

BloomSBurg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Self-Made American:

CELESTE RIVAS OVERCOMES LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL HURDLES TO GRADUATE A HUSKY

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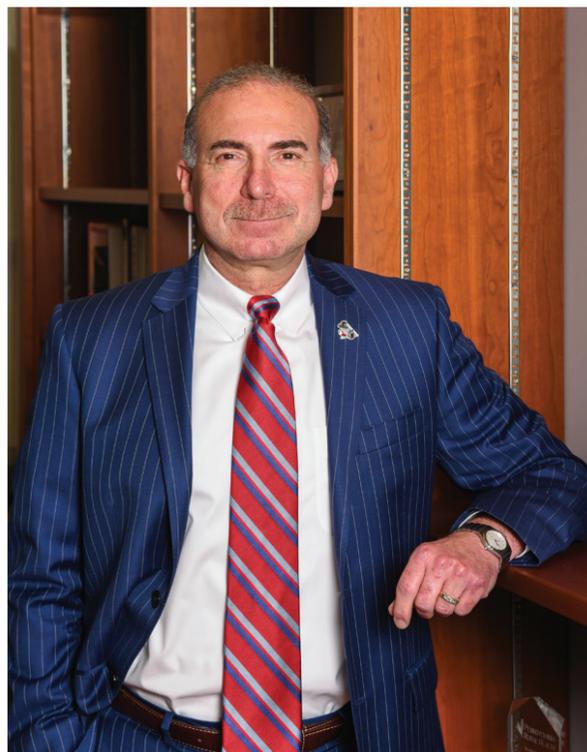
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Greetings Bloomsburg Family,

In May, we celebrated our graduates at the 2023 Commencement Ceremony. As President, one of my favorite moments is shaking hands with our graduates as they receive their diplomas. Commencement marks a significant achievement in our students' experiences, but more than that it signifies the beginning of the next phase of their lives when possibilities are limitless.

Our cover story highlights 2023 graduate Celeste Rivas, whose story is nothing short of inspiring. Celeste immigrated to the United States as a child and spoke no English. In May, she graduated with a degree in professional sales and marketing and aspires to become an entrepreneur—fulfilling her American dream.

At Bloomsburg, we are quickly approaching the one-year anniversary of Commonwealth University. I'm proud of all we have accomplished together, and I am inspired by the work ahead of us.

Commonwealth University began as a bold dream designed to bring new opportunities for students across Pennsylvania, to harness the strengths of three powerhouse institutions, and to ensure that affordable high-quality education options remain available in the communities we call home. Our future students

will have access to a fully updated curriculum and pathbreaking coursework, leading to degrees that are increasingly relevant in today's economy.

The integration of Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield also has allowed for benefits beyond the classroom by leveraging our combined resources to create initiatives that positively impact a range of stakeholders. Commonwealth University students will enter the workforce ready to make an immediate difference and positive impact for their employers.

Professional U—our comprehensive approach to career and student professional engagement coupled with an engaged community of dedicated faculty, staff, alumni and employers begins on the first day a student sets foot on campus. This initiative, which began at Bloomsburg, is now available to students across Commonwealth U. Our goal is for each student to complete one professional experience, such as an internship, each year. These high-impact professional experiences give students an advantage when they prepare for their first jobs. About 70% of our interns are offered employment at the company where they interned, and 80% accept these job offers.

As Bloomsburg alumni and supporters, you can partner with us to provide these crucial experiences for current Huskies. From establishing high-impact internships, to supporting Professional Experience Grants that make it possible for students without the financial means to complete internships, or returning to campus to conduct mock interviews or resume reviews with students, your support makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do in support of our students. As you'll see in these pages, our Bloomsburg students continue to make us proud by embracing the Husky spirit of grit and determination that makes dreams come to life. I hope you will join us on campus in the coming months for Homecoming, or to cheer on our student-athletes.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bashar W. Hanna,
President



Spring 2023



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On the Cover:

Self-Made American Celeste Rivas '23 overcomes Hurdles to graduate a Husky

Cover Photo:

Jaime North

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Address comments and questions to:
Bloomsburg: The University Magazine
Arts and Administration Building
400 East Second Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1301

Email address: magazine@bloomu.edu
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Commonwealth University Earns Recognition as '2022-23 PNGAS Guard-Friendly School'

Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield, as Commonwealth University, have been named as "PNGAS Guard-Friendly School" by the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations (PNGAS).

Developed by the PNGAS Education Advisory Council, the "PNGAS Guard-Friendly School" program was designed to recognize high schools, colleges, universities, and trade schools that meet or exceed a set of standards for creating a supportive learning environment that is friendly to recruiting and assists members of the Pennsylvania Guard in pursuing post-secondary degrees and military service.

These criteria include providing flexible scheduling options for National Guard members whose class availability may be disrupted due to the requirements of their Guard service, providing credit for prior learning via military training and experience in accordance with American Council on Education (ACE) college credit recommendations, and offering training for school faculty and/or staff on how to support the specific needs of military and veteran students, and permits recruiting by the Pennsylvania National Guard.

"Commonwealth University is proud to be recognized as a PNGAS Guard-Friendly School," said Bashar W. Hanna, president. "The men and women of the Pennsylvania National Guard are to be commended for their hard work and sacrifice in supporting and protecting the people of Pennsylvania. CommonwealthU offers PA National Guard members, veterans, and their families a path to a rewarding career through a flexible learning schedule that honors their prior learning achievements and enables active Guard members to continue serving the Commonwealth during their training and service."



State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, Dr. Bashar W. Hanna, president

Bashar W. Hanna Appointed to PA Tuition Account Program Advisory Board

Dr. Bashar W. Hanna, president, has been appointed to serve on Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Program (TAP) Advisory Board by former Gov. Tom Wolf. Hanna's appointment runs through September 2026.

The board advises on the work of the Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program, which provides families with a tax-advantaged way to help save for their children's higher education.

State Treasurer Stacy Garrity, a 1986 graduate of Bloomsburg University, oversees the PA 529 program.

PA 529 accounts are designed to help Pennsylvania families steadily and strategically save for future educational expenses. The PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan allows families to save at today's tuition rates to meet tomorrow's tuition costs.

More than 276,000 PA 529 accounts are open, with over \$6 billion saved for future education. Over the program's more than 30 years, it has helped families pay for more than \$5 billion in qualified higher education expenses.

"I'm excited to have Dr. Hanna join the TAP Advisory Board," Treasurer Garrity said. "He will bring a unique and important perspective to the board with his vast experience in higher education, his proven dedication to helping students, and his lifelong passion for teaching. As we continue to make the PA 529 College & Career Savings Program work better for all Pennsylvanians, Dr. Hanna will be a strong voice in support of students and their families."

Commonwealth University Receives \$60K Hunger-Free Campus Grant



In an effort to address student hunger on campus, Commonwealth University (CU) received the Pennsylvania Hunger-Free Campus+ designation from the PA Department of Education. This designation also qualified CU to apply for grant opportunities, resulting in a \$60K grant awarded to the university to address food insecurity on its campuses at Mansfield, Lock Haven and

Bloomsburg. This was the highest amount given to five of the 28 colleges and universities that received the grant in the 2022-23 academic year.

Former Gov. Tom Wolf successfully advocated for \$1 million to support postsecondary institutions' efforts to address student hunger needs on campus. This effort resulted in the institutions being invited to apply for the PA Hunger-Free Campus or Campus+ designation to demonstrate their commitment to addressing the hunger needs and food insecurity for college students and diminishing hunger as a barrier to learning.

Dr. Tiffany Welch, associate professor of social work at Mansfield, wrote the grant and Dr. Amy Downes, associate vice president for student success and campus life at Lock Haven and director of the Haven Cupboard food pantry, assisted her efforts.

The grant will help the three campuses with their objectives of expanding pantry services with food purchases and refrigeration and upgrades to their existing facilities. They also plan to create a more standard system for food delivery across all campuses and supply sharing.

Commonwealth Faculty Member Finds Global Audience for Research



A scholarly article co-authored by Alan Gishlick, assistant professor of Environmental, Geographical and Geological Sciences, has made waves in the popular media around the world. The paper, "Trilobite tridents demonstrate sexual combat at 400 Mya," published in the Proceedings of the

National Academy of Sciences, outlines how a trident found on trilobite fossils from 400 million years ago may be the earliest example of specialized sexual combat in the animal kingdom.

The Big Event '23

As part of the 14th Annual Big Event at Bloomsburg on Saturday, April 15, more than 1,050 students spread out across the 170 locations in the Town of Bloomsburg to help residents get their homes and yards ready for spring. The event is organized by the Community Government Association.



President Hanna Named to Higher Education Power 100

President Bashar W. Hanna recently was named to the 2023 Higher Education Power 100 list by City & State Pennsylvania.

After a multi-year consolidation process, Hanna took over leadership of Commonwealth University on July 1, 2022. With university finances stabilized, Hanna is launching a new strategic plan and touting the merger's opportunities for everyone from varsity athletes to local community college students. View the full list at cityandstatepa.com.



Students and Faculty Take Service Trip to Rural Jamaica

After a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Lock Haven faculty once again led a short-term service-learning program to Harmons, Jamaica, and for the first time, were joined by Bloomsburg students.

This program has been offered through Lock Haven since 2015, where students learn and serve in the rural mountainous village of Harmons in south central Jamaica.

Commonwealth University-Lock Haven faculty leaders Jennifer Bell (physician assistant studies) and Amy Way (health science) traveled to Harmons with two graduate students from the physician assistant studies program and 20 undergraduate students from the Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Clearfield locations in a variety of majors.

The students learned about healthcare access in rural Jamaica, and participated in several community service projects. These included two health fairs, parent workshops, school outreach, participation in the oral

health initiative in partnership with the Jamaican Ministry of Health, and in some of the research initiatives that Bell and Way are pursuing. They also helped to build a house and a new church for the community in partnership with Won By One to Jamaica, a mission that has had a consistent presence in Harmons for more than 30 years.

"I left Jamaica feeling so rewarded, grateful and appreciative, plus the lifelong memories with awesome people was just an added bonus," said Bloomsburg student Amanda Stoll, junior biology major from Farmingdale, N.Y.

Other Bloomsburg students who attended the trip were Anjali Passi from New Columbia, Hannah Shriver from Beaver Springs, Nicole Stewart from Burlington, N.J., and Sarah Wertz from Philadelphia.

The next program to Jamaica is planned for the 2023 winter intercession semester, and the experience will be available to all Commonwealth University students.

Above left, a student teaches good dental hygiene to a young girl in Harmons, Jamaica during their service trip. Above right another student poses with children from Harmons. At left, is CU-Bloomsburg student, Amanda Stoll, helping with the construction projects in the community.



Force Honored as Top Business Teacher

Christina Force, a professor in Technology, Analytics, and Workforce Learning in the Zeigler College of Business, has been named the 2023 Teacher of the Year Award for Senior College/University Business Teachers by the National Business Education Association (NBEA). She received her award at the 2023 NBEA Annual Convention in Kansas City, Mo., in April.

"I always strive to be the best teacher for my students. I have been teaching for 25 years, and I always look for new ways to improve my teaching and engage my students," says Force, who was nominated by several colleagues and who received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Bloomsburg.



Commonwealth University Hosts Presidential Leadership Summit

Commonwealth University hosted the inaugural Presidential Leadership Summit at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg on Tuesday, April 25. The event, sponsored by PSECU, brought together student leaders, legislative allies, and alumni from Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield.

Commonwealth University President, Bashar Hanna, spoke about the transformative power of education and the need for the university, alumni, and supporters to partner together to create opportunities for students to participate in professional experiences that prepare them for today's workforce.

Commonwealth University Honored with Three 'CUPPIE' Awards

The Marketing and Communications Department (MarComm) at Commonwealth University (CU) took home three awards at the recent 2023 CUPPIE Awards competition sponsored by CUPRAP (College and University Public Relations and Associated Professionals).

During an awards ceremony at the Lancaster County Convention Center on March 9, Commonwealth U received one bronze and two gold CUPPIES. A gold was awarded in the Long Form Story Writing category for the piece, "Pulling Back the Curtain on the Uncommon Man," written by Thomas McGuire, senior director of strategic communications, for



L-R Tom McGuire, Nikki Keller, Steve Filipiak

the *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine* winter 2022 issue. The second gold was awarded in the Wild Card category to the MarComm staff for their collective effort for community scholars and scholarship strategy (scholarship materials, media relations, social media and webpage) and the bronze was awarded in the Executive

Communications Speech Writing/Remarks category for the "Clinton County Economic Partnership Keynote," written by Elizabeth Arnold, executive communications and editorial director and Dan Knorr director of external and government relations.

CUPPIE Awards are given for creative excellence in marketing and communications to the work of member institutions in the categories of advertising, electronic media, print, public relations and marketing, writing, and photography.

A total of 501 entries were received for the 16th annual CUPPIE Awards from colleges, universities, agencies, and providers of private, specialized, and secondary education. Judges represented experts in the field of communications and included designers, writers, educators, corporate executives, and media professionals.



A PROFESSIONAL PIPELINE

GEISINGER/COMMONWEALTH NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM PROVIDES VITAL PROFESSIONALS

By Eric Foster



The Geisinger/Commonwealth University Nurse Anesthesia Program is attracting attention from students nationwide—and providing critical professionals for Pennsylvania.

The 36-month program, which results in graduates earning a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, accepts just 15 students for each class. Those students come from as far away as California, Oregon, and Arizona.

A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) anesthetist provides pain medication care for patients before, during, and after surgery. They administer medications to keep patients asleep and pain-free during surgery and constantly monitor every biological function of the patient's body. The specialization is in high demand across the country.

Above, from left, front: Tom Hunsberger, Mackenzie Wirth, Monica Trefz, Dr. Debra Minzola, Omar Wijahat, Lisa Miller, Jon Cardinale, Anthony Forman, Elizabeth Kang, and Lexus Miller. Back: Chris Evans, Lester Anim, Derek Duttry, Katie Fink, Mike Seldomridge. Left, from left: Jon Cardinale, Anthony Forman, Mike Seldomridge, Omar Wijahat.

"We're always in demand," says program director Debra Minzola. "Starting salaries can be more than \$180,000 with sign-on bonuses and money to relocate."

Commonwealth University (CU) nurse anesthesia graduates have earned a compelling reputation in the industry with the Class of 2022 earning a 100% pass rate in NCE National Certification Exam, while the average pass rate is 82%. Commonwealth U students also won first place in the Pennsylvania Association of Nurse Anesthetists College Bowl last year in competition against all other programs in the state.

Headquartered at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, the program's facilities include advanced simulation equipment. When it's time for clinical experiences, the partnership between Geisinger and CU enables students to have a broad array of experiences within Geisinger's varied facilities.

After graduation, many students stay at Geisinger to practice as CRNAs. "Approximately 60% of our graduates are staying with the Geisinger System," says Minzola. "That says a lot about the good relationship between the university and the clinical site. It makes it a more positive learning experience, and they want to stay here. Our recruitment has been phenomenal for Geisinger."

Previously, the program led to a master's degree. Omar Wijahat, who will graduate in May 2024 in the first cohort of graduates at the doctoral level, plans to stay in the region to practice in the Geisinger system. Like other students in the program, Wijahat came with experience—as a nurse technician for two years and an intensive care nurse for three years. "I got to know CRNAs dropping off patients and then was able to shadow them to learn about the field," he says.

For Wijahat, a career in nursing is a way to carry on the nurturing tradition he experienced from his parents. "My mom and dad immigrated to the U.S. from Pakistan 25 years ago," he says. "They gave me a lot with the little they had. In nursing, I can pay it back to other people. As a nurse anesthetist, you care for people when they are most vulnerable."

Right, from left: Tom Hunsberger, Lester Anim, Dr. Debra Minzola, and Derek Duttry.

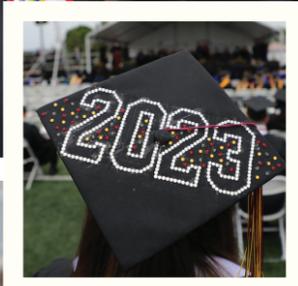


Mackenzie Wirth and Omar Wijahat

“ Approximately 60% of our graduates are staying with the Geisinger system. That says a lot about the good relationship between the university and the clinical site. It makes it a more positive learning experience, and they want to stay here. Our recruitment has been phenomenal for Geisinger. ”

— DEBRA MINZOLA,
Program Director, Geisinger/Commonwealth U Nurse Anesthesia Program





A Hearty Welcome to the Husky Family

More than 1,300 students received a hearty welcome to the Husky alumni family at graduation on May 13.

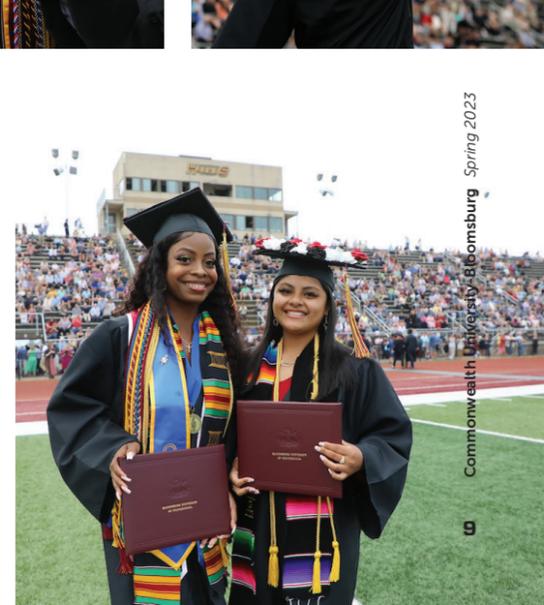
"A global pandemic did not deter you from today," President Bashar Hanna told the graduates. "It would have been really easy for you to step aside and say, 'I'll come back a little later.' But your resilience and your perseverance are two of the attributes that contributed to your being here. We congratulate you on your resolve to finish your education."

"Regardless of the road you took to get here, a common theme was that your education was important to you," added Hanna. "The one thing no one can ever take away from you is your education. Do not underestimate the power of that diploma you are about to receive. That education you received has the weight that you will need in order to go and change the world."

"There are people here who believe in you," said Trustee John Wetzel '98. "Bloomsburg is the kind of place that whatever you want to be, if you tell somebody, there will be someone on campus who will get you there. If you don't believe me, google Steph Pettit."

"Everybody drove up Steph Pettit Way," continued Wetzel. "I hope you leave here the Steph Pettit way, which means work your butt off. It means be dedicated to making the world a better place. Most importantly, come back and help a Husky. There's not a Husky that Steph Pettit wouldn't help. There's not a Husky any alum wouldn't help."

"That's what's different about this place. It's the professors, it's the administrators, it's the coaches, it's the folks working the grounds. Everybody is part of this Husky family and now you're part of our family. Right now this world needs you more than ever. What I know is that when the world's in trouble, the best thing we can give them is a Husky."





Self-Made American:

CELESTE RIVAS OVERCOMES LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL HURDLES TO GRADUATE A HUSKY

By Abby Stoudt '23



new country, she had to learn in a school that didn't speak her language. Confronted by the English placement test, Rivas thought, "I don't even speak the language, so what's the point of taking this?"

She didn't do well, and following the test, Rivas' mother was called to meet with the principal. She was told Rivas would have to repeat the sixth grade, which she immediately refused. The school gave her an ultimatum: if Rivas couldn't keep her grades up by mid-term, she would either have to move down to 5th grade, or retake sixth grade.

This was the push that Rivas needed. "I remember thinking, 'I'm here now, so I'll just do the work,'" says Rivas.

Rivas said she changed her whole life to learn English. "I practically learned English from watching the Disney Channel," says Rivas. "I changed the language on the TV, and even though it made my brother mad, it really helped me learn."

By the time she was a senior in high school, Rivas knew that her next step was college, but she didn't know where to start her search. "I went to my counselor for advice, and he said I would have to attend a community college because I hadn't taken the English or science I needed," says Rivas. "But I knew I didn't want to do that."

Looking for other options, a friend gave Rivas the name of an Upward Bound counselor. The counselor agreed to help Rivas with her applications, on one condition. "She said to me, 'Look, I'm already helping a lot of students, who I have to give priority.' And we agreed that we could make it work after school when she was done with her other students," says Rivas.

Once again, Rivas made it work. After she finished classes at 2:30 p.m., she and the Upward Bound counselor worked together until 6 p.m. for weeks to fill out her FAFSA and college applications. In the end, she heard back from just one school; but Rivas wasn't ready to give up yet.

"We decided to call Bloomsburg because I hadn't heard back about my application yet," says Rivas. "When I called, the director of admissions answered, and checked my application right there on the phone with me and said, 'You look like you'll do a lot of good here,' and accepted me on the spot!"

Rivas' acceptance into Bloomsburg was met with mixed emotions. Her mother was distraught at the idea of Rivas moving somewhere she was unfamiliar with for school. Her father, however, understood that it was what she needed to do. "He said, 'If you have to go, you have to go,'" Rivas recalls.

Initially, Rivas thought she wanted to study to become a veterinarian or pediatrician, but before going to school, Rivas' father sat her down for a conversation. "He told me, 'Let's be real. You don't like studying, and this field will be difficult. You need to find something you can see through to the end,'" recalls Rivas.

At 11-years-old, Celeste Rivas stepped off a plane in New York City ready to start a new adventure: a life in the United States.

Now, after stepping down from the commencement stage, she'll begin her next big adventure: life after graduating with a degree in professional sales and marketing.

"If you had told me 11 years ago that I would be living in the United States, I would tell you that you were crazy," says Rivas, who immigrated with her family from the Dominican Republic. "And if you were to tell me back then that I would be graduating from an English-language school, I'd say there was no way. I didn't even speak the language."

Standing in the airport terminal, Celeste's childhood was packed into a single suitcase; what didn't fit had to be thrown out. "When you're a kid, how do you choose which toys are the most important to take with you? What do you leave behind to make room for something you need?"

She and her family settled in Reading. The transition for Celeste was especially difficult. Alongside the culture shock she felt in a



Ultimately, Rivas decided to enroll in college undeclared; she would have time to figure that part out once she arrived on campus.

Rivas enrolled at Bloomsburg in the ACT 101 program. During the jumpstart part of the program, Rivas met with some faculty from the Marketing and Professional Sales Department. "They were good salespeople," says Rivas, "They sold the program to me."

Back in high school, Rivas participated in her school's technical school program, where she originally fell in love with business. She studied horticulture in her technical program, where she earned some of her early experience with sales. She sold flowers to her church, handmade festive wreaths for the holidays, and fruit at the end of the year, as well as decorated houses and arranged the flowers for her brother's wedding. She realized she could potentially turn this into her career.

At Bloomsburg, just as predicted, Rivas has done a lot of good. She's taken advantage of every opportunity to get involved. She is the treasurer and does public relations for the Student Organization of Latinos, is active in the Multicultural Center, and is very involved in the professional development activities offered on campus.

"I've met so many wonderful people while I've been here," says Rivas. "Everyone in the ZIPD program keeps me accountable, and (Multicultural Center director) Madelyn Rodriguez has helped me become the best person I can be."

"We have a joke that I'm the intern at the Multicultural Center," says Rivas. "If I'm not home, I'm usually in there. If Maddy needs something, I'll do it. All of us always try to go above and beyond to make her proud."

With her professional development, Rivas tried to get to as many events as possible. "Wherever they said people are hiring, I'm there; if there's a trip to a company, I go," says Rivas. "I even carry extra copies of my resume around just in case."

"I put myself out there to get what I want," says Rivas, who completed an internship with Benco Dental in the summer of 2022. "There are so many great tools and opportunities that you're given here, so you better use them."

Outside of the academic and professional opportunities that Rivas has been given at Bloomsburg, she's grateful for the friends she's made at school as well. "Not everyone can say that their freshman roommate is their best friend, but we get closer every year," says Rivas. "Bloomsburg may not be a big city, but you'll find your family here."

The family that Rivas built at Bloomsburg is what she's going to miss the most. "Who would have thought that out of everyone I met at Bloomsburg, I'd find three other Dominican girls that have grown to mean so much to me," says Rivas, "They're my sisters. I'll miss exploring and finding new things with them; some days, we'll come up with some new food we want to try and just go out and find somewhere new. We always find time for another adventure."

After graduation, Rivas hopes to start working in sales before starting her own business. Her dream is to open a flower shop and start a non-profit with her old technical school's horticulture department.

As she prepares for the next chapter of life, she thinks about her younger self, who desperately wanted to return home to the Dominican Republic. "If I could say something to her," said Rivas, "I would tell little Celeste that everything is going to be okay."

A SOUND Career Choice

By Andrea O'Neill



Aaron Eldred

What will you do with a music degree?

It's a question asked of many music majors—at dinner tables, summer cookouts, and high school graduation parties. And it's a question that just might make a student reconsider their career path.

Abby Manns '08, director of performing arts and programming, is dedicated to helping students answer that question with the confidence of a rock star.

She and other Bloom alumni are using their music degree to do it.

"Some students wonder if they can make it in the industry, and drop the major," says Manns. "Our alumni are proof that you can make a living at this."

At first glance, Manns says *Philadelphia Freedom: A Tribute to Elton John* didn't have the cultural or educational flavor that Arts in Bloom typically represents. But with two former students in the band, Manns saw an opportunity.

"It was an opportunity to showcase Aaron and Mike and get our students involved."

Even while majoring in criminal justice, Aaron Eldred '20 knew his future was in music and found his niche when he switched to a major in music performance. Mike Shaw '20 enrolled at Bloomsburg as a music performance major/audio, knowing he wanted a career in audio engineering. Both were student workers with *Arts in Bloom* and both gained the experience necessary to pursue a career in the music industry. After a graduation, Eldred teamed up with Wilkes-Barre native and Berklee-trained musician Doug Delescavage to start *Philadelphia Freedom*. Later, Shaw joined the band as drummer. In the meantime, *Philadelphia Freedom* was getting noticed.

"We all feel lucky to work in this industry, so it is super important to arts programming coordinator, Reed Lehman '18, and me to make the experience for the students as rich as it was when we were students here," says Manns.

Manns' vision was to invite the band to not only perform at the Haas Center for the Arts, but also have them spend the day with students as mentors—going through setup and sound checks to impart the tips and tricks that only professionals can provide.

"Mike and Aaron live that life, so they understand the opportunity for students," says Manns. "Many times, students know what they're doing. They're just missing confidence because they don't do it all the time." Shaw remembers those days with gratitude.

"We learned a lot doing live shows. If something went wrong, we had to figure it out immediately because a band was playing. It was a professional environment in a university setting, and Abby is good at expressing that to students."

"When it came time to bring the show to Bloom, we wanted to give back," says Eldred.

Delescavage was on board with the extended day, and suggested they also bring in the university orchestra. Conductor and faculty member David Tedford, arranged for the Bloomsburg-Mansfield-community orchestra to accompany the band.

"I'll never forget the moment we were practicing with the orchestra, and the students were saying it was the most fun they'd ever had playing," says Eldred. "They never think one day they'll be playing with a rock band, but we showed them you don't necessarily have to play classical."

"The band played with an orchestra for the first time, and it sounded amazing," says Manns. "Doug performed 'Don't Go Breakin' My Heart' as a duet with senior music major, Jack Heroux-Skirbst and they lit up the stage with their performance."

"It was pretty surreal having worked there and watched all these acts come through, and now here you are," says Eldred. "It's a feeling I will never repeat. The last time I was in Haas, I walked to the stage alone to get my diploma. This feels even better."



Jack Heroux-Skirbst and Doug Delescavage



Mike Shaw

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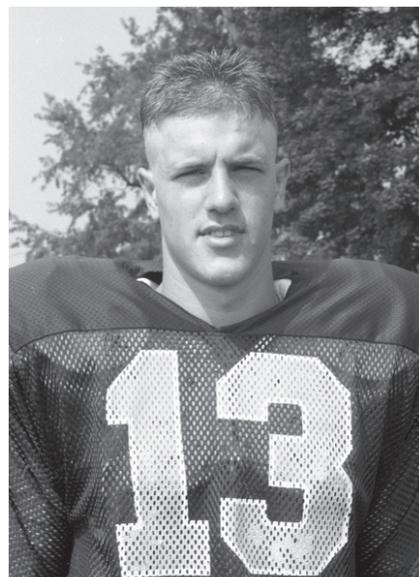




THE REEF

Standout Husky Quarterback Alan Eck Joins the NFL as a Referee

By **Andrea O'Neill** and **Tom McGuire**



Going into his senior season as quarterback for Huskies football, Alan Eck '91 knew he'd never play in the NFL.

But he didn't know that 27 years later, he would be in the NFL—as one of only 17 NFL referees in the sport.

So how did the undeclared transfer student from Grove City College go from Redman Stadium to leading a crew of officials in a multi-billion-dollar industry that captivates much of the American public each fall?

Let's just say he can "count" the ways.

"I had no idea of a career until my roommate returned from class and told me not to take accounting because it was too hard," says Eck. "I took that as a challenge."

Not long after that first class, Eck declared a major in accounting. At the same time, his athletic talent quickly put him atop the BU depth chart for quarterbacks. He threw for over 2,000 yards during his sophomore and junior years, setting the current school single-season record as a junior for completions with 194.

But a pre-season thumb injury before his senior year threatened to end his last season before it started. With Eck sidelined, the Huskies started 1-5. After Eck returned to the lineup, he led the Huskies to a four-game winning streak to finish at 5-5.

"I knew I wasn't good enough to play in the NFL, so I was going to get back any way I could," recalled Eck. "I learned a lot that year about overcoming adversity."

But even a successful ending to his playing career didn't ease the transition from college athlete to accounting professional. A month after graduation, Eck was drowning in 60-plus hour work weeks as a brand-new public accountant in the middle of tax season.

"I was struggling," says Eck. "It was my first time away from the game since I was 7, and I didn't have the flexibility in my schedule to coach. I was miserable."

Miserable, that is, until a co-worker suggested he officiate. Eck watched training videos and volunteered for pee-wee and middle school games. At the end of his first season, he worked his first high school varsity game and was hooked.

"I thought I was working the Super Bowl," he says.

Like accounting, officiating hadn't been on his radar, but reaching the NFL was again a goal. Eck gradually worked his way up, doing small college games, lower-level D-1, and then the Big 12. He studied film and emulated top officials, attended training camps and development programs. Of all those experiences, Eck says it was "The Score Will Take Care of Itself" by Bill Walsh that had the biggest impact in shifting his mindset from scoresheets and evaluations to maintaining focus on his position and confidence in his process. "We're graded pretty severely," said Eck. "[But] I started being a better official when I focused on owning my position and being a good crewmate instead of the grade."

While vacationing with his family in 2016, he got the call from then NFL Senior VP of Officiating, Dean Blandino, inviting him to join their ranks as a side judge.

"There are many rungs in the ladder, and the higher you climb, the slipperier it gets," recalls Eck. "I was on cloud nine and immediately called everybody that helped me along the way."

During the years of long weekends and low pay, Eck says the support of his wife and high school sweetheart, Michelle, was vital. She was wary of the time he was investing, especially when he came home after a day of working youth games

with a sno-cone as his compensation. But both understood the investment, and the pay eventually got better, which was vital when Eck would spend several months of the year flying to a new town every weekend and juggling NFL pre-season training camps with the responsibilities of a tax manager for BrandSafway.

"Having flexibility with my company was essential in climbing the ladder and my family has been very supportive," says Eck. "Otherwise, I couldn't have made this journey."

“One bad call can mean the difference between getting a post-season assignment or staying home and raking leaves.”

— ALAN ECK '91

And what would the journey of an NFL official be without a few blown calls? Eck recalls flagging a coach with a 15-yard penalty after he thought the coach ran into him on the sidelines. When he reviewed the footage, Eck realized he ran into the coach and not the other way around.

"We strive for perfection," says Eck, who apologized to the coach. "In later games, the coach would say 'Hey, Alan, am I going

to be okay on the sidelines?' We can joke about it now, but at the time, I was mortified."

Over time, Eck has refined his process and compares the mental preparation to a pilot's pre-flight checklist: reviewing the down, distance, clock, score, formation, and substitutions before every one of the roughly 160 snaps per game. He says it's similar to the meticulous and detailed nature of his work in public accounting, although he jokes that the NFL rulebook is more logical and straightforward than any IRS or state statutes. In both worlds, however, accuracy is paramount.

"One bad call can mean the difference between getting a post-season assignment or staying home and raking leaves," he says.

Eck earned his first post-season assignment for the 2021 division playoff game between Buffalo and Kansas City and again in January when the Eagles took on San Francisco for the NFC Championship.

"I was extremely excited—San Francisco had an 11-game win streak, Philadelphia had a great team, and the place was rockin'," says Eck. "Then I reminded myself that seven billion people worldwide didn't know or care about this game and got locked in."

Just a little over a month after the Eagles defeated the Niners and 27 years since he led Huskies as quarterback, Eck earned the white hat and the helm of an officiating crew. He will retire from full-time corporate America in August to adequately prepare himself and his team for the 2023 season. "It's made a tremendous impact on my life," says Eck. "It was a long climb, but it was worth it."



SERVING EDUCATION FOR 100 YEARS

AND STILL GIVING BACK

By Tom Schaeffer '02



They say a journey of 1,000 miles begins with the first step. For Robert "Bob" Bartoletti, Ed.D., '70, and his wife JoAnn, it was a journey to 100 years of service in public education that began with their own steps of becoming first-generation college students.

After impacting the lives of thousands of students throughout the country and across the globe since they started their teaching careers in the early 1970s, Bob and JoAnn are creating an even greater legacy as educators through their philanthropic support to their respective alma maters.

Bob's march toward an exemplary career as a public school teacher turned administrator started when his football coach, Joe Moran at Coughlin High School in Wilkes-Barre, recommended he enroll at Bloomsburg after graduation.

"He knew I wanted to get into education, so he encouraged me to go to Bloomsburg," says Bob. "They had a renowned education program, and I could continue playing football."

Bob credits the great teachers and administrators he had at Bloomsburg for fueling his passion for teaching and inspiring him to pursue a career in education.

"I always wanted to become a teacher and loved teaching and coaching others ever since middle school," Bob adds. "But I don't know if I would have realized those dreams without the great teachers I had at Bloomsburg."

He and his friends from the Class of 1969, Mike Smith, Ron Russo, and Frank Yartz, used to lovingly refer to Bloomsburg as the "Ivy League of State Colleges" as a testimony to the quality of their teachers, from Drs. John Serff, Hans Karl Gunther, and Robert Warren in the History Department to English professor Dr. Richard Savage, and even administrators Drs. John Hoch, dean of instruction, and Stuart Edwards, director of secondary education.

"They were all great role models and teachers," says Bob. "And it is they, along with several others, to whom I attribute my love and dedication to education."

Becoming a teacher was one thing, but Bob had bigger aspirations in education. His career began with his first job teaching high school social studies and coaching freshman football at Lawrence High School in Lawrence Township, N.J.

A job that he still cherishes most because of the opportunity to impact students, but more importantly, because that's where he met the love of his life, JoAnn D'Angelo, also a social studies teacher at Lawrence.

"Here I was with one of the premier teaching jobs in New Jersey, and I met a woman with a love of English and history like me," says Bob. "We hit it off and were married less than two years later."

Bob emerged as a leader among his peers and became vice president of the teacher's association and went on to get his master's degree at Rutgers University. Then, when a position as Principal of Lawrence Township opened up, he interviewed with the Assistant Superintendent, Larry Ksanznak, a 1953 Bloomsburg graduate.

That move set Bob on the path to pursuing his second master's degree at New York University and becoming a top administrator in New Jersey public schools as superintendent of Cranbury School District. He then completed his doctorate at Fordham University.

"Making the shift from teacher to administrator was a natural progression for me," says Bob. "In my early days as a teacher, my principals encouraged me to become certified because they saw my passion for education, and I knew that as I attained those higher positions, I could ultimately make an even greater impact on the students, parents, and the communities we served."

He was certainly right about that. In 1996-97 he led the Cranbury School District to become a National Blue Ribbon School and was being named one of the top 250 schools in the country. An accomplishment he still considers one of the highlights of his career, trailing behind meeting JoAnn.

He wrapped up his career as the Director of Support for the Teacher Education Program and Global Student Teaching

office at the College of New Jersey. Within that role, he formed partnerships with international schools in Europe, Asia, and Africa. He was also responsible for partnerships with 20 regional New Jersey school districts.

The couple's passion for reaching outside the classroom to make a more significant impact didn't stop with Bob. JoAnn also became principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School and then executive director of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association. She finished her career in 2020 after serving 10 years as the National Association of Secondary School Principals CEO. An organization that represents 24,000 middle and secondary school principals and vice principals nationwide.

Bob and JoAnn both credit the trajectory of their success to their undergraduate degrees earned, respectively, at Bloomsburg and the College of New Jersey.

For Bob, it was the mentors he found and the friendships he made at Bloomsburg that remain strong to this day, including his two dearest friends, Mike Lynch '69

and Ernie Vedral '71, whom he introduced to two of his wife's friends 52 years ago and are still married today, that helped forge his path.

"As a lover of history, I'm a big believer in the sentiment that we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us," says Bob. "I benefited from the teaching of my professors at Bloom, who prepared me for the success I have achieved."

That's why Bob and JoAnn established the Dr. Robert Bartoletti '70 & JoAnn Bartoletti Scholarship in 2014, which is awarded each year to a first-generation student pursuing a career in education. They have also recently increased the scholarship endowment through a significant bequest in their estate.

"As a proud alum, I wanted to have my name always associated with Bloomsburg," adds Bob. "Even though I went to major universities for graduate degrees, my foundation began here at the 'Friendly College on the Hill.' At Bloomsburg, what we can leave behind will have a greater impact on the students and the institution."

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LAMAR OGLESBY '07 and his wife Dominika give back through a Virtual Endowment, which combines a gift in their estate with an annual gift to provide a scholarship for a deserving student.



LINDA WILLIAMS '77 established a scholarship through a bequest in her will to secure her legacy.

60s

Jill Schneider Davis '66 was named to the Bulldog Foundation Hall of Fame. The Bulldog Foundation supports the Big Spring School District in Newville. Davis began her career as a teacher at Big Spring in 1980 and taught there until her retirement in 2016. The impact of her service continued with homeschooling students at the John Graham Library.

70s

Loren Collins '72 was recognized for 53 years of service as a volunteer firefighter. Collins has been a volunteer with Perkiomen Township Fire Company for 24 years. He started as a volunteer firefighter in 1970 in Plymouth Township and served 22 years with the King of Prussia Volunteer Fire Company from 1977 through 1999. He also served for many years as Perkiomen Township Fire Company's Financial Secretary.

Timothy Wagner '74 recently retired after owning Wagner's Trophies in downtown Bloomsburg for over 38 years. He will continue serving his community as a member of the Bloomsburg YMCA board (currently board president), a volunteer EMT (currently president of BVAA), and DBI (downtown business) chair.

Donna Shaffer '78 exhibited her artwork in a show, "The Abstract Naturalism of Donna Shaffer: Paintings Inspired by Nature," at the Bloomsburg Children's Museum. She has shown at galleries and juried shows throughout New England and Pennsylvania.

80s

Frank D'Angelo '83 was inducted into the National Football Foundation Lehigh Valley Chapter Hall of Fame on May 5. Before retiring last year, he was a PIAA official for 42 years, working baseball, basketball, and football games and also became a Division I college football referee and has served as an assigner for the District 11 committee. He is also a retired faculty member from Bloomsburg University's Department of Teaching and Learning.

Michael Harrington '85 has been appointed chief financial officer at Republic First Bancorp, Inc., the holding company for Republic First Bank. Before joining Republic First, Harrington was a banker in residence at JAM Special Opportunity Ventures. He previously spent 35 years in various operating roles in banking, most recently as executive vice president and chief financial officer of The Bryn Mawr Trust Company, a \$5 billion asset institution that completed a sale to WSFS Financial Corp in 2021.

Thomas Holly '86 has been appointed to the board of directors of Comstock Holding Companies. Comstock is a leading developer, investor, and asset manager of mixed-use and transit-oriented properties in the Washington, D.C. region. Holly is a retired partner from Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC), where he recently led PwC's U.S. Asset & Wealth Management practice that specializes in delivering holistic solutions to global multi-strategy asset managers.



Lori Barnes Maley '86 has been appointed to the American Bankers Association Community Bankers Council. Maley, CPA, is president, CEO and vice chair of Bank of Bird in Hand. The Community

Bankers Council is made up of approximately 100 bankers from across the country from institutions with generally less than \$5 billion in assets. Maley has been with Bank of Bird in Hand since its inception in 2013. Her career has included employment at Ernst & Young, LLP Berks County Bank, Pennsylvania National Bank, Lehigh Coal and Navigation, Berkshire Bank and Customers Bancorp, Inc.

James Percey '87 was recently honored by Pleasant Valley School District as an All-Star Athletic Director and Coach. A retired teacher and athletic director, Percey joined Pleasant Valley in 1990 and retired in 2021. He was Mountain Valley Conference soccer coach of the year in 2000 and 2002 and led the Bears to a conference championship in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004. In 2002 and 2003, the team was a District 11 finalist. He was selected as athletic director of the Year in 2007, 2012, and 2019.

90s

Michelle Seibert Appel '90, assistant vice president, institutional research, planning, and assessment at the University of Maryland in College Park, was awarded the campus's inaugural Sharon La Voy Data Impact award.

Darren Reighard '92 was named to the Bulldog Foundation Hall of Fame. The Bulldog Foundation supports the Big Spring School District in Newville. Reighard is a 1988 graduate of Big Springs. At Bloomsburg, Reighard was general manager of the WBUG radio station and executive producer of the Bloom News television show. He began his career at Coventry Health Care, served as project manager for Hewlett-Packard, manager

for NASCO, project manager for Rite Aid, and process and IT manager for Volvo Construction Equipment. Reighard served as liaison for the CARES program supporting the homeless, volunteers at Project Share in food and goods distribution, raised money for Camp Sunshine and coordinated the COURAGE virtual car show to raise funds for Feeding America during COVID. He is a certified Change Management Practitioner and has been a guest lecturer at the Bloomsburg Husky Student Leadership Summit.



Jason Wolfe '92 has been appointed to the Milton Hershey School Board of Managers. Wolfe enrolled at Milton Hershey School at the age of 11. After graduating from from MHS and later Bloomsburg in 1992,

he became an entrepreneur and self-taught programmer and started a series of internet companies, including MyCoupons. He later built Direct Response Technologies, Inc., an affiliate tracking platform that scaled to 12 billion monthly transactions. Most notably, he created GiftCards.com, the largest gift card website in the world, generating more than \$1 billion in sales a year. Wolfe was chairman of the Pittsburgh Technology Council and serves on the board of Family Design Resources, which provides adoption/foster services for needy children. He has received a variety of honors, including Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year, the Pittsburgh Technology Council's CEO of the Year and the Milton Hershey School Alumnus of the Year.

Lynda Schlegel-Culver '95 was elected to fill Pennsylvania's 27th Senatorial District seat vacated by the recent resignation of John Gordner. She was previously State Representative for the 108th district.



Jason Kirsch '96M has taken full ownership of PRworks, a branding, marketing, and public relations firm in Harrisburg. Kirsch, who first joined PRworks in 2017 as senior counselor, has more than 27 years

of experience building brands, leading campaigns and providing strategic communications counsel. Under his leadership, PRworks has been recognized

with industry awards for its work with national, statewide and regional organizations.

Thomas Connolly '97M has been appointed as the new principal of Rock Brook School in Skillman, N.J. Connolly has more than 20 years of public and private school experience and an extensive education as an educator and school administrator. His teaching background includes positions as a response to intervention teacher in the Lebanon Township School District and as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing at the Summit Speech School in New Providence, N.J. In addition to his teaching experience, Connolly served as an assistant principal in the Clinton Township School District and as a principal in the Florham Park School District.

Eugene Walker '98 is executive director of Cafe Momentum Pittsburgh, a nonprofit restaurant and professional training facility that gives juvenile offenders a second chance.

Claire Watson '98M, an assistant professor of public health St. Bonaventure University, was named the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representatives Association (FARA) Division I Newcomer of the Year. The Newcomer of the Year is someone who has served their institution as faculty athletic representative for less than five years. Watson is the program director for the public health and health science majors at St. Bonaventure. She was the executive director for the Allied Health Initiative that established the School of Health Professions in 2016.

00s

Peter Cheddar '00 has had his contract as superintendent of the Mount Carmel Area School District extended for five years. A 1996 graduate of Mount Carmel Area, Cheddar started his career in education as a middle school social studies teacher in Shamokin Area School District from 2004 to 2009. He served in multiple administrative roles at Mount Carmel Area, West Shore School District in Camp Hill, and Milton Hershey School from 2009 to 2012 before returning to Mount Carmel Area in 2012.

David Marcolla '00 has opened a new real estate brokerage, Marcolla Realty in Newtown. He has lived in—and restored—homes in Bucks County and Central New Jersey for more than 20 years. Marcolla is chairman of the Newtown Business Association and chairman of the Board at the Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia. He also serves on the Bucks County Association of Realtors Board nominations committee.



Arrastene Henry '02 has been named head of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion—senior director of JNJ, Learning Practice at Johnson & Johnson.

Rebecca Fisher Kretschmer '02 was named Class AA Coach of the Year for 2022. She is a coach for the Honesdale women's soccer team.

Meredith Miller Peachey '02 joined The Daily News of Huntingdon County. Peachey has more than 13 years print journalism and other writing-related experience. Previously, Peachey worked for The Daily Herald in Tyrone, was a web content writer for EZtoUse in Altoona, and edited an independently published book series.

Michael Scheese '02 has been named principal of Monmouth Junction (N.J.) Elementary School. He was formerly South Brunswick High School's assistant principal. He has been in the South Brunswick School District since 2004, serving as a teacher, dean, assistant principal in the elementary schools, and assistant principal of the high school.

Kevin Hickey '03 has been named vice president of brand sales and marketing at Cosette Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a New Jersey-based specialty pharmaceutical company. He was previously a senior vice president for Acerus Pharma.

Shawn Albert '06 has been named athletic and activities director at Harriton High School in Rosemont. He previously served as wrestling head coach at Jim Thorpe High School and principal at the Lawrence B. Morris School during the 2020-21 school year. Albert was a heavyweight wrestler at Bloomsburg.

Jahri Evans '07 has joined the New Orleans Saints coaching staff as an offensive assistant. Evans replaces Zach Strief as an offensive line assistant under offensive line coach Doug Marrone. Evans served as an intern for the Saints last preseason.

10s

Jerehmy Corrigan '10 has joined Keystone Structural Group, a structural engineering firm headquartered in Scranton, as a senior structural engineer. With 10 years of experience, Corrigan has worked on a wide range of commercial, residential, and repair and restoration building projects. He also has extensive experience in forensic engineering.

Lori Shaffer Koltenuk '11/'18M has joined UPMC Neurology in Williamsport. Koltenuk, CRNP, comes to UPMC with more than 15 years of experience.

Jacob Miller '15 has been named assistant director of athletic communications at the University of North Carolina Asheville. Miller comes to Asheville after running the athletics media relations office at Division II Coker University.

Karly Scala Warner '16 has been named marketing and communications manager at Penn State University's Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central & Northern PA in State College. They provide investment capital, operational assistance, and entrepreneurial support to emerging tech-based companies and small, existing manufacturers to create and retain jobs in the 32 counties of central and northeastern Pennsylvania. She joined Penn State in 2018 and previously held marketing coordinator and program marketing manager positions.

Steven Beattie '18M has been named executive director of the SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority. Beattie began his career as a project manager for area engineering consulting firms, including Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., where he managed the Lewisburg office. He later joined the Larson Design Group and most recently served as the community development/grant manager for the Borough of Lewisburg.

Michael Horvath '18 has been elected to the board of directors for Community Music School—Lehigh Valley & Berks. The Allentown nonprofit provides access and inspiration for anyone in the community to achieve excellence in music education and appreciate the transformative power of music. Horvath is an associate attorney at Gross McGinley LLP, focusing on corporate transactions, real estate, commercial lending, and sports law.

Marriages Births

Meghan E. Delaney '13 & Nicholas Mitchell '13 Sept. 30, 2020
 Karly Warner '16 & Dominick Scala, Nov. 12, 2022
 Jocelyn May Bordner '14 & Zachary Tyler Daily, Oct. 15, 2022

Samantha (Kropa) Davis '09 & Herman Davis, a daughter, Nalani Kai Davis, April 11, 2021.
 Jeffrey Fellman '06 & Danielle (Schatz) Fellman, a son, Casey, April 4, 2022
 Tracy (Hudson) Griesemer '09 & Adam Griesemer, a son, Lincoln Adam, June 1, 2022
 Kelsey (Harm) Grib '13 & Stephen Grib '13, a son, Aidan, June 25, 2022

Katelin (Bolig) Auchenbach '13 & John Auchenbach '13, a daughter, Mackenzie, Sept. 28, 2022
 Sam (Pientack) Kozuch '12 & Josh Kozuch, a son, Ty Julian, Nov. 15, 2022
 Kayla (Minnick) Diak '15 & Nicholas Diak '15, a daughter, Aria Chanel, Nov. 12, 2022

Meghan (Delaney) Mitchell '13 & Nicholas Mitchell '13, a daughter, Delaney Noelle, Dec. 12, 2022
 Robyn (Carey) Westover '05 & Adam Westover '04, a daughter, Savannah, Dec. 27, 2022
 Brittany (Bartol) Backer '15 & Derrick Backer '14, a daughter, Caroline Anne, Feb. 15, 2023

Send information to: magazine@bloomu.edu

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Obituaries

CORRECTION: Patricia Branch Dipippa '69 was mistakenly listed in the obituaries in the Fall '22 issue.

Lois Dzuris Walting '51
 Carol Gass Bell '51
 David Jenkins '52
 Jeanne Ruckle Berninger '52
 C. Richard Ewing '53
 Joan Greco Fix '53
 William Jacobs '54
 Lura Szerafinski Shader '55
 Janice Yozviak Borton '55
 Sally Morgan DiRico '55
 John Sibly '55

Rosalyn Verona Pennington '56
 Floyd Williams '57
 Evelyn Kilpatrick '57
 Max Daniels '58
 John Hartzel '58
 George Cotterall '58
 Janice Bittle Major '59
 Carl Janetka '59
 Frank Fisk '60
 Daniel Cortazzo '60
 Robert Edwards '61
 William Higgins '62
 Robert Carson '63
 Michael Grigalonis '63
 Joseph Dellgrotto '64
 Ronald Klock '64

Joseph Holden '65
 Joan Bray Roskos '65
 Ida Cooper Wynings '66
 Daniel Marks '66
 Patricia Pizek Wintermantel '66
 John Mensch '66
 Michael Mehle '67
 Joseph Lubeskie '67
 Dorothy Strouse '67
 Robert Schoffner '68
 Bonnie Gunther Riegel '68
 Marilyn Klick '69
 Paul Wisda '69
 Lee Yohn '69
 Kandace Caputo Foltz '69
 Anne McDonough Lawler '70

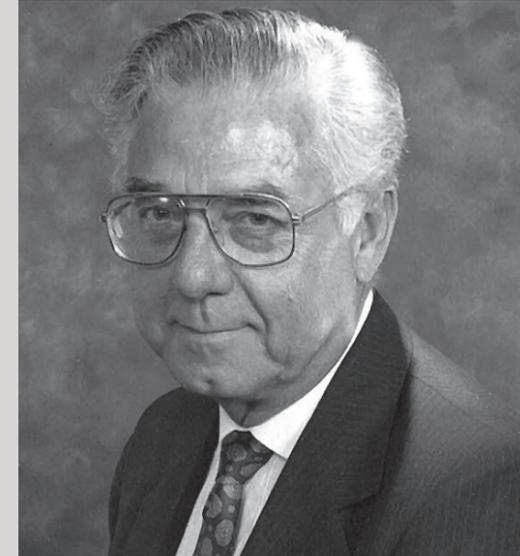
Robert Daniels '70
 Cynthia Sharretts Sibole '71
 Linda Cora Ruldolph Borgondy '72
 Edmund Coombe '72
 R. Peter Betz '72
 Paul Savka '72
 M. Deann Spector Ferri '73
 Florence Evert '73
 Edwin McCollum '74
 C. Kenneth Calnon '74
 Bonnie Bean '75
 Catherine Capparell '75
 Linda Stackman Wentzel '75
 Denise Krum Van Epps '77
 James Dalton '79
 Donald Schechterly '80

Suzanne Conlan Frank '80
 Jeffrey Ludrof '81
 Dennis Raup '81
 Joel Herman '84
 Lois Yocum Carl '84
 Renee Green Tokarczyk '85
 Janice Rehnert '85
 Joselle Matash McMurtrie '89
 Arthur Richer '92
 Karen Marie Bush '95
 Karen Russo '99
 William Glenney '99
 Clifford Farides '99
 Emily Caldwell Redding '12
 Miranda Mikelson '18
 Gino Ciambriello '20

In Memoriam

CHARLES CARLSON,

Interim president of Bloomsburg State College, 1972-73 academic year



Dr. Charles Carlson passed away on Wednesday, March 15, at the age of 94. He served as interim president of Bloomsburg State College during the 1972-73 academic year. Carlson joined the faculty in 1959 in the music department. He served as the department chairperson and was director of the Maroon and Gold Band. In 1967 Carlson was named acting director of graduate studies, and in 1968 was named director. He was appointed dean of the School of Graduate Studies and director of research in 1970. Following his time as interim president and a sabbatical, he returned as dean of graduate studies in 1974. In 1982, Carlson was named assistant vice president for academic affairs and occasionally served as acting provost. He remained in that role until his retirement in 1991.

After retirement, he remained very active in the Bloomsburg community, serving in volunteer leadership positions with the Boy Scouts, Bloomsburg Municipal Airport Advisory Board, the Bloomsburg University Foundation, and the Friends of the Bloomsburg Library Association, among many organizations. He is survived by his son, Charles Howard Carlson Jr.

KARL BEAMER,

Professor emeritus of art



Karl A. Beamer, professor emeritus of art, passed away on Sunday, April 16, at Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg. Beamer came to Bloomsburg in 1972 and retired in 2009. He is known for his interpretations of Japanese ceramic art and has worked with renowned artists Shiho Kanzaki and Toshiko Takaezu. Kanzaki, from Shigaraki, Japan, built an anagama pottery kiln on Beamer's property, where firings include Bloomsburg students and community members. Beamer worked with Takaezu to help her create the bronze bell in front of Andruss Library.

In addition to his work as a ceramicist, Beamer was a well-known member of the Bloomsburg area community. He constructed projects at the Bloomsburg Children's Museum and was a life member of the Mainville Fire Company. He lettered and gold leafed all of the firetrucks and most recently painted the firehall mural. His passions included playing ice hockey and racing dirt track cars.

He is survived by his wife, Ginny; daughters, Kori Beamer and Nikolle (Beamer) Bastian; grandson, Greyson Bastian; brother, Jack Beamer; and several nieces and nephews.



2023 Commonwealth University
Homecoming
 and **Parents and Family Weekend**
October 13 – 15
 Stay tuned for more information regarding this year's theme and schedule of events at bloomu.edu/homecoming



Coaching for the LONG GAME

By Jackson Dixon, Athletic Communications Intern

After the final pitch of the ninth inning is thrown, baseball coach Mike Collins knows that his players will face more important contests and challenges in life. That's why Bloomsburg's baseball program implemented its 40-year plan—a concept Collins created to help his players reach their professional goals and strengthen the bond his teams have beyond their playing days.

"The focus of the plan is on athletes, but the plan enriches the entire University's community by promoting positivity and collaboration while utilizing one of its greatest assets—the student-athletes," says Collins. "The plan involves community leadership programming, professional engagement opportunities, life-skills training, and a staff of professionals coming together to support Huskies outside of their athletic endeavors."

One way Collins and the baseball program has helped student-athletes through the 40-Year Plan is by holding its fifth annual professional engagement night, which took place in January at the Jameson Elementary School in Bucks County.

The event hosted over 40 established alumni, as well as the entire baseball team. The alumni were happy to attend the

event, helping the players who now wear the same jersey they once wore.

The alumni in attendance were from a variety of different career fields, each offering their own perspective and knowledge from their respective fields. They also saw value in the event and were happy to attend.

Bloomsburg baseball alumnus Vinnie James '07/'09M, who attended the event, describes the 40-year plan as "the culmination of everything you want to accomplish in your four years here that will set you up for the rest of your life." "It's critical to Bloomsburg coaches that their athletes are set up for success moving forward," says James.

The professional engagement night focuses on introducing players to a professional setting while also giving them an opportunity to learn from and network with Bloomsburg alumni—all of this in pursuit of making the 40-year plan a reality.

Before attending these events, Jared Marshman, an All-American pitcher for Bloomsburg, had very little experience with professionalism. "I feel like after the event is over, everyone is a lot more comfortable with themselves and more confident with

professionalism," says Marshman.

"I've met a ton of cool, unique alumni. There is a lot of opportunity at our disposal," says catcher Tyler Wiik, also noting the event was a great networking opportunity.

The event kicked off with a speed networking activity where players were given 90 seconds to introduce themselves and get acquainted with alumni. Collins says this activity is a good icebreaker to get players comfortable with talking to their predecessors.

While most of the players were doing this, a handful of players who will be graduating in the spring were taken into a separate room. These players had mock interviews with one or two alumni from the career path they were pursuing.

The alumni then gathered in their designated career-specific rooms for break-out sessions. There were two 30-minute sessions where players could go to a room and have an open, back-and-forth conversation with professionals from the field they are pursuing.

Collins intends to continue the event for as long as he can, and his ideas have been adopted by the wrestling and the softball teams, both of which held networking events using Zoom in February.

THROWING THE DISTANCE

In May, freshman Kelly Leszczynski was the Bloomsburg women's track and field team's first competitor to go to a national championship meet since 2017. She represented the Huskies in the javelin throw at the NCAA DII Outdoor Track and Field Championships hosted by CSU-Pueblo. Leszczynski became the first All-American for the Huskies since 2017. She is the ninth All-American for the Huskies during the outdoor track & field season and 10th All-American between the outdoor and indoor teams.

Leszczynski was seeded 11th in the javelin after setting the Bloomsburg school record with a throw of 45.25 meters (148' 7") at the LHU qualifier on May 6. She finished second overall at the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Outdoor Championships with a throw of 43.88 meters (143' 11"). She finished fourth overall and earned First Team All-America status with a school-record throw of 47.65 meters (156' 4").

She was the first qualifier for the Huskies since Kristen O'Malley and Kaylee Caruso earned a trip to the national championship meet in the long jump during the 2017 season. She is the first thrower for Bloomsburg to compete on the national stage became the first All-American for the Bloomsburg women's track & field team since 2017.

For updates on other Spring 2023 Husky athletes, visit buhuskies.com.



The Bloomsburg women's basketball team celebrated several members of the program who reached 1,000-points during their time as a Husky. Joining in on the celebration for the Huskies and pictured are Morgan Klunk, Emma Saxton, Taylor Montana, Alyssa Mack, Michelle Simons, Dana (Wieller) Bonner, Adreana Sadowski, and Catherine Noack. Catherine Noack and her father are a father-daughter duo of 1,000-point scorers for the Huskies.



The 10th Anniversary of the 2012-13 Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Championship team was celebrated as members of the team, Alyssa Carsia, Dana (Wieller) Bonner, Jocelyn Ford, Adreana Sadowski, Catherine Noack, Brianna (Dudeck) Ravel, Marla Simmons, and Lauren Ellis, returned to Nelson Field House. The Huskies were the No. 1 seed in the East and defeated Kutztown (81-52), No. 18 Edinboro (76-73), and No. 7 Gannon (74-57) to claim the program's second PSAC Title, and first since the 1991-92 season.



The Huskies honored their first 1,000-point scorer on the men's basketball team, William Swisher '59. Swisher is currently 29th on the all-time scoring list with 1,014 points for the Huskies. He was a member of Harold S. Shelly's team that went 39-29 during his four years. Swisher is shown with Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson, and Dr. Michael McFarland, and the Husky cheerleaders during his celebration.

50 OF NELSON FIELD HOUSE YEARS

By Bob Dunkelberger

Last fall marked 50 years since the opening of Nelson Field House and the start of the 50th season of athletics the building has hosted. Yet, when originally planned, it was not always certain where the University's field house would find a home.

The first gymnasium opened on campus in early 1894—a state-of-the-art facility attached to the dormitory building—later named Waller Hall. In the 1930s, Roosevelt's New Deal provided funding for a new gym. Three months after hosting its first athletic contest—a victory over West Chester in basketball—and after many delays, Centennial Gymnasium was dedicated in May 1942.

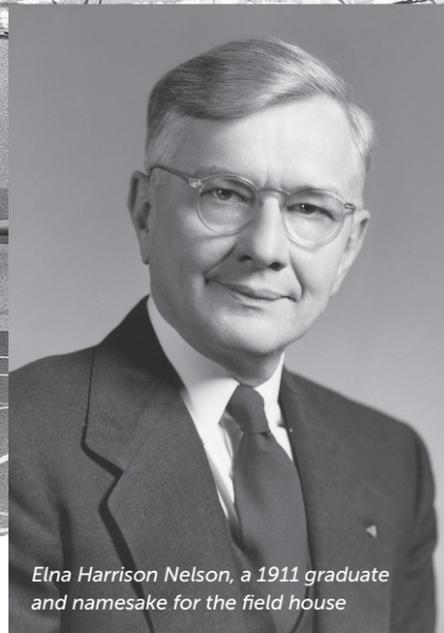
Within 20 years, planning was underway to build a companion field house facility. Originally slated for the site of the current library, by 1967 it was decided to instead use land on the upper campus that would house the majority of Bloomsburg's athletic facilities. Because of funding and redesign delays, ground was not broken on the project until 1970.

By early Fall 1972, the field house, built at a cost of more than \$2.6 million with gymnasium, movable bleachers for 4,000, a swimming pool, classrooms, offices, locker rooms, and other athletic facilities, was complete. The first athletic event held there, on Dec. 2, 1972 before a full house was, appropriately enough, a victory for the men's basketball team over West Chester.

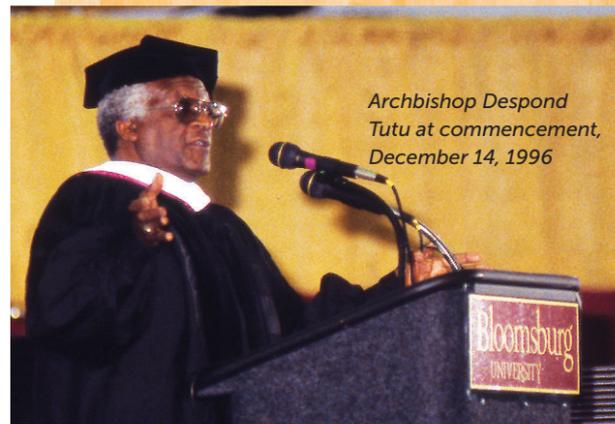
The field house was officially dedicated on May 5, 1973, and named for Elna Harrison Nelson, a Wayne County native and 1911 graduate. He came back to Bloomsburg in 1924 to head the Health Education Department and would become the first athletic director and a longtime baseball coach. Following his retirement, Nelson served as president of the Alumni Association until his death in 1961 at the age of 72.

In addition to athletics, over the years Nelson has hosted numerous concerts, with big name acts such as Billy Joel, Hall and Oates, and Pat Benatar in the 1970s and 1980s, and rap musicians in more recent years. There have also been graduations, with the most prominent and best-remembered being the Dec. 14, 1996, ceremony when South African Archbishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu spoke before another packed house.

Nelson itself has undergone changes, with extensive remodeling from 2010-12. Even though the seating was reduced, the competition has been no less intense. For 50 years the field house has served the Bloomsburg community, through athletics and numerous other events, and continues to be a landmark on the upper campus.



Elna Harrison Nelson, a 1911 graduate and namesake for the field house



Archbishop Desmond Tutu at commencement, December 14, 1996



Field house construction on the upper campus, September 1970

Top: The nearly completed gymnasium, September 1972

Q+A

James Brown, Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

As Commonwealth University's longest-serving dean, James Brown, who started his tenure as dean at Bloomsburg in 2011, embodies the University's mission to be accessible to all students in the state. A native of western Pennsylvania whose mother was an entrepreneur and father a steelworker, he's also an alumnus of the State System, having graduated from Slippery Rock University.

Before being named dean at Bloomsburg, he was dean of arts and sciences at Mansfield University, associate dean at Bloomsburg, and a professor of English at Charleston Southern University. And at different times, he's served as acting dean for the colleges of business and education.

When he's not on campus, he can often be found in his woodworking shop.



Q: How did higher education transform your life?

A: From an early age, I assumed that I would go to college, and my parents made many sacrifices to make sure that I could. The money they saved was enough for most of my first year in college. I didn't know what I wanted to major in, but I had a professor take me aside and said, "You're really good at this; maybe you should major in English." I told my parents for a year and a half that I was a business major.

I worked in a steel mill with my father in the summers. I majored in English because I thought I can always get a job in a steel mill. That was shortsighted because there aren't many steel mills anymore. I'm glad I wasn't only trained to be a steelworker because that wouldn't have gone well for me.

Q: What did you learn working in a steel mill?

A: The most important thing for me was I learned I could do it. It wasn't work that I thought I could do. I was summer help, and there were "older guys" in their 20s. Many of them already had families and children and mortgages. When I talked with them and said, "I kind of enjoy working here," they always told me, "If you don't finish college, I'm going to find you and kick your ass." It underscored to me what a privilege it was to be able to go to college and transform the direction of my life.

And by working alongside my dad, I got to know him a lot better than I would have otherwise. To see him interacting

with other people, not as a dad, but as one of the guys, was cool.

Q: Why do we need arts, humanities, and social sciences?

A: Studying things through different lenses is important. The arts, humanities, and social sciences provide us with different lenses through which to view social problems and economic issues.

That's why I think what we're doing here is important. We have the humanities, or the study of who we are; the social sciences or the study of how we are together, how we interact; and the arts, which are why we are human. The arts define us as humans among all the other animals in a positive way. We are the animals that can create and appreciate art, music, poetry, and theatre. I want everybody, every future teacher, every future business leader from the Zeigler College of Business, to know something about literature, sociology, and art history because those lenses, those ways of knowing, will make them better leaders and better citizens.

Q: Talk about your passion for woodworking.

A: When you're building a piece of furniture, you're solving problems. Am I going to make this piece the right size before I make it the right thickness? How do I use these tools to accomplish these effects? It's very visceral. There's a product at the end of the day. For those of us whose work products are not generally tangible, there's something to be said for being able to say, "I made that."

Q: What's the biggest challenge of higher education?

A: Well, there are some false narratives about the value of a liberal education. The word liberal is not political in this sense, but I think it has been tainted. So, I'm glad our college is called the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. It tells people what we're actually doing.

We push back on the narrative that you can't get a job by showing that our history, English, and philosophy majors are getting great jobs. We bring those graduates back for CASSH CON every fall. And we have alumni who are nationally known, successful people in every field represented in our college. Our students interact with them and frequently get hired. We have alumni of the College of Business who come talk to our students because they want to hire them because of the skills and perspectives they can bring to their organizations.

Q: Why is Commonwealth University and universities like it essential?

A: Price is one thing. Value is another thing, a function of price and quality. We are the best game in town in terms of value.

As a graduate student, I had a great experience at a Big 10 school, but I would have been lost if I had gone there as an undergraduate. Also, students have real professors here from day one, not teaching assistants. They are publishing, they are competitive, but they are teaching first. Their first responsibility is to the students. That's incredible value.



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