ce
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Communication Arts and Sciences Students GET INVOLVED

—by Dr. E. Michele Ramsey, Program Coordinator and Associate Professor, Communication Arts and Sciences

Common. Community. Communication. It's no accident that the word *Communication* is similar to the words *common* and *community*, as each word stems from *communicare* (meaning to impart, share, or make common) and *munus* (gifts or duties offered publicly). Thus, it shouldn't be surprising to learn that the Penn State Berks Communication Arts and Sciences (CAS) program encourages its students to give of themselves to the community.

The CAS program not only encourages service to the community as an ethical responsibility of citizenship, but it also sees community service as a means for students to engage in and with some of the key concepts discussed in classes such as organizational, intercultural, interpersonal, and health communication; persuasion; and political rhetoric.

Although Communication Arts and Sciences has only just finished its first full year as a major, the program has seen substantial growth to include somewhere between fifty and sixty students declaring CAS as their major. Some of this growth may be connected to the ways that the CAS faculty encourages the students to work together as a cohort in community service projects.



course created a project based on the film *Sicko*, which included a discussion of U.S. health policy with local experts and activists, which was open to the general public.

Outside of the classroom, CAS students and faculty recently prepared and served a meal at Reading's Opportunity House shelter; a number of CAS students have dedicated their time in places like Rwanda and states in the South impacted by major disasters; and others actively participated as supporters and dancers representing Penn State Berks at this year's THON events. (See related article on p. 14.)

The Communication Arts and Sciences faculty is proud of the active role our students take in community service projects and will continue to encourage active engagement with important issues outside of the classroom. If you'd like to join the ranks of "Communication Nation" at Penn State Berks or would like more information on supporting our Communication Arts and Sciences students through scholarships or program endowments, please contact the Office of Development at 610-396-6056. ■



For example, students in the Contemporary American Political Rhetoric class held a World AIDS Day event on campus that brought campus and local media attention to this important issue. In addition, students in the Intercultural Communication



Berks Students Raise \$24K for Pediatric Cancer through THON

—by Lisa R. Weidman

Students at Penn State Berks put on their dancing shoes for a worthwhile cause and raised more than \$24,000 to help conquer childhood cancer at Penn State's Children's Hospital through THON, the dance marathon to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund held at Penn State every year. This is the highest amount Penn State Berks has raised for THON to date. Penn State University raised more than \$7.4 million total, a record-breaking total that exceeds the 2008 total by more than \$800,000.

From February 20–22, Penn State students from every campus gathered at the Bryce Jordan Center on University Park campus for a forty-six hour, "no sitting, no sleeping" dance marathon. Representing Penn State Berks were juniors Megan Allwein and Brian Tran, and sophomores Joanne Carey and Catherine Claxton.

For Carey, a Secondary Education/Social Studies major from

Springfield, Virginia, this was her second year as a THON dancer. "Every time I watch any of the THON videos on YouTube, I always get chills running down my spine. It's hard not to when you realize exactly what we as an organization are capable of doing," explains Carey.

Claxton, a Veterinary and Biomedical Science major from Womelsdorf, comments that she is motivated by her interactions with Natalie, Berks' THON child. Natalie is just two years old and was diagnosed with leukemia. "She is so brave and strong; she looks for ways to make you smile starting with her adorable laugh. Nothing makes me more proud or happy than to dance for the children like her."

Penn State Berks raised \$24,787, which was counted toward the total of \$7,490,133 raised University-wide, a record for Penn State. This year's proceeds brought the total raised since its inception to more than \$50 million for the Four Diamonds Fund.

