Greetings,

The summer is already off and running, with activities happening all over campus. Now that we have settled into our summer programming, I want to reflect on the extraordinary dynamic and successful achievements of the spring 2015 semester.

Our students continue to make us proud with their determination, creativity, and commitment to community service. Senior student Bryan Underkoffler was selected as one of only four students out of thousands of applications for a coveted internship program with the Office of Naval Research and Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute at the Patrick Air Force Base in Florida; three of our students, Xiaoyu Cao, Stacy Koperna, and Justice Demitro, participated in the first multi-campus Global Engagement and Leadership Experience; three other students, Catherine Mahon, J. Austin Bayliff, and Molly Zwiebel, were competitively selected to participate in the Fifth Annual Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium, along with students from other colleges and universities from around the region; and two students, Stacy Koperna and Caitlin Mroz, were accepted to the 2015 CHANCE Central America Field Program, to which they recently returned from conducting research on tropical ecosystems at the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), La Selva Biological Station.

The spring was a time for many members of our faculty to proudly enjoy seeing the fruits of their labor become a reality as works became published, licensed, produced, and presented. Dr. Keith Duffy, associate professor of English, had two music tracks from his 2008 CD titled, “Trip to Style City,” licensed and utilized in multimedia advertisement campaigns that aired on television and numerous online venues.

Dr. Helen Hendy, professor of psychology, has been collaborating with other faculty on numerous projects that span across disciplines, and had several works published this past spring. She conducted research with Nancy Schorschinsky, instructor in chemistry, and Dr. Barbara Wade, instructor in psychology, to publish, “Math beliefs associated with math behaviors and performance in college students,” in Psychological Assessment. Another project was with Dr. S. Hakan Can, associate professor of administration of justice, titled, “Behavioral variables associated with obesity in police officers,” published in Industrial Health.

Dr. Harmut Heep, associate professor of German and comparative literature, also published this quarter, including his single authored article in Cultural and Religious Studies titled, “Catholicism and Machismo. The impact of religion on Hispanic gender identity.” Additionally, in April, he presented one of his scholarly papers at a national conference in New Orleans.

We are very fortunate to have such a talented group of faculty that exhibits commitment to collaboration, innovation, development, and progress.
One very exciting event this spring was the visit of the Ambassador of Lithuania. Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-17), hosted the Ambassador, and we were thrilled to see an outstanding response from the local community.

We continued our partnership with the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy and presented the winner of the program with a $2,000 scholarship. We are confident that this program will continue to inspire area youth, and we are eager to see the ideas that future classes will present.

In an effort to increase our incoming classes, our enrollment services team has been innovative in developing way to attract students. The new Quick Decision Days program provides students with an immediate, verbal decision on whether they have been accepted for the upcoming semester, presenting them with a new option they may not have previously considered. Online video chats between current and international students have increased enrollments. It has given international students more of a personal perspective on what they are going to experience when they come to our campus, and it makes decision-making and transitioning much easier.

As always, our students, faculty, and staff continue to provide superior community service, locally and beyond. In December, the campus was once again named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for completing over 10,000 hours of service. This year, in one week alone they completed over 300 hours.

I want to give thanks to Mr. Bert Evans, chairman of the Evans Network of Companies in Schuylkill Haven, for his dedication and support to this campus, and to our students. Bert was presented with the 2015 Penn State Honorary Alumni Award at a ceremony at the University Park campus in June.

Our commencement ceremony was held on a sunny morning, with Mr. Robert Carl, executive director of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, as the commencement speaker, and it was a joyous ending to an eventful year.

I am pleased to present the Spring 2015 Community Report that will detail all of the wonderful accomplishments of our campus community.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill
SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS

On May 9, the spring 2015 commencement ceremony was held on the campus green. Forty-eight students participated, and included those from fall 2014, spring 2015, and the upcoming summer graduates. Across all three semesters, twenty-five associate degrees, seventy baccalaureate degrees, and twenty-six academic minors were conferred. Additionally, ten students graduated with distinction honors.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Robert S. Carl, Jr., executive director of the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce. It was a beautiful day for an outdoor ceremony, with an audience of about 400 family, friends, faculty, and staff to celebrate the students' achievements.

The offices of Academic Affairs and Enrollment Services were busy throughout the spring semester preparing to launch the new summer program, Pathways to Success: Summer Start (PaSSS).

PaSSS was initiated by the Enhanced Education Pathway committee, which was formed in October 2014 by University Provost Nicholas P. Jones. This committee was charged to “broadly consider and investigate a number of strategies to advance President Barron’s priority of access to and affordability of a Penn State education.”

One of the primary roadblocks to timely degree completion is financial need. In addition, many students are not prepared for the rigor of college level courses. This program’s strategy is to initiate a summer school/work program to enhance student success. It will allow students meeting specific criteria that have the potential to result in delayed degree completion to take two courses (six credits) during the summer before their freshman year, and up to twelve credits during the summer between their freshman and sophomore years, utilizing designated scholarship or endowment funds to help offset some of the tuition costs. An additional, unique, component of the program is that these students will be given jobs on campus and in the local community. Penn State Schuylkill was one of only six campuses chosen to pilot this program during the summer of 2015, and the only campus to offer free, on-campus summer housing.

Twenty students that enrolled for the summer 2015 cohort have settled in nicely. Seventeen of the students are living in the campus advisory board-owned Nittany Apartments, and five of them are local students who chose to experience on-campus living. Student affairs staff have been working hard to keep the students busy with many activities such as hiking at the famous Hawk Mountain, attending a Philadelphia Phillies baseball game, and a trip to Knoebel's Amusement Park. The students have indicated they are enjoying their experience, have already formed close friendships, and are looking forward to the upcoming fall semester.
Two Penn State Schuylkill students were accepted into the **2015 CHANCE Central America field program**. Stacy Koperna and Caitlin Mroz traveled with faculty and other students from across the University to study conservation biology in the rainforest in Costa Rica and Panama. They conducted research on tropical ecosystems at the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS), La Selva Biological Station, and enjoyed working to save nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.

The accelerated courses for the **RN to B.S. in Nursing** continue with robust enrollments. The video conferencing technology extends this offering to students in the Berks and Delaware counties, in addition to the students that attend in the Penn State Schuylkill service area. This creative programming format supports the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommendation that 80% of nurses have a bachelor’s degree by 2020. The accelerated scheduling format compliments the traditional class scheduling offered on-campus, and provides a wide range of course options for students.

The RN to B.S. students continue to have a presence in their local communities. The nursing program students organized educational programs for a local Boy Scout Den and a local Diakon community center. If you visited the Healthy Haven Community Expo in January and had your blood pressure checked, you may have met one of the RN to B.S. students.

The Bachelor Degree in Nursing Award was developed this year to recognize a graduating student who has excelled in the nursing program. The award presentation occurs twice a year, in April and August. Joanna Buber was chosen as the first award recipient for April 2015. This is an exciting opportunity to recognize the academic achievements of the RN to B.S. students.

**Bryan Underkoffler**, a senior psychology major, and president of the campus Student Government Association, was competitively selected for an internship program with the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at the Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. Underkoffler, a native of Tower City, Pennsylvania, and a 2011 graduate of Williams Valley High School, was one of only four students selected out of thousands of applications for this coveted program.

This paid program offers full-time summer internships for selected university and post-doctorate students in computer science, math, statistics, simulation and gaming, curriculum development, and social sciences such as anthropology, culture, diversity, minority/women studies, organizational effectiveness, psychology, and sociology. Interns have the opportunity to conduct research, develop programs, and engage in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) at the institute for a ten-week period during the summer.
Honors Program students continue to excel through academic accomplishments, and extra-curricular activities. Three students, Xiaoyu Cao, Stacy Koperna, and Justice Demitro, participated in the first multi-campus Global Engagement and Leadership Experience at Bald Eagle State Park in March. Two students, Catherine Mahon and Julia Schuller, were selected to present their research from their honors public speaking classes at the James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference as part of the Eastern Communication Association Convention in April.

Many students presented their research from their various honors classes at the Penn State Schuylkill Student Research and Scholarship Conference, and several presented at the Penn State Schuylkill Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments Symposium. Three honors students were among the students selected to present their work at the Penn State Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium that was held this year at Schuylkill campus: Catherine Mahon, J. Austin Bayliff, and Molly Zwiebel.

Three honors students, Benjamin Blake, Brianna Fernandez, and Emily Yocom, participated in the campus-wide Persuasive Speech Contest, and the Honor Society conducted a student-run debate on the value of NASA research in May.

Additionally, seven honors students traveled to New York City over Spring Break with the honors program coordinators, Dr. Michael Gallis and Dr. Valerie Schrader, and were able to experience the culture and history of the city.

The Student and Professional Development Committee hosted the annual Career Panel in March. There were seven panelists that included an attorney, engineer, accountant, state trooper, non-profit representative, physician’s assistant, and a computer scientist. The students were able to discuss career paths with each panelist.

The Fifth Annual Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on campus April 16. This event communicates and celebrates the scholarly research endeavors of undergraduate students from the eastern regional Penn State campuses and a number of local colleges. Students who have been selected to represent their local campus presented posters or other exhibits to showcase their work to a general audience. Members of Penn State Schuylkill faculty and staff coordinated the set-up, online registrations, keynote speaker, and hosting of all the participants of the event.

On April 22, the campus community celebrated Earth Day with a variety of open events. There was the annual Eco-Fair, where attendees could stroll through display tables to learn about the environment and sustainability from local companies and organizations. The afternoon continued with the Sustainability Symposium with presentations from faculty member, Dr. Harold Aurand and his student Cindy Drazenovich, and Dan Lynch from the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Finally, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony of the new community garden, and an interactive presentation with Porcupine Pat from the Schuylkill Conservation District.
Faculty and Creative Accomplishments

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

Dr. Nikki Andel, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Harold Aurand, assistant professor of history, co-presented a paper titled, "The Secularization of Holiday Ritual Procession and Visitation in the Pennsylvania Anthracite Coal Region: How St. Nicholas and the Shepherd Carolers Gave Way to Santa on a Fire Engine and Wassailing the Christmas Tree" at the Popular Culture Association-American Culture Association in New Orleans, LA on April 12.

Dr. Harold Aurand, assistant professor of history, attended the Penn State University Northeast Regional Faculty Development Day at Penn State Worthington Scranton on January 6, and on April 22, his student, Cindy Drazenovich, co-presented, "Understanding the Coal Region Landscape," as part of the Earth Day activities.

Dr. Charles Cantalupo, Distinguished Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and African Studies, has been on sabbatical as he takes time to complete his new book, Minor Heroics.

At the Fourth International Conference on Edgar Allan Poe in New York City that was held February 26 – March 1, Dr. Cantalupo gave a poetry reading, "Poe in Richmond," and was a conference session chair for "Poe Places."

On April 24, the Warscapes Public Lecture Series and New School’s Humanities Action Lab welcomed Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o and Dr. Cantalupo for an intimate conversation, recorded and titled, “African Literature...Says Who? The Last 50 Years with Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o.” The video is now featured on Warscapes’ homepage, and can be viewed directly at: https://vimeo.com/126558769.

Dr. S. Hakan Can, associate professor of administration of justice, had two articles printed this semester.


Dr. Can is a member of the committee for the final thesis defense for Military Captain Levent Apaydin. Captain Apaydin is completing the masters in Criminal Justice program at Penn State Harrisburg, chaired by James Ruiz, and his thesis title is, “Community policing application in rural America.” He has also chaired the thesis prospectus defense for Hamdi Saat, police superintendent at Penn State Harrisburg. Mr. Saat’s thesis is titled, “Organizational issues of Turkish National Police in Istanbul.”

He was recently appointed as one of the co-editors on the Turkish version of *Addicta, the Turkish Journal on Addictions* is an online journal (http://addicta.com.tr/en/issues/issue-1-2/) that deals with the drug addiction theories worldwide and is listed in Academic Search Premier (EBSCO).

Dr. Can attended the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators conference on March 20 in Slippery Rock, PA as a second year board member. He served as president just prior to becoming a member of the board. On April 21, he attended the Penn State Teaching Learning and Technology Symposium at the University Park campus, along with colleagues Dr. Jeffrey Stone and Ron Kelly. The symposium was an annual one-day event to showcase ways that technology can be used to enhance teaching, learning, and research. The intent is to give faculty and staff the opportunity to share how they are using technology in unique ways, network with other colleagues, and generate new project ideas for classroom enhancement and professional development.

**Dr. Renee Covell**, instructor in business administration, presented, “Motivating Others,” to the Schuylkill Executive Leadership class at the Schuylkill Chamber on January 27. The four hour session, delivered to fourteen local leaders in various organizations, was intended to expand and enhance their skills to bring out the best in their team.

**W. Keith Duffy**, associate professor of English, had his 2013 peer-reviewed article, “Teacher Commentary via Speech Recognition,” which explores the pedagogical uses of speech recognition technology to provide text-based feedback to students on electronic copies of drafts for purposes of revision, licensed for inclusion in the book titled, *Writing Center Theory and Practice*, published in March 2015.

Additionally, in late 2014 and early 2015, two music tracks from Duffy's CD titled, “Trip to Style City,” (2008, Bar-None Records, LLC), profiled at http://www.bar-none.com/the-joy-project, were licensed through Ocean Park Music Group for use in multimedia advertisement campaigns for both Spy Optic, a California-based designer of high-end eyewear, and Lucky Chouette, a Korean clothier. Both spots have aired on television and in numerous online venues.
Ms. Cathy Fiorillo, assistant professor of theatre arts and adviser to the campus drama club, the Nittany Players, directed the spring musical, *Shrek the Musical*. Over 1,000 community members attended, including daytime field trips from Blue Mountain School District’s East and West elementary schools.

Dr. Hartmut Heep, associate professor of German and comparative literature, conducted a professional interview in February with the Pulitzer Prize winning American poet, John Ashbery at his home in New York City. This rare and ground-breaking interview is part of his book-length study on the New York School of Poets: John Ashbery, Frank O’Hara, and James Schuyler.


In April, Dr. Heep presented a scholarly paper at the American Culture/Popular Culture Association titled, "Crime and Race: A Cross-Disciplinary Analysis of Hispanic Males and Criminality."

Dr. Heep organized the Men’s/Masculinity Area academic submissions, chaired panels, and led discussions for the national Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) National Conference in New Orleans, LA, held April 1-4. Additionally, for his contributions to the field of Men/Men’s Studies, he was selected as a 2015 recipient of the David M. Sokol Area Chairs Award.

Dr. Helen Hendy, professor of psychology, had several of her collaborative works published this semester, including:


**Mr. Ronald Kelly**, instructor in administration of justice, was presented with this year’s campus Award for Excellence in Teaching at All Campus Day on April 15. Additionally, the students voted him as the recipient of the Student Government Association Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Mr. Kelly was a judge for the Student Research and Scholarship Conference that was held on April 8. Two of his students, Angela Maschuck and Allysa Brown, along with two other students, had their posters selected to be submitted in the Penn State University Fifth Annual Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium that was held on April 16.

His personal research, conducted with undergraduate student Angela Maschuck, was selected as the first place entry in the 2015 Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences (NACJS) Student Paper Competition. They presented their paper titled, “Exploring Reverse Prostitution: An exploration of underground truck stop commercial company and the Johns who drive the business,” at the annual conference in Bristol, RI in June.

Mr. Kelly coordinates the Penn State Schuylkill team for the annual *Walk-a-Mile in her Shoes* event that raises awareness about the serious causes, effects, and preventive strategies of sexual violence against women. On April 23, more than forty-five Penn State Schuylkill students took to the streets wearing high-heeled shoes to participate in the internationally recognized event. The group received the award for largest team for the second year in a row, and they raised more than $450 for the victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in our communities. The event was sponsored by the Sexual Assault Resource and Counseling Center (SARCC).

As the adviser for the Criminal Justice Club, Mr. Kelly took members of the group on a tour of the juvenile detention center in Kulpmon, PA, and also on a trip to Muncy, PA to tour one of only two women state prisons.

**Mr. David Norris**, instructor in business administration, held an Accounting option program open house on April 29 for current students. Mr. Bob Allen, instructor in accounting, gave a PowerPoint presentation, and current student Dakota Ramus was available to talk with students on why he decided to explore the Accounting option.

Mr. Norris attended Alumni Reunion Weekend, June 5-6 at the University Park campus as his nominee, Mr. Albert Evans, Jr., received his award for 2015 Penn State Honorary Alumni.
Mr. Jason Reuscher has been promoted to the rank of associate librarian.

Mr. Reuscher has been spending time advising the Benedictine Sisters of Elk County at St. Joseph Monastery in Saint Marys, Pennsylvania, about their book collection. The Sisters, whose convent closed this past year, hold a collection of books in their chapel library and archive room that date from the 1600s to the present. As a native of St. Marys, Reuscher has been volunteering his time to identify rare books within the general library collection, and then locate a public or academic facility that will preserve and care for the books.

Dr. Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications, attended the annual convention of the Eastern Communication Association in Philadelphia on April 22-26, of which she serves on the executive council, and as a chair and respondent for panels.

In March, she co-organized the spring break trip to New York City for the Honors Program students, then in April, she took her Honors Communication class to a performance of *Funny Girl* at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre in Lancaster, PA in order to complete their rhetorical analysis projects, and she coordinated the annual spring semester student public speaking contest.

Dr. Schrader had the following article published this semester:


Dr. Jeffrey Stone and Tricia Clark (Penn State Berks), instructors in information sciences and technology, co-authored a paper titled, "Experiences with a Hybrid CS1 for Non-Majors," that was published in the *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges* in January 2015.

Dr. Stone also presented a paper titled, “Teacher Perceptions in the Life of a Defunct 1:1 Program,” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference that was held March 2-6 in Las Vegas, NV.

Mr. Matthew J. Wayman, head librarian, presented, "Siege, Surrender, and the 'Honors of War': Honor and Capitulation in North America, 1745-1760," at Penn State Lehigh Valley on April 20 as part of their Faculty Invitational Lecture Series.
Academic Resource Center

Wintery weather plagued the campus during the spring 2015 semester, but the Academic Resource Center (ARC) celebrated summer with a beach-themed open house. In February, the center was decorated with vibrant colored snowflakes, lawn chairs, beach towels, boogie boards, and leis, while studying to the tunes of the Beach Boys. Students flocked to the center to experience the cheerful décor, and to participate in the hourly raffles of Penn State items. Advisers reminded the students to begin thinking about fall scheduling, and tutors helped students keep on-track with time management, in spite of the numerous snow days and delays. In keeping with the successful beach theme from February, there was a Fun in the Sun week during the last week of classes. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. every day, and ending at 4:00 p.m., games and friendly competitions against the student tutors were open to everyone outside of the ARC on the lawn as a way to relieve the stress of finals and to celebrate an outstanding year.

The staff provided Advising and Tutoring Tips at the Tables in April. Bowls of study tips, advising tips, academic reminders, and words of encouragement were offered to all students approaching the Student Center during the lunch hour. Quick sessions of tutoring were also offered at the tables outside as an easy-going study environment. Advisers offered many entrance-to-major workshops throughout the year, and also assisted faculty on advising procedures.

The center’s tutoring component continues to serve between sixty and seventy percent of the student population, offering workshops on study skills, time management, and test-taking strategies, as well as general tutoring in most courses.

The professional staff of the ARC have been busy with their own professional development and additional academic activities.

Jacqueline Runkle, English instructor and professional English tutor, presented at the Pennsylvania Association for Developmental Educators (PADE) conference that was held in March at the Hershey Hotel. Her topic, “Simplifying Synthesis,” explored a technique she uses in her English classes to enhance learning. Judy Lenick, Darlene Young, and Michael Verhagen also attended the two-day conference. Darlene Young instructed the math portion of the public offering SAT Prep class.

In looking forward to the next academic year, the ARC is planning for more programs, more tutors, and more outreach.

Community Outreach

The annual Survivor Tea program, sponsored by the campus Commission for Women, was held on April 7 to celebrate survival over life’s challenges, including major obstacles and everyday difficulties. A special guest presented a talk titled, “It’s not just black or white: A personal victory.”
Donations were collected at the event and donated to the local organization, Schuylkill Community Action: Bridge House Program. The Bridge House Program is a transitional housing service located in Pottsville. Bridge House provides comprehensive services to persons facing long-term homelessness and provides a supportive, safe environment for adults and children.

On April 16 and 17, pianist and keyboard specialist Gary Nesteruk, a leading Los Angeles studio musician for thirty-five years, was the featured artist and presenter at a film music workshop on campus.

Nesteruk, accompanied by Philadelphia jazz great John Swana on valve trombone, an electronic valve instrument, New York vocalist Vicki Doney, Paul Gehman on bass and Paul Miller on drums, performed music features by Rodgers and Hart from the 1957 film *Pal Joey*, which starred Frank Sinatra in the title role. The film, written by Pottsville native John O’Hara, originally appeared as a series of short stories in the New Yorker magazine and was made into a successful Broadway musical in 1940, starring Gene Kelly, before being adapted to the screen. As 2015 marks the Frank Sinatra centennial, other tunes recorded by Sinatra were also played. Pottsville Area High School senior, Jacob Shoener, performed a selection on trumpet with the group.

Nesteruk did a presentation that highlighted film soundtracks on which he played, including, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, (1996, starring Marlon Brando and Val Kilmer); *Beauty Shop*, (2005, starring Queen Latifah); and *Spider-Man 3*, (2007, starring Tobey Maquire and Kirsten Dunst).

On April 27, Congressman Matt Cartwright (PA-17) visited the campus and brought special guest, Lithuanian Ambassador Žygimantas Pavilionis. University leadership hosted a reception for the congressman and the ambassador with their invited guests and Schuylkill campus faculty and honor students.

After the reception, Congressman Cartwright hosted a free, public lecture, where the Ambassador spoke about the importance of standing up for your freedoms, and the success of Lithuania’s economy since becoming a free country in 1990. There was a great community response to his visit, with over 150 people in attendance.

**Community Educational Programming**

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) continued this spring as a partnership between the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce and the Continuing Education office. This year’s program concluded on April 30 with a graduation ceremony and the presentation of a $2,000 Penn State Schuylkill scholarship award to the YEA! winners. The next program will start in November of this year.
The CE office has entered into a year-long agreement with the **Hexcel Corporation** to provide the five modules of the Certification in Production and Inventory Management program of the American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS). This production management program began in January for twenty-eight employees, and is designed to help them take charge of planning and controlling production, manufacturing, and inventory systems within a company. There was also an Enterprise Resources Planning workshop in January for twelve members of their local management team. This certification program will continue through spring of 2016.

On March 12, the staff hosted the **Schuylkill County AG Seminar**. Approximately seventy-five local leaders in agriculture attended the full-day seminar. This was offered in cooperation with the Penn State Schuylkill County Extension office and the Schuylkill Conservation District.

The unit delivered several non-credit programs this past spring. Eleven students took part in a two-day, **ServSafe Food Safety** certification training on March 30 and 31. During March and April, seventeen high school students completed the **SAT Prep** program, and forty-three students in New Jersey completed the **Teaching Methods for Cosmetology Educators** that was offered in March and April.

**STEM Saturday**, in partnership with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, Schuylkill Achieve program, took place on Saturday, April 18. Approximately 100 students in grades 5 through 8 took part in the event that included classroom presentations from: Dr. Michael Gallis, associate professor of physics; Mrs. Nancy Schorshinsky, instructor in chemistry; Dr. Rod Heisey, professor of biology; and Dr. Elinor Madigan, assistant professor of information sciences and technology.

Finally, the campus received a $5,000 donation from Weis Markets through the **Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)** program. We have earmarked these funds for our popular high school **Summer Scholars** program, which exposes high school juniors and seniors to a college course in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), while giving them the opportunity to earn three college credits. **MATH 033, Mathematics for Sustainability,** is being offered this July to students that are recommended for the program by their school districts.

A new program began in the new year, the **2015 Women’s Wellness Series**. This is a series of one-hour presentations that are held on a Wednesday evening throughout the year that feature a professional guest speaker who will discuss a topic related to women’s issues. On April 1, Judy Lenick, senior academic adviser and instructor at Penn State Schuylkill, presented, “The Sandwich Generation: How to balance your priorities,” and on May 6, women were presented with, “What every woman should know about their finances,” from Karen Kenderdine, First National Trust Company, and Renee Laychur, First National Bank Investment Advisors, Inc. The attendees received complimentary financial reference handouts to take home with them.
RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

The focus of the admissions office for the spring 2015 semester was to continue to build the incoming class of fall 2015.

Notable areas of increase have been in the local service area and international students. Students from the local service area continue to hold the largest percentage of our incoming class at sixty-five percent of the paid deposits. The international applications have more than doubled than this time last year, increasing from twelve to thirty-one, and the offers (including offers from referrals received from other campuses) have increased from 21 to 40.

**Quick Decision Day** was a new program that was piloted on April 10. It gave students an opportunity to get an admission decision the very same day so that they were able to compare their school offers before the final College Decision Day on May 1. This event was geared toward local high school seniors, and in order to get their on-the-spot, verbal admission decision, they had to bring an official high school transcript with SAT or ACT scores. Seven students were in attendance, and some students that came expected to have their answer that day. There were also some students who attended, knowing they would not receive their decision because they did not have all of their required materials, but still wanted to get information on the admissions process and file an application.

Another new program was **online video chats** for international students. This was an innovative way to bring the campus to students who are not able to physically visit. A set time was scheduled based on the time zone of the student, and then current international Schuylkill students would connect with an admissions counselor and the prospective student through Google Hangouts on a live video chat. They were able to ask questions and get a first-hand perspective on what it was like to be a student at Schuylkill campus.

Two local school districts, Blue Mountain and Mahanoy Area, brought a total of seventy-five students from their **YES** (Your Employability Skills) groups to campus for an admissions presentation, tour, and a free fall 2015 application. The remaining YES groups from the rest of the participating high schools in the Schuylkill campus service area hope to schedule in the near future.

During this time, recruitment efforts were also beginning for the fall 2016 class. There were structured on-campus events that brought approximately 100 visitors. The events included Wednesday evening hours, Saturdays @Schuylkill, and Classroom Experiences, which are extended daily visits with an academic experience.

The March and April **Open House** programs hosted over 200 guests. Faculty, staff, and students from various departments participated to welcome prospective students and their families, and to assist in making the programs a success.
In addition to on-campus recruitment events, the staff kept an aggressive off-campus recruitment schedule throughout the semester to build both the fall 2015 and fall 2016 classes. They represented the campus at twenty-one University sponsored programs, thirty-one visits and college fairs at high schools, and twelve sessions at national college fairs. This recruitment travel took place within the local service area, as well as out-of-the-area in Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia.

Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2015-2016 academic year became available on January 1, 2015. Members of the financial aid office worked with new and current students to get their forms completed and submitted on time. On and off-campus programming was an effective way to help achieve this goal.

On-campus, staff visited each First-year Seminar class to deliver a financial aid presentation. In addition, they held events that were available to both current and prospective students. These events, offered at various times of day for convenience of all audiences, included: S'More Scholarships; Understanding your Financial Aid; and FAFSA completion sessions.

Off-campus events included visits to several local high schools to provide a FAFSA or Financial Aid Information night. The service area schools that took advantage of this opportunity were North Schuylkill, Minersville, Pottsville, and Mahanoy Area.

New students received a new mailing from the financial office called, “Your Bottom Line.” This was created to give them a better understanding of what they have been offered in student aid, both through University and campus scholarships, loans, and grants, and then what their final out-of-pocket expenses will be. Current students started receiving their financial aid packages and awards in June.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student Activities

As usual, spring was very busy on campus with a number of great events and programs in student activities and residence life areas, as well as student accomplishments in several areas.

Photography by Grace Brown, Project Unbreakable, was presented to the students and community in conjunction with Schuylkill Women in Crisis. The collection of 4,000 photographs is aimed at giving a voice to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

In celebration of International Day of Happiness and Well Being, Penn State Schuylkill hosted well-known speaker and happy advocate Matt Glowacki. Matt’s interaction with the students who participated will long be remembered as he shared, in fun, entertaining, and simple ways, to stay on the path of happiness.
The students took stage and bravely showed off their creative and gifted abilities for an evening that was both entertaining and rewarding at the annual Schuylkill and Berks Got Talent. Taking second place was the Penn State Schuylkill Afro Caribbean Dance Club at the Berks Got Talent competition. This was a huge win for the participants, and as always, increased our Penn State Schuylkill pride.

Students gathered to participate in Easter and spring crafts, as well as put together over thirty Easter baskets for the children serviced by Schuylkill Women in Crisis.

Students from the Business Club, resident assistants, and the Lion Ambassadors assisted at the annual Bunny Trail of Treats. More than 200 children and their families delighted in enjoying treats, games, and prizes at the many tables that displayed candy, coloring sheets, and activities.

There was an unforgettable trip to Washington D.C. that included a visit to the Holocaust Museum. Faculty member, Dr. S. Hakan Can, was on-hand to give this experience a unique and educational touch.

Xtreme Fitness owner, Joe Gudinas, and his staff, expertly conducted a self-defense workshop for over thirty-five students. This very active self-defense workshop was offered in response to efforts to bring awareness in self-protection against sexual assault.

This year's theme for national Women's History Month is “Weaving Women's Stories,” so our goal was to present the opportunity to weave women's stories – individually and collectively.

The event, “Hot Wings and Stilettos: Defining Sexy,” provided a fun time for students to look at the creative abilities of women. Our invited guest for the evening was Shadae Holland, an exceptionally strong role model and advocate for HIV and AIDS, who shared a more expansive vision of what a woman can do. She encouraged the audience participate and to think larger and bolder. During the event, the Urban Elite dance group also put on a performance.

As the semester came to a close, the event, “Parting is such sweet sorrow” offered a variety of desserts to honor graduates and transferring students. Over fifty students joined the sweet fest.

The Business Society hosted a Candy Time Line event on April 1 that was well received. The event was designed as an interactive and educational experience that chronicled the history of candy making and marketing for the benefit of approximately ninety students, faculty, and staff.

Along with a series of poster displays depicting the historically significant chapters in the evolution of the candy industry, a dozen computer tablets were programmed by society member Justin Stoner to capture the highlights of a decade-by-decade candy time line beginning in the late 19th Century.
Student Leadership

At the Northeast Spring Leadership Conference, held in the Poconos, nine students from the campus were in attendance. This was a twenty-four hour event to help students, who are already in leadership positions, or who are going to be in leadership positions in the fall, enhance their leadership skills. They attended sessions on listening skills, consensus building, leadership styles, membership group recruitment and retention, diversity, micro-aggressions, and purpose statements. Forty-seven students from all five of the northeast campuses participated in the conference.

Residence Life

Residence Life partnered with Cece Boran, campus nurse, in presenting Forever 21 to the resident students. This program provides information on what to do if others are intoxicated (how to help), and knowing their blood alcohol level. They also figured out how much alcohol someone can really consume by playing a game of imitation beer pong.

On what is referred to as Synergy Sunday, eleven students spent the day learning about residence life, and participating in activities geared towards team building as they vied for the coveted open resident assistant positions.

During finals week there was a Donut Day where students were able to grab a donut and some milk on their way to their final to gear up and use all those brain cells!

Community Service

The community service club organized and participated in several events for National Volunteer Week. Students completed over 300 hours of community service between April 9 and April 19. Events included: Lager Jogger registration; Block of Art; Child Development Council; Rest Haven; Seton Manor; SPCA; Joe Paterno Family Island 5K Run; Servants to All; and the Schuylkill River Heritage Association (Bartram Trail) clean-up.

The students in residence life gathered to do Easter and spring crafts, and then filled and decorated over thirty Easter baskets for the children serviced by Schuylkill Women in Crisis.

In April, the community service club donated $600.00 to Servants to All from their Box event that they held in November.

THON raised close to $31,000 this year that will be used to assist in the fight toward pediatric cancer. THON co-chairs chosen for next year are Benjamin Blake and Maria Naradko.
Career Services

On March 25, sixty students, employers, and staff attended the Business Etiquette dinner. The guest presenter for the evening was Katherine Maxwell, former career counselor and division of undergraduate studies adviser at Penn State Hazleton. Several local companies and organizations sponsored the event, including: ARMY National Guard; Axiom, Inc.; Catino Associates, Inc.; Cubist Pharmaceuticals; Anita LeClaire; Lowe’s PA Regional Distribution Center; SAPA; and Walmart Regional Distribution Center.

Disability and Counseling Services

This year, Counseling Services partnered with the organization, Sexual Assault Resource & Counseling Center of Schuylkill County (SARCC), to dedicate a month full of activities for sexual assault awareness and prevention. Some of the activities included designing shirts with inspiring messages, a program on healthy sexual relationships, a film and discussion, a sexual assault awareness walk, breakfast with SARCC counselors who provided resource information, and other displays and programs geared toward awareness and prevention. All of the activities were well attended with positive feedback from students.

Penn State Schuylkill was recognized by SARCC of Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties as a Partner in Prevention for 2015, and was thanked for its commitment to ending sexual violence in the community.

Campus Life Awards

On April 17 we held our annual Campus Life Awards to recognize members of our campus who have shown extraordinary commitment and dedication to Penn State Schuylkill.

Some of the student award winners included Alyssa Brown, recipient of the Eric A. and Josephine S. Walker Award, for her display of outstanding qualities of character, scholarship, leadership, and citizenship. Stacy Koperna received the Chancellor’s Award for Student Leadership for her contributions to the advancement of student life through leadership and involvement, and Sam Elvin was awarded the Residential Adviser of the Year Award for having a positive influence on other residential students and for helping to build a strong community within the Nittany apartments.

Ron Kelly, instructor in administration of justice, was selected by the student government association for their annual faculty award.

Rosalie Wiest, administrative support coordinator in the chancellor’s office, received the Linda Fehr Memorial Award for her excellent work in coordinating the 2014 Women’s Wellness Conference that was held for the campus and local community in August 2014.
Additionally, we are very proud to announce that a member of our staff was the recipient of the **University Staff Advisory Council Staff Member of the Year Award**. This prestigious award is given to one member of staff from across the institution, for their outstanding service to the University. **Karen Beruck**, administrative staff assistant in the office of Student Affairs was selected for the 2015 award. She was presented with her award at a ceremony held at the University Park campus on May 6.

Other award recipients that were honored include: **Kate O’Neill**, Student Humanitarian/Public Service Award; **Community Service Club**, Outstanding Student Organization, **Ms. Cathy Fiorillo**, instructor in theatre, Outstanding Adviser Award; **Benjamin Blake**, the Rising Star Award; **Michael Sanchez**, Volunteer of the Year Award; **Penny Shade**, campus chef, Staff Service Award; and **Joseph Shevokis**, Unsung Hero Award.

Three employees were recognized for their twenty-five years of service to the University: **Joanne Bakel**, clinical coordinator in radiological sciences; **John Cooper**, director of Athletics; and **Paul Miller**, assistant professor of music.

**Athletics**

As previously announced, men’s wrestling will be offered as a varsity sport, beginning fall 2015. Mr. Brett Matukiewicz has been recently hired to serve as the head coach and has actively begun recruiting for the upcoming semester and the fall 2016 incoming class.

Men’s baseball and women’s softball both had exceptionally successful seasons. Given their successes, both teams received at-large bids from the USCAA to their respective Small College World Series double elimination tournaments.

Senior Women’s Softball player and shortstop, **Jena Leffler**, became Penn State Schuylkill’s All-time hits leader with 103 hits on April 26, breaking the record formerly held by Jessica Klotunowitch in 2008.

Leffler is a 2011 graduate of Pine Grove Area High School, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

The softball team traveled to Akron, Ohio to participate in the Ten Team Tournament, May 10-14, as the 9th seed, while baseball was able to participate as the 10th seed in Hampton, Virginia, May 12-16. Congratulations to all of our student athletes for their hard work this past season.

**Campus Safety**

In January, campus officers participated in the **Active Shooter Response** training exercise, held by the Schuylkill Haven Police Department. This training was phase one of three, and is intended to train officers on their response to such an emergency, and to also have local officers work together as a team.

Campus police participated in all of the Active Shooter Response training sessions in an effort to be better prepared for campus emergencies, and to also develop a good rapport with neighboring communities by providing assistance when needed.
In March, members of Police Services delivered the training program, *5 Outs: Surviving an Active Shooter Program*, to campus faculty. Officers also continued to provide a number of campus and general safety presentations to resident assistants, orientation leaders, and tutors.

**ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY**

**Development**

Interviews were conducted with five local businesses for the purpose of assessing and coordinating the local industry’s needs related to the educational requirements of our students. The intention is to provide a better business/education partnership for Schuylkill County. Results will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Development Workshop Committee.

The new Wylonis Scholarship recipient has been selected. The recipient’s name is Hunter Snyder and he is from the Hegins area. He will be a freshman in the fall as a 2+2 student, with plans to major in mechanical engineering.

The Development staff continued with their efforts to obtain annual leadership gifts from donors. This initiative provides donors with the opportunity to become a member of the President’s Club.

**Alumni Relations**

The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society welcomed three new board members this spring: Kent Steinmetz ’87, Anita LeClaire ’87, and Lynn Bucklar ’79. Officers for the 2015-17 term are: David Gonzalez ’02,’03,’04, president; Jeffrey Vrabel ’81, vice president; and Sallie Sandler ’86,’99g, secretary/treasurer.

The society partnered with Berks County Chapter of the Alumni Association and Penn State Schuylkill THON for Penn State Night at the Reading Royals on February 7. The Alumni Blue Band performed and the Nittany Lion was on-hand for photos. The Reading Royals wore special game jerseys that were auctioned off following the game to raise money for THON.

The Schuylkill Blue and White Society partnered with the office of Student Affairs to sponsor a bus trip for students to the University Park campus. Students received a tour of the campus, had brunch at Pollock Commons, visited off-campus housing, and attended the Coaches vs. Cancer basketball game at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Twelve young Penn State alumni were honored for their outstanding professional accomplishments, and presented with the Penn State Alumni Association’s Alumni Achievement Award at a dinner ceremony on March 27 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. These prominent alumni, thirty-five years of age and younger, are nominated by an academic college or campus and invited by the president of the University to return to campus to share their expertise with students and the Penn State community.
Achievement honorees demonstrate to students that Penn State alumni succeed in exceptional fashion at an early age.

Sharifa T. Anozie, a 2008 graduate of the College of Communications, represented Penn State Schuylkill at the dinner as a 2015 award recipient. She is currently a writer and the owner of The Sacred Word, a Los Angeles-based jewelry line. Anozie interviewed prominent civil rights advocate Carolyn Goodman, and her poem, dedicated to Goodman, was recognized by major media outlets. She has interviewed celebrities, including film director Spike Lee, CNN’s Piers Morgan, actor Idris Elba, and Grammy Award-winning artist Ne-Yo. Anozie worked on assignments for CBS on The Early Show, 48 Hours, and the CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, and on BET’s 106 & Park. She is an editorial assistant at The Hollywood Reporter magazine, writing for print and online, and covering red carpet events and awards in Hollywood.

Seven students from the Schuylkill Blue and White Society and Lion Ambassadors and their advisers participated in the 2015 All Campus Conference at Penn State Berks on March 21-22. The theme for this conference was, “Lending our paws for a good cause.” The conference had over 150 participants from all campuses and included breakout sessions on teamwork and leadership, dinner with Jay Paterno, and a dance with special guest, “My Hero Zero.” Following the conference, they participated in a community service project sponsored by the Gilmore/Henne Community Fund. Students made greeting cards for the local veterans’ hospital, and did a spring cleanup at Locust Street Park in Fleetwood.

The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society recognized four alumni for campus awards, and two Honorary Alumni representing Penn State University at their spring awards dinner on April 24.

The Honorary Alumni Award is given to individuals who are not graduates of the University, but who make significant contributions to Penn State’s welfare, reputation and prestige. Nominations are solicited by the Penn State Alumni Association - Alumni Council, and are accepted from the public, and the entire University community. Attorney Fred J. Wiest, Minersville, received his award in 2013 and was recognized at the dinner as the first recipient selected to represent Penn State Schuylkill. Albert L. Evans, Jr., chairman of the Evans Network of Companies, Schuylkill Haven, is a 2015 recipient, representing Penn State Schuylkill, and received his award at a ceremony on June 5 at the University Park campus.

Campus awards included the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which is intended to honor alumni thirty-five years of age or younger who are achieving success in their chosen field, and who are making admirable contributions within their communities. Aubrey L. Sejuit, ’07 and Angel Zheng, ’11 were selected for this prestigious award. Miss Sejuit is a first-generation college graduate, a licensed social worker, a credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counselor, and a doctoral candidate at the University of South Carolina where she is working towards her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision. Miss Zheng is a Schreyer Honors graduate with a bachelor of science and master’s degree in
Education Theory and Policy, with a special focus on community and civic engagement. She is the policy coordinator at New Visions for public schools. This is the largest education reform organization in New York City, and a non-profit that is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Patty Shoener, ’05, ’09, was selected as the first recipient of the Penn State Schuylkill Pride and Spirit Award. Patty is the assistant director of alumni relations. She received her associate in science and bachelor of science degrees in Business at Penn State Schuylkill, and her MBA from Alvernia University with a focus in community leadership and economic development. Patty is an advocate for Penn State, and her love for the University is evident in her professional career and personal life.

William J. Parulis, ’76, was recognized as the Outstanding Alumni Award recipient. Mr. Parulis is the president of WJP Engineers, Pottsville, a consulting engineering and surveying firm, organized in 1986. He is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland, and a professional land surveyor in Pennsylvania, with almost forty years of experience in consulting engineering and surveying projects.

The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society, the Schuylkill Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association, and the Penn State Wilkes-Barre Alumni Society sponsored a tour of wineries at Seneca Lake, New York on June 20. The trip included four winery tours on the beautiful Seneca Lake Wine Trail via coach bus transportation, a barbecue lunch, beer and wine tasting, and a whole lot of Penn State spirit with almost fifty people participating.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: A BETTER PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL

Spring 2015 was very busy for physical plant as they planned and prepared for summer projects.

The design phase of the new admissions suite had been just completed, with Burkavage Design Associates from Clarks Summit being hired as the architectural firm for the project. A new entrance to the suite that will house a reception area, staff and International Program offices, and a presentation room are some of the design highlights. The final phase of the project will include new exterior landscaping that will enhance the entrance to the admissions area.

In addition to the designs for an Athletic Field Master Plan and the creation of a new club meeting space in the Health and Wellness Building, some deferred maintenance projects are also in the final design stages. A new fire alarm system for the Classroom Building plus a new HVAC system for the Administration Building are nearing completion.

Security upgrades are also ongoing at Penn State Schuylkill. The installation of additional card readers and surveillance cameras has begun in order to improve campus safety for all faculty, staff, and students.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The design phase has been completed on the campus’s first Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) classroom/presentation facility that will be located room 106 of the Administration Building, and it is currently under construction. In addition to supporting students that bring their own mobile devices, the facility will also be equipped with ten Microsoft Surface Pro tablets for those who do not bring along their own personal mobile devices. The modern tables and chairs in the new space will be able to be easily configured to accommodate both the collaborative learning environment, as well as a conference style event. Removable wall-mounted “huddle boards,” plus two, 64 inch interactive monitors will complete the state-of-the-art facility.

THE HIDDEN STREAM CAFÉ

Chef Penny Shade recently attended a cooking class with Chef Grace Pilato where she learned different recipes all using “mascarpone cheese.”

Penny was this year’s recipient of the Penn State Schuylkill Staff of the Year Award for her outstanding service within the external community for hosting the Scott Shade Memorial Trout Rodeo in Schuylkill Haven, and for assisting instructor Nancy Schorschinsky with her food science chemistry course.

THE PENN STATE BOOKSTORE

By the time classes began on January 12, the bookstore had already fulfilled ninety-one online orders for spring textbooks that had been requested between December 1, 2014 and January 11, 2015. Additionally, there were 815 textbooks rented, which gave students a savings of forty percent or more. Both of these processes were excellent ways to assist students with saving time and money on their textbook purchases.

The Bookstore hosted a Grad Fair on March 17 in cooperation with the campus registrar. At the event, forty-five students ordered their regalia for the spring commencement ceremony, and they were also able to order class rings and announcements from Jostens.

The campus bookstore partnered with the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society to host Jay Paterno, former assistant and quarterback coach for the Penn State Nittany Lions football team, for a book signing on April 30, promoting the biography of his father and the team's legendary coach Joe Paterno.


Paterno also addressed an open audience in the John E. Morgan Auditorium, where he delivered remarks and read excerpts from his book. A $5 donation was requested, with proceeds benefiting THON and the Robert P. Swank Scholarship at Penn State Schuylkill.
Mr. Paterno’s book is currently available in the bookstore for purchase.

In March, the bookstore transitioned from Textaide to a TA2 ordering system where textbooks will not be in a perpetual inventory. This system will be implemented beginning with the summer 2015 session.