Penn State Schuylkill
Community Report
Winter 2015
Season’s Greetings,

As we are coming to the end of another successful fall semester, it is my pleasure to share with you the many accomplishments of the members of our campus community. Their hard work and dedication is how we continue to excel and thrive as an institution.

An area that we are extremely proud of is our commitment to service. For the past three years, we have been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, a list that recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful, measurable outcomes in communities through service.

Students, faculty, staff, and administrators donate thousands of hours of their time for worthwhile causes, and this semester has been no exception. The semester began full-force with the annual move-in weekend of community service. It was wonderful to see so many new students excited to jump right in and travel around the county to different projects, even before they have had a chance to settle into their new home.

This past year, I had the honor and privilege of serving as campaign chair for the Schuylkill United Way 2016 campaign, Build a Better Tomorrow. The campaign kicked-off in September, at an on-campus breakfast with the Nittany Lion greeting community attendees as they arrived, and there was an overall enthusiastic response from the campus community in support of the campaign. This, combined with the generous support from the local community, allowed us to surpass our $1,016,000 goal, reaching $1,053,000.00 – the third highest amount ever raised in our home county.

As a spin-off from a past Schuylkill United Way fundraiser, our campus THON group partnered with J. Bertolet Volkswagen, Mrs. T’s Pierogies, and Pottsville Broadcasting to host a Tug-A-Bug fundraiser at Bertolet’s car dealership. Several student and faculty/staff groups competed in pulling the Mrs. T’s Pierogie Volkswagen Beetle across the finish line to raise funds for the fight against pediatric cancer as T-102 broadcast the event live on the radio. We anticipate making this entertaining, collaborative effort an annual event, and look forward to seeing it grow as more community organizations become involved in an effort to compete and become the Tug-A-Bug Champion.

On Dec. 13, there was an amazing turnout and show of community support at our THON Bingo, held at the Walk In Art Center in Schuylkill Haven. There were over 200 tickets sold in advance for the event, and even more were in attendance. Combined with the sales from the vast amount of food that was donated, over $6,000 in proceeds will be given towards THON and student scholarships.
These are just a couple illustrations of the many projects and events that our campus community devotes their time to. If you take a moment to look at our campus Facebook page, the timeline of pictures tells our story. There was the Breast Cancer Walk, the Special Olympics Volleyball game, Safe Trick-or-Treat, teddy bear donations to the Hershey Medical Center, and dozens of others. This commitment to service is simply one example of what makes Penn State Schuylkill a remarkable place to work and learn.

We are extremely fortunate to recruit so many dedicated, philanthropic students. That is why I am delighted to share that Penn State Schuylkill has received a $1.5 million gift from the John E. Morgan Foundation. This generous gift, the largest in our campus’s history, comes with the opportunity to match the funds received for two important campus strategic priorities. First, $1 million will be dedicated to the restoration, upgrading and implementation of state-of-the-art science facilities. The second part of this historic gift will provide $500,000 for STEM scholarships, and when the matching support is finalized, the campus will have a new $1 million endowment for students pursuing degrees in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

We have been honored to be recognized by numerous publications and organizations over the past years that have cited how well our campus ranks among other colleges and Universities. Most recently, we were favorably positioned in the Dec. 7 report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, Ranking Your College: Where you go and what you make. For more information, you can read the report in its entirety at https://cew.georgetown.edu/cew-reports/college-rankings/.

This statistic is a testament to the quality of education that we are providing, the preparedness of our students as they enter the workforce, and how they excel during their careers. It is an honor for the entire campus community to have attained such an achievement.

With that final, outstanding announcement, I wish you all a joyous holiday season, an enjoyable semester break, and I look forward to seeing what exciting, innovative ideas spring forward as we begin an exciting New Year.

Sincerely,

Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill
SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

As new programming has been added, and enrollments continue to improve, we are pleased to welcome two new full-time faculty members.

**Dr. Juyoung Song**, assistant professor of administration of justice, earned her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, and had most recently been working as an associate research fellow at the Crime and Crime Prevention Research Division at the Korean Institute of Criminology.

**Dr. Lucas Redmond**, instructor in biology, earned his M.S. in Biology, and just recently completed his Ph.D. in Biology, both from Portland State University. His dissertation title was, “Population biology and behavioral endocrinology of Eastern Kingbirds.”

**Dr. Donald Lindenmuth** has announced his official retirement, effective at the end of the fall semester. Dr. Lindenmuth has been teaching at Penn State Schuylkill since 1968, and he will be greatly missed.

This summer launched the new **Pathways to Summer Success Summer Start** (PaSSS) on July 1. The PaSSS program is the summer work and school program that was initiated by the Enhanced Education Pathway Committee in 2014 by University Provost Nick Jones, in an effort to advance President Barron’s priority of access to and affordability of a Penn State education. Schuylkill campus was one of six campuses selected to pilot this new initiative, intended to help at-risk students work toward more timely degree completion.

There were twenty students enrolled, with seventeen of them staying in the Nittany Apartments, at no cost, thanks to the generosity of the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board. The students attended six credits of courses; an English class that will count as a humanities elective, and their first-year seminar. They also participated in a Math Aleks workshop based on where they scored on a math placement test. The workshop was customized for each student to help them succeed in whichever math course they placed in for the fall 2015 semester.

The majority of the students were employed, each working on campus up to twenty hours per week in positions that provided them with great learning experiences. The wages that they earned were significantly higher than the state minimum, and it was theirs to keep, they were not intended to be used toward their tuition costs.

The student affairs staff kept them busy with activities, like attending a Phillies game, hiking at Rickets Glen and Hawk Mountain, a trip to Knoebels Amusement Resort, and then a final day trip to the beach in Ocean City, Maryland.
The program was very successful, and the students have all expressed favorable interest in returning next summer to continue earning additional credits that will enable them to graduate on time, and with a considerably reduced amount of debt. Meetings have already been conducted for the initial planning stage for summer 2016, and bringing in the new freshman class and this year’s students back for a second summer session and on-campus employment.

The faculty and their corresponding projects that have been selected for the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board Research and Scholarship Award are Dr. Rod Heisey, "Instrumentation for Field Investigations in Field Ecology,” and Drs. Hakan Can, Mark Abel, Marianne Adam and Helen Hendy, "Workplace Stress Reduction in Community Adults,” in collaboration with Anytime Fitness.

The community at Penn State Schuylkill created a garden this summer with funding received in February 2014 from the Penn State Sustainability Institute Reinvention Fund, and Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses, and the Campus Research and Scholarship Award from the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board. The garden is part of the campus sustainability program, Envision, Plan, Implement, Change, Sustain (EPICS), and is available for the campus and public use. A student garden manager, Duncan Noble, was hired to help organize the plots, to care for the garden, and to help plan community and student programming events. Students that were enrolled in the Pathways to Success: Summer Start program, Mitchell Hornberger, Marissa Rios, and Alyssa Sawyers worked in the garden during the summer.

The accelerated courses for the RN to B.S. in Nursing program has been extended to include students in the Berks and Delaware counties, and continues with robust enrollments. The accelerated scheduling format has complimented the traditional class scheduling offered on campus, providing a wide range of course options.

The RN to B.S. students conducted several health education programs in local communities throughout the summer. Informative sessions were presented to targeted audiences at their places of business, and included topics such as: helmet safety and traumatic brain injury; nail disorders and infection control; the importance of hand washing; sexually transmitted diseases; skin cancer prevention and summer safety tips; and stress reduction. These projects were advantageous to the students as they learned how to plan and implement programming while interacting with the community, who in turn benefit as well.

In August, Anastasia Filippova was the second student to receive the Bachelor Degree in Nursing Award. The award was initiated in the 2014-15 academic year, intended to recognize a graduating student who has excelled in the RN to B.S. in Nursing program.
Dr. Charlie Law, assistant professor of psychology, presented an on-site, Introduction to Psychology class to Schuylkill Haven High School students during their regular school hours. The students took the course as part of the campus’s **Dual Enrollment Program**, granting them a scholarship that pays for fifty percent of their tuition. The program was so well received that there is consideration of fall and spring courses for the 2016-17 academic year.

The campus **Honors Program** also continues to build as the student enrollment and activities grow. On Sept. 22, Dr. Nichola Gutgold and Dr. Richard Stoller from the Schreyer Honors College visited to meet with campus Schreyer Scholars, potential Gateway Scholars, co-coordinators of the Honors program, the director of Academic Affairs, and members of the Honors Council. Several students discussed their research, and some of the students in the Schuylkill Honors program, who also serve as Lion Ambassadors, provided a tour of the campus.

The group continues to find ways to expand their horizons. On Sept. 30, Dr. Charles Cantalupo and Dr. Hakan Can conducted a trip to the **Metropolitan Museum of Art**. Students experienced a special African art exhibit and met with the exhibit’s curator. The trip was also open to all students. Then, as part of Dr. Stephen Couch’s honors sociology class, he and Dr. Michael Gallis hosted an honors trip Oct. 10 to **Pioneer Tunnel** and the **Eckley Miners Village**. On Nov. 1, Dr. Valerie Schrader and Dr. Michael Gallis traveled with seventeen Honors students to New York City to see the Tony Award-winning play, *The curious incident of the dog in the night-time*.

**Honors student accomplishments** have been impressive. Joshua Bachert presented his rhetorical analysis project from his Effective Speech class at the Pennsylvania Communication Association Conference, Oct. 10 in York, Pennsylvania. His paper was titled “Be True to Yourself: Facework in the Musical *Funny Girl,*” and he was the only student on his panel as he presented alongside faculty from other Pennsylvania universities. Emily Yocom, Lu Sen, and Fariha Ahmed, represented the campus program at the Penn State Global Engagement and Leadership Experience, held Nov. 13-15 at the Bald Eagle State Park, where they learned about intercultural communication and how to become effective leaders. Julia Schuller was accepted to the Penn State College of Communications Washington Internship Program, and she is the first Penn State Schuylkill student to be accepted to this competitive program. Emily Yocom has received the Carey Lynn DeMoss, Esq. Memorial Award for Excellence in Building a Global Perspective through the Schreyer Honors College and the Bridging Scholarship for Study in Japan through the American Association of Teachers of Japanese as she plans to study abroad in Japan for the spring 2016 semester.
Four Penn State Schuylkill students have been accepted into the Schreyer Honors college: **Eudora Chow**, a third-year, business major at University Park; **Benjamin Blake**, currently a sophomore at Schuylkill planning to complete his engineering degree at University Park; **Emily Yocom**, a second year corporate communication major who plans to complete her degree at the Abington campus, Emily has also been accepted into a study abroad program for the upcoming spring semester where she will continue her studies in Japan. In addition, **Michael Potts**, a current freshman, plans to enter the College of Agriculture and complete his degree at the University Park campus. According to the Schreyer fall 2015 incoming class statistics, Michael was one of only two students from the Commonwealth campuses to be directly accepted into the Schreyer College.

The **Business Society**, under the direction of Mr. David Norris, instructor in business administration, continues to be an active academic student club. Students volunteered at Schuylkill Haven’s Borough Day Sept. 27 to distribute *Shop Local* bookmarks and community brochures designed to promote local businesses. In October, members participated in the making of a video for the campus project, *Shut-up and Dance*, they co-hosted a Halloween celebration for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Schuylkill County, and sold items at the campus Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and fundraiser. November and December continued with activities, beginning with some professional development at two seminars. *Resume Writing* was presented Nov. 4 by Tina Rose, then *The Dangers of Social Media* was presented Nov. 11 by Darlene Young. Basketball season kicked-off, commencing another year of hosting a concession stand for spectators in order to raise funds for the society. The society now has an official website, many thanks to student Zachary Lehman.

As a result of **articulation agreements** that were signed June 8 and Oct. 7, students who earn an associate degree from either Lehigh Carbon Community College (LCCC), or Butler County Community College (BC3), can easily transition into select bachelor degree programs at Penn State Schuylkill, as well as thirteen other Commonwealth campus locations.

The Student Professionalization Committee hosted the annual **Student Highlighting Luncheon** Oct. 22. Students that excel in their academic discipline met with community business leaders to network and gain valuable insight related to their prospective career paths. Both students and professionals hoped to benefit through developing possible internship or mentoring programs.

On Oct. 27, two well-known African griots (storytellers and accomplished musicians) visited the campus: **Papa Susso**, who plays the kora; and **Balla Kouyate**, who plays the balaphone. First they attended a special luncheon with Honors students, and then afterwards they gave a concert in the John E. Morgan Auditorium that was free and open to the public.
The annual Informative Speech Contest was held Nov. 10. Students were selected from each of the fall Effective Speech classes. Students from each of the fall 2015 semester public speaking classes were selected by their instructor to present their informative speech to the audience and a panel of three judges from the local community. The judges, members of the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society board, were: Kent Steinmetz, president, Steinmetz Jewelers; Carl K. Rosenberger, sales coordinator for the Reading Eagle Business Weekly; and Lynn Bucklar, director, Schuylkill County Office of Domestic Relations, were provided with objective criteria to evaluate each speech. The eight students participating in the contest this semester were Niya Whaley, Kiazah Tomlinson, Tyler Campbell, Bryan Underkoffler, Cheyenne Gipe, Danielle Clark, Taylor Zerbe and Erin Noon. Niya took first place with her speech titled, "Wilted Rose." Second and third place speeches were Bryan with, “Does size really matter?” and Cheyenne with “Understanding Schizophrenia.” Each of the winning students was awarded a gift card for the Penn State Schuylkill Bookstore.

In response to current situations, faculty and students hosted a panel discussion Dec. 9 titled, “The Refugee Crisis and the Worldwide Terror Scare; an academic perspective on current events.” Dr. Charles Cantalupo was the panel moderator and featured panelists included Dr. Hakan Can, Dr. Juliette Tolay, Dr. Peter Grahame, and Honors students, Emily Yocom and Bryan Underkoffler.

From the summer and fall 2015 semesters, fifty-two Penn State Schuylkill graduating students were invited to a Graduating Student Reception that was held Dec. 4. The graduates will also be invited back to participate in the spring 2016 commencement ceremonies. Congratulations to all fall 2015 graduates!

Faculty and Creative Accomplishments
The faculty have been very productive during this time period. Their accomplishments are outlined in detail below.

**Bim Angst**, senior instructor in writing, presented an excerpt of her short story, "The dying of Laszlo Putavich," at the Pennsylvania College English Association 2015 Conference that was held Oct. 2-3 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The short story is part of her collection-in-progress focusing on the experiences of Eastern European immigrants and their descendants in a small community in the anthracite coal fields of the 20th Century.

**Dr. Harold Aurand**, assistant professor of history, in collaboration with Dr. Daniel Vice, senior instructor in earth and mineral sciences at Penn State Hazleton, published two articles, “Co-generation Plants: From environmental impact to resource availability,” and “Summary of coal fires in northeastern Pennsylvania,” in the guidebook for the 80th Annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists. The conference was held Oct. 8-10 at the Mountain Valley Golf Course in Barnesville, PA.


Dr. Cantalupo has been active this fall and summer. He gave a poetry reading June 5 at the Museum of Edgar Allan Poe in Richmond, Virginia. It was the premier performance of his entire work, a five-part poem titled “Poe in Place.”

At Lehigh University he gave a poetry reading Sept. 19 at the conference, “Hilda Doolittle and Feminist Poetics,” where he read his minor heroic, “At the Grave of H.D.,” who is buried in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

As the chair of the Penn State Schuylkill Honors Council, Dr. Cantalupo initiated two Honors Program events during fall semester. He arranged for Alhaji Papa Susso, a griot from Gambia who plays the kora, and Bala Kouyate, a musician from Mali who plays balafon, to visit the campus Oct. 27. Their activities included a classroom visit, a luncheon with campus Honors students, and a public concert in the John E. Morgan Auditorium.

Also, in collaboration with Dr. Hakan Can, he organized a trip to the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, particularly to see the exhibit, “Kongo: Power and Majesty.” Students from the classes A&A 100, ART 020, ART 050, and CMLIT 003 also participated in the Oct. 30 trip.

In response to recent worldwide tragedies, Dr. Cantalupo served as moderator for a panel discussion on “The Refugee Crisis and the Worldwide Terror Scare.” The event was held Dec. 9 and was open to the general public.

**Ms. Cathy Fiorillo**, assistant professor of theatre and speech, attended the Leela Improvisation Group Aug. 12-14 in San Francisco, California. She also appeared in *A Crime to Remember* episode on the Investigation Discovery Channel.

**Dr. Hartmut Heep**, associate professor of German and comparative literature, gave two talks this past May and June after the close of the spring 2015 semester.

In May, Dr. Heep gave a talk at the Israeli Film Festival, Jewish Community Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania, titled, “‘The Green Prince’--and the new wave of anti-Semitism in Film."
He was also an invited guest lecturer at the Comparative Literature Research Group, University of Mauritius, Africa, where he spoke June 16 about "Comparative Literature in the Time of Multiculturalism."


He served as area chair, organized, put together, managed presentations and sessions for the 2016 Men's Studies section of the Popular Culture Conference.

In an effort to bring diversity to the faculty and staff level of the Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity (CORED) at Penn State, Dr. Heep has joined the commission’s faculty team as a campus representative.


**Dr. Valerie Schrader**, assistant professor of communications, presented “Sister Soubrette: Exploring the role of the soubrette in classic and contemporary musical theatre,” at the National Communication Association Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada that was held November 19-22. While attending the conference, Dr. Schrader was appointed secretary of the NCA’s Theatre, Film, and New Multi-Media Division.

Dr. Schrader had a paper accepted for presentation at the Eastern Communication Association Convention in Baltimore, MD. The title of the paper is “Another National Anthem:’ Public Memory, Burkean Identification, and Stephen Sondheim’s *Assassins*” and will be presented at the convention in April 2016.

Dr. Schrader reviewed manuscripts for the National Communication Association and the Eastern Communication Association during the summer and fall sessions, and she continues to serve as co-coordinator for the Penn State Schuylkill Honors Program and secretary of the Penn State Schuylkill Faculty Organization.

**Dr. Lee Silverberg**, assistant professor of chemistry, published this semester:


Additionally, Dr. Silverberg, presented, “Studies on 1,3-Thiaza-4-one Heterocycles,” at the 3rd Science Symposium: Innovation of Science, Nanotechnology, Human Health and Environment for a Global Society at the Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland on Sept. 18.

**Mr. Robert Stickloon**, instructor in art, had two pieces of work on display at the 48th Annual Art of the State® juried competition, held June 28 at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. His pieces include a black-and-white oil titled, “Shirt and Tie,” and a drawing titled, “Window Latch,” which received an Honorable Mention.

**Dr. Jeffrey A. Stone**, instructor in information, science, and technology, was selected to attend the National Science Foundation Workshop, “Resources and Strategies for Teaching Cybersecurity in Computer Science” that was held in Arlington, Virginia, July 13-14. The workshop was designed to provide support for faculty members who want to integrate security content into their computing courses.

Dr. Stone was also awarded a $5000 Penn State Teaching and Learning with Technology grant to integrate iPads into computing courses this semester at Penn State Schuylkill. This iPad integration accompanies existing efforts to integrate sustainability topics into campus computing courses.

**Mr. Matthew J. Wayman**, head librarian, gave an invited presentation titled, "Siege, Surrender, and the Honors of War: Honor and Capitulation in North America, 1745-1760," at Fort Ticonderoga’s Twentieth Annual War College on the Seven Years' War May 16 in Ticonderoga, New York. He was also elected to a two-year term as member-at-large of the Reference and User Services Association’s (RUSA) Collection Development and Evaluation Section within the American Library Association (ALA), and is completing his second year as chair of ALA’s Historical Materials Committee within RUSA’s History Section.
Academic Resource Center

An academic workshop series for the PaSSS program was designed to introduce students to faculty, students, campus resources, and the many opportunities available to them at Penn State Schuylkill. The bi-weekly, one-hour session included topics such as Academics 101, What is Academic Writing, Academics & Wellness, Global Programs, and Diversity. The students were also exposed to information about the Honors program, the Nittany Players drama club, and the importance of sustainability on our campus. Upper classmen were on- hand to encourage conversation during the student panel session.

In September, the center hosted an open house with over 100 visitors in attendance. The event was an opportunity for students to learn about the services that the center has to offer, to sign up for tutoring, become comfortable about asking for help, and to get to know the center’s staff, which included a trivia game about professional and peer staff. It was a great way to open the doors to the students and welcome the start of the semester.

To continue encouraging students, monthly contests such as Guess How Many Candy Corn in the Jar and Drawing Contests: Scarecrow, Turkey were held with guest faculty members, Drs. Traver, Redmond, Aurand and Andel, serving as judges.

Professional staff initiated a meet and greet luncheon as an introduction for new tutors, last year’s tutors, and office aides. It was a great way for all ARC staff, both student and professional, to become a more cohesive team. The event was so successful that there is plans to have it become an annual event.

During the first week in October, there was a celebration for National Tutor Appreciation Week. The professional staff honored the tutors throughout the week with gifts of daily inspirational sayings, culminating with a celebratory cake at the end of the week.

Also in October, representatives from both the Colleges of Science and Agriculture at the University Park campus visited the center to present information to the students who were interested in those areas. The discussion focused on which courses were required for entrance to majors, as well as the rigor of the upper level classes at the University Park campus.

Several tutors volunteered to be a part of the campus dance video to the tune of Shut Up and Dance! They loved being a part of the bigger picture of Penn State Schuylkill and were honored to have been asked. Approximately twenty students and staff members remained after hours to create the video for submission.

On Nov. 11, Darlene Young, math specialist, gave a presentation to the Business Society titled, The Dangers of Social Media. Important advice for up-and-coming business professionals on the correct etiquette for social media protocol included: how to word status updates; what pictures to post; what employers look for; and the true nature of emoji’s. Students were very receptive and initiated a lengthy discussion following the presentation.
Community Educational Programming
In an effort to recruit more students into the RN to B.S. program, an open house was held on Aug. 10. The campus is continuing to partner with both the Berks and Brandywine campuses to offer the accelerated schedule of the program to students through videoconferencing.

The Continuing Education department concluded this year’s Kid’s College programming with eighty-one registrations during the weeks of June 15-19 and June 22-26. Programs in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields had the highest enrollments this year.

In July, five local high school juniors and seniors took part in the 2015 Summer Scholars course, MATH 033 Mathematics for Sustainability. Darlene Young, math specialist in the Academic Resource Center, was the instructor for the course, assisted by Andrea Solinski, campus lab supervisor. The topics that were covered included population and migration, energy, environment and water, and sustainable communities. There were several campus guest speakers that brought a uniqueness to the class by making it interactive. Jerry Cresswell, assistant to the director of business services, provided information on the campus’ efforts towards soil sustainability, Mike Russell, mechanical and electrical technician, gave a presentation on the solar panels that the campus employs to provide energy to the Nittany V apartments, and Dr. Michael Gallis, associate professor of physics, provided an entertaining lab where students used the sunlight’s energy to motorize some of his gadgets. Students participated in daily discussions, out-of-class recycling projects, and research papers as part of their assignments. The campus received a $5,000 donation from Weis Markets through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) fund to partially fund the participating students’ tuition.

There have been various non-credit programs facilitated throughout the fall semester: nine high school students participated the six-week SAT Prep program; there were six students enrolled in the newly offered flight training course that was designed to prepare students for the Federal Aviation Association Private Pilot written exam; Teaching Methods for Cosmetology Educators was offered in August and September with a total of twenty-nine students enrolled; in November, six students participated in Business Ethics: A 21st Century Imperative, a course that provided both lawyers and accountants with their required continuing education credits; and a tennis conditioning class for Blue Mountain Area High School students began in Nov. 2015 and will run through March 2016.

**STEM Saturday**, in partnership with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 Schuylkill Achieve program, took place Nov. 7. Approximately eighty students in fifth through eighth grades took part in the event. Dr. Michael Gallis, associate professor of physics; Dr. Rod Heisey, professor of biology; Dr. Elinor Madigan, assistant professor of Information Sciences and Technology; and Nancy Schorshinsky, instructor in chemistry, facilitated classroom presentations on various subjects throughout the day.
In partnership with the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, the campus welcomed ten new students into the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) this fall. The YEA! Schuylkill program manager, Carol Boyer, now has an office located on-campus in the Administration Building.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS
The admissions office had two new admissions counselors join the team at the beginning of the fall semester. Gianna Agnello and Travis Williams have been active in increasing campus enrollments.

The recruitment focus for summer 2015 was to finalize the first cohort for the Pathways to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS) program. As mentioned above in the Success in Academics section, twenty students were successfully recruited for this program, all attending classes during the second summer session. Seventeen of the students lived on campus and three commuted from the local area.

The entire incoming class for fall 2015, including the PaSSS students, totaled 298 students. Some positive trends this fall over last year were increases in incoming Schuylkill County students and adult students.

While finalizing the fall 2015 class, aggressive recruitment efforts for fall 2016 were forefront. Throughout the summer the campus hosted three Spend a Summer events, programs geared toward rising seniors who are looking to apply to Penn State for fall 2016. These visits were offered at various times of the day and days of week in order to provide a variety of choices for visitors. Approximately 100 guests attended these programs, which included a presentation and campus tour.

Penn State Day Open House took place in October with seventy-two guests in attendance. The program included an admissions presentation, classroom experience, campus tour, lunch, and application session. Penn State Day was a collaborative event that in order to be a success, required involvement from many faculty, staff, and current students.

The November event was an Athletics Open House, which was a shared event between admissions and athletics. Thirty guests took the opportunity to view an admissions presentation, meet campus coaching staff, take a campus tour, complete an application, and enjoy a tailgate lunch while watching a televised Penn State football game.

Another type of on-campus recruitment event that was a great success this past summer and fall was the group bus visits. There were several group bus visits, which brought a total of 175 guests to the campus. Two of the bus groups were from local area schools. The Your Employability Skills (YES) program brought Shenandoah and Pottsville Area students. This program is available in service area high schools, and is sponsored by the Manufacturers Association to encourage students to make life plans after high school. Visiting YES students were provided with application fee waivers for Penn State Schuylkill.
They were also reminded that they would receive a $1000 scholarship for Penn State Schuylkill if they complete the YES program in a local high school. In addition, the admissions and academic affairs teams collaborated to host a group of students from Nativity high school for a STEM program.

Maintaining a strong relationship with the guidance counselors of the local service area school districts remains a high priority. On Oct. 30, twelve counselors, representing nine local high schools/agencies, attended the Penn State Schuylkill annual Guidance Counselor Workshop. The theme of this year’s program was, “Let’s talk about communication,” and featured campus and University updates, as well as speakers from the University’s department of Undergraduate Admissions and the College of Communications, and Dr. Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications at Penn State Schuylkill.

Out-of-area recruitment has also been a primary focus. Throughout the fall semester, the staff in the admissions office has participated in over 100 events across New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Virginia.

These efforts have provided several positive trends for fall 2016. Overall applications are up from last year by 13% and offers are up by 7%. Aggressive recruiting and innovative marketing strategies will continuously be planned and implemented, including acquiring funding for campus academic merit-based scholarships, designed to reward students for their academic potential.

Student Aid
The staff in the Student Aid office continues to assist families and students with financial information for the funding of their education for the current and upcoming academic years. During the past summer, they participated in all of the New Student Orientation sessions, as well as Welcome Weekend by giving group presentations and also meeting one-on-one with students. The student aid staff also played a big role in coordinating summer financial aid for the PaSSS students. In the fall, the staff presented to all First-year Seminars to assist the freshmen class with understanding the financial aid process and expectations. In addition, five local high schools, Blue Mountain, Mahanoy Area, Nativity, Shenandoah, & Minersville, invited the staff to host financial aid nights on-site at their district.

The campus community has made great strides in increasing Veterans services during this period. The campus was recently honored, for the fourth consecutive year, with the designation as a 2016 Military Friendly School®. The Military Friendly Schools® list honors the top twenty percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s service members, veterans, and families.
The Student Aid and Veteran’s Services team hosted the campus’s annual Veteran’s Day program on Nov. 11 to honor all those who have served, and continue to serve in the United States armed forces. Over 150 people attended the event, including community members, campus faculty, staff, and students, and teachers and students from the Schuylkill Haven and Pine Grove Area high schools. This event was a collaborative effort between Penn State Schuylkill faculty, staff, and students, the Schuylkill Haven American Legion Post 38 and Veterans of Vietnam, and students from Schuylkill Haven and Pine Grove High Schools. Featured speakers included campus students Tyler Campbell, U.S. Air Force Veteran, and Barrett Mullins, U.S. Marine Corps. Veteran.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Student Life
The students began arriving on campus for freshman move-in Aug. 21, and there were three days of activities planned as they said goodbye to their families and settled in to their new home.

Outdoor activities were taking place to maximize the final warm days of summer. The year kicked off with the bi-annual Activity Fair on August 28. In between classes, students were able to meet with representatives from the thirty campus clubs and organizations at informational tables set up on the mall walk.

For the second year, students were invited to sign-up for an off-campus trip to the beach. Fifty-four students traveled to Ocean City, Maryland on Aug. 29 for a day in the sun. With amusement rides, boardwalk, and of course the ocean, the day was definitely a success.

National Coming Out Day was Oct. 11, and for some students, this was an opportunity to learn, as well as educate around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) issues. A popular program that was not only attention grabbing, but insightful, was Fag Bug, held on Oct. 6. Erin Davies spoke of her experience of finding her Volkswagen Beetle vandalized with derogatory terminology and how that sparked a nationwide lecture series concerning the LGBTQ community. Students also participated in the B U Photo Booth. This offered a time to showcase how you view yourself. Using common terms associated with LGBTQ, sharing how you view yourself was a chance to be you!

Penn State Schuylkill’s Homecoming was held the week of Oct. 12-17. This year’s theme was Game On, and it was evident that there was a variety of different gaming-type programming being represented throughout the week. Students participated in activities ranging from bingo to an electronic game. At the end of the week, families, alumni, and friends enjoyed a picnic, a showing of the Minion Movie, and a casino night, co-sponsored by the Penn State Schuylkill Blue and White and Alumni Societies.
On Oct. 27, even wind and rain couldn’t keep more than 300 local children and their families from enjoying the campus’ annual Safe Trick-or-Treat. Students, faculty, and staff dressed as their favorite characters, and were ready to volunteer with music, games, an inflatable haunted house, and tons of candy and treats to make it a memorable event. Pottsville Broadcasting provided a live remote broadcast on T-102 FM, adding to the evening’s excitement.

On Nov. 3, Mr. Bryan Valentine joined the staff at Penn State Schuylkill as the director of Student Affairs and Engagement. He will oversee campus residence life, health services, student counseling services, student government, student activities, student conduct, police services and campus climate. He will serve as a key member of the campus senior leadership team, and in this role, he will work with others on campus to foster a climate of engagement and collaboration within the campus community, as well as the local community. Please stop by Mr. Valentine’s office in the Student Affairs’ suite in the Health and Wellness Building to welcome him.

In its third year, the We Are Thankful event has continuously grown! On Nov. 17, over sixty community members, faculty, staff, and students attended a dinner designed to share what it is they are thankful for in their lives. Guest speaker, Brandon Robinson, spoke about his life and the events that led him to his ultimate goal, sharing a story about triumph and gratitude.

On Dec. 10, students took a break from studying for one final meal, and a game show with friends during the Midnight Crunch Bunch. There is no better way to say, “See you next year.”

Student Leadership

Eight Penn State Schuylkill students attended the Summer Leadership Conference held at Penn State Altoona Aug. 4-6. This purpose of the conference was to assist students who are already in, or are anticipating being in, a leadership position improve upon or develop their personal and professional leadership skills. The sessions they attended with to help them identify areas for further exploration and development: Ethical decision-making; Group dynamics; and Conflict management. Students were able to gain a deeper understanding of multicultural competency and explain its importance for effective leadership and citizenship. Overall, students were able to demonstrate how their role as a student leader at Penn State can be applied to their future.

Following the conference, the students formed a leadership committee on campus so that they could put all that they learned this summer into practice. This group developed the Student Leadership Conference program that was held on campus Nov. 6. This was a one-day event that was also open to other Penn State campuses. Fifty-four students participated in the day’s events, with thirty-seven students attending from Penn State Schuylkill, and seventeen students from the Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, and University Park campuses. Students attended sessions on Diversity, Mindfulness in Leadership, Networking, Emotional Intelligence, Effective Business Writing, and Collaboration and
Communication. The conference ended with dinner for the students and a performance by comedian, Michael Dean Ester. Ms. Karen Gregory, president and owner of HRSS Consulting Group, LLC, Florida, was the keynote speaker and presented at one of the breakout sessions.

Two students attended the Robert D. Lynch Student Leadership Conference Oct. 30 - Nov. 1 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This event is hosted by the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, Inc. (PBCOHE), an organization made up of professionals from the public and private sector, education, business, social services, law, and government, who have a deep commitment to improving and ensuring the education of Black, Latino, and other students underrepresented in higher education.

Residence Life
The mission of Residence Life is, “We will provide excellence in service while engaging and empowering resident students without excuse.” The theme, “Mission Possible,” was introduced to a team of ten resident assistants (RAs) throughout the training week Aug. 17-20, as their knowledge concerning job responsibilities, the value of civility, work place ethics, safety, service, and community building increased.

Day one of training for the RAs and orientation leaders (OLs) included a motivational workshop on leadership from Joseph Webb, a staff member in the Office of Student Affairs at Penn State Berks. All RAs were Safe Zone trained, increasing their knowledge and awareness regarding our commitment to diversity, and to support students who identify as LGBQTA, and also attended Sexual Assault Training, facilitated by Mindy Anthony-Spolski, coordinator of Counseling and Disability Services. The new RAs also trained with Cece Boran, coordinator of Health Services, to become CPR certified.

Aug. 24, immediately following move-in weekend, all new resident students were able to formally meet their RAs at a Meet and Greet event. This gathering, with over 135 students in attendance, provided them with information related to the RAs job responsibilities, building meetings, fire safety, who’s who on campus, and the six-week SELF program involving all freshmen students.

Calling All Majors was an evening event held Sept. 1. This question and answer session was hosted by the RAs who are majoring in different areas of study such as Administration of Justice, Information Science and Technology, and Psychology. This was a unique way to familiarize students with what lies ahead in their particular majors from a student perspective.

The popular program, Cupcakes and Condoms, was held Sept. 9. This program is designed to give students an awareness and knowledge concerning sexual health and safety. Sixty-three students listened intently to guest speaker, campus nurse, CeCe Boran. This event concluded with a variety of cupcakes and free condoms.
Mr. Joe Gudinas and his staff from XTreme Fitness in Saint Clair, Pennsylvania facilitated a self-defense workshop Sept. 21. Over 20 students received personalized instruction as they joined this very active workshop. This program is offered to students to provide them with information on how to protect themselves against a sexual assault. Mr. Gudinas and his team returned in November for an additional session.

In an effort to educate students and prevent sexual assault, two representatives from the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC) were invited to come to campus on Sept. 29. This session, titled, “Cookies, Milk, and Consent,” focused around consent. Twenty students joined the conversation while enjoying cookies and milk. Additionally, free condoms were available for the students.

What better way to spend a Friday night then in your pajama’s, eating popcorn, ice cream, and other snacks, and dancing to the music of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson? That is exactly what fifty-six resident and commuter students did on Oct. 2, 2015 in Nittany V. Everyone who attended this social event had a fun time.

The RAs presented a history of the Polish culture in and around Schuylkill County during Exploring Cuisine, Polish American Heritage Month Oct. 7. Thirty-eight students stopped by to sample cultural foods and learn about the history of Polish Americans.

Football Frenzy was held Oct. 19 in the Nittany V common area. Over fifty students watched the Philadelphia Eagles take on the New York Giants while enjoying some favorite football foods, including wings and pizza.

In Penn State Schuylkill’s ongoing effort to educate the students about alcohol use, University and campus policies, ways they can help those who may be intoxicated, the importance of knowing their blood alcohol level, and healthy living, the program Forever 21, hosted by CeCe Boran Oct 22. Forty-three students participated in the event, and at the conclusion of the program, they were served a “Forever 21-themed” birthday cake as a reminder to make wise decisions related to alcohol use.

Over ninety educational giveaways were distributed Oct. 27 at the annual It Takes You-It Takes Me, anti-bullying awareness event. Students received information on the various types of bullying, how to recognize bullying behavior, and how to be an advocate against bullying.

Classy costumes indeed! Ninety students, both a mix of resident and commuter students, dressed-up, dined, and danced the night away at the Classy Costume Party that was held Oct. 30. At 1:00 a.m., three winners for best costume were selected by the students, awarded prizes, and big bags of candy were distributed at the end of this successful social event.
November was Diabetes Awareness Month, and in an effort to educate students about this serious life threatening disease, there was a two-part Diabetes Awareness program. Part I consisted of a general information table set up with free giveaways in the Student Center lobby. Part II was a round table discussion on Nov. 5. CeCe Boran reviewed the importance of understanding one’s family history, and then encouraged the twenty-five participants to share their own experiences and sample some healthy snacks while understanding the package labels.

On Dec. 1, students enjoyed choosing from a variety of materials to decorate their Nittany Apartment door for the annual Holiday Decorate Your Door Contest. Then on Dec. 4 they participated in the annual Holiday Crafts and Gingerbread House Contest and Tree Lighting event and then were invited make some chocolate treats while wrapping the gifts that they are taking home for the holidays. Donut Days was held once again during finals week, and over ten dozen donuts were made available to students in the Nittany V Commons and Student Affairs areas free of charge.

Community Service
The campus’ community service initiatives started off the fall semester with approximately seventy students completing community service throughout the local area during orientation weekend. Students were transported to several different locations including the Hillside SPCA, Seton Manor, the Arts Barn, Rest Haven, the Island in Schuylkill Haven, the Schuylkill Haven Senior Recreation Center, Servants to All, and the Community Church in Pottsville. The students then returned to campus to have lunch and reflect upon what they had discovered and learned during in their experience.

On Oct. 6, six Penn State groups competed in the inaugural Tug-a-Bug event at J. Bertolet Volkswagen in Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania. Mrs. T’s Pierogies provided the yellow “pierogie bug” Volkswagen Beetle, and Pottsville Broadcasting and disc jockey RC provided a live, remote broadcast. The event raised over $2,000 that will go toward the campus’s 2016 THON total.

The students and community enjoyed a ghoulish night of fundraising at the Zombie Fun Run. The event was held Oct. 24 at the Island in Schuylkill Haven, and all the proceeds were donated to the Schuylkill THON group.

The Community Service Club recently held their Box event Nov. 18 to simulate what it is like to be homeless. There were approximately twenty-five students that participated throughout the day, working to bring awareness to the homeless issue facing our county. The participants received cardboard box donations from local businesses, and then they wrote statistics regarding the homeless on the boxes in order to better educate people on this issue. They sat on the campus mall walk from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in cardboard boxes and collected over $300.00 in donations for the organization Servants to All, a local non-profit whose mission is to assist the local homeless population.
The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni and Blue and White Societies and student THON organization hosted a successful Bingo at the Walk In Art Center Dec. 13. Over 200 people from the campus and local community were in attendance, with $5,000 raised that will go toward the campus’s 2016 THON total, and over $1,000 will benefit the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Scholarship Fund.

The campus THON dancers for 2016 have been selected. The students that will be representing Penn State Schuylkill at the forty-six hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon at the Bryce Jordan Center at the University Park campus Feb. 19-21, 2016 will be Benjamin Blake, Le’Asia Brown, and Bobby Cazonie. Congratulations!

Career Services
The Northeast Career Conference and Expo was held Oct. 13 at Penn State Hazleton. This is a collaborative effort between the five northeast Penn State campuses, which include Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Schuylkill, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington-Scranton. This year there were over 150 students in attendance with forty-six employers participating, and an etiquette lunch was included in the professional development agenda for the students.

In October, Career Services was busy presenting to every first-year seminar class. These presentations explained the services that are provided through the career services office, such as resume writing, reviews, and critiques, mock interviewing, etiquette dinners, career fairs, career assessments, internship/co-op opportunities, and career counseling, and how students can effectively utilize these services during their time at Penn State Schuylkill. Students were also given a short tutorial on the assessment tool MyPlan, which is utilized throughout the entire Penn State system and is a free resource that helps students make well-informed decisions regarding their education and careers.

Since the start of the fall semester, career services has had over seventy-five appointments with students who are seeking resume help, job search assistance, or questions regarding graduate school.

Health and Wellness Services
Health and Wellness Services within the Student Affairs department includes Health Services, Counseling Services, and Disability Services.

The campus nurse and counselor attended training in the summer to become Green Dot certified facilitators in an effort to implement bystander intervention training into the existing sexual assault programming on campus. During student orientation, a bystander intervention program, including prevention and awareness of sexual assault, harassment, and stalking, was presented to the entire student body.
Safe Zone training was also offered in the fall by the Health and Wellness staff to all campus faculty and staff. The training promotes awareness and understanding of LGBTQA issues, and at the end of the training, participants become registered with the University-wide initiative.

The annual Breast Cancer Walk was held Oct. 23, and $350 was raised through donated items and raffles which will be donated to the Educational and Scientific Trust at the Simon Kramer Cancer Institute.

Health Services presented several programs throughout the fall semester, including: Healthy Relationships and Practices; The Invisible Threat (a program that promotes immunizations); Forever 21 (demonstrates the effects of alcohol on the mind, body, and spirit); Diabetes Awareness (a sugar-free fest that demonstrates the alternatives one can consume in lieu of sugar); a frank discussion about realistic expectations of a sexual relationship; and CPR and First Aid training for the Residence Life staff. Relaxation and stress reduction strategies were presented by Counseling Services to all of the First-year Seminar classes.

Athletics
This year marks the establishment of the Chancellor’s List of Student Athletes, which is student athletes that have earned and maintained a 3.0 grade point average. There are currently 28 students on the list, which is announced on the campus athletics website. To award high-achieving athletes, the Schuylkill Scholar Athlete Award was also established this year. At a spring banquet, one male and one female athlete will be chosen to receive a monetary award for their achievement.

During the summer, the campus acquired two wrestling mats from the University Park campus that have been utilized for practice as we kicked-off the inaugural varsity wrestling season in October.

Penn State Schuylkill fielded six varsity sport programs this fall, including: Men’s Golf, Men’s and Women’s Cross Country, Women’s Volleyball, and Men’s and Women’s Soccer. The cross country, volleyball, and women’s soccer teams were very competitive. In its inaugural year, the women’s soccer team made the Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) playoffs and finished third, and then the men’s and women’s cross country teams finished fifth and third, respectively. Student athlete participation numbers are up by 39% from last year, which is in part as a result of the addition of Women’s Soccer.
There were also several individual athletic accomplishments this fall. In women’s cross country, Casey Renninger finished 3rd in the PSUAC Tournament, earning her 1st Team All-PSUAC. Teammate Lauren Howell finished 6th, earning a spot on the 2nd Team All-PSUAC. For the men’s cross country, Nico Granito finished 6th in the PSUAC tournament and earned a spot on the 2nd Team All-PSUAC. Men’s and Women’s soccer had several students honored as well. Cole Schwalm, John Toe, and Brad Fryer all received PSUAC Honorable Mentions. For the women, Andrea Slotterback and Megan Boyer were selected PSUAC 1st Team, and Reiley Reed and Morgan DeGrassi both received PSUAC 2nd Team Honors. In volleyball, Kristina Johnson was selected to PSUAC 2nd Team. Jovanna Johnson, Sierra Blankenhorn, and Sydney Hoopman all earned the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National All-Academic Award.

During the fall homecoming week festivities, the varsity men’s and women’s basketball teams played their annual alumni game. This year saw the alumni defeating the varsity team in an exciting game. Alphonso “Fuzz” Wilson, a 1996-97 team member, made a free throw with no time remaining to give the Alumni a one point victory.

Campus Safety
Penn State Schuylkill officers participated in the Active Shooter Response training exercise that was held in August by the Schuylkill Haven police department. This training was phase two of three, and is intended not only to train officers on response to such an emergency, but also to have local officers work together as a team. Members of the campus police plan to participate in all the training sessions in an effort to be better prepared for campus emergencies, as well as be a good neighbor to local communities should they need assistance.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board
This fall has brought significant changes in the membership of the campus advisory board. Richard Fehr, a member of the board since 1987, passed away Sept. 19. His dedication and support of Penn State Schuylkill and the University will be greatly missed.

Then, Oct. 15 marked the final board meeting for Attorney Fred Wiest, who has served as a member for sixty-one years. Mr. Wiest celebrated his 100th birthday in October, and the campus community is grateful for all his years of distinguished service.

Development
The John E. Morgan Foundation has donated to Penn State Schuylkill a $1,000,000.00 challenge match for the Science Center renovations. The areas that will be included in the renovations are the radiology technology lab and physics and chemistry labs. In pursuit of the matching funds, the campus has begun the process of a feasibility study to determine the costs associated with the renovations.
The Foundation is also supporting a $500,000.00 match for campus **STEM scholarships**. To date, three scholarships totaling $350,000.00 has been raised toward the match, and additional opportunities are being explored to raise the remaining $150,000.00.

The next University-wide campaign is scheduled to begin July 2016. The focus of the campaign will coincide with the strategic plan. **Roy Heim** of Heim Construction Co. has accepted the position of volunteer chair for the upcoming campaign. The next step will be to form a volunteer committee that will assist Roy throughout the campaign.

**Alumni Relations**

On May 16, the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society sponsored fifth annual **Penn State Day at Knoebels Amusement Park** in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Over 400 alumni and family members enjoyed lunch, a performance by the Alumni Blue Band, an appearance by the Nittany Lion, and prize raffles. Dr. Roger L. Williams ’73, ’75g, ’88g, retired executive director of the Penn State Alumni Association and associate vice president for Alumni Relations, was recognized for his service to Penn State. Individual organizations additionally hosting this event included Penn State Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington-Scranton Alumni Societies, and the Anthracite, Greater Binghamton, Greater Hazleton, Greater Scranton, Greater Susquehanna Valley, and Schuylkill Chapters of the Penn State Alumni Association.

Football season began and Alumni Relations was busy engaging with both alumni and students. The Schuylkill Alumni Society Board hosted the second annual **Four-Person Scramble Golf Tournament** Oct. 4, and 120 golfers enjoyed the course and lunch at Mountain Valley Golf Course. The total profit was $3,861.06, and this will equally benefit athletic programs at Schuylkill and the Alumni Scholarship Fund. This year, six $500.00 awards were given to Penn State Schuylkill students from the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

The Schuylkill Alumni Society Board welcomed a new board member, Edward C. Brennan ’15, at their October meeting.

The Penn State Schuylkill Blue and White Society (BWS) kicked off their year in support of **Homecoming**. Students and alumni joined together with the Penn State Schuylkill Cheerleaders to march in the University **Homecoming Parade** at the University Park campus on Oct. 9. Representing Penn State Schuylkill at the **Your President's Tailgate**, held Oct. 10 at the Bryce Jordan Center, was Benjamin Blake and Winn Allen, two members of the society serving as student ambassadors, and Lisa Schroeder, Alumni Society Board member, and Patty Shoener, assistant director of Alumni Relations.
The BWS partnered with the Schuylkill Alumni Society to participate in the Alumni vs. Student Basketball game, and also sponsored Casino Night, both held during the Homecoming festivities Oct. 16-17. Homecoming events were open to all faculty, staff, alumni, students and their families, and all participants were given chips to play casino games. Chips were turned in for tickets to win all Penn State-themed prizes. Each member of the BWS was partnered with a Schuylkill Alumni Society Board member and served as dealers for the games. Everyone had a great time!

The Alumni Lunch and Learn Speaker Series for the fall semester included a presentation from Sandra M. Edling ’96, ’01g, assistant director of Business Services at the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Ms. Edling spoke to students in the business curriculum about jobs available in school districts throughout Pennsylvania.

Fifteen Schuylkill BWS students participated in All Hoops Day Nov. 14. Students from all of the BWS campus organizations came together at the University Park campus for a Behind-the-Scenes tour of Beaver Stadium, and attended the season opener of the Nittany Lions Basketball game and a Hockey game at Pegula Ice Arena.

The BWS is currently sponsoring a Gourmet Pretzel Rod sale to benefit the Student Programming Fund. Students are selling pretzel rods for $1.00 to campus students, faculty and staff. In addition, they co-sponsored the Bingo with the Alumni Society Board to benefit Schuylkill THON that was held Dec. 13.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: A BETTER PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL**

Upgrades to the Admissions Suite were completed in August. Burkavage Design Associates was the architectural firm for the project, and L & K Construction served as the general contractor. Upgrades to the facility included a new entrance, two new offices for admissions counselors, modernized restrooms, upgraded room finishes, and exterior landscaping.

A feasibility study was recently completed for a master plan of the campus athletic fields. Designs for new soccer, baseball, and softball fields are included in this plan in order to improve the out-of-classroom experience for student athletes.

The design phase has begun for the creation of additional student organization club meeting and activity space that will be created in the Health & Wellness Building. An underutilized area on the upper floor of the building will be renovated to include the new student activity spaces as well as upgraded locker rooms and a new building access route.

On Oct. 15, the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board renamed its Nittany Apartment I complex Wayne D. Lammie Hall, after former campus executive officer Dr. Wayne D. Lammie at a formal dedication ceremony in front of the Nittany Apartments. Dr. Lammie was instrumental in securing funding for the construction of Nittany I, the first on-site housing complex at Penn State Schuylkill.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
This fall started the use of the campus’s first Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Classroom/Presentation facility. The BYOD room is located in room 106 of the Administration Building, next to the new Admissions suite. In this new facility, students and faculty that bring their own mobile devices are able to connect them to larger built-in monitors mounted within the classroom. Collaborative software also enables device content to be shared throughout the space. New huddle-boards, as well as flexible work stations, are also part of this cutting-edge facility.

THE HIDDEN STREAM CAFÉ
On Nov. 20, campus Food Services catered the Schuylkill United Way Appreciation Breakfast for the 10th year. This year’s event hosted 120 people and featured a custom cookie for each guest from the Penn State Bakery that displayed the Schuylkill United Way and Penn State Schuylkill logos. Once again, the campus culinary team delighted everyone with its famous Crème Brule French Toast.

THE PENN STATE BOOKSTORE
The campus bookstore welcomed students Aug. 21 for the fall semester with a scavenger hunt in the bookstore. Students were to find certain items such as books, know three things about YUZU, and what brands of clothing were available in the bookstore. Food and prizes were also offered.

A Bookstore Expo was held Nov. 17 where faculty, staff, and students could learn more about all the services the Bookstore has to offer. Faculty learned about Facultyenlight, a web-based source for placing course requests, and they could also meet with Xanedu, a vendor that creates course packets for faculty. Everyone was invited to meet with a representative from the vendor Promoversity to learn about the products they have available to order for their departments or clubs. Students had the opportunity to learn about YUZU, the ebook platform.

On Nov. 18, the Bookstore hosted a Local Author Book Signing. Local, campus-affiliated authors included, Dr. Steve Couch, Dr. John Sinisi, Mr. Joe Muldowney, and Mr. Dave Holland. Additional authors from the Black Diamond Writers’ Club, and Denise Karinsky, an author who writes about the Nittany Lion and who donates a portion of her books proceeds to THON, were also in attendance.