Penn State Schuylkill
Campus Update
Fall 2012
Welcome to the 2012-2013 academic year at Penn State Schuylkill!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire campus community for your warm welcome. I am very energized and enthusiastic to be a part of the Penn State Schuylkill family. I believe that it is important that we discuss, share, reflect and report on our ongoing operations, initiatives, programs and successes. This Penn State Schuylkill report will serve as the launching of a new format by which we routinely update our university community.

The beginning of each new academic year brings a renewed sense of optimism and hope for our entering class. As we set forth, on this journey together, with a renewed sense of determination and promise, it is important to remember what makes Penn State Schuylkill a special place. What makes this wonderful University so magnificent, is its people. From our distinguished faculty and dedicated staff to our extremely generous advisory board and community leaders, along with more than 11,000 alumni that have called Penn State Schuylkill home, we continue to be guided by the Penn State spirit.

Penn State Schuylkill has been extremely busy this summer making the campus even stronger. Numerous improvements were made to enhance the beauty and serenity of this distinctive jewel perched amongst the picturesque Schuylkill County landscape. Student social and recreational spaces were enhanced including the expansion of the Student Community Center cafeteria and lounge; upgrading of the fitness equipment in the Health & Wellness Center; and the availability of Starbucks products in the Hidden Stream Café. Recognizing the growing demand for students educated in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), a significant transformation of the biology laboratory was completed, along with an addition of a biology research laboratory.

The Kiefer-Jones Building has been completed with its opening reception held on Thursday, July 26th. This facility is an extremely valuable asset to the ongoing success of our campus, and is a testament to the unwavering support of the Penn State Schuylkill Advisory Board. The building named for Allen Kiefer and Joseph Jones, both of whom have been involved with the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board for more than 40 years. Mr. Kiefer is President of the Advisory Board and Attorney Jones is Chairman of the Development Committee.

The success of Penn State Schuylkill is attributed to the dedication and commitment of our faculty. The countless examples of their steadfast support of our students both in and out of the classroom are laudable. Our faculty excels in their teaching, research and service to the university community. For Example:

Dr. Helen Hendy, Professor of Psychology, has been appointed to the Planning Committee of Schuylkill VISION for an initiative to reduce child obesity in Schuylkill County. Dr. Hendy, in collaboration with other Penn State and Schuylkill County community members, has published two articles and has a book in press, all relating to reducing childhood obesity and improving healthy eating habits in children.

Dr. Charles Cantalupo's most recent book, Joining Africa – from Anthills to Asmara (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press), was published to critical acclaim in 2012. The book won the Next Generation Indie Book Award in the category of Memoirs. More
information about Charles can be found on his webpage: http://english.la.psu.edu/faculty-staff/cxc8/.

Dr. Cantalupo also delivered an inspirational keynote at this year’s New Student Convocation. His message was grounded in the four Penn State principles outlined during my address to the students at Convocation. I shared with the students that at Penn State Schuylkill, we are guided by principles aimed to enrich our time together that provide a framework by which we navigate our college experience, and establish respectful and guiding markers that define the way in which we participate in this community of learned citizens.

**These 4 Penn State Principles are:**

1. I will respect the dignity of all individuals within the Penn State community.
2. I will practice academic integrity.
3. I will demonstrate social and personal responsibility.
4. I will be responsible for my own academic progress and agree to comply with all University policies.

I wanted to share Dr. Cantalupo’s keynote in its shortened form from the original address. His speech had the entire crowd on their feet cheering and celebrating the spirit of Penn State! [WHO ARE WE](www.sl/psu.edu/Documents/News/CantalupoAddressExcerpt.pdf)

During July, we launched the Summer Bridge Academy pilot program that was designed to assist students to successfully transition to college life. The 3-week residential immersion experience offered selected students the opportunity to complete three college classes (English 004, Sociology 001, and a Math workshop). Funding for the program was secured through the generosity of the Wells Fargo Foundation, the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board, private donations, and the Office of the Vice Provost of Educational Equity – Diversity Support Programs.

The strength of our alumni is illustrated in so many positive ways. They continue to make us proud and inspire those that have just begun their Penn State Schuylkill journey. Richard Spontak, ’83 Engineering, was selected as one of the [2012 Penn State University Fellow Award](www.sl/psu.edu/Documents/News/CantalupoAddressExcerpt.pdf) recipients. The Alumni Fellow Award is the most prestigious award given by the Penn State Alumni Association. Since 1973, the Alumni Fellow Award has been given to select alumni who, as leaders in their professional fields, are nominated by an academic college and accept an invitation from the President of the University to return to campus to share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators. The award is a cast bronze statue and framed certificate. We are also delighted to recognize Andrew Tellep, ’74 Education, as the 2012 Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Achievement Award recipient.

Our students’ passion for serving the community and advancing the interests of those in need make us Penn State Schuylkill proud! This past year the campus’ THON organization worked tirelessly to raise $28,500 to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund. Nittany pride was equally apparent, when during the opening orientation weekend, 70 of our newest students along with returning students, faculty and staff, volunteered their time to clean up the Bartram Trail.
This is an important year for our campus. As we look towards the future, and set a plan for the coming years, it is important that we take account of all facets of our operation. We must collectively define our vision, our roadmap to a prosperous future. This process kicked off this summer as each unit conducted a detailed SCOT analysis (strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats). Over the course of the coming year, we will fully review, document, assess and analyze our entire organization. Conversations with faculty, staff, advisory board members and community leaders, as well as students, have begun to inform some general understandings of our path.

We will continue to achieve success as we partner with the community, as our accomplishments are directly relational to the success of the community in which we live and operate. Our local economic impact of approximately $70 million results from the continued positive relationship that has been forged with the community. We will invest in relevant academic programs that provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in an increasingly competitive and globalized world.

We will offer a highly student centered environment that recognizes that each student is our priority, that by offering them admittance – we have committed to availing all of our talents and resources to make their success a reality. We will provide our students with opportunities to lead, to become involved in co-curricular experiences, to engage in service to the community, to participate in undergraduate research opportunities, and to gain practical experiences for their future careers. We will be known for our quality and commitment to persistence through graduation.

Respectfully,

*Kelly Austin*
PERSONNEL CHANGES/UPDATES

Several new full-time faculty and staff joined the Penn State Schuylkill community this past summer. Additionally, several staff and faculty members assumed new responsibilities. In an effort to better serve the needs of our students, we have relocated some offices as well.

New Hires:
- Toghara Azizi-Babane, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology
- Deadra Brown, Coordinator of Residence Life
- Evan Casanova, Assistant Director of Student Affairs
- Valerie Clay, Assistant Director of Student Affairs
- Christopher King, Coordinator of Residence Life
- Julie Meyer, Instructional Designer
- Robin Welsh, Academic Advisor, DUS
- Rosalie A. Wiest, Support Coordinator, Office of the Chancellor
- John Williams, Instructor of Mathematics

Administrative Changes:
- Stephen R. Couch, Ph.D., Director of Academic Affairs
- Pamela Black, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and Interim Director of The Learning Center
- Anita M. Vickers, Ph.D., Interim Coordinator of The Learning Center
- Shannon M. Del Conte, Academic Advisor

New Office Location:
- Academic Advising (Division of Undergraduate Studies) has relocated to the first floor of the Ciletti Library.
- University Relations will be located on the second floor of the Kiefer-Jones Building.

New Unit – University Relations:
A newly formed “University Relations” department has been created and will handle all public information, social media, the Penn State Schuylkill website, advertising and publications as well as other electronic media. The department will be overseen by Jerry Bowman and include Jodi Staller. Jodi’s main areas of emphases will be the coordination of advertising media and publications.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Faculty Accomplishments:
Dr. Mary Bonawitz is very active in the American Society of Women Accountants (ASWA) locally and nationally. Locally, she has assumed the role of the by-laws chair for the Philadelphia chapter for the year beginning July 1 2012. Her term as chair of the board for the ASWA Educational Foundation ended June 30, 2012. For the year beginning, she will serve as past chair of the ASWA Educational Foundation and chair of the Nominating and Forms and Procedures committees.
Dr. Charles Cantalupo’s most recent book, *Joining Africa – from Anthills to Asmara* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press), was published to critical acclaim in 2012. The book won the Next Generation Indie Book Award in the category of Memoires. His invited lectures and readings this year include engagements sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Asmara, Eritrea; the Ecole des Haute Edudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris; Yale University; and Ohio University.

Dr. Salih Hakan Can was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Criminal Justice.

Susan Condie participated in several informational recruiting sessions for the RN-BS program that were held at Penn State Berks, The Reading Hospital Medical Center, and The Reading Hospital School of Nursing. Susan was also appointed to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) - Holy Spirit Health System, effective August 1, 2012; and the South Central Pennsylvania Evidence-based Practice Regional Consortium - Mentoring Committee, effective June 29, 2012.

Dr. Michael Gallis taught a “Summer Scholars” class to high school students on the physics of amusement park rides.

Dr. Hartmut Heep conducted research in Armenia where he studied genocide at the Genocide Museum in Yerevan. He also continued his holocaust research in the Ukraine at mass genocide sites such as Babyn Yar.

Dr. Helen Hendy was promoted to Professor of Psychology. She has been appointed to the Planning Committee of Schuylkill VISION for an initiative to reduce child obesity in Schuylkill County. She has also been appointed as consultant for a University of Minnesota study on Child Obesity Prevention funded by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Charlie Law completed a Research Fellowship this summer for the Department of Naval Research entitled, “When Diversity Training Isn’t Enough: The Case for Inclusive Leadership”. In addition, he was appointed to the Diversity Task Force of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

Dr. Elinor Madigan and her students are continuing their work with Mrs. T's Pierogies email blast program. In addition, she has initiated talks with the PA Department of Labor & Industry to recruit students to work for the information technology areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In July, Dr. Paul Miller was the featured performer on piano and drums in a program entitled, *The Pennsylvania/Marburg Connection*, a jazz concert presented at the Cavete Jazz Club in Marburg, Germany, as part of the *Jazz Initiative Marburg*’s subscription series. Among the German musicians featured on the program was Andre Cimiotti, one of Germany’s most renowned jazz artists (on alto sax). He also taught his class "Jazz Basics" once again (in German and English) at Justus Liebig University in Giessen. In August, he appeared at the Deer Head Inn (the oldest continuously operated jazz venue in the United States) as a member of New York City vocalist, Vicki Doney’s jazz quintet, which also includes Los Angeles pianist Gary Nesteruk, Philadelphia’s bassist Paul Gehman and the great Philadelphia jazz trumpeter, John Swana.
David G. Norris continues in his role as president of Our Haven Foundation (OHF). Its dedicated Board members and volunteers share a genuine commitment to honoring the essential tenets of OHF’s Mission Statement: “Dedicated to revitalizing downtown Schuylkill Haven through strong partnerships and community activism.”

Dr. Jeff Stone continues to work with the Schuylkill Haven Area School District to assess the impact of their one-to-one student laptop program and associated organizational changes. Dr. Stone will perform a similar function for the Hamburg Area School District.

Denise Whalen was elected president of the Pennsylvania Association for Play Therapy, a statewide organization promoting licensed mental health professionals who work with children with emotional difficulties.

Faculty Publications:


Paper accepted by Ohio Communication Journal. “’A Question of ‘Rights’ vs. ‘What is Right’: A Textual Analysis of the Anti-Defamation League’s and President Barack Obama’s Statements Regarding the Proposed Islamic Center near Ground Zero.” By Valerie Lynn Schrader, Lauren J. Joseph and Barbara Wade. This paper received “Top Paper Award” in April from the Eastern Communication Association.

Dr. Helen Hendy (in collaboration with Keith Williams of Penn State Hershey Medical Center) published an article on "The Brief Assessment of Mealtime Behaviors in Children (BAMBIC): Associations with child and parent variables" in Children's Health Care. She also published an article on "Which comes first in food-mood relationships: Foods or moods?" in Appetite. In addition, Dr. Hendy in collaboration with Keith Williams of Penn State Hershey Medical Center, and Thomas Camise, Schuylkill Haven Area Elementary School District has a book in press with Rowman & Littlefield Publishers on "Improving children’s healthy behaviors and reducing child obesity with a school-based program: The Kid’s Choice Program Handbook."

Dr. Charlie Law published an article on "How sexuality information impacts attitudes and behaviors toward gay service members" in Military Psychology. He also published an article on "Gone fishing: I/O Psychologists’ missed opportunities to understand marginalized employees' experiences with discrimination", in Industrial and Organizational Psychology: Perspectives on Science and Practice.

Dr. Cory Scherer published an article on "Trait Expectancies and Stereotype Expectancies Affect Person Memory Similarly in a Jury Context" and "Cultural Stereotypes and Personal Beliefs About Individuals with Dwarfism" in the Journal of Social Psychology.
Dr. Jeff Stone, "Implementing State-Level Technological Literacy Policy in Rural Pennsylvania." To be published by the *Journal of Community Informatics*.

Dr. Valerie Schrader, Assistant Professor of Communication Arts & Sciences, has had four articles accepted for publication this summer. “Connecting to and Persuading Audiences through Musical Theatre: Burkean Identification in Harold Rome’s 1937 Musical Pins and Needles” will appear in the *Pennsylvania Communication Annual*, “Teaching math and confidence through Burkean identification: A close textual analysis of Danica McKellar’s Math Doesn’t Suck” has been accepted for inclusion in the Iowa *Journal of Communication*, and “Rose Blossom Speaks: Reflections of Playing a Heroine in the Old-Fashioned Western Melodrama Deadwood Dick” is currently in press at *Cultural Studies Critical Methodologies*. A fourth article, “A Question of ‘Rights’ vs. ‘What is Right’: A Textual Analysis of the Anti-Defamation League’s and President Barack Obama’s Statements Regarding the Proposed Islamic Center near Ground Zero” which was co-authored with fellow Penn State Schuylkill faculty members Lauren Joseph and Barbara Wade with guidance from Dr. Stephen Couch, has been accepted for publication with the Ohio *Communication Journal*. Dr. Schrader is also currently serving as program planner for the Interpretation and Performance Studies Interest Group of the Eastern Communication Association.

**CILETTI LIBRARY**

Matt Wayman attended the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference from June 22 to 25 in Anaheim, CA and attended meetings for the Communications Committee of the Reference and User Services Association’s (RUSA) Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CoDES). Matt has been appointed to the Historical Materials Committee within RUSA’s History Section for 2012-2014 and has been reappointed to ALA’s Advocacy Coordinating Group for 2012-2013.

Matt has been appointed to the Commonwealth Campus Libraries Peer Review Committee for promotion and tenure for 2012-2013. He has also been appointed to the University Libraries Scholarship committee for this year, and has been elected to the Library Faculty Organization’s Research Committee for 2012-2014. Matt compiled and submitted the bibliography for ABC-CLIO’s forthcoming *Encyclopedia of the United States Civil War: A Political, Social, and Military History*, edited by Spencer C. Tucker.

Jason Reuscher attended ALA’s Annual Conference and was awarded the Dartmouth Medal, which recognizes reference works of outstanding quality and significance. Jason was reappointed to the RUSA CoDES Dartmouth Medal Committee for a fourth year. Jason was also reappointed to two of the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Slavic and East European Sectional committees (Access and Preservation, and the annual Newsletter). Jason also compiled the 2011 annual bibliography of Recent Publications on Slavic Librarianship and Collections in the West for the Association of College and Research Libraries’ Slavic and East European Section.

**DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

In an effort to improve student retention at Penn State Schuylkill, the Advising Center has relocated to the first floor of the Ciletti Library. With its proximity to the Learning Center, the
Division of Undergraduate Studies will be able to further advance the concept of the one-stop-shop for providing academic advising and assistance to our students.

Our summer FTCAP was once again very busy – over 250 students navigated through the process over 4 weeks during the summer months.

Members of the Division of Undergraduate Studies have been actively involved in the development of on-line modules for the First Year Seminar.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Kid’s College was a huge success this summer, serving 340 students. We appreciate the support of everyone on campus who helped – special thanks to Jodi Staller who coordinated the program.

Science Scholars was a big hit, serving nine high school students. Dr. Michael Gallis and his assistant, Louise Hartman, worked with the students on “Extreme Thrills – the Physics of Amusement Parks.” The course was showcased on WNEP-TV and in the Pottsville Republican & Herald. Thanks to Shannon Del Conte who coordinated the course. Funding for this was made possible through a contribution to the Earned Income Tax Credit fund (EITC).

Our first CPA workshop was well received. Dr. Mary Feeney Bonawitz presented a four hour session on Ethics. This was broadcast using video conference technology to Penn State Wilkes-Barre and their Northern Tier Center. We hope to build on this success.

Our campus served as the host Video Learning Network (VLN) site for the 100 hour Personal Care Home Administrator (PCHA) Training. We shared the training with Penn State Brandywine and Penn State Greater Allegheny.

The Penn State Video Learning Network (VLN) continues to expand programming and locations. Room 110 of the Classroom building is one of the high-technology classrooms equipped with identical high-definition video conferencing technologies enabling faculty and students in up to four locations to participate in the same course at the same time. The goal of this network is to help Pennsylvania adults acquire the knowledge and skills they need for today’s jobs -- which often require college degrees or specialized training -- conveniently at a Penn State campus close to home. Watch for updates as we look to expand our presence in this venture.

Shannon Del Conte continued her efforts to recruit adult learners to campus this summer by reaching out to students who had attended Penn State Schuylkill in the past and are eligible to return; visiting area community colleges to encourage students to complete at Penn State Schuylkill and working with our campus Veteran’s representative to recruit Veterans. Additionally, she is working with Sue Condie to offer the RN to BS on site at Penn State Berks.

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

Penn State Schuylkill began its first Summer Bridge Academy. The three week residential program that consisted of fourteen students was designed to assist first-year students entering Penn State Schuylkill in the fall. The program worked collaboratively with students to engage in
their transition from high school to college. Students took classes in English, math, and sociology. The students also participated in a rural culture immersion program that included a trip to Lancaster to experience Amish living, the Lansford coal mines, and the Hershey Theatre to view Beauty and the Beast as part of their sociology course. The process focused on academic, social networking, and personal development to create a foundation for persistence towards a timely graduation.

Funding for the program was made possible by a grant through the Penn State Office for the Vice-Provost of Educational Equity – Diversity Support Programs, the Wells Fargo Foundation, the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board, and additional private donations.

**ENROLLMENT SERVICES**

This quarter, the Admissions Office has been working on completing recruitment for fall 2012 and starting recruitment for fall 2013. Several staff recruiting members have traveled across various states including New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, District of Columbia, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, California and Massachusetts in the recruitment of students for fall 2013. Towards the end of the quarter our campus hosted two “Spend a Summer Day/Evening” programs also geared at recruiting for fall 2013. The first was a daytime program in July. The second was an evening program in August. Throughout the quarter we have hosted approximately twenty prospective students on campus for tours and talks. These visitors are a combination of prospective students for fall 2013 and students looking to start for fall 2012.

In August, the Enrollment Services office began to see an increase in “late application” students interested in starting for fall 2012. Enrollment Services will continue to work with interested students through the “Drop/Add” period of the fall 2012 semester.

Mailings and phone calls continue to help yield offered students and acquire prospective students to apply to the campus.

Student Aid assisted with the FTCAP programs this summer. Students were assisted with the registration process, and families and students were helped with understanding their individual financial aid packages. Veterans’ benefits continue to be processed with the help of the veteran’s work study student. Mailings and emails continue to be sent to remind students of various financial aid issues and how to resolve them.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS**

As we enter into the 2012-2013 academic year, there will be more marked improvements to the manner in which co-curricular programing is administered on campus. The division will strive to not only solidify the students’ academic learning through engagement with academic clubs, lecture series, and cosponsored trips and events with faculty, we will also work to enhance student development through a more developed leadership series, greater emphasis on campus engagement, a commitment to community involvement, and other skill building activities which will help students develop and grow in both the Schuylkill community and the broader global community.
New Student Orientation took place August 24 through August 26 and was a great success! Residential student check-in was the smoothest in recent history. Staff, students, and parents all seemed to appreciate the dedication, attention to detail, and all the help. During New Student Orientation, the Campus kicked off its newly formed chapter affiliation with the National Society of Leadership and Success, with the presentation of "Better Grades in Less Time". Throughout Orientation Weekend, we consistently had approximately 115-130 students at most events. The exception was the "Strange Like Me" diversity session, which had over 150 in attendance. As usual, this event brought about a great spirited debate and debriefing from our students. The theatre troupe that performs loves coming here because our students really challenge them. Our community service projects were also a huge success. Approximately seventy students and staff cleaned sections of the Bartram Trail, removing old tires and cleaning up other trash and debris. We also had great press and media coverage. We had an additional ten students and staff who were able to help at the Walk-In Shoe Factory with a last minute project.

Valerie Clay, M.S. will bring her talents to the staff as the Assistant Director of Student Affairs for Student Development and Campus Engagement. Also joining the staff will be Evan Casanova, M.Ed. He will be serving as the Assistant Director of Student Affairs for Leadership Development and Student Conduct. In addition to these two positions, two new live-in Residence Life Coordinators have been hired to support, manage, monitor and implement a more deliberate, intentional and intrusive developmental Residence Life program for apartment students. Christopher King and Deadra Brown will reside in the Nittany Apartments and will administer programming, trips and skill development among the Resident Assistants and the other residents. Adding these new hires to the current dedicated staff in Student Affairs will allow for a more intention proactive approach to the development of students as strong moral citizens.

Along with this proactive approach, the day to day of events and activities on campus will be changing. The Student Affairs staff will be leading a large group of engaged students to reach out to faculty and staff on a more regular basis so that the co-curricular program permates the campus in many ways. More events will be occurring on weekends to attract more students to engage during the weekends. Events such as student performances, trips, game shows, bingo, karaoke and other alternative programming will strengthen a more robust weekend culture on and off campus. This will also help to break the cycle of the transient nature of our residential students allowing for better inclusion into the Penn State Schuylkill community.

Other changes have occurred in the areas of community service and leadership development. After the campus’ adoption of the Bartram Trail section of the Schuylkill River Trail, a multi-use trail in Southeastern Pennsylvania with a projected length of almost 130 miles, stretching from Schuylkill County to the city of Philadelphia, the number of students interested in larger scale community service projects has increased. The students have moved forward the formation of a (ESA) Epsilon Sigma Alpha international service organization chapter. This group will be moving their mission forward quickly this fall. The campus’ THON organization will also be working quickly to best last year’s all time high total of $28,500 raised at the campus to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund. In addition to many other events, THON will be hosting the 2nd Annual Penn State Schuylkill THON 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, November 3rd in Schuylkill Haven this year. As the year unfolds, students will be invited to join an ongoing leadership program that brings both face to face mentoring and virtual workshops to our campus. This partnership will become the foundation of our growing leadership development series on campus.
The staff in Student Affairs is also excited to be bringing back the Health Fair. This year’s event will be held on Wednesday, September 26th and will be open to students, faculty, staff, and the community.

BUSINESS SERVICES & PHYSICAL PLANT

Summer 2012 has been extremely busy for Physical Plant at Penn State Schuylkill! The Classroom Building underwent some major upgrades this summer that included the installation of an elevator into the core of the building. The new elevator was made possible due to a $500,000 grant received from the University Access Committee and Facility Resources Committee. Because the installation ran through the Conference Center and Classroom 202, some additional improvements were added to these spaces that included new paint and flooring.

In addition to the new elevator in the Classroom Building, the biology laboratory also underwent a transformation. With the assistance of a $590,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), a new Biology Research Laboratory was created in the area that was the former biology classroom. The research lab will contain an updated greenhouse and the creation of an Animal Room where the science faculty will be able to conduct their research in a modern facility with updated equipment. Dr. Toghara Azizi-Babane will utilize the facility to conduct research on the red imported fire ant (RIFA) in an effort to find effective methods to control and/or eradicate this invasive species. Also in the new research laboratory, Dr. Darcy Medica will be conducting research to examine whether feeding B-vitamins to mammals will reduce the biting rates of mosquitoes on those hosts. The lab is scheduled for completion on September 30, 2012.

In addition to the new research lab, a new teaching lab is being constructed in the alcove outside the research lab. The new state of the art laboratory will include the latest technology and furniture; it is scheduled to be completed by December 30, 2012.

Some exciting changes have taken place in the Student Community Center as well. New paint, flooring, cafe tables, soft seating and big-screen televisions were purchased to create a more comfortable and inviting space for students. Funds from the Student Facility Fee were used to make the renovations possible. Additional upgrades made possible through the use of the Student Facility Fee included the purchase of seven hydration stations that were installed throughout the campus, replacing old water fountains, thus promoting sustainable living by encouraging faculty, staff and students to use refillable containers rather than purchasing disposable bottles. Also, new aluminum bleachers for the athletic field were purchased to replace the old outdated bleachers and improve curb appeal along Route 61.

There has also been a lot of activity improving the exterior landscape of the campus. New plantings around Nittany I, Phase II landscaping of the athletic field bank project and exterior bed improvements were all completed this summer. Much of this has been made possible by a $50,000 grant we received from the University Park Campus Beautification Fund.

Finally, general improvements and painting projects are ongoing. Some of the notable improvements this summer have included the replacement of the stair treads and landings in both the Administration & Classroom Buildings. Painting projects that have been completed included
the lower level of the Health & Wellness Building and Fitness Center, the Learning Center and the Administration & Classroom Building stairwells.

**BURSAR/FINANCE OFFICE**

June marked the end of another fiscal year and as is usually the case at year-end, most of our time was spent processing final transactions and evaluating the closing budget situation.

With facing a possible decrease in our operating budget due to a decline in enrollment, it is extremely important that all faculty, staff and administrators be prudent stewards of all resources. We are proud to report that we ended the 2011/2012 year with a healthy campus reserve fund. These carry forward funds will enable us to maintain existing programs as well as establish new initiatives across campus as we progress into the 2012/2013 academic year.

Fall 2012 has come upon us very quickly! Budget reviews for 2012/2013 were conducted with all budget administrators in early August. An initial operating budget will be established in the next few weeks.

**FOOD SERVICES/ID+ OFFICE**

The Penn State id+ program is working to accommodate students who will need to use a Penn State id+ card to meet the requirements of the new Pennsylvania Voter ID Law to vote in the November election. The Penn State id+ card was changed in May to begin printing an expiration date on the card to accommodate the new law. All first-year students (or any student) who received an ID this summer during orientation should have an ID that is valid under the new law.

To accommodate other students who do not have a PA driver’s license, passport, or other valid form of ID, the id+ office is preparing to have expiration stickers that can be affixed to the Penn State id+ card as a stop-gap measure for this year’s election.

Beginning with the Fall 2012 semester, the Hidden Stream Café will be serving *Starbuck's Coffee* along with a variety of Starbuck's coffee drinks (cappuccino, Frappuccino, etc.) Also new this fall is the addition of a gourmet Panini station with daily features; a fresh salad bar to make your own salad; Penn State Creamery ice-cream (single serve Dixie cups and half gallons); and Penn State Bakery products. These new items along with customer favorites at the grille and pizza station, and Chef Penny’s daily creations at the entrée station and homemade soups, will add some excitement to the Hidden Stream Cafe. We have also added an F'Real Ice Cream Milk Shake and smoothie station.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

Information Technology Services has been working with Audio-Video Services and Physical Plant to expand the **digital signage** on campus. The number of monitors on campus has expanded from three to seventeen. The monitors will display important campus happenings and events as well as serve as a mechanism for reporting emergency information.
POLICE SERVICES

In 2012 Police Services has employed two new officers. With the addition of these officers we have moved forward with the Schuylkill Campus Community Policing program. Officers are more visible at night patrolling the campus and interacting with students during campus activities. Officers will now be more involved in safety programs on campus such as “the 5 OUTS program”, and planned meeting with residential students to talk about safety. In the future, our goal is to send these officers to Bike Patrol Officer training and initiate the bike patrol portion of the campus community policing program.

BOOKSTORE/BARNES & NOBLE

Even though the Penn State Bookstore experienced a decrease in overall sales in 2011/2012 as compared to 2010/2011, some sales categories performed better than expected. Sales of digital textbooks increased by almost 6% this year. Additionally, sales of school spirit merchandise, graduation products, convenience items and dorm furnishings saw significant increases in sales.

The Penn State Bookstore has started preparing for the 2012/2013 year by engaging in several promotions. We have been working with Student Affairs for the National Student Day Program in October; information about the event was distributed during New Student Orientation. Additionally, Barnes and Noble has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to support its “Build a Future” program for the 2012/13 academic year.

The Penn State Bookstore is open to the public, offering a variety of Penn State merchandise. Hours of operation for the fall Semester are Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Friday 9:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT & ALUMNI RELATIONS

Penn State Schuylkill progress in the For the Future: the Campaign for Penn State Students was significant for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. The campus has raised $3,553,290. This amount represents 88.83% of the total goal.

Penn State Schuylkill dedicated the Kiefer-Jones Building on Thursday, July 26, 2012. The building formerly owned by Schuylkill County as part of the Rest-Haven complex was utilized by Schuylkill County Child Development as administrative offices, until June 2010. The building, along with thirty three acres and a second building, known as the 1912 Building, were purchased by the Schuylkill Campus Advisory Board in April of 2008 for $475,000. The board subsequently obtained a loan from Susquehanna Bank to remodel the Kiefer-Jones Building and demolish the 1912 Building. Mr. Allen Kiefer and Attorney Joseph Jones, Sr. were instrumental in initiating and monitoring all of the legal and financial matters regarding the transactions.

MKSD Architects of Allentown, Pennsylvania was retained to design the project. The design focused on maintaining the original exterior architecture of the building and modernizing the interior while trying to preserve some to the original details, such as the entrance stairwell, hard wood floors and fireplaces. L&K Construction of Schuylkill Haven, PA was the general contractor.
The building was completed in spring of 2012 and now currently houses the offices of the Chancellor, Development and Alumni Relations, Continuing Education, and University Relations.

An Education Award has been started by former Schuylkill Education majors to “pay-it-forward” and to give current education majors some financial assistance. The award will be given to an individual:

1. who has declared elementary or secondary education as his/her major and holds the highest GPA
2. has registered for three semesters or more at the Schuylkill campus

The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society Board welcomed two new members – Kyle Heffner ’08, from Pottsville, PA and Julie Gordon Wisner ’07 from Schuylkill Haven, PA.

Richard Spontak, ’83 Engineering, was selected as one of the 2012 Penn State University Fellow Award recipients. Rick is an Alumni Distinguished Professor of Chemical and Bio molecular Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering at North Carolina State University. He is originally from St. Clair, PA. He will visit the campus on October 19, 2012.

Andrew Tellep, ’74 Education, was selected as the 2012 Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Achievement Award recipient. Andy was a former IST faculty member and is a current member of the For the Future Committee. He will visit campus this fall.