

SPRING 2017

# Bloomensburg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



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Bloomensburg University of Pennsylvania

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## FROM THE EDITOR



### The Long and Winding Road

In the late 1960s, many influential musicians of my generation were based in San Francisco, a mere 13 miles from the University of California, Berkeley, where I earned my bachelor's degree in zoology. As I look ahead to my retirement on June 30, however, the lyrics I recall are not from The Grateful Dead or The Jefferson Airplane. Instead, it's a Beatles song, "The Long and Winding Road," recorded in 1969, the year after I graduated from Berkeley and started studying for my Ph.D. at UCLA.

My 43 years in academia have been a winding road. For the first 21 years of my career, I was a biology faculty member, serving 13 years as a department chairperson at two universities. For the past 21 years, I have been an administrator at three universities, serving as dean, provost and president.

My education, research, teaching and two administrative positions took place in the western United States, so I never imagined my career would lead me to the East Coast for its final destination. But, now, I cannot picture what my life would have been without the honor of serving the last nine and a half years as Bloomsburg University's president.

At times, Bloomsburg's road was rough. We confronted challenging fiscal times to enable our university to continue providing an affordable, high-quality education. We had many achievements, such as developing a highly successful strategic plan and exceeding the \$50 million goal of *It's Personal: The Campaign for Bloomsburg University*. We renovated or constructed new facilities, according to the campus master plan. And we introduced innovative programs, including MyCore, our general education model; the Bachelor of Applied Science in Technical Leadership, focused on leadership skills needed for career advancement; and Professional U, providing professional experiences for students.

But just as the song urges, "*Don't keep me waiting here. Lead me to your door,*" the time has come for my wife, Robbie, and me to follow the long, winding road to our horse ranch in northcentral Washington, closer to our three children and seven grandchildren. We leave Bloomsburg thankful for the devoted alumni who hold great affection for this institution and grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated faculty and staff to serve our wonderful students. As Bloomsburg University welcomes new leadership in the coming months, I am proud of my role as the 18th president. Bloomsburg's future is bright.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. [unclear]". The signature is fluid and cursive.



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COVER PHOTO: Gordon Wenzel/Impressions



# unleash your inner *husky*



NURSING STUDENT John Horoshock, a member of Bloomsburg's Aging Special Interest Group, chats with Sonia Deeter, a resident of Bloomsburg Towers in downtown Bloomsburg in March. Students from the club spent an afternoon with the senior citizens sharing stories and dying Easter eggs.

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

# around THE quad



## Fly Crate Club Winner

by TOM McGUIRE

A LOVE OF FLY-FISHING and a desire to make it easier for anglers to buy flies led sophomore Nathaniel Treichler to win the \$10,000 first-place prize in the sixth annual Student Business Plan Competition sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education.

Treichler, of Northampton, has enjoyed fly-fishing for years and always wanted to start a business around his favorite activity. "I knew the business model had to be different," says Treichler. "There are hundreds of fly-fishing companies, but they focus on a one-time sell. My goal was to build a community of fly anglers who would purchase on a predictable, repetitive basis, which is how the subscription basis model started. After that, I simply designed The Fly Crate members club."

"I am fortunate to have a professor, Steven Welch, as a mentor and adviser, and he told me about the PASSHE competition near the end of 2016 Spring semester," Treichler says. "The business plan took me a week of writing for two hours every night. I had it crammed in my head for over a year, so when it came time to put it on paper, it came easily."

The Fly Crate has been in business since February 2016. After a slow start, it now has close to 2,000 customers.

"Starting a business from scratch is not easy," Treichler says. "It is not something you learn through reading books or going online because all publications say the same thing, 'it depends on your business,' so you're stuck."

The annual Business Plan Competition is designed to provide student entrepreneurs a real-world opportunity to pitch their

original business plans and win money to help start their businesses. Students from the 14 State System universities participated in the competition.

"Before the announcement of the winners, I had my doubts whether I would or could win," says Treichler. "I was confident that I would be in the top three, but you never know how the judges make their decisions and what criteria they were looking for."

"I plan to use the prize money to improve the 'unboxing' experience of The Fly Crate packaging and on Internet marketing," he says.

Treichler is also proud that The Fly Crate is helping disabled veterans.

"When members purchase six flies, we donate one to Project Healing Waters," Treichler says. "Project Healing Waters helps with the physical and mental rehabilitation of disabled active military, service personnel and disabled veterans."

"With great determination, I want to become the largest monthly fly club in the U.S. with over 1,000 members," says Treichler. "The Fly Crate will also expand our current operations into the fly-tying market. At the same time, we'll be growing the online fly shop with a variety of innovative new fly designs and publishing content-rich articles. More importantly, I see The Fly Crate having a large voice in conservation and educating the public in preserving our natural resources for generations to come." •

## Shepard contributes to NASA asteroid mission



MICHAEL SHEPARD, professor of environmental, geographical and geological sciences, has contributed research to a NASA mission to the asteroid 16 Psyche.

Shepard studied 16 Psyche using radar signals at the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico. He and other scientists defined the shape and size of the asteroid and calculated that 16 Psyche is about 150 miles wide in diameter, making it one of the largest metallic asteroids in the main belt. Shepard used this

information to create a 3D model of 16 Psyche that describes the topography of the asteroid, which is located between Mars and Jupiter. The scientific journal *Icarus* published the model.

Discovered in 1852 by Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis, the asteroid's name comes from the Greek mythological figure Psyche, and the fact that it was the 16th minor planet discovered. 16 Psyche was one of two missions selected from five finalists for funding

by NASA. Asteroids are mainly made of rock, but 16 Psyche is unique because it's almost entirely made of nickel-iron metal.

"It's exciting to contribute to a NASA mission," says Shepard. "Since this asteroid is metallic, similar to most planet's cores, some theorize that it might have been a planet destroyed in early collisions."

The asteroid will provide insight into how planets may have formed as well as the history of early solar system collisions. The mission will also help scientists understand how planets and other bodies separated into their layers – including cores, mantles and crusts. 16 Psyche is also the only place where scientists can directly study a metallic core that usually is found far below the mantles and crusts of planets. "We've never seen anything like this. It's thought to have formed the first piece of the solar system," said Shepard.

The NASA mission will launch in 2023, arriving at the asteroid in 2030. •

– Nicole Keiser '17



## Bloomsburg's Boenell Kline finalist for Ali-Zaidi Award

BOENELL KLINE '17, a senior communications studies major from Milton, was a finalist for the Ali-Zaidi Award for Academic Excellence sponsored by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Foundation.

The Ali-Zaidi Award is presented annually to a graduating senior at one of the 14 universities that comprise PASSHE. It recognizes outstanding academic achievement and participation in extra- and co-curricular activities. The award was established in

2001 by Syed R. Ali-Zaidi, a founding member of the State System's Board of Governors.

Kline completed a successful research project examining the connections between attachment styles and the nonverbal expression of emotions. With the help of her research mentor, Angela La Valley, associate professor of communication studies, and several BU scholarships/donors, Kline presented her research and represented the university at a national conference in Las Vegas in 2014.

Kline has received several scholarships and awards during her time as a BU student, including the Brinley Crahall, Jr. Endowed Scholarship, the Class of 1960 Scholarship, the William D. Greenlee Scholarship and the Undergraduate Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Award for her perseverance and determination to excel in and out of the classroom. •

– Maggie Farrer '18

## BAS-TL offered on campus

BLOOMSBURG'S INNOVATIVE Bachelor of Applied Science in Technical Leadership (BAS-TL) program, begun five years ago at Lehigh County Community College, is now available to students on Bloomsburg's campus. The program is also available through Reading Area Community College, Harrisburg Area Community College, Northampton Community College and the Community College of Philadelphia. Through the community college partners, the BAS-TL allows students who have earned an associate's degree to complete a bachelor's degree through Bloomsburg. •



## White House aid Deesha Dyer shares experience

Deesha Dyer, a White House social secretary during the Obama administration, spoke at Bloomsburg in April. Dyer shared her personal journey on how she paved her way to becoming a White House staffer. After graduating from Milton Hershey School, a private philanthropic boarding school in Hershey, college seemed inevitable for Dyer until financial hardships made her return home. While working

for years at the Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust, Dyer returned to school at the Community College of Philadelphia. While there, Dyer became an intern at the White House Office of Scheduling and Advance. This internship paved the way for various positions in the Obama administration until Dyer ultimately became the White House social secretary. •

## Nursing program earns top marks

COLLEGE CHOICE has ranked Bloomsburg's nursing program as the most affordable nursing degree in Pennsylvania. Schools were ranked in each state by the increasing value of the sum of the published in-state tuition and mandatory fees. The rating places BU's nursing program above six sister institutions in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).

RegisteredNursing.org ranked Bloomsburg's nursing program third in Pennsylvania. BU's program is the only PASSHE school ranked in the top 10. Nursing programs were assessed on several factors, which represent how well a program supports students towards licensure and beyond. Among the factors surveyed was the pass rate for the NCLEX-RN exam, used by all state boards of nursing in the United States to help assess a student's competency for licensure. RegisteredNursing.org wrote that BU's programs are rigorous and demanding but offer real world clinical labs, patient-based theory and supportive faculty.

Bloomsburg's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program began this May, and is designed for advanced practice nurses. The DNP consists of 33 credits available entirely on online. More information: [bloomu.edu/dnp](http://bloomu.edu/dnp). •

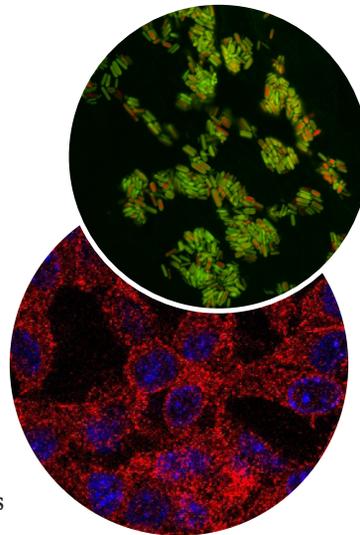
## New microscope enables 3D imagery

HAVING THE ABILITY to generate high-resolution images of samples is an important aspect in scientific research. With the acquisition of a state-of-the-art laser scanning microscope at Bloomsburg University, researchers like Jennifer Venditti and Angela Hess, associate professors of biological and allied health sciences, have innovative technology to advance their research.

The Zeiss LSM 800 Laser Scanning Confocal Microscope uses lasers to sequentially scan samples labeled with different types of probes and generate high-resolution images. Applications for this microscope include fixed cell as well as live cell imaging.

Researchers can optically section through their samples and create Z-stacks. These image slices are then reassembled and can be rotated to provide 3D views. This technology also allows researchers to visualize the location of structures within a cell more accurately.

Venditti is using the microscope to investigate the localization and function of synapsin proteins in human sperm. Hess's research focuses on localizing two proteins in human and mouse melanoma cells. •



## Pre-med student receives awards



BEVERLY ANDRE, a senior majoring in biology, pre-medical sciences, received two prestigious awards from the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology to support her travel to their annual meeting in New Orleans in January. Andre was one of 21 students selected to receive the Broadening Participation Award, which enabled her to attend special sessions for award recipients and be mentored. Andre also received the Charlotte Mangum Award, which provided housing in New Orleans. At the conference, she presented a poster on "Sublethal Stress Associated with Apiary Treatments for Varroa Mites." The presentation was co-authored with Bloomsburg mentors Cindy Surmacz and John Hranitz and collaborators Ibrahim Cakmak, Ph.D. and S. Cakmak, Ph.D. from the Beekeeping and Development Center in Bursa, Turkey. •

# New residence hall on track ,

WORK ON BU'S new residence hall continues, with the building set to open this fall. Work in 2016 included the concrete foundation and base along with the placement of the building steel framework. The seven-story, \$61.9 million structure will house 394 students in 138 suites on the upper six floors. The ground floor will provide space for the University Store, dining services, mailroom and interactive learning. The building is BU's first suite-style residence hall. •



## Nursing seniors win regional challenge

A TEAM OF SIX senior nursing majors recently won the Geoffrey Allen Walp Memorial 14th Annual Student Nurse Challenge at East Stroudsburg University. The challenge is based on the College Bowl program where teams compete in a quiz-style competition. The teams answered questions similar to what will be asked on the NCLEX-RN exam, which all nursing graduates will take upon completion of the program to become licensed as registered nurses. Nursing students from seven institutions competed. Bringing home the trophy for BU were Rachel Garraway, Samantha Bailey, Nicole Walsh, Rachel Toter and Amy Jo Zimmerman. •



## Anchor Program to aid foster children

CHILDREN AGING-OUT of the foster care system are more likely to end up unemployed or worse yet, in prison, within five years according to numerous studies. A new BU initiative, the Anchor Program, aims to engage youth, ages 15-18, to help change those statistics.

The Anchor Program will give children in the foster care program a chance to explore their academic interests and talents through a multi-year summer residential college life experience program and year-round mentorship opportunities. The inaugural

session of the program is scheduled for July 15-22.

The program will connect children in the foster program with Bloomsburg University students, fellow Anchor classmates, and Bloomsburg University faculty and staff through student life activities. BU mentors will partner with the youth throughout the year about topics such as developing academic goals, exploring academic disciplines researching post-secondary institutions, and navigating financial aid/scholarships. •

## Shark Tank-style entrepreneur competition

MORE THAN 70 teams of aspiring entrepreneurs competed in Bloomsburg's inaugural Husky Dog Pound competition in April – a Shark Tank-like battle for \$50,000 in prizes. The competition was open to Bloomsburg University students, Bloomsburg University Alumni, community members from Columbia and Montour counties and high school students from across Pennsylvania. •



## The biggest Big Event yet

MORE THAN 2,100 VOLUNTEERS tackled nearly 200 job sites in April to make the seventh annual Community Government Association Big Event the largest one yet. Sponsored by the CGA, the single-day community service event gives students the opportunity to say “thank you” to Bloomsburg area residents and show appreciation for the

community. Work locations included The First Presbyterian Church, Children’s Museum, Kocher Park and roughly 75 local residences. Student volunteers tackled a host of chores such as raking, painting, gardening, mulching, removing debris, digging and various spring-cleaning duties. ●

## Fulbright Scholar

SENIOR ALEXANDRA MILLER became BU’s first Fulbright Scholar and will get to live her dream when she travels to Argentina this summer. Miller intends to learn some Argentine Sign Language so she can work with the deaf population, teaching them to write and read in English. She would like to bridge the communication gap between Spanish and English in the classroom, as well as the communication gap between written Spanish or Argentine Sign Language and written English. The Fulbright program began in 1946 when President Harry S. Truman signed into law a bill sponsored by Sen. J. William Fulbright that called for the promotion of international goodwill through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science. ●



## STEM Center receives PPL grant

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY’S Regional STEM Education Center received a \$25,000 grant from the PPL Foundation. The funds support the GI-STEM: Girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day for regional Girl Scouts held in March, and the Great STEM Adventure Camps scheduled for June on campus.

GI-STEM Day encourages Girl Scouts in Brownies (second and third grades), Juniors (fourth and fifth grades), and Cadettes (sixth-eighth grades) to get excited about the STEM fields. During the program, Girl Scouts move through hands-on stations facilitated by Bloomsburg University education and nursing majors to learn about STEM principles.

The STEM Adventure Camps provide an avenue for students going into grades 5-10 to develop their science, technical, engineering and math interests and abilities. ●

## Students win at National Broadcasting Society convention

A CONTINGENT OF SENIOR mass communications majors won the On-The-Spot promo competition at the NBS-AERho National Electronic Media Association Convention for the fourth straight time in March in New York City. The competition calls for students to create a 30-second promo for NBS in two days, filming, editing and producing the clip for the judges on site. Their winning video can be viewed at [magazine.bloomu.edu](http://magazine.bloomu.edu). ●



# Ciao Italia

## Field Hockey Twin Sisters Heading To Italy

by DAVID LEISERING



Geneka Mahan (left)  
and MacKenna Mahan

COLLEGIATE STUDENT-ATHLETES travel a great deal to play their sport, usually within a few hours of the location of their institution. This summer, though, the Mahan twins will get to go across the Atlantic Ocean to Italy, to play their favorite game and experience a new culture.

Geneka and MacKenna Mahan, from Selinsgrove and members of the Bloomsburg University field hockey team, will head to Italy to participate in a field hockey tournament from June 4 through June 15. The team of 15 U.S. collegiate student-athletes will visit cities throughout Italy while playing tough international competition.

“We just looked at each other and decided to go for it,” says MacKenna Mahan. “There were a handful of players from our team that were invited to go, but we felt that the opportunity was too good to pass up so we jumped on it. We have stops in Rome, Venice, Milan, San Marino – places like that. It just sounded really cool.”

The team is assembled by the American International Sports Teams, an organization that has taken top-level athletes to compete in international tournaments in more than 22 countries since 2002. Selection is based on recommendations from coaches as well as statistical performance at all levels of college play.

“The trip is based around field hockey and competition,” says Geneka Mahan. “But, there will be a lot of travel time for sightseeing and a chance to learn more about the Italian culture. I know when we are in Rome, we’ll tour the Colosseum.”

Geneka tied a career-high with two assists last season and has two goals and four assists for eight points in her first three years at Bloomsburg. MacKenna, meanwhile, tied for second on the team in scoring last season after posting career-highs in goals (5), assists (4), and points (14). She has nine goals and six assists for 24 points in three years with the Huskies.

The sisters are also top classroom performers. Both were named to the Zag Field Hockey/National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division II National Academic Squad for having cumulative GPAs at 3.30 or better. They both major in finance.

“This is an amazing opportunity for MacKenna and Geneka,” says Bloomsburg head field hockey coach Nikki Rhoads. “Anytime our ladies have a stick in their hand and are competing, their game will definitely grow. Now, add the piece that they are traveling internationally with other players, and it will broaden their experience and not just in hockey. We have great expectations for these two as they enter their senior season.”

The duo will enter their senior season in fall 2017. The Mahan sisters will use their summer play experience as extra preparation for their final year in a Huskies uniform.

“We’re coming off of a pretty good season last year,” says Geneka. “There will definitely be a big deficit with the seniors we’re losing, but I think we can pick up where we left off and hopefully win a lot of games.”

“I want to end my career with a winning season” adds MacKenna. “A special season.” •

## Women's Volleyball Added

BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY will add women's volleyball as a varsity sport, beginning play in the fall of 2018. The addition will give BU 21 varsity programs – 10 for men and 11 for women. Women's volleyball marks the first varsity sport added at the school since the addition of women's soccer in the fall of 1990.

"We are very excited about the addition of women's volleyball as an intercollegiate sport," said BU President David L. Soltz. "Volleyball fits with the mission of the University and aligns with the sports offered in our student recruitment area. I believe it will greatly enhance the student experience at BU."

With the new Bloomsburg team, 17 of the 18 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) schools will compete in the sport in the fall of 2018. The conference will determine realignment at a later time. •

## Historic Seasons



TWO BU SPORTS PROGRAMS enjoyed unprecedented success during the 2016-17 winter season: women's indoor track and field and men's swimming.

The women's indoor track and field team had its best-ever finish and highest-ever point total, and had two individual conference champions at the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Indoor Track and Field Championships. The Huskies finished second overall with 111 total points – just four points behind Shippensburg – to earn the conference's runner-up trophy. Junior Hannah Boudreau, a native of Hampstead, Md., won the individual

championship in the 3000-meter run while sophomore Kirsten O'Malley, from Montoursville, claimed the title in the 400-meter dash.

Senior Kaylee Caruso, also from Montoursville, went on to compete at the NCAA Division II National Championships in Birmingham, Ala. placing ninth in the country in the long jump.

In the pool, the men's swimming team also finished second at the PSAC Championships. The Huskies broke seven conference records during the meet – the first time that Bloomsburg has held a conference record in any event for more than 40 years.

The team made the biggest splash at the NCAA Championships, finishing 15th in the country with 116 points in the team standings. It was a sensational weekend for the Huskies as four of the five relay teams finished in the top 10 in the country – including a national runner-up finish in the 200-yard freestyle relay and a third-place finish in

the 200-yard medley relay. Individually, junior Sam Feiser of Pottstown was 12th in the 100-yard freestyle and senior Eric Usbeck of Lake Ariel placed ninth overall in the 100-yard breaststroke to recap the remarkable tournament for the Huskies.

All seven swimmers who competed at nationals left Birmingham as All-Americans: seniors Eric Usbeck and A.J. Brady (Wilmington, Del.), redshirt junior Ryan Paisley (Hazleton), juniors Sam Feiser and Josh Grzech (Mountain Top), sophomore Kyle Dix (Schwenksville), and freshman Jordan Wyant (Mechanicsburg). •



## Lighting It Up

AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING 2016-17 season for the men's basketball team, Christian Mortellite will enter his senior year with his sights set on becoming the school's all-time leading scorer.

Mortellite, of Hammonton, N.J., set the school record for points in a season with 613, surpassing the previous record of 600 held by the school's all-time leading scorer, Mike Ellzy, in 1996-97. Mortellite also shattered the single-season school record for most 3-pointers

in a season with 110 and led all of Division II in 3-pointers made per game (4.07).

Mortellite was named to the All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Eastern Division First Team for the second straight season and became the first player since Dontahe Jordan in 2011-12 to earn All-Atlantic Region honors from the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). He was just the 10th player in the program's history recognized by the NABC. •

# A Fond *Farewell*

After 9 ½ years, Bloomsburg bids farewell to President David Soltz

by WILLIE COLÓN

HE GETS MAYBE six hours of sleep a night, is up at 5 or 5:30 a.m. every day, frequently works 10-hour days – or longer – and struggles to take one day of the weekend for himself.

Flip that coin and you get a man who loves to fly-fish and ride horses, enjoys campus and town events like the Destination Blues Festival ... and what about those pushups he did after Husky touchdowns in Redman Stadium?

David Soltz laughs at the memory of that last one.

“Those were great fun, a way to get out of the president’s box and interact with the crowd,” Soltz says. “And the students thought it was pretty cool. But I’ve had four shoulder surgeries, so between my wife and the orthopedic surgeon telling me that I’d need another surgery if I kept doing those pushups ... I had to stop.”

Now, another ending looms: His retirement in June, which will bring to a close his 9 ½ year tenure as president of Bloomsburg University, and to a 43-year career in higher education.

“I have mixed feelings,” Soltz says, not surprisingly. “Being president has been the highlight of a long and good career. I’ve enjoyed it immensely. And while I’m looking forward to retirement, it’s a little scary. I’ll miss the feel of the campus and being around all these smart people. And I’ll miss the students. I’m in it for them, the excitement these young people bring.”

Those who’ve worked closely with Soltz make it clear, that he, too, will be missed.

•••

Brenda Cromley has no trouble remembering when she first met Soltz during an open forum in the Schweiker Room at Andruss Library when he was interviewing for the position.

“He was in a dark blue suit, answering questions, and I remember thinking, ‘This gentleman really did his homework,’” says Cromley, the deputy to the president who has worked with Soltz since he started in January 2008. “In notes I found a few years ago, I





President Soltz takes the Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS in 2013.

*“One of his favorite days of the year is when the Human Resources Department has its annual lunch for people who have served the university for 10, 20, 30 years. He loves to see those people and thank them for their service. He likes to celebrate people who make this university what it is and make it great for students.”*

**– Brenda Cromley,**  
deputy to the president

had written, “This candidate is presidential.’ I thought that when he interviewed and I think that to this day.”

Some describe Soltz as rational and methodical, perhaps befitting of a man of science — he has a Ph.D. in environmental biology. But again, flip that coin and you get “approachable,” “easy to talk to,” “sincere,” and the one that comes up most, “great sense of humor.”

“It’s nice to have someone at the top who rose through the ranks,” adds Mark Tapsak, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, who reported directly to Soltz in his role as co-chair of the Strategic Planning and Resource Council. “This isn’t

someone who went to business school to run an organization but has no idea of the business of higher education. I like that.”

Soltz joined the faculty of California State University at Los Angeles in 1974, eventually serving as dean of its College of Natural and Social Sciences. Later he served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Central Washington University from 2001 to 2007.

Bloomsburg University, he says, had everything he was looking for: a rural setting near a world-class city, and a position that would be a good culmination to his career. “I also saw Bloomsburg as a good university that

could become better and nationally known,” Soltz adds.

Asked about the first major challenge he faced as president, Soltz doesn’t hesitate. “Yes, immediately the challenge of the recession on the national and local economies,” he says. “The significant reductions in state funding signaled difficult economic times.”

Through prudent management, belt-tightening, and record fundraising, the university avoided layoffs and has remained on solid financial ground to this day. Soltz also surrounded himself with a topnotch team of faculty, administrators, fundraisers and students who answered his call to make a good

# Nine Years of Achievement

## May 2008

First commencement on the new Academic Quad

## October 2008

Inaugurated as the 18th president of Bloomsburg University

## 2009

Middle States Commission on Higher Education approves reaccreditation

## May 2009

Established the Office of Planning and Assessment

## May 2010

The first “Big Event” sponsored by the Community Government Association

## October 2010

University’s strategic plan, *Impact 2015: Building on the Past, Leading for the Future*, was developed

## April 2011

Zeigler Institute for Professional Development established

## November 2011

Bachelor of Applied Science – Technical Leadership implemented with the first of now five community college partners

## February 2012

McDowell Institute for Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support established

## April 2012

First and Goal Football Campaign surpasses \$2 million goal

Field at Redman Stadium named in honor of Coach Danny Hale

## August 2012

Innovative MyCore general education program goes into effect

## February 2013

Launched Professional U initiative to provide career related experiences to better prepare students for personal and professional success

*“American higher education continues to be preeminent through out the world, in large part because of our country’s tradition of American college presidents serving as educator, civic leader, and champion of the American dream. Dr. David Soltz is one of those great American presidents who has lifted his university, community, the state and all who he works with to that spirit of achievement. We are all fortunate to have worked with David and he will be missed by his fellow college presidents.”*

**– Karen M. Whitney, Ph.D.,  
President, Clarion University**



President Soltz speaks at the dedication of the renovated Sutliff Hall in 2012.

thing even better.

That ability to inspire others to action was on full display in 2011 when Hurricane Lee flooded 25 percent of the town. Soltz convened a crisis management team to coordinate a response that included students, faculty, administrators and staff helping residents remove water-logged belongings from their homes, staffing the phone bank at the emergency operations center, and pitching in as needed at the Red Cross.

“It is readily apparent to anyone who spends time at Bloomsburg University that Dr. Soltz’s impact on the institution’s future is real, significant, and lasting,” says Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher

Education Chancellor Frank T. Brogan. “At the same time, his influence goes well beyond the campus walls through his selfless contribution of time and talent to help improve our State System. I have appreciated his counsel and have admired his tireless efforts on behalf of his university and the entire university system. He has been a true leader, and a good friend.”

What’s clear to everyone who knows and has worked with Soltz is that all that tireless energy ultimately is focused on one goal: To help students succeed.

“Everything President Soltz has done during his presidency has been

focused on increasing educational opportunities for students,” says Ira Blake, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “His visionary approach to education is a model for other universities around the country. From MyCore to Professional U to accelerated graduate programs at Center City, Philadelphia — all were done to help our students develop and succeed.”

Soltz’s emphasis on student success also sparked the creation of the President’s Strategic Planning Grants, which fueled a broad array of innovative projects. The grants provided more than \$650,000 in seed money to more than two dozen

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

### **March 2014**

Campus Master Plan approved and implemented

### **May 2014**

Dedication of the Benner-Hudock Center for Financial Analysis in Sutliff Hall

### **January 2015**

Established the Strategic Enrollment Management division

### **May 2015**

Steph Pettit Stadium named

### **June 2015**

Greenly Center opens on Main Street in Bloomsburg, giving the university a presence in the downtown

### **October 2015**

Launched *It’s Personal*, the largest comprehensive campaign in the university’s history

### **February 2016**

Established the Giuffre Center for Supply Chain Management and the Giuffre Distinguished Professor in Supply Chain Management

### **April 2016**

First Breiner Family Professorship recipient named

### **October 2016**

The Terry and JoAnn Zeigler College of Business dedicated

### **February 2017**

Soltz honored with the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education Presidents’ Award

### **April 2017**

Soltz awarded President Emeritus by the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education



President Soltz does pushups for touchdowns at Redman Stadium in 2009.

*“President Soltz has enjoyed interacting with the students, since as educators, we are here to serve them. Whether it is meeting with the Community Government Association (CGA), having lunch in Scranton Commons or racing down to the track at Redman Stadium to do push-ups with the cheerleaders, he has cherished the opportunities to spend time with students.”*

**– Ira Blake,**  
provost and  
senior vice president  
for academic affairs

projects, including the Center for Visual & Performing Arts and the STEM Magnet High School Program, which gives high school juniors and seniors a head start on a college career in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

Those are just a few in a long list of impressive accomplishments Soltz leaves behind. The list also includes:

- A strategic plan, *Impact 2017*, that has guided the establishment of numerous academic programs and initiatives such as MyCore, Professional U, the McDowell Institute for Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support, and the Zeigler Institute for Professional Development.

- Almost \$250 million in construction and renovations to campus buildings.
- The university’s first named college, the Terry and JoAnn Zeigler College of Business.
- First endowed professorship in nursing named by alums Edward and Julianne (Miller) Breiner ’77 in support of an exceptional teacher, mentor and leader.
- Record philanthropic support, including the \$50-million-and-counting *It’s Personal* Campaign, the largest capital project in Bloomsburg’s history.

“By developing a team of donors to fund different endeavors, he has allowed us to build on what we have instead of struggling,” says Katherine

Mullen, ’17, who has worked with Soltz as a student trustee.

And Duane Greenly, ’72, chair of *It’s Personal*, says that Soltz has been key to the campaign’s success. “Dave got involved,” Greenly says. “Every major gift we got has his fingerprints on it.”

Greenly, a Bloomsburg native, provided the leadership gift that funded the downtown center that bears his name and is another feather in Soltz’s cap. The \$8.25 million, multipurpose building on Main Street has helped improve town-gown relations that have at times been a little tense. “The reaction from the town has been excellent,” Greenly says. “We took a run-down, vacant property and turned it into a showcase for the Town of



President Soltz adds his signature to a beam used in the construction of the Greenly Center in downtown Bloomsburg.

*“Dr. Soltz represents the best qualities of an academic leader. He engages colleagues at all levels, listens with care, and makes decisions based on a careful analysis of the facts and the input. He has been and will continue to be a mentor, a friend, and an example of the kind of great president I aspire to be. I know that Bloomsburg and the State System are being left in immeasurably better positions thanks to David and I wish him the very best in retirement.”*

**– Michael Driscoll, Ph.D.,**  
*President, Indiana University of Pennsylvania*



Bloomsburg.”

But it’s another accomplishment that Soltz mentions first when asked to reflect on his time as president. “I’ve brought in an excellent group of diverse administrators, and have helped diversify our leadership and student body,” he says.

•••

Recently, Soltz regrew the beard he sported before coming to Bloomsburg. The timing is not a coincidence.

Soltz explains that he had a beard for more than 25 years, but his first granddaughter hated it. “She’d touch it and recoil,” Soltz remembers. So, he shaved it off. Now that he’s about to retire and his granddaughter is OK with it, the beard is back, a symbolic

token of the major life change that’s coming.

So, what’s next? There’s the horse ranch in northcentral Washington state that Soltz and his wife, Robbie, bought a few years back. Then there’s the anticipation of seeing more of his three children and seven grandkids. International travel is also on the docket, including Australia and New Zealand. “And I’m a biologist, so I have to go to the Galapagos,” he adds with a laugh.

But even that’s not quite enough for a man of his energy. While he plans to lay low for the second half of 2017, Soltz is already thinking ahead to the possibility of consulting work next year. “I want to stay in the game,” he says. “I think I have a lot to

contribute.”

As he prepares to say goodbye, Soltz is rightfully secure knowing he leaves behind some significant contributions. “I started as president at the start of a recession. Now, we’re financially stable and enrollment is good,” Soltz says. “There’s a lot that a new president can be positive about.”

Echoing his own goal from nearly 10 years ago, Soltz adds, “I hope the next president takes a good place and makes it even better.”

If so, Bloomsburg will be in a very good place indeed. •

**Willie Colón** is a freelance writer in Philadelphia.

President Soltz addresses the crowd at the launch of the *It's Personal* campaign.





# Servant leaders

by SUSAN FIELD

**Gloria Gerrity and Kimberly Bloom-Duffy Take Hands-On Approaches to Leadership in one of the Nation's Largest Healthcare Systems**

AS HIGH-POWERED LEADERS at Geisinger Health System, one of the nation's largest health service organizations, Gloria Gerrity '06 MBA and Kim Bloom-Duffy '00 BSN and '12 MSN/MBA strive to provide the best health care in the region every day.

Gerrity is vice president of Geisinger Women's and Children's Institute and Bloom-Duffy is associate vice president of nursing. Geisinger serves more than 3 million residents in 45 counties of

Pennsylvania, making the scope and responsibility of Gerrity and Bloom-Duffy's roles vast.

Gerrity administers all programs in Women's and Children's Institute service lines, is responsible for day-to-day operations and strategy, and manages two associate vice presidents. She also manages 125 general and specialty pediatricians and a net revenue budget of more than \$40 million. Bloom-Duffy is responsible for the adult, pediatric and neonatal intensive care units, two

pediatric medical surgical units, and the Childbirth Center. Five nursing operations managers report directly to her and 500 individuals work within the inpatient units that she oversees.

"Gloria manages the business concepts of the service lines and my role is nursing operations in those inpatient settings," Bloom-Duffy says. "Our roles are very collaborative and interconnected."

For both women, communication, business acumen and leadership —

skills they developed in Bloomsburg's MBA program — are essential in their roles and help them lead with courage and confidence.



GLORIA GERRITY

When Gerrity took her first job at Geisinger in 1981, she was unsure if working in health care was her long-term goal. As she moved her way up the ranks, Gerrity started to love what she was doing. Thirty-six years later, Gerrity is not only still at Geisinger, she has developed into an influential health care leader who has a passion and purpose: to provide first-rate health care from clinical and patient-experience standpoints.

“As a health care administrator, you have to be on top of your game. You’re constantly navigating regulatory changes, improving process flow, figuring out how to provide care with limited resources, and thinking of cost reduction, but you can’t forget about

providing value and a good service experience for patients,” Gerrity says. “Particularly in pediatrics, you see families at their worst times. We have to think about what we need to do to relieve the pain they are dealing with. When you do that well, your career is forever altered. I just got a letter from a family about how wonderful their experience was and I feel like I helped to create that.”

Gerrity’s typical 12-hour days are filled with meetings, answering email, managing projects and visiting the different Geisinger locations to make sure operations are running effectively.

“Every day looks a little bit different,” says Gerrity, originally from Northumberland and now living in Elysburg. “During budget season, I’m busy finalizing numbers. Other days, I am recruiting and interviewing providers, interacting with the physicians and physician leaders and also visiting with families and making sure patients and families are satisfied with their experience.”

Gerrity’s philosophy is simple — she leads by example.

“I need to always be a positive influence and action-oriented. I set the vision, goals and work through people on my team to execute those goals,” says Gerrity. She describes herself as a “servant leader” — someone who puts the needs of others first and helps people perform as highly as possible. “On a daily

basis I rely on my philosophy to set the tone for everything that needs to happen.”

Though Gerrity was already in a high-level role when she entered the Bloomsburg MBA program, she credits the experience with giving her the courage and confidence to put her leadership philosophy into action.

“The MBA honed my communication skills and sharpened my finance skills. In my classes, I got feedback from my teammates and took that feedback very seriously,” says Gerrity, who also has a bachelor’s degree in business management from the University of Maryland. “I grew as a manager and businessperson by understanding my work in detail and gaining a big-picture perspective that helped me tie everything together.”

One of Gerrity’s first MBA classes was with Darrin Kass, program coordinator and professor of management. “He was inspiring. I loved the way he taught. It was so relatable to what I was doing on a day-to-day basis,” Gerrity says. “He was one of the first professors I had where I thought, ‘this is the right program for me.’”

A watershed moment for Gerrity came at the end of her program in her capstone class with Joan Benek-Rivera, now-retired professor of management. The class was required to complete a high-ropes course in order to pass. Gerrity is terrified of heights.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



PHOTO BY JAIME NORTH

“We had to go through these high ropes and go down into this ravine. I was dead-last in the class, but I made myself do it and it was so rewarding afterward,” Gerrity says. “The ropes course gave me a new perspective and showed me that you really have to be grounded to be a leader.”

Gerrity remains involved with Bloomsburg as a member of the Zeigler College of Business advisory board and hopes to one day teach at the university. Her husband, Francis, is a 1977 Bloomsburg graduate and her youngest daughter, Jordan, graduated in 2013 with a criminal justice degree. “We are a family that sees the value that the university brings to the community,” she says.



Kim Bloom-Duffy doesn't lead from a desk.

Though she's in an executive level position as an associate vice president of nursing, Bloom-Duffy doesn't spend her days in an office. It's not uncommon to see her in the inpatient units wearing a Geisinger registered nurse uniform.

“I'm very proud to don a uniform of a registered nurse,” Bloom-Duffy says. “I take any opportunity to get visibility in my units, talking with the staff, talking with the patients.”

For Bloom-Duffy, there is no typical day. Each one is different and often involves spending time speaking

with patients, staff and operations managers to make sure all nursing operations are at their best.

When it comes to having meetings with her direct reports, they don't go to Bloom-Duffy's office, she goes to them. “I feel this is important from a servant-leadership perspective,” says Bloom-Duffy, originally from Mount Carmel and now living in Riverside.

Bloom-Duffy's leadership philosophy evolved from her own ideas of what she would want in a leader. As she journeyed through her rise to leadership over the last 17 years, she thought to herself, “How can I look different? How can I be more visible to my teams?”

She is also willing to spring into action on the floor when needed. “I'm still a nurse and I could always be an extra set of hands,” she says. “If a patient needs to be transported, or if a nurse needs help, I have no problem jumping in.”

When Bloom-Duffy first considered pursuing the dual MSN/MBA, Gerrity was one of the first people she consulted. Bloom-Duffy was then a team coordinator of nursing at the children's hospital. Gerrity was the vice president of the Pediatric Service Line and had completed her MBA at Bloomsburg several years earlier.

“Kim was a leader from the beginning. She's my go-to nursing person,” Gerrity says. “I'm a unique person because I don't have a clinical background. To have a nursing background with a business background is really the best scenario for leadership roles, so I encouraged her to do the dual program.”

In her first MBA class, Organizational Behavior with Kass, Bloom-Duffy experienced many lightbulb moments. “Many of the foundations being taught aligned with my work as an assistant manager. I could use the academic principles to guide me in how I was going to practice as a leader,” she says. “When I was promoted to an operations manager position,

the academic background really came into play.”

The MSN part of the program came naturally to Bloom-Duffy, but the MBA program challenged her in rewarding ways. It allowed her to “connect the dots” and to prepare to lead an organization.

Bloom-Duffy's life experiences also played a significant role in strengthening her character. When she started the program in 2008, she had just lost her uncle to throat cancer. In 2009, both of her parents were diagnosed with the same type of cancer. Then Bloom-Duffy was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She was also juggling a promotion at work and taking care of her 2-year-old son, Cole (now 10).

“I was fortunate that I was able to have a hysterectomy at a young age and I didn't need any further treatment. My parents also ended up doing well,” Bloom-Duffy says. “When I look back at all that was going on, it's amazing that I was able to complete my degree. The support of my family and my Geisinger and Bloomsburg families is what got me through.”

“Now I have two hats: I am a nurse by heart, but also have the business hat, because believe it or not, health care is a business. We have to think of the financial responsibility. We have to keep that happy balance between keeping our patients happy and having the right individuals at the bedside and in the boardroom,” Bloom-Duffy says. “The decisions made at my level truly affect the patients and the staff at the frontline. People always ask me if I miss taking care of patients, and I always tell them that I absolutely miss it; however, I know that I have the patient at the forefront of my decision-making every single moment of the day.”

**Susan Field '11/'12M** is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia.



From left: Josh Prezkop, Morgan Sandritter, Daniel Steinhauser and Ryan Sullivan.

# The Soil Whisperers

by JAIME NORTH

PHOTOS BY JAIME NORTH

KNEADING THE SOIL between his thumb and forefinger, Matthew Ricker creates a ribbon three inches long. From this process the assistant professor of environmental, geological and geographic sciences can determine how much sand and clay are in the soil.

“We need about 15 percent of clay to get a decent ribbon as students, but he can work with under 10 percent,” says Ryan Sullivan, a senior geology major and member of the BU Soil Judging Team originated by Ricker two years ago. “He can ribbon anything. If it was straight sand he could probably work a little ribbon on that.”

And these students would know. They proved they are among the best judges of soil in the country last fall, when they won the Northeast Regional Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at Pennsylvania State University in the team’s second year of competition.

In soil judging, contestants examine and denote the structural characteristics of a soil profile using standard soil science notation, generally extending to a depth of 150 cm (4.9 ft). Those soil characteristics are used to assess potential limitations on use of the land.

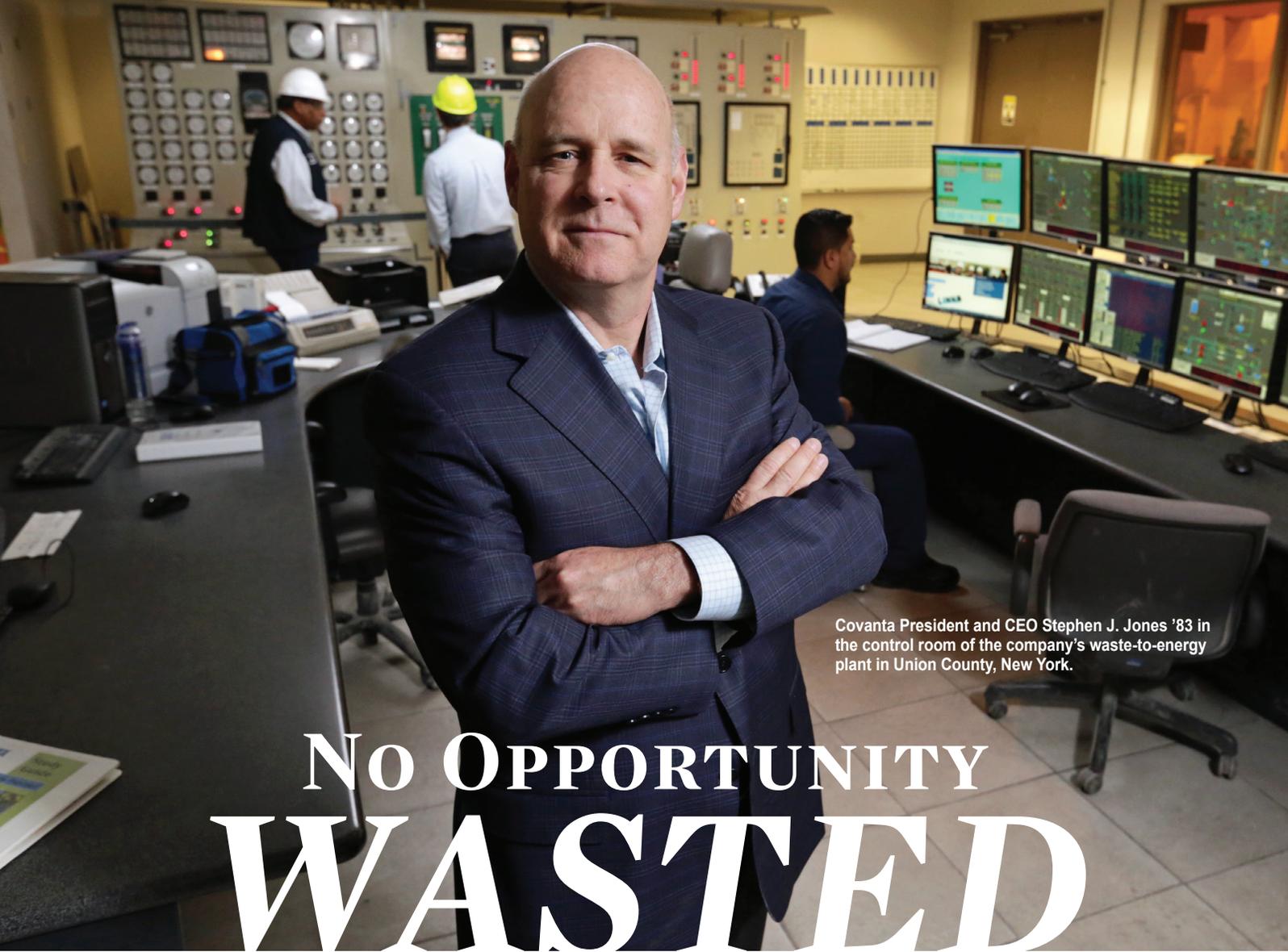
“Soil judging is an opportunity to gain experience working in the field independently and with other colleagues, which is a great asset for any future in the environmental field,” says Alana O’Rourke, a senior environmental geoscience major and

team member. “It’s also fun to get my hands dirty once in a while.”

“Students who place in the top 10 individuals at national soil judging typically are offered full academic scholarships for graduate study from the larger schools that use the event as a recruiting ground,” Ricker says. “Soil judging is more than a competition; it is a very intense field exercise that closely relates to what soil professionals do for a living. Many students will use the experience to start their own business or go into consulting.”

This year, Bloomsburg sent a team to the national competition at Northern Illinois University in late April, where they were given four practice days to examine 20 soil pits with the actual competition over the final two days. Joining Sullivan and O’Rourke were fellow students Daniel Steinhauser, Morgan Sandritter, Josh Prezkop and Eric Franz.

“Practice is important, but what sticks with students is the way the coach conveys what they are seeing in the landscape,” says Ricker, who has been involved with soil judging since 2008. “So, I am basically telling them a complex story of how soils have formed in a given area in a way that sticks, and they will remember. It is repetition, and I am constantly updating the progress of each student to correct errors and get everyone on the same page.” •



Covanta President and CEO Stephen J. Jones '83 in the control room of the company's waste-to-energy plant in Union County, New York.

# NO OPPORTUNITY WASTED

by JACK SHERZER

## International businessman, respected attorney and hard-charging CEO Stephen Jones' mantra for success: Embrace change

FROM A WOULD-BE dental student to president and CEO of one of the world's largest waste management companies, the only constant Stephen J. Jones embraces in life is change.

"At every stage in my life I've kind of said 'this is interesting,' and I go for about three years and I say 'what can I do now,'" says Jones, 55, who for the past two years has led the Morristown, N.J.-based Covanta. "The CEO role is complicated, so I don't think this one will be a three-year cycle."

If you live along the East Coast, there is a good chance your household trash is combusted and turned into energy at one of Covanta's waste-to-

energy plants. With annual sales of \$2 billion, and more than 40 facilities and 4,000 employees worldwide, Covanta's services touch all aspects of the waste stream, from municipal and commercial trash collection to recycling to environmental remediation.

•••

A seat in the corner office was not on Jones' radar when the son of a union pipefitter from Horsham became the first in his family to go to college, entering Bloomsburg University as a biology major with the goal of becoming a dentist. A tussle with organic chemistry, however, convinced him to pursue what would

be a lasting passion: business.

"I liked the whole theory of economics and looking at why products are priced a certain way," says Jones, who graduated from Bloomsburg with a bachelor of science in economics in 1983. "I thought it was interesting to think through how supply and demand impact products."

Two other Bloomsburg experiences had a significant impact on his life: Joining Sigma Iota Omega (SIO) and spending a semester in Liverpool, England.

"I learned leadership skills at SIO," says Jones, who became the fraternity's president his senior year.



A claw grabs trash from the tipping floor at Covanta's waste-to-energy plant in Ontario, Canada. Within minutes, the trash will be combusted at temperatures reaching up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and will produce electricity for local homes and businesses.

“Being able to set objectives and track progress against those objectives, were fundamental skills I learned as part of the Greek system.”

For the Pennsylvania youth who had never flown before, going to Liverpool in his junior year whetted an appetite for international experiences that remains to this day. A mix-up at the start of his travels also taught him a valuable lesson in self-reliance. “I went over on a weekend to the wrong place – to the University of Liverpool instead of Liverpool College,” says Jones. “The woman running the dorm let me stay for the night. The next day I found where I was supposed to be.”

“Studying abroad and traveling through Europe expanded my world. I found I was very comfortable internationally,” he says. “I gained the confidence that I could go almost anywhere in the world and be able to take care of myself without getting into too much trouble.”

After graduation, Jones was recruited by Verizon for its management trainee program. While at Verizon, Jones completed an MBA program at Temple University and later earned a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989. A freshly minted lawyer with an MBA, he began working in mergers and acquisitions at Dechert LLP, one of Philadelphia’s largest law firms.

The long days and all-nighters led him to seek interesting work that would be family-friendly. So in 1992, he moved to Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. It was at Air Products that Jones met his wife, Melanie, a chemical engineer. The couple is celebrating 18 years of marriage and has two boys, Zac, 17, and Alex, 14.

Jones was in-house counsel on deals involving “tonnage gases” – the manufacture of tons of particular gases used in industry. His early work at Air Products involved hydrogen, used by oil refineries to reduce sulfur

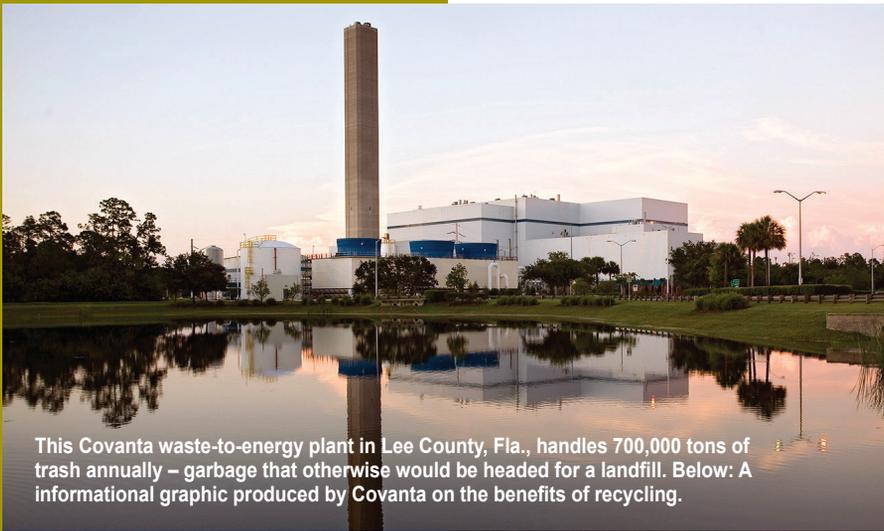
content in fuels, and oxygen, used by steel mills to fire up blast furnaces.

After six years, Jones was ready for a new challenge, and Air Products promoted him to business manager for all West Coast hydrogen activities. He went from helping finalize deals to looking for new ones – a role he relished.

“As an attorney, you’re playing defense; you are looking for risks,” Jones said. “On the commercial side, you’re playing offense. You’re looking for new opportunities and not worrying too much about risk because someone else, the attorney, gets paid to play that position.”

From there Jones became vice president and general manager of the Industrial Chemicals Division, negotiating deals throughout Europe and Asia. In 2009, he became senior vice president and general manager, Tonnage Gases, Equipment and Energy.

While the Great Recession of 2008



This Covanta waste-to-energy plant in Lee County, Fla., handles 700,000 tons of trash annually – garbage that otherwise would be headed for a landfill. Below: A informational graphic produced by Covanta on the benefits of recycling.

was slowing the U.S. economy, China was still booming and Jones and Air Products followed the market. In 2011, he and his family moved to the company's headquarters in Shanghai.

"It brought me back to the time I spent in Liverpool," Jones says of his three years in China. "Deals in China live and die by forging relationships, especially since it's difficult to pursue dispute resolution by way of courts if things fall apart. If you had the right relationship with someone you could get the deal done."

"I was all over China because the petrochemical plants are built out in the more remote provinces," says Jones. "I would sit at a restaurant and people would be amazed since they had seen only one or two westerners before."

Soon after his return to the U.S., Air Products underwent internal changes. Activist investor Pershing Square acquired roughly 10 percent of the company with an eye toward shaking up management. It was clear to Jones that based on these changes taking place he would never rise to be Air Product's CEO and that it was time to move on. He voluntarily left Air Products in the fall of 2014 and by January 2015 was named Covanta's CEO and president.

While the transition from industrial gases to waste management may seem great, they have more similarities than differences, says Jones. Both industries deal with the operation of large, complex facilities. Air Products had even operated waste-to-energy plants in the mid-1990s and, ironically, when the company left that business, Jones had sold some of the plants to Covanta.

At Covanta, Jones still has plenty of opportunities to become emerged in international business. While the company's footprint is in the U.S., growth is primarily international.

# OUT OF SIGHT... NOT OUT OF MIND

**OVER 250 MILLION TONS OF TRASH ARE BURIED IN U.S. LANDFILLS EACH YEAR**

**THE AVERAGE PERSON DUMPS 4.5 POUNDS OF WASTE INTO LANDFILLS EVERY SINGLE DAY**

**STOP LANDFILLING AND PRACTICE THE 4R<sup>S</sup>**

**Reduce**  
Reuse  
Recycle  
Recover

## THIS HAS HARMFUL EFFECTS:

**Land**

- Over 250 million tons of trash are buried in U.S. landfills each year.
- Enough to bury 16,000 football fields 10 feet deep.

16,000

**Air**

- Landfills emit 5.6 million tons of methane annually, a greenhouse gas that is over 70 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub> over the next 20 years.
- Methane is the second largest contributor to climate change.
- Landfills release uncontrolled emissions that include carcinogens – over 170 pollutants and 44 air toxics even when they have collections systems in place.

**Water**

- Landfills create leachate, a potentially toxic liquid.
- It can contaminate groundwater and make landfills an environmental burden for generations.

**Fire**

- Accidental fires at landfills and the uncontrolled burning of residential waste are the leading man-made sources of dioxin emissions in the U.S.

**Reduce** Go paperless! Have bank/credit card statements delivered electronically; remove yourself from catalog mailing lists; print double-sided whenever possible.

**Reuse** When consumers reuse products and manufacturers use less material, less energy is needed to refine, process and transport raw materials and to manufacture products. Plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to degrade; switch to reusable bags made from recycled plastic.

**Recycle** The U.S. is throwing money away. Recyclables worth \$11.4 billion were landfilled in 2010. We also throw away over 7.5 million tons of metal annually – that's the amount of steel in over 90 Golden Gate Bridges.

**Recover** The most sustainable countries in the world recycle 65% or more and then recover energy from the trash leftover at waste-to-energy plants. If we did that in the U.S., we could supply over 2.5 million homes with electricity from trash every year.

5,500,000

**What would happen if everyone followed the 4Rs?**

We would reduce greenhouse gases by one gigaton – the equivalent of closing 1,000 large coal-fired power plants and building 2 million 1 megawatt windmills.

2,000,000

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT, visit us at [www.covanta.com](http://www.covanta.com)

**COVANTA**  
Powering Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

Currently, the company is building a plant in Dublin, Ireland, capable of processing up to 600,000 metric tons of waste annually — turning the trash into electricity for 80,000 homes and heat for 50,000 residences.

“We have a lot of inexpensive land in the United States, which makes it cheaper to use landfills,” says Jones. “But if you’re an island nation like Ireland or the U.K., you hit the tipping point quickly because you don’t want to use your limited space for landfills.”

However, one area of domestic growth is in “profiled waste,” serving companies that want to reduce their environmental impact and eliminate the waste they send to landfills. Concern over global warming is also playing a significant role in demand for Covanta’s waste-to-energy plants. “It’s good public relations for companies to engage in activities that show they are environmentally responsible.”

Landfills release methane, a key contributor to global warming, as well as posing other potential problems such as groundwater contamination or fires. In 2011, only 19 percent of large U.S. manufacturers had environmental sustainability goals, says Jones. That level increased to about 80 percent by 2015. Based on this change, demand for Covanta to handle waste from these companies is growing by about 15 percent a year.

Covanta’s combustion process reduces trash by 90 percent and the ash that remains has uses as well. Precious metals such as gold and silver can be mined from the ash. And in addition to being clean enough to provide “top cover” for landfills, Covanta is testing technology that can further process the ash to produce different types of construction material — aggregate which can be used in roads, a glass cut for sandblasting, and a sand cut which can be used on beaches to help prevent erosion.

In conversation, Jones frequently returns to the role played by Bloomsburg University and its value for students like himself — first-generation college students who worked their way through school. Jones spent his college summers working in the pipefitting union on construction jobs.

“Bloomsburg is a good value proposition, and I don’t know if you can teach common sense, but I found the student body at Bloomsburg to be down-to-earth and very practical,” says Jones. After donating to the university for years and participating in events at the Terry and JoAnn Zeigler College of Business, Jones recently reconnected further by accepting a seat on the Board of Directors of the Bloomsburg University Foundation.

As for what allowed him to navigate a series of successful careers — any one of which could have been a lifetime job — Jones said it comes down to empathy and keeping yourself open to new situations.

“It’s important to understand human nature and interact with people. Today, it’s even more critical to be able to get on the phone or have dinner with people and work through issues,” he says. “Understand and think about what the other person is trying to get out of their situation and work to common ground.”

For those starting their career, the master of embracing change cautions not to specialize too early. “Make sure you stay broad earlier in your career; don’t box yourself in too early. I tried to create options in my career so I could keep expanding my opportunities and that’s easier to do if you don’t specialize too soon.” •

**Jack Sherzer** is a freelance writer based in Harrisburg.





Guest speaker Eduardo Ramos '90 and senior Javier Borrás at a Career Intensive Boot Camp held at the Greenly Center.

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

# KNOWING

## What You Don't Know

by TOM SCHAEFFER

JAVIER BORRAS THOUGHT he had the interview nailed. To start, he was wearing a new suit and tie. Borrás forgot one thing though. “The interviewer told me that my shoes should be polished,” says Borrás. “One of the most eye-opening moments for me was learning that I need to shine my shoes.”

Fortunately for Borrás, a senior majoring in history and Spanish, rather than being an actual job interview, this was a practice session held during one of Bloomsburg University’s Career Intensive Boot Camps.

“I knew you should wear a suit for an interview, but the interviewer reminded me that they notice everything you’re

wearing, down to your shoes,” says Borrás.

The lesson is clear. Details count. And the Career Intensive Boot Camps are designed to teach students those kind of details as they transition to the professional world.

The boot camp, part of Bloomsburg’s Professional U initiative, began in February 2015, and since then more than 200 students have participated with more than 100 alumni volunteers sharing their time and expertise.

The camps, spanning two and a half days, cover a lot of ground such as interviewing, dress, business socializing, charting career paths and salary negotiation.

“Boot camps are designed for students from all majors, not just business. Afterward, students feel more confident in their skills and abilities and they’ve expanded their network by interacting with alumni and professionals,” says boot camp organizer Lauren Gross Polinski, professional development manager in Alumni Engagement and Professional Development. “The program is not just about finding a job after graduation, but providing students with the resources to get the opportunity that they want.”

“I thought the boot camp was going to be very business-centric and focused on helping business students to get ahead,” says Borrás. “But when I got there and



PHOTOS: ERIC FOSTER

Morgan Beard '16 shares her experiences as a recent graduate.



Crystal Skotedis '03 conducts a mock interview with a student.

saw several of my friends and liberal arts majors that I recognized, my expectations changed completely.”

### A lot to learn

Morgan Beard '16 participated in the inaugural 2015 boot camp after learning she could apply to have a donor sponsor her attendance. Then a senior marketing major, Beard thought she was prepared to search for a job, but surprised at how much she still had to learn.

“The etiquette dinner was the most interesting experience for me. Having the chance to eat with the alumni and connect with them on a personal level while also learning how to handle yourself in that

type of setting was eye-opening.”

Beard’s boot camp experience directly opened the door to her current position as a claims professional with Traveler’s Insurance. Inspired by her experience, she has returned to present at each boot camp since she graduated. “I was in their position, and I know exactly how they’re feeling,” adds Beard. “I’m glad to have the opportunity to talk to them and tell them that it’s going to be ok.”

For Crystal A. Skotedis '03, director, Boyer and Ritter, LLC, coming back to help mentor students in the boot camps is something she is very passionate about because she knows how valuable these types of experiences can be.

“I would have benefited greatly from these types of experiences,” says Skotedis. “Volunteering to help students prepare to become professionals is a great way for alumni to give back while also making a direct investment in a student’s life.”

At the most recent boot camp, Skotedis helped students by conducting mock interviews. “Anytime students can practice interviews before game time it’s a huge advantage,” Skotedis adds. “It gives them the chance to see themselves through someone else’s eyes and helps them reach some of those self-realization moments where they either find out if they are ready or that maybe they don’t quite know how to sell themselves yet.” •



PHOTO: BRENDA CREE



*"You have shown me how the generosity of donors impacts the lives of students every day."*

- Erik

Henry Carver Fund



*"You made sure I didn't miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime!"*

- Hakeem

Professional U



*"You made it possible for me to come back to school when it looked like all hope was lost."*

- Lexis

Academic Scholarships



*"You helped me to enrich the lives of my students through real world experiences."*

- Dr. Magolis

Faculty



*"You provided me with a chance to be sure that I have chosen the right career path."*

- Josh

Zeigler College of Business



*"You helped me make a difference for children in our community."*

- Amber

College of Education

# What's Personal to You?

You can turn your **passion** for Bloomsburg University into **success** for current and future students.

Your time at Bloomsburg was likely influenced by a specific experience you had. Perhaps there was an internship. A scholarship you received. Maybe you were part of an athletic team or involved with a student organization that helped shape the person you are. Or was there a faculty member or specific class that challenged your thinking and helped set you on the path to where you are today?

Through your gift, you can make these types of experiences possible for students in an area that reflects your own personal passion for BU. Here's a look at the kinds of personal experiences made possible because of generous support from our alumni.

## Make giving Personal

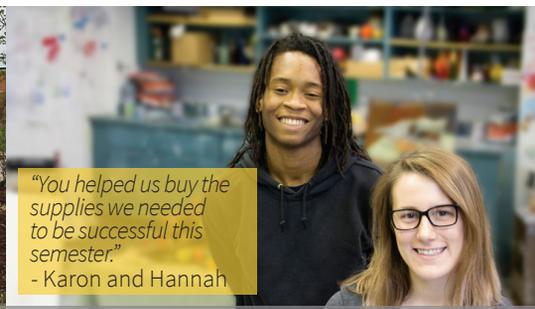
[itspersonal.bloomu.edu/mgp](https://itspersonal.bloomu.edu/mgp)



*"You helped me to get a job with the Department of Defense."*

- Riley

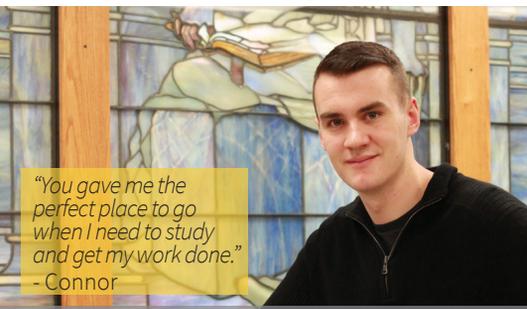
College of Science and Technology



*"You helped us buy the supplies we needed to be successful this semester."*

- Karon and Hannah

College of Liberal Arts



*"You gave me the perfect place to go when I need to study and get my work done."*

- Connor

Harvey Andruss Library



*"You made it possible for us to help people in need in a foreign country."*

- Honors Students

Honors Program



*"You showed me that I do have what it takes to be a leader."*

- Hannah

Student Affairs



*"You gave me the opportunity to attend a great state school while playing the sport that I love."*

- Shawn

Athletics

# husky notes

## Weaving Success

SABRINA HUNSINGER '93/'97 was controller at Milco Industries in Bloomsburg for a year and a half when retiring company president Lenny Comerchero asked if she wanted to take the reins in 2014.

Hailing from the Allentown area, Hunsinger earned her undergraduate degree in accounting and her master's degree in business administration at Bloomsburg. The CPA is the first Milco president from outside the family since the firm's founding in 1922. Today, the company is just shy of \$40 million in annual sales, with two divisions: Bloomsburg with 130 employees and El Salvador with 650 employees.

"I was looking for somebody who understood our business and was a quick study," says Comerchero, adding that he felt he had a new leader in Hunsinger within her first 90 days. "She demonstrated a very

quick grasp of our goals and what we were trying to accomplish and she won the trust of all the key people, and that was very important."

In Bloomsburg, the company manufactures textiles. Some of their product line has medical uses, such as fabric for blood pressure cuffs and netting for hospital curtains, along with sunshade material for automobiles. They also supply the U.S. military with waterproof warmup clothing. Hunsinger works closely with the vice presidents of the textile and apparel divisions, and travels to El Salvador three or four times a year. •

— Jack Sherzer

*An extended version of this story appears in VISION: President's Report 2016 at [bloomu.edu/vision](http://bloomu.edu/vision).*

# husky notes

## '50s

**Patrick Denoy '58** retired from refereeing high school and college basketball games.

## '60s

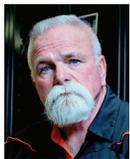
**Larry W. Greenly '65** won a 2016 Silver Award Medal from the Military Writers Society of America for his book, *Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot*.

**William Ross '65** is chief technical officer of Ross Organic, Inc., Santa Fe Springs, Calif. Ross founded the company in 1987 and is chairman of the board of directors.

**Carol Gesalman '68** retired as pastor of Fifth Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield, Ohio and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Gesalman has two sons, three stepchildren, and 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## '70s

**Alan Dakey '73** retired as president, chief executive officer and director from Bank of Bird-in-Hand. Previously Dakey was president and chief executive officer of Peoples Neighborhood Bank in Hallstead.



**Bill Sexton '75** retired from teaching at the Towanda Area High School. He will continue to coach wrestling, baseball and football.

Sexton was inducted into the Pennsylvania State Wrestling Hall of Fame, the District IV Wrestling Hall of Fame and was a charter member of the Towanda High School All-Sports Hall of Fame. Bill and his wife, Julie, reside in Towanda with their sons Ethan '13 and Cole '17.

**Jan Young Heller '77** was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Lehigh Valley Business' 2016 Business of the Year dinner. The Hall of Fame honors individuals who

have made a significant impact on the Lehigh Valley business community.



**William Werkheiser '79**, a U.S. Geological Survey deputy director, received the 2016 Presidential Rank Award as a Distinguished Rank recipient. Werkheiser

is among 1 percent of career federal leaders recognized for "sustained extraordinary accomplishment" with the top award bestowed to civilian employees by the president of the United States. Award winners are selected through a rigorous selection process that focuses on leadership and results. They are nominated by their agency heads, evaluated by private citizens and approved by the president.

## '80s

**Michael Mixell '80**, an attorney in the Barley Snyder law firm's Reading office, has been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2017 list. The list is compiled by conducting peer-review surveys.

**Kenneth Black '82** is senior vice president and chief human resources officer of Rite Aid Corporation. Black joined Rite Aid in 2003 as the company's vice president of tax. He held various positions within the finance department throughout his career at Rite Aid before being named group vice president of compensation and benefits in 2010.

**Wendy Lyden Benedict '86** is a real estate agent with the Debbie Reed Team of RE/MAX Realty Group, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Benedict began working with RE/MAX in 2005 and is licensed in both Pennsylvania and Delaware.

**Kelly Lewis '86** was elected executive vice president-president elect of the National Civil War Museum Board of Directors.

**Lori Barnes Maley '86** is president and chief executive officer of Bank of Bird-in-Hand. Maley joined the bank at its inception in 2013 as executive vice president and CFO. She was named to the Pennsylvania Bankers Association's women in banking advisory committee and was honored by the Central Penn Business Journal as a winner in the 2016 Women of Influence awards.

**Keith Oertner '88**, certified public accountant, is a director with MillerSearles. Oertner, who has more than 28 years of experience in both the public and private accounting fields, was most recently director of tax at Talen Energy.

**Howard Liberman '89** is managing attorney of Mastagni Holstedt, APC, Labor and Employment Practice in Los Angeles. Liberman has practiced law since 1992, beginning his legal career in the U.S. Navy as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He resides in the West L.A. area with his wife and two daughters.

## '90s

**Kimberly Riss Wetherhold '91** is regional branch administrator/vice president of The Muncy Bank and Trust Company, Muncy. She is responsible for the operation of the Community Office System. Previously at Muncy Bank, she worked as a teller, human resource specialist/assistant corporate secretary and assistant branch administrator. She is a member of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Leadership Lycoming Class of 2017.



**Rick Mason '92** is the 2016 recipient of the Carile Brown Award for his volunteer efforts on behalf of the James V. Brown Library in Williamsport. Mason assisted in fundraising to help replace the library's aging storymobile, and annually serves as emcee for the library's author gala.

**Christine D'Agostino '93**, vice president of operations for Carpenters Contractor Trust NY/NJ in New Jersey, was named one of 2017's Best 50 Women in Business by *NJ BIZ*.

**Richard Bobbe '94** is senior associate at Greenblatt, Pierce, Engle, Funt & Flores LLC in Philadelphia. Bobbe is a trial attorney with nearly two decades of experience in criminal law. He serves on the executive board of the Philadelphia Chapter Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and is a member of the board of directors of the Philadelphia District Attorney Alumni Association.

**Kurt Trimarchi '94** is co-managing partner of McKonly & Asbury LLP in Lancaster. Trimarchi joined the firm 13 years ago as director of tax services before becoming partner-in-charge of the firm's tax practice. He is a member of the corporate board of directors for Junior Achievement of Central Pennsylvania, Vistage International, and Elizabethtown Family Business Center's sponsor's board, as well as co-facilitator of the center's leadership development program, Generation Next.

**Marie J. Fritz, Ph.D., '95**, is assistant dean for academic affairs in the School of Professional and Extended Studies at American University, where she has taught for six years. She resides in the District of Columbia with her partner, John.

**Melissa Sterling Kelleher '96** is director of operations at Allied Services Hospice, Clarks Summit. Kelleher oversees a staff that provides skilled nursing, medical social services and physical, occupational and speech therapy to patients in their

homes. She joined Allied Services in 2013 as a patient care supervisor and served as clinical director of quality, compliance and audits for the home health care service. Kelleher is a Certified OASIS Specialist, COS-C and a Home Care Coding Specialist, HCS-D.

**Kathy Gemberling Hansel '97** is senior vice president of Adams County National Bank, Gettysburg. Hansel joined ACNB Bank in 2004, and became the bank's controller in 2010. Prior to working in the banking industry, she served as a senior accountant at a local CPA firm. Hansel lives in Dover with her husband and son, and has three adult children and four grandchildren.

**Farrah Rose Kocher '97**, owner of Advanced Tech Hearing Aid Centers, was honored by the International Hearing Society for her efforts during the past 10 years. Rose received an All-Star award for her membership, work and dedication to the society.

**Michael Schearer '97** graduated from The University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and passed the Maryland examination.

**Christy James Troiano '97** is director of sales at International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering Bethesda, Md. As head of the sales team, she oversees sales of tabletops, booths and sponsorships for ISPE events, and plays a role in business development.

**Patrick Morgans '98** is the head football coach at Marian Catholic High School in Tamaqua. Morgans is a mathematics teacher in the Jim Thorpe School District and has 24 years of coaching experience.

## '00s

**Rory Gaughan '00** is program director for the Bradford County Regional Arts Council. He is responsible for booking and overseeing live performances at all three theatres in the county: the Keystone in Towanda, Rialto in Canton and the Sayre Theatre. He will also set up and coordinate Missoula Children's Theatre residencies and SchoolTime performances for children at all three venues as well as run the Endless Mountains Film Festival.

**Elizabeth Garrigan-Byerly '01** is an associate pastor at Wellesley Village Church in Wellesley, Mass. She coordinates the pastoral care ministries of the church, providing direct care and working closely with the lay leaders of the pastoral care programs. Garrigan-Byerly began ordained ministry at the Village Church as a pastoral resident and served as a part-time chaplain at Massachusetts General Hospital.

**Marvin Zimmerman '02M** is account leader at Nutrify LLC, part of The Wenger Group, in Rheems. Zimmerman previously was sales manager for Kirby Agri.



**Nick Helmick '03** is project manager for the homes division of EGStoltzfus, a construction company in Lancaster. Helmick was previously the site manager.

**Gregory Koons '03M** is executive director of the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29. Koons served as the assistant executive director at Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 since 2012.

**Steven Scott '03** is a business instructor at the McCann School of Business Lewisburg campus. Scott was an adjunct instructor for the Lewisburg and Carlisle campuses and was Instructor of the Quarter at both campuses.

**Adam Houseknecht '04** is president of Best Line Equipment in State College. Prior to joining Best Line, Houseknecht worked in sales and marketing at Ingersoll Rand and Bosch Rexroth. For the past 11 years, Houseknecht has been working in various capacities at Best Line.

## Nicastro named Big East deputy commissioner



VINCENT NICASTRO '87 has been named deputy commissioner and chief operating officer for the Big East Conference. Nicastro served for 15 years as Villanova University's director of athletics before being named associate director of the Jeffrey Moorad Center for the Study of Sports Law at the Villanova School of Law last June. Nicastro has day-to-day oversight of the Big East's conference operations and business functions, including governance, compliance, finance, NCAA and institutional relations, Olympic sport championships, events, communications, marketing, sales and television and digital administration. •

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE

# husky notes

**Maurice Dennis '05** is assistant vice president/ commercial loan officer at PS Bank in Clarks Summit. Dennis' professional experience includes seven years in the banking industry as a commercial credit analyst and commercial lender. He lives in Honesdale with his wife and son.

**Kristina Knight '05** is senior director of Graphic Design/ Corporate Services for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders a minor league baseball team. Knight started with the RailRiders in 2006.

**Justin Sabo '05** is co-founder of Digital Dream Labs, Pittsburgh.

**Mark D'Alessandro '06/'09M** is the training manager for North American Operations of the LEGO Group. He is responsible for the training and development of retail employees in 93 LEGO stores across the United States and Canada.

**Andrew Venezia '07** is assistant professor of exercise science and sport at the University of Scranton. He has presented his research at conferences around the nation and was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health.

**Jessica DeBlasi '08** is a learning and communication associate for Bayer Pharmaceuticals where she handles program management and training logistics on a national and international basis and is responsible for organizational communications.

**Joshua Faith '08** is head of the credit administration department and credit analyst at Gratz Bank, Gratz. Faith has lending experience with Gratz and Regency Finance Company as a loan officer.

**Brandon Hickox '09** is a frontline supervisor at Cargill, Wyalusing.

**Sarah Thompson Maneval '09** is assistant vice president and small business lender at the West Milton State Bank. She previously worked as a teller services

representative, head teller, community banking officer and community office manager.

## '10s

**Gregory Gillam '11** is a treatment center manager at Clearpoint Recovery Center in New York City for young men recovering from alcohol and substance abuse.

**Meredith Blunt '12** is a special education teacher in Greenwich Public Schools, Conn.

**Kenneth Lawson '12** is assistant treasurer, senior credit analyst for Lakeland Bank, Oakland, N.J. Lawson joined Lakeland in June 2015 as a senior commercial credit analyst for the New York Commercial and Middle Market Lending Team. Previously, he worked for Sussex Bank as a commercial credit analyst.

**Taylor Farr '13** is vice president, commercial lender of First Columbia Bank & Trust Co., Bloomsburg. Farr began his career with the bank as an intern and joined the commercial loan group upon graduation. Recently, he graduated with honors from the Pennsylvania Bankers Association School of Commercial Lending. He serves on the boards of the United Way of Columbia County and the

Bloomsburg Area YMCA.

**Stephanie O'Leary '13** is brand manager at First Quality Enterprises Inc., King of Prussia.

**Jessica Prettyleaf Hicks '16** is a financial adviser with AXA Advisors LLC, Vestal. She has earned her FINRA Series 7 and 63 registrations and her Life, Accident and Health license. She resides in Athens with her husband.

**Helen Martin '16MSN** is a certified registered nurse practitioner at Mount Nittany Physician Group Internal Medicine in State College. She has been employed by Mount Nittany Health since 2007.



**Dean Salmon '16** completed U.S. Coast Guard basic training at TRACEN Center, Cape May, N.J. He is assigned to the Coast Guard Cutter "Diligence" based in Wilmington, N.C.

**Danielle Sitzman '16** is a consultant in the VIP and Concierge Services department with Sonic Automotive Corporate Headquarters, Charlotte, N.C.

**Joshua Wayne '16** is an engineering aide at Adams Electric Cooperative in Gettysburg. Wayne completed an internship at the Adams County Office of Planning and Development.

## Snyder represents U.S. in Rugby



WATCH THE U.S. Women's National Rugby Sevens team play and you may see an alumna at work. Nikki Snyder, a recent Bloomsburg University nursing graduate and Women's Club Rugby team player, is competing professionally with the Eagles. She competed most recently in the HSBC Women's Elite Sevens Series in Las Vegas. She helped the team place fourth out of 12 teams in the world.

Recruiters discovered Snyder during her years of playing on BU's club rugby team, which reached the National DII Rugby Tournament each of the last three years, including its first-ever trip in 2014. After receiving several invitations to private USA rugby camps, Snyder was selected to play for the Eagles team. ●

# the line up

reunions, networking and special events

## Alumni honored at awards dinner

**Marc Steckel '93** was named Alumni Volunteer of the Year at the Alumni Awards Banquet held in April. Steckel, of New Windsor, Md., received the William T. Derricott '66 Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of his volunteerism throughout 2016. Three other graduates were honored at the awards dinner, a tradition at Bloomsburg since the 1940s.

Steckel, deputy director for Complex Financial Institutions with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) serves as vice president of the BU Alumni Association. He has been an active regional alumni network leader for the Washington, D.C., region, supported the university's Professional U Initiative by hosting Bloomsburg students for internships and for a Husky Career Road Trip to the FDIC. A Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Steckel earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Bloomsburg in 1993. He is a graduate of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking and a Harvard University executive leadership program.

**Aimee N. Metrick '98**, Fulton, Md., an award-winning communications executive, received the Distinguished Service Award. Regional vice president of communications for Comcast Cable's Beltway Region, Metrick has earned recognition for her leadership in the cable industry for mentoring young professionals and as executive sponsor for "Beyond School Walls," a workplace mentoring partnership to help at-risk students. She is an active community volunteer, serving on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake area, for example. She earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications at Bloomsburg.

**Gwen Wiscount '09**, Boston, and **Nazeer Curry '16**, Emmaus, each received a Maroon and Gold Excellence Award, which recognizes alumni graduating within the last 15 years. Wiscount is a partner and sales and marketing executive at FullFunnel. She holds a degree in business administration and marketing. Curry is an operations supervisor for J.B. Hunt working in the field of transportation logistics. He earned a degree in business administration.

Retiring Bloomsburg President **David L. Soltz** and **Roberta "Robbie" L. Soltz**, Ph.D., were named 2017 honorary alumnus and alumna.



Shown from left: Aimee Metrick '98, regional vice president of communications for Comcast Cable's Beltway Region, Distinguished Service Award; Nazeer Curry '16, operations supervisor for J.B. Hunt, Maroon and Gold Excellence Award; Marc Steckel '93, deputy director for Complex Financial Institutions at FDIC, alumni Volunteer of the Year; Dr. Roberta "Robbie" Soltz and Bloomsburg University President David L. Soltz; Gwen Wiscount '09, partner and marketing/sales executive at FullFunnel, Maroon and Gold Excellence Award; Joe Yasinskas '06, BU Alumni Association president.

## Legacy Scholarship recipients

A dozen Bloomsburg University students whose parents are BU graduates received alumni Legacy Scholarships of \$1,056 to offset costs of tuition for the spring 2017 semester. Legacy Scholarship recipients are selected by random drawing each November. Only BU alumni who are parents or grandparents of current students may enter the drawing on behalf of a student. The amount of the scholarship award varies each year.



Shown from left: First row: Marilou Stettler '86, Sarah Stettler, Shannon Green, Margaret Green '84, Linda Bagnata '14, Angela Bagnata. Second row: Marc Steckel '93, Scott Swanger '86, Zachary Swanger, Ethan Fosse, Tess Fosse '07, James Stewart, Melissa Stuart '95. Third row: Todd Givler '00, Jay Popson, Deborah Popson '88, Mike Coppa '00, Michelle Misiewicz '96, John Misiewicz, John Misiewicz '90, Joe Yasinskas '06. Not shown: Brooke Malore and Robin Babbish Malore '12, Lindsey Reber and Cynthia Reber '87, Kaelyn Sessa-Sarver, Donna Sessa-Sarver '95.

# the line up

## Baseball team holds First Pitch luncheon



BU's baseball team kicked off its 2017 season with a First Pitch luncheon at the West End Ale Haus in Bloomsburg. John Babb, who was head coach from 1985-90, was honored. Shown in photo, from left, Bill Adams, John Nicodem, Al Stewart, Scott Michaels, John Babb, Kevin Crane, Steve Sees, Joe Catanzaro, Don Forbes and Tom Davies (sitting).

## Generations of Bloomsburg alumni gather

Three generations of the Andrewlevich family who are also Bloomsburg alumni gathered at the 11th Annual Jupiter Craft Brewers Festival at Rodger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla. The event is sponsored by the Tequesta Brewing Company, co-owned by Fran Andrewlevich, the son of Ted Andrewlevich '62, Sunbury. Numerous family members volunteer at the festival, which supports charitable causes. These relatives include Ted's son Ed Andrewlevich '90 and his granddaughter Amber Andrewlevich '13, both from Chalfont. Joining them were Ted's niece and nephew Mary Ann (Menniti) Laky '87, Whitehall, and Rick Menniti '80, Charleston S.C. and family friends Dave Griffith class of 1990 and Patti (Baesher) Griffith '90, Maple Glen.



From left, first row: Mary Ann (Menniti) Laky '87, Rick Menniti '80, Ted Andrewlevich '62, Ed Andrewlevich '90, Amber Andrewlevich '13. Second Row Left to Right: Dave Griffith '90, Dee (Borek) Andrewlevich attended '86-89, Patti (Baesher) Griffith '90.

To learn more about regional alumni networks, visit [bloomualumni.com](http://bloomualumni.com)

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Marriages

- James Tyson '86 and Shelly Lee, Dec. 30, 2016
- Michelle Heffner '98 and Kellie Rahl, Sept. 28, 2014
- Trina Marie Parsons '99 and Anthony Fixl, Oct. 22, 2016
- Nick Helmick '03 and Erica Haas, March 28, 2015
- Katie Sofranko '04 and Richard Waelde, Oct. 7, 2016
- Robert H. Mummey '05 and Samantha Keesler, Aug. 29, 2014
- Joseph Kleiner '07 and Elizabeth Casey, Sept. 24, 2016
- Christopher Klunk '07 and Renee Baisas-Janolo, Aug. 20, 2016
- Lauren Start '07 and David Gamsby '04, July 26, 2008
- Joshua Faith '08 and Emily Sabin, Jan. 16, 2016
- Lindsey Falls '08 and Brian Hughes '07, Sept. 28, 2013
- Donald Gliem '08 and April Floyd, Aug. 13, 2016
- Crystal McCaffrey '08 and Mark Meinert, Sept. 10, 2016
- Christie Gauer '09 and Patrick Hearn, Aug. 23, 2014
- Nicole Heiland '09 and Travis Miller, May 30, 2015
- Kaitlin McLaughlin '09 and Frank J Minniti II, Dec. 10, 2016
- Elaina Van Kirk '10 and Andrew Byers Slike '08, Sept. 23, 2016
- Laura DePrimo '10 and Michael Mitchell, July 16, 2016
- Joseph Bertuola '11 and Angeline Alessandri, July 9, 2016
- Amanda Frazier '12 and Keith Lynn, Aug. 6, 2016
- Emily Lawren Marlin '12 and Neil Thomas Sullivan '11, Oct. 8, 2016
- Brittany Reibsome '12 and Daniel Winnick, Oct. 15, 2016
- Victoria Tunis '12 and David Shemari '06, Oct. 3, 2015
- Tara E. Kutzor '13 and Georgios M. Petropoulos '13, Oct. 22, 2016
- Amanda Shott '13 and Patrick Kennedy '09, Sept. 24, 2016
- Alexa Fisher '14 and John Spinella, March 16, 2015
- Kayla Furmanchin '14 and Steven Baade '13, Nov. 5, 2016
- Alisha Holmes '14 and Dalton Conway '14, Oct. 22, 2016
- Christina Manocchio '14 and Todd Harder, July 30, 2016
- Bryan Snyder '14 and Tamara Bradley, Aug. 6, 2016
- Nicole Lanier '15 and Justin Wolfe '14, Sept. 10, 2016
- Rachel Hillibush '16 and Chad Seitzinger, Oct. 1, 2016
- Meredith Blunt '12 and Gregory Gillam '11, June 17, 2017



## Obituaries

Jean Eyer Bredbenner '34	Joan Stackhouse Wolfe '61	Edwin Crawford '70	Dale Crooks '81
Victoria Edwards '41	Carol Lee Jones Bayler '62	Sheldon Rupert '70	Elizabeth Skulskie McGinley '82
Sarah Hummel Shaffer '41	Marjorie Dominick '62	Robert Brosokas '71	Peter Dattilo '83
Ruth Schield Weniger '41	Gordon Jones '62	Paul Drozic '71	M. Karen Wilson '83
H. Clifton Wright '42	Thomas Little '62	Richard Harris '71	William McGinnis '84
Jean Kuster Von Blohn '43	Elizabeth Applegate '63	Daniel Leonard '71	Michelle Ann Burrows '85
Edward Bollinger '48	Joseph D'Andrea '63	Diana Spangler Walck '71	Carole Steinruck '85
Barbara McNinch King '49	Darlene Scheidt Derkits '63	Karen Snyder Beaver '72	Durrell Reichley '86
Leonard Gazenski '50	Nancy Cotner Schultz '63	Gloria Ondish Musser '72	Mary Herring '87
Charles Phillips '50	John A. Foderaro '64	Bernard Brutto '73	Howard McKinnon '88
George R. Hughes '51	David Johnston '64	Cynthia Gearhart '73	Barbara Haloskie '89
Nancy Williams Travis '52	Gary Bower '65	Ronald Sutton '73	Keith Seroka '89
Roseann Dick '53	Elizabeth Winter Montello '65	Wanieta Bendinsky '74	William Gensel '90
Joann Fornwald Edwards '53	Maxine Johnson Sarnoski '65	Frances Zalinski '74	Billie Vargo Albertson '91
Merlyn Jones '54	Rosemarie Saul Bereznak '66	David Robinholt '76	Charles Stryker '91
Mary Anne Lingousky '55	Nancy Smith Kingston '66	Victoria Humphreys Rupert '76	James G. McLane '92
Charles Skiptunas '56	Danielle Koury Parker '66	Bernard Mont '77	Rena Houseknecht Wellicka '93
Marjorie Mae Kreischer '59	Geraldine Minner Jackson '67	Laura Wessner Smith '77	David Unser '95
Kenneth Miller '59	Mary Sulewski Jenkins '67	Diane Rosa Santiago Cornier '79	Dana Creasy '99
William Funk '60	John Rakich '67	William Dill '79	Rachael Phillips Collar '05
Arthur Ohl '60	James Stepanski '67	Gertrude McGoff Gillott '79	Andrew Protsko '10
George Opilla '60	Dorothy Worhach '69	Dale Malott '80	Steve Switzer '10

## Births

**Maura Luciano Irving '04** and husband, Patrick, a son, Maximus Patrick, Nov. 25, 2016

**Jillian Lipinski Zarnas '04** and husband, Michael, a son, Stephen Edward, Nov. 14, 2016

**Robert H. Mummey '05** and wife, Samantha, a son, Parker Alton, April 13, 2016

**Amanda Smith Kishbaugh '05** and husband, **Jared '05/'07**, a son, Luke Nelson, June 17, 2016

**Lauren Start Gamsby '07** and husband, **David '04**, a daughter, Madelyn Dolores, Jan. 3, 2013

**Lauren Start Gamsby '07** and husband, **David '04**, a daughter, Isabelle Grace, June 15, 2016

**Melissa Browne Davis '09** and husband, **Brian '07**, a daughter, Maya Sue, Oct. 13, 2016

**Christie Gauer Hearn '09** and husband, Patrick, a daughter, Hannah Noelle, Dec. 14, 2016

**Nicole Heiland Miller '09** and husband Travis, a daughter, Madison Rey, July 12, 2016

**Jessica Ervin Kasarda '10M** and husband, **Brian '00**, a daughter, Kylee Marie, April 4, 2017

**Alexa Fisher Spinella '14** and husband, John, a daughter, Fiona Pearl, April 25, 2016

**Jonathan White '14** and wife, Dani, a son, Knox Grayson, March 2, 2017

### Send information to:

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## 150 years of Carver Hall

by Robert Dunkelberger

THE MOST ICONIC BUILDING on the Bloomsburg University campus is, without question, Carver Hall. April 3 marked the 150th anniversary of its dedication in 1867 as the first building of the Bloomsburg Literary Institute. The individual most responsible for it coming into being was its eventual namesake and the university's first president, Henry Carver.

Arriving in Bloomsburg in March 1866, Carver knew that higher education could only thrive in the community if there was a first-class facility to attract students and faculty. Carver soon opened a school and made it clear that a new building was essential for its long-term survival. The trustees of the Bloomsburg Literary Institute, incorporated 10 years before, acquired the land, while Carver

solicited donations for construction costs by selling shares of stock. Work on the building commenced later that summer and continued into 1867. Carver not only served as architect, he also organized the construction as general contractor.

Finally, on Wednesday, April 3, 1867, the dedication exercises began with a procession that started at 1 p.m. and made its way up Main Street to what was then Institute Hall.

Faculty, pupils, parents and townspeople poured into the new building and up the stairs to the auditorium, where more than 1,000 filled it to overflowing. Speeches and essays read by students filled the time that afternoon, evening and the following evening. In addition to the auditorium, there were six classrooms on the first floor, and the total cost for construction and

furnishing came to \$24,000.

No changes were made to the hall until 1887, when a bridge was added to the back of the building leading from the second floor into the new model school building. Five years later, the auditorium was updated with a balcony and, for the first time, permanent seating in the form of opera chairs. The most noticeable renovation the building has ever undergone was in the summer of 1900, when a large tower topped by a copper dome was added to the front. A new porch and steps also were built, and a stained glass window was installed in the ceiling of the auditorium. A clock was installed in the tower with faces on all four sides, paid for by selling dinners at the Bloomsburg Fair.

In 1927, 60 years after the dedication, the Alumni Association



The tower and dome being added to the front of Institute Hall, summer 1900.

passed a resolution that Institute Hall be named after the school's first president and the building's architect and contractor, Henry Carver. The Board of Trustees quickly approved the resolution. Renovations continued. Enclosed stairwells were built on the south and east sides in 1928 and an eight-foot lantern placed on top of the dome in 1931. In the summer of 1939, the bridge was removed and an addition placed on the north side to enlarge the auditorium's stage.

The interior of Carver Hall was completely remodeled in 1953, when all the classrooms were taken out and replaced by offices. As the most visible and historic building on campus, it was decided Carver Hall would house the offices of the president, dean of instruction (now provost), and Business Office. At the same time, lights were installed on the lower section of the tower to illuminate the dome as a beacon in honor of the 27 individuals affiliated with the college who died during World War II.

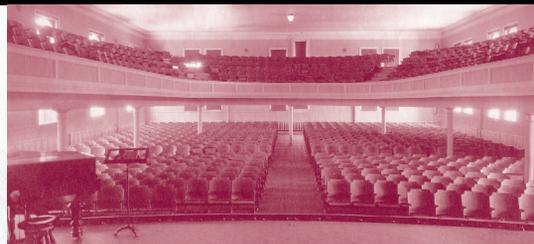
The dedication of the remodeled Carver Hall and beacon took place on Feb. 19, 1954. Later that year, ivy was removed from the exterior and the bricks painted red, while the dome,

which had been painted green in 1927 after tarnishing from its original color, was painted silver. The dome remained silver for 30 years until the spring of 1984, when it became the current gold.

Since the 1950s, the work on Carver Hall has been one of remodeling and shoring up the historic building. Extensive repairs and reinforcements to the tower and dome were made in 1976, 1982 and 2002. The auditorium, whose opera chairs were replaced with cushioned seats by 1962, underwent a complete remodeling with new chairs, lighting, carpets, paint, elevator and dressing rooms 30 years later. The Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium was dedicated in the fall of 1993 and a further remodeling was completed in 2014.

For 150 years, Carver Hall has stood at the doorstep of the campus, welcoming everyone to the university. It was the culmination of a vision dating back to 1839 that higher education could succeed and flourish in Bloomsburg. Thanks to Henry Carver it did, and continues to do so today. ●

**Robert Dunkelberger** is Bloomsburg University archivist.



The auditorium in 1923, showing the original opera seats.



One of the remodeled classrooms became the college business office, 1954.



The bridge connecting Carver and Noetling Halls, shortly before its removal in 1939.



The newly remodeled Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium, 1993.



The World War II memorial beacon on its first lighting, February 1954.

### Academic Calendar

#### NEW STUDENT ACTIVITIES

##### BU Preview Day Orientations

Monday, June 19 –  
Wednesday, June 21

Monday, July 10 –  
Wednesday, July 12

##### Summer Camps

Football Youth Camp –  
June 14-16

Football High School Team Camp –  
June 16-19

Soccer Camp –  
June 19-22

Leadership Academy –  
June 25-28

Baseball Youth Camp –  
July 7-13

Wrestling Team Camp –  
July 9-12

Men's Basketball Youth Camp –  
July 17-20

Field Hockey Camp –  
July 30-Aug. 2

Summer Preparatory Academy  
Sunday, July 2

Adult Learner Orientation  
Friday, Aug. 25

Welcome Weekend Orientation  
Thursday, Aug. 24 – Sunday, Aug. 27

### Alumni Events

Visit [bloomualumni.com](http://bloomualumni.com) for details on these and additional events or to register for Homecoming events. For information, contact Alumni Affairs at 800-526-0254 or [alum@bloomu.edu](mailto:alum@bloomu.edu).

#### Alumni Homecoming Tent Party

Saturday, Oct. 7,  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Fenstermaker Alumni House

### Special Events

#### Athletics Hall of Fame

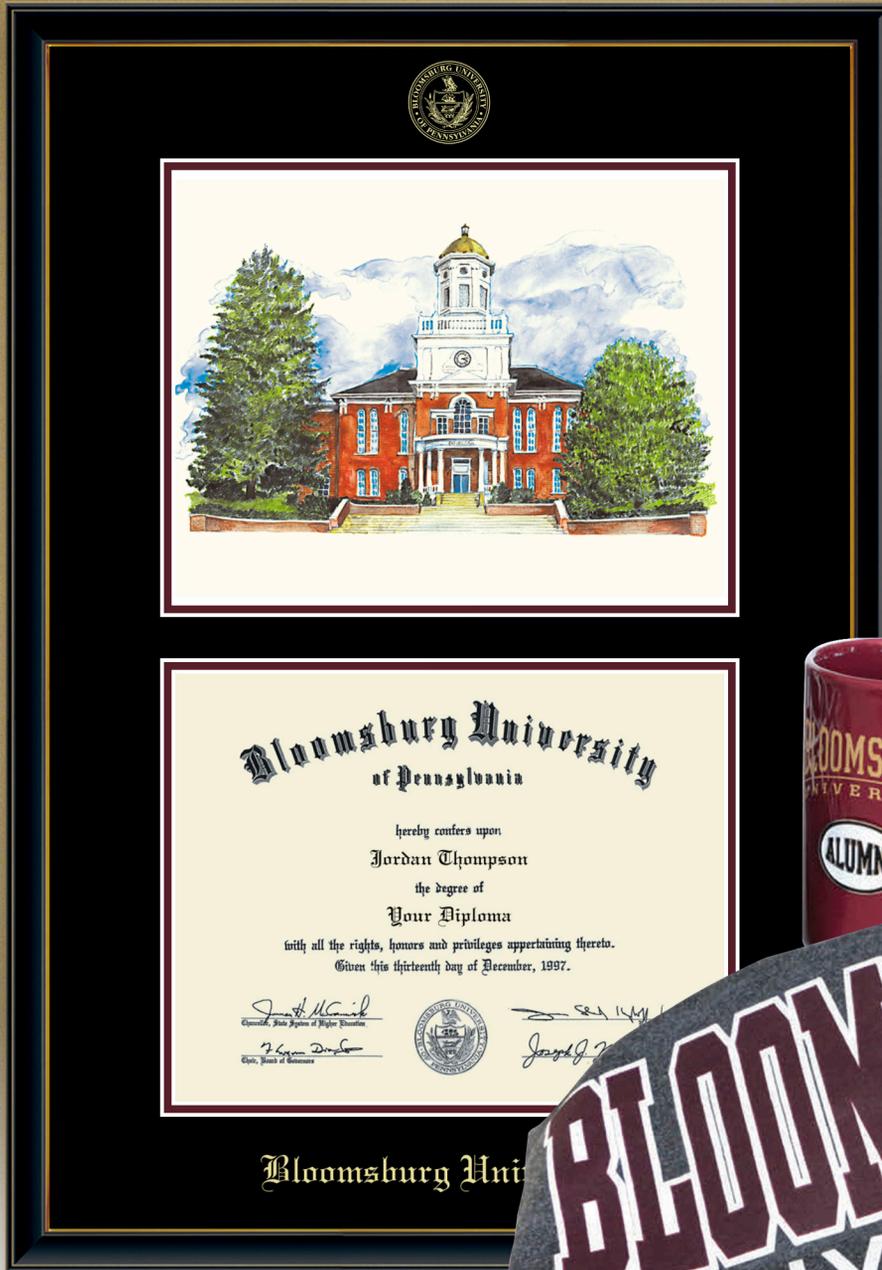
Oct. 27, 6 p.m. Kehr Union Ballroom

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Bloomsburg University website [bloomu.edu](http://bloomu.edu).



Bailey Gemberling, a sophomore history major, models a costume and makeup by sophomore art major Sarah Foster at the 13th Annual Personal Adornment Day and Makeup Extravaganza in April. Foster won the best in show makeup award.

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