

# TALKING AMONG OURSELVES

PENNSSTATE



Fayette

The Eberly  
Campus

April 2006

## MINING DEGREE OFFERED AT FAYETTE CAMPUS

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After a 25-year hiatus, the mining degree returns to Fayette. Students are now able to take a new Associate Degree in Mining Technology at Penn State Fayette. In the late 70s and early 80s, the mining technology degree was the largest program at Fayette. When the mines began dissipating in this area, so did the program. However, this is not the old mining degree renewed. Indeed, the entire program has been developed from scratch. Nearly 20 officials from various mining companies in the area have worked with our faculty and academic administration to provide a new degree that



responds to the technological, environmental and safety needs of the mining supervisors. Our first mining class took place on January 10, when 27 mining students were greeted by our new faculty member, Nancy Dorset. Nancy comes to Fayette with an

astounding background in mining. She served underground for 17 years and is currently in a doctoral program at WVU.

During the development of the program it was hoped that we could support this new initiative with outside grant funding. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, we were notified by the United States Department of Labor that we had received \$503,210 for the new mining program. In addition, in December we were notified by the Benedum Foundation that we would receive \$145,000 from them to develop articulation agreements with various high schools and vocational technical schools in the area. Since the notification of the grant, we have received calls from all over the country – Utah, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Missouri – about this new curriculum. It provides us with an opportunity to provide quality mining education to not only our local community, but also to a new national and perhaps even international market.



# FAYETTE'S BIGGEST LOSER

## Biggest Loser Weekly Programs

**Tuesday, Feb. 15**  
Kick-Off & First Weigh-In

**Tuesday, Feb. 21**  
The Weight Room & Weight Loss

**Tuesday, Feb. 28**  
Weight Watcher Discussion

**Tuesday, March 7**  
Pedometer Training

**Tuesday, March 14**  
Weight Loss on the Racquetball Court

**Tuesday, March 21**  
Aromatherapy and Stress Reduction

**Tuesday, March 28**  
Intro to Yoga

**Tuesday, April 4**  
Intro to Tai Chi

**Tuesday, April 11**  
Walking and Fitness

**Tuesday, April 18**  
Intro to Kung Fu

**Tuesday, April 18**  
Final Weigh In

**Tuesday, April 25**  
Winners Declared



What's all the excitement on campus? *Fayette's Biggest Loser* has everyone energized to exercise, eat right and lose those extra pounds in the process. Nine highly competitive teams are engaged in winning the weekly team award – the traveling dog – as well as the final, individual prize– a trophy, a one-year membership to the fitness center, and an exciting weekend getaway package.



FIRST DAY . . .  
SIGNING IN AND FACING THE SCALE!

This new program, is designed to aid in the promotion of physical fitness and wellness for students, faculty, staff, and alumni and create an interest in the fitness center. If you are interested in participating in the next round . . .contact the campus nurse, Tammy Henderson.

Special sessions are scheduled each week to give participants information and motivation.

The ultimate program goal is **1000** pounds of fat gone from our collective . . .bodies. **As of the end of week seven, the campus total is 539 pounds. Hurray for us!!!**



HEALTHY FOOD— HEALTHY BODY.  
GOOD CHOICES DR. GRAY!



LOSING IS THE BEST!!



IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR MOUTH, BUT WHAT YOU DO WITH THE REST OF YOUR BODY.  
SANDY SMITH GIVES A LECTURE ON THE BASICS OF RACQUETBALL.

## Congratulations THON Team Total \$30,579.73

Our THON dancers, **Ashley Gumbert**, **Blaine Brooks**, **James Wolfe**, and **Amanda Newell** survived the 48-hour dance marathon held at University Park's Rec Hall to benefit kids with cancer. Through the determined efforts of our THON team and dancers, Penn State Fayette contributed **\$30,579.73** to Penn State's overall fundraising effort of \$4.2 million dollars! Since 1998, Fayette's team has raised an impressive total of **\$332,441.68**. Congratulations to our Thon Team and dancers and all of those who supported our team for our outstanding effort in this year's Penn State Dance Marathon!! WE DEFINITELY ARE PENN STATE!!



Photo ©Greg Grieco

### FAYETTE STUDENT CHOSEN AS OUTSTANDING ADULT STUDENT

Sister Alice O'Connell, a Penn State Fayette student in HDFS, was selected for the **PAACE Outstanding Adult Student in Higher Education Award**. This award was created to recognize adult students in Pennsylvania who exemplify and inspire excellence. Sister Alice completed her associate degree in HDFS in May 2005 and is currently working toward her bachelors of science degree. A non-traditional student, Sister Alice has been a member of the Vincentian Sisters of Charity for twenty-five years and an LPN for fifteen years.

All colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were invited to participate in the nomination process. Therefore, Sister Alice's selection for the award reflects very positively on her academic and community-related accomplishments. As an award recipient, Sister Alice is invited to attend a luncheon and award ceremony at Hershey where she will be recognized for her achievements and she will have the opportunity to meet with her state representative and senator.

Please join me in congratulating *our very own* Sister Alice O'Connell as a recipient of the PAACE Outstanding Adult Student in Higher Education Award.

### STUDENT OF THE QUARTER

**Sister Alice O'Connell** is this quarter's recipient of the *Student of the Quarter* Award. She completed her Associate Degree in Human Development and Family Studies in May, 2005 and is currently working toward a B.S. in that program. Sister Alice was nominated because of her exceptional community service and leadership. From providing medical screenings to under and uninsured people, to staffing food banks, to channeling the enthusiastic energies of teenagers, Sister Alice is an example of leadership and selfless service. Besides her extensive and on-going service to the community, Sister Alice has taken the initiative to improve the health of people on our campus, demonstrate leadership in the classroom and in service-learning projects while achieving academic excellence. Sister Alice O'Connell is the epitome of what the Student of the Quarter Award stands for.



Sister Alice O'Connell



## CELEBRATE US!

*Mark your calendars!  
The annual Celebrate  
recognition dinner is  
set for:*

*Friday, May 5  
6:00 p.m.  
at the  
Summit Inn.*



## ENROLLMENT

Our final spring 2006 enrollment is 1040. Our final enrollment for spring 2005 was 969 students. There are several reasons for the increase in our spring enrollment. The first obviously is the addition of 27 mining students.

In addition, we have also entered into a collaboration with New Kensington to deliver the 2MET program to local

business and industry. We have six students in the initial class from BAE Systems. However, our biggest enrollment boost for spring was in the new Dual Enrollment Project 720 program. As most of you know, this new state initiative is designed to provide qualified high school students to take college classes and receive not only col-

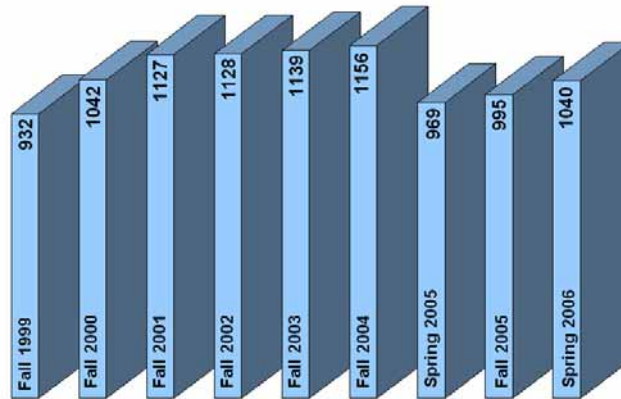
lege credits, but also high school credit for their graduation as well. Because of the efforts of Admissions personnel and the extraordinary efforts of Yasmin Brown, who works with Tech Prep, we were able to generate 85 high

school students taking college classes in this program. Albert Gallatin has the most students in this program with 38 students followed by

Laurel Highlands with 20 and Uniontown 16.

Fall application status looks very positive at this time as we are up 69% in applications, 103% in offers, and 186% in paid accepts. Therefore, we feel very confident that our enrollments will again be up in the fall semester.

FAYETTE STUDENT ENROLLMENTS



## Scholarships

Did you know that in fall 2005 Penn State Fayette awarded 254 scholarships totaling \$176,479. In addition, the University has recently initiated Chancellor Scholarships at each campus. A Chancellor Scholarship will provide \$5,500 per student spread over a two-year period. This year Fayette has been able to offer 20 Chancellor Scholarships.

## Commencement — May 13, 2006

The committee is making plans for Commencement, which will be held on Saturday, May 13, 2006. Our speaker will be Joseph A. Scaffoni, Director of the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, Department of Environmental Protection and recipient of the 2002 Outstanding Alumnus of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Award.

# Local Middle & High School Students Participate in Recent Campus Hosted Events

**MathCOUNTS** Dave Meredith and Kevin Maxwell hosted **MathCOUNTS**, a middle school program to encourage students to study math, was held on February 7<sup>th</sup>. We were pleased to have Patrick Johnson, an Engineering student at Fayette and the recipient of a **MathCOUNTS** scholarship (who won the event when he was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade) helping with the program.

Individual winners were:

1. Jeremy Rich - AG South
2. Zachary Smith - Frazier
3. Casey Riedmann - AG South
4. Cody Mitchell - AG South
5. Jonathan Calvert - Margaret Bell Miller

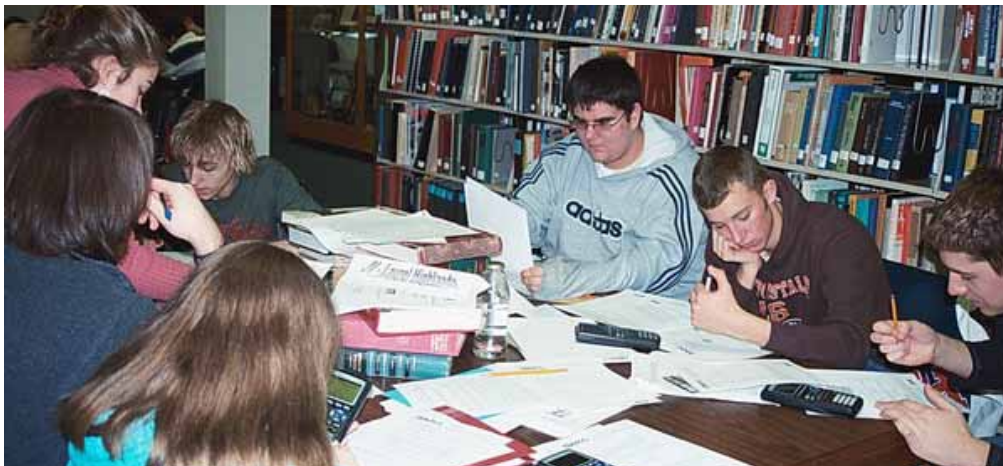
All of the above qualified for state, and Jeremy Rich won all the first prizes, including the \$1000 Penn State Fayette scholarship.

The team winners were:

1. AG South
2. Frazier
3. Margaret Bell Miller

Other teams attending were Albert Gallatin North, Connellsville East, Connellsville West, Brownsville, Ben Franklin, AJ McMullen, and Lafayette.

Professor **Nate Bohna** won the event in 1992 and earned a trip to the state competition in Harrisburg. Stacie Hearn, a current student in AET, had also participated in MathCounts.



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

Fayette's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration was held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in the Maggie Hardy Magerko Auditorium recognizing local African American youth in Fayette County for their achievements in performing arts, academic scholarship, community service, and athletics. Tim Stevens, former President of the Allegheny County NAACP served as keynote speaker.

### FUTURE PLANS

*Plans are underway to build a sidewalk linking the Engineering Building with the Community Center. Our talented AET students under the direction of John Timko, designed the plan last semester. Currently we are exploring possible funding for this special project.*



**MATH, MATH, AND MORE MATH.** . . local middle & high school students work to solve problems in recent competitions.





## Faculty News

**Rodger Henderson** recently signed a contract with the University of Nebraska Press to publish his book entitled *Blackfeet Intertribal Warfare and Resistance to Euro-American Encroachment in the Nineteenth Century*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Evelyn B. Pluhar** on her publication of a chapter in the five-volume work *Environmental Philosophy: Critical Concepts in the Environment* published by Routledge. Edited by J. Baird Callicott and Clare Palmer. Evelyn's chapter entitled "**The Justification of an Environmental Ethic**" is in volume 1, pp. 47-61 of this work.

**Jes Hutson** presented slides/pictures to AG Montessori students regarding his trip through the Himalayas to Mt. Everest Base Camp, along with his adventures of the pyramids and other places on his trip around the world.

**Geraldine Dorobish** visited St. Mary's Elementary on February 2 as part of Career Day. She talked about "What Does A Librarian Do?" Gerry met with over 60 children in Grades K - 2. Included in the day was the opportunity to read to the children and to complete some reading activities. It was a most enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

**Dave Meredith** took two students to the ASHRAE winter meeting in Chicago from January 20-24. In addition to attending the largest Expo ever with 1800 exhibitors from 37 countries, there was a breakfast for the students and they were guests at the Region III dinner. They also gave a presentation on Fayette's student branch activities. Their travel cost was funded in part through a grant from the Milt Garland / Jose Reig Student Challenge Fund.

### OUTREACH

*Our Office of Outreach and Continuing Education was recently awarded \$249,200.00 from the Department of Labor to continue and modify components of the non-lethal certificate. Congratulations!*

## Awards

### PENN STATER OF THE QUARTER

**Dr. Fred C. Adams** has been selected as the *Penn Stater of the Quarter* for October - December 2005. Dr. Adams was nominated for his contributions to both the campus and com-

munity for the "tireless and endless work he did for the first Fayette musical as well as all the work he has done for the Shakespeare productions. The first musical was awesome...and it was in large measure due to his efforts."

Dr. Adams was honored on **Friday, January 20, 2006** in the Eberly Building Corporate Training Center following the Town Meeting.

### EVELYN HOVANEC CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

I am pleased to announce the following winners of the 2005 Evelyn Hovanec Creative Writing Award: **Cathy Zimmerman** in the Current Students of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus category, for her nonfiction

essay, "*Paper Girl's Patch*"; and **Gib Prettyman** in the *Non-Students of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus* category, for his collection of five poems. Each of the 2005 winners will receive a cash prize of \$250.

**Wolford and Lenore Swimmer** established the **Evelyn Hovanec Creative Writing Award** in recognition of her retirement. The award honors Dr. Hovanec's 35 years of service to Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus and McKeesport Campus and her lifetime commitment to creative teaching, scholarship, and writing related to Fayette County and Southwestern Pennsylvania, especially its coal and coke history and culture.



We're on the Web!  
[www.fe.psu.edu](http://www.fe.psu.edu)

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## THE EBERLY CAMPUS

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

U.Ed.FE06-120

### ON THE CALENDAR:

Student Production of  
Shakespeare's Hamlet—April 6, 7, 8, 2006

Spring Learning Fair — April 24, 2006

Spring Clean-up Day — April 26, 2006

Student Awards Banquet — April 28, 2006

Celebrate Fayette — May 5, 2006

Annual Advisory Board Dinner — May 11, 2006

Graduation — May 13, 2006

Women's Day 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary — May 18, 2006

4th Annual Alumni Golf Outing — June 9, 2006

## Alumni News

**Julie Edwards**, who received an Associate Degree in Architectural Engineering Technology at Penn State Fayette, is an HVAC Designer for Tower Engineering in Pittsburgh. As reported in the ASHRAE newspaper, Julie's most notable project is the Pittsburgh Children's Home. The goal of this new facility is to expand the pediatric medical services and adoption for a non-profit licensed organization. Edwards assisted in all aspects of the HVAC systems design, including variable air volume (VAV) air handling units and VAV terminal boxes with hot water reheat. The third floor is classified as a hospital and was required to follow the guidelines for hospital design. Another notable project is the Rose E. Schneider Family YMCA in Cranberry, PA where Edwards assisted in the HVAC design, which included VAV terminal boxes with electric reheat and constant air volume (CAV) and VAV rooftop units, some utilizing a heat recovery system. A pool dehumidification unit was also designed for this project.

### UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

#### PSU CREAMERY ICE CREAM SALE

Orders and payments must be received by  
Friday, April 28, 2006

#### 4TH ANNUAL BLUE & WHITE GOLF OUTING

Pleasant Valley Country Club  
June 9, 2006

11 a.m. — Registration & Lunch

1:00 p.m. — Tee-off

Dinner to follow

Visit the Alumni section of Fayette's  
Web Site for more details:

<http://www.fe.psu.edu/alumni/>

