Greetings,

I am delighted to present the most recent edition of the Penn State Schuylkill Community Report. As we wind down the academic year, we take note of the many wonderful achievements of our faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends of the campus. We have collectively made great strides as an institution, and look forward to the promise of what lies ahead of us.

Central to the success of our campus is the dedication and commitment of our talented faculty to the students in their pursuit of knowledge. Shining examples of the high quality, academic excellence that is offered at Penn State Schuylkill are represented by some of our faculty award winners, each of whom were recognized at this year’s academic Honors Day. **Dr. S. Hakan Can**, associate professor of administration of justice, received the 2013 Award for Excellence in Teaching - *to recognize and encourage teaching excellence at Penn State Schuylkill*. **Dr. Michael R. Gallis**, associate professor of physics, received the 2013 Award for Excellence in Faculty Service - *to recognize and encourage excellence in faculty service at Penn State Schuylkill*. **Dr. Helen M. Hendy**, professor of psychology, received the 2013 Award for Excellence in Research or Creative Accomplishments - *to recognize and encourage excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activity at Penn State Schuylkill*. Our staff also continues their dedication to our students and we applaud those efforts. **Ms. Cecelia Boran**, campus nurse, received the 2013 Staff Service Award - *to recognize a full-time staff member, who has demonstrated over a period of time, extraordinary service to campus constituencies or the external community that has resulted in special recognition to Penn State Schuylkill*.

Led by **Dr. S. Hakan Can**, we had the honor of hosting the Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Justice Educators annual meeting at Penn State Schuylkill the weekend of April 5-7, 2013. This year’s theme, Professional Issues in Criminology and Criminal Justice, allowed for the inclusion of a broad range of topics related to the discipline. Criminologists and criminal justice educators, practitioners, and students from across the state of Pennsylvania presented on a variety of pertinent themes including policing, courts, corrections, classroom teaching techniques, and interdisciplinary research. This year’s meeting included a speech by The Honorable Karen Byrnes-Noon, ‘71, Schuylkill County District Attorney, and a presentation of awards for the undergraduate and graduate student paper competitions, as well as two new scholarships for dedicated and successful criminal justice undergraduate and graduate students.

I am pleased to share that Penn State Schuylkill has been named to the 2013 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The honor roll recognizes higher education institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their communities. Our selection to the honor roll is recognition from the highest levels of the federal government of our commitment to service and civic engagement on our campus and in our nation.

As you know, we are part of THON, a forty-six hour dance marathon, and the largest student run philanthropy 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 gave towards this most worthwhile cause is awe-inspiring.
We continue to improve the facilities and infrastructure of the campus in support of a high quality educational environment. On January 17, 2013, we dedicated our newly renovated biology teaching lab, the Cotler Life Science Lab. In a ribbon cutting ceremony that was attended by Steve and Marjorie Cotler, Penn State Schuylkill Advisory Board members, elected officials, and campus faculty and staff, everyone enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Rod Heisey, professor of biology, took a tour of the facility, and enjoyed a celebratory cake. This new state-of-the-art laboratory includes the latest technology, furniture, and equipment. These efforts are consistent with the campus' focus to advance in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

We understand that attending college presents a financial dilemma for many of our students and their families. That is why we are proud to reward students for their academic accomplishments. In fact, over $600,000 is available to be awarded to new students for the fall 2013 semester based on their academic merit, and we anticipate a total of more than one million dollars being awarded to new and returning students next year. We take pride in knowing that Penn State is ranked by Kiplinger as one of the “Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges for 2012-2013.” There are only 3 schools in Pennsylvania that made the top 100 and we are the only local school to receive this distinction.

At Penn State Schuylkill, we encourage “Global Citizenship” and “Global Leadership”. We provide students with diverse opportunities to experience world cultures and help students develop a global perspective by partnering with Global Penn State, as well as institutions around the world, to help find answers to major global challenges such as poverty, environmental sustainability, food security, health, climate change, energy security, and social justice. Our students have the opportunity to study abroad, and learn from their fellow students that come from countries across the globe.

We extend our best wishes to two of our highly regarded faculty who have announced their retirement this year; Dr. Mary Bonawitz and Dr. John Sinisi. We are grateful for their long standing commitment to our students and for the difference they have made in so many lives.

It is truly a good time to be a part of Penn State. We have much to be grateful for, our world class faculty, our talented and hardworking student body, and the generosity of everyone who has contributed to the future successes of Penn State Schuylkill students. These commitments to our campus and its well-being are vital to the ongoing success that we have attained for nearly eighty years. So much has been given for the betterment of so many students throughout the years. Thank you for your generosity to Penn State Schuylkill.

Sincerely,

Kelly M. Austin, Ph.D.
Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill
Success in Academics

Penn State Schuylkill’s prestige derives from our commitment to quality academics, in teaching, in research, and in service. Maintaining forward momentum and ensuring relevance to the evolving needs of the workforce, requires a consistent evaluation and examination of those academic programs that meet the expectations of our students and our community. As such, a number of programs are in various stages of review for implementation at Penn State Schuylkill:

- The Accounting option of the Bachelor of Science in Business degree, in collaboration with Penn State Hazleton and Penn State Wilkes-Barre
- The Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communication, in collaboration with Penn State Hazleton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, and Penn State Worthington Scranton
- Bachelor of Science in Science, Life Sciences option and General Science option
- Three eighteen-month associate (fast-track) programs, including Business, Human Development and Family Studies, and Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

We have expanded our evening and weekend credit programming using the Video Learning Network (VLN). Our goal is to provide adult learners with opportunities to complete their education in an accelerated format that fits their busy lifestyle. New programs that are scheduled for release at the beginning of the fall 2013 semester include: certificates in Labor Studies and Employment Relations, Healthcare Leadership, Business Essentials, and Business Administration for Professionals; the degree programs include the two-year Business Administration degree, a Saturday, accelerated Bachelor of Science in Business (BSB) program (degree completion), and an accelerated Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BS) degree. The Saturday BSB classes will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for twenty months. Students may need additional coursework to complete the chosen degree based on previous college coursework, and they must meet the necessary pre-requisites to be eligible for entry.

Our campus was selected to host the accelerated RN to BS degree program that will be broadcast to three other Penn State campuses. Classes will meet on Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Students will be able to complete most degree requirements within ten-and-a-half months. If students choose to enroll in this program, they will carry eighteen credits a semester.

Two students in the Administration of Justice major, Matthew Morgan and Erin Witmer, had their papers accepted by the Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. They traveled to the conference in April to showcase their research on “Sex trafficking in Pennsylvania,” and “Drug usage as a form of coping by college students.”

Penn State Schuylkill student, Edward Breiner, will present a paper entitled “Persuasion in historic Coca-Cola advertising” at the Eastern Communication Association’s James C. McCroskey and Virginia P. Richmond Undergraduate Scholars Conference. The conference will be held in Pittsburgh from April 26-28, 2013. Dr. Valerie Schrader is Mr. Breiner’s faculty mentor.
The Penn State Schuylkill Student Research and Scholarship Conference will be held from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, in the Health and Wellness conference room at Penn State Schuylkill. The conference is hosted by the Undergraduate Research Center and the Penn State Schuylkill Honors Program, and was organized by Dr. Cory Scherer and Dr. S. Hakan Can. The conference provides an opportunity for students from a variety of disciplines to present their scholarship to the campus community. In this setting, students may develop their professional skills, discuss their projects with conference visitors, form collaborative relationships with other professionals, and serve as role models for new Penn State students. A printed program of the conference is provided to all attendees, and the experience may serve as an addition to the student's resume.

The First Annual Student Research Symposium, co-sponsored by the Penn State Schuylkill Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Program, and the Penn State Schuylkill Honors Program, will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. in room 201 of the Health and Wellness building. This symposium will highlight our students' research and creative accomplishments, and will function as a complimentary event to the Student Research and Scholarship Poster Conference. Students who have been conducting independent research, or who have made a significant contribution to a faculty research project, will give a five to ten minute oral presentation on their research, or a performance of their creative accomplishments. Students who participate in the symposium will be awarded with a certificate of participation. This program will be open to the entire campus community.

The Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Program at Penn State Schuylkill sponsored three lectures during the spring 2013 semester as part of the Faculty Research Series.

Dr. Darcy Medica and Dr. Elinor Madigan

Dr. Harold Aurand

Dr. Jeffrey Stone

We have the distinct privilege of having produced a recent Fulbright Scholar, Angel Zheng, and having one serve on our faculty, Dr. Hartmut Heep. The Fulbright Program, sponsored by the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is the United States government’s flagship international exchange program that is supported by the people of the United States and partner countries around the world. Penn State University overall is ranked by The Chronicle of Higher Education as the Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars (2012), in the nation.
The University has been ranked by Academic Ranking of World Universities (AWRU) among the “2012 Top 100 World-class Universities.” We are one of only two Pennsylvania schools to make the top fifty. As a campus of Penn State, we are connected to a multitude of resources, as well as one of the top library systems in the world. This relationship provides educational opportunities well beyond many other higher education institutions in the region and beyond.

**Faculty and Staff Achievements**

**Dr. Pamela Black**, associate professor of administration of justice, presented a paper entitled “The Wesen of Grimm: the Criminology of the Other to the Criminology of the Self” at the Pop Culture Association annual conference on March 29, 2013 in Washington, DC. She also reviewed an article, “Parental Monitoring and Alcohol Use among Mexican Students,” for the journal, *Addictive Behaviors*.

**Dr. Charles Cantalupo**, distinguished professor of English, comparative literature and African studies, addressed the Honors Club reception on February 12, 2013. The title of his talk was "Joining Honors, Joining Penn State Schuylkill". A review of Dr. Cantalupo’s book, *Joining Africa -- From Anthills to Asmara*, was recently published at: [http://kemev.blogspot.com/2013/02/guest-writers.html](http://kemev.blogspot.com/2013/02/guest-writers.html)


**Dr. Hartmut Heep**, associate professor of German and comparative literature, hosted a guest lecture on March 13, 2013 by Dr. Ravi Nathan entitled: "Caste, arranged marriage, and their survival in the Indian diaspora."

Dr. Helen Hendy, Dr. S. Hakan Can, and Dr. Charles Law, are conducting a very comprehensive research study on “Sources of Military stress, negative outcomes associated with it, and coping mechanisms that may reduce them.” The purpose of this research and survey is to better understand how military members and veterans experience stress. Additionally, they are investigating behaviors that military members may engage in to remediate that stress. If you are a member, or a retired member of Arms Forces, you are kindly requested to participate in this online survey. Survey Link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/militarystress2

Ms. Elyce Lykins, M.Ed., campus registrar, completed three years as the Hospitality Chair for the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admission (MSACROA) and has begun a three year commitment as Local Arrangement Chair and Nominations and Election Committee Member.

Dr. Darcy Medica, associate professor of biology, presented a paper entitled, "The use of mobile applications in increasing learning and comprehension - A multidisciplinary approach,” at the Meeting the Challenges of the 21st-Century Classroom 2013 conference, on March 16, 2013, at Penn State Shenango. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Elinor Madigan, assistant professor of information sciences and technology.

David Norris, M.B.A., instructor in business administration, has begun phase two of the Schuylkill Haven Community Assessment Survey. A second wave of a community assessment survey, targeting area residents, was launched in 2013 with the publication of a photo-enhanced, four-page, feature story insert included in the February edition of the Schuylkill Haven Highlights, a community newsletter. Photo participants included the four officers of the Penn State Schuylkill Business Society, Mr. Norris, instructor of marketing, and executives representing businesses operating in the central Schuylkill Haven business district. The survey is designed to better understand the perceptions of the Schuylkill Haven residential community and to identify opportunities to stimulate the vitality of downtown Schuylkill Haven.

The focus of the February 2013 feature story was to provide a brief history of the three participating organizations: Our Haven Foundation, the Schuylkill Haven Economic Development Office, and Penn State Schuylkill. With regard to the campus’ contributions to this community-building strategic partnership, the article noted, “Through its nearly eighty year history, the campus has remained dedicated to its mission of bringing educational and cultural opportunities to Schuylkill County residents and beyond. Among its strategic goals: to “realign missions, programs, services, and budgets to meet the needs of students and the communities that Penn State serves.”
The 2012-2013 Community Assessment Survey targeting area residents is the fourth of its kind to be administered and implemented by faculty, staff, and students at Penn State Schuylkill. The first two were at the request of the City of Pottsville (2000/2001 and 2005/2006) and the research initiatives were requested by the Borough of Schuylkill Haven (2007/2008 and 2012/2013). The analysis of survey results to date determined that the overall perception of downtown Schuylkill Haven, as perceived by survey respondents, has “measurably improved” in nearly all categories of assessment when compared with the 2007/2008 research study.

Jason Reuscher, assistant librarian, has been appointed to the Notable Books Council of the Reference and User Services Association, which is a division of the American Library Association. Since 1944, the goal of the Notable Books Council has been to make available to the nation’s readers a list of twenty-five, exceptionally readable, and (at times), important fiction, nonfiction, and poetry books for the adult reader. More about the Council and the list as it develops can be found here: http://www.ala.org/rusa/awards/notablebooks


Dr. Cory Scherer, assistant professor of psychology, presented the paper, "The Long-Term Attractiveness of Widowers" at the 2013 Society of Personality and Social Psychologists Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA, on January 17, 2013.

Dr. Lee Silverberg, assistant professor of chemistry, presented at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in New Orleans, April 7, 2013 on “Improved synthesis and solid-state NMR of useful iodoimines” and “Cyclopropyl aziridines: Solvolytic reactions of the tosyl aziridine of (+)-2-carene.” Dr. Silverberg was also granted a $600 travel award from the American Chemical Society Division of Organic Chemistry, for his travel to the New Orleans meeting.

Dr. Silverberg submitted a manuscript to the Journal of Chemical Education titled, “Use of Doceri Software for iPad in Polycom and Traditional Organic Chemistry Classes” that is currently under review. In addition, he completed a digital review of “LearnSmart Prep General Chemistry 1e” for McGraw-Hill Higher Education and attended a workshop at Penn State Berks entitled “Bring Your Syllabus to Life.”
Community Programming

The Religious and Philosophical Forum, led by Dr. Donald C. Lindenmuth, continued to provide insightful presentations and a meaningful platform in which to examine important issues. This series is funded in part by a number of organizations, including: The Council of Churches of Schuylkill Haven and Vicinity, Saint Marks United Church of Christ, Cressona, and the Penn State Schuylkill Student Activity Fund. Three presentations were conducted this spring:

February 22, 2013, “Christian Millennial Expectations: Political Force or Media Creation”
Dr. Kenneth Miller, Professor of Christian Theology
Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, PA

March 22, 2013, “The Rise and Fall of Christian America”
Dr. Richard Hughes, Distinguished Professor of Religion and Director of the Sider Institute of Anabaptist, Pietist, and Wesleyan Studies at Messiah College

April 19, 2013, “Christian Churches and 'Social Justice' Advocacy”
Dr. Joseph DiPaolo, Senior Pastor of Wayne UMC and Adjunct Professor at Palmer and Evangelical Theological Seminaries

The 24th annual Penn State Schuylkill Spring Jazz Program will take place this year on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 and will feature a lecture and performance by one of the premier studio artists in Los Angeles, pianist and keyboard artist Gary Nesteruk. Assisting Nesteruk will be John Swana, a leading Philadelphia jazz trumpeter who also performs on the EVI (Electronic Valve Instrument), bassist Paul Gehman, New York, vocalist Vicki Doney, and percussionist Paul Miller. A lecture and demonstration featuring the entire group will take place from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., followed by an open rehearsal (1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.). The concert will begin that evening at 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the R. Michael Fryer Conference center, Nesteruk will present a lecture describing his participation on the soundtrack to the film Beauty Shop. All events are FREE and open to the public.

On April 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2013, The Nittany Players presented Willy Wonka to five sold-out public performances. In addition, the Pottsville Area School District attended two days of closed morning performances with 450 of their elementary students, resulting in well over 1,000 local community members visiting our campus.

This year’s lead characters were Nick Shugars, (Pine Grove, PA) as Willy Wonka, Pablo Lopez, (Minersville, PA) as Charlie Bucket, and Keandra Garner, (Washington, D.C.) who played the parts of three roles; the Candy Man, Mrs. Bucket, and an Oompa Loompa.

Cathy Fiorillo, assistant professor of theatre and speech, and director of the annual production, states, “What makes our performance a better theatrical experience from other local productions is the use of professional lighting and a light designer.” Students receive three art credits in THEA 283 for participating in the performance, either onstage or backstage.
The campus is proud of many of our former members of the Nittany Players who have gone on to work at various revues, such as the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, Hersheypark, the Bellairine Theatre, and the New Freedom Theatre in Philadelphia, PA. The trend hopefully continues, as Keandra Garner has auditioned for the television show, *The Voice*.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, Ken Dickinson, director of marketing for Gaudenzia, presented a community education seminar on bath salts and synthetic drugs to students, faculty, staff and the general public. Sponsored by Gaudenzia and co-sponsored by Penn State Schuylkill’s Criminal Justice and Psychology clubs, the presentation discussed the alarming, pervasive use of these substances in the community, and what can be done to prevent and treat their impacts.

Gaudenzia helps people affected by chemical dependency, mental illness, and related conditions to achieve a better quality of life, allowing them to live as productive and accountable individuals. This is accomplished through comprehensive treatment and prevention methods guided by a philosophy of mutual concern and responsibility. Gaudenzia also conducts research and educates the community on the causes, treatment, and prevention of addictions, mental illness, and related conditions.

**Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)/Academic Advising Center**

The Advising Center continues to benefit from its move to the library. The closer proximity to the Learning Center and the department of Student Affairs has facilitated new collaborations in the areas of student success programming and at-risk student outreach.

Our new programs this year include:

- *Are you in love with your major?* A collaborative effort with Career Services, students were able to speak with faculty and staff about their undergraduate majors and career paths. The objectives of these workshops are to assist students in realizing potential life goals. It is important for students to find a major that they enjoy and are passionate about. If they enjoy what they are studying, and feel like they are working towards a goal, they are more likely to do well in their courses.

- *Science, Engineering, and Technology Information Session.* DUS staff collaborated with faculty from the Biology and Engineering departments to enhance student awareness of the rigorous curriculum involved with majors that fall under these colleges, and to act as mentors. When students are not aware of what courses are required in a major they find themselves unprepared and do not excel academically. Presenting students with information early on will help them make informed academic decisions about their current major and encourage them to explore alternative majors.
• **Late Night Advising and Tutoring.** This program was a collaborative effort between the Learning Center, the DUS Advising office, and Residence Life. Walk-up advising and tutoring were offered in the residence halls for extended evening hours until 11:00 p.m. The objective was to connect to students in their environment during times that were convenient to them. Being available to students during these late night sessions and providing a much needed service, not only demonstrates our commitment to the students, but it also encourages and develops student relationships.

All of these programs are helpful in improving our student retention.

The benefit of additional advising staff this year has allowed for more aggressive student intervention. Additional activities include, but are not limited to, directly contacting all students who received an Early Progress Report, as well as any student with a 2.0 or below cumulative grade point average.

Our advisers have been working hard to increase their individual contacts with our students. This semester, we have had 1,023 contacts from a student population of 801. A comparison of all university college (UC) campus contacts indicates:

- Average population of UC campuses = 871
- Average number of adviser contacts at UC campuses = 352; Schuylkill adviser contacts are 190% higher than the UC average.
- The UC campus that falls just below our campus in terms of adviser contacts = 726, indicating that Penn State Schuylkill adviser contacts are 40% higher than that campus.

The Advising Center will continue to seek new and innovative ways to reach out to our students. Future projects include: conducting advising sessions in other locations on campus, reviewing data to collaborate our at-risk efforts, and creating an appointment reminder system. Further, by having access to the Learning Center staff calendars, advisers are making direct referrals and scheduling more appointments while the student is still in the office.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a new First-Year Testing, Counseling, and Advising Program (FTCAP), now to be named **New Student Orientation (NSO)**, for summer 2013. This new program will have an increased focus for students and families to create a connection with the campus, as well as allowing more time for financial concerns and other processes.

The **Learning Center** has made great strides this semester as a result of our recent restructuring of the department and its activities. Our physical space is set up to accommodate both individual and group tutoring sessions. The staff and peer tutors have been actively promoting our services by conducting sessions in the classrooms, the Nittany Apartments, and the Student Center. We now have **twenty-two** fully trained peer tutors covering **eighty** academic courses. Special arrangements are also being made to tutor courses that are not currently listed. Additionally, professional staff calendars have been made available to advisers who are scheduling students that are having academic concerns.
Learning Center numbers and usage are beginning to show improvement and are rather impressive in comparison to other Penn State campuses. As of March 13, 2013, the center has had 1,402 contacts from 413 students. These contacts rank third among the University’s commonwealth campuses, with the first two having much higher enrollment.

Traditional academic success workshops were offered monthly:

- **January: Tuesday Time Crunch** - Time Management strategies to assess students' time usage and to build students' skills of purposeful planning in order to effectively prioritize and complete quality academic work.

- **February: Mid-Semester Mindset** - This workshop includes: test-taking strategies, study strategies, and stress reduction strategies. Academically proven strategies are presented to improve students' test performance by addressing strategies before, during, and after tests. In addition, specific strategies are presented for various types of test formats to build students' reasoning skills while taking tests. Students are presented with best study practices for all learning styles. They explore new memory techniques and various other study strategies. Lastly, students are presented relaxation techniques to help alleviate academic and personal pressure, as well as ways to remain organized and motivated during even the busiest times of the semester.

- **March: Plagiarism** - Students investigate the various definitions of plagiarism and what is encompassed by plagiarism. Methods such as paraphrasing, summarizing, and annotating are presented, by which students can prevent citation and bibliographic mistakes.

- **April: Finals Forum** – Faculty, as well as Learning Center staff, will present subject and course specific study strategies in order to help students to prepare more effectively for their final exams.

Each workshop is offered to promote academic success, and therefore retention, through building academic skills and strategies.

We continue to ask our campus community for their support of the Learning Center’s mission. First and foremost, we ask that you encourage students to visit the center to sign up for at least one service, whether it is tutoring in a specific subject, or help with study skills. Next, we ask that faculty inform the center of any potential tutors you may have in class, or know outside of the classroom. Finally, we are always open to suggestions and requests for workshops, classroom visits, and programming.
Enrollment Services
This quarter, the Admissions office has been very busy recruiting for the fall 2013 incoming class.

We have continued to increase our local recruiting efforts. This year, we conducted application workshops at eleven high schools that resulted in eighty-six applications. This was an increase over last year’s total of ten participating schools and sixty-seven applications. The campus has seen notable increases in local applications, offers, and paid students from last year. This increase is attributed to direct applications and direct offers, with a notable increase in both. In addition to increases in local applications, international applications have nearly doubled from this same time period last year. Overall, we have seen a continuous annual increase in applications of more than twenty-two percent, and we are up ninety applications as of the beginning of April, 2013.

Other recruitment activities included:
- A presentation of the admissions program, “The Value of Higher Education”, to four local high schools
- Our annual Guidance Counselor Workshop in December where we hosted seventeen local guidance counselors
- Visits to local community colleges
- Our attendance at local high school basketball games at four school districts
- Our assistance with the STEM program that involved underclassmen at various local high schools

In addition to increasing local recruitment efforts, we have also increased our out-of-state and transfer student events. Our admissions counselors traveled to New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Florida to participate in seven college fairs and visit community colleges. In 2012, we attended 43 high school and college fairs, and in 2013, that number has increased to 116. We have also increased the amount of University sponsored recruitment programs, both in and out-of-state.

Our office offered various opportunities to visit the campus. In December, we hosted a bus trip from New York/New Jersey that resulted in 29 students filing applications. We continue to offer daily tours, evening tours on select nights, the Lion for a Day programs, and once a month Saturday visits. These individual visit opportunities allowed us to host approximately thirty families at Penn State Schuylkill during the last quarter. Our three spring Open Houses brought in approximately 350 visitors.

The Registration Committee, consisting of representatives from the bursar, registrar, student aid, housing, and enrollment services, was reconvened on January 17, 2013, to identify students who have not yet completed the registration process, and then discuss ways to assist them. The group met each Thursday afternoon until the spring enrollment census date of February 16, 2013.
The Student Aid Office has been assisting local high school families and college students with completing their federal and state aid applications. We hosted two workshops on campus for students and parents to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. Thirty-one families took advantage of this opportunity. We conducted a variety of financial aid programs and workshops during regularly scheduled class periods, after school, and to entire senior class assemblies at eight local high schools. The participating school districts were, North Schuylkill, Shenandoah, Mahanoy City, Pottsville, Tri-Valley, Blue Mountain, Nativity, and Pine Grove.

Financial aid disbursements for the 2012/13 academic year to Penn State Schuylkill students included over $9.8 million dollars in federal and state aid. This year, there was a thirty-eight percent increase in scholarships awarded to our students. The campus and the University have made a commitment to significantly increase scholarship dollars to academically qualified students for the 2013/14 academic year.

The Veterans Information Fair held on Tuesday April 2, 2013, provided information on the various benefits that are available to veterans and included 25-30 attendees/participants. The program included admissions information and a presentation by Claire (C.J.) Quick, Penn State Schuylkill alum and Marine Corps Veteran, about the VA Hospital in Lebanon with a focus on health care benefits. He also spoke about employment, education, memorial benefits, and provided information on where veterans can access services. Representatives from several organizations were available to speak one-on-one with veterans after the presentation and included: the Veterans Bus Trip organization, American Legion, Employer Support Group of the Guard and Reserve, and Lebanon VA Hospital. A Penn State Schuylkill campus counselor, admissions counselor, Veteran Benefits Coordinator, and a veteran work-study student were also in attendance to answer any questions.

The Student Experience
We continue to strengthen the experience outside of the classroom through a meaningful, intentionally designed and delivered co-curricular program. The advancement of the Penn State Schuylkill student experience continues to be a central priority of our campus as we engage our students in experiences that transform their thinking. Students have grown through participation in a wide range of experiential activities designed for personal development and preparation for the challenges of an increasingly complex and interconnected society.

Service to Community
Penn State Schuylkill was recently named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. We are one of two Penn State campuses to be included among 690 other higher education institutions. This honor was based on our service events and hours from fall 2011 through spring 2012. We are delighted to announce that we exceeded last year’s hours and we are looking forward to new opportunities and exciting events as we prepare for next year.

THON was extremely successful for the second year in a row; $48,000 in donations was calculated at the conclusion of THON weekend. We are very proud of our students for exceeding totals of campuses that have a much larger student population.
Valerie Clay, assistant director for student affairs, recently returned from an alternative spring break in Hampden, West Virginia; an area that was hit hard by Hurricane Sandy and still exhibits effects from the disaster. Valerie collaborated with Penn State Lehigh Valley to transport students from both campuses to spend five days and six nights in this community building and repairing homes. This was a great service-learning project and we hope to continue offering this alternative spring break option to our students next year.

Looking to the future, we have several community service projects coming up. In collaboration with our Student Government Association, the students will be completing major clean-ups at the Bartrum Trail, the Island in Schuylkill Haven, and the trail that leads to Redner’s grocery store. We partnered with the Blue Mountain High School Life Skills class to complete our Make a Difference Day Project for the spring at Seton Manor. In addition, the Community Service Club is planning a service project at the Hillside SPCA, and we are collaborating with our athletic teams to participate in some local Special Olympics sporting events.

We continue to help a variety of local agencies and non-profit organizations throughout the semester including the Roundhouse, Rest Haven, Schuylkill Wellness, the Orwigsburg Food Pantry, and the Wildlife Preservation Center. Our AmeriCorps Scholars, who are required to complete 300 hours within a year, participated in all of these events. AmeriCorps Scholars receive a financial stipend to use towards educational expenses when they have completed the program service requirements. Applications for AmeriCorps Scholars are currently being accepted in the Student Affairs office.

**Student Affairs Programming**

Students returned from the semester break revived and ready for new experiences and exciting activities for the spring semester. The kick-off was the highly anticipated trip to Washington D.C. for the Presidential Inauguration. The chartered bus was full of students who woke up early to travel into Maryland, board a train for Washington, D.C., and then stood among thousands of other spectators to witness an historical event.

February kicked off the return of the Mid-Day Music series, with the first show by singer-songwriter, Alfa. Other groups to appear this spring are Ellery, Ry Cummings, and first season finalist on *The Voice*, Casey Weston. This program provides an opportunity for students and staff to gather together in the Hidden Stream Café for lunch while enjoying the sensational sounds of bands and solo musicians.

**The Bunny Trail of Treats** and **Chaos on the Court** were both held on March 24, 2013. Students had an opportunity to give back to local community children and then participate in the staff/faculty vs. student volleyball game. Students also participated in the **Schuylkill’s Got Talent** performance showcase, which culminated in a larger talent competition at Penn State Berks.
In April, over eighty students boarded a bus for a day trip to New York City. Everyone participated in one activity in the city together, and afterwards the students were free to explore on their own. The Criminal Justice club spent a portion of their afternoon at Rikers Island, an island training ground from the Civil War that holds a great deal of history for the New York area.

Many campus departments participated in the “I’m moving to UP” program that was held in December. The purpose of the program is to assist students as they transition to University Park. Topics we emphasize include using eLion, checking Penn State email accounts, properly completing their registration, and the increase in their cost of attendance. Departments that presented during the program were: Bursar, Registrar, Advising, Housing, Financial Aid, Enrollment Services, and Student Affairs.

The semester will close with our final Blockhouse program, which has become a staple of the arts for students. The Hidden Stream Café is turned into a lounge where students have the opportunity to interact with up-and-coming poets, musicians, singers, and songwriters. Students are also encouraged to perform. This monthly program has blossomed, sharing the true talents of poetry, song, and verse of our students. The next Blockhouse is April 27, 2013 and is being co-sponsored by Residence Life and Student Affairs. The goal is to spend the day partaking in the talents of staff, faculty, local community, and our students.

The powerful sound of Japanese Taiko drums filled Penn State Schuylkill's John E. Morgan Auditorium on Tuesday, January 29, 2013, when Taikoza, the Japanese Drumming Ensemble, visited Penn State Schuylkill. This free performance was part of the campus’ Cultural Events Series. Taikoza, a Japanese music and dance group founded by Marco Lienhard, has dazzled audiences worldwide with its electrifying performances since 1995. The Taiko is a large barrel-like drum that can fill the air with the sounds of rolling thunder. Drawing from Japan's rich tradition of music and performance, Taikoza has created a new sound using a variety of traditional instruments. In addition to drums of assorted sizes, Taikoza performers also play the shakuhachi and the fue (both bamboo flutes) and the koto (a 13-string instrument).

This spring is our second semester as a new chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success and we have continued to have strong numbers coming to events and the amazing live broadcasts of some of the country’s top speakers. Our speakers have included the former New York City Mayor, Rudy Giuliani, Best-Selling Author, Brad Meltzer, and the “CEO for CEOs”, Peter Bergman. The broadcasts have focused on important topics including: Finding your passion, Standing up to bullies, The importance of collaboration, and so many more. The broadcasts have been open to the campus.

The Office of Student Affairs accompanied ten nominated students from our campus to the Northeast Spring Leadership Conference at Split Rock Resort in the Poconos from March 22 – 23, 2013. Students and staff from four of our fellow Penn State campuses joined us for a weekend of presentations, leadership development, and Penn State pride!
Penn State Schuylkill is working in conjunction with the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce, the McCann School of Business, and F.N.B. Wealth Management to continue our Schuylkill County Student Leadership class. The goal of the program is to assist the students in developing leadership skills, providing them opportunities to contribute positively to the local community, and to encourage them to attend an institution of higher learning located in Schuylkill County. Enrollment is open to area high school juniors and students of local higher education institutions. The program consists of five classes that are rotated between each participating institution. The classes will be held at different times and on different days of the week so that all students have an opportunity to fit one or more of the classes into their schedule. Three Penn State Schuylkill students graduated from the program last fall: Edward Breiner, Jeff Fritz, and Akam Lawson. Applications for the fall 2013 class are now available in the Student Affairs office. Penn State Schuylkill has amazing students who are doing wonderful things in leadership positions on campus and are working to become leaders in organizations, the classroom, and in the community.

Service and Leadership Awards
The Chancellor’s Award for Student Leadership is presented to an outstanding student or students who have contributed to advancement of student life through leadership and involvement at Penn State Schuylkill. This year’s recipients are Edward Breiner, Vincent Carrano, and Elijah Simmons.

The Eric A. and Josephine S. Walker Award is presented to recognize one undergraduate student enrolled at each University College location whose outstanding qualities of character, scholarship, leadership, and citizenship have been directed into programs and services that have positively influenced fellow students, and have contributed to the prestige and well-being of his or her campus, and to the reputation of the University as a whole. This year’s recipient is Edward Breiner.

The Student Affairs Award for Outstanding Student Organization
THON (Dance Marathon)
Adviser, Tina Rose
Chairperson, Peter Gannon

The Student Affairs Award for Outstanding Adviser
Ron Kelly, adviser of the Criminal Justice Club

Student Government Association Faculty Award
Dr. Mary Feeney Bonawitz, assistant professor of accounting

Residential Programming
A staple in Residence Life programming has been the weekend event, “Up All Night.” The evening’s activities include “Crazy Bob’s Price Is Right,” “Family Feud,” “Late Night Trivia,” and the popular “Popcorn Fest.”
Off-campus trips are very popular and the sign-up sheets fill up quickly. This semester, 44 students went snow tubing at Eagle Rock Resort and enjoyed sliding down the hill, despite freezing temperatures. Bowling at the Strike Zone Alley in Pottsville continues to be a well-attended activity with over 200 students participating throughout the semester.

Other events this semester included a trip to Ozzie’s Fun Center in Leesport and the Nittany Apartment Springfest. At Ozzie’s, students were able to play laser tag, roller skate, race go-carts, and play arcade games from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. All residential students were able to participate and we provided transportation.

The Springfest will be held on April 27, 2013 outside the Nittany Apartments. This carnival will include rides, a rock climbing wall, carnival food, and prizes. We hope that this will be the perfect farewell for graduating students and a stepping-stone for our students who will be returning in the fall. The campus community is encouraged to attend.

Career Services
At this time of increasing scrutiny of career outcomes and job placement for college graduates, we continue to be proud that Penn State graduates are favored for employment opportunities. In fact, The Wall Street Journal ranks Penn State #1 among corporate recruiters. Recruiters state that Penn State supplies “Bright, well-rounded students…with the core competencies we desire.” Our distinguished faculty continues to prepare our students for today’s challenges, and the future challenges of tomorrow.

According to Smart Money Magazine, in a 2011 “Show-me-the-money” college survey, Penn State was ranked number twelve among colleges that help graduates earn top salaries.

Career Services has been busy helping our students acquire positions and internships in their fields. We provided transportation for our students to attend the Information Technology Career Fair at University Park in late January, to the People-to-People Fair in February, and the Spring Career Day in March. Students are coming back from these trips with internships, full-time employment, and interviews with a wide variety of companies and organizations. Students who participate are able to work on their networking and soft skills in order to find career opportunities within their respective fields. We are very pleased to announce that one of our IST graduates was able to obtain an IT position with General Motors (GM) in Warren, Michigan. Tyler Roberts, a Blue Mountain High School graduate, interviewed with GM at the Information Technology Career Fair and was subsequently flown to Michigan for an orientation. Mr. Roberts will graduate from Penn State Schuylkill with his Bachelor of Science degree in Information Science and Technology on May 4, 2013, and then he will begin his employment with GM in June 2013.

The northeast Penn State campuses are in the process of developing a Northeast Regional Career Information Fair. Companies from northeastern Pennsylvania will be contacted to participate in the fair which will be held at Penn State Wilkes-Barre on October 9, 2013. The fair will rotate among the participating campuses each year. Companies will be asked to attend if they are providing part-time and/or full-time employment, internship opportunities, and relevant career advice for our students.
The University is excited to announce that they have recently hired Korie Dudrich, as a job/internship developer for the northeast region. This position will be starting within the next few weeks and should be an added support to all of the northeast campuses. Ms. Dudrich will assist each campus in gaining more employment and internship opportunities in their respective geographic areas. She will be based out of Penn State Wilkes-Barre, but will travel to each participating campus and assist them with their unique student population needs.

Career Services also continues to offer a variety of workshops that include resume and cover letter writing, job search strategies, and interviewing skills. We want to thank our faculty members who have invited our staff to speak on important career information and topics during their classes. These opportunities have definitely led to an increase in student traffic this semester!

**Equity and Inclusion Programming**

In celebration of Black History Month, Residence Life and Student Affairs combined efforts to create the first Heritage Banquet entitled “Rooted in Our Past, Growing toward Our Future.” This sit-down dinner included entertainment that highlighted contributions of African Americans throughout history.

The Penn State Schuylkill Criminal Justice Club, along with support from the Commission on Racial/Ethnic Diversity (CORED), brought the founder of Homeboy to Harvard Productions to our campus. Richard Santana, an ex-gang member and graduate of Harvard University, provided a powerful and graphic illustration of the true implications of cultural relevance in defining the human condition. His moving accounts depict how his personal gang-life experiences shaped his beliefs, attitudes, and expectations as a young person.

Our students attended the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Banquet at University Park. This event was sponsored by the Forum on Black Affairs. Dr. Samuel Thompson, Arthur Weiss Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Study of Mergers and Acquisitions at Penn State Law School, was the keynote speaker. A musical performance was presented by the Penn State Essence of Joy choral ensemble.

On March 19, 2013, Papa Susso brought his music and oral history to Penn State Schuylkill. Susso, who has performed on the campus before, presented his music and oral history in two of Dr. Charles Cantalupo’s, distinguished professor of English, comparative literature, and African studies, classes, in addition to a two-hour presentation at a campus luncheon.
Alhaji Papa Susso, master kora (African harp-lute) player and oral historian from The Gambia, West Africa, hails from a long line, going back to the 13th century Griots (traditional oral historians) Mandinka people. He was taught the kora by his father and has been playing since the age of five. The kora, a twenty-one stringed harp-lute, evolved from earlier hunter harps used by the Mandinka people of West Africa. It was the preferred instrument of Mandinka Jalolu (griot), itinerant musicians, who were traditionally attached to royal courts where their duties included recounting the tribal history and genealogy, composing commemorative songs and performing at important state events. Today, Papa Susso is a goodwill ambassador traveling internationally to a distinguished variety of universities and arts festivals to share his culture with others.

The Diversity Speaker Series hosted Dr. James Braxton Peterson, director of Africana Studies and an associate professor of English at Lehigh University. Dr. Peterson is an increasingly important media presence who regularly appears on MSNBC’s Ed Show, the Martin Bashire Show, and blogs for The Huffington Post and Black Voices. He discussed the intersection of youth-oriented curricula, politics, and the hip-hop culture as it relates to leadership. Dr. Peterson is the founder of Hip-Hop Scholars, LLC, an association of hip-hop generational scholars dedicated to researching and developing the cultural and educational potential of hip-hop, urban, and youth cultures.

Students attended a performance at the Open Stage Theatre in Harrisburg, PA, of Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, the second of ten plays from American playwright August Wilson that depicted the comic and tragic aspects of the African-American experience in the twentieth century. The play, set in the year 1911, led the audience to the happenings at a boardinghouse in the Hill District section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Debra Simpson-Buchanan, director of educational equity for Penn State Schuylkill, was one of six people honored at the 10th annual award breakfast of the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum on Saturday, February 16, 2013. Debra was chosen as an honoree based on her work with the Reading High School and her continued support for promoting higher education and community service.

Health and Wellness
Penn State Counseling and Health Services have again partnered to receive grant funding for suicide prevention for the upcoming 2013-2014 academic year. This funding will support the use of the suicide risk assessment tool and our collaboration with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

The Health Services office has seen a substantial increase in the number of students seeking assistance. This year, over 3,200 students have received service as walk-in patients at our weekly physician clinic, sexually transmitted disease clinics, and gynecological clinics.

In addition to serving our campus community’s medical needs, the office of Health Services has, and will, train more than sixty people in CPR/AED this year. Our students have had peer training and continued education on safe sex and STD/HIV awareness.
Health Services has secured a grant to supply 150 free influenza vaccines to our students this year which will save the campus approximately $3,900.

The office continues to build on important connections throughout the region, giving our students access to a wealth of community resources including Schuylkill Wellness Services, Maternal Family Health Service, Birth Right, Angel Babies, and Catholic Charities for pregnancy counseling. Our gynecological clinic has served over 275 women this year so far.

CeCe Boran, the campus nurse, serves as the campus Wellness Ambassador to help promote health and wellness to our staff and faculty. Several courses were offered this year and include: Yoga, Body Sculpting, Health Nutrition, Weight loss, CPR/AED, and smoking cessation. In addition, she serves as president of Schuylkill Immunization Coalition, and an advisory board member of Schuylkill Wellness Services. On April 23, 2013, she hosted the Dine Out for AIDS/HIV Awareness at the Greystone Restaurant in Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

CeCe was selected as the 2013 Linda Fehr Memorial Award recipient. This award is presented to a Penn State Schuylkill student, alumni, staff, or faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to support the interests and issues of women at Penn State Schuylkill.

The Office of Student Conduct and Health and Wellness have partnered together to bring a new drug education and counseling program to our campus. This program will work in conjunction with our current alcohol education program and general counseling services to address and prevent drug and alcohol use with our students and on our campus. These efforts will continue into future semesters to further foster the relationship between our students and the local community.

The Women of Leadership Development (WILD) organization performed the play The Vagina Monologues on April 2, 2013. The event raised approximately $200.00 with 90% of the proceeds to benefit the Schuylkill Women and Crisis Organization (SWIC), and 10% of the proceeds will benefit the national organization, VDAY, for their continued efforts to stop the violence against women and girls.

**Counseling and Disability Services**

The number of students who utilize counseling services at Penn State Schuylkill continues to increase each academic year. This past academic year, the counseling office conducted more than 700 therapy sessions, up nearly 100% over the past decade, and this number is expected to continue to grow. Students are taking advantage of counseling services and have indicated that it is a reason for their retention. A referral base consisting of former patients, faculty, staff, and students, help guide us in serving our entire student population.

In partnership with faculty members, the office has conducted programs related to counseling, stress, and childhood sexual abuse. Our campus counselor has been meeting those needs through individual classroom presentations. Securing the contract for a psychiatrist to be on campus once a month has been instrumental in the treatment of patients because the psychiatrist is able to provide case review assistance when necessary.
Throughout the semester, the counseling office has hosted presentations on childhood sexual abuse, stress management, anxiety and depression, first year issues in college, and suicide prevention in various classes, as requested by faculty. In addition, the office has provided training for RAs, police services, tutors, orientation leaders, and club and organization leaders. Most of the trainings included an interactive portion which focused on developing appropriate responses, interventions, and referral outreach.

In the community, Melinda Spolski, our campus counselor, serves as the Penn State Schuylkill representative on both the Suicide Prevention Task Force of Schuylkill County and the Schuylkill County Drug Task Force. These efforts have proven very beneficial to our students. Through the suicide prevention task force, and in conjunction with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, we were able to secure a grant for a suicide assessment tool to be located on our campus. We are one of only three locations in Schuylkill County to have this service.

Approximately thirty students are registered with the office of disability services, and although the number of students enrolled in disability services has increased, their utilization of academic adjustments has decreased. Students are developing better coping and study skills to remain in the classroom for testing and are using assistive technology in creative ways. These students receive a range of services and academic adjustments including: distraction free and extended test taking, note taking assistance, alternative forms of text, priority registration, use of Kurzweil and other software, and individual counseling sessions. The Angel course management group, Notetakers, was created to keep all notes accessible online, and to ensure the confidentiality of the note takers and the students with disabilities.

**Athletics**

Our student athletes continue to make us proud, both on and off the court, through their commitment to service, excellence in the classroom, and accomplishments in competition. They have achieved a great deal this year.

Nearly forty percent of our student athletes attained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher this past term. In addition, a number of student athletes received special recognition for success in their sport and in the classroom.

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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Recognition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>Tia Lyons, Honorable Mention All-Conference</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kaitlyn Celani, All Academic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Softball</td>
<td>Bryanna Snowell, 2nd team All-Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Volleyball</td>
<td>Alysha Handler, Honorable Mention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Haylee Burnhauser, 1st team All-American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>Pat Killian, Honorable Mention, All-Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>Bryan Dimon, 2nd team All-American</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jordan Blankenhorn, 2nd team All-American</td>
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Our intramural programs continue to be popular on campus. Co-ed indoor intramural soccer had five teams and thirty-five students participate. Team, The Unit, took home not only the title for soccer, but also for sand volleyball and flag football. Co-ed intramural basketball had eleven teams and approximately ninety students participate.

New this semester is the Penn State Schuylkill Men’s Baseball team with their home field being located in Cressona, PA. They started the season out strong with a win against Lehigh/Carbon Community College 14-4 and are currently eight wins and four losses. We are looking forward to the rest of our first season.

**Office of Judicial Affairs**

We continue to see a progressive relationship develop between our campus and local law enforcement. Penn State Schuylkill Police Services, the Schuylkill Haven Police department, and the Office of Judicial Affairs collaborate to improve communication, and to maintain a positive connection between our students and the local surrounding community.

**Capital Improvements**

Penn State Schuylkill is excited to host the July 2014 meeting of the University Board of Trustees. The last time the Board of Trustees visited Penn State Schuylkill was in the summer of 1994. In preparation for this event, University Park has allocated funding for some campus exterior upgrades. Improvements include an upgraded pathway and lighting, parking lot repairs, and landscaping on the west side of the Classroom Building. Additionally, a new patio, new walkways, and landscape upgrades will enhance the west side of the Student Community Center. All of these exterior upgrades will take place in summer 2013.

We continue to make improvements to the Student Community Center. Booth style seating and lounge furniture arrived in the Hidden Stream Café in March. We are currently working with vendors for the installation of accent lighting for all of the new areas. An architect was recently hired by the University to conduct the feasibility study for expansion and enhancements to our dining facility.

The John E. Morgan Auditorium will be getting a face-lift this summer. The Morgan Foundation is funding the renovations through a generous donation. New flooring, seating, and sound panels, as well as stage repairs and electrical/technology enhancements are some of the improvements that will be made beginning in May 2013.

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

- **Classroom 201**, a general-purpose classroom, will be receiving new hideaway tables that will 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.
Renovations to Classroom 107, Information Sciences and Technology Lab (IST), will not only include overall improvements to the general purpose instructional portion of the room, but will also create a networking lab space for IST students. Upgrades will include new lighting, furnishings, and flooring, plus Smart Board technology and enhanced wireless capabilities. A section of the room will also be dedicated for student/faculty collaboration.

In an effort to improve the overall safety and security of the campus for our faculty, staff, students, and visitors, additional video cameras have been installed in the Ciletti Memorial Library, Learning Center, and Student Community Center. We have also begun the installation of a new card-access system on campus, with the fitness center as the first area to come online. The Nittany Apartments and the Health and Wellness Building will have the systems installed beginning in summer 2013.

General improvements to the campus physical plant are ongoing. A new roof for the Health & Wellness Building is currently in design, and improvements to the athletic field are also planned for the summer months.

In January, the library received eight more lounge-style chairs to complete the rearrangement of seating in the former reference area. These chairs were obtained with funding from both the chancellor’s office at Penn State Schuylkill and the Penn State University Libraries.

The ITS department is currently working with University Park to install wireless technology in the Nittany Apartments. Wi-Fi is currently only available in the Nittany V common area but will also be made accessible within the individual apartment units in summer 2013.

In an effort to improve the information technology services at Penn State Schuylkill, we are working with Information Technology Services (ITS) at University Park to conduct an assessment of the current technology infrastructure and services offered here at the campus. We expect the assessment to be completed in April 2013. We are looking forward to receiving the team’s recommendations to learn how we can make Penn State Schuylkill a leader in the information technology field, and ensure that our campus community has the best technology resources available to them.

Alumni Relations
The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society hosted several events for students including an Ice Cream Social, Lunch with the Nittany Lion, Casino Night, where students had the opportunity to win all Penn State themed prizes, and a bus trip to University Park for a tour of University Park and to attend the Penn State Lady Lions Basketball game vs. Nebraska. In addition, the society supported eight students to attend the Blue and White Society Leadership Conference at Penn State Harrisburg.
On Saturday, May 18, 2013, the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society will sponsor its fourth annual Penn State Day at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. and lunch is being served from noon to 1:00 p.m. and will feature a performance by the Alumni Blue Band, an appearance by the Nittany Lion, and prize raffles. A Penn State party will take place at 3:00 p.m. Last year’s event was attended by over 700 alumni, family, and friends. Individual organizations hosting this event are Penn State Schuylkill, Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre, and Worthington-Scranton Alumni Societies, and the Anthracite, Greater Scranton, Hazleton, Schuylkill, and Susquehanna Valley Chapters of the Penn State Alumni Association. All are welcome, so please come out and support this great event.

Several ticket options are available: $20.00 ticket is for attendees, ages 5 years and up and includes lunch, a $10 food/ride ticket booklet, and the entertainment noted above; $10.00 ticket is for children under 4 years of age and will include lunch and a $10 food/ride ticket. Also, a Penn State lunch-only ticket can be purchased for $10.00 and does not include a food/ride ticket booklet. The deadline for reservations is Friday, May 3, 2013.

For more information and to make reservations for upcoming alumni events, please contact Patty Shoener, assistant director of Alumni Relations, at 570-385-6262 or pts11@psu.edu.

**Penn State names local attorney as Honorary Alumnus**
Fred J. Wiest, retired partner of Williamson, Friedberg & Jones, LLC, Pottsville, PA, has been named as the Penn State Alumni Association’s Honorary Alumnus for 2013. The Penn State Alumni Association’s Honorary Alumni Program was created to recognize outstanding individuals who, though not graduates of Penn State, make significant contributions to Penn State’s welfare, prestige, and reputation. The award for becoming an Honorary Alumni, beyond the pride of being associated with the University, includes a life membership in the Penn State Alumni Association and a cast bronze medallion by internationally renowned artist Jeanne Stevens-Sollman.

Mr. Wiest has served on the Penn State Schuylkill Advisory Board since January 1, 1954, making him the longest serving board member University-wide. He has made numerous contributions to the campus, including establishing the Elizabeth S. and Fred J. Wiest Trustee Scholarship and the Faculty/Student Research Endowment at Penn State Schuylkill. The atrium in the Health & Wellness Building bears the name, The Fred J. and Elizabeth S. Wiest Atrium.

Fred Wiest is a resident of Minersville, PA, a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in 1941 and served as president of the Schuylkill County Bar Association from 1956 to 1957. Mr. Wiest’s career spanned seventy years focusing his practice in the fields of elder law, wills, estates and probate, real estate law, and municipal law, until his retirement in June 2012. He also served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II.

Attorney Wiest survives his wife, Betty, and has two children, Marian Sommerfeldt and Richard J. Wiest, and two grandchildren.
Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society welcomes new members/officers
The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society welcomed three new members to the board at their March 2013 meeting. These members include: Dr. Michele Tellep, ’74, ’88g, Kimberly Lorimer, ’98, ’03, and John Powers, ’71. Dr. Tellep is a recently retired associate professor of education at Penn State University. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Marlin, PA. They have one son, Michael, a senior engineering student at the University Park campus. Kimberly Lorimer is the vice president of The Evans Network of Companies in Schuylkill Haven, PA. She resides in Orwigsburg, PA, with her two children. John Powers is the retired dean of students at Pottsville Area High School. He currently works for Pottsville Broadcasting (WPPA/WAVT) as a broadcast announcer. John is the father of four and resides in Pottsville, PA, with his wife, Barbara.

In addition, the board voted in the following officers for 2013 – 2014, beginning their term on July 1, 2013: David Gonzalez, ’02,’03,’04, president; Jeffrey Vrabel, ’81, vice president; and Sallie Sandler, ’86, ’99g, secretary/treasurer. David replaces Carl Rosenberger, ’81, who has served two consecutive terms as president. David Gonzalez is self-employed as an IT Consultant and lives in Pottsville with his wife, Mary Beth Johnson, and their two sons. Jeffrey Vrabel is a partner at ParenteBeard, LLC in Harrisburg, PA. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Mechanicsburg with their three sons. Sallie Sandler is a mathematics teacher at Kutztown Area High School and resides in Schuylkill Haven, PA with her husband, Stephen.

Development
Penn State Schuylkill’s progress in the fund raising campaign, For the Future: the Campaign for Penn State Students is $4,209,988, which is 105% of our $4,000,000 goal. Last year at this time we were at eighty-seven percent of our goal at $3,469,096, a 19% increase from 2012.

We are proud to recognize three new scholarships since last year; The Joseph H. Jones, Sr. and Grace H. Jones Family Scholarship in memory of Gregory H. Jones, The Wylonis Scholarship at Penn State Schuylkill, and the David & Vicky Norris Business Internship Award.

The annual Scholarship Dinner was held on March 26, 2013, at the Schuylkill Country Club. This event recognizes our donors of endowed scholarships and awards and the student recipients at Penn State Schuylkill. The featured speaker of the evening was Theresa Carter, president of OMNOVA Solutions Foundation, and the student speaker was Edward Breiner of Schuylkill Haven, PA.

Trustee Matching Scholarship Program
A program that has raised $100 million in scholarship endowments will now offer Penn State supporters an even greater incentive to help students in need. As of March 1, 2013, the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program offers a ten percent annual match for new endowed gifts, doubling the additional funds available for students.
“The campaign’s top priority is keeping a Penn State degree within reach for students and families from every economic background,” said President Rodney A. Erickson. “The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program has been our most effective tool in engaging the University’s alumni and friends as partners in meeting the urgent need for scholarship support. Now that we have reached the program’s original goal of $100 million in scholarship endowments, we are aiming higher, for a total of $120 million, and we believe that the increased match will convey to our supporters just how much Penn State values their commitment to our students.”

Trustee Scholarship commitments will now be eligible for a ten percent annual match, rather than the program’s original five percent. This increased match will be available through the end of the For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students on June 30, 2014, or until the pool of matching support has been awarded. The higher match level will apply only to new endowments at the $50,000 level or higher.

“Throughout the For the Future campaign, the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program has been our flagship opportunity for donors who want to keep a Penn State education affordable for current students and future generations,” said Rodney P. Kirsch, senior vice president for development and alumni relations. “By increasing the match we offer to donors, we intend to underscore the campaign’s focus on Penn State students.”

All other aspects of the program will remain the same. The match continues in perpetuity, and it may be awarded as scholarships as early as the semester during which a donor’s pledge is signed. With some restrictions, donors can direct their support to the college, campus, or student population with they feel the greatest affinity. Since the program was established in 2002, more than 800 Trustee Scholarship endowments have been created, and more than 4,000 Penn State students benefit each year. At Penn State Schuylkill, there were seventy-nine recipients last year from the seven trustee scholarships.

“The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program broke new ground for Penn State philanthropy when it was launched, and its supporters should take pride in what the program has accomplished,” said Kirsch. “Thousands of students who might not otherwise be able to earn a Penn State degree are now on the road to success thanks to the generosity of trustee scholarship donors. I hope that even more alumni and friends will take advantage of the extraordinary opportunity offered by the Trustee Matching Scholarship Program to have the greatest possible impact on our students and our institution.”

**Continuing Education**

The department of Continuing Education continues to serve the needs of our region and our community. Penn State Schuylkill has partnered with the Blue Mountain School District to offer a Chinese language elementary after-school program. Classes began on March 13, 2013 with eight students. We were also pleased to participate in the first annual Youth Summit, an event made possible through the efforts of Schuylkill County Commissioners and Schuylkill County Vision. The summit seeks to engage the youth of the region in a meaningful dialogue about resources that are needed to allow Schuylkill County to grow.
SAT prep classes also began on March 13, 2013 and those classes had a total of thirteen students. We are partnering with the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Pine Grove Area School District to offer a session this summer. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers receives grant funding administered through Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29.

Kid’s College sessions will be held for five weeks this summer, beginning on June 10 and ending on July 19, 2013 (there will be no sessions during the first week of July). Penn State Schuylkill has provided quality academic experiences for children every summer since 2000. We are continuing this long standing tradition this summer with some new courses, as well as expanded opportunities for high school students, including a two-week camp in Mandarin Chinese. We have also partnered with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary to offer a full-day camp titled, All about Raptors.

**Public Information and Campus Marketing**

University Relations has been engaged with supporting recruitment and retention activities during the past quarter. Static billboards have been up during much of this time period, with messages of “It’s not too late to apply” and “Apply today for scholarships.” The electronic billboard also runs these messages in addition to advertisements for application workshops, financial aid workshops, open houses, continuing education events, and the recent theatre production. The electronic billboard was an effective tool for raising community awareness of the quality of students at Penn State Schuylkill and breadth of opportunities available to all Penn State students by featuring Angel Zheng, a former Schuylkill student who is now studying on a Fulbright Scholarship in Macau, China.

Numerous media releases have been issued during this period, including: Penn State Schuylkill named to Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service, the new Cotler Life Science Lab dedication, the offering of a new Mandarin Chinese for youth course, teddy bears for pediatric patients, professor presentation on local mine fires, students’ display art at Walk-in Art Center, Penn State students develop learning applications, the new Wylonis Scholarship, the new baseball team coming to Penn State Schuylkill, Attorney Wiest named Honorary Alumnus, and numerous notices for speakers and cultural events.

Social media continues to be a major emphasis on campus. The social media discussion group meets once a month, whereby members, who are also social media outlet administrators, are given instruction and collaborate on postings. The group also shares insights with their fellow members. Efforts in social media this quarter include: Instagram postings at fall commencement and throughout the spring semester, continued efforts to move all Facebook postings to the general campus page while keeping department pages as closed groups, and utilizing Twitter as a tool for posting to Facebook. Committee members have been attending Penn State Schuylkill open houses to encourage guests to “like” our Facebook page and join our open house event in order to be entered into a raffle for a free iPod Shuffle. The iPod has been engraved with our campus name and website and its purpose is to have prospective students like our Facebook page so that our postings will continuously show up in their personal news feeds, thus allowing them to see all of the opportunities that our campus has to offer.
Publication efforts this quarter include the associate degree brochures that have been redesigned to include fast-track options. The programs include the associate degree programs of Business, Human Development and Family Studies, and Letters, Arts and Sciences. The Radiologic Science associate degree brochure is also being redesigned as part of the program’s re-accreditation process.

Web services this quarter have been comprised of posting the campus’ news releases to the newly designed news site. The new site was part of the Polaris Project that redesigned the Penn State Live site this past summer and fall. Once the news articles are posted on the campus news page, they are transferred to the Schuylkill home page, and placed under new events.

Julie Meyer, campus instructional designer, continues to assist University Relations by monitoring and maintaining the campus blue screen displays. Her eye-catching displays have been a great source of information for our campus community.

**Office of Human Resources**

There were several initiatives from the central Office of Human Resources (OHR) this quarter. Every University employee had to complete a dependent verification process through the outside vendor, Aon Hewitt. This initiative will ensure that the dependents currently enrolled in our benefits plan are in compliance with eligibility requirements.

Another important initiative was mandatory reporter training. Employees classified as an authorized adult under policy AD39 must complete the training prior to working with minors and must also complete a successful background check. In addition, employees must continue to recertify each calendar year as required by policy AD72. Several Penn State Schuylkill faculty and staff were trained in this area by the Workplace Learning staff in central OHR. Beginning in January 2013, OHR contracted SkillSoft to conduct online training. It is important that employees retain a copy of the certificate of completion once the training has been completed. Employees who are not currently classified as an authorized adult can take the training at any time throughout the calendar year.

Police Services has trained ninety-seven faculty, staff, and student Penn State Schuylkill representatives as Campus Security Authorities (CSA’s). CSA’s are: police, non-police security, student life, housing, sports/athletics, coaches, academic advisors, and club/organization advisers (including faculty and staff). If you are unsure whether you qualify as a CSA, contact Police Services.

CSA’s must receive the classroom training only once, however, they must take a refresher online course once a year. Those who believe that they should be designated as a CSA, and have not received the required training, should contact Police Services at 570-385-6144 to set up a training date.