



Fayette

NITTANY NEWSLINE

2009 ANNUAL

PENNSTATE



Fayette The Eberly Campus

FAYETTE WELCOMES
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

GALA RAISES \$34,000
FOR SCHOLARSHIPS



This issue of the *Fayette Nittany Newline* is dedicated to Chancellor Emmanuel I. Osagie, who died unexpectedly during its final production.

IN MEMORIAM

BLAKE KELLEY

24, died April 5 from injuries he received in an auto accident in McHenry, Maryland. Kelley graduated from Penn State Fayette in August 2008 with a bachelor's degree in business.

THELMA SANDY

83, passed away on December 27. Sandy was a long-time member of the Penn State Fayette Advisory Board.

MONROE SMITH

53, passed away suddenly on June 6, just weeks after he graduated from our campus with a bachelor of science in human development and family studies. He was a United States veteran who served in the Navy during Desert Storm, a former minister, and he worked as a family counselor.

The year 2009 was a year of many firsts for Penn State Fayette—firsts that have moved the campus further toward its mission to be recognized as the region's premier student-centered university, focusing on academic excellence, and the social, cultural, and economic development of the community.

We are most proud that our campus is now the educational home to eight international students (read more about this on page 10). Only a select few campuses within the Penn State University system have the services available to admit students from around the world. With an international mix of students, we now offer our students a higher level of interaction with the Global Village than was ever possible before. Our students can now connect with individuals of different countries and cultures right here on campus. Students from around the world are coming to Penn State Fayette to pursue their higher education and while they are here they learn something about us, too.

Good news for many of our students was the success of the first Blues and White Gala held in April to raise money for student scholarships (read more on page 18). The black-tie event raised nearly \$34,000, which is being distributed in direct scholarships to students during the 2009-2010 academic year. Trying to close the gap of unmet financial needs for our students is an ongoing challenge, so, going forward, the Blues and White Gala will be an annual event to supplement our scholarship funds. The next gala will be held April 17, 2010.

In 2009, Penn State Fayette was the first campus in the Penn State system to work with the University's PA Prosperity Partnerships team to forge a coalition of University, government and community representatives to work as a steering committee to advance the economy of Fayette County and southwestern Pennsylvania. An economic development forum held on campus in April has spurred momentum and direction towards an innovation economy focused on the energy-related resources inherent to our region. This and other economic contributions as a result of campus activities have helped increase the financial impact the Fayette campus and Penn State has on the region's economy (read more on page 4).

Ongoing campus initiatives, such as the Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival, CEO Conversations and student learning fairs—as well as cultural and educational events open to the public—brought students and the community together on several occasions. These opportunities present avenues of exchange for learning, sharing of ideas, and getting to know each other better.

Our students outperformed themselves in 2009, too. The Fayette THON team set a new record by raising more than \$71,000, making them number one again among Penn State's nineteen Commonwealth Campuses in the annual money-raising effort to fight pediatric cancer! And other student organizations have made an impact on the local community by collecting food, coats, toys, and a variety of other items needed by families in the region. This demonstration of their commitment to serving others is heartening in a time when life in general is hectic and stressful, not to mention the poor economy.

I encourage engagement—with students, faculty, staff, the community, and beyond. Remember, learning takes place inside the classroom and out. And a Penn State degree is a passport to the world.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Penn State Fayette. Please stay connected, stay in touch, and visit us soon.

Emmanuel I. Osagie, Ph.D., PMP

THE EBERLY CAMPUS

FAYETTE NITTANY NEWSLINE

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

U.Ed. FEO 10-115

On the cover, from left: Penn State Fayette international students Mario Milev, Saumya Sebastien, Manu Maria John, Jin Ha, Tianle Chen, Hongyuan Zahn, and Yizhao "Frankie" Li.

PENN STATE FAYETTE HAS \$79.5 MILLION IMPACT ON ECONOMY

by Susan Brimo-Cox



“*P*enn State Fayette is an integral part of the regional economy, and we contribute a great deal more than simply our teaching and research,” observes Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie in response to an

economic impact study conducted by Pittsburgh-based Tripp Umbach, Inc.

The independent report released April 23 showed that the Fayette campus infused nearly \$79.5 million into the state economy, and accounts for more than 370 jobs in the region. On the local level, \$45.9 million went directly into the Fayette County economy in 2008, \$27 million of that in direct business volume.

“We consider our campus to be an important community partner, and this study documents some of the contributions we make,” Osagie says.

The report indicates Fayette spent nearly \$2.5 million for capital improvements, goods and services, and supplies. The study also shows, adjusting for out-of-state employees, savings and taxes, Penn State Fayette employees received a total of \$4.6 million in their payroll checks.

Student and out-of-state visitor spending also contribute to the vitality of the region. Penn State Fayette students all live off campus, so their spending for housing, food, transportation, and entertainment goes directly into the local economy—nearly \$19.4 million in 2008. The study puts spending by out-of-state visitors to the Fayette campus at \$8.2 million.



The impact from out-of-state visitors to the Fayette campus was clearly demonstrated in 2009, when visitors from across the country came to Penn State Fayette and Fayette County for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Basketball Championships March 2-7.

Thirty teams competed in three divisions—it was the first time all three championships were played at one location simultaneously—and with the teams came support staff, family, friends, and fans. According to the USCAA, more than 400 out-of-town guests came to the area and spent some \$500,000-plus on hotel rooms, meals, rental vans, gasoline, entertainment, souvenirs, and more.

The Fayette campus also is working to bring the full resources of Penn State to assist local leaders in developing a competitive and vibrant economy for the future. University experts are working with a community steering committee that is focused on developing a long-term, sustainable, place-based innovation economy that will be built upon the strengths of the region.

A community forum held in April brought community members for discussion on a wide variety of topics important to Fayette County. From that forum the steering committee identified items for further discussion and action.

One area of action is examining water quality issues as they relate to energy development in the area. In another initiative, the University worked with Fayette County government officials to submit a grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Energy to fund energy conservation and energy efficiency projects. If the grant is approved, activities include workforce development and upgrading of homes.

To view the economic impact report in its entirety, visit <http://econimpact.psu.edu>.



CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

TRADING FLOOR DEBUTS AT PENN STATE FAYETTE



Pennsylvania State Senator Richard Kasunic (second from right) attended the January 23 public debut of the new trading floor at Penn State Fayette. A \$50,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development funded the creation of the trading floor and additional electronic tickers for the Williams Building and Community Center. The trading floor was created at the campus to provide an advanced learning environment for students at all levels and is intended to replicate a real world trading experience for students. Also on hand for the presentation of the check was (from left) Dr. Pawan Madhogarhia, assistant professor of finance; Chancellor Dr. Emmanuel Osagie; and Dr. Terry Halfhill, assistant professor of business administration and head of the campus' business administration program.

THE CAMPUS IS ALIVE WITH THE SOUND OF MUSIC!



More than 1,000 people of all ages gathered on campus September 19 for the second annual Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival. Three stages and seventeen scheduled performances provided non-stop music and entertainment from noon until dusk. Music, ethnic foods, regional arts and crafts, and the Kiddie Koal Mine children's area, as well as tours and special activities at the Coal and Coke Heritage Center were all a big hit!

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Michelle Branch was the festival's headliner, and drew a number of dedicated local fans. Other national and regional performers included The Fabulous Hubcaps, Harold Betters, NewLanders, the Augsburg German Band, SNAP!, Bobby Reed & Jerry Onesi Trio, and Stereotype. Local music and dance ensembles that performed included Sean Harris, Eric Craggette, Spring Valley School Choir, Mt. Moriah Choir, Zach Ellsworth Band, Houck Dance Studio, Lorraine Susa Dance Unlimited, and Koza & Co. Dance Studio.

After the initial success of the festival's debut in 2008, a number of local organizations stepped up as sponsors of the 2009 music festival. Primary sponsors included Pennsylvania Services Corporation—An Affiliate of Alpha Natural Resources, the Herald-Standard, Geneva Marketing Group, Advanced Acoustic Concepts, Gerome Manufacturing Company, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Walmart, Argon ST, BAE, Centra Bank, and Ford Business Machines.

The Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival is designed to celebrate the unique heritage of southwestern Pennsylvania's coal and coke history and heritage.



CAMPUS TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM FOR STATE'S DEPUTY SHERIFFS

Penn State Fayette's Center for Community and Public Safety was awarded a six-year contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Commission on Crime and Delinquency to develop the curriculum for deputy sheriffs on a statewide basis. The curriculum includes the initial 760-hour training course and the bi-annual 20-hour in-service and continuing education courses. This is the first time that a Penn State University campus has been awarded the development contract.



Did You Know?

The Coal and Coke Heritage Center has a new Web site: coalandcokepsu.org

SCIENCE FORENSICS DEMONSTRATING SUCCESS

*H*ow do you measure success? Let us count the ways. Not only did the number of students participating in Science Forensics: An Academic Pathway in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics double in 2009, the math and science grades of participating students have increased!

A total of 129 students were enrolled for the 2009 summer sessions, with cohorts of 9th, 10th and 11th graders.

As for the students' grades, 54 percent of the rising 11th graders improved their math grades by one or two letter grades (from C or D to a B or A). Thirty-nine percent had similar improvements in their science grades. Of the rising 10th grade students, 50 percent improved their math grades (one student went from an F to an A-), and 56 percent improved in science.

The Benedum Foundation and Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Investment Board provided substantial funding for Science Forensics in 2009.



Local high school students participating in Science Forensics learn about science, technology, engineering and math in a variety of ways.



CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

—continued from page 5

NEW PROGRAM HELPS ADULTS ENTER COLLEGE

An Adult Learner Program catering to the needs of adults in the community was launched in September. A partnership between the campus and Intermediate Unit 1, the Adult Learner Program is staffed by IU1 and offered in the campus' Corporate Training Center. The program offers remedial classes in reading, writing, and math; a transition (bridge) program for students planning to attend Penn State; English as a Second Language classes; and other need-specific classes.

In the photo below, Angela Kenes (center), coordinator of the IU1 Adult Learner Program, works with Kim Mozie and Eric Schoch, new students in the college transition course.



CEO CONVERSATIONS



Steve Tritch, Westinghouse Electric Company Chairman

CEO Conversations drew record audiences in 2009. Featured guests included Pittsburgh Penguins CEO Ken Sawyer; First Lady of Pennsylvania Marjorie Rendell; John Kosar, principal and chairman emeritus at Burt Hill; Westinghouse Electric Company Chairman Steve Tritch; and Don Spence, CEO of Phillips Healthcare.

Since its start in September 2007 with special guest Joseph Hardy III, founder of 84 Lumber Company, CEO Conversations has brought more than a dozen business and government leaders to talk about business, entrepreneurship and leadership.



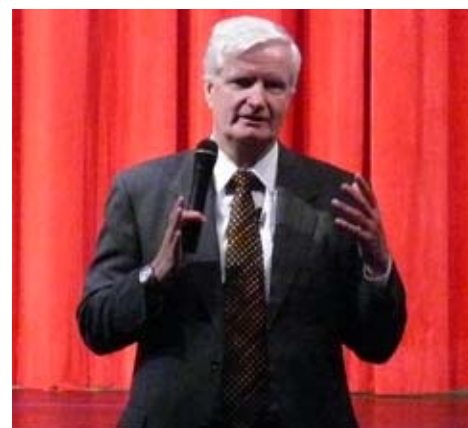
Don Spence, CEO of Phillips Healthcare



Marjorie Rendell, First Lady of Pennsylvania



John Kosar, principal and chairman emeritus at Burt Hill



Ken Sawyer, Pittsburgh Penguins CEO



CAMPUS HOSTS STEM CONFERENCE

Some 80 area educators and local business leaders participated in the first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Conference at Penn State Fayette in May. The theme of the event was "Industry and Education: Defining Our Common Ground." Penn State Fayette, Intermediate Unit 1 and the Center for Advancement of STEM Education (CASE) worked together to plan the conference to address challenges raised by educators who say they need assistance in making these topics more interesting and appealing to middle and high school students, and business leaders who need a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering and math. Barry Nathan (above), from Catalyst Connection, was one of the guest speakers at the conference.

As a result of the day-long event, nearly fifty area teachers took advantage of a variety of courses offered by IU1 at the Fayette campus to enhance their STEM education methods.

FAYETTE PROVIDES SPECIAL TRAINING FOR G-20

Penn State Fayette's Center for Community and Public Safety Instructor Kirk Hessler provided special training for Federal Reserve Bank officers scheduled for the G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh September 24-25. The training in riot control familiarization was presented to help the officers prepare to defuse any potential problems that might arise during the event, which drew a world-wide audience. Penn State Fayette's law enforcement training programs are currently used by the U.S. military and law enforcement organizations across the United States and around the world.

—CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS
continues on page 22



In October, Penn State Fayette held "Surviving the Holocaust," a week-long event in honor of the 65th anniversary of the Holocaust. Activities included a screening of the movie Schindler's List, as well as guest speaker Sam Wienreb (above). Wienreb shared his experiences as a prisoner and survivor of the Holocaust.



Penn State alumnus Douglas J. Leech Jr., founder, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Centra Financial Holdings Inc. and Centra Bank Inc., was the 2009 Commencement speaker. In 2008, Leech was presented the Outstanding Alumnus of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Award.



The campus hosted a special screening of the new documentary, The Anatomy of Hate, in November. Directed by Mike Ramsdell, The Anatomy of Hate is the result of Ramsdell's six-year process on his study of hate in some of the most virulent ideologies and violent conflicts of our times. The event included a talkback session with Ramsdell, who answered questions and led an action dialogue with the community.



A total of 42 student projects were on display at the Fall Learning Fair December 2. Student projects were presented in a variety of media, including displays, posters, videos, iMovies and more. Nearly 250 students were involved in the projects showcased. Project topic areas included arts and humanities, business and economics, English, engineering, human development and family studies, information sciences and technology, and mathematics.



Dave Meredith, associate professor of engineering, presented a special program in November that focused on simple and inexpensive home improvements designed to save money on utility bills. The program, entitled "H.E.L.P." (Home Energy Loss Prevention), drew a crowd from the local community.



(From left:) Penn State students Brian Patchcoski, Lianna Newman, and Jeremy Lamaster, with Allison Subasic, director of the LGBT Student Resource Center, visited from University Park for a special Straight Talk panel discussion about sexual orientation, gender identity, oppression and stereotypes, tolerance, and acceptance.



Recycled Percussion brought its unique music to Penn State Fayette in April. Recycled Percussion's instruments included trash cans, ladders, mailboxes, power tools, and other discarded items not typically associated with music. The four-man group from New Hampshire includes lead drummers Justin Spencer and Ryan Vezina, guitarist Jim Magoon, and hip-hop/funk DJ and keyboardist Todd Griffin.



The Lion Players' 12th annual production, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," stimulated lots of laughter in the Maggie Hardy Magerko Auditorium in the Community Center in March. One of Shakespeare's best known comedies, the story recounts the misadventures of four lovers and the infamous fairy, Puck. Everyone seems to fall in love with the wrong person, until the love spells are reversed.



Scholarship recipients, scholarship donors and sponsors, and family and friends gathered for a special recognition dinner at the campus October 13. The event, now in its second year, provides an opportunity for scholarship recipients to get to know some of the individuals that make a Penn State education possible for hundreds of area students. At the dinner, Eberly Family Scholarship Award recipient Elizabeth Wallace (above) spoke on behalf of student scholarship recipients.



In February, local organic farmer Paul Sarver spoke about the concept of sustainability and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which unites a local community with local growers, at "Think Globally, Eat Locally," an event hosted by the Diversity Task Force.



"Celebrate Engineering Week" featured two special guests at Penn State Fayette in 2009. Andy Persily (right) from the National Institute of Standards and Testing talked about the quality of the air we breathe in his presentation, "What do we think we know about ventilation?" Louis Grobmyer, a consulting engineer in Systems and Safety Analysis at Westinghouse Nuclear Services, talked to area students about career options in nuclear energy.



The featured speaker for the 2009 Women's Day was Ed Claypoole, a motivational speaker hailing from Uniontown. An artist-blacksmith, professional strongman and pastor, Claypoole amazed the audience with his strength, as well as his encouragement to never give up, no matter what adversities life throws at you. Other presenters included Deb Augustine, a professional organizing consultant; Dr. Aurelio Cecchini Jr., DDS; and David Meredith, Penn State Fayette associate professor of engineering.



Acclaimed storyteller and poet Shindana Cooper was the guest speaker at a special Martin Luther King Jr. observance Jan. 20. Cooper spoke about Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy and the importance of leadership in the 21st century. After Cooper's talk, the audience was able to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama on a large screen.



William Blaney (center) was honored as the recipient of the 24th Outstanding Fellow Award by Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus in May. Blaney is vice president and general manager of Blaney Farms. A Penn State graduate, he has a strong connection with the University and the Fayette campus. Joining Blaney at the award ceremony are Wayne Port (left), chairman of the Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette and Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie.

PENN STATE FAYETTE WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

by Nicole Guappone

China. Dubai. India. Korea. Morocco. Fayette County. Penn State Fayette is now home to students from around the world. In 2009, eight students—studying a broad range of subjects between them—began attending Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus with one common goal: to earn a Penn State degree.

For some, it has been a challenging road with communication barriers and culture shock, but, ultimately, the students are getting involved on campus and making new friends.

Tianle Chen, from China, is studying international relations. Photography is one of his hobbies, and he shared his talent with the community as a photographer for the Coal and Coke Heritage Festival. Chen says, “Penn State Fayette’s environment is helping me with my future goals. The people are friendly and professional, and I loved seeing a big snow, too.”

Ramy Fathi is from Egypt, with family living in Morocco; Jin Ha is from Korea; and Yizhao “Frankie” Li, is from China. All three are studying business and are involved in THON. Ha is also a member of the newly-formed Penn State Fayette intramural soccer team, and Li is the most recent addition to the Penn State Fayette Men’s Basketball team. Fathi is on the Student Activities Fee Committee and likes taking photographs and working with new technology.



Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie talks with Mario Milev, while Yizhao “Frankie” Li and Hongyuan Zhan listen.

Li says about his experience, “I like the quiet and comfortable environment and the friendly people, such as my teammates and basketball coach. We’ve become good friends. We build a bridge between cultures. The only problem is communication. I have to work on my English and learn some of the slang phrases to improve communication.”

Fathi adds, “My experience at Penn State so far has been positive. The teachers and people are welcoming. I like the area because it is smaller and relaxed, and I thought it would be an easier transition than going right to a big city.”

It is indeed a different experience to attend college in a different country. Saumya Sebastian explained that it is very developed compared to her home in India. She, along with Manu Maria John, also from India, earned nursing diplomas in their home country, but wanted to complete undergraduate degrees as well. Sebastian has passed her nursing boards and is also employed by the Network Services department on campus. John enjoys sharing her love of Indian culture with the campus community.

Mario Milev, from Bulgaria, with family living in Dubai, is studying physics. He also plays on the intramural soccer team and may play baseball in the future.

Hongyuan Zhan, from China, is studying business and is excellent in math and economics. He is a math tutor at the Teaching and Learning Center and also plays soccer.

Penn State Fayette is now one of eight Penn State campuses, in addition to University Park, with the services in place to admit students from other countries. In this increasingly interconnected world, it is important to celebrate and embrace world cultures and learn from one another. By offering services for international students, Penn State Fayette has already begun this process.



(from left:) Tianle Chen, Ramy Fathi, Mario Milev and Hongyuan Zhan.



(from left) Manu Maria John, Dr. Susan Crompton-Frenchik, coordinator of International and Intercultural Programs, and Saumya Sebastian.



Ramy Fathi

STUDENT NEWS BRIEFS

ARMY ROTC JOINS CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Interested Penn State Fayette students now have the opportunity to learn leadership skills through the Army ROTC program, which became an active part of the campus community with the start of the fall semester. Led by Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Bonomo, campus ROTC students have also formed a color guard unit, which debuted at the annual Veterans Day ceremony on campus in November. Members include (from left): Cadet Brittany Jones, Cadet Steve O’Neal, Cadet Derrick Miller, and Sergeant Ryan Kohl of the Greensburg Recruiting Company.



HILARY GRIFFITH: TAKING A STAND

by Jessica Smell

If you have spent any time on campus at Penn State Fayette, chances are you've run into Hilary Griffith. She is involved in activities all over campus.

Griffith is active in the Student Government Association, serving terms as vice president and secretary. Griffith also works with the THON Team to raise money to fight pediatric cancer. In 2007, she was a dancer for this event and a morale captain. Griffith has even spent time encouraging her fellow students on the court as a Penn State Fayette cheerleader.

Off the court, Griffith encourages her fellow students to get involved and help make a difference. Griffith believes that "everyone is entitled to live the life they love." She feels that through campus involvement students are given the opportunity to take a stand for others, to ensure that everyone has a chance to live that life.

Raising money for cancer research and promoting acceptance of others are a few ways that students can make a difference. Griffith feels that it is important for students to "break barriers" and stand up for their beliefs and others. Through her actions, she encourages students to make a difference.

In the spring of 2009, Penn State University recognized Griffith's commitment to her fellow students and the community by honoring her with the Rock Ethics Institute's Stand Up Award. She feels honored to "come from a campus with two award recipients."

Desiree Martin, who graduated from Penn State Fayette, was honored with the award in 2008.



SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE FINALISTS

Finalists for the 2009 Scholastic Excellence Award included (from left) Ingrid Carlberg who presented "Seafood Watch—Human impact on our oceans," Alicia Daerr who presented "Antidepressants as a Factor in Adolescent Suicide," and Bobbie Jo Smith who presented "Amniocentesis: Diagnosing Medical Conditions." Daerr was the award recipient.



OPERATION CARE

In December, Fayette nursing students gathered more than 200 pounds of winter clothing and supplies for orphans in Afghanistan.

BONJOUR, MONTRÉAL!

Several students from Dr. Susan Crampton-Frenchik's French 199 class traveled to Montréal, Canada, over spring break. Students visited museums, an ice hockey game, a maple sugar processing facility, and more. On the road in Montréal are (from left): Stephanie Helmick, Megan Kara, Kaitlin Keslar, Jordan Hasley, Katie McCormick, Hilary Griffith, and Curtis Bukovan.



STUDENTS VISIT UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

by Nicole Guappone

In remembrance of the 65th anniversary of the Holocaust, Penn State Fayette hosted a series of events, including a trip for students to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. More than fifty students boarded a bus bound for Washington, D.C., to learn more about the history and horror of this tragic event.

Students, faculty, and staff explored several exhibits, including a narrative timeline of the Holocaust, which features film footage and eyewitness testimonies; "State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda," which reveals how technology and propaganda were utilized to influence millions of people in Germany; and "From Memory to Action: Meeting the Challenge of Genocide," an exhibit that illustrates current global emergencies and encourages visitors to get involved in the movement to stop genocide around the world.

After visiting the museum, students were allowed to explore Washington, D.C., for the rest of the day and came home with a new perspective on the Holocaust.



Pictured above at the Washington Monument are (from left) students C.J. Smith, Scott Nemeth (Admissions counselor), Melissa Beucher (Student Activities assistant), Jason Donahue, and Yzhaio "Frankie" Li.

FAYETTE THON BREAKS A NEW RECORD!

Another year has come and gone, and once again Penn State Fayette has been supporting The Four Diamonds Fund through THON. Fayette has always been a competitive campus, never lower than second place in our division.

This year, the Fayette THON Team demonstrated its energy and drive by bringing in a whopping \$71,070 for the 2009 year! This is \$25,700 more than the prior year. And, the old record of \$64,885



HONOR STUDENTS VISIT ICELAND



Professor Beverly Peterson's spring honors class, "Climate Change, Energy, and Biodiversity," included an opportunity for students to visit Iceland and see first-hand how this small nation addresses climate and energy issues. The group posed for a photo at Hellisheid Power Station in Hengill, Iceland. From the left: (front row) professor Dr. Michael Comiskey, Steven Keller, Vincent Cuneo, professor Nathaniel Bohna; (row two) Nicole Guappone, Rita Krater, professor Dr. Beverly Peterson; (row three) Amber DiDominic, Cynthia Simons-Bellina, Edie Mahoney; (row four) Brett Clark, Caleb Voithofer, and Becky Johnson.

Did You Know?

Penn State Fayette's student pass rate for the NCLEX exam (the Registered Nurse exam) is 92.8 percent!

by John Peck

in 2001 was blown away by more than \$6,000. This new achievement has gone down in the Fayette record books!

The 2009 theme for THON was "Dream Forward." This theme generated hope as we look toward a future where cancer is a mere myth. An anonymous quote was made stating, "The best THON will be the one we don't have to have."

Fayette has once again proven its dedication to THON and to the kids through hard work throughout the past year. For a campus as small as Fayette, we definitely show heart by our large totals and enthusiasm. Penn State Pride has been at an all-time high here at Fayette, and we continue living up to our esteemed name in the THON fundraising statistics.

The determination of our students has once again helped to make a difference in the life of a child. "One day we will dance for joy, until then, we dance for a cure."



Penn State Fayette's THON Team lost an important friend in 2009, when Jeremy Foust, 18, died in June. Foust was adopted by the Fayette THON Team through the THON Adopt-A-Family program in the fall of 2004. The Adopt-A-Family program allows Penn State students to pair up with a Four Diamonds Families to provide emotional support.

LA CAVA'S FAYETTE FIRST

In May, the Fayette campus' Franklin La Cava became the first student from a Commonwealth campus to earn a bachelor of philosophy degree. Unlike traditional bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degrees, Penn State's bachelor of philosophy degree enables students to work with a faculty mentor to pursue academic and artistic discovery unavailable through traditional majors and program concentrations.

Dr. Eric White, executive director of the Division of Undergraduate Studies and associate dean for Advising at University Park, is pleased that La Cava could use the program to achieve his personal educational goals.

"The Bachelor of Philosophy Program is very gratified to acknowledge Franklin La Cava as its first graduate from a Commonwealth campus," White says. "Franklin's persistence as a part-time adult learner is equally impressive."

La Cava's capstone project involved research toward an edited edition of an early nineteenth-century "receipt" book containing instructions for household processes, such as making ink, dying cloth, and concocting herbal medicines. La Cava also earned a minor in American studies and was the winner of the campus Student Scholastic Excellence Award in 2008.



USCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS COME TO FAYETTE

Penn State Fayette played host to the 2009 United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Basketball Championships March 2-7. In all, a total of thirty teams competed for championships in three divisions: Men's Division I (eight teams), Men's Division II (ten teams) and Women's (twelve teams). Some of the teams traveled from as far as Florida, Alabama and Arkansas to compete. The event was a historic moment in the history of the USCAA because it was the first time that all three basketball championships were conducted at the same time and in the same location.

In awarding the 2009 championships to Fayette, USCAA Executive Director Bill Casto noted that Fayette was the first school that the association felt had the resources to host an event of such magnitude. Fayette received assistance

by Vince Capozzi

from several Penn State Commonwealth Campuses in helping to make the tournament a success.

Fayette's men's team finished tenth while the women were twelfth. Talladega College, Alabama, defeated Rochester College, Michigan, for the Men's Division I championship. Williamson Trade downed Penn State Beaver in the Division II final, while Spalding University, Kentucky, posted a victory over Southern Virginia in the Women's Division.



LADY LIONS VOLLEYBALL KEEPS ROLLING

For the second consecutive year, and fourth in the last five, the Penn State Fayette Women's Volleyball team captured the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference championship. The win capped off an amazing season that saw the Lady Roaring Lions post a perfect 14-0 conference record. The team lost just three sets in conference play all year. The win qualified the team for the USCAA National Volleyball Championships in Louisville, Kentucky. Fayette finished ninth in the nation there.

Post-season honors were plentiful for the Lady Roaring Lions. Freshman Leah Ambrosini was named a first team USCAA All-American. She is the first female athlete to be named a first team national All-American and joins Jared Early (baseball) as the only national first team All-Americans in school history. Sophomores Katie Sleasman and Alex Rossi were named USCAA Honorable Mention for the second consecutive year.

First-year Head Coach Nancy Wheeler was named PSUAC Coach of the Year, while Ambrosini was named to the All-PSUAC First Team along with Sleasman and Rossi. Senior Heather Kelly received honorable mention honors.

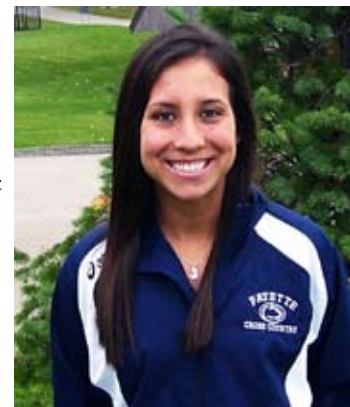
Additionally, Ambrosini was named the PSUAC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year. She finished the season first in the nation with an incredible .601 hitting percentage.



CROSS COUNTRY DEBUTS AT FAYETTE

by Vince Capozzi

Jordyn Hartsek's eighth place finish at the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Cross Country Championships completed a successful first season for Men's and Women's Cross Country at Penn State Fayette.



Matt Girod, the team's head coach, explains all the runners helped the program get started in a positive direction. "Not only were they hard workers, but they have received a worthwhile experience competing in collegiate athletics while maintaining positive attitudes and great personalities."

Despite missing the first month-and-a-half of the season with an injury, Hartsek won the first PSUAC meet in which she ran. The time ranks in the top five in the nation. She finished second in the PSUAC championships and qualified for the USCAA championships.

Teammate Stacy Lloyd finished in the top ten in several of the team's meets, and was tenth in the PSUAC Championships. Lauren Flannigan and Lloyd were named to the USCAA-All Academic team.

On the men's side, Bill Boger was consistently the team's top runner, while Matt Stepanik and Steven Lazar made steady progress throughout the season.

Did You Know?

You can follow Penn State Fayette's Roaring Lions athletics teams on Twitter. Get connected at www.twitter.com/GoRoaringLions

FAYETTE PROFESSOR WINS TOP AWARD

Dr. Evelyn Pluhar-Adams, professor of philosophy, was awarded Penn State's top teaching award, the George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and student support among tenured faculty who have been employed full time for at least three years, with undergraduate teaching as a major portion of their duties. Pluhar-Adams has been teaching philosophy at Penn State Fayette for thirty years. The George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented to only four faculty members each year and is considered one of the University's most prestigious awards. Atherton was the seventh president of Penn State.



DELIA CONTI: HER PENN STATE CONNECTION RUNS DEEP

by Gib Prettyman



In July 2009, after serving for a year in an interim capacity, Dr. Delia Conti officially joined Penn State Fayette as director of Academic Affairs.

Conti, who holds a Ph.D. in political rhetoric from the University of Pittsburgh and a law degree from Duquesne, is excited to take the reins of Academic Affairs. "I love this job!" Conti says. "I enjoy working with faculty, staff and students to help Penn State Fayette grow and to provide an excellent education. I especially like to encourage faculty to innovate in terms of curriculum."

Although new to Fayette, Conti's roots at Penn State run deep. "I met my husband Tony as an undergraduate at Penn State," Conti says, "and I began working at Penn State McKeesport [now Penn State Greater Allegheny] when my daughter Sara was an infant—twenty-two years ago." Sara is now a senior marketing major and Anthony is a freshman engineering student—both at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. (Conti's youngest child, Alexandria, is a freshman in high school.)

Because the most predictable thing about the DAA job is its unpredictability, Conti has taken steps to be as accessible as possible. The Academic Affairs office is now open until 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Dr. Conti welcomes students to visit her in her office anytime they have questions or concerns.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATORS RECEIVE AWARD



Chad Long, assistant to the director of Student Affairs at Penn State Fayette, and Vanessa Myers, 2008-2009 activities assistant, were honored with the 2009 Vice President's Outstanding Program Award. The award recognizes employees who do an outstanding job coordinating a campus program during the school year. Long and Myers were nominated for the award by their colleagues and Penn State Fayette students. The award was presented by the University's Division of Student Affairs.

ART PROFESSOR COMPLETES MAJOR PORTRAIT COMMISSION



In December, art professor Patrick Daugherty completed a major portrait commission of Fayette County President Judge Conrad Capuzzi. The portrait will be permanently installed at the Fayette County Courthouse in the main courtroom, alongside portraits of previous president judges that date from 1800s and early 1900s. The oil painting was commissioned by the Fayette County Bar Association to honor the judge upon his retirement in 2009.

FAYETTE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

BOHDAN SCHATSCHNEIDER, PH.D. joins the faculty as a professor of chemistry. Dr. Schatschneider has much research experience, including work at the University of California and Florida Atlantic University.

LINDSEY JONES, PH.D. has joined the campus' English department as an assistant professor. Dr. Jones was formerly a graduate assistant and fixed-term lecturer at Penn State University, and a visiting assistant professor at Michigan State University. She received her master's degree and doctorate, both in English, from Penn State.

LAWRENCE UDEIGWE joined the faculty as an instructor of mathematics. He has taught math, physics, computer science, statistics, calculus, algebra, trigonometry, and theoretical mathematics at several institutions of higher education, including University of Pittsburgh, University of Delaware, and Duquesne University.

MICHAEL RIDENOUR JR. was already a part of the Penn State Fayette family. He was an adjunct professor at the Fayette campus and will now be instructing business courses full-time.



LARRY GRAYSON, PH.D. is the new program coordinator for Mining Technology. In addition to coordinating for the Mining Technology program, Dr. Grayson is teaching mining classes at Penn State Fayette. He also is a professor and program officer for mining engineering in the department of energy and mineral engineering at Penn State's University Park.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT *Awards, publications and other special achievements in 2009*

SUSAN CRAMPTON-FRENCHIK, PH.D.: Crampton-Frenchik presented the paper: "Digging Deep: Literary and Environmental Territories in Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio's *Ourania*" at the Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference in Pittsburgh in September. She also received a \$750 grant from the American Association of Teachers of French for the 2nd Annual Francophone Competition for local high school students of French in commemoration of National French Week.

JAMES CRAWFORD, PH.D.: Crawford published a paper he co-wrote with a colleague from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center: "Neutron Star Structure in the Presence of Scalar Fields" in the *Astrophysical Journal*, Volume 701 (2009).

ANDRZEJ GAPINSKI, PH.D.: Gapinski had two papers, "Automated Manufacturing: Processes and Technologies" and "Power Measurements on a Budget: ConZerv ELF3234," published in the proceedings of the 2009 International Conference on Engineering and Computer Education,

Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires. He also was a guest lecturer at West-Pomeranian Technological University, Szczecin, Poland. His topics included: "Engineering Education: Quo Vadis?" at the Department of Electrical Engineering, November 26; and "Higher Education: USA vs Europe" at the Business and Economics Department, December 8. He also gave a lecture on "Higher Education: USA vs Europe" at the Business School of the University of Szczecin, Poland, on December 10.

WILLIAM GARDNER: Gardner received the 2009 Ellen M. Laun Advising Excellence Award from Penn State Fayette.

JERRY HOEG, PH.D.: Hoeg co-wrote *Reading and Writing the Latin American Landscape* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). He co-edited the book *Interdisciplinary Essays on Darwinism in Hispanic Literature and Film: The Intersection of Science and the Humanities* (Edwin Mellen Press, 2009) and a special edition of the journal *Ometeca* (13.1, 2009) on the "Humanities and Science in the Age of the Great Oceanic Navigations." Hoeg also published

the articles "Evolución y Narrativa" in *Círculo: Revista de Cultura* 38 (2009) and "Scientific Discourse in Hispanic Letters: Columbus and The Coding of Culture" in *Ometeca* 13.1 (2009), as well as the book chapter "La Narrativa Evolutiva" in *El Español, Baluarte del Humanismo: Literatura, Lengua, y Cultura* (Madrid: Asociación Humanística de Humanidades, 2009).

JO ANN JANKOSKI, PH.D.: Jankoski, with professor Gina Jones, presented "How Will Rural America Move Multicultural Education and Social Justice Forward: Inclusion Strategies for Multicultural Educators" at the National Association for Multicultural Educators Conference in Denver, Colorado. Jankoski also received the 2009 Teaching Excellence Award from Penn State Fayette.

LINDSEY JONES, PH.D.: Jones presented her paper "Gods Vast, Naybor, Zay Ye Zo?: Code-Switching, Dialect, and Difference on the Early English Stage" at the 125th Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association in Philadelphia in December.

—FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
continues on page 17

STAFF TEAMBUILDING RETREAT FOSTERS COLLABORATION

*Fayette's finest, yes we are.
The best campus, near or far.
Come to us, forget the rest.
Absolutely, we're the best!*

*F*ayette's finest, yes we are. The best campus, near or far. Come to us, forget the rest. Absolutely, we're the best!" That is one of the Penn State Fayette cheers made up by teams of staff members at the annual Staff Teambuilding Retreat held in August. Teams and individuals worked together to complete a variety of activities, including cheerleading, bike races, water balloon toss, and more.



NEW REFERENCE LIBRARIAN JOINS FAYETTE



Carrie Girton joined the campus library as the new reference and instruction librarian. Girton works with students and faculty with research resources for academic pursuits, and also helps anyone needing assistance in finding books, articles, and other reference information. Previously, Girton worked as an instruction library graduate assistant and reference library graduate assistant at Northern Kentucky University.

WELCOME OUR NEW ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF



*F*ive new faces joined the staff at the campus in 2009! From left: Collette Ridgeway, administrative assistant to the director of Academic Affairs; Garret Daley, who joined the janitorial staff; Ryan Ehrie, supervisor of Recreation and Athletic Operations; Maria McDonald, Registrar; and Melissa Beucher, Student Activities assistant.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT —continued from page 15

DONALD LIDDICK, PH.D.:

Liddick received the 2009 Scholarly Excellence Award from Penn State Fayette.

KEVIN MAXWELL: Maxwell, along with professor Nicole Hill, presented the paper “Recruiting Students to STEM Through a Pi Day Competition” (co-authored with professor David Meredith) at the 2009 Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration in Orlando, Florida, in March.

DAVID MEREDITH: Meredith received the 2009 Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Award from the Board of Directors of the Women in Engineering ProActive Network.

MELISSA MINER: Miner co-presented “Creating & Implementing a One-Year Bachelor of Science Completion Program” at the Redefining Excellence: Pennsylvania’s Best Health Care Practices conference in March in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. At the Drexel University Nursing Education Institute in June in Arlington, Virginia, she co-presented “Lessons Learned: The Nuts & Bolts of Creating and Implementing a One-Year Bachelor of Science Completion Program.” Miner was a poster co-presenter at the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing 2009 Convention in November in Orlando, Florida. The poster was titled “Successes and Pitfalls or How We Survived Implementing a One-Year Bachelor of Science Completion Program.”

JEANNE MOORE, D.ED.:

Moore received her Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in May.

WERNER PLUHAR, PH.D.:

Pluhar received the 2009 Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award from Penn State Fayette.

EVELYN PLUHAR-ADAMS, PH.D.: Pluhar-Adams received Penn State’s top teaching award, the George W. Atheron Award for Excellence in Teaching. She published “Marginal Cases: Categorical and Biconditional

Versions” in *The Encyclopedia of Animal Rights and Animal Welfare* (Greenwood Press, 2009).

GIB PRETTYMAN, PH.D.:

Prettyman was elected as a member of the Steering Committee and as chair of the Awards Committee of the international Society for Utopian Studies. He also presented his paper “Western Buddhism and the Critical Utopia” at the society’s conference at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina. In December, he was awarded a sabbatical leave for academic year 2010-11 to work on his book, *Seeking the Way: Western Buddhism in Contemporary SF and Utopia*. He continues to serve as associate editor for *Resources for American Literary Study*.

JOHN RAPANO, PH.D.:

Rapano completed all the requirements for his Ph.D. in administration and leadership studies for nonprofits in December.

JOSEPH SHOSTELL, PH.D.: Shostell received the Earth Friend Award, presented on behalf of Sony, WTAE-TV, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. He also received the 2008 Educator of the Year award from the Fayette Chamber of Commerce. Shostell is co-author of the book *Biology, Evolution, and Conservation of River Dolphins within South America and Asia: Unknown Dolphins in Danger* (Nova Science Publishers, Inc., 2009). He also co-wrote “Molecular Differentiation Among *Inia geoffrensis* and *Inia boliviensis* (Iniidae, Cetacea) by Means of Nuclear Intron Sequences” in *Population Genetics Research Progress*.

JUDITH STURGES, PH.D.:

Sturges co-authored “Survey of Jail Visitors About Visitation Policies,” published in *The Prison Journal*, Vol.89 (2009). She authored the “Handbook for Family and Friends of Pennsylvania County Prison/Jail Inmates,” published by Centre County Correctional Facility, in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Sturges also presented the paper “Effects of Criminality on Mothers of Offenders” at the Midwestern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences in September.

FOND FAREWELL

DR. WERNER PLUHAR, professor of philosophy, spent thirty-one years at Penn State-Fayette, beginning August 1978. “My relationship to our friendly and caring faculty and staff—and especially to our students, in classes rarely larger than thirty-five, sometimes as small as five to eight—have made for an experience that teachers at most universities can only dream of,” he says. Pluhar adds that though he is now retired, he continues to be linked to the campus and to several members of the faculty and staff. “But I also continue to be in touch with a number of students, and this not just for recommendations, but also in friendly, personal terms—quite in the spirit of Penn State Fayette.”



JOANN HARRIS

retired after twenty years at the campus. After a job layoff in 1989, she came to Penn State Fayette and began her college education. Through the ensuing years she earned associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and worked for the campus in a variety of positions, including minority student retention specialist, as Student Affairs staff, and as an educational Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Centers of southwestern Pennsylvania. EOC is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by Penn State University. Harris says, “I have been so fortunate to start and finish my career in the academic arena at Penn State Fayette. I will miss the interaction and camaraderie with students, EOC and Fayette staff.”



GALA RAISES \$34,000 FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

by Susan Brimo-Cox



The first Blues and White Gala raised nearly \$34,000 for student scholarships, thanks to the generosity of more than 150 who attended the event hosted by Penn State Fayette April 18 at Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort, and from the contributions of others who could not attend, but who wanted to support the initiative. One-hundred percent of the funds raised were destined to be distributed to Penn State Fayette students in direct scholarships in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Local KDKA-TV sports anchor Bob Pompeani was the gala's master of ceremonies, while the live auction was handled by Sotheby's auctioneer and Penn State alumnus Selby Kiffer. The evening's live auction items included Pittsburgh Steelers, Pittsburgh Penguins, and Nittany Lion Fan Packages; special travel, dining, and golf packages; a Steelers football helmet autographed by Ben Roethlisberger; and a Pittsburgh Penguins jersey autographed by Sidney Crosby. The silent auction featured exotic art and jewelry, sports and ballet tickets, gift baskets, and much more.



The gala also was an opportunity for Penn State Fayette to recognize two individuals who have been very supportive of Penn State Fayette. "Friend of Penn State Fayette" Nittany Lion statues were presented to Joseph Hardy III and another to Congressman John Murtha (who was unable to attend, but was represented by Mark Critz).

The Billy Price Band provided the evening's musical entertainment.

Some of the gala's key sponsors included Elouise R. Eberly, Advanced Acoustic Concepts, Robert and Meg Eberly III, Ford Business Machines, Nemaocolin Woodlands/84 Lumber, Lord Peter Palumbo, Joshua and Maria Swimmer, BAE Systems, Ida M. Procyk, CRH Catering, Foundation Coal, Jackson Farms, Attorney and Mrs. Wayne H. Port, and Uniontown Mall.

The Blues and White Gala will be an annual fundraiser for scholarships at Penn State Fayette. The next gala is slated for April 17, 2010.



Did You Know?

Penn State Fayette awards more than \$350,000 in scholarships each year.

DONOR HONOR ROLL 2008-2009

(July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009)



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The President's Club formally recognizes those individuals, couples, and organizations that are exceptionally generous in making a gift of \$2,500 or more to Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

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The Chancellor's Club formally recognizes those who contribute between \$1,000 to \$2,499 in annual gifts that provide Penn State Fayette resources to meet critical needs that are often unanticipated or for which adequate funds are not available.

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Penn State Fayette appreciates its many friends and alumni who also demonstrate their support of the campus and its mission with gifts.

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CONSOL ENERGY GIFT

As part of its “Financial Aid to Education” initiative, CONSOL Energy presented a gift of \$25,000 to the Mining Technology Associate Degree Program at Penn State Fayette. Receiving the gift on behalf of the campus is mining technology instructor Larry Hunchuck (center), who is joined by mining technology students Tim Woodrum (left) and Justin Elliott, both of whom also work for CONSOL.



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CENTRA BANK GIFT

Centra Bank made a \$50,000 gift for the second year in a row to benefit students at Penn State Fayette. The gift will provide scholarships to undergraduate students enrolled at the campus as part of the Centra Bank Trustee Scholarship established in 2008. From the left: Edward Franczyk, president and CEO of Centra Bank Fayette, is joined by Centra Bank Fayette Board of Directors member Mallard George, Chairman of the Board C. Christopher Cluss, and board member James Davis (right) to present a \$50,000 gift to Penn State Fayette. Receiving the gift on behalf of the campus is Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie.



GIFT TO ALUMNI SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Penn State Fayette Alumni Society made a recent gift of \$12,500 to Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus for the Alumni Society of the Fayette Campus Scholarship fund. The scholarship was endowed in 2005 to assist Penn State Fayette students. The funds for the recent gift were raised from the alumni society’s annual ice cream sale and Blue and White Golf Outing. Presenting the check to Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie (center) are alumni society board members (from left): Cheryl Duncan, JoAnn Harris, alumni society treasurer Nancy Port, Seth Prentice, and Wayne Port.



UNIONTOWN HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

From proceeds raised from the group’s Festival of Trees fundraising event, the Uniontown Hospital Auxiliary donated \$10,000 to Penn State Fayette’s Nursing Scholarship Program. Joining Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie and Melissa Miner (second from left), coordinator of Fayette’s nursing program, for the presentation of the gift are Sally Spegar (left), hospital auxiliary president, and Patty Gulino and Mary Fornili, co-chairs of the Festival of Trees Committee.



GIFT FROM INDIAN COMMUNITY

Members of the Uniontown Indian community joined together to make a gift of nearly \$1,700 to Penn State Fayette in support of the campus’ international students. On behalf of the Indian community, Dr. Mani Balu (second from right) and Shantha Balu (left) presented the gift December 15 to Penn State Fayette Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie (second from left). They are joined by Fayette chemistry professor Dr. Prem Sattangi.



FAYETTE ALUMNUS ELECTED TO LEAD AFL-CIO

From his humble beginnings in southwestern Pennsylvania and the area's coal fields, Penn State Fayette alumnus Richard Trumka leveraged his education, experience and compassion for the working man to be elected president of the AFL-CIO on September 16, 2009. While Trumka points to the time he worked underground as a coal miner as significant in shaping many of his beliefs, his education also played an important role in his career path.

Born in 1949, Trumka comes from a family of coal miners—his grandfather and father worked in the coal mines of the region. As a young boy, Trumka first learned about the hardships of the profession from them, and at a young age he became determined to help working people.

Trumka worked as a coal miner for several years before he began his college education at Penn State Fayette. And he continued to work as he earned a bachelor degree in accounting at University Park in 1971.

"I came from a small mining town where everyone thought alike. When I came to Penn State I was exposed to new thinking from people from all over the United States and from all over the world. It gave me a better idea of different cultures—

and I made friends with people from different countries. I'm still friends with many of those people to this day," he says.

Trumka completed his formal education with a law degree from Villanova University in 1974. Then, after four years as part of the legal staff of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), he returned to the coal mines. During that period of his career he provided pro bono legal services for families after work hours, and he rose quickly as a leader in the UMWA.

He explains, "Most people learn at a very early age that no one does it alone. Working cooperatively with people allows you to collectively achieve more than anyone in the group could have achieved alone. In the trade union movement, that is the basis of what we do."

In 1982, at the age of 33, he became the UMWA's youngest president and set about reforming the union's bureaucracy. During his time as president, he made great strides for the union and its members, including winning passage of the federal COAL Act that guarantees health care for retired miners and bringing the UMWA into the AFL-CIO.

Trumka's appeal within the labor organization aided his rise in the AFL-CIO. As part of a reform group he became the youngest secretary-treasurer in that organization in 1995. He worked hard on various committees, coalitions and with other organizations focusing on trade, health care and labor reform. He publicly tackled the specter of racism when Obama was running for president.



Photo courtesy of AFL-CIO

When he launched his campaign to succeed John Sweeney as president of the AFL-CIO, he went on a nationwide "listening tour" so he could hear from young workers and discover from them what would make unions more relevant. Challenging conventional wisdom and asserting his beliefs "with absolute conviction" has proved to be contagious for Trumka, and helped lead to his election as president of the nation's largest labor federation.

Trumka says, "My time at Penn State reinforced the values I learned from my upbringing. Values like hard work, honesty, integrity and the value of family. It gave me the greatest gift you can receive; intellectual curiosity. Education should never stop. As a result I still get very, very excited by new ideas."

And for Trumka the Nittany Lion remains an instant connection. "Whenever I see a replica on someone's desk or in my travels, the lion is an immediate kinship and brings back all the wonderful times—in class, social events and the time spent enjoying learning from people. When my son was 2 years old I took him to campus and took a picture with the lion—similar to an old photo I have with my classmates from years ago."

Did You Know?

Graduates of Penn State who are working full time earn \$9,854 more per year than the average college graduate in Pennsylvania.

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS —continued from page 6

CENTER HELPS WITH HISTORICAL RECREATION

What has 3,000 crown bricks, 1,200 lining bricks, 120 bottom tiles, and 20 cubic yards of stone? When members of the Dunbar Historical Society decided to build an exact replica of a beehive coke oven in the middle of town they didn't have to go very far for an answer. Society members found the information they needed at The Coal and Coke Heritage Center, where blueprints and diagrams more than 100 years old guided their construction activities. The Center also helped develop an educational program suited for students who come to visit the coke oven model.

CAMPUS WINS AWARD

Penn State Fayette received a Gold CUPPIE Award in the Special Events category from CUPRAP: The Association of Communicators in Education. Penn State Fayette received the award for its "creative excellence in marketing and communications" of the Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival, which debuted at the campus September 27, 2008. The 2009 CUPPIE Awards were presented at CUPRAP's annual conference in March.

BREDE NAMED OUTSTANDING ALUMNA

At a special meeting of the campus' advisory board in October, Debra K. Brede was honored as the recipient of the 25th Outstanding Alumna Award of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus. A Fayette County native, Brede began her college education at the Fayette campus and graduated from Penn State in 1978. She is president of D.K. Brede Investment Management Company of Needham, Massachusetts, a firm she founded in 1989. In addition to this honor, she was the featured speaker at the campus' Commencement ceremony in 2008.



From right, Penn State Fayette alumni Kelly (Stacek) Campitell ('88) and Jack Hicks (pre '79) returned to Fayette to talk to engineering students about their company Roustan United Arena Solutions, based in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, which designs and builds ice arenas around the world. Campitell graduated with both AET and BEST options in the BldgET program. She participated in the first design competition and won first place in both AET and BEST divisions. Hicks graduated in mining technology. He is now one of the world's leading experts in ice rink design and control.

ALUMNI NOTES

ROBERT BREAKIRON JR., '93 AJSCC, is a case manager at SPHS Behavioral Health in Uniontown, Pa.

DANA DUNGAN, '07 LASCC, was hired as a delivery support coordinator for Parametric Technology Corporation in Uniontown, Pa.

GARY GERBA, '73 2BACC, is a corrections officer with SCI Pittsburgh.

KELLY KADISH, '08 NURN, has been commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. She is currently an ensign rank working as a nurse at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Maryland.



LARRY KONTER, '76 BSBCC, is president/owner of Traveler's Service Company, the sixth-largest travel management company in Pennsylvania.

SETH PRENTICE, '09 COMM, returned to the area and is the local programming coordinator in charge of all the television programming for channels 20 and 100 on Armstrong Cable in Connellsville, Pa.

ERIN PEAVORNIK PROSSER, '96 EKED, now resides in Plum Borough near Pittsburgh, where she is a media specialist with Hampton Township School District.

PENN STATE FAYETTE ALUMNI: STAY CONNECTED

When was the last time you updated your alumni information? It's easy to stay connected. Simply complete this form and mail it to Alumni News, PO Box 519, Uniontown, PA 15401, fax it to 724-430-4172, or go online at www.fayette.psu.edu/Alumni/alumservices.htm

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ E-mail: _____

What years did you attend Penn State Fayette? _____ Other Penn State Campuses attended: _____

Penn State degree and graduation year (if applicable): _____

Spouse/significant other's name: _____

Share your news! Let us know about job promotions and career advancements, new jobs, awards and significant accomplishments, important family news (weddings, birth of a child, etc.), alumni get-togethers.

I want information about joining the Penn State Fayette Alumni Society.

I want information about making a gift to Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

I want information about including Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus in my estate planning.

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