Greetings,

It is my pleasure to share the 2014 spring edition of the Penn State Schuylkill Community Report. The spring semester marked the official beginning of a year-long celebration of the campus’s 80th anniversary, thus providing a time for reflection on Penn State Schuylkill’s past, as well as anticipation and excitement for its future.

Penn State Schuylkill’s history is one built on the foundation of support provided by the leaders and citizens of our community, as well as the 11,000+ alumni that have graced the halls and walk ways of the campus. Penn State Schuylkill traces its origins to the depression years of the 1930’s, when a citizen’s group in Pottsville began to explore options for local and affordable post-secondary education. Simultaneously, Penn State was engaged in efforts to serve other regions throughout Pennsylvania, and so the University established a center in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. The center outgrew its facilities and was then moved to its current location in Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

Now, Penn State Schuylkill is celebrating 80 years strong! The anniversary marks a rebirth - renewing its current commitment to providing a student-centered education, steeped in strong academic excellence, and rich with opportunities for community engagement. The campus is also re-energized for a long and prosperous future, which is bright with endless opportunities, as a partner with the Schuylkill County communities and beyond. We look forward to this continued partnership and celebrating the campus’s rich history throughout the year.

At this time, I wish to highlight a few of the memorable events that have taken place at Penn State Schuylkill since January 2014:

Penn State Schuylkill students were involved with a multitude of community service projects, completing well over 10,000 hours of service this year. And, as many of you know, Penn State Schuylkill’s THON efforts raised over $56,000 this year alone in the fight against pediatric cancer. In addition, students experience many opportunities for leadership development. For example, we are especially proud of Bryan Underkoffler, president of our chapter of National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), who has been selected to serve on the National Student President Advisory Board for the 2014-15 academic year.

Athletics is also an important part of the Penn State Schuylkill experience. The inaugural year for baseball was a huge success, advancing well into the PSUAC playoffs, and several athletes were recognized with honors.

Regarding enrollment, the staff of Enrollment Services has been busy with renewed efforts to round out the fall 2014 class, while recruiting students for the fall 2015 class. Currently, there is an increase in the number of students choosing to attend Penn State Schuylkill. We are experiencing a five percent increase in applications over last year, and a six percent increase in the number of students who have accepted offers to attend the campus.
The **Continuing Education** staff is also busy as they prepare for the annual Kid’s College program. Several new and exciting courses have been added to this year’s schedule for youth to learn from and enjoy.

The campus was honored to host several **University dignitaries**, including Dr. Eric J. Barron, President-Elect of The Pennsylvania State University, and his wife, Molly; Dr. Madlyn L. Hanes, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses; Dr. Nicholas P. Jones, Executive Vice President and Provost; and their staff. Faculty, staff, students, advisory board members, and community leaders had the opportunity to meet and converse with the officials, sharing the importance of the Penn State Schuylkill experience and the impact it has on the students and the community at large.

**Spring commencement** was held on May 10 for all students who completed their programs of study in fall 2013 and spring 2014, and for those who intend to graduate in summer 2014. Fifty-five students participated in the commencement ceremony, with forty-six of the students completing their degrees this spring at Penn State Schuylkill. Dr. Christian M. M. Brady, dean of the Schreyer Honors College, The Pennsylvania State University, served as the spring 2014 commencement speaker. Dr. Brady delivered an encouraging and heartfelt commencement address.

Throughout the semester, many of our faculty have been involved in conducting research, presenting at conferences and workshops, and publishing their work, all of which contribute to providing a quality, student-centered education. Several faculty members received campus awards at the annual **Honors Day** ceremony on April 23 based on their activities illustrated in the program:

- **Dr. Nicole M. Andel**, assistant professor of English and humanities, received the 2014 Award for Excellence in Teaching. She teaches courses in many different disciplines, including English composition, literature, and arts and architecture. She gives much attention to detail and has incorporated various popular cultural phenomena into her classes. Dr. Andel projects a warm and cheerful attitude to her students that they return in kind. She takes great interest in their lives and shows genuine concern for their well-being.

- **Dr. Valerie L. Schrader**, assistant professor of communications, was the recipient of the 2014 Award for Excellence in Research or Creative Accomplishments. She published nine articles in peer reviewed journals, with a tenth article in press, four under submission, and more in progress. She was named Scholar of the Year in 2012 by the National States Advisory Council, and has received eight other awards for her scholarly efforts since 2009. Additionally, Dr. Schrader has been the presenter and author of more than twenty-five scholarly talks locally, regionally, and nationally, incorporating her scholarly expertise in a variety of Penn State development initiatives.
The 2014 Award for Excellence in Service was presented to Dr. Darcy L. Medica, associate professor of biology. Dr. Medica continuously enriches her students’ and colleagues’ experiences on campus through her service activities. She spearheads the Faculty Research Series, during which faculty present their research and research processes. And, under the leadership of faculty, students in the Penn State Schuylkill Honors Program were involved in research projects, a spring break trip to Boston, a theatre trip, and a debate, along with rigorous academic requirements for honors classes. Dr. Medica also engaged her honors students in presenting their research at the Undergraduate Research Day at the state capitol on March 11. Two honors students, Stacy Koperna and Harnoor Singh, presented their poster titled, “Why does tree-of-heaven produce toxic chemicals?” Students from colleges and universities across the Commonwealth presented their research and met with state legislators on the day of the event.

In addition, Dr. Medica serves as the program coordinator for the grant-funded Envision, Plan, Implement, Change, Sustain (EPICS) project to develop and implement a “living laboratory for sustainability” on campus. This project was made possible by the efforts and direction of Dr. Stephen Couch, director of Academic Affairs at Penn State Schuylkill. Dr. Couch was successful in receiving a $52,000 grant to fund a sustainability project on campus. The EPICS Project enables the campus to become a “living laboratory,” thus exploring several new initiatives, including the addition of a sustainability leadership minor, a credit certificate in sustainability, and the inclusion of sustainability issues in the first-year seminar.

Another semester highlight includes the appointing of a new faculty member, Dr. Marianne Adam. Dr. Adam is an assistant professor of Nursing and the program coordinator for the RN to B.S. in Nursing program. The accelerated RN to B.S. Nursing program will be broadcast from Penn State Schuylkill to both Penn State Berks and Penn State Brandywine in the fall. Dr. Adam is actively recruiting new students at all locations.

Emily R. Bear, a former Penn State Schuylkill student, was honored with the 2014 Penn State University Alumni Achievement Award. Ms. Bear has been a staff nurse for over seven years at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network in the Transitional Trauma Unit. She is extremely active in her profession and took a leave of absence in 2012-13 to spend eight weeks in Conakry, Guinea Africa volunteering aboard the African Mercy Ship.

The University’s fundraising campaign, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, surpassed its overall goal of $2 billion, thanks to the generosity of the University, alumni, and local communities. Penn State Schuylkill exceeded its goal of $4,000,000 and has already raised $4,675,877. This will be of great benefit for our students, many of whom are first generation college students with limited financial resources.
Events that are taking place in celebration of Penn State Schuylkill’s 80th anniversary include our **Speaker Series**. The first presentation was held on April 22 and featured Mr. Richard L. “Dick” Yuengling, Jr., who shared his professional journey with all those in attendance. The next event in this series will be on September 16 and will feature guest speaker, Thomas F. Twardzik, president of Ateeco, Inc. (Mrs. T’s Pierogies). Dr. Joseph Jurgielewicz, a local duck farmer, will offer his presentation on November 5.

Many other events are also scheduled throughout the year and will be showcased in subsequent reports. They include the **Women’s Wellness Conference** on August 16, **Homecoming** on October 11 and 12, and the **80th Anniversary Gala** on November 6.

The Penn State Schuylkill legacy of excellence lives on, enriching the lives of another generation of Penn State students. It is with great pride and respect that I present the spring 2014 Penn State Schuylkill Community Report.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chancellor
Penn State Schuylkill
SUCCESS IN ACADEMICS
Commencement exercises were held on May 10, 2014 for forty-six students who had completed all of their degree requirements. Students who officially graduated in fall 2013, and students expected to graduate in the summer of 2014, were also invited to participate in the ceremony. This year’s keynote speaker was Christian M. M. Brady, D.Phil, dean of the Schreyer’s Honors College at The Pennsylvania State University.

Faculty and students were recognized during the annual Honors Day program on April 23. Dr. Valerie Schrader received the 2014 Award for Excellence in Research or Creative Accomplishments, Dr. Nicole Andel received the 2014 Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Dr. Darcy Medica received the 2014 Award for Excellence in Service. Student awards included the President’s Freshman Award, the President Sparks Award, the Evan Pugh Scholar Award, academic program awards, Honors participation certificates, and Keystone Honor Society recognition. The campus community is extremely proud of the students and faculty for their academic achievements.

Honors and Undergraduate Research
The Penn State Schuylkill Honors Program has been very active this semester. During spring break, honors students participated in a tri-campus trip along with faculty and students from the Abington and Lehigh Valley campuses. Dr. Darcy Medica (Schuylkill), Dr. Jacqueline McLaughlin (Lehigh Valley), and Dr. Kathy Fadigan (Abington) travelled with thirteen Schuylkill students, two students from Abington, and three students from Lehigh Valley to Massachusetts to learn about historic Boston and tour several attractions. They first visited the New England Aquarium, and then went on to tour the Marine Biological Laboratory, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOi) in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where they were given a presentation on the effects of global climate change on the artic by WHOi researchers. They also attended a performance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra that included works by Mozart.

On return to Pennsylvania, the students attended the Undergraduate Research at the Capitol – Pennsylvania event in Harrisburg. Two Schuylkill students presented their poster on research that they conducted with campus faculty, and the group was able to speak to students from other areas of the state who were presenting their research. They also had the opportunity to meet their local state representatives. One of the students described the spring break trip as, “A wonderful learning experience that provided a unique opportunity to broaden my knowledge outside the traditional classroom. I was actively engaged throughout the trip as we visited Boston, Woods Hole, and Harrisburg.”

Students enrolled in the honors speech class taught by Valerie Schrader, assistant professor of communications, attended a performance of the Phantom of the Opera at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. The students have been learning about the musical this semester, and their assignment after the performance was to conduct a rhetorical analysis, resulting in a written report on the performance.
On April 29, honors students held a debate on the legalization of illegal drugs. The initiative was entirely student generated and directed. Students, faculty, staff, and the local community were invited to attend.

The Honors Program and the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Program co-sponsored the Second Annual Penn State Schuylkill Student Research and Creative Accomplishments Symposium on April 23. Students presented research that they had conducted with faculty, as well as honors projects that they had completed in their courses.

**EPICS**

Penn State University's Sustainability Institute recently announced the recipients of the Reinvention Fund grants. Penn State Schuylkill was awarded a grant of over $50,000 from the fund, which included $25,000 in support from the Office of the Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses. This project, known as *Envision, Plan, Implement, Change, Sustain (EPICS)*, will allow the entire campus to become a 'living laboratory for sustainability.'

The students presented this project at the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium (PERC) conference at Dickinson College on March 21. Penn State Schuylkill students, faculty, and staff have formed a Sustainability Council and Steering Committee. The committee will work closely with a community advisory board and Penn State advisory board, made up of faculty from other campuses, to design programs that will allow Penn State Schuylkill to be a model for campus sustainability. The program officially began at a kickoff event on April 21, and a number of events and initiatives will take place during the fall 2014 semester to educate the campus and local community on sustainability.

**Faculty and Staff Achievements**

Marianne T. Adam joined the Penn State Schuylkill faculty as assistant professor of Nursing and coordinator of the RN to B.S. in Nursing program. She has led efforts to expand Schuylkill’s delivery of the accelerated RN to B.S. in Nursing to include the Berks and Brandywine campuses.

Faculty continue to collaborate and publish their research.


Can, S. H. and Hendy, H. M. “Types of police stressors, negative outcomes associated with them, and coping mechanisms that may reduce these associations.” Manuscript submitted to *Criminal Justice and Behavior.*


Joseph, L. J., Can, S. H., and Hendy, H. M. “Gay-specific stressors, negative outcomes associated with them, and coping behaviors that may reduce them for gay men and lesbian women.” Submitted.

Dr. S. Hakan Can received a Certificate of Appreciation from the International Association of Chief of Police (IACP), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for his presentation on a panel on Training Solutions for Effective Corruption Control. He also presented at the American Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference, Aftermath Boston Marathon Bombing in Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Criminal Justice Educators Annual Conference in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Can contributed professional service by reviewing, "The Decision Process: Police Officers' Search for Information in Dispute Encounters," for Policing: an International Journal of Police Strategies & Management. In addition, he sat on the dissertation or thesis committees of four students:

- Gokhan Ikitemur, Governor from Turkey; Dissertation committee member at UT Dallas
- Turgay Karagoz, Captain from Turkish Police; Thesis committee member, Penn State Harrisburg
- Levent Apaydin, Captain from Turkish Army; Thesis committee chair, Penn State Harrisburg
- Hamdi Saat, Captain from Turkish Police; Thesis committee member, Penn State Harrisburg

Dr. Can’s professional development included attending a workshop at University Park titled, “Teaching with Technology.”

Dr. Cantalupo’s other activities this semester include: his participation in a poetry reading at Bowery Arts + Science, aka The Bowery Poetry Club in New York, New York, on December 8, with Aracelis Girmay and Meena Alexander; he was the featured reader at a poetry reading held at All Things Good in Pottsville, Pennsylvania on April 26 during the 8th annual "Block of Art" celebration; and, his book, Joining Africa — From Anthills to Asmara (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2012), is now available as a Redwood audiobook (http://www.audible.com.au/pd/Biographies-Memoirs/Joining-Africa-Audiobook/B00HCNW3IA).

**Dr. Stephen R. Couch** wrote a grant that was awarded $52,000 by Penn State’s Sustainability Institute, titled “EPICS: Penn State Schuylkill as a Living Laboratory for Sustainability.”

Spring music! Under the moniker 291, **W. Keith Duffy**’s latest EP-length, RDG-funded recording, “Compatible Memory Wafers,” has been licensed for digital distribution by F4T Music. The six-year-old label, founded by Mattias de Barberin, is headquartered in France and is well-known for producing and releasing cutting edge sounds in the genres of Dubstep, Techno, Ambient and Experimental music. The collection of tracks, realized with long-time collaborator and guitarist Rob Byrd, is available through multiple venues for digital download.

**Cathy Fiorillo** directed the Penn State Schuylkill Nittany Players for their annual theatre production. This year’s musical was The Wedding Singer. The cast and crew performed four successful shows to the campus and local community, utilizing the new sound and lighting systems, as well as upgraded seating in the recently renovated John E. Morgan Auditorium.

Mrs. Fiorillo chairs the Student and Professional Development Committee, which supported programs like Career Panel Night and the 80th Anniversary Speakers Series. She continues to develop her personal acting career as she has appeared in a Rite Aid internal training video playing a patient with medical concerns for her elderly mother, and also on QVC for Philosophy Skin Care. Her professional development activities include acting and voice over classes in New York City every Saturday with casting directors and agents.

**Dr. Michael R. Gallis** presented the poster, "Simulating Simple Roller Coaster Physics for Animation and Interactive Applets," at the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) that was held January 4 to 7 in Orlando, Florida. He also represented the Central Pennsylvania Section as the section representative at the AAPT Council as part of this national meeting.

In addition, he presented, "Doceri in the Physics Classroom," at the annual meeting of the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (CPS-AAPT) in Dallas, Pennsylvania on March 21 and 22. He continues to serve on the CPS-AAPT executive board as section representative to the national organization.
In the community, Dr. Gallis was a science fair judge at Minersville and Saint Ambrose Elementary Schools. He also presented a physics demonstration at Saint Ambrose during spring break.

**Dr. Peter R. Grahame**, was co-organizer, presider, and discussant at the Mini-Conference on Institutional Ethnography (3 paper panels), at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Baltimore, Maryland on February 21.

**Dr. Hartmut Heep's** article, “Catholicism and Machismo: The Impact of Religion on Hispanic Gender Identity,” was accepted by the Cultural and Religious Studies Journal. Another article, “Crime and Race: A cross-disciplinary analysis of Hispanic males and criminality,” (with co-author Dr. Pam Black), was submitted to the journal Sociology Study.

Dr. Heep delivered a paper, ”Teaching the Holocaust as Contextualized and Contextualized Lessons,” at the 33rd International Holocaust conference, Millersville University, Millersville, Pennsylvania. He also organized Men’s Studies sessions at the Popular Culture Conference in Chicago, and presented a scholarly paper, ”'Blurred Lines': R. Thicke’s desire for pre-fall sexuality.”

As chair of the Diversity Council, Dr. Heep co-sponsored a showing of the movie Out in the Silence, and a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC. In addition, he received a nomination for the Penn State Schuylkill 2014 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Dr. Helen M. Hendy** has an article in press, in addition to her articles that are currently in press and print with her colleagues:


**Dr. Darcy Medica, Dr. Elinor Madigan**, and **Mr. Jason Reuscher** presented at the Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium at University Park on March 22. The title of the presentation was, “The development of mobile applications for use in biology courses - A multidisciplinary approach.” Mobile apps that were developed by Penn State Schuylkill Information Science and Technology students for use in biology courses were described. The students were involved in the entire process - from requirements gathering, through development and testing the effectiveness of the apps in student learning.

Drs. Madigan and Medica presented a paper titled, “Development of mobile learning applications: Coordinating faculty and students in ITS and biology departments at two Penn State campuses,” at the Appalachian Summit on Service Learning Pedagogy and Practice that was held at Carson-Newman University in Jefferson City, Tennessee on February 1.
Dr. Valerie L. Schrader had the article, “Friends ‘For Good:’ Wicked: A New Musical and the Idealization of Friendship,” published in the Communication and Theatre Association of Minnesota Journal. It can be accessed online at http://www.mnsu.edu/cmst/ctam/ctamj/CTAMJ2013.pdf. She also presented the paper, “Analyzing a Performatve Text through Cluster Criticism: Hegemony in the Musical Wicked as a Case Study,” at the Eastern Communication Association Convention in Providence, Rhode Island in April. The paper was named a Top Four Competitive Paper in the Kenneth Burke Interest Group. Furthermore, Dr. Schrader is currently co-program-planning the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group of ECA for the convention this year, and she organized the Penn State Schuylkill Persuasive Speech Contest that was held on May 1.


On March 5, another crystal structure paper was submitted to Acta Crystallogr., Sect. E: Struct. Rep. Online and is currently under review. (H.P. Yennawar, J. Tierney, and L.J. Silverberg, “2,3-diphenyl-1,3-thiazolidin-4-one”).

As the assistant coordinator for the 2014 Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments Program, Dr. Silverberg participated in coordinating the Penn State Schuylkill Undergraduate Research and Creative Accomplishments Symposium that was held April 23.

Dr. Jeffrey A. Stone authored a paper titled, "Implementing State-Level Technological Literacy Policy in Rural Pennsylvania," which was published in the Journal of Community Informatics in January 2014. Dr. Stone is currently working with the Pottsville Area School District on a multi-year project to evaluate the effectiveness of using iPads with elementary school students.

**Mr. John Williams** is developing a statistics (STAT 200) hybrid course, which combines in-class lectures and problem sessions with web-based technologies. It will include online lectures, online graphical calculator tutorials, both online homework using WEBWORKS and book homework to be reviewed during class lectures, an online course web site to allow students to blog questions, access tutorials, and review weekly tasks between classes, and the use of MINITAB for large data sets.

Students will review online lectures and tutorials before class. Then they will use class to review homework problems, use MINITAB, ask questions, and take tests. In addition, the students will have to review one research article in their fields of study and write a summary of the study as a final project.

**Community Educational Programming**

The Continuing Education department provided several non-credit programs this spring. In addition, the department provides assistance with the RN to B.S. in Nursing credit program, including both the traditional format and the Friday accelerated program, offered simultaneously at Schuylkill and Berks using video teleconferencing (VTC).

Nineteen students from local high schools attended the spring SAT prep classes. As part of the course, students completed pre and post SAT practice exams. Instructors worked with the students over six weeks on test taking strategies, as well as skills in math, reading, and writing. Additionally, five students participated in a pilot program of an online version of the SAT prep program that provides students with access to online materials for five months. If this is successful, the program will be offered to other students as well.

Twenty-six students from six Penn State campuses participated in the Personal Care Home Administrator (PCHA) 100 hour training program. Penn State Schuylkill served as the host campus and broadcast the training to the other sites. Several individuals attended select sessions for professional development.

Two Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Days were held this spring. On April 5, students from the 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool programs at Minersville, North Schuylkill, Pottsville Area, and Williams Valley school districts participated in the day’s activities. The program was supported by a grant that is administered through the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. The second STEM day was held on May 9 for area high school juniors and funding for this event came from a $2000 grant from the Benevolent Association of Pottsville.
Penn State Schuylkill faculty who provided the hands-on activities included:

**Dr. Michael Gallis** welcomed the children at the beginning of the day, and encouraged them to consider a STEM related career. His presentation, *Sound science*, was a series of hands-on activities where students explored the physics of waves and sound. They learned about how science is behind the operation of many musical instruments by measuring properties of the sound waves that are produced by the instrument. Students also determined the speed of sound from their measurement data and took home a musical instrument.

**Dr. Rod Heisey** and **Dr. Darcy Medica** presented *Living things under the microscope and in your hand* where students were able to observe a diversity of living organisms, some of which were microscopic, and others which were large enough to see with the naked eye. The tarantula was a big hit!

**Dr. Elinor Madigan** presented *Scratch*, a program created at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) that enables students to create video games. Even the teachers who accompanied the students enjoyed this introduction to computer programming!

**Ms. Nancy Schorschinsky** and **Dr. Toghara Azizi-Babane** presented *Dihydrogen monoxide- the strange chemical you can't live without!* Students spent time in the lab looking at this chemical, beginning at the particulate level through one of its characteristics, and its behavior as a gas. A combination of demonstrations and exercises were used to trace the uniqueness of this chemical to its molecular structure.

Information for upcoming programs is available to the public. The 2014 *Kid's College* brochures have been delivered to the local school districts, and registrations are starting to come in. The brochure was redesigned this year to include a full-size poster that the kids can hang on their wall at home. *The Introduction to Brewing Science and Practice Certificate* was approved and plans are underway to schedule the first session.

**Academic Advising and the Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS)**
The newly combined Advising and Learning Centers continued to experience success in collaborative endeavors for the past quarter. For the spring 2014 semester, the Advising Center has had 992 one-on-one contacts and has served close to 70% of the student population.

In addition, the number of outreach programs that were conducted outside of the center has increased. Students seem to be more receptive to seeking assistance from either facet since the source is more easily accessible.
An **Entrance to Major (ETM) Reminder Station** was setup in the lobby of the Student Community Center on January 29. The goal of this event was to remind students about completing the ETM process through eLion and to troubleshoot any problems or concerns they may have had regarding the process.

Academic advisers led an informational session in the EDPSY 014 class on February 4. This class is primarily made up of students that are bound for education majors in the University. The advisers explained the process of becoming an education major at Penn State and what is required of students that have selected an education major as their degree choice. Darlene Young also presented a workshop titled, “Learning Styles,” to this group in February. Students were able to identify their own personal style, and encouraged to identify styles of their prospective students. Specific modules to aid in learning to the particular style were then presented.

In an effort to encourage students to remain at Penn State Schuylkill to complete their degrees, the Academic Advising Center, in partnership with the degree program coordinators, held a **Major-Go-Round** event in the Student Community Center on February 12. This event enabled our students to have a discussion with a faculty member about degree programs that are offered on campus. The Academic Advising Center, Learning Center, Career Services, and a representative from Penn State Harrisburg’s graduate programs were also present. Students roamed across informational tables to seek answers to questions they had regarding their futures at Penn State Schuylkill.

From March 3 -21, the Academic Advising Center conducted walk-up advising in the lobby of the Student Community Center, and drop-in advising in the Academic Advising Center. This allowed students to have access to an adviser during times and locations that were convenient for their hectic schedules. Walk-in and drop-in advising was extremely successful and will be continued in fall 2014.

**A Scheduling Frenzy** was held on March 19 in the lobby of the Student Community Center. This gave students the opportunity to schedule their educational planning appointment with their professional adviser for the upcoming fall 2014 semester.

The Learning Center was featured in a radio commercial that was recorded for the local radio station in January to assist with recruitment efforts. This initiative was to make the public aware of the added benefits they would receive as a Penn State Schuylkill student, as well as to ease any apprehensions that a potential applicant may have about whether they could be successful if they chose to apply.

Twelve new tutors were hired for the spring semester in order to fulfill the demand for individual tutoring requests. The tutors were trained prior to the start of spring classes and ready to take appointments on the first day. Their training included topics such as diversity, learning styles, safety, and learning disabilities. In addition, guest speakers presented weekly for a month to enhance the tutors' preparedness in their position.
In the fall, the center launched a new program for varsity athletes called the **Athletic Academic Achievers**. Students were encouraged to participate in study halls in the Learning Center and respond to emails regarding their academic struggles. This program was a huge success. All student athletes were eligible to play for the entire season of each sport due to the constant source of academic support by the Learning Center and the athletic director, John Cooper.

The professional tutors in the learning center provided specialized lectures for the first-year seminars that were focused on math, research, and study skills. Students were receptive and willing to participate in the given activities.

**Academic Events**

The **Annual Persuasive Speech Contest** was held on May 1. Students were chosen from the spring public speaking classes to present his or her persuasive speech to a panel of three judges from the local community: Mr. Henry Nice, *Republican Herald*; Mr. John Powers, Pottsville Broadcasting Company; and Mr. Bob Reynolds, WNEP-TV.

The overall winner was Julia Schuller, and her speech was titled, “Revenge Pornography.” Her speech enlightened the audience to the problem of revenge pornography, and then proposed a solution by urging lawmakers to pass laws that would punish those who commit this act. Julia plans on majoring in corporate communication.

Second place went to Edward Brennan for his speech, “Pay as You Weigh,” which was about airline fees for obese passengers. Third place went to Carlos Rivera for his presentation on "Life Giving Death" that attempted to persuade the audience to choose a green burial.

The **Faculty Research Series** highlighted the research of three faculty members: Ms. Bim Angst, “Leaping narrative edges – A story, flash, poems”; Dr. Steve Andelin, “The rise and decline of anthracite production”; and Dr. Toghara Azizi-Babane, “Biology and management of the Red Imported Fire Ant (Solenopsis invicta).”

**A Film Music Workshop** was conducted on April 30 and May 1 that featured academic presentations and a full-length concert of film music. The workshop was part of the ongoing celebration of the campus’s 80th anniversary, and focused on the contributions made to film music by natives of Schuylkill County. Topics of particular interest included, “1934 – A Year in Review” (coinciding with the year of Penn State Schuylkill’s founding); “Victor Who?,” a look at the incredible life, art and influence of Mahanoy City native Victor Schertzinger, one of the most significant pioneers in the Hollywood film industry; and “The Film Music Process – A Detailed Look at the Making of a Film Soundtrack.”

Presenters were Cynthia Lucia, professor of English and director of the film and media studies program at Rider University; Gary Nesteruk, prominent Los Angeles studio musician; and Dr. Paul W. Miller, assistant professor of music and humanities at Penn State Schuylkill.
The Religious and Philosophical Forum continues to be a popular event with the local community. The three presentations this semester were: “Philosophical reflections on religion and science,” by Dr. Donald C. Lindenmuth, assistant professor of philosophy at Penn State Schuylkill; “Evolution and biblical scripture,” by Dr. Kenneth Miller, professor of Christian theology, Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown, Pennsylvania; and “Why history matters: Debunking the “Warfare” view of science and religion,” by Dr. Edward B. David, Distinguished Professor of the history of science, Messiah College, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

RECRUITMENT EFFORTS
The focus of the admissions office for the spring 2014 semester was to continue to recruit and build the fall 2014 incoming class. Numbers continue to increase over last year’s class with a five percent increase in applications, a one percent increase in the number of offers of admission to the campus, and a six percent increase in the number of students who have accepted their offers.

There are several notable areas of growth in the current fall 2014 numbers. The number of students that have been accepted for baccalaureate degree programs has increased twenty percent. In addition, there has been a rise in the number of out-of-state students who have accepted their offer of admission. Currently, twenty-three out-of-state students have accepted, which is a ninety-two percent increase over last year. Students from the local service area continue to make up a large part of our incoming class. Forty-eight percent of the deposits accepted for fall 2014 admission are local students.

The admissions team continued with their aggressive recruitment efforts for the fall 2014 class, while also targeting the fall 2015 class. Recruitment activities this semester include campus visits, evening hours, Saturday @ Schuylkill visits, Lion for Day, large group visits open houses, high school visits, college fairs (local, out-of-area, and national), University accepted student programs, and University prospective student programs.

The admissions office staff personally assisted approximately one hundred students during Wednesday evening hours, Saturday @ Schuylkill programs, and the Lion for a Day programs (extended daily visits with academic experience).

In addition, there were several large group campus visits this semester. Blue Mountain, Pottsville, and Minersville high schools contacted the admissions office to bring their Your Employability Skills (YES) groups to campus for a visit. There were approximately 135 local students that participated in an admissions presentation and a campus tour. All of these students also received an application fee waiver for Penn State Schuylkill.
The enrollment services team hosted two open house programs in March and April for accepted students. At the March 22 open house, there was a newly developed agenda structure that allowed for increased faculty and staff participation. A free bus was offered for students and families travelling from New York City and northern New Jersey. With a total of 193 guests, this event was the largest open house on the campus since 2011. The second open house on April 26 utilized the same agenda structure and hosted 133 guests. A free bus was offered for students and families coming from the Philadelphia area.

In addition to on-campus recruitment events, the admissions team also had an aggressive off-campus recruitment schedule during the spring 2014 semester. The team represented the campus at twenty University sponsored programs, forty-one high school visits and college fairs, and eight national college fairs. This recruitment travel took place in the local service areas of Philadelphia, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and California in order to build both the fall 2014 and fall 2015 incoming classes.

The admissions office hosted a group of staff members from the Undergraduate Admissions Office at University Park on March 18. This is an annual visit is meant to provide increased awareness and first-hand experience with various commonwealth campus locations. The three staff members assigned to our campus this year took a tour of campus with the campus Lion Ambassadors, did an experiment with science students in the new biology lab, and had a roundtable discussion with Schuylkill admissions staff on campus offerings.

Financial Aid

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2014-2015 academic year became available on January 1. The main focus of the financial aid office during the spring 2014 semester has been to work with new and current students at both on and off-campus workshops on how and when to file this form.

On campus, the financial aid team visited the First-Year Seminar classes and delivered a financial aid presentation. In addition, the team held an annual FAFSA completion night on campus. This event was open to both new and current students and allowed students and families to sit down with a financial aid representative to go through the online form with the help of a professional. Thirty people attended this event. In addition, the financial aid office held one-on-one appointments with any new or current students interested in obtaining assistance with filing their FAFSA.

Off-campus, the team visited three local high schools, North Schuylkill, Minersville, and Pottsville, to provide a FAFSA or Financial Aid Information night.

The recommended FAFSA filing date for new students was March 1, and for current students the recommended filing date was May 1. Financial aid awarding for new students began in late March. Many new students and their families are now working with the financial aid office with questions about their financial aid awards. Current students will receive their financial aid awards in mid-June.
Recruitment and Promotion through University Relations

Efforts to showcase events and promote the campus continued this spring with the 80th Anniversary celebration kick-off event that was held on January 30. The campus and local community were invited to commemorate the eighty-year partnership with the Schuylkill County community and enjoy some specially-made “Skookies” and “Skookie Cupcakes.”

Part of the year-long anniversary celebration includes a Speaker Series that invited local business leaders to the campus to share their personal stories. On April 22, the first speaker, Mr. Richard L. “Dick” Yuengling, Jr., president and owner of D. G. Yuengling and Son, Inc., addressed over 200 attendees as he spoke about the history of his company, the obstacles that he has faced over the years, and how he continues to develop new markets. A reception was held prior to the event that included campus Honors students. The students mingled with Mr. Yuengling and asked him for advice on how they can be successful.

Dr. Eric J. Barron, president-elect for The Pennsylvania State University, visited the campus on May 1. He was accompanied by his wife, Molly, and Dr. Madlyn Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth campuses, and they spent the day meeting with students, faculty, staff, and the campus advisory board. Dr. Barron assumed his position as the 18th president of the University on May 12.

Marketing and Enrollment Services continue to collaborate on projects to increase campus enrollment. New campus e-tours are being developed that will highlight all of the recent upgrades to the campus. In addition, student photo sessions have been completed to create marketing pieces that will tell stories about current and former students, and new designs for recruitment publications are being developed.

To assist with retention efforts, publications for Academic Advising and the Learning Center are being updated, and current Recommended Academic Plans are being published on the website.

The website is a continuous work-in-progress as new events are updated daily. Accessibility issues are being addressed in order to ensure that the pages are in compliance with the standards for websites and web services from policy AD69. Training for all editors in each department will be conducted early in the summer in order to meet the University’s October 15 deadline.

The campus continues to increase its presence on social media, with the number of followers doubling over the past eighteen months. One staff member from every department on campus was granted administrative rights on all social media accounts in order to ensure the highest level of exposure. iPod raffles at open houses continue to be successful in increasing prospective student and parent followers.
A new text messaging system was implemented this academic year that allowed students to “opt-in” to receive news and information from several departments on campus. The messages inform students of upcoming campus events, as well as academic and financial deadlines.

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
Student Activities
Bright skies and a flurry of activities ushered in spring! New programming, paired with old favorites, provided students with plenty of activities to enjoy. As a start to the semester, Student Affairs introduced a new series that became a favorite of the community and the student body. Movie Mondays was a monthly showcase of current films such as, 12 Years a Slave and The Book Thief. More than thirty staff, students, and local community members gathered to view the movies and then participate in a discussion. Due to its success, the series will continue in the upcoming fall semester.

The Blockhouse and Mid-Day Music continue to be strong monthly artistic avenues. Both events have become recognizable to the students and spark crowds of fifty or more.

In an effort to acclimate students to other Penn State campuses, multiple trips to University Park were arranged that included: concerts, basketball games, tours, and adviser meetings. These trips were intended to prepare two-plus-two students that will be making University Park their home in the fall. In February, students were able to tour Penn State Harrisburg, another popular transition for many of our students. The students who often blindly switch campuses were appreciative of the exposure. Students also visited Penn State Berks to attend a collaborative viewing of the play Blood at the Root. The play, a commissioned production from University Park, toured Commonwealth campuses early in the semester before finishing at State College.

Women in Leadership Development, a campus club in its second year, teamed up with the Office of Student Affairs to offer the Vagina Monologues and its companion documentary, Until the Violence Stops on March 19. The presentation focuses on empowering females and educating the audience on violence against women. The event was well attended, and club members were able to make a donation to Schuylkill Women in Crisis that was more than double the amount raised last year.

The Bunny Trail of Treats hosted more than 300 local families on April 6, the largest community event of the semester. Families were excited to spend the afternoon with our students and clubs as they participated in a variety of activities while receiving plenty of treats! The event received many positive comments and thanks from the community members that were in attendance.
The highlighted day trip for the semester was to Washington DC on Easter Sunday. As an extension of a current class, students visited the Holocaust Museum. The remainder of the trip was spent exploring the district. It was a perfect day to walk around, and over thirty students enjoyed the museum and additional educational and historic structures that the city has to offer.

On May 1, Student Affairs presented its first annual **Campus Life Awards Ceremony**. The event was a perfect closing to a full year, as thirteen awards were presented to students, staff, and faculty. Awards such as Volunteer of the Year, Staff Service Award, the Unsung Hero Award, the Student Government Association Faculty Award, and Club Adviser of the Year were among those presented. All recipients were chosen after receiving nominations from campus constituents.

Penn State Schuylkill was represented by Chancellor Kelly M. Austin and Gabriel Rohrberg, Student Government Association president, at a roundtable discussion that was hosted by **United States Representative Matt Cartwright** (D-17th District) on April 25 at Wilkes University.

The roundtable was a great opportunity for both administrators and students to share their insights on a wide range of topics such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; student loans; job opportunities for graduates; veteran’s educational opportunities; and President Barack Obama’s proposed rating system for colleges.

In addition, Cartwright shared his thoughts on the educational priorities of access, affordability, and the importance of post-secondary education. He sought feedback on the importance of Pell grants for students since there currently is serious discussion in Congress on the elimination of these grants.

**Earth Day** was celebrated this year with events that were sponsored by the new student-run Sustainability Club and the EPICS Sustainability Program. On April 21 there was a showing of the movie, *Dr. Seuss' the Lorax*, and attendees participated in environmentally-friendly crafts. The annual **Eco-Fair** was held on April 24 and hosted local companies and organizations that are working to preserve the environment.

**Residence Life**
Residence Life sponsored spring training for the current resident assistant staff that promoted academic and personal development, communication, community building, crisis management, ethics and role modeling, and conflict mediation. This became a positive start for the semester that was expanded and further developed throughout the semester.
The first **National Hug Day** was held on January 22 to promote an awareness of anti-bullying among students. The event was held in the lobby of the Student Community Center where everyone was welcome to receive a hug from the Nittany Lion, a book mark that endorsed the Penn State Principles of respect and social and personal responsibility as an individual, a teal colored wrist band, and candy. Over one hundred and forty students received the “educational program in-a-bag.”

On January 31, all campus students of Chinese descent were joined by many other resident students to celebrate the **Year of the Horse** with craft projects, traditional Chinese dumplings and tea, and a popular movie that was shown with subtitles.

Residence Life introduced the **Real Life/Real Talk Series** this spring. Students participated in several highly attended programs, each covering a different popular topic for discussion and chance to share viewpoints.

On January 24, students attended **Hookup Culture: Dead or Alive?**, which is a presentation and interactive discussion exploring the social and health consequences associated with entering into relationships during college. Another program was **Forever Twenty-one Birthday Party**. Most students anticipate celebrating their 21st birthday by legally drinking and partying. Statistics show that students begin drinking before the legal age of twenty-one, starting while in college. They have no idea when to stop, when they are not capable of driving, that they are at risk for alcohol poisoning and death, engaging in unsafe sex, and at risk for sexual assault. This alcohol education workshop, presented by Cece Boran, focused on the importance of knowing the Blood Alcohol Level (BAC), living high (healthy activities for wellness of mind and body), and was followed by a celebration with mocktails and a birthday cake that read "Happy NEXT Birthday." Students were given a champagne glass filled with candy and a BAC Guide.

On February 26, students attended **Black Enough? Exploring Colorism in the Black Community** featuring a video presentation that included interviews conducted with students by the student group, Men of Excellence. Following the presentation, they discussed the issues of skin pigmentation and race.

On February 27, students attended a showing of **The "N" Word**, which featured a speech by guest Veleashia Smith on the history and use of the “N” word, followed by a discussion with members of the campus and local community. On March 28, students attended **Who Runs the World? Girls!**, which featured an activity and discussion of the role and treatment of women in society.

On April 24, students attended a program and video presentation entitled, **Why Are You So DIFFERENT**, which featured various scenes by students and followed with a discussion on diversity and inclusion on campus.

On February 22, students attended **Sista's: the Musical**, at St. Luke's Theater. This sponsored day trip to New York offered a chance for students to see the musical that features the experiences and historical accounts of black women throughout history.
Twice this semester, Residence Life, the campus community, and local community members came together for an evening of food, fellowship, and discussion. The Poor Man’s Dinner, a themed dinner in celebration of Black History Month, was held on February 28. This culturally significant event is titled in honor of poor African American communities where everyone would gather for a dinner of what was available to them in celebrating special occasions. These dinners usually consisted of rice and beans and cornbread with honey or molasses, biscuits and gravy, greens or cabbage, sweet tea or lemonade. Occasionally, a pound cake or pie and fried chicken would appear. The joy in the dinner was, “We may be poor but we can have a good meal and enjoy each other’s company!” The noted speakers were Ontario Armstrong and Clifton Wilson who shared the obstacles they have overcome, and challenges in creating their men’s accessory line. Today their clients include notable sports figures and the popular morning host and weather man Al Roker. They gave specific attention to getting unstuck, staying positive and humble, and why procrastination is dangerous when it comes to setting and achieving goals for life and achieving your purpose.

Students are still talking about the 21st Century History Maker dinner where speaker Shadae Holland gave an inspiring talk to students and community members as we celebrated Women’s History Month. Over sixty attendees dined and listened to the gifted orator discuss her life and being HIV positive.

Students also spent the semester creating an array of crafts during monthly craft nights and participating in game nights, frozen yogurt day, and other themed days and events. Overall, the semester created a buzzing atmosphere of exploration and discovery into new activities and rejuvenated old ones.

Community Service
Students, faculty, and staff have completed an amazing 10,000 hours of community service over the course of the 2013-2014 academic year.

During National Volunteer Week, students volunteered and participated in the following activities in the local community:

- dog walking and general cleaning duties at the Hillside Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- assisted with the distribution of registration materials to people participating in the Yuengling Lager Jogger on April 12
- completed a clean-up in collaboration with the Schuylkill Headwaters Association
- attended an info session on an alternative spring break trip to Honduras

In collaboration with the athletics department, students volunteered to go to the Intermediate Unit 29 in Marlin, Pennsylvania, to play basketball in the annual Special Olympics game. This is the third year the students have participated in this event because they truly enjoy seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces as they defeat the college students at the end of the game.
Thirty-five Criminal Justice Club students participated in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event for Schuylkill Women in Crisis. The group raised over $300 for local victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and also won the award for largest group represented!

Students went to Rest Haven, a nursing home that is adjacent to the campus, to play BINGO with the residents. They also completed a clean-up at the Bartrum Trail and collected sweats and pajamas for Schuylkill Women in Crisis.

Schuylkill THON had a tremendous year, raising over $56,000 for the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon that benefits the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center and the fight against pediatric cancer. Winn Allen, Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, Delisa Williams, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Alex Frantz, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, participated as dancers in the 46-hour no-sitting event, and dozens of students from the campus attended to support the dancers and the program.

Winn Allen, a junior business student, has been chosen as the new chair for the 2014-15 academic year.

Career Services
On March 24, the Student Professional Development Committee planned and implemented a well-attended career panel with local business people and alumni to discuss career possibilities from a wide variety of fields including: nursing; law; criminal justice; information, science, and technology; business; and psychology.

On March 26, career services and the Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society co-sponsored the Business Etiquette Dinner. Sixty students, faculty, staff, and community business partners were in attendances, including business partners from Olympus America and the Federal Correctional Institution, Schuylkill. Companies who sponsored the event and sent representatives included Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Dunkin Donuts, Kiefer Investment Services, Lowe’s Regional Distribution Center, and Mike Catino and Associates. The speaker was Mike True, director of the Internship Center at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, where he has been working in the field of internships for over twenty-three years. In 1995, he began Internship-Net, an internet listserv now serving over 1,000 internship professionals throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. For employers, he compiled a free booklet entitled, Starting and Maintaining A Quality Internship Program, which is currently being used by hundreds of colleges, universities, employers, and chambers of commerce across the United States and internationally. For student interns, he created the website, InternQube.com, which Forbes Magazine has chosen as one of the “Top 100 Websites for Your Career.” He also wrote a companion book, InternQube: Professional Skills for the Workplace.

Ten students traveled to the Northeast Leadership Conference at Split Rock resort on April 4 and 5 to continue to enhance their leadership skills. The conference was developed and implemented by Penn State staff throughout the North East Alliance.
On April 16, the first induction ceremony of the Schuylkill Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) took place with eleven students being inducted. Three faculty members were selected by the NSLS students for their excellence in teaching: Ron Kelly, Administration of Justice; Dr. Charlie Law, Psychology; and Nathan Fidler, mathematics. Most recently, Bryan Underkoffler, NSLS President, was selected to the National Student President Advisory Board for the 2014-2015 academic year. Bryan was selected, out of over 200 student presidents, to contribute his invaluable insight that will enable the NSLS to continue progress in building leaders. Congratulations Bryan!

Counseling Services
Students continue to utilize the resources in the counseling office. With over 730 psychotherapy sessions this academic year, students are able to access and benefit from this invaluable service.

Penn State Schuylkill is the first, and only Penn State campus, to have the online suicide risk assessment tool that is linked directly to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The assessment is essential in continuum of care and in recognizing high risk students. Follow-up intervention is completed with any student who presents as high risk.

Health Services
The February Blood Drive was another success. Over 115 participants, including faculty, staff, students, and members of the community participated in the event. Monies were donated to THON by the American Red Cross, and 82 productive units of blood were realized. Many lives were potentially saved that day.

Health Services administered close to 200 free flu shots to the campus community this semester. The vaccine was provided through funding from the Schuylkill County Immunization Coalition and Schuylkill County Vision.

The department participated in a county-wide health fair that was hosted in Schuylkill Haven. Close to 300 community members were able to learn about topics like germ transmission and proper hand washing techniques.

Health services presented several healthy conversation programs to the students, including: Drinking and Driving, Healthy Sexual Choices, Healthy Eating Choices, and Diversity in Today’s World. A Heart Healthy Talk that focused on stroke and its consequences was presented to faculty and staff.

Sign-ups are open for all employees to register for Adult CPR/AED classes that will be held on May 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in room 100 of the Classroom Building. Faculty and staff can sign-up with Heath Matters on the human resources page. There is a $5 charge for the course.

Athletics
Women's and men's basketball are excited about the new recruits that are coming to the campus for next year.
Intramural basketball had a successful season and indoor co-ed soccer has become a very popular winter activity.

Women’s softball was competitive and competed for a playoff spot. The highlight of the season was their first win over Penn State Beaver in approximately eight years.

Baseball had a very successful inaugural year in the PSUAC Conference by making the playoffs as the fifth seed, winning their first playoff game 7-4 over Penn State York, and having eventual champ, Penn State Greater Allegheny on the ropes before losing 4-3.

Several athletes were recognized by the United State Collegiate Athletic Association. For Men’s Baseball, Bryan Dimon received 2nd Team All American and Chris Kreider and Ryan Boyer received Honorable Mentions. In Women's Softball, Molly Carduff made Academic All-American.

A year-end spaghetti dinner was held on May 7 to honor the campus men’s and women’s basketball, women’s softball, men’s baseball team members, and cheerleaders.

**ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY**

**Development**

The most significant fundraising effort in Penn State’s history, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, has surpassed its goal, raising $2.158 billion in private support. Penn State is one of only twelve public universities in the nation to have ever exceeded a $2 billion campaign goal, receiving support from 167,500 alumni, the most alumni donors to any campaign in the country. *Penn State Schuylkill* has also exceeded its goal of $4,000,000 and raised $4,675,877 in support of *For the Future* at the campus. More than 603,000 donors made more than 2.1 million gifts to the historic University-wide effort, including approximately $519 million pledged for undergraduate student scholarships, the top priority of the campaign. While the campaign will continue until June 30, Penn State celebrated its success on April 12 with activities at University Park. The campaign’s total donor figure is almost double the number of contributors to Penn State’s previous fundraising effort, *A Grand Destiny*, which lasted from 1996 to 2003 and raised nearly $1.4 billion. Penn State alumni have committed more than $879 million to *For the Future*. Penn State faculty and staff have also been important contributors to the campaign, surpassing their campaign goal and providing $61 million in support.
“The success of *For the Future* clearly demonstrates that Penn State is stronger than ever and that Penn State values endure,” Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Rodney P. Kirsch said. “Giving back is a fundamental part of who Penn Staters are as a community. In fact, this spirit of caring, generosity and volunteerism defines the Penn State family. The campaign’s focus on how philanthropic support enhances every aspect of the student experience resonated deeply with our donors as they firmly stood by our students during an extraordinarily challenging time in our history. An institution that receives support from so many alumni, friends, organizations, faculty, and staff is a very special place, indeed.”

More than 91,000 new individual scholarships and awards were distributed to students across Penn State during the course of the campaign. Among the recipients of these scholarships are more than 16,000 individuals who are the first generation in their families to attend college.

“As a first-generation college student, I understand the exceptional opportunity a Penn State education provides,” Penn State alumnus and *For the Future* Campaign Chair Peter G. Tombros said. “Helping students to earn their degrees is not only an investment in their futures, but also in the future of our society. On behalf of every student and family whose lives will be changed because of scholarship support, I want to thank our donors for rallying behind this crucial priority and carrying on the Penn State tradition of giving back. The success of *For the Future* deepens the culture of philanthropy at Penn State and leaves me optimistic for the future of our institution. Today, I am prouder than ever to be a Penn Stater.”

Since its launch on January 1, 2007, the *For the Future* campaign has been directed toward a shared vision of Penn State as the most comprehensive, student-centered research university in America. The University has engaged Penn State’s alumni and friends as partners in achieving six key objectives: ensuring access and opportunity for students from every economic background, enhancing honors education and encouraging innovation across the curriculum, enriching the experiences of students beyond the classroom and preparing them for global leadership, building faculty strength and capacity through support for dedicated teachers and scholars, fostering discovery and creativity through interdisciplinary research initiatives, and sustaining the tradition of excellence for which the University has become recognized around the world. The campaign will officially close June 30.

**Alumni Relations**

**Emily R. Bear**, a former Penn State Schuylkill student, is a recipient of the 2014 Penn State University Alumni Achievement Award.
The Alumni Achievement Award is open to all graduates of the University who are thirty-five years of age or younger, and have shown extraordinary professional accomplishment. These prominent young alumni are nominated by an academic college and invited by the president of the University to return to campus to share their expertise with students, faculty, and administrators. They demonstrate to students that Penn State alumni succeed in exceptional fashion at an early age.

Ms. Bear is a 2006 graduate of Pottsville Hospital School of Nursing, Pottsville, Pennsylvania. She completed pre-medical requisites at Penn State Schuylkill and Berks campuses, and then earned her bachelor of science degree in Nursing from the Penn State World Campus in 2010. She is a staff nurse at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network in the Transitional Trauma Unit.

In 2012-2013, Bear took a leave of absence from her staff nurse position and spent eight weeks in Conakry, Guinea Africa volunteering as a vesicovaginal and rectovaginal fistula nurse aboard the Africa Mercy Ship. She learned transcultural nursing firsthand and was able to share her experiences with her former school of nursing at an all-day seminar.

She has been a trauma nurse for over seven years and has been an active member on the unit’s Performance Improvement and Practice Committee. She has recently joined the Nightshift Nurse Council representing medical-surgical nurses, and has spent numerous hours as a nurse preceptor to senior nursing students and nursing graduates. In 2008, she presented at the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurse's Conference on an insulin infusion protocol.

In 2013, Bear, and fellow laboratory partners, were published e-Version in the International Journal of Chemistry for their research in organic chemistry. She is a member of the American Nurses Association, Society of Trauma Nurses, and Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses. She also belongs to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Alpha Sigma Lambda, Phi Delta Chi member. In 2004, she was the recipient of Penn State Schuylkill’s first undergraduate public speaking competition. She is a member of the Penn State Alumni Association. The Penn State Schuylkill Alumni Society recognized Emily at a Mentor Luncheon at the campus on March 5, and she was recognized with eight other Alumni Achievement Award recipients on April 24 and 25 at a ceremony at University Park.

Hexcel Corporation hosted an Alumni Mentor Luncheon for students on March 25 in the R. Michael Fryer Conference Center. Hexcel employees who are alumni of Penn State Schuylkill presented career information, as well as job opportunities for students and prospective graduates.
Hexcel is a global corporation in the advanced composite industry. The company develops, manufactures, and markets lightweight, high-performance structural materials, including carbon fibers, specialty reinforcements, prepregs and other fiber-reinforced matrix materials, honeycomb, adhesives, engineered honeycomb and composite structures, for use in commercial aerospace, space & defense and industrial markets. Hexcel has sixteen major manufacturing facilities around the world including one in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Alumni representatives from Hexcel discussed the diverse career paths that they have enjoyed since leaving Penn State Schuylkill including, but not limited to, engineering, sales and marketing, and manufacturing operations.

The Schuylkill Alumni Society Board and the Schuylkill Blue and White Society scooped Penn State Creamery ice cream to our students at the Ice Cream Social on April 7. In addition, the Schuylkill Blue and White Society and the Schuylkill Lion Ambassadors attended the All-Campus Conference – “Let Your Pride Roar”, at University Park on March 29 and 30. Seven students and club advisers attended the conference. In addition, Karen Beruck and Patty Shoener, co-advisers of the Blue and White Society, presented Best Practices for Advisers at the conference.

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

A number of improvements, renovations, and beautification projects are being completed all over the campus.

The Health & Wellness Building conference facilities are currently undergoing a facelift. The permanent wall separating the current conference room and activity room has been removed and a Modernfold moveable partition was installed in its place. This will allow the campus to either accommodate larger events in the newly created 3,175 square foot space, or two events simultaneously in separate, smaller spaces. The upgraded spaces also included new projection equipment, new lighting, new carpeting, and fresh paint.

Technology classroom improvements are also under way. The physics, chemistry, and a general classroom in the Classroom Building are all being updated with new furnishings, new instructional technology equipment (computer, document camera, projector, and classroom management software), fresh paint, new carpeting, new white boards, and lighting upgrades. These improvements were made possible through a $70,500 grant received from the University Committee on Instructional Facilities (UCIF).

The admissions suite received a facelift this spring. Fresh paint and new furnishings have helped to create a more welcoming environment for prospective students. Additionally, air conditioning is being installed in the student game room, located in the Health and Wellness Center, and also in the lobby of the Student Community Center.
General improvements and painting projects are ongoing. As the campus prepares for the Board of Trustees visit in July 2014, several of the buildings are receiving fresh paint, new signage, and other aesthetic improvements. The exterior areas of the campus are also undergoing improvements: roads and walkways are being repaired; the campus landscape is being enhanced; and building entrances are being upgraded.

THE HIDDEN STREAM CAFÉ
The Starbucks® cart in the Hidden Stream Café continues to expand by offering new products. The latest is the Hazelnut Macchiato and it tastes great either hot or cold. Community members have been stopping by the café to take advantage of the only locally offered Starbucks® products.

The Hidden Stream Café also welcomes its newest employee, Jon Cuvey. Jon has been hired as a snack bar attendant and janitorial worker.

The café will be closed for the summer, and will reopen to the campus and the public on August 25.

CAMPUS SAFETY
In March, as a result of funding received from the Schuylkill County District Attorney’s Office Drug Forfeiture Fund, the campus received a Smith and Wesson police bike. The bike is being utilized as part of the campus’s community policing program.

With spring upon us, Police Services would like to remind the campus community and visitors that there will be many outside activities that will bring about more vehicular and foot traffic on campus. Please remember that pedestrians have the right away. When operating a vehicle, drive slowly and watch for pedestrians, especially in the parking lots and crosswalks. Pedestrians are asked to remember to use the crosswalks and ensure that vehicles come to a complete stop before they cross.

In an effort to ensure a safe campus community, and that you arrive safely at your destination, police Services will be conducting seat belt checks on campus.