President Hanna: Focused on Students

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Five years of preparing teachers and still going strong. Page 20
As the tournament director for the Little League Baseball World Series, I get to see, first-hand, the excitement each year as 16 championship teams make their way to Williamsport. The exuberance of the players is infectious and gives all us at Little League International tangible evidence of the hard work we do each day that has an impact on millions of players around the world.

In my role as chairperson of the Council of Trustees, I have also been an eyewitness to the hard work that goes into selecting a new university president. In July, Dr. Bashar Hanna assumed leadership of Bloomsburg University. But, for the prior eight months, countless hours were put in by many people to help identify and eventually choose the person to serve as BU’s new leader. This group, led by the Honorable Judge Mary Jane Bowes, did outstanding work reviewing applications, conducting on- and off-campus interviews before eventually making recommendations to the Board of Governors. I know I speak for all faculty, staff, alumni and students when I say thank you to all of them.

Dr. Hanna, in just a short time, has already made an impact on the campus as he gets out to meet with different groups and shares his vision for the university. From his first day on the job when he took selfies with the orientation staff at Scranton Commons, to his meeting faculty and staff in and around campus, Dr. Hanna is quickly learning what it means to be a Husky.

Dr. Hanna’s presidency is just one of several items for the BU community to look forward to in the coming month. This year, we will kick off homecoming weekend Friday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. by officially dedicating the David L. Soltz Residence Hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony. It was my honor, at the June Council of Trustees meeting, to announce the naming of this building in honor of Dr. Soltz for his nine and-a-half years of service to Bloomsburg. That night we will celebrate with fireworks on the Quad the most successful capital campaign in the university’s 178-year history, the It’s Personal Campaign, which raised more than $61 million.

So as we welcome Dr. Hanna and his family to the BU family, let’s remember the hard work and dedication it took to get to this point.

Patrick Wilson ’91
Chairman, Council of Trustees
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COVER PHOTO: Gordon Wenzel/Impressions

PHOTO ASHLETRUCHON

Gordon Wenzel, with BU interns Samuel Payson and Leanna Smith at Crayola.
HEIDI STOUDT, a student in Bloomsburg’s graduate program in education of the deaf/hard of hearing, talks with children at a two-week camp held on campus in June. Six children, ages 2 to 8, attended the camp, designed to give future teachers of the deaf the opportunity to work with deaf and hard of hearing students and to learn how to develop lesson plans/activities based on each individual child’s needs.
PALEONTOLOGY ISN’T A TYPICAL CAREER TRACK for an environmental geoscience major, but that didn’t stop Keara Drummer from testing the waters this summer at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Drummer, a junior, was among the select few interns to help curators on the Royal Mapes Collection — a scientific collection of over 500,000 fossil specimens, mostly from the Upper Paleozoic of the central United States. She was one of six chosen for this highly competitive eight-week internship.

“The internship does basically what I’ve been doing helping organize the Department of Environmental, Geographical and Geological Sciences’ (EGGS) paleo collection, except on a larger more professional scale,” Drummer said. “I enjoy the nature of the job, and I’m up for the bigger challenge. I’ve always had a fascination for museums as a kid.”

According to Drummer, EGGS prepared her for this opportunity through individualized instruction, hands-on field experience and networking opportunities with professionals. One connection she says gave her a competitive edge to land the internship was work with paleontology instructor Alan Gishlick.

Gishlick opened Drummer to the idea of paleontology on a professional level. With his help, Drummer says she had the opportunity to learn about and execute the suggested archival process for fossil specimens, catalog the information of fossils and use the online Paleobiology database to identify taxonomic ranks for the last two years.

While this is not a set career path for Drummer, she says this experience will help her get closer to her career goals and open up doors for opportunities in other fields. She is grateful to the EGGS faculty who have opened her up to so many career-enhancing opportunities and allowed her to be a well-recognized student, not just a number in the 150-person lecture hall.

Maggie Farrer, mass communications major.
Trustees name new residence hall in Soltz’s honor

AN EXTERNAL GATHERING SPACE with a fire pit. A second-story outdoor plaza. Two lounges on every floor. And a green roof with sustainable, low-maintenance plants. Just a few of the “wow” factors built into plans for Bloomsburg University’s new Soltz Residence Hall, which opened in August at the site of the former University Store Building.

The seven-story, $61 million residence hall features 138 suite-style apartments which will house nearly 400 students in 11 single, 37 double, 39 triple and 48 quad configurations. The building’s first floor will feature the University Store, Mail Services and two nationally known restaurants, Chick-fil-A and Qdoba Mexican Eats.

The Council of Trustees approved naming BU’s new residence hall in honor of retired President David L. Soltz in June. The trustees also recommended and approved President Emeritus status for Soltz.
FALL 2017

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY’S ANCHOR PROGRAM debuted July with programming for 25 students in foster care, ages 15 to 18. The program allowed students to explore their academic interests and talents through a summer residential college life experience. The Anchor Program also offers year-round mentorship opportunities to help participants make life choices like furthering their education and living independently.

Rona Anderson, the assistant to the dean of the College of Liberal Arts, coordinated the program and felt it made an impact. “We helped the students see there are programs on campus that they can pursue. It also gave them a sense that college is a place where they belong and is something attainable,” says Anderson. “Plus, the outpouring of support from so many individuals on- and off- campus was gratifying.”

BU student Nicholas Stine, who served as a crew leader, was impacted as much as the participants. “I had no idea this program would change me so much,” says Stine. “I learned from these individuals who are wise beyond their years. They told us stories, both good and bad, about their lives. We were with them for a week, and by the end, they trusted us enough to open up to us. Yes, some stories we were not prepared for, but we listened and learned from each other.”

Krause named interim provost

JAMES KRAUSE was named interim provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs. A faculty member in the department of exceptionality programs, Krause began his almost 21-year tenure at Bloomsburg University as an adjunct professor. He has served the university in several capacities, including associate professor, department chair, assistant dean, co-director of the McDowell Institute, interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate education and as interim dean of the College of Education. Krause earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Bloomsburg University and his doctorate from Temple University.
BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY LAUNCHED a new major in international business this fall semester. The major, combining liberal arts learning with the functional business disciplines, experiential learning and leadership training, will prepare students with a wider set of skills and a global mindset.

According to Jeffrey Krug, dean of the Zeigler College of Business, BU’s international business major will differ from universities that only train students in international business coursework. Students will graduate with a functional concentration, notes Krug. “A graduate can say they have a major in international business and have functional concentration in accounting, finance or marketing, etc.”

“I’m aware of only two other universities in the country that offer this type of degree, the University of South Carolina and the University of Southern California,” says Krug. “This is a unique opportunity to give students an international business degree that will propel Bloomsburg University in tremendous ways.”

Students develop orienteering course for upper campus

BLOOMSBURG ROTC CADET NICOLAS CORRELL had an idea one day while sitting in his geographic information system (GIS) class. Instead of driving half an hour to ROTC land navigation trainings, why not just create an orienteering course on upper campus?

Orienteering is a race using a map and compass for navigation on an unfamiliar course. In addition to being used by the ROTC program, the course can be used by students in several environmental, geographical and geological sciences (EGGS) as well. Correll shared his idea with Jeff Brunskill, associate professor of environmental, geographical and geological sciences. Brunskill enlisted the help of the rest of the EGGS department and GIS student worker, Patrick Martin. Correll worked with Brunskill to design and install the metal signage and choose fitting locations on upper campus for the course. Martin focused on GIS and associated mapping software to develop an orienteering map.

Bloomsburg ranked fifth by Schools.com

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY IS RANKED FIFTH among four-year colleges in Pennsylvania according to Schools.com. The ranking focuses on affordability, flexibility and student services using the most recent government data to evaluate colleges and universities across the state.

According to Schools.com, BU has the lowest raw cost of tuition and fees in the state. The average net price is also affordable, ranking fourth among Schools.com’s best traditional and online colleges in Pennsylvania. Schools.com also recognized BU for participating in the Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (transfer agreements) with many of the state’s two-year schools.
Concussion study enters new phase

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY is continuing its role in a nationwide study of concussions with the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA).

A team of clinical athletic training graduate students, led by Joseph Hazzard, director of BU’s Institute for Concussion Research and Services, spent a week at the United States Military Academy in West Point, NY, assisting with baseline testing of cadets. The concussion screenings are the initial data point for this summer’s phase of the NCAA-Department of Defense Concussion Assessment, Research and Education (C.A.R.E.) Consortium.

The study, now in its fourth year, includes 30 schools nationwide. The study has enrolled more than 28,000 participants, including student-athletes at 26 campuses and students at four military academies. The CARE research is part of the landmark $30 million NCAA-U.S. Department of Defense Grand Alliance, which is funding the most comprehensive study of concussion and head impact exposure ever conducted. The alliance also supports an educational grand challenge aimed at changing important concussion safety behaviors and the culture of concussion reporting and management.

National ranking in sales

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY’S PROFESSIONAL SALES program is ranked among the nation’s best for professional sales education by the Sales Education Foundation. BU is one of just five Pennsylvania schools that are ranked. The others are LaSalle, Widener, Duquesne and Temple. It is the only school in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education with a sales specialization. Students in marketing and sales complete 21 credits in marketing and 18 credits in sales.

Bloomsburg has a history of success in sales competitions. In 2016 BU finished in the top 10 at the Russ Berrie Institute National Sales Challenge and was top 10 at the International Collegiate Sales Competition from 2013-2015.

Banking team reaches finals

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY WAS A FINALIST in the nationwide 2017 Community Bank Case Study Competition, facilitated by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. The BU team of Keegan Carl, Michael Mintzer, Vicki Yackiel, Austin Golden, Kristopher Gross and videographer Benjamin Staub were among five college teams out of 33 that advanced as finalists in the bank competition. The other student teams represent Iowa State University, Kutztown University, Texas Tech University and the University of Akron.

 McGUIRE HONORED BY SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS

FORMER SPORTS INFORMATION Director Tom McGuire was honored in June with the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Lifetime Achievement Award. The award is presented to CoSIDA members who have served at least 25 years in the profession. McGuire left a lasting impression on the student-athletes, coaches and student employees with whom he worked in his 29-year career as a sports information director. McGuire transitioned to director of media relations and content strategy in the Office of Marketing and Communications in January 2017.

McGuire, described as the consummate professional with a great instinct for news and storytelling, has increased news coverage for Bloomsburg University. As Sports Information Director he served as host of dozens of NCAA and PSAC championship events and successfully promoted Franklyn Quitteh for the Harlon Hill Award. McGuire has also mentored numerous interns, graduate assistants and student workers who have gone on to work in the field with universities or professional sports teams. A full story on McGuire, is at bloomu.edu/magazine.
SEVEN YEARS AGO Bloomsburg University men’s swimmer Seth Chamberlin walked away from the sport as a high school senior. It is a decision he regretted for years.

“I made the mistake of quitting my swimming career in high school,” explains Chamberlain. “Instead of finishing my senior year strong, I involved myself in the social aspect of drinking and partying. As fulfilling as it sounded, it wasn’t.”

Flash forward to Oct. 29, 2016, and Chamberlin, a 24-year old rookie, is on the blocks in the 50-free preparing to swim against PSAC rival West Chester.

“I had no idea what to expect,” says Chamberlain, who will be a redshirt sophomore in the fall. “I was nervous, but excited to start the journey I never finished in high school.”

He posted a time of 24.41 seconds that day to finish ninth overall and later took 11th in the 100-fly in the Huskies’ victory over the Golden Rams – the program’s first win over West Chester since 1989. But, time and place did not matter to someone trying to come back from mistakes made years earlier.

Chamberlain graduated from Bloomsburg High School in 2010 and worked for several years before deciding to attend BU in the spring of 2015.

“I began to get my life back on track and took school very seriously,” says Chamberlain. “After a couple of semesters of working hard in class and making Dean’s List, I decided I wanted more from my college experience. I felt the urge to swim again.”

Chamberlain reached out to head coach Stu Marvin in an attempt to walk-on to the team. “Coach was very helpful,” said Chamberlain. “He, along with the captains, were very welcoming and they provided me with team workouts.”

He continued to work hard and posted his best times of the season during the Zippy Invitational on Dec. 2. Although he narrowly missed qualifying for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Championships, his comeback inspired the rest of the team.

“Seth’s story is very inspirational and he has had a tremendously positive impact on the rest of the team,” says Marvin. “We are all pulling for him to achieve his personal goals.”

At the team’s postseason banquet, Chamberlin was rewarded with the Captain’s Award given by the team captains to a team member who displays unselfish commitment, dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and unwavering loyalty towards BU swimming. Then, weeks later, he received the Paul and Jennefer Clifford Scholarship, awarded annually to a walk-on student-athlete.

“I was completely shocked and speechless when I received the Captain’s Award and grateful for the Clifford Scholarship Award,” says Chamberlain. “I took the necessary steps to get my life in order and was rewarded for it.”

“If there is one thing I’ve learned, it’s how you choose to respond to your mistakes that defines who you truly are. Last season will be a hard season to top, but the potential for this year is exciting. I will be ready to compete. My goal is for redemption.” •
Athletes earn classroom honors

SAM PETERS, a nursing major from Harrisburg, and Daniel Neiswender, a nursing major from Lebanon, earned Academic All-America status from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) this spring.

Peters, a member of the field hockey team, was a Second Team honoree. She graduated in May with a cumulative grade point average of 3.92 and became the sixth different (seventh overall) field hockey student-athlete at BU to earn Academic All-America honors.

Neiswender, who runs cross country and track, was a Third Team honoree with a perfect 4.0 grade point average over his first three years. He became the school’s first male student-athlete, from either cross country or track and field, and only the fourth student-athlete, male or female from either sport, to garner the accolade.

Earlier in the spring, Damin Muth, a senior baseball player from Breinigsville and Mallory Tomaschik, a senior softball player from Catawissa joined Peters and Neiswender with Academic All-District First Team status from CoSIDA.

Additionally, a total of 144 BU student-athletes were recognized as Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Scholar-Athletes for the 2016-17 academic year. To earn PSAC Scholar-Athlete recognition, a student-athlete must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or above. For the complete list of BU student-athletes that earned PSAC Scholar-Athlete recognition, visit buhuskies.com.

Hall of Fame class announced

SIX INDIVIDUALS will be inducted into the 36th Athletic Hall of Fame class, bringing the total number of honorees to 175. This year’s inductees are Michele Baylor Kane ’00, lacrosse; Kathy Frick ’90, field hockey and lacrosse player/coach; Eric Jonassen ’91, football; Chuck Laudermilch, first women’s soccer coach; Ralph Moerschbacher ’70, swimming; and Michelle Wolyniec ’00, cross country/track and field.

The induction dinner and ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 27, in the Kehr Union Ballroom. For tickets or to learn more about this year’s inductees, visit buhuskies.com.

Volleyball coach named

DAN KREIGER WAS NAMED the first head coach for women’s volleyball, which will begin competitive play in the fall of 2018. No stranger to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC), Kreiger spent five seasons – the last four as the head coach – at Lock Haven University from 2011 to 2015. Last season, he was a volunteer assistant coach at Clarion University in the fall before heading to Juniata College to serve as the assistant men’s volleyball coach. In his four seasons as the head coach at Lock Haven, Kreiger guided the Bald Eagles to an 88-49 overall record and a 55-30 mark against PSAC opponents. Under Kreiger, Lock Haven qualified for the PSAC Tournament in each of his four years at the helm and advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2012. The program earned PSAC Eastern Division regular season titles in 2012 and 2014 and was the tournament runner-up in 2012.

After graduating from Penn State Altoona in 2003 with a bachelor of science degree in human development and family studies, Kreiger began his collegiate coaching career at St. Andrews Presbyterian College where he served as the head coach for the NCAA Division II program from 2005 to 2009. He led the team to three consecutive playoff appearances and averaged 14 wins each of those seasons.

Women’s volleyball is the first varsity sport added at Bloomsburg since the addition of women’s soccer in the fall of 1990.
Focused on students

I’ve had people who have extended a hand to help me. Part of how I can give back is to make sure my hand is always extended to help others.

by ERIC FOSTER

AS A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY, Bashar Hanna immigrated to the United States from Syria with his parents and six sisters. He spoke not a word of English.

For Hanna, Bloomsburg University’s 19th president, the transformative power of education is not an abstraction. It’s a reality that he has lived.

“If you would have asked me when I was 10 if I would have thought that an undergraduate, a master’s and a doctorate would have been in the realm of reality or possibility for me, I probably would have laughed and said, I just want to learn a few words of English.”

“If it weren’t for my fifth-grade teacher, I probably wouldn’t have finished high school,” says Hanna. “She gave up her lunch period every day to review flash cards with me. If it were not for her doing that, I’m not sure English would have been attainable for me as quickly as it was.”

“Each of us can think of individuals who transformed our lives along the way. Many times the magnitude of the transformation is unremarkable in the moment.”

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12
“I’ve had people who have extended a hand to help me. Part of how I can give back is to make sure my hand is always extended to help others. Especially our students, who might think that attaining a college degree is beyond their means or ability.”

Hanna’s personal experience has translated into a core professional philosophy that has guided his career: Students first.

“Every time I walked into the classroom when I was a tutor, a teaching assistant, or a professor, that was the number one underlying core value I carried with me. Without students, my classes wouldn’t be offered, my department wouldn’t exist, my college or school wouldn’t exist, and my university wouldn’t exist.”

**Challenging times**

Higher education across the country is experiencing unprecedented challenges with declining enrollment. Nationally, enrollment was down 1.4 percent in 2016, according to the National Student Clearing House Research Center. In Pennsylvania, there was a 2.6 percent decline last year, more than 18,000 fewer college students.

“The number of students available to go on to college has decreased. So the competition to recruit these students has become fiercer,” says Hanna. “I will always work with my faculty and staff colleagues at Bloomsburg to always focus on students’ success – they are our number one priority.”

The good news: Bloomsburg is well-positioned to meet these challenges.

“The energy of our campus is incredible,” says Hanna. “Our enrollment is robust. Is it as high as it was a few years ago? No. But, it’s stable. Our finances are stable, which allows us to have a conversation about what we can continue to do and want to do instead of reacting and panicking.”

Another one of Bloomsburg’s strengths is in its culture, says Hanna.

“When I was a dean at Kutztown I had always heard that Bloomsburg University is like family. That impression became real when I visited campus in March. Every session I had as a candidate reinforced how much our faculty
A career focused on student success

BEFORE COMING TO BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY, Bashar Hanna was a professor of biology and former vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Delaware Valley University in Doylestown.

As the vice president for academic affairs at Delaware Valley from 2011 to 2016, Hanna helped implement a $60 million capital campaign and launch four bachelor degrees, four master’s degrees and the institution’s first doctoral degree. He also guided the institution through a successful change to university status and created articulation agreements with five community colleges, leading to a significant increase in transfer students. Under his leadership, graduate enrollment increased by 65 percent. Hanna also launched Experience360 (E360), an experiential learning and career services program giving every student real-world experiences.

Before his appointment as vice president and dean at Delaware Valley in 2011, Hanna served as associate provost at Ithaca College. There he launched the college’s Integrative Core, increased external grant funding 20 percent and co-authored the institution’s academic strategic plan, IC 20/20.

Hanna served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and interim provost at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania from 2005 to 2009. At Kutztown, he conceived and assembled the school’s inaugural Board of Visitors, raised funds to create 22 new scholarships, and increased tenure-track/tenured faculty from 64 to 77 percent.

Hanna earned his Bachelor of Arts in biology, his master’s degree in developmental biology and his Ph.D. in developmental neurobiology from Temple University. Even while serving as an administrator, he continued to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in biology, cell biology, neurobiology, gerontology, biotechnology, mathematics, and bioethics.

Hanna was also the chief academic officer and dean of academic affairs for DeVry University – Pennsylvania. Before DeVry, he served his alma mater, Temple University, in various capacities. He was the associate dean of the College of Science and Technology, where he increased undergraduate enrollment by 35 percent and led the university’s effort to secure a multi-million dollar, multi-institution, National Science Foundation grant – the Philadelphia Alliance for Minority Participation.

In his career, he has garnered more than $8 million in external funding for projects, programs and scholarships.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Drug Discovery Institute, the American Association of University Administrators, is an editorial board member of the Journal of Education Management, and served on the board of the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center of Bucks County.

Active off campus as well, Hanna has earned the Caring Community Award from the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and the Outstanding Service Award from the Boy Scouts of America – Minsi Trails.

and staff love the students at BU. The faculty and the staff care for their students in a way that is remarkably personal for an institution of 10,000 students.”

While he’s optimistic about Bloomsburg’s future, Hanna is adamant “that this is not the time to become complacent. It doesn’t take too many years of less than dedicated service and commitment to excellence for an institution to find itself in real trouble.”

Hanna already has several priorities in mind, listing “student retention, persistence and degree completion. These issues have urgency and immediacy. The campus has already identified some of these. And that’s a significant advantage in itself because we know what we need to focus on.”

Bloomsburg’s first-year persistence rate, at about 75 percent, handily beats national averages by nearly 10 percent, but it has declined slightly in recent years – a trend Hanna would like to see reversed.

“Students should not come to Bloomsburg and leave after a year with loans and no degree,” he says. “We need to ensure that, without compromising academic standards, we are providing them with an avenue towards degree attainment.”

A focus on real-world preparation

Beyond increased competition for students, Hanna sees a generalized change in societal attitudes about higher education.

“The affordability question is front and center,” says Hanna. “Our cost structure is a tremendous advantage. There’s not a better quality education that you can earn in the commonwealth for what we charge. So the loan amount that a young man or lady is going to be shouldered with coming out of Bloomsburg will be significantly less than most of our competitors.”

A second significant change is a focus on career readiness, says Hanna. “Times have changed. Many of us went to college to become more learned and become a more informed person. Today, expectations have transitioned significantly in the
direction of preparing students to launch a successful career or gain admission to graduate or professional school.”

To illustrate the point, he jokes about his own experience as a second year Ph.D. student who needed a resume for a grant. “I ran around Temple’s campus trying to get advice on how to write a resume. Today, many first year students arrive on campus with their resume in-hand. The expectations are very different today.”

The answer, says Hanna, is to ensure that students learn “soft” skills as well as the discipline-specific knowledge of their chosen major. “Critical thinking, problem-solving, effective communications, being able to function as a team member, being able to lead a team. All of those things are expected by employers by the time students graduate.”

“Universities that have shaped their curriculum inside and outside of the classroom to make sure that the discipline has not been forgotten and the soft skills are integrated with the discipline will produce graduates who will succeed.”

Bloomsburg’s Professional U programs – which provide students with professional workshops and experiences outside the classroom – have already put Bloomsburg ahead of the curve, says Hanna. “Not too many public regional comprehensive institutions do the phenomenal job we do in rounding out the soft skills of our students. I look forward to working with our faculty and staff to make sure that every student gets those experiences before they graduate.”

“Sometimes students are going to come to us and may be underprepared or a little rough around the edges. It’s our job to help them succeed. That’s what a university does – we develop teenagers into responsible adults.” •
A family focus

TALK WITH BASHAR HANNA for several minutes, and you’ll hear the word “family,” maybe more than once. The sacrifices his parents and sisters made so he could pursue higher education have had a pervasive influence on his leadership style.

At the May announcement naming him Bloomsburg’s next president, Hanna’s first words to the campus community were to thank his family, particularly his wife, Deanna. “For the last 18 years, she’s been both mother and father to our two children (Christian and Lauren) most of the time because of my professional commitments.”

“My six sisters, each in their own way, sacrificed and supported me, emotionally, personally, professionally and financially to help me take advantage of opportunities and to help pay for education along the way.”

His love for neurobiology was inspired by the illness of his youngest sister. “As an undergraduate student majoring in biology, my youngest sister was diagnosed with a highly aggressive malignant tumor – an olfactory neuroblastoma – that had infected her nasal passages and her optic nerve.”

“She fought cancer for nearly 10 years. Cancer took her right eye, but she’s alive today and is cancer-free.”

Ultimately, the courage and conviction of his parents have left the deepest mark on Hanna. “Without the absolute insistence by my mother and my late father that the way to make a difference is through education, I wouldn’t be the owner of a college degree,” says Hanna. Though he adds with a bit of wry humor, “believe me, there were times when that insistence was not easy to accept – especially when you’re a teenager wanting to do things other than study.”

Leadership by listening

WHEN BASHAR HANNA SPOKE to the campus community as a presidential candidate, he promised to be an engaged and attentive listener. The well-thumbed copy of Emotional Intelligence 2.0, among the first things unpacked in his Carver Hall office, indicates Hanna is serious about listening and working hard to do so with empathy.

But there were already major decisions to be made by Monday, July 10, Hanna’s first official day on campus. Among them, selecting a provost. Campus rumors were that an interim provost would be selected from off-campus. That Tuesday, Hanna tapped James Krause, a 21-year Bloomsburg veteran, for the post.

“He’s the perfect Bloomsburg citizen,” says the new president, who at the time had already spent weeks in informal meetings and discussions. Krause, well-known in the community, has an unflappable disposition and stellar experience in the classroom and as an administrator, including interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate education.

“Homework is always important. You measure three times and cut once,” says Hanna. “I’m joining an institution that has been here for 175 years and one that has experienced significant success. It’s my job to learn about that institution so I can recognize those successes and collaborate with our faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends to propel BU to greater heights.”
Career colored outside the lines

by JACK SHERZER

FROM CRAYONS AND MARKERS to art kits, toys, and coloring books, kids of every age across much of the globe use Crayola products to help unleash their imaginations.

With millions of items shipped daily, the business of Crayola is anything but child’s play.

Enter Gary Wapinski, vice president of global logistics and enterprise improvement, who is responsible for not only Crayola’s warehousing and delivery all over the world, but how to make it more efficient. It is a role he earned by coloring outside the lines of a traditional career trajectory.

“We either make products or sell them almost all over the world,” says Wapinski ’84, business management. “And if we’re not there, we would like to be there, and are trying to figure out how to be there.”

Figuring out how to get the job done — and not shying away from a challenge — is Wapinski’s trademark. The first in his family to go to college, he grew up in St. Clair, Schuylkill County, where both his father and grandfather worked in the coal mines.

Wapinski worked the mines himself in the summer, but as graduation approached, he didn’t relish the thought of spending his days in either a mine or an office cubicle.

Then in 1983, during his junior year at Bloomsburg, the Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon, was bombed, killing 241 service personnel. “I enlisted in the Army and applied for officer’s candidate school,” he says. “This wasn’t about having a job; it was about wanting to serve and be a soldier. I wanted to test myself at that level.”

Wapinski’s Army career path led to logistics, a field he calls a modern miracle. “It’s what allows people in Anchorage, Alaska, to buy fresh tomatoes during the winter at a decent price — that is the miracle of logistics.”

But his military experience was about more than delivering tomatoes. By the end of his nearly eight-year military career, he was Captain Wapinski and in command of a forward supply company for the famed 10th Mountain Division, ensuring a roughly 2,500-strong infantry brigade had everything from food and fuel to ammunition: “Everything a unit needs to move and survive.”

He also took advantage of the Army’s distance learning program and earned a master of science degree in general administration from Central Michigan University.

“What I learned in the military about logistics and leading people was invaluable — it built on what I had learned at Bloomsburg.” But when he became a father, the military life became harder, and it was time to venture into the private sector.

His first job was with Wise Snacks, where for more than three years he managed a three-shift snack food distribution center. But with no clear path for advancement, Wapinski started looking for more.

He found it at Crayola, headquartered near Easton.

“Crayola had a job for a team manager for logistics, a first-level supervisor overseeing between 40 and 80 people,” he says.

Steadily advancing over 12 years, Wapinski ran the distribution center outside Allentown and was a team manager for manufacturing, overseeing the making of arts and crafts kits. He then returned to logistics, where he helped to outsource warehouse operations to a third party before returning to manufacturing, overseeing more than 300 workers running three

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE
shifts to produce more than 3 billion crayons a year.

Then he got the challenge that changed his career.

“I remember my boss, (Executive VP of Global Operations Peter Ruggiero), came to me and he said, ‘do you want to run the biggest project in Crayola history?’ and I said, yes, even before he told me,” Wapinski recalls. “He said ‘I can’t tell you what it is until next week.’”

The job was big indeed: Implementing software to run virtually all the systems in Crayola, from production planning, sourcing, keeping track of orders and shipments to payroll and quality management. A daunting task, but Wapinski, who jokes that he got C’s in his two Bloomsburg computer classes, didn’t hesitate.

“I would say a lot of my work ethic and confidence comes from my parents — they are very stoic people and they don’t complain, they do what has to be done,” he says. “My mom worked two jobs when I was growing up.”

“It’s also part of just wanting a challenge. When I went to the 10th Mountain Division, I told them I wanted the toughest job,” he says. “It’s been my experience that you find out even the toughest job isn’t so bad — you just apply yourself and move forward.”

Moving Crayola to the SAP business management system took 18 months, all leading up to one day when the old system was turned off and the new system came online — and worked. All done on-time and under budget, and propelling Wapinski to vice president of information solutions.

“It all comes down to leadership and the people you have;” Wapinski says of a key lesson learned in both the military and the corporate world. “If you don’t know how to assess talent and work with people and motivate them, you’re going nowhere,” he says. “As a leader, it’s also more important to have the right questions than the answer; the people on the ground know what needs to be done and you have to make sure they have the right tools they need, and everything takes care of itself.”

Wapinski says his belief in developing talent — and his desire to give back — is why he returns to Bloomsburg University to talk to students about business, and why he makes sure BU students are offered internships at Crayola.

“The curriculum is outstanding,” says Wapinski, a member of the Zeigler College of Business Advisory Board. He applauds BU’s new Supply Chain Management program and the school’s efforts to bring in successful alumni to talk to students.

“The interns we’ve had so far are fantastic — these Bloomsburg kids can hang with anybody;” he says. Crayola’s paint and kits plant manager, Mike Polkowski ’83; corporate controller, Mike Steigerwalt ’77, manager treasury, Morgan Whitbread ’78; sales analyst Heather Vinson ’02; are all BU alums, and in the past three years, the company has hired graduates to fill two supply chain planning positions, Chris Cascioli and Emily Fister; two manufacturing team managers, Garret Werkheiser and Nick Hoffman; and a sales account manager, Brianna McCormack.

Today, as Crayola’s vice president for global logistics service and enterprise improvement, Wapinski is looking to supply Crayola’s growing markets and improve the efficiency of even the most basic processes.

As the company continues to focus
on expanding markets in China and the rest of Asia, Wapinski says a primary task is deciding where to place warehouses to reduce logistics costs and be as close to customers as possible, as well as how to efficiently acquire raw materials.

In figuring out the thousands of challenges Crayola faces in making and distributing its products, he embraces a process called “continuous improvement” or the “lean method.” Developed by Toyota — Wapinski keeps a well-thumbed copy of Jeffrey Liker’s “The Toyota Way” on his desk — its central tenet is continuous improvement through organizational learning.

“It’s super-difficult and requires unbelievable tenacity to work every day and seek out problems,” he says. “You need to realize the problems are your real opportunities; we try to make problems visible and then solve them, rather than blaming people.”

Such continuous problem-solving is of particular importance as the internet continues to disrupt the status quo. Crayola’s traditional distribution concentrates on brick-and-mortar retailers, but increasingly products are purchased online. The company’s challenge, Wapinski says, is to support its retail partners while embracing the changing marketplace.

“It’s true that the only constant is change, and you can’t be like a turtle and go into your shell, or else you’ll come out and be useless,” he says. “In the Army, we always said ‘improvise, adapt and overcome.’”

It’s a lesson his wife, Kathleen, has heard him tell their three children. Their oldest son, Joseph, graduated from BU in 2015 with a degree in secondary education and is now in a doctoral program at Loyola University, Chicago. Younger son Tommy and daughter Elizabeth are attending Temple University, for economics, and tourism and hospitality, respectively.

Above all, Wapinski says, success is about making sure you have the right team. “There have been many problems where we had no idea how to solve them at first, but I never felt they were insurmountable because of the people we have here.

“When you have that cascading layer of support and know leadership above you has your back, you may not have a clue how to solve the problem, but you know you have a bunch of people who are highly motivated and will find a way,” he says. “I know if this group can’t find a way, then nobody can.”

Jack Sherzer is a freelance writer based in Harrisburg.
Positive IMPACT

by SUSAN FIELD
ONE IN FIVE CHILDREN struggles with social, emotional or behavioral health issues. And not just high school students, says Tim Knoster, executive director of Bloomsburg University's McDowell Institute for Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support.

“Depression, anxiety, eating disorders. These issues can arise as early as elementary school,” he says.

Established in 2012 through an initial gift of $2 million from philanthropist Susan McDowell, the McDowell Institute helps aspiring and practicing educational professionals address nonacademic barriers to learning.

This is what Knoster does, along with colleagues Danielle Empson, Charlotte Kemper and College of Education faculty. But he hesitates to call what they do “work.”

“It's a mission,” he says.

The lifelong special educator and researcher earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Bloomsburg in 1978 and 1980. Before returning to Bloomsburg as a faculty member in 2002, he saw the struggles of vulnerable children, first as a classroom teacher, then as director of special education, and finally as researcher and director of national-level training and technical assistance. He earned his educational specialist degree and doctorate in Special Education from Lehigh University.

The McDowell Institute initially focused on incorporating what is known as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports into BUs teacher preparation curriculum, from freshman year through student teaching. Recently, though, the institute has increased its focus on youth mental health. In the past year, more than 1,100 BU students and faculty participated in 19 campus programs on promoting social, emotional, and behavioral wellness in children from preschool through 12th grade.

The McDowell Institute’s outreach and impact also has expanded beyond campus, with more than 40 initiatives developed between BU and local, state, and national educators.

You can have the most brilliant kid you've ever met, but if he or she struggles with social, emotional or behavioral issues, their potential may never be fully realized.

Twin challenges

“Educators have two, interrelated priorities. Facilitating academic achievement in concert with social, emotional and behavioral competence of their students,” Knoster says.

The two priorities are inseparable.

“You can have the most brilliant kid you've ever met, but if he or she struggles with social, emotional or behavioral issues, their potential may never be fully realized.”

“In our rapidly changing society, kids have more complicated and complex life circumstances. In some ways, the explosion of access to information and technology can further complicate matters,” he says. “The trauma that can be associated with cyberbullying is unique for today’s students.”

A 2016 report from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health found that the rate of adolescents reporting an experience with depression has grown 37 percent in the last decade. Students with depression, as with other behavioral health conditions, are less likely to participate in school activities, more likely to miss class or school, disrupt classroom routines or experience suicidal thoughts.

Exposure to what educators call “adverse childhood experiences” – stressful or traumatic events that include abuse, neglect, and exposure to household dysfunction – are strongly related to a wide range of lifetime health problems, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Last year the National Child Traumatic Stress Network reported that one out of every four children attending school has been exposed to a traumatic event that can affect their learning.

“With repeated exposure to adverse experiences, the child is in chronic 'red alert' – fight or flight – mode and the child’s adrenal glands kick into overdrive. As a result, the body can’t create sufficient cortisol to keep pace, which has an adverse impact on healthy development,” Knoster says. “The more adverse experiences present in a child’s life, the higher the risk for undesired outcomes including, hypertension, depression, anxiety, and suicide.”

“When you think about teacher training, and until relatively recently, teacher in-service training, it was predominately about the pedagogy of how to design a good lesson plan, how to deliver a good lesson, and...
knowledge in your content area,” Knoster says. “While those elements are absolutely essential, I believe that in most preservice training, the focus is myopically on the academic side of the street. There is very little that is explicitly taught about how to facilitate social, emotional and behavioral wellness, especially for kids with unique challenges.”

In fact, more than 60 percent of first-year teachers report being insufficiently prepared to address the social and emotional needs of students, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

The Response
“The good news is that social, emotional and behavioral wellness is achievable,” says Knoster. “However, addressing nonacademic barriers to learning requires a sober and thoughtful conversation and planning to build sufficient capacity in schools and communities. Certainly, schools are the common conduit for kids, so the goal is to have schools become the central point for organization across communities.”

The McDowell Institute has enhanced teacher preparatory programs at Bloomsburg University to include mental health awareness and skill-training into core courses for all education majors. The institute also provides seminars that teach aspiring teachers how to create a more therapeutic classroom environment. Student and faculty fellowships have been awarded to provide training and funding for scholarly research in school-based behavioral health. This spring, on-campus training included individual intensive behavior support, mental health awareness panels, and 12 seminars in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA).

This training provides teachers with a skillset and action plan that they know they can use when a student is in emotional distress.

YMHFA training is similar to standard first aid training, focusing on behavioral health triage, stabilization and supporting adolescents who need professional help.

“This training provides teachers with a skillset and action plan that they know they can use when a student is in emotional distress,” Knoster says.

At Bloomsburg University, education majors complete YMHFA training before their student teaching experiences. The McDowell Institute supports this training in school districts and with state partners, including in the Diocese of Harrisburg, the Milton Area School District, the Susquehanna Valley United Way, and the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network. This year the institute will help 15 other colleges and universities across the state incorporate YMHFA training to their teacher preparation programs.

The institute also helps with the federally funded Safe Schools/Healthy Students project, which puts behavioral health support in schools across Pennsylvania. Nearly 8,000 students in those schools have benefitted.

While Knoster and his colleagues are focused on the here and now, the excitement for future initiatives and continued growth across the commonwealth – and beyond – is palpable.

“We are just starting to scratch the surface, which is both challenging, and exciting,” says Knoster. “There’s a huge opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of kids and families.”

Susan Field ’11/’12M is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia.
Faculty and staff making a difference

by THOMAS SCHAEFFER

“WE’RE NOT ALL GOING to be able to endow chairs or have a building named after us,” says Joyce Bielen, co-chair of Bloomsburg University’s We make it Personal faculty and staff campaign. “But if we can help one student pay for a book that’s a big deal to that student. A lot of little amounts makes a big amount.”

Inspired by the success of the It’s Personal campaign, members of Bloomsburg’s faculty and staff came together to show their support for the BU community, achieving a 31 percent participation rate during this past spring’s campaign. More than 140 new faculty and staff donors made gifts and 40 existing donors increased their support.

“Our support serves as an example of our commitment to the success of our students,” says Scott Inch, professor of mathematical and digital sciences and campaign co-chair. “And they’re the reason we’re here.”

The success of this year’s faculty and staff campaign was largely due to how easy it was for each employee to choose the specific area to which they wanted to designate their gifts. That’s what led to the members of BU’s facilities team creating its own scholarship fund.

“We were throwing out ideas about how we could make our own impact,” says Frank Michaels, a maintenance repairman and campaign ambassador. “We decided we wanted to create our own fund to impact our students through support from our area.”

The Facilities Staff Scholarship will be available to any incoming freshman student from Pennsylvania who has financial need.

“We all interact with students every day, and we’re proud of how we help them by making sure sidewalks are clear in winter or that the air conditioning is working in the summer,” Michaels says.

“But we wanted to make our own impact. By doing this, we can look at that student who receives this scholarship and say, ‘Hey, that’s our scholarship. We helped make an impact.’ From the president to the grounds crew, that’s the reason we’re all here.”

Two departments, accounting (academic) and human resources achieved 100 percent participation with each member making their own gifts.

“I just went to each faculty member in our department and talked about the importance of showing our commitment as a department,” says Michael Shapeero, professor of accounting and campaign ambassador. “I know we’re all very committed to our students and our programs, so I knew it would be easy to convince each member to show their support.”

Karen Hicks, payroll specialist in human resources and campaign ambassador, challenged each member of the HR team by stating that if they reached 100 percent participation, she would match the first dollar of each of their gifts. With the help of her fellow department member and ambassador Tanya Bombicca, they inspired the team to reach their goal.

“When I was asked to be an ambassador for the campaign, I was excited about it,” says Hicks. “When I saw how easy it was for all of us to find an area we wanted to support that had a special meaning, I knew it wouldn’t be too much of a stretch to reach that 100 percent.”

By the two-week campaign’s conclusion, faculty and staff supported nearly 80 different funds. Employees designated gifts to areas as broad as BU’s Henry Carver Fund, which allows their support to remain unrestricted to initiatives as focused as the newly established Anchor Program Fund, created to help local high school students in the foster care system learn about the value of receiving a college education.

“The faculty and staff played a key role in helping us to select the It’s Personal theme for our capital campaign,” says Erik Evans, vice president for university advancement. “So it’s not surprising that the adapted We make it Personal theme would resonate with those who share their passion for this university with our students every day and that they would take that next step by supporting that passion with their generous gifts.”
WE ARE ALL THE HEROES of our own stories says J.C. Lee ’05, theatre.

Lee, a native New Yorker who spent most of his teenage years in Stroudsburg, has a story to tell of his own. Since his days at Bloomsburg, he has become an accomplished playwright and Hollywood screenwriter who has written and produced plays that have been staged in venues from San Francisco to New York City.

“I wonder why people keep asking me, a writer, to come and give speeches at events like this,” Lee said as he took the podium at this spring’s Lavender Graduation, Bloomsburg’s annual LGBTQA graduation ceremony. “Then I thought about the idea of creating a narrative.”

Creating our own narratives is how Lee believes we each cope with our daily lives. Whether we make ourselves the heroes of our commute to work because we managed to make it through every green light, or cling to a larger story of how we perceive the world because it gives us comfort.

“The world is scary and chaotic,” Lee says. “The scarier and the more chaotic it is, the more we’re looking for a story to tell ourselves.”

His own love of storytelling began when he was 14 and read Tony Kushner’s play “Angels in America,” an experience that changed the way he thought about how stories could be told.

“As a gay teenager, reading this book changed the way I looked at things. I realized you could write something that could mean something to you and could also entertain people,” says Lee. “You could help people share their private stories in a public way that would also empower them.”

“The story that we create for ourselves is the thing we go to that helps give that chaotic universe structure,” says Lee.

Much of Lee’s life in high school was structured around his passion for theatre and several friends who shared that passion. The close-knit group attended Bloomsburg University together and continued to pursue careers in theatre.

As a theatre major at Bloomsburg, Lee’s passion for the power of storytelling flourished. With the encouragement of faculty members in both BU’s theatre and English departments, and the support of his family, friends and partner, Adrian Anchondo ’05, Lee wrote a play while he was a BU student that transformed his life.

The BU Players performed the play,
IN ADDITION TO COMING BACK to BU to inspire students with his words, Lee also made a gift to help current and future students have the opportunity to become the heroes of their own stories.

Lee and his partner Adrian Anchondo ’05 became Carver Scholars by making a gift of $1,867 to the Henry Carver Fund, Bloomsburg University’s Annual Fund, which supports the university’s area of greatest need. For Lee and Anchondo, this was the first gift either had made to support their alma mater since graduating.

“Honestly, we just really never thought about it until someone reached out to us and explained how much the support was needed and how it helps students,” says Lee. We learned that our gift could support scholarships, help students cover costs for books and tuition or even help create internship opportunities. We’ve done well, and a lot of our success is due to our experience at Bloomsburg. We’re happy to help other students have those same types of experiences.”

We all tell our own stories. Stories that give us purpose. Stories that give us a sense of community. Telling your story isn’t going to change the world, but it is going to change how you view it.

Night of the Wannabes: An Exorcism with great success. It went on tour and received an award at the Kennedy Center’s American College Theatre Festival. This work helped reinforce Lee’s confidence that he was creating the right narrative for himself.

After graduating, Lee taught at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts in Bethlehem while he continued to write. He also obtained his artist’s diploma in playwriting from The Juilliard School in New York City.

Lee began to garner accolades and recognition for his writing. In 2010, he penned a play, Pookie Goes Grenading, a comedy that follows the journey of a 14-year old girl turned terrorist. National critics took note. “Lee’s writing demonstrates a wild sense of fantasy combined with a desperate grip on reality,” wrote The Huffington Post.

In 2014, Lee’s play, Luce, debuted at New York City’s Lincoln Center Theater. The exposure opened the door to the cable television industry as a writer for the show Looking on HBO in 2015. Following that success, Lee moved on to the next challenge when he landed a gig writing for ABC’s hit drama, How to Get Away with Murder.

“We all tell our own stories,” says Lee. “Stories that give us purpose. Stories that give us a sense of community. Telling your story isn’t going to change the world, but it is going to change how you view it. You are a character in your story, so why not make yourself the hero you want to be?”

Supporting the next generation

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WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Create a legacy today that will impact the lives of future Huskies forever

Did You know that you can create a legacy at BU by making impactful gifts while still preserving your assets for yourself and your family?

Here’s How:

• Make a gift to BU in your will
• Add BU as a beneficiary of a retirement account
• Name BU as an owner and/or beneficiary of a life insurance policy

To learn more about planned giving, visit: itspersonal.bloomu.edu/planned-giving or call 855-BU2-GIVE (855-282-4483).

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION, Inc.
“I’VE GOT THE BEST JOB EVER,” says Calista Boyer, ’00. “As principal at the school I once attended, I can’t imagine doing anything different with my life or doing this anywhere else.”

Boyer inspires her 350 students at Lincoln Elementary to positive behavior. “I encourage them each day to be good citizens. Today, that’s a message that needs repeating.”

For her dedication, Boyer, the mother of two daughters, received the YWCA Tri-County Area Tribute to Exceptional Women 2017 in April.

A first generation college student from Pottstown, Boyer never visited Bloomsburg University before arriving for the Act 101 program in the summer of 1995. “I didn’t know anything about BU. My 12th-grade literature teacher, Ms. Debbie Demko, was a graduate and suggested I apply.”

Accepted into the Act 101 program, Boyer soon ran into the program director, Irv Wright. “Dr. Wright was wonderful in helping me navigate through everything I had to do as a college student that summer.” In the classroom, the pre-physical therapy major soon discovered that she didn’t like science.

As Boyer contemplated a change of major, she began working at the Campus Child Care Center. “Working with the children and talking with the staff at the center led me to become an education major. I just fell in love with being able to teach children.” Though her father’s death in her junior year was a setback, the support she received from the daycare center staff kept her going.

After graduation, Boyer soon landed a substitute teaching position in her hometown Pottstown School District, where her husband is also a school principal. She was soon hired full-time and eventually, after receiving the necessary certification, was named principal.

“I’m part of the community, I see our students around town,” Boyer says. “I’m there to help them whenever they have a question. At the start of each year, I tell the students that we both have a job. They are there to learn, and the teachers are there to teach. If everyone does their job, it will be a great year.”

“It was an honor to be recognized, but when you love what you do, it’s easy to be excited about going to work each day.”

Inspiring young minds

by TOM MCGUIRE
Carl Janetka ’59 was inducted into the Upper Dublin Athletic Hall of Fame. Janetka coached football, basketball and soccer for 33 of his 38 years as a teacher. He was the supervisor of the Business and Computer Applications Department, and Tech Coordinator.

Edward Peifer ’79 is a realtor with Century 21 Gold in Wyomissing. He received his real estate license in January and is a certified public accountant. He and his wife, Joanne, are the parents of two children, Justin and Rebecca.

Michael L. Mixell ’80 is a member of the Berks County Community Foundation. Mixell is an attorney for Barley Snyder Attorneys at Law in Reading.

Richard A. DiLiberto, Jr. ’82 won first place in the Delaware State Bar Association’s Fiction Writing Competition for his short story The Lawyer Coat, a story of an enduring bond between a father and son. DiLiberto is a personal injury section partner at Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, Wilmington, Del. He is a past-president of the Delaware Trial Lawyers Association, served in the Delaware House of Representatives and was chairman of the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage and Culture. He is also a member of the Governor’s Magistrate Screening Committee and treasurer of the Law-Related Education Center.

Roy Satterthwaite ’82 is senior vice president of sales for the Americas at Searchmetrics in Berlin, Germany.

Jeffrey Hughes ’84 is the superintendent of South Eastern School District in York. Hughes was principal of Manheim Central High School in Manheim Central School District and before that, was assistant superintendent of schools in West Perry School District.

Terrence Purcell ’84 is director of human resources at Gnaden Huetten Memorial Hospital in Lehighton. Previously, Purcell served as assistant director of human resources at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Pottsville, employment manager at Hazleton-St. Joseph Medical Center, Hazleton, and a production supervisor at Burron-Medical Inc.

Jane Runey Knox ’85 is president at Healthcare Administrative Partners, a medical data and technology company specializing in coding, billing, physician practice management and data analytics based in Media. Knox is a certified Six Sigma Green belt.

Megan DiPrete ’86 is executive director of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Whitinsville, Mass.

Lisa Fiorot Jacobson ’89 is vice president of Event Management at Universal Orlando Resort in Orlando, Fla.

Tina Magray Trager ’89 is a Pennsylvania licensed real estate agent with the Andrew Himes Group with Berkshire Hathaway Fox and Roach, Collegeville.

Robert Cole ’92 is senior vice president/chief analytics officer of Allied Services Integrated Health System, Clarks Summit. Cole previously served as chief analytics officer for the nonprofit health system. Cole lives in Duryea with his wife, Donna, and their daughter, Carsyn.

Christine Bokalo D’Agostino ’93 was named one of 2017’s Best 50 Women in Business from NJ BIZ.

Shannon Miller Munro ’93 is vice president for workforce development at Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport. Munro previously served in a variety of roles for the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation, including executive director.

Terrence E. Aldred ’94 has released his first novel, Angela.

Timothy Kishbach ’94 is senior vice president and director of commercial lending for Jersey Shore State Bank. Kishbach was a senior loan officer for First National Bank of Berwick; business banking regional manager for Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania; senior loan officer for SEDA-CoG, and senior relationship manager of business banking for M&T Bank. He is a graduate of the PBA School of Commercial Lending and the Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Jeffery Daniels ’95M is senior vice president and national director of Institutional Property Managers (IPA) Multifamily with Marcus & Millichap’s. Before joining IPA, Daniels led AIG Global Real Estate’s U.S. multifamily investments team. He is on the board of directors of the National Multifamily Housing Council, a member of the Urban Land Institute, a member of the ULI Multifamily Green Council and serves on the boards of the Friends Academy and the Community Development Corporation of Long Island.

Jennifer Rutt Halligan ’95 is vice president and chief financial officer of the Bank of Bird-in-Hand, Leacock Township. She was previously vice president and controller. Halligan is a certified public accountant.

Jay Green ’98 is senior vice president of Digital Strategy and Analytics at Digital Media in New York City. Green is a member of the Interactive Advertising Bureau’s (IAB) Audio Committee and has spoken at industry conferences, including
RAIN Summit West, Podcast Movement, the IAB Podcast Upfront, and the IAB Los Angeles Agency Day.

Catherine Carr Zavacki ’99 received the 2017 American Chemical Society Middle Atlantic Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

Nicole Wiley Boytin ’01 is a member of the Lenape Valley Foundation Board of Bucks County, a nonprofit dedicated to helping people with mental health issues. Boytin is a commercial lender and vice president at Penn Community Bank. She is involved with the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown, where she serves on the finance committee and the board of Doylestown Health.

Christopher Calomino ’01 is marketing communications manager at RE/MAX Northern Illinois, Elgin, Ill. Calomino is responsible for conceiving and executing marketing strategies and tactics that drive growth. Previously, he was marketing communications director for ACTEGA Coatings and Sealants.

Erin McArthur Iacavone ’01 is a hospital social worker at Pinnacle Health West Shore Hospital.

Shannon Fry Frantz ’02 completed her Supervisory Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction at Gwynedd-Mercy University in December 2016. Frantz is a high school English teacher at Selinsgrove Area School District.

Brian Bingaman ’03 was named a Master Strength and Conditioning Coach by the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association. Bingaman was presented with the honor, and the blue MSCC jacket at the association’s National Conference in May. The honor is the highest given in the strength and conditioning coaching profession. Bingman is director of strength and conditioning at Saint Joseph’s University.

Marcie Zilinski Ackell ’04/’08M is an elementary school teacher in the North Schuylkill School District. Ackell was a sixth-grade English, language arts and science teacher at Central Dauphin School District in Harrisburg.

Brook Lytle ’05 is a business insurance executive at McConkey Insurance & Benefits of York.

Jahri Evans ’07 signed a one-year contract with the Green Bay Packers.

Vinnie James ’07/’09M is associate athletics director/chief of staff at Temple University. James was previously the assistant athletics director for business operations. Before Temple, James held positions at La Salle and Villanova Universities.

Erin Cusack ’08 is creative production manager at Fig Industries, Lancaster. Cusack was marketing manager for Harbor Compliance.

Ashley Sansing ’08 is the recipient of the Success Academy Charter Schools’ ETHOS Excellence Award. The award recognizes school staff who best demonstrate the Success community’s values: Excellence, Teamwork, Humor, Ownership, and Students. Sansing teaches kindergarten at Success Academy Bronx 2, NY.

Allison Reed ’10 is the Secondary Special Educator of the Year award winner for the Frederick County Public School system in Maryland. She is a middle school special education teacher at Brunswick Middle School.

Erik Sharkey ’10 is a senior accountant at the Moosic office of Jones Kohanski Consultants & Certified Public Accountants. Sharkey is a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Senahid Zahirovic ’10, Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants supervisor, recently graduated from Leadership Harrisburg, a program designed to help area executives form lasting connections with local community organizations. Zahirovic examined ways to increase the profitability of the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg’s Camp Reilly by creating unique marketing messages.

Haili Shetler Coombe ’11 is director of Doctivity at SystemCare Health, Moorestown, N.J. a national health care consulting group. Her role with the Doctivity program will tap into her expertise of successful physician onboarding, monitoring physician

Husky Dog Pound Winner
Nathaniel Treichler, a sophomore business administration management major, won the $1,000 first prize in BU’s inaugural Husky Dog Pound Competition in April. Treichler is the founder of the Fly Crate, a subscription-based fly-fishing service. He also won the $10,000 first place prize in the sixth annual Student Business Plan Competition sponsored by Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education. Shown from left are Terry Zeigler, Husky Dog Pound judge; Jeffrey Krug, dean of the Zeigler College of Business; Treichler; Steve Welch, assistant professor of management and international business and Dog Pound organizer; Lisa Bair and Kelly Lewis, Dog Pound judges.
productivity, developing referral tracking reports, and evaluating market opportunities. Coombe previously served in several roles at Geisinger Health System, most recently on the Mergers and Acquisitions team.

Kyle Smith ’11 is executive director of the Pennsylvania College of Technology Foundation, Williamsport. Smith was director of leadership giving, interim director of alumni relations, director of annual giving and annual fund assistant at Elmira College.

Brian Kutz ’13/’14M CPA is a Tax Senior Associate with Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants. Kutz previously worked with a team at KPMG US. He is a member of the Harrisburg Young Professionals, the American Institute of CPAs and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

John Dominski ’14 received a Doctorate of Physical Therapy along with the Clinical Excellence Award from Rutgers University in May.

James Geffken ’16M is superintendent of the Benton Area School District. Geffken was the director of buildings, grounds and transportation for Berwick Area School District. He has a superintendent commission qualification letter from the state Department of Education.

Sandra McMinn ’17 is a designer for WebpageFX based in Harrisburg.

Bringing dental care to those in need

JILL ECKERT ’80 communication disorders/’81M speech pathology, has taken nine trips to help provide comprehensive dental care to impoverished children in remote locations around the world. The most recent trips have been with Global Dental Relief. This summer she assisted volunteer dentists in Guatemala and she will assist children in Nepal in October. Eckert has been a speech/language pathologist for 35 years with licensure in West Virginia, Kentucky, Texas and Pennsylvania. She serves preschool children at the Laughlin Children’s Center in Sewickley.

Global Dental Relief is a charitable organization established in 2001 to provide free dental care and oral health education to impoverished children and families of Nepal, northern India, Cambodia, Kenya and Guatemala. GDR’s commitment is to return to these same children every two years to provide continuous care. Dental camps generally include up to six dentists, three hygienists and six to twelve non-medical volunteers who collectively treat upwards of 150 children per day.

Lehigh Valley Network Social at the Allentown BrewWorks:
Shown from left: Tom Ruth ’80, Elizabeth Mease ’00, Christine Ford ’87, Linda Dallas ’84, Mark Emswiler ’87, Brian Case ’83, Dan Confulone ’79, Elyse Perez ’16, Jamie Green ’14, Christa Irzinski ’14, Dave Abert ’85, Ernie Long ’84.

Bishop Wedding: Lindsay and Brian Bishop, both BU graduates, were married Oct. 22, 2016, with many Bloomsburg alumni guests. Shown from left are, back row: Jennifer (Williams) Bluhm, Anthony Bluhm, Jeffrey Eisenhuth, Marguerite (Chamuris) Eisenhuth. Middle row: Rebecca (Reagan) Miller, Luke Sheehan, Steven Kindred, Brian Bishop, Lindsay (Stevens) Bishop, Kathryn (Metarko) Harsch. Front: Anthony Collins, Valerie (Hoyer) Good, Joseph Fraatz, Matthew Curley.
VITAL STATISTICS

Marriages
Keith Edwards ’71 and James Cowden
Suzanne Visloskie ’87 and Gerald (Joe) Burge, June 10, 2017
Daniel Gaydon ’03 and Shelley Procopio, Sept. 24, 2016
Peter S. Umlauf ’03 and Marie Demonteverde, Oct. 29, 2016
Joshua Walter ’04 and Stephanie Hager, May 20, 2017
Russell Haywood ’05 and Melissa Leary, May 14, 2016
Lindsay Stevens ’06 and Brian Bishop ’07, Oct. 22, 2016
Mary Bacher ’07 and Kyle Horvath, May 28, 2016
Caryn Lutz ’07 and Joseph Pawlowski, June 17, 2017
Jess Shuman ’07 and Kevin Harry ’02, June 29, 2013
Melanie Coate ’09 and Kyle Poppenwimer ’10, July 8, 2017
Nicole Majewski ’09 and Mark Gaston, May, 27, 2017
David Nevius ’09 and Anita Gallahger, Aug. 22, 2014
Elaina Van Kirk ’10 and Andrew Slike ’08, Sep. 23, 2016
Lauren Eberhardt ’11 and Michael Feist ’11, March 21, 2015
Stephanie Yelles ’11 and Louis Schwarz, May 6, 2017
Meredith Blunt ’12 and Gregory Gillan ’11, June 17, 2017
Amanda Youtzy ’12 and Andrew Wood ’12, June 17, 2017
Hannah Kolody ’13 and Brian Lester Burgess, Oct.ober 22, 2016
Jessica Jones ’17 and Duncan Merkert, June 24, 2017

To learn more about regional alumni networks, visit bloomualumni.com
Obituaries

I. Pauline Womer Snyder ’31
Beatrice Eisenhauer Siegel ’36
Joycelyn Andrews Summers ’38
Harold Tretheway ’42
H. Clifton Wright ’42
Philip Yeany ’43
Hazel Chappell Guyler ’50
Walter Scheipe ’50
Gloria Long Whitney ’51
Patricia Ann Kistler Diserod ’52
William Byham ’53
Francis Gallo ’54
Jeanette Traver Wright ’54
Norman Balchunas ’58
Eugene Makara ’61
Richard Domalavage ’62
Andrew Gurzynski ’63
D. Jean Cope ’64
Kay Styer Heim ’64
Harry Ravert ’65
Anthony Nash ’67
Britt Jones ’68
Alan Mack ’68
Joan Mudrick Puschauer ’68
Alice McKeown Szymczak ’68
Scott Heimbach ’70
Maureen McAndrew Steixner ’70
William Bernardo ’72
Ronald Garrison ’72
Susan Moeri Hassig ’72
Janice Moser Morrison ’73
Elsie Jean Wagner ’73
James C. Mitchell ’74
Richard Neff ’74
Debra Kroh Snyder ’76
Kathleen Daniels ’77
Cathy Gehris Gabriel ’77
James Kane ’77
Mary Ellen Maduro ’77
John Vanderbeck ’77
Jeanne Peoples Marsh ’78
Kenneth Zipko ’78
Marian Matusick Chavez ’80
James Diliberto ’80
Susan Kaufman Jiannino ’81
Jo Ann Spencer Weirick ’81
Ronald Mattern ’82
John Marconi ’83
Jeanette Ryno Weikel ’89
Walter Hager ’96
Elizabeth Berry ’98
Robert Paulus ’99
Macy Minnier ’03
Melissa Neeb Wagner ’03

Births

Maura Luciano Irving ’04 and husband, Patrick, a son, Maximus Patrick, Nov. 25, 2016
Gregory Leib ’01 and wife, Trisha, a daughter, April Vivian, April 8, 2017
Laura Hilbert Tucholski ’04 and husband, Josef ’05, a daughter, Adelynn Jean, Nov. 23, 2016
Christopher Klunk ’07 and wife, Renee, a son, Wyatt Michael, May 23, 2017
Jess Shuman Harry ’07 and husband, Kevin ’02, a son, Lincoln Douglas, June 20, 2014
Jennifer Cudzil Abrams ’08 and husband, Joshua, a son, Issac Terry, April 17, 2017.
Amanda Brooks Winters ’09 and husband, John, a son, Oliver Brooks, Jan. 15, 2017
Sheila Martin Ergott ’09 and husband, David ’09, a son, Aaron Lee, Aug. 3, 2016
Kelly Ziegler Lisachenko ’09 and husband, Gregory, a daughter, Anastasia Lee, May 12, 2017
David L Miller ’09 and wife, Stacey, a daughter, Avery, June 5, 2017
Emma Jabbour ’10 and husband, Scott ’08, a son, Owen Scott, June 12, 2017
Debon Berger Kolb ’11 and husband, David ’08, twins, Asher Michael and Leah Paige, May 2, 2017
ON SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 1892, Bloomsburg State Normal School played its first football game. This fall will mark 125 years since that match. In those early years at Bloomsburg, there was no certainty it would last. In addition to losing that first game, college football itself had existed for less than 25 years.

There was keen interest in football at Bloomsburg by the early 1890s, but until 1892 no formal football team existed. The force behind creating one was the new professor of history and civics at the school, Warren Detwiler. A tackle and senior captain at Haverford College and eager to continue competing, Detwiler served as coach of the newly organized team. Money was raised and uniforms were ordered.

The players were enthusiastic and ready to undertake the new sport. Football was viewed as valuable to young men due to the benefit derived from rigorous training. There was also the desire to excel, to uphold the honor of the school by having a successful team.

With no place to play or practice on campus, the team made a half-mile walk to the Bloomsburg Town Athletic Park, located between Seventh and Eighth Streets across Iron Street from the county jail. Practice went on in the late afternoons for six weeks until the end of October, when the four-game schedule began.

The first game was against an experienced Wilkes-Barre team. The Normal players, with Detwiler at halfback, gave their all, but the visitors won that initial game 26-0. The victors effectively used the V-formation offense, also known as the flying wedge. Players formed themselves into a V-shape before the snap and charged the line of scrimmage. The ball carrier was inside the “V” and the wedge of players slammed into the opposing line. It was very violent and highly successful against lighter-weight teams.

It took two more games before Bloomsburg achieved its first victory on Nov. 5 over a team from Nanticoke by a score of 24-0. Football was new to most of the spectators, who didn’t know the rules or fully comprehend what they were watching. But it was exciting and generated a lot of interest. While the team had just two wins in 1893, the groundwork for future football success was laid with the hiring of Bloomsburg’s first director of physical education, Albert Aldinger.
Aldinger, a native of York, trained in physical education from the age of 14 and previously worked at YMCAs in West Philadelphia and Oil City. In addition to class instruction, he became coach of the Bloomsburg baseball and football teams. His record in football for the first five seasons through 1898 was good, 18-14-1, against some tough opponents, including close losses to Penn State, Bucknell, and Lafayette.

Eventually, the close games led to difficulties in completing a schedule, so official football was dropped in 1899 and 1900. When football returned in 1901, the excellent players Aldinger had recruited made the team dominant. Over a four-year span, Bloomsburg had 28 wins and two ties in 37 games, with 27 shutouts. Other innovations to Bloomsburg included a training table providing food for the players, secret practices with guards posted to keep away spies, a bonfire to celebrate victories and cheerleaders with megaphones to boost school spirit.

The final game of 1904 season was the high point of Aldinger’s career.

Wyoming Seminary of Kingston, the fiercest rival in the early years, came to Bloomsburg and was beaten 28-0. It was the largest margin of victory the Normal School would have over the Seminary and was the eighth win of the year, a total not reached again until 1948. After a .500 season in 1905, Aldinger resigned on Jan. 15, 1906, to teach physical education in New York City, ending with a career coaching record of 50-25-3. His win total was not surpassed for 94 years until Danny Hale reached 51 during the 1999 season, on his way to a school-record 173 victories.

The early years of Bloomsburg football were an exciting time, as fans at the school and in the community learned to follow and take to heart a new sport that captured their devotion and imagination. It is a love that has grown over the succeeding 125 years, ever since those first pioneers of football donned uniforms, marched to the Town Athletic Park, and gave their all for Bloomsburg Normal.

Robert Dunkelberger is Bloomsburg University archivist.
**Academic Calendar**

**FALL 2017**

**Classes Begin**
Monday, Aug. 28

**Labor Day, No Classes**
Monday, Sept. 4

**Mid-Term**
Tuesday, Oct. 10

**Reading Day**
Tuesday, Nov. 21

**Thanksgiving Recess**
Wednesday, Nov. 22

**Classes Resume**
Monday, Nov. 27

**Classes End**
Friday, Dec. 8

**Finals Begin**
Monday, Dec. 11

**Finals End**
Friday, Dec. 15

**Graduate Commencement**
Friday, Dec. 15

**Undergraduate Commencement**
Saturday, Dec. 16

**Alumni Events**
Visit bloomalumni.com for details on these and additional events or to register. For information, contact Alumni Affairs at 800-526-0254 or alumni@bloomu.edu.

**Art Exhibitions**
Exhibitions in the Haas Gallery of Art and The Gallery at Greenly Center, 50 E. Main St. Bloomsburg, are open to the public free of charge. For more information, gallery hours and reception times, visit departments.bloomu.edu/art.

**Hamilton Wood Type Poster Show**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
Aug. 3 – Sept. 18

**Sarah Kulaga-Ellen Brennan and Ashley Lopez**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
Sept. 28 – Oct. 29
Reception: Oct. 11, 6-8 p.m.

**Revisited/Renewed: 2017 Liberal Arts Symposium Exhibition**
Haas Gallery of Art
Oct. 2 – Oct. 6
Reception: Oct. 5, 12:30 – 2 p.m.

**Michael Reedy**
Haas Gallery of Art
Oct. 10 – Nov. 15
Reception and Gallery Talk: Nov. 15, 11 – 2 p.m.

**Reunion (LGBTQA Symposium Group Show)**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
Nov. 3 – Dec. 5
Reception: Nov. 3, 6-8 p.m.

**Senior Exit Show**
Haas Gallery of Art
Nov. 30 – Dec. 15
Reception and Balcony Talk: Dec 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Bela Ball-Tori Mitchell-Destiny Samsel**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
Dec. 12 – Feb. 23
Reception: Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m.

**Jim Arendt**
Haas Gallery of Art
Dec. 21 – Feb. 1
Reception and Gallery Talk: Feb 1, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Lauren Kalman**
Haas Gallery of Art
Feb. 8 – March 9
Reception and Gallery Talk: Feb. 8, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Maria Lux and Katrina Majkut**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
March 8 – April 19
Reception: March 8, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Mary Anne Mitchell**
Haas Gallery of Art
March 22 - May 3
Reception and Gallery Talk: March 22, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Spring 2018 Senior Exit Show**
The Gallery at Greenly Center
April 24 – May 11
Reception: April 24, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Celebrity Artist Series**
Events in the 2017-2018 Celebrity Artist Series season will be presented in Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall, and Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium. For more information and to order tickets call the box office at 570-389-4409 or visit cas.buzz. Programs and dates are subject to change.

**The Preservation Hall Legacy Quintet with The Soul Queen of New Orleans, Miss Irma Thomas**
Saturday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

**The Illusionists Present Adam Trent**
Saturday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

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**The Ten Tenors**
Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

**Berlin Philharmonic Piano Quartet**
Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

**Dublin Irish Dance**
Friday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

**The Cashore Marionettes**

**Life In Motion**

**A Very Special Family Event!**
Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium
Special family show

**The Arsonists**
November 1 to 5
Alvina Krause Theatre

**Devised Piece for and with Young People**
Saturday, Dec. 2
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

**Machinal**
February 21 — 25
Alvina Krause Theatre

**8th Annual Dance Minor Concert**
Sunday, April 22, and Monday, April 23
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

**Concerts**
Listed events are open to the public free of charge. For additional events, see bloomu.edu/music-events or call 570-389-4286. All programs, dates, times and locations are subject to change.

**Octuba Fest**
Saturday, Oct. 7, 4 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts

**BU Choirs Fall Choral Festival**
Sunday, Oct. 15, 2:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

** Percussion Ensemble**
Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Guitar Ensemble

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**Mostly Mondays at the Movies**

**Deej**
Monday, Sept. 18

**Oil and Water**
Monday, Oct. 16

**Mind/Game**
Monday, Nov. 6

**Little Stones**
Wednesday, Feb. 14

**Big Sonia**
Monday, March 26

**Ghost Town to Havana**
Monday, April 9

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**Special Events**

**Parents and Family Weekend**
Friday to Sunday, Sept. 15 — 17

**Homecoming Weekend**
Friday to Sunday, Oct. 6 — 8

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For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Bloomsburg University website bloomu.edu.
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Celebrity Artist Series

2017-2018 Season

THE PRESERVATION HALL LEGACY QUINTET
WITH THE SOUL QUEEN OF NEW ORLEANS,
MISS IRMA THOMAS
Saturday, Nov. 4

THE ILLUSIONISTS PRESENT ADAM TRENT
Saturday, Nov. 18 (Shown)

THE TEN TENORS
Friday, Dec. 8

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC PIANO QUARTET
Saturday, Feb. 10, 2018

DUBLIN IRISH DANCE
Friday, March 2, 2018

THE CASHORE MARIONETTES
LIFE IN MOTION
Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets to ALL Celebrity Artist Series shows are on sale NOW!

A NOTE TO PARENTS
If this issue of Bloomsburg: The University Magazine is addressed to a daughter or son who has established a separate residence, please notify us of that new address by sending an email to: magazine@bloomu.edu

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