Penn State Schuylkill
Community Report
Fall 2013
Welcome to the 2013-14 academic year at Penn State Schuylkill!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year working with the entire campus community, and I am looking forward to the upcoming year with continued enthusiasm. The beginning of each new academic year brings a renewed sense of optimism and hope for our entering class.

As we embrace this fall semester, we recognize that the summer is a very important time for our campus. While many of our students were taking a needed break from a busy academic year, the faculty and staff took the time to reflect on the achievements of the previous year, to strategize new methods that will enhance the student experience, to conduct meaningful research in order to advance exciting new scholarship, and to make Penn State Schuylkill the premier institution for higher education in the region, and beyond.

We welcomed our newest members, the class of 2017, to the Penn State family during an event-filled opening weekend. Another new member to our University family, Thomas R. Dubreuil, has joined our executive staff as the director of Student Affairs and Engagement. We are delighted to have someone as experienced and talented as Tom join Penn State Schuylkill. I am also excited to announce that as of July 1, Dr. Cory Scherer received tenure status, and has been promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology.

Our dedicated faculty members continue to excel in their teaching, research, and service to the campus community. They provide support for our students, both in and out of the classroom, and serve as great role models through their research and contributions to scholarly work. High quality research was conducted this summer in our new biology research lab by both faculty and students.

Dr. Medica and her students have been working on three projects that all examine different aspects of mosquito biology. Mosquitoes transmit diseases like West Nile virus, dengue and malaria, which are responsible for millions of deaths worldwide each year. They continue to look for ways to reduce the number of mosquitoes in the environment, or the number of mosquito bites, in an effort to reduce disease transmission.

Dr. Heisey’s research focuses on Tree-of-Heaven, which is a common tree in Pennsylvania. Tree-of-Heaven was brought to the United States from China in the 1700’s for use as an ornamental plant, but it is now undesirable because it invades natural areas and displaces native plants. Dr. Heisey is interested in the factors that contribute to its invasive ability. Tree-of-Heaven produces chemicals in its roots and bark that are toxic to other plants. It was recently discovered that Tree-of-Heaven seeds also contain high concentrations of the chemicals. Dr. Heisey and his students investigated the ecological role of these chemicals and found that the seeds did release compounds that inhibited other plants. Further investigations in this area are planned.

I am pleased to share that Penn State Schuylkill has been named to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list for the second consecutive year. We are committed to providing the opportunity for our military veterans to pursue their higher education goals. We consider it a privilege to serve them as they return from serving our nation and safeguarding our freedoms.
We have been extremely busy this summer making Penn State Schuylkill even stronger. For those who have not been to the campus recently, we are looking forward to showcasing our exciting changes. Numerous improvements were made to enhance the beauty and serenity of this distinctive jewel that is perched amongst the picturesque Schuylkill county landscape.

- The Morgan Foundation generously donated funds to give The John E. Morgan Auditorium an extensive facelift.
- The Health and Wellness Building received some much needed upgrades and new features. A student game room and lounge was created on the lower level and new bleachers were installed in the gymnasium. In addition, the roof was replaced on the entire building.
- Major improvements were made to the Nittany Apartment buildings, which are owned by our Schuylkill Advisory Board, including a restoration of the outdoor basketball court.
- Recognizing the growing demand for students educated in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the Information, Sciences, and Technology (IST) Lab was transformed to create a networking lab space and teaching space.

The Academic Advising Center and the Learning Center now provide a one-stop location for all academic support services in the lower level of the Ciletti Library. Combining these two areas will enhance our student-centered environment, and our capacity to provide improved support for our students.

The First-Year Experience has been redesigned and will include additional components. The Counseling, Advising, and Resource Education for Success program (CARES) was added to assist first-year students in their transition to college, and the Opportunity and Action to Stay in School program (OASIS) was added to support returning students. These programs will provide the opportunity for more one-on-one time with each student.

Our students continue to impress us with their desire and efforts to give back to the community. As many of you know, we are part of the largest student-run philanthropy effort in the world. Penn State Schuylkill collected over $48,000 in donations to assist in the fight against pediatric cancer for THON 2013. The countless hours our students dedicated towards this most worthwhile cause is awe-inspiring. In addition, approximately fifty-five students and staff volunteered their time during this year’s opening weekend as they went into the community and completed a variety of service projects at several locations. Seton Manor, Hawk Mountain, the Bartrum Trail, the Auburn Trail, the Hillside SPCA, and Rest Haven are some of the organizations and places that benefited from their efforts. What a great way to start the new semester!

I am delighted to announce that in 2014, we will launch a celebration of our campus to recognize the eighty year legacy of educational excellence that has been made available to Schuylkill County and beyond. This celebration will coincide with what is surely to be an exciting and successful conclusion of the fundraising endeavor, For the Future: the Campaign for Penn State Student. This campaign is a $2 billion effort that is underway across Penn State.
I would also like to share that the recently constituted Homecoming celebration will be held the weekend of October 25th, and will include many activities for students, alumni, community members, and friends of Penn State Schuylkill. We are also excited to showcase our beautiful campus to the entire Penn State family and beyond as we host the July 2014 meeting of the University Board of Trustees.

As noted in this edition of our Community Report, each unit of our campus is committed to providing an exceptionally student-centered environment. Every Penn State Schuylkill student is our priority, and we remain steadfast in our efforts to be known for our quality and commitment to persistence through graduation.

Respectfully,

Kelly Austin
SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS
The renovations of the Cotler Life Sciences Lab were completed last year, and it has been full of activity this summer. Dr. Darcy Medica, Dr. Rod Heisey, and several students have been conducting research projects since the end of the spring semester.

Dr. Medica and her students, Megan Bensinger, Doug Mizic, and Jennifer Reber, have been working on three separate projects which all examine different aspects of mosquito biology: experimentation to determine whether supplementation with B vitamins will reduce the attractiveness of a host to mosquitoes; a study on whether mosquito larvae are attracted to specific chemicals that could result in the development of a trap to reduce the number of mosquitoes which develop to adults; and examination of the response of mosquito larvae to sound waves, which may also provide for the development of novel methods of mosquito control.

Dr. Heisey’s research focuses on the Tree-of-Heaven, a common tree in Pennsylvania. The Tree-of-Heaven was brought to the United States from China in the 1700’s for use as an ornamental plant. Dr. Heisey and his students, Josh Leitgeb and Kevin Strouse, have been completing investigations related to the invasive power that it wields over natural plant life. In addition to their findings that chemicals were found in the tree’s seeds that release compounds that inhibit other plants, Kevin and Josh discovered that the chemicals also strongly inhibit feeding by certain insects. Their alternative hypothesis is that the chemicals are toxic or repellent to insects which protect the seeds from being eaten by insects. Dr. Heisey and his students will be conducting further investigations in this area.

Faculty and Staff Achievements

Dr. Harold Aurand and Dr. Daniel Vice gave a presentation titled, "Does recent history best fit Hubbert's Curve or McCabe's Pyramid?" at the Annual Meeting of the Petroleum History Institute in Pittsburgh on May 17, 2013.

Dr. Pamela Black had several accomplishments this summer, including:

An article submission in collaboration with Dr. Lauren Joseph, "Still dazed and confused: Midlife marijuana use by the baby boom generation," to Deviant Behavior in August 2013. Dr. Black and Dr. Joseph presented a version of this paper at the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators (PACJE) conference held at Penn State Schuylkill on April 6, 2013.

Dr. Black reviewed the manuscript, “An experimental study on the effects of peer drinking norms on adolescents' drinker prototypes,” for the journal Addictive Behaviors.

Encyclopedia Entries
Dr. Charles Cantalupo has been busy with the following projects:

Poems and translations:


Refereed Essay:

Other:
Redwood Audiobooks will produce an audio version of *Joining Africa: From Anthills to Asmara* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2012).


Synthesizing the philosophies of Dorothee Soelle, Emmanuel Levinas, Simone Weil, and Elie Wiesel, among others, this piece investigates issues of suffering—in emotional, physical, and even metaphysical form, and what role it plays in the life of teachers voluntarily engaged in the seemingly endless endeavor of college composition. While eschewing simplistic answers, the article suggests that teachers might benefit from being in their suffering, rather than attempting to salve it with prefabricated pedagogical solutions.

Providing written feedback to students on drafts for purposes of revision is the single most time-consuming aspect of a composition teacher’s job. To lighten the load, many teachers attempt to speak feedback to students instead, either in conferences, or by using various analog or digital recording devices. Exploring the evolution of this practice and analyzing relevant first-hand data collected from 2010 to 2012, this article investigates the feasibility of providing students with textual feedback using speech recognition technology (SRT), transcribing spoken teacher commentary directly onto electronic copies of students’ drafts.

**Cathy Fiorillo** attended classes this summer with Rebecca Yarsin, casting director at House Casting, and Mia Cusumano, casting director for the television show, *The Tomorrow People.*

Ms. Fiorillo also attended a five-day intensive workshop in Los Angeles, CA with casting directors and agents for film, television, and commercials. At the end of workshop, she was evaluated and contacted by the manager and an agent.

She continues to work at QVC representing products by *Perricone, MD* and *Living proof*.

**Dr. Michael R. Gallis** attended the National Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers, July 13-17, 2013, in Portland, OR, where he presented the poster, "High speed movies for introductory physics lab," and served as the Central Pennsylvania Section Representative to the national organization.

Dr. Gallis also attended the Gordon Research Conference on Visualization in Science Education, July 21-26, 2013 in Smithfield, RI, where he presented the poster, "Animations for introductory physics and astronomy."


**Dr. Hartmut Heep** went on an organized educational tour of Cuba, sponsored by the United States Department of State, where he visited schools and conducted community projects. He also submitted an article in collaboration with **Dr. Toghhara Azizi-Babane** entitled, "Predictors of the successful completion of a college biology course with a lab component."

Dr. Lauren J. Joseph had several accomplishments this summer. She was quoted in the *Atlantic Cities* article, “What’s killing New York’s lesbian bar scene?” written by Michael Ruiz, August 7, 2013, on urban gay bar culture in New York City. She served on two national award committees for American Sociological Association sections for selection of outstanding article and graduate student papers, and was elected to serve on a national committee in the American Sociological Association’s Collective Behavior and Social Movements section for 2013-14.

Dr. Joseph presented a paper entitled, “Coming out…of the LDS Church: Mormon mothers of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) children and strategies of everyday activism,” at the American Sociological Association conference in New York City on August 13, 2013. This paper is currently in its second round of review at *The Journal of GLBT Family Studies*.

In collaboration with Dr. Charles Law, Dr. Joseph designed a survey and produced a quantitative dataset with over 450 participants on attitudes and experiences of LGBT Mormons/ex-Mormons as well as Mormon/ex-Mormon parents of LGBT individuals. A paper from this research is currently under review.

Dr. Joseph produced a qualitative dataset of over sixty-five, in-depth interviews with LGBT Mormons/ex-Mormons as well as Mormon/ex-Mormon parents of LGBT individuals.

Dr. Joseph also worked with Dr. Helen Hendy and Dr. S. Hakan Can to design a survey that produced a quantitative dataset with over 400 participants on how LGBT individuals make the decision to end romantic relationships.

With Dr. Pamela Black, “Still dazed and confused? Midlife marijuana use by the Baby Boom Generation” is currently under review with *Deviant Behavior*.

David G. Norris, for the eighth year, was asked to present his “Motivating Others” seminar to the Schuylkill County Chamber of Commerce Executive Leadership Program. This program is designed to expand upon and/or hone the skills needed for career advancement. A summarization of the seminar is as follows:

“What motivates one individual in any work organization may not effectively motivate another. Some seek recognition, compensation, and benefits, which are the “extrinsic” (outward) sources of motivation. The “intrinsically” (inwardly) sources of motivation include deriving a sense of accomplishment from their work and pursuing opportunities for professional growth and development. It is essential that contemporary managers develop meaningful one-on-one relationships with their associates to determine what truly motivates them, which is an integral part of a strategy designed to maximize individuals, the work unit, and organization-wide performance.”
As mentioned in the Spring 2013 Community Report, the Our Haven Foundation administered a community assessment survey of Schuylkill Haven residents that asked for their perceptions of the Schuylkill Haven Central Business District. Following the completion of that survey in May 2013, the foundation launched a collaborative initiative to administer the survey to business owners/executives and public service officials to determine their perceptions. Student volunteers from the Penn State Schuylkill Business Society participated in a door-to-door canvassing of area businesses and organizations. They asked the question, “Do you think downtown Schuylkill Haven has improved in the last three years?” To date, 79 percent responded “yes”, which is significantly higher in comparison to the relatively modest 23 percent that was reported during the similar survey that was conducted five years ago. The projected date for completion of the current survey is September 2013.

Dr. Doranne Polcrack, instructor of English, and Bim Angst, senior instructor of writing, participated in World Book Night, on April 23, 2013. Forty copies of “Middle School: The worst years of my life,” by James Patterson and Chris Tibbetts, were distributed to the Schuylkill Women in Crisis (SWIC) organization for reading by their clients and their children. Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Schuylkill County also received copies to be shared and discussed by their big and little brothers and sisters.

Jason Reuscher applied to the University Libraries’ Microgrant Program to acquire a three-dimensional scanner for the library. The campus community was awarded the grant and the new scanner will reside in the library. It is available for public use within the Media Commons Lab.

Mr. Reuscher also wrote a review for “Choice: Current reviews for academic libraries of crusades and Christendom: Annotated documents in translation from Innocent III to the Fall of Acre, 1187-1291,” edited by Jessalynn Bird, Edward Peters, and James M. Powell, University of Pennsylvania Press.

David K. Rill continued to serve the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) as an accreditation site visitor for continuing accreditation of Radiologic Science programs. He attended the 2013 Association of Educators in Imaging Sciences (AEIRS) annual meeting in July.

Dr. Cory Scherer published the article, "Bisexuals and the sex difference in jealousy hypotheses" in the Journal of Social and Personal Relationships with former students, Krysta Kolbe and Emily Akers.

Dr. Valerie Lynn Schrader, assistant professor of communication, arts, and sciences, has had an article accepted for publication, pending minor revisions, by the Communication and Theatre Association of Minnesota Journal. The article, “Friends ‘For Good;’ Wicked: A new musical and the idealization of friendship,” will be published online in a format easily accessible to students, faculty, and the general public.
Dr. Schrader is currently one of two program planners for the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group of the Eastern Communication Association for their annual convention in Providence this year. She will continue to organize the Penn State Schuylkill Speech Contest each semester, and she is looking forward to sharing some of her research in September as part of the 2013 Faculty Research Seminar Series.

**Dr. Lee J. Silverberg** presented April 7, 2013 at the National American Chemical Society Meeting in New Orleans. He received a travel award from the Division of Organic Chemistry to help fund the trip. The titles of his talks were, “Improved synthesis and solid-state NMR of useful iodoimines” and “Cyclopropyl aziridines: Solvolytic reactions of the tosyl aziridine of (+)-2-carene.” He also was presider for a half-day session of talks entitled, “New reactions and methodologies.”

On May 15, 2013, Dr. Silverberg served as a judge of the Silver Symposium at the University of Delaware. At the symposium, graduate students presented their research and a panel of judges decided who received the Silver Award for best presentation.

Dr. Silverberg was invited to speak at the regional meeting of the Middle Atlantic Discovery Chemistry Project that was held on May 18, 2013, and also at the University College Science Faculty Meeting at University Park on April 27, 2013. At both events, he delivered a presentation entitled, “Use of Doceri Software for iPad in chemistry courses.”

Dr. Silverberg’s manuscript, “Use of Doceri Software for iPad in Polycom and resident instruction chemistry classes,” was accepted by the *Journal of Chemical Education* and published on the internet June 20, 2013, and then in print in the August 2013 issue. He also submitted a manuscript entitled, “A simple experiment to demonstrate the need for drying glassware in organic chemistry” to the *Journal of Chemical Education* on May 23, 2013 that is currently under review.

From May to July, 2013, Dr. Silverberg was joined in the research lab by four excellent undergraduate students. They accomplished quite a bit on a new project synthesizing imines and benzothiazinones, as well as on an older project in which thiazolidinones were oxidized. A grant in the amount of $1,280.00 was awarded by SP Controls, Inc. to support the wages of three of the students who assisted in research that was conducted in the chemistry lab. As an outgrowth of the work the students did, Dr. Silverberg was also able to synthesize a thiazapanone and an X-Ray Crystal structure was obtained. Analytical data on oxidation is currently being collected, and the work on benzothiazinones and thiazapanones is continuing.

**Dr. Jeffrey A. Stone** presented the findings of his program evaluation research on 1:1 programs to the Hamburg Area School District School Board at their July 2013 meeting. This research, funded by the Hamburg Area School District, involved an investigation of the effectiveness of providing one laptop to every high school student during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Dr. Stone also completed the necessary coursework to receive the Penn State Certificate for Online Teaching in August 2013.

**Academic Advising and the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)**

During **New Student Academic Orientation** (NSAO), formerly known as FTCAP, 245 students completed their enrollment requirements for the fall 2013 semester. Students had thirty minute, one-on-one meetings with academic advisers who carefully crafted their critical first semester schedules. Students also spent time learning about Penn State’s Academic Integrity Policy, the resources of Student Affairs, and the services provided by the offices of Student Aid, Bursar, Housing, Food Services, and Alumni Relations.

Members of the advising staff, **Michael Verhagen, Judy Lenick, Robin Welsh,** and Dr. **Stephen Couch** had the opportunity to attend the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Summer Institute in July. NACADA is the global, professional organization for academic advising in higher education. The summer institute was an intensive, five-day workshop where campus teams worked with internationally recognized figures to develop an action plan. Penn State Schuylkill’s plan was focused on the development of a comprehensive adviser training program for both professional and faculty advisers, and the goal is to ensure that every student shares the same academic advising experience. The three components of this shared experience are: informational, conceptual, and relational.

A comprehensive academic retention plan has also been developed with several key components. One is the development of a common First-Year Experience course that will be designed and delivered based on best practices of the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience. **Dr. Hakan Can** assisted in the development of this course for Penn State Schuylkill. Other components include the Counseling, Advising, and Resource Education for Success (CARES) program, which is an intentional and intrusive advising program to assist first-year students, and also the Opportunity and Action to Stay in School (OASIS) program for returning students. Both programs are advising-centered with a great deal of one-on-one time spent with each student. Penn State Schuylkill’s planned implementation for the majority of these components will take place during the fall 2013 semester.

In preparation for the fall semester, the Learning Center’s tutor training program began on Monday, August 19, 2013. There are now more than twenty trained and nationally certified tutors. This national certification comes from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). At the conclusion of spring semester, Penn State Schuylkill’s recertification as a CRLA center was submitted and is pending approval for a new five-year term.
RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

Enrollment Services
Admission counselors were very active this summer as they finalized the fall 2013 recruitment season, and began the recruiting process for the fall 2014 class.

Penn State Schuylkill’s efforts for fall 2013 recruiting have greatly improved this year as compared to last year. The total number of applications for the incoming fall 2013 class was 685, which is an increase of 29% when compared to 531 applications received for fall 2012. Local applications accounted for 89 of the total applications received for fall 2012, but have risen significantly this year to 280. Other notable increases from this time last year include: international applications are up by 44 percent, out-of-state applications are up by 21 percent, Pennsylvania resident applications increased by 31 percent, and transfer applications by 31 percent. Last year there were 53 applications from adults, and this year that number has increased by 32 to 85. This increase resulted in a significant growth of yielded adult students, with 45 new students this year as opposed to last year’s 30.

Campus recruitment events have also increased and were very successful over the summer. Some of the activities that were held on campus include:

- **Admissions web chat:** This was an opportunity for students who have already been offered admission to Penn State Schuylkill to chat with current students and staff.
- **Spend a Summer Day and Spend a Summer Evening:** These events are structured programs that provide campus tours and information on the admissions process and financial aid.
- **Lion for a Day:** Prospective students spent a day in the life of a current Penn State Schuylkill student. They took a tour, attended a regularly scheduled college course, and had lunch in the Hidden Stream Café.
- **Saturday at Schuylkill:** Saturdays are sometimes more convenient for families to visit the campus, so there were scheduled Saturday visits once a month. Students and their families visited with an admissions counselor and took a tour of the campus.

In addition to these special events, out-of-state bus groups, student groups from local high schools, and daily tours were hosted regularly.

The Admissions Office continued with attending out-of-state recruitment programs in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and California. In addition, staff visited twenty-eight high school and college fairs in these states and participated in twenty University-sponsored recruitment events, which is a significant increase over last year’s activities.

We continue to reward academic excellence through scholarship commitments. Scholarships totaling nearly $1.5 million were offered to students who applied to Penn State Schuylkill, which is an increase of approximately 150% when compared to fall 2012. This represents the commitment of the campus, and the University, to significantly increase scholarship dollars to academically qualified students in the upcoming year.
Recruitment and Promotion through University Relations
The Marketing and Web departments were busy launching new messages on local billboards, in area newspapers, on local radio stations, and on the campus website. A main campaign of the summer, *ittransferred*, was targeted to students who were home from college and may be second-guessing their original college choice. This campaign featured local students, including two traditional aged students, an adult learner, and a high school dual enrollment student, all who chose to transfer or switch to Penn State Schuylkill after attending other institutions, or before attending University Park.

The activity within social media has significantly improved. The number of “Likes” on the campus Facebook page is now over 1,600, and it continues to increase every day. In order to ensure that all campus activities and announcements are being posted for promotion, each department has been assigned a representative to have access to the campus social media accounts, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. This is to allow each area to immediately post their upcoming events, notable achievements, and photos from campus events directly to the social media accounts.

**Jodi Staller**, marketing communications specialist, attended the Noel Levitz National Conference on Student Recruitment, Marketing, and Retention held July 16 – 18, 2013 in New Orleans, LA. Also attending the conference were **Tammie Durham**, director of Enrollment Services, and **Michael Verhagen**, senior DUS programs coordinator. The conference provided many new ideas and strategies for marketing, increasing enrollment, and retaining current students.

The Public Relations Office continued to submit media releases over the summer months regarding notable news at the campus. These releases included a story on the retirement of Jerry Bowman, after twenty-seven years of service at Penn State Schuylkill, and the launch of our Video Learning Network accelerated RN to B.S. and Saturday BSB degree programs.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student Activities
The university setting is an environment that thrives on innovation, renewal, and pushing the limits. The campus strives to focus on areas related to student activities, and the summer has been spent preparing for the upcoming fall semester. It is not enough to encourage students to partake in co-curricular events that are familiar to them; instead, the mission will be for them to try the new and unfamiliar. Traditions and favorite activities will continue while seeking out new ways to make them bigger and better.
The arrival of students for orientation weekend encouraged relationships with one another, faculty and staff, and the community. *We Are...Weekend* was revamped to create an atmosphere that encouraged dialogue and questions. The goal in planning was to share important campus information that students needed, and to get them to interact with residents in the surrounding communities. Throughout the weekend, students had the opportunity to connect with the members of the First United Church of Christ in an event entitled, “Friends and Fellowship.” They engaged in dialogue about the community, and their commonalities and differences, over late night ice cream and snacks. The weekend was deemed successful as the new students mingled during information sessions that were filled to capacity.

**Residence Life**
Last year, the Office of Residence Life offered many quality programs that resulted in amazing attendance. For the upcoming semester, there is a new initiative that is sure to engage students, both academically and socially. It will be the first year that faculty and staff will be supporting residential students where they live. Students were able to choose from three Special Living Options (SLOs): Honors Living, Green Living, or the Discover House. Members of these SLOs will have regular meetings with their faculty and staff advisers as well as special programs and events.

**Student Leadership and Community Service**
Ten Penn State Schuylkill students participated in the annual Penn State University Summer Leadership Conference at University Park. The vision of the conference was to “Provide challenging and motivating experiences for participants where they will learn to be bold and confident leaders personally and professionally, and will be inspired to lead purposeful lives in both civic and global arenas.” Over 200 students were in attendance from all of the respective campuses. All students in attendance reported having an amazing experience and are excited to bring their enthusiasm and commitment back to the student body that they will represent in their respective clubs and organizations throughout the upcoming year.

Community service continues to be a large focus of the Student Affairs department. On August 25, 2013, during orientation weekend, students went into the community and completed a variety of tasks at several locations. Places where they volunteered included: Seton Manor, Hawk Mountain, the Bartrum Trail, the Auburn Trail, the Hillside SPCA, and Rest Haven. Approximately fifty-five staff and students volunteered their time that day from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

THON is looking to be even stronger this year! Students raised a significant amount of money last year to support the THON efforts, and they have high expectations of surpassing last year’s total. To help support this effort, anyone can register for our THON 5K that is scheduled for October 26, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. in Schuylkill Haven.

**Counseling and Health Services**
Penn State University Health Services announced a new "Take Care of Your Health" initiative this summer. This program is for all employees who have their health insurance coverage through the University. All members received a pamphlet in the mail that outlined the steps they will need to follow to comply with the new health care requirements.
In order to assist in maintaining a healthy campus community, 200 free flu shots were obtained and will be available to campus students this fall. In addition, a new **Lactation Station** is available in room 210B of the Health and Wellness Building. The **Lactation Station** is an area that serves lactating women within the campus community, including faculty, staff, and students. A breast pump and kits have also been made available for individual use.

**Athletics**

In the spring, baseball at Penn State Schuylkill made its debut under the direction of Grant Yoder, head coach, and Jeff Yoder, assistant coach. The team had a successful inaugural season, finishing with nine wins and five losses. Several new members are now enrolled at Penn State Schuylkill for the fall 2013 semester due to the recruitment efforts of the baseball coaching staff this past spring.

The women’s softball team worked hard to make the final four in the playoffs at University Park. Several members of the team successfully made All-American and All-Conference. Bryanna Snowell made Second Team All-American and First Team All-Conference. Tia Lyons and Kirsten Wentzel also made First Team All-Conference and Jenna Leffler made Second Team All-Conference. In addition to the successful softball members, Katelyn Celani made Academic All-American in basketball.

Two of Penn State Schuylkill’s athletic programs have transitioned to co-ed programs. The soccer team and the cross country team will be open to both men and women participants beginning with the fall 2013 semester.

**ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY**

**Community Educational Programming**

The department of Continuing Education continues to serve the needs of our community, region, and other areas of the state, using video conferencing technology. In May, the campus was the host location for the Personal Care Home Administrator (PCHA) 100 hour training. The training was broadcasted to three other Penn State campuses using the Video Learning Network (VLN), and a total of twenty-seven individuals completed their PCHA certification using this technology. In June, as a partnership with the 21st Century Community Learning Center, SAT Prep was delivered to thirteen students at the Pine Grove Area High School. The 21st Century Community Learning Center receives grant funding administered through the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29.

Kid’s College sessions were held for five weeks in the summer, marking the thirteenth year of providing quality academic experiences for children at Penn State Schuylkill. Camps ran between June 10 and July 19, 2013 with a total of 210 children enrolled. Additionally, cheer camps were conducted for over seventy elementary and/or middle school students from the Schuylkill Haven and Shenandoah Valley School Districts.
Development

For the Future: the Campaign for Penn State Students began on January 1, 2007, and officially ends in June 2014. Penn State Schuylkill’s goal for this campaign is $4,000,000 and to date, $4,339,119, or 108%, of our goal has been achieved.

The featured objective goals and the progress toward those goals, to date, are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
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<td>Ensuring Student Opportunity</td>
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<td>Enriching the Student Experience</td>
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<td>Fostering Discovery and Creativity</td>
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<td>Sustaining a Tradition of Quality</td>
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Penn State Schuylkill is very fortunate to have a supportive community. The development staff continues to visit with donors and alumni to further increase campus commitments.

The Josette and Bert Evans Trustee Scholarship at Penn State Schuylkill was recently established to benefit adult learners. Consideration for this scholarship shall be given to all adult, undergraduate students who are enrolled, or plan to enroll, at Penn State Schuylkill with a demonstrated financial need.

If you are interested in giving to Penn State Schuylkill, there are many options to choose from, and many areas that you can designate to receive your donation. You can add to student scholarships, help the theatre program with its annual production, provide support for the Religious and Philosophical Forum, contribute to campus improvements, and so much more.

Many people are unaware of just how many ways there are to donate to our campus. Below are some popular instruments of giving through wills and trusts:

- Bequest: A gift to charity at the time of passing.
- Gift Annuity: A contract between a donor and the campus. In exchange for a gift of cash or property, the campus agrees to make fixed payments to the donor for the remainder of his or her life.
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT): A donor transfers cash or appreciated property to the CRT. The campus can sell the property without paying capital gains tax.
- Charitable Lead Trust (CLT): Similar to the CRT, but the CLT is a taxable trust.

Donors are an important part of student experiences, continuous efforts to improve the campus, and providing financial assistance to deserving students.

Alumni Relations

A Night at the Reading Fightin’ Phils was held on July 28, 2013, at the First Energy Stadium in Reading, PA. This event was co-sponsored by the Penn State Berks Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. Sixty Penn State alumni gathered at the third-base pavilion for an evening of baseball and fun.
The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society is partnering with the Office of Student Affairs to co-sponsor Schuylkill Homecoming events during the weekend of October 25 - 27, 2013. Alumni are invited to participate in many of the activities, including the THON 5K, a carnival, a campus tailgate for the Penn State vs. Ohio State football game, and the alumni basketball game. To register for Schuylkill Homecoming, please go to our online form at www.sl.psu.edu/homecoming13, or call 570-385-6262.

The Schuylkill Alumni Society Board awarded two $500.00 scholarships to incoming freshman who are children of Penn State Schuylkill alumni. The money for these scholarships was donated by members of the current board. The Schuylkill Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association contributed $1000.00 towards the Robert P. Swank Scholarship from funds raised during their annual ice cream sale.

Bringing the Community to Campus
The Penn State Bookstore will continue to have monthly promotions throughout the fall semester. Be sure to stop in each month to view what is available. There will be flash sales, 25 percent off of Champion clothing, an online Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, and many more. The Penn State Schuylkill Bookstore is open Monday through Thursday during the hours of 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

At the Hidden Stream Café, every Tuesday is Temperature Tuesday, and on that day, the price of Starbucks® coffee and soda is discounted to what that day’s temperature is at 7:00 a.m. The Hidden Stream Café is open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All promotions at the café and bookstore are available to the local community.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: A BETTER PENN STATE SCHUYLKILL
Physical plant has been very busy this summer! Improvements completed this summer included a new courtyard and landscaping along the west side of the Classroom Building, a new walkway and landscaping on the west side of the Student Community Center, new lighting, benches, and outdoor planters were added as the final touches to the exterior improvements.

Improvements to the Student Community Center on ongoing. The Morgan Foundation donated the funds to give The John E. Morgan Auditorium an extensive facelift over the summer. New flooring, seating, and sound panels, along with stage repairs and electrical/technology enhancements, were some of the improvements that will make our auditorium more appealing to the students and the local community.

Exciting changes have also taken place in the Health and Wellness Building. A new student game room/lounge was created on the lower level. A fresh coat of paint and new flooring provided an entirely new look to the room. New gaming equipment was purchased that included a ping pong table, foosball table, and air hockey table. Two wall-mounted, flat screen televisions, soft seating, and café style tables and chairs create a comfortable and relaxing space for students. Funds from the Student Facility Fee were used to make these renovations possible.
Other upgrades to the Health and Wellness Building included the purchase and installation of new, modern bleachers in the gymnasium, and a new roof on the entire building.

The campus recently received two grants from the University Committee on Instructional Facilities (UCIF) totaling $118,000. These funds were used to provide technology upgrades to two classrooms in the Classroom Building:

- **Classroom 201**, a general purpose classroom, received new hideaway tables that house twenty-four computers in addition to the creation of a collaboration suite in the rear section of the room. The collaboration area will allow students and faculty to work together on projects and group assignments.

- **Classroom 107**, the Information, Sciences, and Technology (IST) Lab, received overall improvements to the general purpose instructional portion of the room. In addition, a networking lab space was created for IST students. Some of the upgrades included new lighting, new computer tables and workspaces, new carpeting, new Smart Board technology, and enhanced wireless capabilities. A collaboration suite was also created for student/faculty projects and group assignments.

The **Nittany Apartments**, owned by the Penn State Schuylkill Advisory Board, underwent some major improvements that were made possible through funding from the Advisory Board. A wireless network was installed in all five Nittany Apartment buildings; Card Access was installed on the front doors of Nittany II, III, IV, & V to improve campus safety and security; and Comcast basic cable service has been installed in all apartments at no additional cost to the student. Additionally, many exterior upgrades were made to the Advisory Board property that include: new roofs on Nittany I & II, a facelift to the outdoor basketball court that included a new playing surface and landscaping, as well as new landscaping throughout the housing property.

**General improvements** to the physical appearance of the campus are always ongoing. The path to Redner’s was extended this summer and now connects with the Ciletti Library. Additionally, PPL Electric installed lighting along the path to improve student safety.

Under-cabinet lighting and power outlets have been installed in all fifty-seven study carrels in the **Ciletti Library**. This improvement added much-needed lighting for individual student use in each carrel and created convenient accessibility for charging student laptops, tablets, and phones. In addition, the library was recently awarded a Penn State University Libraries’ Microgrant to pilot a three-dimensional scanning service to the campus community. The NextEngine 3D Laser Scanner, which has been used by organizations such as The National Geographic Society, The Louvre Museum, and The History Channel, will be available later this fall semester for student, faculty, and staff use in the library.
Several offices were relocated in an effort to better serve our students. The Academic Advising Center (Division of Undergraduate Studies) was relocated to the lower level of the Ciletti Library in order to facilitate collaboration with the Learning Center. The Finance/Bursar office has moved to the upper level of the Business Services Building to work in collaboration with Business Services and Housing, and Police Services now operates out of the lower level of the Administration Building.

In order to make the Hidden Stream Café and the Penn State Schuylkill Bookstore more accessible to the local community, two new parking spaces that have a thirty-minute time limit were added to the “Blue H” lot between the Student Community Center and the Health and Wellness Building. Members of the local community are invited to use these spaces to stop in and visit the Hidden Stream Café, featuring Starbucks®, and the Penn State Bookstore!

**CAMPUS SAFETY**

Police Services will continue to train Campus Security Authorities (CSA) to assist in providing a safe campus community. Campus Security Authorities are police, non-police security, student life, housing, athletics coaches, academic advisers, and club and organization advisers (including faculty and staff).

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors to Penn State Schuylkill are reminded that Police Services provides on-site services such as maintaining a lost and found repository, walking escorts, engraving of personal property, and vehicle assistance (lockouts and battery jumpstarts).

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

This summer has been an exciting time at Penn State Schuylkill for personnel additions and changes.

Thomas R. Dubreuil has joined the executive staff as director of Student Affairs and Engagement.

New adjunct faculty include: Marlene Cook, Dr. Renee Covell, Kathleen Haffey, Stephen Ulicny, and Deborah Williamson.

Eric Fryer joined the athletics’ staff as the head coach of the co-ed soccer team.

Several staff members have been reassigned to other departments or assumed additional duties, including: Dr. Mary Sacavage as coordinator of Public Information, Mariann Young as the administrative support assistant for Continuing Education and University Relations, Rose Snowell as the administrative support assistant for the offices of the Registrar and Student Aid, and Rosalie Yeager as the administrative support assistant in the Academic Advising Center.