

Bloomsburg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Grit and Determination Personified

Jackie Lithgow's inspiring story now includes a Bloomsburg diploma

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Fist Bumps and Facemasks

Spring '21 Commencement Ceremony held in person

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Making a Difference in Different Ways

Alumni Association honors Huskies who make a difference

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President Bashar Hanna

My Dear BU Family,

Please enjoy this Summer 2021 edition of *BLOOMSBURG: The University Magazine*.

This past May, we were excited to host our commencement ceremonies in-person for the first time since December 2019. Still mindful of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we expanded our normal three ceremonies to five over the course of a weekend, and ensured that all in attendance were socially distanced. It truly was a pleasure to celebrate in-person with our graduates and their families once again, and it was quite gratifying given all that we have endured over the past year. I commend the members of our staff who worked so hard in planning and coordinating the successful ceremonies, and our faculty members for their efforts in support of our students' success.

My congratulations to the Class of 2021, who overcame so much and displayed incredible resilience in their final two years at BU. One particular member of this graduating class, Jackie Lithgow '21, epitomizes the grit and determination for which we Huskies are known. Seven years after suffering a traumatic brain injury and facing very long odds, Jackie inspired us all by walking across the stage to receive his well-earned diploma. Congratulations to Jackie on this great achievement – and to his proud parents, Jim and Lisa (both BU alumni), who never stopped believing that their son would recover and eventually earn a Bloomsburg degree.

You will also read in this issue the courageous journey of one of our alumni, the Honorable David Gass, who earned his law degree from Arizona State University College of Law after receiving both his bachelor's and master's degrees from BU. Appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals by Governor Doug Ducey in 2019, Judge Gass was the honored speaker at our Lavender graduation ceremony this past May. Thank you to Judge Gass for sharing his story and inspiring so many of our students.

Lastly, we include a tribute to a loyal ambassador and dear friend of our University, Mrs. Ramona Alley, who recently retired after 37 years as a member of our Council of Trustees. We are profoundly grateful to Ramona for her loyalty and service, and her unwavering commitment to our students and their success.

We look forward to the Fall 2021 semester and a return to an in-person learning environment. You can learn more about our Fall 2021 plans at www.bloomu.edu, which you will notice is our newly revamped website (as of July 1).

As always, I thank you for your continued support of BU, and I look forward to seeing you back on campus this fall. Have a safe and enjoyable summer with your families and friends.

GO HUSKIES!

Sincerely,

Bashar W. Hanna, President





Redman Stadium at Danny Hale Field at the Steph Pettit Athletic Complex served as the setting for BU's Spring 2021 Commencement ceremonies in May. Graduates were socially distanced on the field, while parents and supporters celebrated in the stands.

See more, page 18.



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Photo: Jaime North



Integration Update

In late April, the Board of Governors for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education approved moving forward with a public comment period on two integration plans, one for the northeast region encompassing Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield universities, and one in the west region to include California, Clarion, and Edinboro universities.

The proposal calls for each university to retain the unique traits specific to its campus and community, while coming together to become something bigger and stronger and positioned to answer the greatest challenges facing higher education today: access, cost, opportunity, quality, and relevance.

The board's vote initiated a 60-day public comment period that included hearings on June 9 and 10.

Work continues on plans to leverage the "power of three" to increase access to exemplary academic programs and social mobility for students. The plans are designed to respond to the diverse needs of 21st century learners with relevant

academic programs, proven modalities, and flexibility that will prepare students for careers of the future, while maintaining an efficient course of study to bring them to graduation.

At all the universities involved, plans provide for students to still enjoy on-campus housing, student clubs and organizations, athletics, and a vibrant campus life. Ultimately, students would design a university experience that is best for them, with dedicated support services on each campus.

At Bloomsburg University, our priority is to honor our history and legacy to connect fellow Huskies and provide support for today's students and tomorrow's leaders. Foundations and alumni associations would remain independent and continue to keep classmates connected with their alma mater. Donors would continue to be able to designate funds in support of students on their campus or program of choice, as they do today.

You can learn more about the integration plans by visiting www.bloomu.edu/integration.

Faculty Honored for Exceptional Teaching



Abby Hare-Harris



Michael Huben



Brett McLaurin

Three BU faculty members were named 2020-21 Outstanding Teaching Award recipients by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TALE) Center.

Abby Hare-Harris, a Stephen J. Jones Professional U Fellow, is an assistant professor of biological and allied health sciences; Michael Huben, a Stephen J. Jones Professional U Fellow, is an instructor of marketing and professional sales; and Brett McLaurin is a professor of environmental, geographical, and geological sciences. The faculty were nominated by graduating seniors from the class of 2020-21 and selected by TALE's Outstanding Teaching Award Committee.

"I am grateful to professors Abby Hare-Harris, Brett McLaurin, Michael Huben, and all our outstanding faculty members who go above and beyond in support of our students and their success," said President Bashar Hanna.

Hare-Harris' research fields are human genetics and genomics, and many of her students and advisees earn the medical genomics and counseling certificate. Student nominations emphasized that her courses are tough yet taught with care and patience to ensure every student succeeds. Her rapport with students is exceptional. One student wrote, "She is not an easy professor by any means. She promotes independent thinking and has helped me become a better student and a better person." Hare-Harris' life transformative teaching permeated the students' nominations, and her empathy helps students overcome academic and personal struggles.

Michael Huben joined BU following a career at Merck. Creating bridges between higher education and a career led

students to nominate Huben for the outstanding teaching award. A nominator wrote, "Mr. Huben teaches in real-world examples and is able to relate content to everyday life, so students can understand how the lessons will look outside of the classroom." Huben's dedication is evident in mentoring students in sales competitions, coaching them on how to network and interview for jobs, and develop leadership qualities.

Brett McLaurin is a geologist specializing in stratigraphy and sedimentology. Students nominating McLaurin spoke of his exceptional ability to combine theory and practice, making every topic relevant and engrossing. One student wrote, "Whenever I had questions, the professor was available and engaged me in possible learning experiences beyond the classroom." McLaurin creates spaces where students can risk failure, learn from their experiences, and increase confidence in their skills and knowledge. Engaging, caring, hands-on were constant themes in his student nominations.

"These three faculty members exemplify the hard work and dedication all our faculty make to our students in support of their academic success," said BU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Diana Rogers-Adkinson. "What is even more remarkable is how they adapted to teaching in a virtual world for the last year, and yet, were able to make strong connections with their students. As provost, I am very proud of their work and offer my congratulations to them."

All three will receive a plaque and be awarded a professional development stipend sponsored by the BU Foundation.



Photo: Marty Coyne

Bringing Academics and Administration Together

Celebrating the New Arts and Administration Building

"When universities build buildings, they either serve as an academic space or an administrative space," said President Bashar Hanna, but BU's new Arts and Administration Building has both, "emphasizing that here at Bloomsburg, we are one family."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in early June celebrated the opening of the new facility, which has been in use since January.

The building features a soaring four-story open atrium topped by skylights and hosts a mix of functions. The ground level features art department sculpture studios plus photography and theatre labs, and the first floor houses the admissions, financial aid, and registrar's offices, a language lab, and six classrooms. The second floor includes offices and more studios for the art and art history department, and the history and the languages and cultures departments. The top floor houses the offices of marketing and communications, human resources, administration and finance, student billing (bursar), and procurement.

Construction began in October 2018 and was shut down from March to May 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Construction was completed in November 2020 before opening for the spring semester.

The Honorable Mary Jane Bowes, Council of Trustees chair, thanked everyone who worked on the project.

"I want to thank Dr. Hanna for his vision and leadership, my fellow trustees, our dedicated faculty and staff, facilities management – especially Ed Gunshore in his role as project manager, the Department of General Services, and most importantly our students," said Bowes. "We look forward to seeing it enjoyed by our students, faculty, and staff for many years to come."





Taking Art to a Higher Degree

Art students are enjoying new and improved studio spaces in the Arts and Administration Building and will soon have the option of pursuing a new prestigious Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree.

The new BFA program was approved by Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors in the spring, and was approved in June by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

"The BFA is really preparing students as professional artists or to go on to grad school," says Meredith Re' Grimsley, professor and chair of the Department of Art and Art History. "It's also recommended for students who want to get a certificate in education."

The new degree increases both the depth and breadth of preparation for student artists, requiring a 79-credit art studio and art history curriculum, while the Bachelor of Arts degree requires 39 credits.

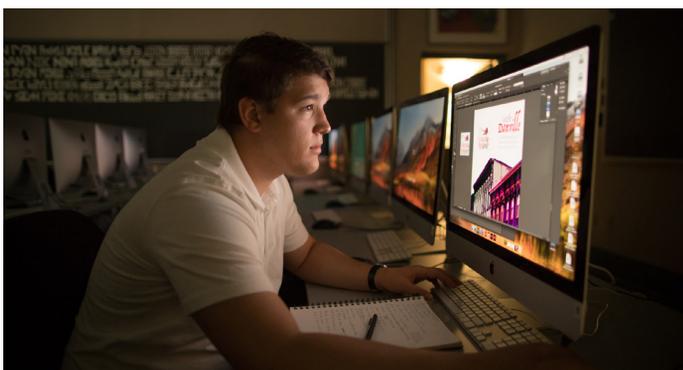
"We have students who have crafted their experience here to look like a BFA, but we haven't had the degree," says Grimsley. "We also include BFA in graphic design, which is a much stronger, much more competitive degree for our students."

"In integration conversations with Mansfield and Lock Haven, we all have the same mission with our students. We developed a study-away concept with the other universities. Students will be able to take a semester to study something we don't offer. For example, ceramics at Mansfield and Lock Haven. And students from Mansfield and Lock Haven could come here to study fabric design."

Grimsley also envisions exhibition exchanges between faculty and students at the different campuses. "Students can start to know each other across the miles."

BU will maintain the BA degree in art, which allows students to have multiple majors.

There are approximately 100 students studying art studio or art history. And while many art students took classes in person through the fall and spring, Grimsley is excited to have a full building and campus again. "I can't wait until people are really back. The aesthetics of the space. The light, the air, the atmosphere. It's very sophisticated. These are the nicest facilities I've ever worked in."





College of Education earns CAEP accreditation

The College of Education has been granted accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP is one of only two nationally recognized accrediting bodies for educator preparation.

Following a rigorous accreditation process during which faculty and staff identified, collected, and analyzed program improvement data, Bloomsburg University was granted accreditation at the initial and advanced licensure level. The accreditation is granted for seven years with renewal in 2026.

"Earning CAEP accreditation is a testament to the hard work and commitment to excellence by our faculty, led by our dean of the college, Daryl Fridley," said President Bashar Hanna. "The excellence of their work is reflected in the accreditor's final recommendation, which was all standards met, no areas for improvement and no problems."

"I am very proud of everyone in the College of Education, and the leadership of Dr. Amy Eitzen, associate dean, who worked on the accreditation process," said Fridley. "The rigorous standards set by CAEP also give BU the seal of approval that we are properly preparing the next generation of educators and give our students the confidence that BU meets the highest standards of quality and effectiveness that employers value."

Educator preparation providers seeking CAEP accreditation must pass peer review on five standards, which are based on two principles:

- Solid evidence that the provider's graduates are competent and caring educators.
- Solid evidence that the provider's educator staff have the capacity to create a culture of excellence and use it to maintain and enhance the quality of the professional programs they offer.



Retention Numbers Climb for BU Act 101 Students

One of BU's biggest success stories in helping students develop the skills needed to support their academic success has been the Act 101 program. Since 2017, Act 101 students have increased their first- to second-year retention rates by nearly 20 percent (45 to 63.7 percent).

Act 101 is a statewide academic support program giving first-generation, low-income college students who demonstrate risk factors that will increase the likelihood of not completing a four-year college degree, opportunities to develop the skills they need to achieve academic excellence.

"Our team here works hard to give these students a chance to be successful," said Ralph Godbolt, director of the Office of Access and Success. "We provide to them the academic, cultural, and social interaction they need."

Participants of the Act 101 program are strongly encouraged to participate in a program called Emerging Scholars, which Godbolt developed. "We provide opportunities for students to develop the skills that will assist them in achieving academic success," he says. "The success of the Emerging Scholars program directly impacted the strong first-to second-year retention rates of Act 101 students."

Godbolt and his team provide eight hours a week of study hall time, compassion-centered academic advising, and community engagement opportunities. They also provide yoga and mindfulness activities and weekly "rap sessions," where students engage in intense conversations about issues going on in their lives.

"The rap sessions help in building a close relationship between the student and counselor," Godbolt said.

In addition to the Act 101 and Emerging Scholars programs, the Office of Access and Success oversees the Office of Diversity and Retention, Board of Governors, SEE Yourself Healthier and Happier, and the Out of the Classroom: Into the Community initiative.

Alley Honored for 37 Years of Service as Trustee

Ramona Alley has been a witness and participant in a lot of changes at Bloomsburg University during her 37-year career on the Council of Trustees, which recognized her retirement at its June 2021 meeting.

Alley, who became a trustee in 1983 before Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education was formed, became the first female vice chairperson and chairperson at Bloomsburg, serving between 1992 and 1996. She was part of two presidential search committees and countless other committees.

"When I reflect back to my years of serving at Bloomsburg University, I leave with having had the honor and privilege of presenting thousands of diplomas to graduates and knowing they had a quality education — thanks to our outstanding faculty and staff," said Alley.

She, along with her husband, Dr. Ali Alley, established the Dr. Ali A. Alley & Ramona H. Alley Endowed Scholarship, designed for incoming first-year students from Berwick or Columbia County with a preference for students majoring in a health- or medical-related field. This fall, they will be supporting their seventh recipient.

Together they have also made significant contributions to the *First & Goal Campaign* and Arts in Bloom.



^ Ramona and Ali Alley at the First and Goal Football Campaign celebration in 2011.



^ Shown from left are, standing: The Honorable Mary Jane Bowes, Council of Trustees chair, incoming student trustee candidate Julia Burcin '23, trustees Duane Greenly, Nancy Vasta, Amy Brayford, Raymond Zaborney and Ed Edwards. Seated: Dr. Ali A. and Ramona H. Alley.

Student Soars in Sales Competition

Senior professional sales and marketing student Autumn Hawk made her mark in the Redbird Regional Sales Contest held in the spring semester. In her first-ever sales competition, Hawk advanced to the semifinals. Faculty member Michael Huben coached Hawk in the competition along with Molly Groff, Mia Kosoglow, and Ethan Burns.

The Redbird National Sales Competition is a collegiate sales competition hosted by the Professional Sales Institute at Illinois State University. It enables students to demonstrate their selling skills through simulated sale roleplays. More than 150 participants from 20 schools exhibited their sales skills during roleplay scenarios. Additionally, 11 corporate sponsors were represented.

BU is also one of only five Pennsylvania institutions listed among the top North American schools by the Sales Education Foundation.





State-Wide Recycling Survey Yields Important Trend Results

^ Bloomsburg Town Recycling Coordinator Charlie Fritz and Jennifer Haney.

Community recycling programs have never been more important. Recycling helps preserve environmental quality, saves landfill space, preserves resources, conserves energy, reduces air pollution, and saves water.

That’s where the work of Jennifer Haney from the Department of Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences comes into play. Last summer Haney, the project director, and John Bodenman, her department colleague and co-author on the report, conducted a study of recycling programs in Pennsylvania, the first of its kind in the state.

“Recycling programs across the United States are struggling to adjust to rapidly changing market conditions for recyclable materials,” Haney wrote in the proposal. “This project was designed to test a number of hypotheses concerning economic and environmental issues impacting recycling programs in rural Pennsylvania.”

Haney and Bodenman contacted the county recycling coordinators from around the state for the case studies and provided each with a list of questions. Questions expanded on information collected in the web-based survey. They addressed the following: population served with recycling collection services, staff employed at the recycling facility, major challenges and opportunities encountered in the past 10 years and those anticipated over the next five years, key areas for improving policies governing waste in recycling in the state, and educational outreach and information on their recycling collection programs.

The top five trends are:

1. Local recycling programs are impacted by global markets and constraints;
2. contamination of recyclable materials has decreased the value of materials collected;
3. recycling programs do increasingly rely upon funding from the state;
4. recycling provides environmental and economic benefits to Pennsylvania;
5. declining recycling program revenues and rising recycling program costs are causing a hardship for the sustainability of recycling programs in Pennsylvania.

Haney and Bodenman will use the collected data to prepare and submit two manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals — one in geography and one in waste management. They will also present the study’s results at the annual Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania meeting in July.

“The sustainability of recycling programs depends on all of us,” says Haney. “Take the time, effort, and energy to carefully and correctly separate your recyclables — help to reduce contamination and give more value to your recyclable materials!”



Scott Kane Named Dean of Students

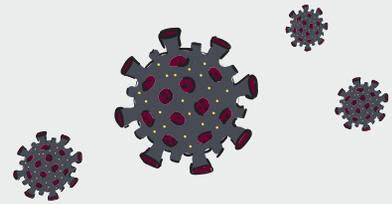
Scott Kane joined BU as the new dean of students in the Division of Student Success and Enrollment Services in April.

Kane comes to BU from Mansfield University where he was serving as interim dean of students. He will

continue to provide shared services to Mansfield. Kane has 18 years of experience, including serving as dean of students, interim vice president for student affairs and associate dean for student life at Rhode Island College. He also served as vice president and dean of student affairs at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford.

Kane earned a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in counseling and student personnel services from Kansas State University.

Heeding COVID's Call to Action



By Eric Foster

Members of the U.S. armed forces, including three BU alumni, have been at the forefront of the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationally, Army veteran Mark Hall '86 has helped the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff up to handle the pandemic workload. "This is the largest and longest CDC response that has ever taken place," says Hall, who has worked with the CDC both as an employee and a contractor since 2009.

As an intelligence officer in the Army, Hall's tours included Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom. Over the years, Hall has had plenty of tours with the CDC as well, with assignments to places such as Sierra Leon and Vietnam.

"Before COVID, we were working on exercises for influenza," says Hall, a business process analyst for the CDC's influenza coordination unit who had been involved with the agency's response to the H1N1 and Ebola outbreaks. "When the pandemic hit, we started with 50 people," says Hall, who was focused on bringing on new staff for the agency. "We're communicating with the states and municipalities. We went from a small group to 650 people at its largest point."

Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania Army National Guard members, Brig. Gen. James McCormack '90/'93M and Col. Timothy Brooks '92 coordinated coronavirus activities as leaders in the Guard's Joint Staff at Fort Indiantown Gap.

McCormack, who is also BU's associate vice president for student development and campus life, was involved with COVID response on campus and throughout the state.

"The COVID mitigation measures on campus were very successful," says McCormack, who early in the pandemic worked with Eric Ness, chief facilities and safety officer, arranging for Geisinger medical providers to stay at BU apartments in order to quarantine from their families.

"Fortunately, Geisinger had very good procedures that kept their staff safe, and few people needed the apartments. We also had a dialog with the Army Corps of Engineers about serving as a potential mass quarantine site."

While a mass quarantine site wasn't needed, McCormack, who has completed tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and was the primary lead on negotiating between Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Pennsylvania National Guard, emphasizes that planning is still essential. "The time to figure out what to do is not after it happens. If you wait until it happens, you are way too late."

The Joint Staff, which McCormack heads, has oversight and tasking authority for all Pennsylvania National Guard personnel assigned to support domestic operations at the direction of the governor. "There are four components, Army National Guard, Air Force National Guard, Veteran Affairs, and Civil Air Patrol," says McCormack. "The need to communicate and rely on others is critical to getting things done. The components aren't siloed. If I need medics, the Air Force and Army both have medics that can support an assigned mission. Tying into other agencies and units is what makes us able to function best."

As the pandemic began, Brooks, a retired Bethlehem police officer, moved to a full-time role as chief of the Joint Staff, with McCormack as his direct superior.

"I became the lead representative at PEMA for the Guard," says Brooks, recalling driving on empty roads from the Guard headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap to PEMA's Harrisburg headquarters.

"It was important to know the participants ... it wasn't just the Guard; it was PEMA and Department of Health. You stay in your lane but also learn what the other lanes are. Being collaborative is the best way. A lot of senior officers working with me at PEMA had experience from deployments," says Brooks, whose own tours include



Brig. Gen.
James McCormack '90/'93M



Col.
Timothy Brooks '92



Army veteran
Mark Hall '86

Hungary, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Louisiana for Hurricane Katrina. "With our experience with planning, we can anticipate problems and challenges and think of things a couple of steps ahead."

"Long-term care facilities were hit hard, the National Guard went into help



alleviate pressure,” says Brooks. “We assisted PEMA in planning for the use of a system that sterilized N95 masks.”

Brooks was also deeply involved in planning for vaccination sites this spring. “We were part of the initial flurry of activity on a Friday afternoon in February. For the first Johnson & Johnson shots for teachers and support personnel; How many medics were able to give the shots? How many can you field? That was a big undertaking. Of the 28 sites for teachers, the Guard was at eight of them. It was very successful.”

“National Guard is not just one weekend a month,” stresses McCormack. “Pennsylvania is uniquely positioned in the nation to respond to problems to the south or the northeast. The Pa. Guard could just as easily be needed in D.C. or New York City.”

Hall also had his start with the Pa. National Guard, joining in high school. He credits his experience at BU for giving him tools to succeed throughout his career in very diverse environments.

“The quality of the instruction at BU, the teachers, their consistency, love for their work. It gave me the fundamentals to function in any environment,” says Hall, who majored in history.

One of few underrepresented students on campus in the 1980s, Hall worked with a professor to do a study of minorities at Bloomsburg University. “Being given the latitude to do something like that influenced me. I never felt limited. I felt prepared by the time I stepped on the first military base after I left Bloomsburg, I was competitive with everyone around me,” says Hall, who notes that 10 family members have attended BU, including his daughter Joy Hall, who earned a master’s degree in clinical athletic training.

“Some of the other experiences are just as important as the academics, the activities may fill in where the academics didn’t. Leadership, seeing another side of an issue,” says Brooks. “Everything I heard about college seemed to happen at Bloomsburg. From playing hacky sack, meeting friends. I ran cross-country two seasons, was a Husky Ambassador. Totally out of my comfort zone, I was a Husky Singer for several semesters. Each experience added to who I am now and gave me different perspectives to draw on once I graduated.”

The preparation and skills learned at BU served both the citizen soldier and our nation well in a time of crisis.



^ Shown From left, Erin Pawlick and Catherine Metzger, with a BU flag in Iraq. Gabrielle Erb is pictured in the Table of Contents on page 2.

Care Packages Make a Lasting Impact on Student Soldiers

By Tom McGuire

Serving overseas in the military far from family, friends, and all the comforts of home is one of the sacrifices soldiers make in service to our country. When deployed soldiers receive gifts from home, the gesture goes far beyond getting something different to eat or an item to use. It gives that soldier the knowledge they are remembered and appreciated.

When five BU students, Erin Pawlick, Gabrielle Erb, Leo Malfara, Grant Lyons, and BU graduate Catherine

(Cat) Metzger '20, all members of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard Aviation group, deployed to Camp Buehring in Kuwait, the BU Military and Veteran Resources Office collected both snacks and BU memorabilia and sent the care packages to their fellow students.

“It is nice to get a piece of BU while serving in a rough environment,” said Cat Metzger, an E4 Specialist, via a Facetime call from Kuwait. “To know that people back at Bloomsburg University are thinking of us means a lot.”

“The main things that are nice to receive are healthy snacks,” said Sgt. Pawlick. “They always say that you either get fit or fat on deployments. I work out just about every day, so making sure I have only healthy things is important to me, so I’m not eating crap in my downtime.”

For Metzger, who will return to BU this fall as a graduate student in the college student affairs program, Lyons, an E4 Specialist and Erb, also an E4 Specialist, who will finish her degree this fall, cards and letters were great to receive.

“Our favorite thing we received here was the multiple Christmas and Veterans Day cards from elementary schools!” said Metzger. “We taped up every single one we received in our work break room, and they are still up on the wall.” Sgt. Malfara is bringing home a flag that flew during a combat mission over Iraq and will present it to the university.

“The flag flew on Feb. 1, 2021, aboard a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter during Operation Inherent Resolve, and it will be my honor to present it to BU,” said Malfara.

No matter the place or circumstance, Huskies always care for other Huskies.

Dreams That Bloom

By Tom Schaeffer '02



Hannah Harple ^ celebrates graduation with her parents Kelly and Mark in May.

Hannah Harple '21 wanted nothing more than to make her family proud by achieving her dreams of walking across the stage and shaking hands with BU President Bashar Hanna when she received her diploma and officially completed her early childhood and special education degree.

Just like the nearly 30 percent of students who enroll at BU each year, Harple, a Honeybrook native, is the first member of her family to go to college and complete her four-year degree. Though she has worked hard to achieve her goals, she is thankful for the scholarships she received from the Bloom On Fund that have helped her finish her climb.

"It's an amazing feeling to get selected for that accomplishment and receive a scholarship," Harple says. "It helps you. It's a lot of money, and my parents helped all they could, but that scholarship helped me feel good knowing that I could help them too, and I am so grateful for that."

Scholarships like the one Harple received are more important than ever before in helping Bloomsburg University recruit talented students and provide them with the financial support they need to complete their education. That is why the Bloomsburg University Foundation (BUF) announced this spring that they have committed \$2 million in need-based scholarships from the Bloom On Fund to help with student recruitment and retention, which will be awarded in installments of \$500,000 per year for the next four years.

"We are so thankful to the BUF Board and our donors for committing to provide such much-needed scholarships," says Hanna. "They are leading our Husky pack by example, and I can't thank them enough for the work they've done to make this happen."

The demand for an increase in need-based scholarships became clear to BUF leadership after meeting with Hanna and University administrators and hearing how scholarships like these are among the most effective tools the BU admissions team can use to help students and their families make the final decision to attend BU.

"One of the biggest challenges for current and incoming students is the harsh reality that they may have to postpone their education due to financial obstacles, especially during these uncertain times," says BUF Board President Drew Hostetter. "That's what we're here for, to help support students and advance the success of this University. Right now, this is the best way for us to do that."

The scholarships awarded through this increased commitment will help BU recruit students and provide the University with the flexibility to respond to students' needs to help them stay on course for timely completion of their degrees.



^ Mina Fayeze

“The scholarships I received helped me stay on track, even when things weren’t going as planned,” says Mina Fayeze ’21. “I was accepted for a very beneficial internship that I was set to begin in my senior year, but it ended up getting canceled because of COVID. I had also taken the first steps toward launching my own business, but COVID derailed that too.”

Fayeze is also the first in his family to achieve his four-year degree, precisely the vision his parents had for him when they came to the United States from Egypt shortly after he was born. He embodies the Husky spirit that BU students and alumni exhibit every day. No matter what twists and turns this past year presented, he was not going to let it stop him.

When he realized he would not be participating in the internship and couldn’t bring in revenue with his business idea, Mina applied for scholarship support through the Bloom On Fund to help keep his educational goals on track. Thanks to the scholarships he received, he refocused and even graduated a semester ahead of schedule with a job already secured. Now he is at the beginning of his journey toward a career in management.

The announcement of the increased commitment to scholarships has also created a groundswell of support from BU donors who have made gifts or increased their contributions to support this initiative.

Greg ’01 and Jen Bowden ’02 were both first-generation students and realized just how vital these types of scholarships can be for students facing financial need. They made their first gift to BU right after they graduated and have been giving back as leaders in the BU community ever since.

In 2016, the Bowdens set up a gift through their estate to establish the Bowden Family Leadership Scholarship and help create the same life-changing opportunity they had at BU for students today and in the future.

They recently increased their support in response to the need for additional scholarships to help the University recruit and retain students.

“We worked with the Foundation to increase our gift because we know how much of a difference it can make in these students’ lives,” says Greg. “We hope this will not only help students who need it but also inspire the recipients to push themselves to become leaders too.”

Eric Pettis ’83 was also inspired to pledge \$1,000 a year for the next four years to support scholarships that will help recruit and retain students. Pettis, who established a scholarship years ago, chose to increase his giving because he knows how much it can help.

“I have seen the impact of scholarship support firsthand, and I’m a big believer in giving back to the places that made you who you are,” Pettis says. “I hope my gift will inspire others to do the same. When you think about it, if just 500 donors make a gift of \$1,000, that will help cover these scholarships for the year, and I think Huskies are up to that challenge.”

To learn more about this initiative or to make a gift, call 855-282-4483 or visit giving.bloomu.edu/FirstGen.



^ Greg and Jen Bowden while students at BU. At right, the Bowdens and their children today.



^ Eric Pettis

GRIT & DETERMINATION *personified*

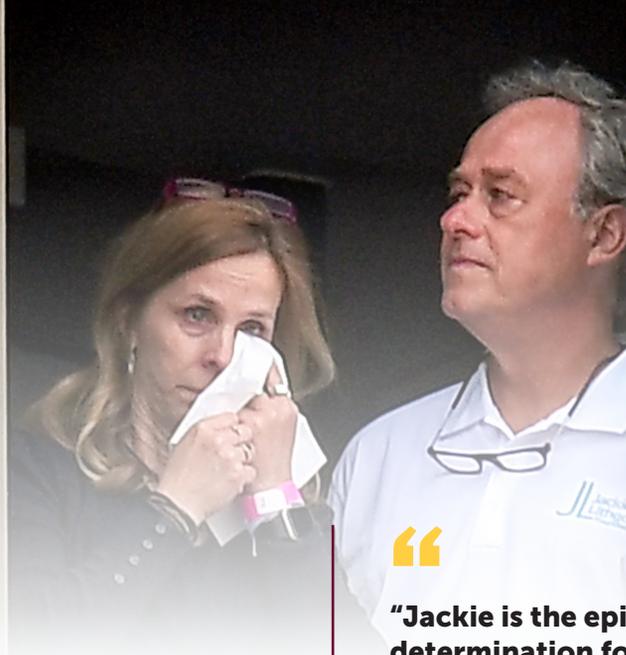
By Eric Foster
and Tom McGuire



“With brain injuries, you’re always in rehab and always learning and always healing. My one doctor told me that when you go to the real world and go to college and walk on campus, that will be your therapy. I’m going to classes and walking, learning.”

— Jackie Lithgow





“

“Jackie is the epitome of the grit and determination for which we Huskies are known. We are inspired by all that he has overcome, and are beyond proud of all that he has accomplished.”

— BU President Bashar Hanna

Watching BU’s spring commencement ceremony from the press box at Redman Stadium, Jim and Lisa Lithgow never took their eyes off their son Jackie as he sat on the field with his fellow graduates. As Jackie neared the stage, then ultimately had his name called as a graduate, tears flowed from his mother’s eyes. The journey was complete. It was a long time coming.

Seven years after a head injury left him in a coma, Jackie Lithgow defied the odds and graduated from Bloomsburg University with a degree in media and journalism.

Lithgow’s life changed forever on Feb. 23, 2014, when the 19-year-old, trying to break up a fight, was blindsided by a punch. Falling to the ground, his head struck the pavement. He was life-flighted to Geisinger Hospital in Danville and lay in a coma for 15 days. Jackie was given the worst possible ranking on the Glasgow Coma scale. Over 90% of patients with this type of traumatic brain injury never regain consciousness and, if they do, are significantly impaired.

Jackie, though, fought hard. “With perseverance and support from his parents, BU alumni Jim ’83 and Lisa ’83, family and community, Lithgow defied the odds.

Walking across the stage to receive his diploma was a double milestone.

“I finished out my therapies while finishing college,” says Jackie, of Carlisle. “Walking across the stage when I was getting my diploma was very special to me, the crescendo of everything I’ve worked for. Your life is like a book. I’ve had a lot of chapters in the book, this turns another chapter.”

Lithgow fought hard for his recovery and the diploma.

As a fighter, he had powerful role models in his parents. “My parents mean everything to me. They were at every stage of my recovery. When I was in the hospital they would sleep on the bed by me, they would hold my hand.”

“My mom was a fierce advocate for me when I couldn’t be,” adds Lithgow. “There were many times when things were going badly. And she stepped in and said this is how it’s going to be. This is how it has to be. My parents were exceptional in my recovery. I’ve had many people tell me do you understand how amazing your parents are. I’m very blessed how they would put their lives on the line for me.”

“You know people would come in and they would look at you in a way that was just like they felt very sorry for you, or doctors would come in and not with a great prognosis,” says his mother. “But we could see him in there, I mean, we knew he was there — we knew it was going to take time, but we just knew. We knew he could get back, it was just a matter of taking the time.”

The road back to class was a hard one, involving nine surgeries and intensive rehabilitation.

A turning point for Lithgow was aquatic therapy in which he relearned to walk, one step at a time, with a treadmill in a swimming pool. In addition to those therapies, his father found a functional medicine doctor who put Jackie on a diet low in gluten and sugar, which helped speed his recovery.

“With brain injuries, you’re always in rehab and always learning and always healing,” says Jackie. “My one doctor told me that when you go to the real world and go to college and walk on campus, that will be your therapy. I’m going to classes and walking, learning.”

“My parents told me I don’t have to go back to college,” says Lithgow. “I wanted to go back to college, I had this. After my injury and getting better, it intensified my hunger to graduate and get a diploma.”

In the spring of 2016, two years after his injury, he returned to BU to begin taking classes again. Those first semesters were especially challenging.

“I liked to refer to myself as a hermit in my shell. Only coming out to go to classes and getting something to eat,” says Lithgow. “I had friends still at Bloomsburg, but from a mental perspective, what would tire me out the most was socialization. Being around people at that time was very tiring. There was a balance I had to find between socializing and schoolwork. Post-injury, studying had to be more rigorous, more flashcards. It took up more of my time.”

"When I first started BU, I was an ITM (Information and Technology Management) major and switched to digital forensics," says Lithgow. "But when I came back from my injury, I didn't understand anything going on. So, I talked with Theresa Bloskey in TRIO Student Support Services, and I took an intro mass communications class with professor (Jason) Genovese and was hooked."

Each semester, Lithgow tried to add a course to his schedule until he was taking four classes. His mom stayed locally with friends, becoming a source of help and guidance. Support from BU extended well beyond the first semester and involved many offices. Among them were athletics director Michael McFarland and assistant swimming coach Bridget Hilferty, who helped him increase his strength and stability with exercises. And graduate students in speech-language pathology and the concussion institute provided therapy.

"Jackie is the epitome of the grit and determination for which we Huskies are known," says BU President Bashar Hanna. "We are inspired by all that he has overcome, and are beyond proud of all that he has accomplished."

"It starts with Dr. Hanna, I had lunch with him every so often," says Lithgow. "Dr. Genovese (chair of media and journalism department) has been a role model. All the professors have been wonderful."

"In my 15 years here at BU I have never seen a more inspirational story than Jackie's," says Genovese. "To see how far he has come these past few years is truly remarkable. He attacked his schoolwork with impressive vigor and energy. Despite what he's been through, Jackie always wears a big smile on his face and has the most charming personality. Whether we chat about school, family, or Philadelphia sports, I'm just lucky to have crossed paths with this young man."

"All those people out there that got him here. It wasn't just us. It was a total team effort. From Bloom, to doctors to therapists, so for all those people ... to see him do this is pretty cool," says Jim Lithgow.

Lithgow has been involved in more than his classes. He also created the Jackie Lithgow Foundation to support traumatic brain injury survivors during their road to recovery. Through events such as an annual golf tournament, the foundation (lithgowfoundation.org) has raised over \$65,000 for Magee Rehabilitation Hospital and local traumatic brain injury patients.

"Media and journalism is where I want to be," he says. "It's helped me think about, especially with the foundation, how to reach out and connect with people."

He's gotten some real-life experience in his chosen field by being the subject of stories in several newspapers, including The Philadelphia Inquirer, and on local TV.

Jackie and his parents were also guests on the nationally syndicated Tamron Hall show. "Letting go is hard, even growing up, I wanted to keep them in bubble wrap," shared Lisa Lithgow about helping Jackie return to college. "You want to raise independent young adults. He didn't work that hard for so many years to not let him do what he wanted."

"I'm trying to stay humble," says Jackie of the media attention. "I'm glad my story is getting coverage because if it can impact one other person, I would love to see that happen, for people to see my story and get inspired."

"When I was in the hospital, I've seen patients who have it worse. I've been fortunate, I have a support system. Not everyone has that support system," says Lithgow. "That's why I started the foundation. I saw people who were there alone and didn't have the support system. I really wanted to help support other traumatic brain injury survivors and let them know there is hope."

What's next for Lithgow?

"I have an internship with a local company in Carlisle," he says. "Then after that, I'll see what works best and what jobs open. Explore the real world as they say. I'm going to enjoy the ride."



"Despite what he's been through, Jackie always wears a big smile on his face and has the most charming personality. Whether we chat about school, family or Philadelphia sports, I'm just lucky to have crossed paths with this young man."

— Jason Genovese



Trusting WHO YOU ARE

By Eric Foster

As a gay teenager growing up in the late 1970s, Arizona Court of Appeals Vice Chief Judge David Gass '84/'85M knows what it means to be an outsider in his community, school, and even home.

In a legal career spanning more than 25 years, Gass has used this heartfelt experience to advocate against discrimination in all forms.

Born in Bloomsburg, Gass grew up in nearby Sunbury. "It certainly was not an easy place to be gay when I was in high school. I certainly was not out in high school. Nobody was. That concept just didn't exist," recalls Gass. A year after high school, his experience as an exchange student in Chihuahua, Mexico, helped Gass open up.

"In Mexico, I had a group of close friends that I had established that I could trust. And part of it was just growing up and discovering who we are. It's a leap of faith," says Gass, who still has his graduation ring from Chihuahua.

Returning to Pennsylvania, Gass worked at the then Acme Market in Sunbury to put himself through college at BU without loans.

A two-time BU graduate, Gass earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing in 1984 and a master's degree in communication in 1985. While at BU, Gass experienced firsthand the power and importance of caring mentors and the availability of spaces for self-discovery.

"One of the things you have to do is learn how to make your own family," says Gass. "At Bloomsburg, it was the forensic society where I found a group of people that I could trust and work with."

At BU, Gass also found a mentor in Anne Batory, who he had for a psychology course. "It was a class about learning how to be who we are and trust that other people can accept us and learning what to do when they come. It was an amazing class, and she was an amazing mentor. I keep in touch with her still, and I thank her regularly for inspiring me and

giving me the confidence to believe in myself."

Gass knew, even as a child, that he wanted to pursue law as a career. "When I was in fifth grade, my teacher went around and said, what do you want to be when you grow up? I said I wanted to be president. And she said that's cool. You can. You need to be a lawyer. I said, OK, 'I'll be a lawyer.'"

After graduation from BU, Gass worked in Philadelphia before heading to Arizona to complete his law degree. He graduated from Arizona State College of Law magna cum laude and Order of the Coif and clerked for the Honorable Ruth V. McGregor, now a retired Chief Justice, before joining a private firm.

"When I graduated, the U.S. Supreme Court had fairly recently issued the opinion that LGBT people could be prosecuted and labeled as sex offenders and required to register. It's hard to imagine that I was going to end up being able to be a judge," says Gass, who had the support of his now-husband Don to complete law school.

Gass notes that Arizona was the first state in the nation to reject the ban on same-sex marriage. "That made me look at the world in a different way and gave me the courage to say, yeah, I can apply. When the governor appointed me to the Superior Court, she knew that I was gay. Her staff knew I was gay, but it wasn't in my application. When I applied for the Court of Appeals, I put it in my application. Ten years later, the world had changed enough that I thought it was an important aspect that needed to not be off to the side. I can look at students now and absolutely say; you can be a Supreme Court justice."

While Gass is an advocate for LGBTQA+ issues, he's most proud of his work behind the scenes to have the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution observed in Arizona. Korematsu was a civil rights activist who objected to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. While the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the legality



^ Gass, center, as a student at BU, and as a judge in Arizona.



of the internment order, Korematsu's conviction for evading internment was overturned four decades later in U.S. District Court.

Gass recalls meeting a young Japanese American college student who "looked at me and said, 'I don't know anything about this.'" We're in Arizona, where two of the largest internment camps were, and she had never even heard of it. Part of what we need to do is make sure that we don't forget that we can make mistakes too, that we can do things that harm people."

His next mission? "Diversity on the bench," says Gass. "I live in a state that has the largest number and acreage of reservations, but we have one Native American judge on a court of record for the entire state. That's been my mission. I've talked to the folks in England about their legal mentorship program. It's one judge at a time and one attorney at a time."

See sidebar on next page.

Using Your Voice to Mentor

This spring, Judge David Gass '84/'85M was the featured speaker for BU's virtual Lavender Graduation, a ceremony held at many universities to honor and celebrate college seniors and graduate students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and allies. He encouraged the graduating students to understand their own power as mentors.

"I want you to think about making a difference, and I'm not talking about making a difference in changing the whole world. Sometimes it's just a little change, but little changes add up, and every little change grows the next one and can ultimately change the world. I want you to be who you are. I want you to walk away from this knowing who you are is what matters. Be true to yourself. Be true when you are interacting with others, it will come through, and you have value in being yourself."

"Think about that kid who's sitting in your old high school, who is afraid of college, and may not be out — maybe having problems with their family. You've already done this; you're graduating from college. So, recognize that you have a voice, and you have that power already in you."

FIST BUMPS & FACE MASKS

While fist bumps and masks replaced hugs and smiling faces, the BU Class of 2021 Commencement Ceremonies were perfect in so many ways. With comfortable temperatures, sunny skies, five ceremonies were held at Redman Stadium from May 14-16.

A year after the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person commencement, nearly 1,300 graduates and their families were again able to gather to celebrate the experience of hearing their graduate's name called.

"It is a joy that I can see you in person and not virtually," said BU President Bashar Hanna. "Who would have known that the spring break of 2020 would have been such a pivotal moment in your education. But you made it! And just like Huskies do, your grit and determination kept you persevering and moving forward."

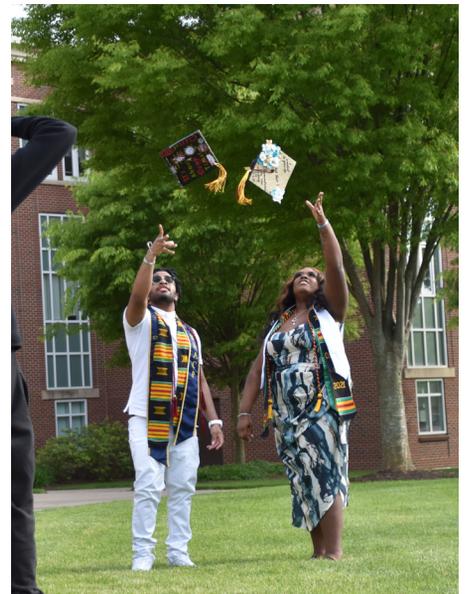
Hanna's message also related how he and those who started four years ago grew together.

"You will always have a special place in my heart, especially those who started as freshmen in the fall of 2017. We were essentially college freshmen together. I, a freshman president, and you, college freshmen."

As the graduates left Redman Stadium to rejoin their families, the joy of the day wiped away much of the stress of the last 15 months.

Photos: Eric Foster, Nikki Keller, Stacey Newell, Jaime North.





Making a Difference in Different Ways

By Andrea O'Neill '06

In a virtual ceremony this June, the Alumni Association honored five Huskies who used their grit, unique experiences, and successes to provide support and inspiration to others.



Dr. Kimberly Abney:

William T. Derricott '66
Volunteer of the Year

Keeping the Light Shining

Dr. Kimberly Abney '09 describes herself as a "reluctant student" when she came to BU. Today, she is a light for other "reluctant" students through mentorship and example, and has been named the Bloomsburg University Alumni Association's 2021 William T. Derricott '66 Volunteer of the Year.

Anxious to explore new places after high school, Abney chose BU because the Act 101 program had the earliest start date. Like many first-generation students, Abney describes the beginning of her college career as rough. She needed time to learn time management skills and adjust to being on her own. But once she found her niche, Abney never looked back.

"Once I got in the swing of things, I

realized I could ask for help," says Abney. "I spent more time in the writing center and took advantage of faculty office hours. I learned to make decisions and be OK with them."

Discovering a sense of belonging at BU became a cornerstone of personal and professional growth. For Abney, the biggest victory wasn't graduation but recognizing how hard work had paid off. She has made it her mission to foster that growth in others — not only in her career as a certified school counselor for the School District of Philadelphia and director of the Right Balance Counseling Center, but also through volunteering at BU and as working as the CEO and founder of We DREAM, a nonprofit organization that builds structured youth programs.

"My purpose in life is to help the next person recognize their opportunities and create opportunities for others. I feel like I made it, and it's only right that I help other people."

Charles Allen, a member of the We DREAM board of directors, says that Abney's effect on her community is unparalleled. "She leaves an imprint that can't be washed away," says Allen. "Her work brings out the best in adults and kids, and her passion is phenomenal. She gives so much time and effort, and a lot of her work goes unnoticed."

In 2020, Abney volunteered on campus as a career experience host, speaker, and workshop leader for *Day of Dialogue*, *Husky Student Leadership Summit*, the *PASSHE GEAR UP* program, and the Leadership Certificate program. She also

served as a career coach and member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

"BU will always be home base," says Abney. "My classes taught me a lot, but it was really the people who became a stepping stone to who I am today. I was totally prepared, not just academically but mentally and socially. It's one of the reasons I do so much."

Her mentorship program, *Thank Goodness I'm Female* (TGIF), which she began in 2016, has improved the graduation rates of female students of color who must overcome academic and personal issues while adjusting to college life. The program's first students graduated in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"To see that vision come to life and my mentees graduate has been so rewarding. We became a family, and they're like my little sisters. They value my opinion and lean on me for support."

The ripple effect extends back to BU through the financial support she provides with the Kimberly T. Abney Scholarship Fund. Since 2016, five Act 101 students have completed degrees with assistance from that scholarship. The rewards, she says, far outweigh what she gives.

"Scholarships are important; it's another way to show up and be present for students. What you do may not seem like much, but it means the world to somebody else, and you've shown them there is a way. It's all about keeping the light shining."



Kathleen Moneghan:
Maroon & Gold Excellence Award

A Love of Giving Back

Although Kathleen Moneghan '10/'15M calls earning five degrees a "long road," in reality her journey only took a decade to complete.

The Philadelphia native fell in love with the BU campus as soon as she visited. Originally an education major, Moneghan quickly switched to speech pathology before discovering a love of exercise and nutrition. Supported by faculty adviser Tom Martucci, Moneghan set out to earn dual B.S. degrees in speech pathology and exercise science in just four years.

"Dr. Martucci was fantastic," says Moneghan. "It was a lot of planning and grit and a lot of summer courses, but in the end, it taught me about time management, staying on track, and doing it on my own. It was a huge learning experience."

Moneghan began work on a master's degree in exercise science during her senior year and achieved her goal of dual bachelor's degrees in 2010. During that time, she became drawn to becoming a physician's assistant and earned a master's degree in physician assistant studies from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in 2014 before returning to BU to finish her master's in exercise science the following year.

Moneghan spent time as a personal trainer in her own establishment while working her way through both programs. She credits BU for providing the tools and experiences necessary to achieve each milestone.

"It was a lot of fun for me," says Moneghan. "I had built a skill set that helped me start my own business and get through physician's assistant (PA) school."

Moneghan has been a practicing physician's assistant in Maine since 2015. She has served as an emergency medicine and surgical physician assistant, operating room manager, virtual urgent care associate medical director, and occupational health physician assistant, earning her a nomination for the Maine Physician's Assistant of the Year Award.

Yet, despite her success, Moneghan felt disconnected from her community, and returned to volunteering.

She chose the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which researched the experimental trial that saved her father's life. She brings a message of help and hope to the residents of rural Maine, some of whom drive up to seven hours for treatment in Boston. Moneghan serves as a patient advocate and leader

of the Hero Squad, helping fundraising efforts and teaching elementary and middle school students about blood cancers. She is a committee member to help lead their BigClimb2021 national campaign.

"Our network had to tap into rural Maine, and I wanted to share their mission throughout the state," says Moneghan. "Knowing that I've connected patients to resources and other patients and survivors is a great feeling."

Moneghan's efforts do not stop there. She delivers food to cancer patients through the Christine B. Foundation and has served with the PA Foundation as a lead mentor and Nutrition Outreach Fellow, as well as a coach with the Diabetes Prevention Program. Her volunteer efforts have earned her a National Daily Point of Light Award.

Moneghan is now the associate medical director of remote telemedicine at ConvenientMD, an urgent care center serving Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, and sits on the executive board of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants as treasurer and is part of the educational committee. This spring, Moneghan added a doctorate in health administration to her resume, which she hopes will amplify her ability to help other PAs achieve a work-life balance, reach their goals, and maintain a better sense of well-being.

"Small achievements happen every day, but some of the harder ones are very impactful for me," says Moneghan. "Sometimes, if you're working a lot in less forgiving environments, you're tired, but you know you've worked hard. Those moments stick with you because you made the most difference."



Professor Emeritus Anthony J. Sylvester:
Honorary Alumnus

Opening Hearts and Changing Minds

Anthony Sylvester didn't attend BU, but as a faculty member and community activist with a larger-than-life personality and commitment to diversity, civil rights, and world peace, he made an unalterable impact, earning him a posthumous Honorary Alumnus Award from the Bloomsburg University Alumni Association.

Sylvester joined BU's history department in 1965, following service in the Army and

earning bachelor's and master's degrees at Rutgers University and a Ph.D. at the University of Chicago.

"Teaching for him was an active, rather than passive experience," says Dr. Vera Vititz-Ward, his spouse and now retired BU art professor. "It wasn't just about reading the books and memorizing dates. He would bring historical concepts and events to life. He wanted the students to realize they were a part of history."

continued on next page



Madelyn Rodriguez:
Distinguished Service Award

A Voice for Students

Madelyn Rodriguez '95/'98M knew her calling was multicultural education from her days as a student when she lobbied to create the Multicultural Center on the BU campus in 1994.

That experience helped Rodriguez find her voice and strength and cemented her commitment to helping others in multicultural education. The family atmosphere of BU allowed her to feel welcome, explore her calling, and drove her desire to return to campus. That feeling of belonging still drives her focus to help students on their climb.

After graduation and a stint as a BU graduate assistant, she became an area coordinator at Lehigh University before returning to BU as a residence director before taking over the Multicultural Center in 2005.

"When I was a student fighting to get the Multicultural Center open, I never imagined I would be the director," says

Rodriguez, "That moment opened doors to my purpose: to be a voice for the voiceless and fight for those who can't fight for themselves."

"The forefront of everything I do is to make sure they have a voice and feel included," she says. "No student is going to stay on any campus if they don't feel like they belong."

Rodriguez, or "Ms. Maddy" as students refer to her, has been called the heart and pillar of the Black and brown student community, dedicated to creating opportunities to celebrate their culture and advocate for campus and town equity and inclusion. She has coordinated and advised many clubs and events, mentoring programs, conferences, and celebrations. She also provides Spanish translation services for families who need assistance.

"I want people to know we care," adds Rodriguez. "You don't have to be a person of difference or a student of color to come to our space and our office. We are here for all Huskies."

For Terrell J. Garrett '10, now senior director of OneGoal NYC, Rodriguez reinforced that he did indeed have a place on campus and guided him through the hard conversations that allowed him to learn about himself and follow his calling.

"Maddy became a second mom to me," says Garrett. "She not only held me accountable but pushed me to go beyond limits I had set for myself. I'm honored to attribute my pride and identity development to her mentorship."

As part of Martin Luther King Day celebrations, Rodriguez has brought

prominent speakers to campus such as Princeton professor and MSNBC contributor Dr. Eddie Glaude, former North Carolina state Rep. Bakari Sellers, and correspondent Soledad O'Brien as part of the CNN "Black in America" series.

"The work is sometimes hard and even in celebration, there is often a sense of sadness and anger when the society we live in proves far from just," says Rodriguez "But the more you know, the more you grow."

In 2016, Rodriguez was the recipient of the Shining Light Award and Student Organization Advisor of the Year. She recently received the Mid-Level Professional Award from the College Student Educator's International Coalition for Women and is part of the Frederick Douglass Institute for Academic Excellence board of directors. Her work has also resulted in her selection as co-chair for the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and she helped to organize the student advisory board of the same name.

Rodriguez also fosters cultural understanding off-campus as a member of the Coalition for Social Equity steering committee in town and has spearheaded the annual Bloomsburg Breast Cancer Walk for 18 years. In 2017 she organized a relief effort for Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

"For me, Bloomsburg was and is a place for me to be who I am and grow," says Rodriguez. "If I'm not authentic, how can I ask someone else to be? How can I be a model alumnus if I don't model inclusion every day? Sometimes that's hard, but there is no other way. I'm lying otherwise."

He invited witnesses to relay their firsthand accounts of watershed moments, such as the siege of Leningrad during World War II. He established the International Education Exchange, which offered cultural trips both stateside and abroad, such as Russia and West Africa.

"He asked questions. Rather than lecture, he challenged," says former student Mike Caroll '72, now the supervising attorney for Community Legal Services of Philadelphia. "He was pivotal in opening minds with his warmth and passion and the way he cared about the basic humanity of everybody he met."

"He was very serious in his commitment," says Viditz-Ward. "He was very scholarly, and I'm not sure people realize that. Tony was very balanced and fair in his assessment of political and historical situations."

Sylvester was named co-chair of the BU Human Relations Committee in 1992 after a cross-burning incident on campus, and was appointed to serve on the diversity task force created by BU President Harry Ausprich.

"There was nothing fake about him," says professor emeritus Irving Wright, who served as co-chair on the committee.

"Tony was genuine, and people reciprocated. Tony was very passionate about creating a society and community in Bloomsburg that was fair for everyone and embraced diversity."

He served as an adviser to the Foreign Students, Third World Cultural Society, Black Cultural Society, Student Coalition, International Relations Club, and the Black History Month Committee, allowing him to reach students who were struggling the most, both academically and personally.



Dennis Siegmann:

Distinguished Service Award

Helping Others Grow

Dennis Siegmann '68 spent more than 37 years in public education as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Not bad for someone who didn't see himself as college material.

The son of a construction worker from Levittown, Pa., Siegmann was a state wrestling qualifier but had not considered college. He was encouraged to apply to Bloomsburg by his high school principal and wrestling coach, both of whom were alumni.

"I probably wouldn't have gone if it had not been for them," says Siegmann. "They called my parents in one day and explained that I had a good chance at a college career."

As a first-generation college student, Siegmann struggled to pay his way. In fact, at the end of his junior year, he wasn't sure if he would make it back for his final year. His high school principal, Dr. Frank Frageli, wrote a check for his tuition and found him a job so he could repay the money.

"I learned a lot about giving back from Dr. Frageli, and if it wasn't for him, I might have dropped out," says Siegmann. "It was my turning point."

Siegmann earned his degree in education from Bloomsburg, went on to get a master's degree in science education from Western Connecticut State University in 1980, and a certificate in educational administration and leadership in 1996.

He landed a teaching position at Bristol (Conn.) Central High School and also served as the head wrestling coach. He led his team to two state championships and retired in 1999 with a record of 348-109-12 to become the principal of the school.

"In life, you can only hope to be a better person today than you were yesterday," says Siegmann. "Life lessons are in learning how to earn success and accept defeat. The hard work that you have to do every day to be the best that you can be is one of the skills we hope they understand when they wrestle."

He later returned to coaching as an assistant at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and Labette Community College in Kansas, helping each team win two national championships. Among many honors, he is a member of the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and the New Jersey Township Sports Hall of Fame.

Wrestling has been a tool to teach about life. "It's such an individual and humbling sport that you learn competitiveness and an understanding of who you are," says Siegmann. "There's always somebody better than you out there somewhere."

We developed our programs with a family atmosphere with students who wanted to be themselves, as well as part of a team."

Siegmann was named Volunteer of the Year by the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame and earned an invitation from the National Wrestling Coaches Association to be a facilitator for its Scholastic CEO Leadership program.

Siegmann has stayed in touch with his wrestling teammates and classmates and often returns to Bloomsburg for Homecoming and the John Devlin Golf Tournament football fundraiser. "It's so important to keep those relationships going and maintain communication. I've always had good friends from back then that are still my closest friends."

Once career and family responsibilities began taking up less time, Siegmann became more involved with his alma mater.

"The camaraderie you develop when you're at a small college like Bloomsburg is amazing," says Siegmann. "I have an opportunity now to rekindle what I had back in the day and help others foster that same kind of bond."

He has founded the Siegmann Family Wrestling Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 each year to a student-athlete in wrestling. Siegmann also volunteered as a webinar panelist to help teacher applicants with resume advice, imparting his wisdom on the next generation of teachers and coaches, just like two fellow Huskies did for him in 1964.

"Driving up that hill, it's still a special place in my life. There are a lot of things to consider when you pick a college, and you have to find a place to fit. Bloomsburg fit for me."

Following his retirement in 1992, Sylvester served as a part-time coordinator of the Act 101 program at BU. He was honored with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award in 1999 and inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

"He was very patient and student-centered, and that is the key to helping students," says Wright. "No matter where we went, former students would talk about the great experience they had in his classes, and that was a great tribute to him."

"We would have students just leave school and go home for personal reasons. We wanted to intercede before that happened. The students respected him and responded very well. Many students found their way because of his support."

And he remained engaged in social demonstrations and political discourse with both the student and local communities long after he retired. He served on the Citizen Advisory Committee on Public Assistance and the Task Force on Racial Equity in

Bloomsburg and frequently volunteered to facilitate dialogue to promote change. He actively participated in community groups like the Coalition for Social Equity until he became ill in 2020. He died in January, but those who knew Sylvester best are certain he would have been pleased to receive the Honorary Alumnus Award.

"He came here in 1966 and made his life here," says Viditz-Ward. "He would be proud and delighted, and I am too. It's a great way to remember him."

60s

Jarold Ackerman '65 has published a second book of poems, "February 2," with poems and photographs by the author, which is available as a paperback book or .pdf file at www.blurb.com/b/10113558-february-2. Ackerman is also retired BU faculty member (1977-2003).

70s

James Scalise '72 celebrated 30 years of owning the Montclair Swim Club in Oakland, Calif. Scalise, who was a college swimmer and then a masters swimmer, bought the 90-year-old club in 1988 and developed it into a three-pool facility with hot tub and fitness center.

Allan Weikel '76 and his wife, Theresa, were appointed missionaries with Trans World Radio (TWR) to serve at the West Africa Transmitting Station. TWR transmits Christian programming into hard-to-reach areas of the world.

David Arnold '78 has been named interim provost/vice president for academic affairs at Keystone College in La Plume, Pa., after having been a consultant with John N. Gardner Institute, Brevard, N.C. Arnold has served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Salve Regina University; president, chancellor, and president emeritus of Eureka College; vice president for academic and student affairs at Missouri Western State; and provost and dean of the college at St. John Fisher College. Arnold earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from BU, master's and doctoral degrees in social psychology from the University of New Hampshire, and has completed post-doctoral work at Harvard University.

Richard Cordaro '78 has written a book, "The Essential Guide to Selling Your Home: How to Sell Your Home for the Most Amount of Money in the Shortest Amount of Time!" A real estate agent since 2003, Cordaro is a professor of business at Harrisburg Area Community College, where he also teaches real estate courses.

80s

Robert Striewig '82 is a senior vice president in AIA, Alera Group's property and casualty division. He specializes in managing and negotiating the domestic and international contract/commercial surety programs between clients and surety companies throughout the United States. He served as president of the Striewig Bonding Agency for over 30 years before joining AIA, Alera Group as one of the principals in 2017. He is a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Builder's Exchange and is chairman of the Central Pennsylvania chapter of Construction Financial Management Associate's annual scholarship event.

Michael Glovas '86 was named to the 2021 Best-In-State Wealth Advisors List. The list spotlights more than 5,000 financial advisors, nominated by their firms, who are then researched, interviewed and assigned a ranking by SHOOK Research. Those on the list manage more than \$6 trillion in client assets.

Carlos Navarro '87 has been named vice president, OTC Sales and Marketing, for Aphenia Pharma Solutions, Inc. Navarro is a Gulf War veteran, having served as a military intelligence officer for the U.S. Army and achieving the rank of captain. In addition, he serves as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Randall Black '89, CEO and president of Citizens Financial Services, Inc. and First Citizens Community Bank, was recently named as a class A director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Black will help the board oversee the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank's operations, offer observations on economic conditions, and establish the bank's discount rate. Additionally, the directors are a link between the Federal Reserve and the Communities in the Third District, which includes eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, and Delaware. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia supervises state member banks, bank holding companies, and savings and loan holding companies, and provides financial services to depository institutions and the federal government.

Daniel Dimm '89 was named vice president of sales for the Eclipse Corporation. A native of Shamokin, Dimm earned a bachelor's degree in computer information systems and served in the U.S. Army.

90s



U.S. Army Major Gen. Michael Morrissey '90

was promoted in March in a ceremony in Huntsville, Ala. Morrissey enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves in 1986. Upon completion of the Army ROTC program and graduation from BU, he received a Regular Army commission as an Air Defense Officer.

His first assignment was platoon leader in Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm.

Across more than 30 years of service, he served in 10 countries. As commander of the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, he deployed the brigade headquarters in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, leading the forward air and missile defense mission across Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan.

Morrissey also served as a Congressional Fellow on the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair, on the Army Staff, and with the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Before joining the MDA, Morrissey was the commanding General of the 94th Army Air and Missile Defense Command in Honolulu, Hawaii, commanding all Army air and missile defense organizations in the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and its sub-unified commands.

90s

Alan Eck '91 has been named to an NFL officiating crew for the 2021 season. Eck, now in his sixth year as an NFL official, has previously worked for the Big 12 conference and the CFL. A former quarterback for the Huskies, he still holds the school record for most pass completions in a season with 194.

Louis Defonteny '92 accepted a position as director of pupil services at Palisades School District in Kintnersville. He previously served as director of special education and pupil services at Bristol Township School District, where he had a 27-year career.

Tanya Lehmann Koval '93 was selected to serve on the Robbinsville Board of Education. Lehmann currently teaches eighth grade language arts at Manalapan-Englishtown Middle School. She is an active volunteer with the PTA and a past president of the Robbinsville MOMS Club. She earned her bachelor's degree from BU and a master's from Rutgers University.

Dawn Patterson '93 was recently named Counselor of the Year by the Burlington County, New Jersey, School Counselors Association. Patterson has been a counselor in the Bordentown Regional School District for the past 20 years. In addition to her counseling role at BRMS, Patterson is in her second year serving on the Burlington County School Counselors Association's executive board as the co-chair for elementary, middle and high school professional development meetings. At BRMS, Patterson is the adviser for the school's IMPACT Club, a community service organization.

Vince Aukamp '95 was promoted to director of IT at Cargas. Aukamp arrived at Cargas in 2017 with a background in both software and finance. After earning a degree in finance from BU, Aukamp spent 15 years managing the financial and operational systems of a large financial services company and five years managing implementations of financial software.



Linda Maldonado Gallagher '95 was named vice president, biologics chemistry and manufacturing controls at Codagenix. Maldonado has more than 25 years of experience in biologics manufacturing from early clinical phase to commercial operations, spanning development to commercial launch for vaccine, antibody, and gene therapy processes and products. Prior to joining Codagenix, she served as senior director of GMP Manufacturing, Downstream and Fill Finish for Catalent Cell and Gene Therapy, where she led early-phase production for a wide variety of biologics. Before Catalent, she held positions of increasing responsibility at vaccine and therapeutic manufacturers including PharmAthene, Human Genome Sciences, Baxter Bioscience, Progenics, and Sanofi Pasteur. Maldonado earned a B.S. in biology from BU and an M.S. in biology from East Stroudsburg University.

Brian C. Urbas '95 has been named vice president, commercial lending officer, at The Dime Bank. Urbas has 20 years of progressive banking and lending experience working at financial institutions serving Wayne, Susquehanna, and Lackawanna counties. Residing in the Forest City area with his wife Lora and three children, Urbas is a basketball and baseball coach for the Forest City Regional Schools and a baseball coach in the Carbondale Teener League.

Zhenia Klevitsky Menendez '98 has been named chief growth officer for Sev1 Tech. She recently served as vice president, business development for ASRC Federal's civilian, health, and national security \$400 million operating group. Klevitsky is a Washington Homeland Security Roundtable steering committee member and has spoken at multiple Reverse Industry Days, including the Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Administration, and the Department of Defense. Sev1Tech provides IT modernization, cybersecurity, cloud, engineering, fielding, training, and program support services for U.S. government agencies and major commercial organizations.

00s

Kristin Austin '02 has been named the first director of I.D.E.As. (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access) for Rewriting the Code, Inc. Rewriting the Code is a national not-for-profit organization that retains undergraduate women in technology majors at more than 700 universities with a goal of increasing the representation of women in the technology industry. She also recently authored a book chapter in College Ready 2021, a comprehensive guide to first-year college transition.

Daniel Boote '06 was named assistant vice president, commercial officer/small business lender at FNCB Bank. He has more than 10 years of experience in banking and most recently held the position of assistant vice president, Branch Manager with Community Bank N.A. He is a member of the board of directors for the Freeland YMCA, Northeast Counseling Services, White Haven Chamber of Commerce and Shots for Tots Foundation. He has a bachelor's in political science.

Lethan Candlish '07 has written a book, "Who Am I Now?: Using Storytelling to Accept and Appreciate Self-Identity After Traumatic Brain Injury." Candlish suffered a traumatic brain injury in a 1999 automobile accident.

00s

Joseph Kleiner '07/'08M was named regional vice president for the Eastern United States and Eastern Canada by JLG Industries, Inc., a leading global manufacturer of mobile elevating work platforms and telehandlers. In his new role, Kleiner's primary focus will lead JLG's sales and service growth within the region. Before taking on this new role, Kleiner was a district sales manager in the Western Region and in the Midwest Region. Kleiner has a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA from BU.

Lamar Oglesby '07 was promoted to executive director of research financial services at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Oglesby began his employee at Rutgers in March 2018.

10s

Dominic Picerno '10, a Pennsylvania state trooper, received the Top Gun Award for his "ongoing commitment to highway safety in the removal of impaired drivers from the roadway." Picerno, who is stationed at the Stonington barracks, has recorded 70 DUI arrests in the past year. This is the third time he has won the award.

Karly Sarvis Disalvo '11 was named the health services administrator at Landis Homes in Lititz. She is responsible for the coordination and delivery of programs and services for residents in the health care and personal care households. She previously worked as associate executive director at Watermark Retirement Communities of Philadelphia. She also provides direction for assessment coordinators, medical records, life enrichment, and therapeutic services. She is licensed for personal care administration and as a nursing home administrator. Disalvo received her undergraduate social work degree from BU and her Master of Social Work from Temple University.

Nicolette Grasley-Boy '11 finished her doctorate in special education at the University of Florida and is a postdoctoral researcher at the Juniper Gardens Children's Project in Kansas City, Kansas, part of the University of Kansas.

Nicholas DeLuca '12 earned a Master of Arts in Education in Educational Administration degree from Chadron State College in December 2020. He is working as a business teacher at Brick Township Memorial High School in Brick, N.J., where he advises the Rotary Interact Club and BMHS High School Yearbook Club.

Kathryn Howe Berger '13 was named the Exemplary Professional Practice Nurse of the Year and the Nurse Excellence Recipient for Nurses' Week 2021 by the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Erik Pedersen '13 founded an independent publishing house and print shop called Drum Machine Editions in 2018, which has since been featured at a handful of international art book fairs in the U.S., Canada, U.K., Norway, and the Printed Matter Virtual Art Book Fair held in February. Having earned bachelor's degrees in both studio art and creative writing at BU, Pedersen is working as a graphic designer at Moog Music in Asheville, N.C.



Alexandra (Alex) Booth '14 has been named a pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) manager at Oklahoma Children's Hospital. In December of 2020, she was nominated by the chief nursing officer of the hospital to apply for the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL) Nurse Manager Fellowship. In February 2021, Booth was recognized with the Legacy Maker Award for her leadership and dedication to the patients and staff at the hospital.

Derrick Backer '14 was named Sunbury city administrator. Backer formerly worked as a deputy political director in Harrisburg and executive director of Sunbury's Revitalization, Inc.

Jackie Eddy '14 was named director of communications for the Patriot League. Previously, Eddy worked for the Big South Conference; Newberry (S.C.) College, and Greensboro (N.C.) College. Eddy worked in the BU sports information office as a student assistant and intern.

Megan Muthler Young '15 was named assistant retail advertising sales manager for the Lock Haven Express. She earned a bachelor's degree in marketing at BU.

Shelby Coleman '16 has been awarded a Society of Toxicology Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section Graduate Student Excellence Award. A chemistry with biochemistry option major at BU, Coleman is a Ph.D. candidate in the environmental chemistry program at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Her research focuses on the identification and characterization of air pollutants in the Syracuse, N.Y., area.

John 'Jack' Fritz '16 was named the show producer for the Jon Marks and Ike Reese Show at 94 WIP radio in Philadelphia.

Gabriella Loielo '16 was promoted to assistant program director of WFRE-FM in Frederick, Md., while continuing to be the on-air midday host at the station. Loielo began her radio career as an intern for 98.5 WKRZ in Wilkes-Barre. Following a brief stint in middays with WFRB in Cumberland, Md., she joined WFRE as midday host in August of 2017.

Steven Beattie '18M has been named Lewisburg Borough's community development and grant manager. Beattie was previously employed with engineering design groups, including HRG and Larson Design Group, where he developed expertise in municipal projects. Beattie holds a license in landscape architecture, a high degree of certification in emergency management, and has long served as Lewisburg's emergency management coordinator.

Elizabeth Shampnora '18 is a police officer in the Selinsgrove Borough Police Department.

Marriages

Cole Kresch '16 and
Kassy (Beckage) Kresch, Aug. 20, 2020

Tyler Morgan '16 and
Megan (Johnson) Morgan, Sept. 26, 2020

Stephanie (Thompson Ellison) Litz '98
and Gary Litz, Jan. 2, 2020

Stephanie (Weicker) Caldwell '15 and
Frederick Caldwell IV '15, Sept. 25, 2020

Juliana (Brown) Rhoades '17 and
Ryan Rhoades '16, Sept. 26, 2020

Olivia (Olver) O'Brien '17 and
Brendan O'Brien, Oct. 17, 2020

Births

Nicolette Grasley-Boy '11 and
Jacob Boy '11, a daughter,
Jeanne Boy, on March 17, 2019

Jennifer (Diehl) Linder '11 and
Eric Linder '10, a daughter,
Madison Louise, on Nov. 19, 2020

Stephanie (O'Leary) Searles '13
and Anthony Searles '12, a son,
Andrew, on Feb. 10, 2021

Jason Oldenbuttel '16 and
Leslie Hess, a son,
John, on Feb. 25, 2021

Ashley (Kilmer) Funk '09 and
Brandon Funk, a daughter,
Madelyn, on March 6, 2021

Makayla (Waltman) Snyder '17 and
Keegan Snyder, a son, Malcolm,
on March 12, 2021

Montana (Brown) Jandrasitz '06 and
Colin Jandrasitz, a son, Kallum,
on March 28, 2021

Kyle Connaghan '16 and
Emily Rae Connaghan, a daughter,
Molly, on April 7, 2021

Chloe (Stine) Harris '16, and
Matthew Harris '16, a son,
Owen, on April 21, 2021

Bryan Snyder '14 and
Tamara Snyder Bradley, a son,
Cameron on May 11, 2021

Obituaries

Gertrude Makowski Grabowski, '43

Mildred Dzuris, '45

Donald Houck, '49

Leon Messner, '49

Martha Stiner Bartleson, '53

Claude Renninger, '53

Joan Kelshaw Palermo, '54

Jacqueline McCauley, '55

Victor Michael, '57

Eunice Miller Boden, '58

Mary Lontz, '58

Charles Loughery, '58

Joseph Malt, '58

John Saraka, '58

Gary Fisher, '59

Edgar Morgan, '59

Rolland Quick, '59

Joan Schuyler Fischer, '60

John Laubach, '60

Neil Beisher, '61

Lloyd Livingston, '62

Edward Lockman, '62

Leonard Ludinsky, '62

Melvin Montanye, '62

Ronald Startzel, '62

Richard Wendel, '62

John Owens, '64

Marie Smolen Solensky, '64

Gary Cox, '65

Donna Bogard Gulluni, '65

Edward Taylor, '65

Phyllis Artz, '66

Andrew Kosvitch, '66

Thomas Evans, '66

Raymond Conrad, '67

Jay Keller, '67

Terry Sharrow, '67

Anthony Tezik, '67

Jimmy Rupert, '68

Elwood Stetler, '68

James Steber, '69

Kerry Hoffman, '70

Naomi Young Molnar, '70

Robert Hochlander, '71

Todd Baney, '72

David Billet, '72

Jack Davenport, '72

Gary June, '72

John Michaels, '72

Ronald Meleski, '73

Charles Mitke, '73

Deborah Orbik Moore, '73

Thomas Samide, '74

Julie Linda Griffin Sejal, '74

Susanne Radice, '75

Barbara Jean Bean Samide, '75

David Scull Conrad, '76

John Comarnisky, '76

Jessica Greco Gaston, '76

Kathleen Ux Wertz, '78

Susan Bower St. Clair, '80

David Corley, '80

Phoebe Inch, '80

Randall Lutz, '80

Stacy Morane, '82

Annette Shalongo, '83

Terry Miller, '87

Donald Motel, '87

Mary Fisher Baugher, '89

Paula Headen, '90

Joann Barletta Reed, '90

Keith Bailey, '94

Jeanne Marie Dunkle, '93

Susan Mitchell Blazer, '96

Valerie Mills Moyer, '97

Joanne Pasterski, '97

Mark Reich, '97

Martha Phillips Ermisch Stroble, '97

Michael Cioffi, '01

Cameron Hibshman, '02

Kimberly Schappell, '08

Mark Sarisky, '17

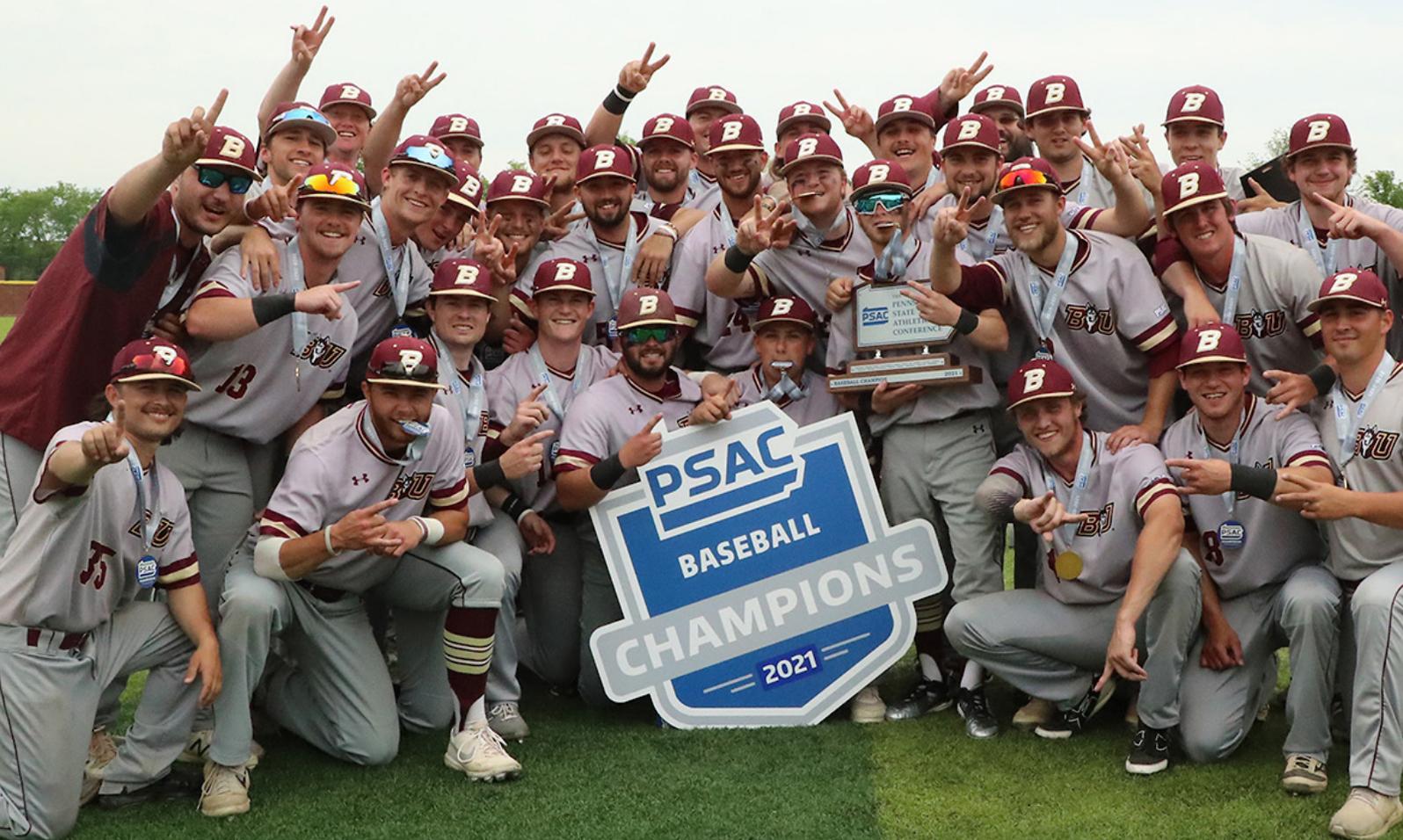
Uriah Derstine, '18

Morgan Purcell, '19

Send information to: magazine@bloomu.edu

Bloomsburg: The University Magazine

Arts and Administration Building | 400 E. Second Street | Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1301



Baseball Makes Run To Second Straight Conference Title

By Dave Leisering



Winning a post-season baseball game on the road is never easy, no matter the level of the game. The BU baseball team won five road games on its way to its second straight PSAC title, with a new hero seemingly stepping up each day to lead the team.

The Huskies were underdogs going into the COVID-19 altered tournament, battling through multiple injuries throughout the year. But the determination of the veteran-laden Huskies – and the addition of significant contributions from younger players – made all the difference.

The Huskies went 18-14 during the regular season and entered the tournament as the third seed from the Eastern Division. BU's reward was a single-elimination quarterfinal game at second-seeded West Chester. But, behind the right arm of redshirt sophomore Jared Marshman, who took

a shutout into the ninth, the Huskies earned a 5-2 win and were the lone road team to advance.

The momentum carried into the semifinal round as BU upset top-seeded Millersville, two games to one, in a best-of-three series to advance to the finals. The Huskies won game one, 7-6 in 10 innings, as graduate student Cole Swiger '20 brought home the eventual game-winning run in the top of the 10th inning with an RBI single. After the Marauders evened the series, the Huskies turned to freshman Michael Standen who delivered, limiting Millersville to four hits while striking out 10 in a complete-game shutout. Senior Gianni Sinatore provided the offense with a career-high five RBI in the Huskies' 13-0 victory.

In the PSAC finals, Bloomsburg faced Seton Hill, ranked sixth in the country, with just four losses and a 22-0 home record. After a 7-5 loss in game one, the

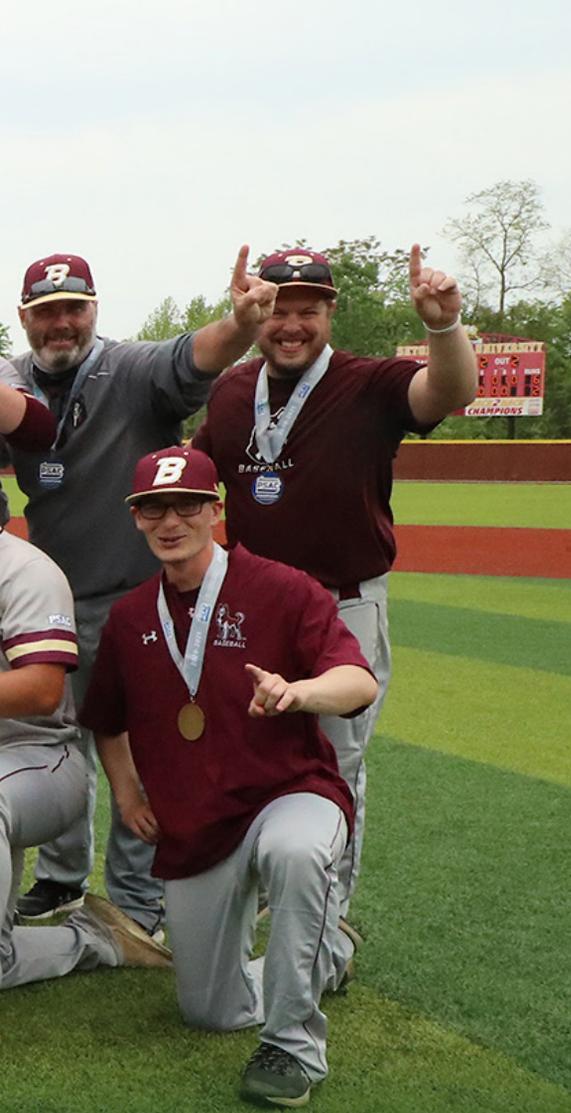


Photo: Dave Leisering

Huskies again turned to Standen, who threw a complete-game, 11 strikeout gem as BU won 9-2. Anthony Viggiano drove in a career-high six runs in the game two win and hit his first career grand slam.

Marshman provided the tournament clincher with BU's second consecutive complete-game performance on the mound. The right-hander allowed two runs on five hits with a career-high nine strikeouts in the 6-2 game-three win. Bloomsburg hit five home runs in game three, including two from redshirt junior Ben Newbert.

Standen went on to be named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Bloomsburg won four of its five games when facing elimination during the tournament and claimed its fifth championship crown in the program's history.



Men's Swimming Wins First Conference Title

It was 62 years in the making, but the men's swimming team can now be called Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) champions.

Behind a historic performance from sophomore Andy Thomas, the Huskies captured their first conference crown in the two-day championship meet. Bloomsburg finished with 945 team points – nearly 400 points ahead of second-place Shippensburg.

Of the 19 events held over the two days, BU had the winning time in 10 races, which included five victories in five relay events – also the first time in program history that had been accomplished.

Thomas joined former Huskies' great Sam Feiser '18 to win seven titles in seven events at the conference championship. The sophomore, who also joined Feiser as the only swimmers in program history to be named PSAC Athlete of the Year, won four individual titles – the 50-yard freestyle, the 100-yard freestyle, the 200-yard freestyle, and the 100-yard breaststroke – and was a part of three relay-winning foursomes – the 200-yard medley relay, the 800-yard freestyle relay, and the 400-yard freestyle relay. He broke two meet records and one conference record in the process.

The Huskies had nine swimmers earn a total of 33 All-Conference accolades. The top three finishers in each event at the conference championship are recognized as All-PSAC performers.

Before this year, head coach Stu Marvin '78 had guided the Huskies to seven second-place finishes in eight years. The program's first-ever conference title comes in Marvin's 13th season as the head coach of the Huskies.





Softball Raises \$3,700 for Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation



The softball team joined forces with the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's Vs. Cancer program to fight childhood cancer – the deadliest disease affecting children in the United States.

Thanks to the generous support of athletic corporate partner PSECU, as well as numerous friends, family, alums, and fans, the Huskies raised \$3,707 this season, with the money donated going to Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del. Among teams across the country participating in this year's campaign, the Huskies' softball program had the third-highest total of money raised to fight pediatric cancer.

The foundation's Vs. Cancer program helps fund child life programs in local hospitals, provides financial assistance for families experiencing a pediatric brain tumor diagnosis, and supports research to cure pediatric brain tumors.



Wrestling Enjoys Academic Success

Redshirt sophomore Josh Mason of the wrestling team was named a Division I Scholar All-American as announced by the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA). A total of 191 individuals were recognized.

As a team, the Huskies finished eighth in the country with a team GPA of 3.4524 and were an NWCA Top 30 Scholar All-American team.

On the mat, Mason took seventh at the 2021 Mid-American Conference (MAC) Championships in the 141-pound bracket. It was Mason's second consecutive top-eight finish at the conference tournament as he placed sixth at the 2020 MAC Championships.

In the classroom, Mason boasts a 3.86 grade point average while majoring in finance. He was one of eight BU grapplers named to the MAC All-Academic team, which aided the team GPA accolade. Joining Mason on the squad were graduate student Willy Girard, senior Jarrett Walters, junior Alex Carida, redshirt sophomore Vincenzo Miceli, sophomore Christian Gannone, and redshirt freshmen Bronson Garber and Bruno Stolfi.

Mason's selection as an NWCA Division I Scholar All-American makes it four straight years that BU has had at least one representative on the list.

celebrating

ART

at Bloomsburg

By Robert Dunkelberger



While the new Arts and Administration building brings visual arts programs to the very forefront of the campus, throughout BU's history notable art professors have left their mark both on campus and the larger art world.

Art has been taught at Bloomsburg since Carver Hall opened in 1867. For those first 50 years a single faculty member taught drawing and painting. In 1921 two instructors were hired for the first time, one of them town native George Keller.

A colorful character, Keller eventually become most prominently known for his hobby of wild animal training. But for nearly three decades he was the face of art at Bloomsburg. His primary assignment was to train students to teach art, with a focus on practical art that was both beautiful and served a purpose.

Keller also raised Huskies and provided BU's first Husky mascot. He taught full-time until the mid-1940s, when he began taking time off to tour the country with his animal act. He resigned in 1952 and was named the first art faculty emeritus.

^ Walter Simon's 1947 painting of his home in Greenwich Village, now in the collection of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts



1



2



3

1. A formal portrait of Walter Simon.

2. Department chair Percival R. Roberts with a student in 1981.

3. The art studio in Old Science Hall in 1921.

Growing enrollment into the 1960s at then Bloomsburg State College led to an expansion in art faculty and courses. After nearly 40 years with two faculty, the number grew to four and by 1965, the number of courses had greatly expanded. Drawing and painting were reintroduced, while sculpture and later ceramics were added in 1967.

During this time, three faculty members were hired who greatly contributed to the growth of the program and the expansion of art at the college. The first new hire was painter Ken Wilson, who arrived in 1963. He encouraged and challenged his students and, over time would display his work at numerous exhibitions.

Known for his landscape watercolors, over summers in the 1970s Wilson took groups to Moosehead Lake, Maine, where they were inspired by the beauty of the nature around them. He taught for 33 years, the last seven as chair of the department, before retiring in 1996.

A poet as well as an artist, Percival R. Roberts III, came to BU in 1968 and served as department chair during his entire 15-year tenure. As fellow art faculty member Robert Koslosky commented, “Dr. Roberts was the most outstanding art educator I’ve met in my own 25 years in education. He took an art department that at one time was rather minimal and made it into one of the prestige departments on campus.”

Roberts’ artistic talents were wide-ranging. In addition to being a practicing artist, an author of numerous articles on aesthetics and art education, he was also an accomplished poet. He published seven books of poetry, and before coming to Bloomsburg, served as the ninth poet laureate for the state of Delaware.

While Roberts passed away in 1984 at 48, his legacy lives

on through a sculpture garden, located primarily in the Academic Quad in front of Andruss Library and dedicated in his memory in 1989.

The art department could not have continued to expand if not for the talented faculty members attracted to Bloomsburg, one of whom, Walter Augustus Simon, was hired in 1971. An outstanding artist, painter, and art history teacher, he made a great impact on the college in just the brief time he was here.

Simon was, as Percival Roberts stated in an article in the December 1983 *Alumni Quarterly*, “a very special kind of person: intelligent, warm, outgoing, compassionate, and a sensitive artist and scholar.” An African American, he was an important role model for minority students and did all he could to integrate them into many aspects of college life. In addition to teaching, he was the first director of the Educational Opportunity Program, now the Department of Academic Enrichment, established to help provide students of all backgrounds with additional academic support.

Simon retired in 1977, and in 1983, four years after his death, the Council of Trustees honored the outstanding artist and educator by naming the art department’s ceramics and sculpture studio (located behind Columbia Residence Hall) as Simon Hall.

These faculty members laid a rich foundation for the art program, and with windowed studios and space for exhibitions on the ground floor, the newest facility on campus has made it easier than ever to celebrate art at Bloomsburg.

Today, the Department of Art and Art History boasts faculty specialists in art history, drawing, fabric design, graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking, and sculpture.



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Photo: Marty Coyne

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