

BloomSBurg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

BloomSBurgUniversity of Pennsylvania

HEY, YOU'RE THAT GUY!

He's in films, TV and on Broadway.
Meet actor **JIMMI SIMPSON '98**.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Faithful Arms of Volunteers

IF YOU WERE to define the qualities of a vibrant community, what traits would you choose? Topping my list, in no particular order, would be a thriving business environment, outstanding public schools, low crime rate and compassionate people with both a strong work ethic and a devotion to volunteer service. The Town of Bloomsburg is such a community and contributing to its vibrancy are Bloomsburg University's students, faculty and staff.

Volunteerism is integral to the lives of BU Huskies. We encourage our students to take advantage of the many opportunities coordinated through the SOLVE volunteer office where they can put their energy, dedication and leadership abilities to good use. In honor of our efforts, BU was recognized again last spring with inclusion in The President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Of

“In 2010, our students, faculty and staff contributed more than 80,550 hours of community service.”

particular note were three large-scale projects to benefit the community: two to fight hunger and another to benefit local service agencies.

In 2010, our students, faculty and staff contributed more than 80,550 hours of community service, which the organization Independent Sector valued at \$20.51 per hour or more than \$1.65 million for the year. That impressive amount nearly matches the Bloomsburg University Foundation's largest donation to date — \$1.67 million from Terry '76 and JoAnn '77 Zeigler to establish the Zeigler Institute for Professional Development.

The total number of volunteer hours in 2011 will surely surpass previous tallies. When Tropical Storm Lee menaced our region with record flooding in September, hundreds of students, faculty and staff responded to the community's needs. No job was too large as our student athletes, Greeks and others cleared mud from homes' basements and first floors, removed water-logged floors and walls, worked at the Emergency Management Agency's phone bank and the local American Red Cross office, cared for evacuees' pets at Annie's Place, the animal shelter on the Upper Campus, and so much more. When classes resumed after

the university's 10-day closure, volunteer efforts continued. I am so proud of the members of our campus community represented by those you will meet beginning on page 16.

French author Everett Mamor said, “The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers.” It is clear our faculty, staff and students have the Town of Bloomsburg in a tight embrace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Soltz', written in a cursive style.

DAVID L. SOLTZ
President, Bloomsburg University



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Bloomsborg: The University Magazine is published three times a year for alumni, current students' families and friends of the university. Husky Notes and other alumni information appear at the BU alumni global network site, www.bloomu.com. Contact Alumni Affairs by phone, 570-389-4058; fax, 570-389-4060; or email, alum@bloomu.edu.

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HUSKY NOTES
SPORTS UPDATES
ALUMNI INFO, MORE

COVER PHOTO BY SKIP BOLEN



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WINTER 2012 1

unleash your inner husky



A Husky is Ready to Serve

When a record-breaking flood swept through the Town of Bloomsburg, spreading muddy water through hundreds of homes, Bloomsburg University students were prepared to help.

A day after the water receded, students were in the community, bailing mud out of basements, hauling waterlogged refuse to the roadside and taking down walls destroyed by flood water. •

around THE quad

What's in a Name?

JOHN WAGGONER EXAMINES PERCEPTION
BASED ON FIRST NAMES

Julia Child was a genius in the kitchen, but how did she do in school? According to research by John Waggoner, professor of psychology, teachers today would expect her to do pretty well. Waggoner recently did a study examining future teachers' expectations of students based on their first name.

Waggoner became interested in this subject while reading *Freakonomics* by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen



J. Dubner. In one chapter, the authors looked at birth certificates for children born in California between 1980 and 2000. Using information collected about mothers at the time of birth, the authors found correlations between income and education levels and name choice.

Although the findings fascinated him, Waggoner says the most important aspect is how the study was conducted. "They had extensive data where others only had assumptions," he says.

Amy Covill, associate professor of psychology, has a long-standing interest in the relationship between teachers' expectations and students' success and provided her expertise in educational psychology to Waggoner's research. "The idea that something as simple as a student's first name could signal social class, and thereby influence teachers' perceptions, was an interesting possibility," Covill says.

In his study, Waggoner asked undergraduates to predict how well children would perform based on their first names. He picked names that are "equally popular" – for example, Katherine is a common choice for mothers with higher levels of education and incomes, and Amber is similarly popular among



mothers with less education and lower incomes.

Using names from the *Freakonomics* study, Waggoner's findings mirrored those of Levitt and Dubner: children with names associated with higher education and socioeconomic levels are expected to be successful in school, but children whose names are associated with lower education and socioeconomic status aren't expected to do as well.

"Names don't hold any magic power, but they could indirectly affect you due to people's perceptions."

Although the research is something to consider, Waggoner reminds us that names aren't the only deciding factors in our futures. His study only demonstrates that there is a relationship between name choices and socioeconomic and education levels; it does not cause a child to perform poorly in school.

"Names don't hold any magic power," he says, "but they could indirectly affect you due to people's perceptions."



Packing boxes of books are, left to right, Jesse Stradnick and Katie Oswald, BU graduate assistants, and Philip Tucker, associate professor of special education.

Bringing Books to Children

PROFESSOR AND ALUMNI WORK TOGETHER

PHILIP TUCKER, associate professor of special education, has been working with BU alumni to bring books to children at local schools. Each year, major book publishers distribute copies of new books to kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms through the International Reading Association (IRA). The young students vote on the books, and the winners are named the children's choices for the year.

As coordinator for Region I of the Children's Choices Initiative, Tucker, along with alumni, helped distribute copies of about 700 new children's titles – around 4,000 individual books. After the project, schools may keep the new books, giving children access to the literature for years to come.

Alumni participating in this effort are Jane Foderaro '11, reading specialist at Freeland Elementary School; Hannah Irion '10, elementary school teacher/reading specialist at Halifax Elementary School; Wendy Larock Yurkanin '87, reading specialist at Heights Terrace Elementary School; Erin Morath '11, reading specialist at Kelly Elementary and Linntown Intermediate Schools; and Kevin Schadder '05, instructional support teacher at McAdoo-Kelayres Elementary School. ●

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

Pichini Visits BU

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ENCOURAGES INTERACTION

GUIDO PICHINI, chair of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Board of Governors,



Pichini

encouraged students to become advocates for the commonwealth's public universities during his recent visit BU.

The first PASSHE graduate to become chair of the board, Pichini said

he believes a college education should provide the skills students need to interact with others and praised BU students' involvement with the community during flood recovery efforts.

PASSHE's Board of Governors is responsible for setting education, fiscal and personnel policies and selecting university presidents. This was Pichini's first visit to BU in his new position. ●

Going with the Flow

STUDENTS STUDY WATER SYSTEMS

CYNTHIA VENN, associate professor of geography and geosciences, and Chris Hallen, professor of chemistry, were awarded a \$27,500 grant to support research on the waters of the Susquehanna River watershed. The grant supports the projects of four summer interns, providing them with experience both in the field and in the lab. The interns and their projects are:

Caitlin Heller, Bloomsburg, biology major, comparing water chemistries across the Susquehanna River at Danville, Milton, Shamokin Dam and Watsonstown.

Eliza Reed, Shamokin, allied health major, studying the chemistry of the Susquehanna River downstream of the confluence of the West and North branches.

Derek Weicht, Hanover, environmental science major, studying the geochemistry of Oneida number 3 mine drainage and its effect on Tomhicken Creek.

Jackie Yamrich, Chalfont, environmental science major, studying the geochemistry of streams in the watershed of the West Branch of Little Fishing Creek. ●



Harry 'Neil' Strine IV '93, left, and his father, Harry Strine III

Debating: A Family Affair

PROFESSOR FOLLOWS HIS FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS

HARRY "NEIL" STRINE IV '93, political science professor at BU, not only enjoys debates but has the art of argument running through his veins. His father, Harry Strine III, professor emeritus, was director for the speech and debate team during his time at BU. Although he retired in 2004, he continued to direct the team the following year.

When no one stepped forward to become the new director, Neil Strine was asked if he would take the position since he and his wife, Danielle Harris Strine '96, participated on the forensics team while students at BU. He has led the team since 2005.

With a Strine as director of forensics for more than 40 years, Neil Strine hopes to continue his father's legacy, both as an educator and as a competitor. ●

Shiny Young Stars

BU RECEIVES GRANT FOR SUMMER CAMPS

BU'S COLLEGE OF Science and Technology and the Bloomsburg University Foundation received a \$15,000 grant from the Alcoa Foundation to support this summer's math and science camps for middle and high school students. The Alcoa Foundation is dedicated to educating children about the environment and sustainability.

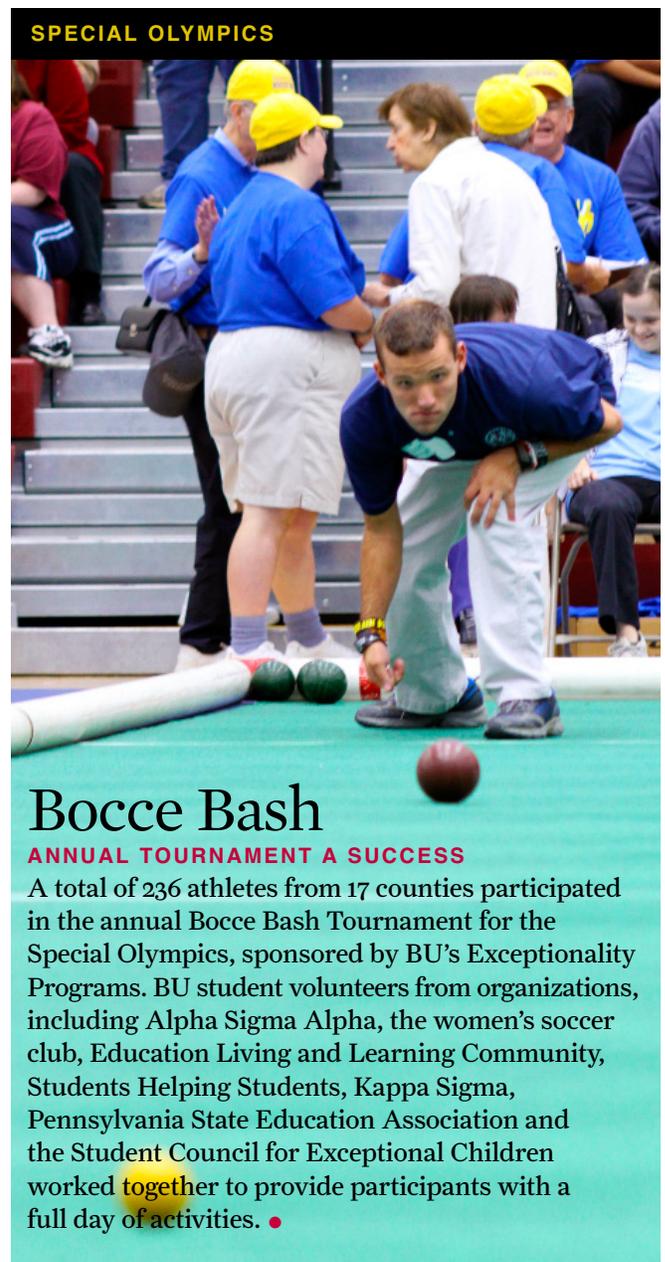
John Polhill, assistant dean of the College of Science and Technology, and John Karas, assistant director of development for the BU Foundation, worked together with local Alcoa representatives at Kawneer Co. to write the grant.

Past themes for summer camp sessions have been chemical forensics, computer programming, renewable energy and secret codes. This summer, a new inflatable planetarium will help campers experience the solar system. ●

Not Child's Play

TOYS FOR TOTS HELPS SMALLEST FLOOD VICTIMS

About 50 local children affected by the September 2011 flood received new playthings at the Toys for Tots toy give-away hosted by BU volunteers, assisted by students from Mansfield University. The toy distribution was inspired by a Bloomsburg youngster who, during flood relief efforts, told a BU volunteer he'd lost his toy truck in the flood and asked for help. In addition to donations from Toys for Tots, new and gently used toys and stuffed animals were provided by town residents and high school athletes competing in the NEPA Invitational hosted by BU's cross country team. ●



SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Bocce Bash

ANNUAL TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

A total of 236 athletes from 17 counties participated in the annual Bocce Bash Tournament for the Special Olympics, sponsored by BU's Exceptionality Programs. BU student volunteers from organizations, including Alpha Sigma Alpha, the women's soccer club, Education Living and Learning Community, Students Helping Students, Kappa Sigma, Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Student Council for Exceptional Children worked together to provide participants with a full day of activities. ●



Going Underground

STUDENTS CLEAN AND EXPLORE CAVES

STUDENTS FROM the Bloomsburg University Geoscience Society (BUGS) assisted two chapters of the National Speleological Society — the York and Franklin County Grottos — in removing graffiti from caves in the Shippensburg area. Using drills and brushes, workers cleaned the walls and then covered the rock with mud. The group also explored the cave to learn more about speleology, the study of caves and other rocky features. Taking part in the project were students Philip Anzelmo, Denville, N.J., shown in the accompanying photo, along with Kendi Waltemyer, Red Lion; Ario D'Amato, Conyngham; John Lenches, Millville; Matthew Pisanchyn, Clarks Summit; and Katrina Taylor, Tannersville. ●

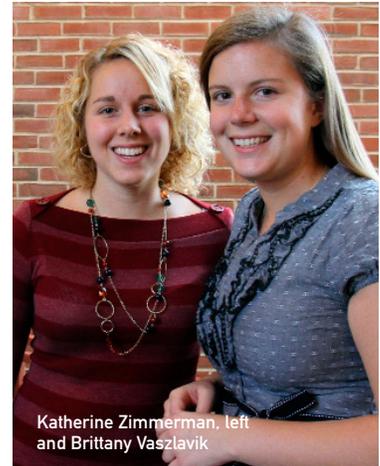
Transitioning to College

STUDENT WINS FOR RESEARCH

BU EDUCATION MAJOR Brittany Vaszlavik won a prestigious award at the National Collegiate Honors Council's recent conference in Phoenix for her poster, "Social Support and the College Freshman Experience."

"It has been my goal to identify the groups that have a hard time adjusting to college life and are at most risk for feelings of loneliness, stress and isolation," says Vaszlavik, a senior from Vernon, N.J. "It is my hope by identifying these groups those feelings can be ameliorated."

Also presenting research at the conference was Katherine



Katherine Zimmerman, left
and Brittany Vaszlavik

Zimmerman, a senior anthropology and English major from Mechanicsburg. Zimmerman discussed a training module she developed for camp counselors, *Camp Counseling 101: A Guide to Understanding and Managing Your Camper's Behavior*. The training module will be distributed free of charge to summer camps across the nation, supported by a Jessica S. and Stephen R. Kozloff Undergraduate Research Scholarship. ●

Coming in First

PUBLICATIONS ARE WINNERS

TWO PUBLICATIONS designed by Eric Foster in the Marketing and Communications Office received MarCom gold awards as first-place winners. The publications are the *First and Goal* case statement for the football fundraising campaign and the mailer for the 2011-2012 Celebrity Artist Series. BU's publications were among 18 percent of more than 6,000 entries that received gold awards. ●



Giving students a strong start

Sophomore Lauren Erdman, an early childhood education major, balances academics, part-time work and a long list of volunteer activities.

The financial boost of the Presidential Leadership Scholarship supported through the **Henry Carver Fund** allows her do to more.

The scholarship's service requirements are a natural fit for Lauren. She volunteers at a local ASPCA and helped establish a history museum in downtown Bloomsburg.

She also volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, helping to give a strong start to 9-year-old Tara.

You can help a Bloomsburg University student get a strong start through the Henry Carver Fund. Learn how at: www.bloomufdn.org/hc/why



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400 East Second Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
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Gridiron Hero

BU JUNIOR HELPS SAVE MOTHER, DAUGHTER

WHEN HE BECAME a firefighter at age 16, Bloomsburg University junior Greg Waters followed in the footsteps of his father, currently captain of Churchville's Station 83, and his grandfather, a longtime firefighter. That legacy and several hundred hours of training kicked in nearly two years ago when he and others from his fire company helped save a mother and her 4-year-old daughter from their burning home.

On May 25, 2010, Waters recalls, he was hanging out at the station in Richboro with other firefighters when the call came in about a fire with possible entrapment in



the neighboring Bucks County community of Upper Southampton. When Waters' truck, Tower 3, arrived on the scene, the squad was told three people were trapped on the second floor and they would have to ventilate the windows. "By ventilating, we completely smash the window and get the area open so it is easy to get someone in or out and clear the house of heat and smoke," he says.

"My heart was racing, but we are trained to get things done quickly, but properly," the backup offensive line-man says. "We are always reminded to do things the right way, because you can't help anyone else if you can't take care of yourself."

The actions of Waters and the others in his squad saved the woman and her daughter, although another daughter, an infant, did not survive. "(The experience) showed me how life can change in an instant," says Waters.

Waters says his training as a firefighter has come into play as a football player for the Huskies. "Training to do things the right way serves me well in football," says the criminal justice major. "In both areas if you train the correct way, you'll be successful more often than not."

Following the fire, the Lower Bucks County chapter of the American Red Cross honored Waters and members of Rescue 73, Tower 3 and Engine 2 with the Real Heroes 2011 Award for their heroic actions. The companies were also honored by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for their work in the rescue effort. ●

"We are always reminded to do things the right way, because you can't help anyone else if you can't take care of yourself."

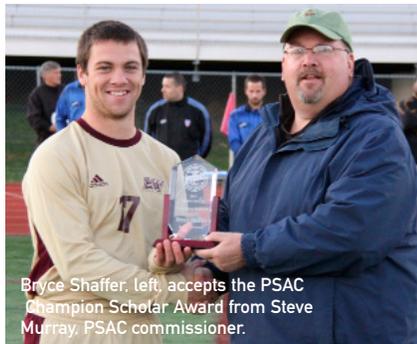


Firefighting is a tradition in Greg Waters' family.

Shaffer Honored

BRYCE SHAFFER, a junior from Gettysburg, was named to the first team of the 2011 Capital One Academic All-America for NCAA Division II Men's Soccer, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Earlier in the post-season, Shaffer was selected for the Daktronics All-Atlantic Region second team. One



Bryce Shaffer, left, accepts the PSAC Champion Scholar Award from Steve Murray, PSAC commissioner.

of just 22 soccer players to be chosen for the all-region team, he led the Huskies to a Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Championship appearance, their third in school

history. He also was honored by a second team All-PSAC selection and given the PSAC Champion Scholar Award.

Shaffer led the 2011 Huskies with 17 points on eight goals and one assist, with two of his goals coming as game winners. His biggest games came against the region's top teams in West Virginia Wesleyan, Lock Haven and Gannon. Shaffer netted two goals in each of the games and was credited with one assist against Lock Haven for a total of 13 points. A mid-season injury limited Shaffer's playing time. ●

Field Hockey All-Americans

THREE BU FIELD hockey players were named to the 2011 National Field Hockey Coaches Association/Longstreth All-American team.



Riley

Amanda Riley of Tannersville earned her third, first-team All-American honor in 2011. The senior led the Huskies in goals scored with 14 and in assists with 12 for a total of 40 points.



Hollenbach

Meghan Hollenbach, a junior from Blandon, earned the first, first-team All-American honor in her career. The goalkeeper led all of Division II this fall in goals against average and was second in saves percentage with a mark of .853.



Aulenbach

Amber Aulenbach's second team All-American honor is the first All-American selection in her career. The junior midfielder from Fleetwood was one of Bloomsburg's top threats finishing with seven goals and six assists for the year.

Bloomsburg finished with a 19-1 record, won the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA Division II semi-finals. ●



PHOTO: TOM MCGUIRE

30th Class Inducted

Alumni inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame last fall are shown with BU President David Soltz, center back. Inductees are, left to right: seated, Denise Miller Warner '99, field hockey and softball; Tracy Price Splain '92, swimming; and Lori Shelly '91, softball and field hockey; and back, Rich Kozicki '76, swimming; Soltz; and Mike Petersen '92, tennis.

New Face of Athletics

MIKE MCFARLAND'S FIRST fall as BU's athletic director seemed under attack from Mother Nature — an earthquake, a hurricane, flooding caused by Tropical



McFarland

Storm Lee and a freak October snowstorm. A half dozen athletic events, mostly soccer, had to be rescheduled.

However, the forces of nature didn't dim McFarland's enthusiasm. "It is truly an honor to work with such outstanding faculty, staff and students," he says. "While the

first few months on the job have presented numerous challenges, I am excited about building on the history and excellent tradition of Husky athletics."

McFarland came to Bloomsburg in August 2011 after six years as Bucknell University's associate athletic director for facilities and event operations and five years as the Patriot League's associate executive director.

At Bucknell, McFarland served as the day-to-day supervisor of athletic facilities and coordinator of all facility scheduling. He monitored marketing and promotional activities for all 27 Bison varsity sports and handled scheduling, maintenance, preparation and event management issues for all activities.

Earlier in his career, McFarland was the communications director and, later, the assistant executive director of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. A 1991 graduate of Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo., he earned a master's degree from Western Illinois University in 1994.

McFarland replaces Mary Gardner, who retired in June 2011 after 23 years as BU's athletic director. ●



HEY





You're *That* Guy!

For comedians, it's Lyle the Intern from *Late Night with David Letterman*. For college students, it's Liam McPoyle from *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*. For older TV viewers, it's Lloyd Lowery from *Breakout Kings*.

And for movie buffs, it could be Armstrong in *Date Night*, Crash in *Herbie: Fully Loaded* or any character **JIMMI SIMPSON '98** has portrayed in films over the past decade.

Passersby recognize the face, but seldom call out his name ... and that's OK with Simpson.

"They come up to me and say, 'Hey, you're *that* guy ...' " Simpson says. "Then they ask what I was in."

— *by* BONNIE MARTIN —

IT'S NO WONDER PEOPLE RECOGNIZE SIMPSON. His impressive list of credits ranges from summer stock at Williamstown Theatre Festival to Broadway and TV to films. When he started out, inspecting incoming vehicles at the dock of Newark, N.J., during the day and pursuing acting at night, he gave himself 10 years to make it. He realized he'd beaten his own deadline half a dozen years ago when income from his acting roles paid all of his bills. "What a great year, to be fortunate enough to get by on acting, this fanciful career," he says.



PHOTOS: ERIC FOSTER

CALL OF THE STAGE

Originally a business major, Simpson admits he wasn't a motivated student in high school or his early college years. He signed up for an Introduction to Theatre class at the end of his sophomore year, thinking it would be easy: a mass lecture class he could skip whenever he pleased. And that's what he did until theatre arts faculty member Karen Anselm, who he calls "one of the greatest teachers in the world," told him he could pass the course

only if he worked hard on the final.

"The final was the first time I put my heart and soul into it," he recalls. And he loved it. "I spent my junior and senior years as a theatre major.

"I worked hard the last couple years of college," he says. Outside of class, he appeared in BU Players productions, including his "sick role" of John Wilkes Booth in *Assassins*, directed by the late Michael Collins, his mentor and friend.

Simpson's previous acting experience was one role in a community

theatre production, but he'd grown up in a household with an appreciation of the arts. His parents encouraged him and his two older brothers to do "whatever makes you happy," he says. They supported his acting aspirations, including the move from his home state of New Jersey to New York, where he could concentrate on theatrical roles.

"When I got to New York, I had no expectations," Simpson recalls. "I had access to Lower Eastside productions which I would do for



Jimmi Simpson, right, pauses on the red carpet with his wife, actress Melanie Lynskey.

WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN ACTOR JIMMI SIMPSON '98? PERHAPS...

BROADWAY

The Farnsworth Invention

FILM

Date Night

Good Intentions

Taking Chances

The Invention of Lying

The Mother of Invention

A Quiet Little Marriage

Final Draft

Zodiac

Itty Bitty Titty Committee

Seraphim Falls

Stay Alive

Herbie: Fully Loaded

D.E.B.S.

Loser

TELEVISION

Breakout Kings

The Big Bang

Psych

It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia

Party Down

Virtuality

House M.D.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

Eleventh Hour

My Name Is Earl

Carnivàle

Cold Case

NYPD Blue

24

The Division

Rose Red



free to see if I could be really good in those. I didn't plan."

Between acting jobs, he and other struggling actors worked on their own projects, forming friendships that remain strong today. "It's solidifying having nothing together," he says. "I can't remember a single night I was sitting alone in that tiny, fish-smelling apartment. I had a \$500 camcorder and it was an outlet that made us feel like we were creating."

AN AGENT

Simpson met his first agent by chance. Professional performers led master classes during his four-summer internship with Williamstown (Mass.) Theatre Festival, and Simpson took advantage of the opportunity to learn. One summer, with no intentions of a career in stand-up, he took a class taught by a comedian. His one-and-only stand-up routine was seen by the comedian's agent, who signed him.

"If you're working, you're in the top 1 percent of actors," Simpson says. "Making it and not making it is sadly arbitrary. An agent can get you into auditions. It's about networking, doing little shows, doing summer stock. There's quite an element of luck."

ROSE RED

A "lucky" acting role in the 2002 mini-series, *Rose Red* introduced Simpson to his wife, actress Melanie Lynskey, best known as Rose in TV's *Two and a Half Men*.

"I was in Seattle six months and, the last month, we became good friends. Back in New York, I couldn't stop thinking of her. Then 9/11 happened and as I watched (the scene at the World Trade Centers) from my roof, she sent a message: "Are you OK?" That simple message was all

Simpson needed to pursue a relationship that, he says, "just clicked."

Married for nearly five years, Simpson says their acting commitments often keep them apart. "We constantly miss each other," he says.

TWO SIDES OF A CAREER

Simpson considers himself "nerdy," a personality trait of some characters he's portrayed. "But I stopped trying to 'do' nerd. It's more about how to play this guy. For me, what's worked the most is finding the person within. It's about communicating on a human level.

"I enjoy playing really articulate people," he adds, "and I love being around people who know more than me. I really love knowledge and information."

An avid reader since he was 7 years old, Simpson turned to writing to fill gaps between acting jobs early in his career, basing some characters on people he has known. "A screenplay I wrote a few years ago has a pizza joint as a centerpiece," says the actor, who worked at Bloomsburg's Napoli Pizza, known as "Naps," for three years. "A couple of the characters are strongly inspired in the best way by people I worked with."

Today, in addition to acting, he writes TV pilots and screenplays and is working toward getting them produced. He plans to direct these projects, each one featuring a role for his wife.

Simpson believes it's important for an actor to stay grounded, work hard and remain committed. "I'm constantly stunned that I'm still working," he says. "Everything is temporary."

Editor's note: Jimmi Simpson talks about his experiences as a Bloomsburg University student at www.bloomu.edu/magazine. ●

Bonnie Martin is editor of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*

THEY SIT ACROSS a table and share their emotional stories of verbal attacks, beatings, rape and torture.

In Babak Mohassel's recounting, the specifics — names, ages, home countries, abuses — are blurred like an out-of-focus photograph. They are applicants seeking political asylum in the United States, hailing from nations as varied as Russia, Poland and Ethiopia. The vagueness of the details is to protect their privacy. In Babak Mohassel's memory, though, the courage of the applicants is in crystalline focus.

For two years as adjudicator with the Department of Homeland Security in the Washington, D.C. area, Mohassel decided whether these people would be granted asylum or be referred to the courts.

The issue of human rights drives his life. Describing himself as both a sociologist and an attorney, Mohassel began working with torture victims and victims of other human rights abuses before he earned his graduate and law degrees from SUNY Buffalo and Georgetown University Law School. "I decided to become an attorney in hopes of assisting them more," he says.

"There were so many gruesome events happening around the world, I felt that there needed to be some movement," says Mohassel, assistant professor of criminal justice at BU since 2009. "I went to grad school to learn about society. Human rights came in when I started learning more about Amnesty International and doing this type of work. That fueled me."

While an adjudicator with the Department of Homeland Security, Mohassel decided the fate of individuals, including unaccompanied youths under age 18, who feared a return to their home country would place them in danger of persecution based on gender, political opinions or nationality. Relying on his knowl-

edge of national security law, asylum law and history, he listened as attorneys presented evidence and applicants told their stories.

"It takes a certain degree of courage to come in front of a decision maker who will decide whether you must return to your nation state to face persecution. It is so intense — the actions against them — and so emotional," he says. "We needed to make sure they got recognition for their testimony, that they got support and respect as they shared something so special, so intimate, in an open space.

"I was impacting lives," he adds. "I was determining whether people could have asylum in the U.S. As an adjudicator, it was a huge responsibility."

A member of the Washington, D.C., and New Jersey bar associations, Mohassel still accepts the occasional political asylum case, offering his services pro bono for the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network (GAIN) and Kids in Need of Defense (KIND). Last summer, for example, he provided legal consultation to three cases in Atlanta in which the clients were facing deportation.

"The case was expediting their removal from the U.S., and they expressed a fear of returning to their country during the process," he explains. "I gave legal counsel when the individuals were seeing the adjudicator."

Increasing Awareness

At BU, where he teaches courses in criminology, criminal justice, and national security law and terrorism, Mohassel has combined his passion as a civil rights advocate and experience with political asylum cases in both the classroom and the campus' Center for Human Rights and Social Justice, which he founded in 2009. By sharing the

plight of political refugees and other human rights victims with students and the community, Mohassel hopes to begin a dialogue about the issues facing individuals in other countries and propose solutions to end some of the abuses.

The center offers diverse programming in conjunction with the student club, Institute of Human Rights and Social Justice. For one recent presentation, the center partnered with the Coalition of African Youth to discuss child slavery in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "Children are forced to work in mines and find minerals that are used in cell phones," Mohassel says. "There are a number of human rights violations going on there — minerals are being stolen, children are being exposed to dangerous minerals. Human rights violations are criminal to various degrees."

In another program, a mother and daughter shared their experiences with forced movement issues in Africa. The center also hosted Manhattan attorney Travis Johnson, who talked about domestic human rights issues, including the abuse and exploitation of children.

Mohassel says he wants these stories to resonate with his students and others who hear them. "I want people to not just learn the information, but to remember what they heard. I want to have this engagement touch them and for them to become aware and think about it, not just hear it in passing. I'd like them to deeply consider it. It's one thing to gain education and go through school; it's another thing to become educated. I want the audience to become educated about these human rights violations." ●

Sara Hodon is a freelance writer and college-level English instructor from Schuylkill County, Pa.



by SARA HODON

SAFE haven

The news is filled with stories of people who stand up for freedom and justice in spite of the danger that may await. BU professor **BABAK MOHASSEL** wants his students to understand basic human rights cannot be taken for granted and be inspired to take action.

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

An aerial photograph showing a town, likely Bloomsburg, completely inundated with brown floodwater. The water has surrounded buildings, streets, and green spaces, leaving only the tops of trees and some structures visible. The title 'After the Deluge' is overlaid on the image. 'After the' is in white serif font, and 'Deluge' is in a large, bold yellow serif font.

After the Deluge

WHEN THE Susquehanna River crested at a record level of 32.75 feet on Sept. 9, 2011, classes had already been cancelled for a day and a half and most students had returned home. By the time classes resumed on Sept. 19, another record was set: the longest weather-related closure in BU's history.

Although some students, faculty and staff were adversely affected by the natural disaster that flooded 25 percent of Bloomsburg last fall, many were eager to lend a helping hand. Student athletes remaining in town for practices and contests logged a total of 2,542 hours of volunteer time helping local residents remove water-logged belongings from their homes and shovel mud from their basements. These athletes, members of Greek organizations and other students volunteered, although a severe shortage in potable water meant showers were often unavailable.

In addition to helping their neighbors, friends and families, faculty and staff manned the phone bank at the Emergency Operations Center; cared for evacuees' pets at the Upper Campus emergency shelter, Annie's Place; and pitched in as

needed at the Red Cross and Agape, the faith-based social service agency that coordinated flood relief efforts.

Facilities Management and University Police provided more than 2,300 hours of support to town police and town work crews. Employees used 18 pieces of university-owned equipment to clean debris and transport evacuees and helpers to their destinations. Aramark, the university's food service provider, donated food to Agape for distribution to the flood victims, and BU's athletic department worked with Bloomsburg High School to provide alternative venues for their athletic activities. A month after flood waters receded, BU employees and students, along with volunteers from Mansfield University, provided nearly 50 local children with playthings at a Toys for Tots giveaway, and athletes gave away free tickets to the Huskies' home football game against Shippensburg.

Columbia County and the Town of Bloomsburg will take a long time to recover from this devastating flood, and many areas will never be the same. But BU's response to the affects of Tropical Storm Lee showed the university and the town are one community — Bloomsburg. •

by IRENE JOHNSON



The west end of Bloomsburg and the fairgrounds are under water (far left). Starting at the top: tennis coach Marty Coyne hands out assignments to student athletes; football players ride a BU bus to Espy for flood relief efforts (left) and ruined household possessions line a street near the fairgrounds; flood waters cover a street near the Bloomsburg YMCA; and a BU crew works with a bucket loader and truck near the Market Street Plaza after the water recedes.





[AFTER THE DELUGE]

Efforts by BU students, faculty and staff include, top to bottom: athletes remove a commercial refrigerator from an Espy business (left) and stack damaged household items along the street; student athletes, many members of the wrestling team, remove flood-damaged walls; student athletes remove soaked flooring from a home near Bloomsburg Fairgrounds (left) and pause after helping homeowners; flood-damaged household items are piled in the parking lot at Town Park for disposal (left), and two members of the football team finish their assignment before returning to campus for a game.



MAKING A CLEAN || BREAK

by SUE BEARD



PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

JIM AND DEBBIE Blake Ferraro were about to turn 40 when they risked their financial security, trading Jim's corporate job with benefits for a business of their own.

Seven years later, the Ferraros' gamble has paid off. Executive Facility Services Inc., their thriving janitorial service in Southern California, has grown from 20 employees to more than 100. Each night, the Ferraros' employees fan out to clean more than 1 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

The Ferraros, 1984 BU graduates, had three young children by 2004 but Jim admits he was hardly a hands-on father. "I was on six planes in three days," he says of his hectic corporate career with a school bus provider. He yearned to spend more time with his wife and children, set his own schedule and enjoy the family's many outdoor pursuits, which include running, sailing and biking.

Although the Ferraros agree it was scary to wager a guaranteed paycheck on a well-planned gamble, Jim says he used the fear as "a motivator, a tool to make the next sales call." And instead of commuting or sitting behind a desk, Jim spent the bulk of his three children's junior and senior high school years working from home.

The Ferraros, who met at the Jersey Shore shortly after graduating from Catholic high schools in Bucks County, transferred to Bloomsburg during their sophomore years. After graduation, Debbie became a junior accountant, while Jim started up the corporate ladder.

Fed up with cold

On a frigid New Jersey Sunday in 1987 ("The wind chill was 20 below zero," Debbie remembers), the Ferraros sat in their condo watching the Giants and Broncos vie for the Super Bowl XXI championship in Pasadena, Calif. "I looked at him and he looked at me, and we asked ourselves what we were doing in New Jersey," she remembers.

"We weren't skiers, we weren't snow people ... we needed to go to California," Jim says of the decision.

Within a one-month span in 1988, they bought their first business, a postal annex franchise designed to provide supplemental income; purchased their first single-family home; and learned they were expecting their first baby. The couple sold the franchise about five years later when Debbie became a stay-at-home mom to daughters Chelsea and Jordyn and son Christian.

'Picky' about customers

Jim developed his business model while earning his MBA from the University of Phoenix in the late 1990s. "I wanted a business based on my two strengths: customer service and client relations," he says. He found a small janitorial business for sale, bought a second and merged the two.

The key to the business' success, he believes, is the strong relationship he develops with his customers. He's also protective of his employees. "Ninety-nine percent of our workforce is female, and I inspect every site. I want my employees to feel safe in the environment in which they're working. I look for companies that treat our employees with respect."

He says he couldn't have done any of it without his wife. The two are partners—in life and in business—with Debbie taking care of the accounting and payroll and involved in business decisions.

Advice for future entrepreneurs?

"Know the nuts and bolts of the product or service you're offering," says Jim. "Listen to your clients talk about their wants and needs before you offer anything. They may not know they need what you're offering, so you may have to educate your client. And find a mentor who's been there and done that."

The Ferraros realize that some may look down their noses at janitors. "It's not a glamorous business, but it's a service that has to be done," says Debbie.

Both subscribe to the saying: "If you're willing to do what other people don't want to do, you'll live the way other people aren't able to live." ●

Sue Beard, the retired editor of *The Record Herald* in Waynesboro, Pa., lives in North Fort Myers, Fla.



The STATE'S Warden

by JACK SHERZER

Former offensive lineman and coach **JOHN WETZEL '98** says gridiron lessons came into play as he worked his way up from corrections officer to warden of the Franklin County Prison and, now, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Corrections. "Watching game film, you better check your sensitivity at the door because you're going to be judged on every step you take. At the Franklin County Prison, we measured ourselves by our own standards, which were always higher. And, that's what we're instilling here in the Department of Corrections."

Pennsylvania's Secretary of Corrections says he's discovered certain truths during a career that's taken him through three county prisons: Lack of a high school diploma and real job skills are key factors behind many incarcerations; placing non-violent, low-risk offenders behind bars is counterproductive; and society's best bet is to give inmates skills they need for a life outside prison.

"The reality of corrections, even at the state level, is that 90 percent of the people are going to walk out," says John Wetzel '98, confirmed as corrections secretary in May 2011. "The fact is the majority of inmates have the

potential to be good, productive citizens. It's in our best interest to create an environment where they can become productive, and that's through programming, modeling appropriate behavior and increasing their skill set."

Wetzel received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Bloomsburg in 1998, and his corrections career began to take off. He became warden at the Franklin County Prison in January 2002 and, five years later, former Gov. Ed Rendell appointed him to the state Board of Pardons as the corrections expert. The appointment, he says, led to his selection as Gov. Tom Corbett's corrections secretary.

As warden at Franklin County Prison, Wetzel initiated alternatives to incarceration. He oversaw the construction of a new prison while expanding treatment and program options so jail would be a last resort. And the numbers dropped. When he started as warden, the county had 322 inmates; it had 297 by January 2011.

Wetzel directed the creation of the county's day reporting center, where offenders who are attending treatment for drug and alcohol abuse or classes to obtain their high school diploma are monitored while living at home instead of at the prison. To make it happen, he worked with the county judges, commissioners, district attorney and other stakeholders in the community.

Today, on average, there are 120 offenders in the county's day reporting center — people who, before the center, would be sitting behind bars, says David S. Keller, chairman of the Franklin County Commissioners. Keller credits Wetzel with focusing the county's criminal justice system on a more treatment-oriented approach and coordinating services so someone who is, for example, studying for high school equivalency certification can continue to receive help after release from prison.

"John never lost sight of two main goals: public safety and helping people get their lives back on track," Keller says. "I think if he's given the freedom to set some goals and the resources to accomplish them in the way he was in Franklin County, Pennsylvania is going to benefit greatly."

Wetzel, who lives in Chambersburg with his wife and four daughters, readily acknowledges that his career path has been a bit unusual. He was an indifferent student whose main interest when he came to Bloomsburg was playing on the Huskies offensive line. He credits his adviser, psychology professor Eileen Astor-Stetson, for the advice that would propel him through his career.

"She told me that I wouldn't be happy working for someone that wasn't as smart as me, but that's the path I was headed with my lack of attention to education," he recalls. "It turns out she was right."

Wetzel didn't immediately see the wisdom of his professor's advice. A semester short of graduating, he left Bloomsburg after the football season in 1991 to take a full-time job as a guard in the Lebanon County Prison, where he'd previously worked part-time and his brother works today. A year later, he became a corrections officer at the Berks County



John Wetzel, standing third from left, poses with Huskies teammates.

Prison, knowing he wanted to return to Bloomsburg to complete his degree.

During his break from college, he played on the offensive line for the semi-pro Central Penn Piranha for two seasons until he tore his right Achilles tendon. The injury stopped him from playing, but opened the door to coaching the Chambersburg Cardinals semi-pro team and, as a volunteer offensive line coach, the Shippensburg University Raiders.

William DiMascio, executive director of the Philadelphia-based inmate advocacy group

Pennsylvania Prison Society, is heartened by Wetzel's belief in alternatives to incarceration. "Wetzel has shown he's not of the lock-them-up-and-throw-away-the-key approach," DiMascio says. "He's a very bright guy and a very good people person, and he tends to be a lot more humanistic than some of his predecessors."

Wetzel admits the state's tight budget presents a challenge to providing needed programming, but he has Corbett's backing. "In the first cabinet meeting, the governor said it's important to do the right things, for the right reasons, right

now. There may be impediments. My job is to get the impediments out of the way." ●

Jack Sherzer is a professional writer and Pennsylvania native. He currently lives in Harrisburg.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

- \$1.87 billion budget
- 27 correctional facilities, one motivational boot camp, 14 community corrections centers, nearly 40 contract facilities and a training academy
- About 16,000 employees
- More than 51,000 inmates
- The average time served for inmates released in 2009 was 50.2 months
- Average annual cost of an inmate in 2010: \$32,986

SOURCE: WWW.COR.STATE.PA.US



Ted Roggenbuck, director of BU's Writing Center, left, discusses ways to improve student writing with Bob Calarco, Berwick High School English teacher.

BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL administrators and English teachers believed the time was right for a student-staffed writing center. They saw it as a natural way to increase literacy skills and encourage students to spend more time reading and writing. But, where to start?

Doing his own homework, Berwick English teacher Bob Calarco read *A Guide to Creating Student-Staffed Writing Centers in Grades Six through 12* by Richard Kent. The book advised contacting local universities to see what resources they may have. Just 12 miles away, Calarco found Bloomsburg University's Writing Center, where director Ted Roggenbuck and consultants Jess Weber and Molly Phelan were excited about the possibility of a collaboration.

Consultants, as BU Writing Center student staffers are called, offer aid to graduate and undergraduate students who need help in any stage of the writing process. "Working in a writing center is one of the most powerful learning experiences a person will ever have," says Roggenbuck, assistant professor of English. "Our job is to help improve writing instruction, and one of the things that helps writers is talking about writing. The more writing centers in the area, the more prepared students will be."

The creation of the high school center provided internship opportunities for Phelan and Weber, neither of whom had experience with writing centers during their high school years. Together, they helped design and establish the training program for the high school's center, The Write Place,

the write stuff

by BECKY LOCK

Berwick High School teachers wanted a student-staffed writing center and BU had the expertise to make it happen. The resulting partnership benefits students at both institutions.

which opened in fall 2011, referring to Kent's guide and researching other successful models. They created training lessons and hands-on activities for 15 new consultants, all high school juniors. Weber also administered training in Berwick, spending about an hour there each week for eight weeks.

The pair asked the younger trainees to write an essay explaining their own writing process, then took them on a field trip to the university's writing center, where they worked with college-age tutors.

at Maryland's Salisbury University.

Although Weber and Phelan graduated in spring 2011, collaboration between the two institutions continues this year with BU represented by Michael Sherry, assistant professor of English, and juniors Olivia Rios of Millersville and Caitlyn Connolly of Newtown. Rios, who gave a presentation on *The Write Place* with Weber at the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing in Miami last fall, works to get Berwick teachers more involved with the center.

coming to a peer, they won't be worried about being judged or graded and they will take more risks in their writing."

"The benefits of a university writing center to the university community are well-documented," says James Brown, dean of BU's College of Liberal Arts. "What's exciting about this collaboration is the opportunity our university students had to participate in the creation of a high school writing center and in the design and implementation of training materials for



BU junior Olivia Rios, right, offers writing feedback to Berwick High School students Katie Scopelliti, front left; Samantha Bower, center; and Alec Trapane.

One of the most important lessons Weber and Phelan needed to teach the high school writing consultants was how to recognize the difference between fixing a writer's text and helping the writer, Roggenbuck says. "They have to act like readers, not experts. With high school students, the more they act like an expert, the harder it is for the student to take responsibility."

Working at the center changed the career plans of Weber and Phelan. They switched their majors to composition language and rhetoric, and both earned tuition waivers and graduate assistantships in the master's program in composition and rhetoric

Calarco says the high school center, open from 7:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. each school day, aims to "change the culture of the building in terms of writing awareness." Initial feedback just one marking period into the center's use is positive. "History teachers are using the writing center's services, and science teachers send students here to get help with their lab reports. I feel very optimistic," Calarco says.

A writing center for high school students is "especially important because it encourages them to look at writing in a new way. I don't think they think about audience and purpose when they are writing," Weber says. "But, if they are

student writing consultants."

Weber currently is replicating the writing center model for a high school in Maryland. She and Phelan both plan to direct their own centers one day.

"I think talking about your writing is something everyone should be able to do. It makes us better writers," Phelan says. "I've seen how beneficial a writing center is to college students. Students are facing a pivotal time in high school. The writing center provides everything I would have wanted help with." ●

Becky Lock is a writer, editor and photographer who works and lives in Pennsylvania.

Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

husky notes



Leadership: Step by Step

PICTURE A BUSHY-HAIRED, socially awkward BU freshman pushing a bin full of belongings into a tripled room in Elwell Hall. Bloomsburg Mayor Dan Knorr '07 says it's an apt description of himself in fall 2003.

"It's hard for people to visualize that kid when they see me," he says. "It's easy for people to think, 'He has confidence, he knows what he's talking about and he's not afraid to speak to a group.' But those things never just happen."

Knorr, who double-majored in political science and history, credits his involvement in the Political Science Student Association, forensics team and University Democrats with building his confidence. Elected to Bloomsburg Town Council in 2005, Knorr won his first term as mayor in 2007 when he was just 21. He credits his success to pushing himself out of his comfort zone.

"You get to a position and you make some mistakes and you learn from them," he says. "Once you're confident and you feel you can move onto something bigger, do it. You'll never truly be ready for something if it's a higher level."

Sometimes, he acknowledges, fate pushes you to the higher level. That's what happened last September when rains from Tropical Storm Lee caused hardship and heartbreak for his constituents. Unable to reach his own home, which was untouched by the flood, Knorr held Emergency Management Association meetings, met with officials from a local business for updates on an ammonia leak and circulated through the community to make sure residents' seemingly never-ending needs were addressed.

The effects of the flood caught up with him as he stopped by a Saturday night dinner for victims and volunteers at the Caldwell Consistory. "I had been cut off from my house and it hit me: I, too, needed a meal from someplace and a place to sleep for a few hours."

Knorr tried to remain optimistic as he reminded local residents, "We will get through this. There will be a time when the water isn't here and we will work through everything together."

It was certainly the biggest test I've faced so far," he says. "If there was ever a moment when you realize why you're in this position, that was it." ●

1957

Allen Kessler and his wife, Betty, of Milton, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June 2011. He taught in New Jersey schools and later returned to Pennsylvania, where he retired as a chemical operator from Merck Pharmaceuticals.

1958

Patrick "Tiger" Denoy, a long-time educator at Northumberland and Benton high schools and Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18, a PIAA basketball referee for 32 years and an accomplished baseball umpire, was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame last year.

1968

Mark Goldman, a senior human resource development specialist with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, returned to his alma mater to present a career program for BU students on social networking.



resource development specialist with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center,

1973

Richard Schwanger is an assistant technical professor of accounting at King's College. He holds a master's degree from St. Joseph's University.

1974

Lee Morgan Evans '74/'90M is an assistant technical professor of education at King's College.

Joseph Lapotsky '74/'79M, who taught business education and was a wrestling coach for more than 30 years, is now serving on the Mount Carmel Borough Council.

1975

James Ott, principal and president for AppleTree Management Group Inc., was appointed to the Lackawanna College Board of Trustees.

1976

David M. Furman, Iowa, was named human resources director for the Consumer Lending Group at Wells Fargo and Co.

Jean Eck Snook '76/'79M retired as a sixth-grade teacher from Mifflinburg Area School District after 34 years of service.

1977

Geraldine Stish Shepperson, formerly superintendent of the Hazleton Area School District, is head of operations at the Valley Academy Charter School. She holds a master's degree in educational counseling from the University of Scranton and a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.

1978

Daniel Van Wyk is an attorney and consultant with Van Wyk Consulting. A veteran, he served in the U.S. Air Force during Desert Storm and continues his service as a colonel in the Air National Guard. He is commander of Bethel VFW Post 6835.

1980

Richard Menniti is chief financial officer of BPZ Resources, Houston, Texas. He is a certified public accountant, a certified management accountant and a certified treasury professional.

Bill Reineberg is vice president of risk management and chief internal auditor for Capital Blue Cross. He has been with the company for 23 years.

Joan Davis Shortall, a special education teacher, was selected by her peers as 2011-12 teacher of the year for the Florence Career Center. She is also one of four honor roll teachers for the Florence District One in Florence, S.C.

Sowash recognized for service

Linda Zyla Sowash '74/'76M received the Suzanne S. Brown Distinguished Service Award, which honors current and former student affairs staff members at universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE).



Sowash, who retired as BU's director of residence life, was influential in founding BU's Living and Learning Communities program, which has grown to 11 communities serving about 700 students. She kept housing costs at BU among the lowest of PASSHE schools during construction projects valued at \$68 million. Sowash was a founding participant for the campus' Multicultural Affairs Office and the Women's Resource Center. Several current BU student and alumni affairs staff members began their careers under her guidance.

She has received numerous other campus awards, including the Outstanding Service Award in 2008. She will be honored with a plaque at the Dixon Center in Harrisburg.

Alumnus named VP of business services

John Bigelow '76 was recently named senior vice president of business services at American Water Works Co. Among his new responsibilities, his focus will be on promoting efficiency and leading some centralized support services.



The president of New Jersey American Water since 2007, Bigelow has a long history with American Water, which serves approximately 15 million people throughout the U.S. and Canada. His other management positions include senior vice president of regulatory programs and enterprise risk management; chief financial officer; vice president and treasurer of New Jersey American Water; and director, treasurer and vice president of New Jersey American Water Resources Co. He began his career at GPU System Cos., where he spent 18 years working in finance.

Guiffre receives lifetime achievement award

Nick Guiffre '78, president and CEO of Bradford White Corp., was presented the Fred V. Keenan Lifetime Achievement Award during the American Supply Association (ASA) annual meeting and member lunch. This award honors individuals whose contributions and achievements have improved the plumbing, heating, cooling and piping fields, especially in terms of education, safety, service and industry image.



Guiffre began working for the Bradford White Corp. after graduation from BU. His former positions within the company include sales administrator, vice president of sales and executive vice president. He also was honored with the Golden Eagle Award from the Association of Independent Manufacturers' Representatives in 2003.

1981

Brian Mahlstedt is senior vice president of commercial lending for Wayne Bank.

Jessica Spangler Harris, vice president of the Houston branch of the International Dyslexia Association, received the Nancy LeFevers Community Service Award for leadership and contributions in the field of dyslexia and the community.

Ernest Jackson, a BU Alumni Association Board director, is



principal of Saint Michael's School Complex, Netcong, N.J., which serves students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

Gina Spleen Jaeger, a captain with the U. S. Navy Medical Service Corps, is the commanding officer of the Naval Health Clinic in Corpus Christi, Texas.

husky notes

1983

Stephen J. Jones is Air Products' China president, based in Shanghai. He is also senior vice president and general manager of Global Tonnage Gases Equipment and Energy. He holds a master's degree from Temple University and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Abe Simon is academic vice principal at Holy Redeemer High School, where he is responsible for the school's curriculum development, guidance and faculty training.

1985

Cindy Smith English, formerly vice president of strategic initiatives for Geisinger Health Plan, joined Elite Group Consulting of Lewisburg. She is a member of the Academy for Healthcare Management and a certified health insurance executive.

John L. Haney is the director of quality assurance and regulatory compliance for Integra, York.

1986

Joe Smits is vice president of business development for Saucon Technologies, Bethlehem.



Leslie Lynch Smurthwaite received a master's degree in leadership development from Pennsylvania State University. She is a senior manager in human resources for Pfizer Inc.

1987

Loraine Santee Zelna is associate professor of medical imaging at Misericordia University.

1988

Andy Tonnesen owns Tony's Bait and Tackle, Manahawkin, N.J. A former business teacher and wrestling coach, he is the fourth generation of his family to head the business.

1989

Brenda Dominick DeRenzo '89/'90M is principal of Fogelsville Elementary School.



Kevin L. Moyer is senior vice president at Corporate Call Center, Blue Bell.

Julia Sychalski is an early intervention development specialist for REID Children's Services, a division of The Amooore Group, King of Prussia.

1990

Marc A. Varano is Danville Rotary's Rotarian of the Year for 2011. He is an outreach coordinator for Geisinger Medical Center's LIFE program in Kulpmont.

1991

Francine Bebenek Ashby is vice president of fund development for Albright Care Services.

Jeff T. Gyurina is the police chief for Montoursville Borough. He graduated from the police academy in 1993.

David Hein is manager of sales analytics and reporting for Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia.

Ann Sieminski Moran was appointed to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by Gov. Tom Corbett.

Alumna serves as first female DA

Rebecca Kenwin Warren '88 recently was sworn in as the first



female district attorney in the Montour-Columbia Counties Judicial District. Previously an assistant DA, Warren dedicated her election victory last fall to her father and brother, who were killed in a 2006 car accident. "Their deaths motivated me to seek this position," she says. "Victims will have a voice."

Warren has been practicing law for 20 years. Before becoming Montour County's district attorney, she was a solicitor for the prison board and served as an assistant DA in Columbia County. She has provided legal council to several towns and businesses in the area and authored Columbia County's first child abuse protocol.

Warren lives in Danville with her husband, Rick Warren '89, and their two children.

Wilson experiences success on and off the field

Patrick Wilson '91 was promoted to vice president of operations for Little League International Baseball and Softball. In his new position, he is in charge of several Little League regional centers in the U.S. and abroad and responsible for coordinating the annual World Series tournaments in eight divisions of baseball and softball. He chairs Little League International's Charter Committee, Rules Committee and Tournament Committee.

He began working for Little League in 1993 as an administrative assistant to the vice president. Over the years, he has served as director of regional operations and assistant international tournament director. Wilson, who played Little League baseball when he was a child, volunteers with organizations, including United Way and Leadership Lycoming, and has served on the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Williamsport Area Recreation Commission. He has been a member of BU's Council of Trustees since 2009.



Michele Rowland Cherry '92 hiked the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest freestanding mountain in the world.



1992

Jason Wolfe, founder and CEO of Wolfe, LLC, received the 2011 Ernst & Young eCommerce Entrepreneur of the Year award for the western Pennsylvania region. Wolfe started CouponsDirect, the first Internet coupon site. His firm is the parent company of several online companies, including MyCoupons.com.

1994

Amy Clewell Goodwin is director of children's ministry at Community Mennonite Fellowship of Milton.

1995

Michaeleen McNamara is a member of the human services faculty and professor of psychology at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

1996

Jodi Piekarski Loughlin '96M, Shenandoah, is an assistant professor at Misericordia University, conducting undergraduate reading courses in children's literature and reading methodology and a graduate-level course on professional contributions.

Richard C. Miller is executive director of the Osterhout Free Library in Wilkes-Barre.

1997

Eugeniu Grigorescu, Hanover Township, is director of the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence at the University of Scranton.

1998

Jessica Grim Galle is account manager at Baum Smith and Clemens, a Lansdale accounting and business advisory firm.

1999

Marissa Barrett earned a master's degree in historic preservation and regionalism from the University of New Mexico.

2000

Calista Germany Boyer is principal of Edgewood Elementary School in the Pottstown School District.

Shawn Rosler '00/'02M is a lead analyst with the Epic computer-based training development team at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

2001

Katherine Lomax is director of educational services with the Community Education Council of Elk and Cameron counties.

Veronica Bubb Powell completed her second master's degree in statistics from Virginia Tech and is a biostatistician with inVentivHealth, Burlington, Mass.

Amy Cechman Wright is manager of marketing and recruitment for Geisinger Health Systems, Danville.

2002

Robert Pretopapa, a wealth adviser with NothelmerMorrone Financial Strategies, Allentown, passed the certified financial planner examination.

Greta Keller Rosler is operations manager for an inpatient medical/surgical unit at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville.

Douglas A. Snyder is a member of the York County and Pennsylvania Bar associations and an associate with the firm of Becker & Strausbaugh P.C.

2003

Lois Kirchner O'Boyle completed a master's degree in biology from the University of West Florida. She presented the results of her research at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

2004

Mark Roda is a financial adviser with Lancaster-based Sherman Werst & Co.



2005

Andrew B. Cain, Lititz, is a business analyst with Fulton Financial Corp.'s information technology department.

John "Jack" Lydic was named offensive coordinator at Misericordia University, where he coaches quarterbacks and serves as assistant coordinator of athletic operations.

John D. Pittenger is an environmental coordinator for Chief Gathering, a subsidiary of Chief Oil & Gas.

Robert Robitaille is the high school boys' and girls' head swimming coach for the Parkland School District, where he teaches earth and space science.

2006

Rudy Inaba is director of nutrition and exercise for Cenegenics Medical Institute, Las Vegas.

John R. Sweeney is a real estate agent with Weichert Realtors-Ruffino Real Estate in Milford.

2007

Maribeth Brozena '07/'09M was selected as Slippery Rock University's assistant field hockey coach.

2008

James D'Amico '08/'10M is a residence director and assistant director of student activities at Juniata College in Huntingdon.

Jennifer Krott Chamberlain earned a doctorate in physical therapy from Shenandoah University. She is a geriatric physical therapist at Fox Rehabilitation in northern Virginia.

Jilliene Huffman, a U.S. Army specialist, graduated from basic combat training at Fort Sill, Okla.

Amy LoVallo is a training specialist with Esri in Charlotte, N.C.

David Nurnberger was promoted to grocery manager at Wegmans Food Markets, Downingtown.

Stefanie Pitcavage, Harrisburg, earned a juris doctorate from Widener University School of Law, graduating summa cum laude. She is a federal judicial clerk with the Honorable John E. Jones III in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

2009

Korie Dudrich was named internship advising coordinator in the King's College Office of Career Planning.

Jesse Cooper is a defensive back with the Philadelphia Soul of the Arena Football League.

David Watson, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, graduated with honors and at the top of his class from the 101st Airborne's Air Assault School. Watson returned from Afghanistan in May 2011 and is stationed in Kentucky.

husky notes

2010

Janel Petrovich '09/'10M, Shamokin Township, is a cheerleader with the Philadelphia Eagles. She is one of 15 cheerleaders added to the 35-member squad for 2011.

Kaitlyn D'Annibale '09/'10M is head athletic trainer at Bowie State University. A certified athletic trainer, she works at summer camps for youth, including the Jahri Evans '07/McBryan Football Clinic.

Amy Cortellini, Mount Carmel, is a medical student at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, at Seton Hill.

Adam Heffelfinger is manager of sales operations at Kiwahi 100 Percent True New Zealand Spring Water Co., Hellertown.

Andrew Osipower is a water polo coach and part-time business teacher at Upper Perkiomen High School. He also plays for a master's team in the American Water Polo Main Line League.

Tara K. Robuck is an elementary guidance counselor with the Midd-West School District.

Ashley Shappell, a middle school learning support teacher in the Pottsville Area School District, is an assistant volleyball coach at Penn State Schuylkill.

Steve Switzer is a trainee employee assistance program counselor at Red Rock Job Corps.

Kayla Trumbo was selected as head volleyball coach for Penn State Schuylkill. She is an itinerant and learning support teacher for the Schuylkill Haven Area School District.

Andrew Wentz was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force and assigned as a pilot with the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, Harrisburg. He is currently in flight school.



2011

Joshua M. Rose accepted a position with Select Medical Corp., Mechanicsburg.

Jeremy J. Scheibelhut is a staff accountant with the Camp Hill office of Boyer & Ritter.

Marriages

Antoinette Marx '89 and Ed Everdale, May 21, 2011
Jennifer Warsing '99 and Christopher Hampton, April 20, 2011
Brian Kasarda '00 and Jessica Ervin, June 18, 2011
Amy Belnap '01 and Richard Clarke, May 7, 2011
Veronica Bubb '01 and George Powell, May 29, 2010
Jason Helcoski '02 and Nicole Narcavage, July 10, 2010
David Hudak '02 and Nichole Light, June 10, 2011
Kristin Kasper '03 and Jeremy Rautzahn, April 30, 2011
Alicia Averno '04 and John Boniewicz, Aug. 6, 2011
Thomas Hector '04 and Heidi Byrne, Nov. 6, 2010
Meredith Leonard '04M and Edward O'Donnell
Jessica Lightcap '04 and **Kristopher Shumway '03**
Meredith Moore '04 and **Kirk Lehman '08**, Jan. 14, 2011
Andrea Ballas '05 and Mark Teeters, July 23, 2011
Shonda Kevick '05 and Jeremy Bruner, July 2, 2011
Tiffany Schnure '05 and Timothy Spencer, June 11, 2011
Stacey Halko '06M and **Christopher Mears '04**, July 9, 2011
Jonathan Kline '06 and Kristin Schroeder, June 26, 2011
Marina Miranda '06 and **Matthew Forgeard-France '06**, Nov. 3, 2011
Abby Neff '06 and Kevin Ream, Oct. 2, 2010
Jennifer Shymansky '06 and **Rudy Inaba '06**, April 26, 2011
Hope Swenson '06 and Adam Pankake, July 23, 2011
Joseph Yasinkas '06 and Jennifer Petrovsky, June 26, 2010
Kristen Barrett '07 and **Tim Brockman '06**, June 4, 2011
Kristin Brown '07 and **Matthew Bleiler '05**, May 22, 2010
Annette Conigliaro '07 and **Darren Adair '07**
Dana DiSalvatore '07 and **Stephen Post '06**, May 7, 2011
Kristie Gardner '07 and **Elliot Lyons '08**, July 30, 2011
Karen Hause '07 and **Nicholas Dermes '06**, July 16, 2011
Kathleen McMahon '07 and Sean Maxymuik, April 22, 2011
Deirdre Miller '07 and **Scott Coup '05/'07M**, Oct. 8, 2011
Tiffani Corliss '08 and Kyle Bogart, June 1, 2011
Christina Golasa '08 and **Daniel Platt '09**, Aug. 15, 2011
Amanda Hertlein '08 and Joshua Newport, Oct. 16, 2011
Laura Laboskie '08 and Jerrod Cole, Sept. 3, 2011
Amanda Mills '08 and Brandon Zwalkuski, May 21, 2011
Victoria Yurksza '08 and Casey Lucas, June 12, 2009
Julia Camara Calvo '09 and **Dan Acor '10**, Oct. 21, 2011
Patricia Hannon '09 and Marcus C.J. Coulter
Kristin Pohle '09 and Steven Codey, Aug. 26, 2011
Shawn Roslevich '09 and Stephanie Jo Hill, June 11, 2011
Lindsay Young '09 and **Eric Ewing '09**, June 11, 2011
Amanda Milo '10 and John Motyka, Aug. 20, 2011
Whitney Peachey '10 and **Matthew Reed '10**, April 16, 2011
Ashley Romanot '10 and Mark Palubinsky, June 18, 2011
Greg Swendsen '10 and Shannon Kelly, Sept. 30, 2010
Meghan Burrows '11 and Eric Solomon, June 4, 2011
Haili Shetler '11 and Daniel Coombe, Nov. 19, 2011

FIND MORE

HUSKY NOTES online at
www.bloomualumni.com

Send information to: alum@bloomu.edu or
Alumni Affairs

Fenstermaker Alumni House
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
400 E. Second Street, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Cathleen Zicari Flynn '93 and husband, Frank, a daughter, Sarah Ann, March 8, 2011

Janeen Schrann Sutryk '93 and husband, Jaime, a son, Michael

Natalie Clipsham Lucca '97 and husband, Todd, a daughter, Evelyn, March 7, 2011

Holly Kapuschinsky Magalengo '97 and husband, Scott, a daughter, Tavia Skye, June 12, 2011

Marissa Barrett '99 and husband, Eric Harvilicz, a son, Barrett Samuel Harvilicz, Aug. 12, 2010

Mark Bohr '99 and wife, Jennifer, a son, Alexander Lucas, July 27, 2011

Jaclyn Janowicz Schaeffer '99 and husband, Wes, a son, Holden Michael, July 26, 2011

Cathy Carr Zavacki '99 and husband, Tim, a daughter, Natalie Marlene, Aug. 18, 2011

Veronica Bubb Powell '01 and husband, George, a daughter, Alyssa Marie, Aug. 31, 2011

Sara Eberhard Orozco '02 and husband, Misael, twins, David and Abigail, June 28, 2011

Crystal Klinger Eisenhauer '03 and husband, John, a daughter, Abigail Olivia, Sept. 22, 2011

Carrie Montella Mish '03 and husband, Michael, twin boys, Joseph and Jack, Sept. 20, 2011

Rebecca Kinney Peterson '03 and husband, Jeffrey, a daughter, Lily Marie, Aug. 27, 2011

Nichol McElwee Reinford '03 and husband, Kent, a daughter, Ever Lynn, Aug. 24, 2011

Ashley Henry Whiteman '04 and husband, Timothy, twin sons, Mason and Henry, Dec. 2, 2010

Jennifer DeFrain Stacknick '05 and husband, Jason, a son, Levi Elway, Sept. 6, 2011

Victoria Yurksza Lucas '08 and husband, Casey, a son, Chase, Aug. 18, 2011

Obituaries

Lucy Gergen Bridy '25

Harriet E. Adams '28

Agnes Cotterman Bonham Hayman '29

Dorothy Jones Berry '32

Mary Kathryn Moyer Leiby '33

Velma Mordan Kerstetter '35

Daniel "Danny" Litwhiler '38

Edna Keller McBride '40

Martha Zehner Brown '43

Frank M. Taylor '43

Robert F. Hartman '47

Irvin R. Yeager '47

Henry E. Crawford '48

Elroy Dalberg '48

John Purcell '49

Thomas McAndrew '50

Faythe Hackett Puterbaugh '51

Richard Schwartz '51

M. Janice Rider Tyler '52

Robert E. Harris '53

Marion D. Giangiulio '56

Ernest "Gene" Lundy '58

William J. Weldon '58

Orville H. Fine '59

William Algatt '60

Lola Rigel Porter '60

Roy E. Shifflet Jr. '60

Edwin J. Zarek '60

Wilbur G. Person '61

James J. Nagle Jr. '62

John E. Rockwell '63

Robert R. Erdman '64

Nancy Barnett Erway '64

John P. Minalda '64

Milton "Rip" Van Winkle '65

David E. Bassett '66

Samuel Ronald Bashore '67

Elaine Brumbaugh Mehle '67

Michael Mellinger '67

William Rowett '67

Edward P. Kupsky Jr. '68

Jimmie E. Masich '68

Richard O. Wilhour '68

W. James Kephart '70

Theodore J. Rynn '70

David G. Moharter '71

Kathleen Tanner Cook '73

James E. Neary '74

Elaine Kielar Tensa '74

Laurel Traub Heim '75

Michael G. Malanga '75

Gina Gonzalez Mannella '75

Andrew "Andy" Hasay '78

Gary M. Lewis '80

Elizabeth McBride Keiser '81

Susan Motyka Haddick '84

Susan Radwell Miller '84

John S. Pace '86

Wendy J. Queen '88/'91M

Michael A. Medina '89

Mary Miller McGinley '90

Tracy Lynn Donovan '93

Gay Foster Meyers '95

Gina Nork DeVitis '02M

Matthew M. Bleistein '04

Susan K. Shade '05M

James F. Brennan '06

Travis "T.J." Olesh '07

Justin M. Harakel '08

Ian Francis O'Malley '08

William P. Welk '10



PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

the LINEUP

REUNIONS, NETWORKING, AND SPECIAL EVENTS



CLASS OF 1956: Members of the Class of 1956 pose at the 55-year reunion. Shown, left to right, are, seated: Barbara Bennett Nichols, Tina Valente Skiptunis, Lori Deibert Bodenhorn, Helene Flecknoe, Jacqueline Albert-Michehl and Charlotte Rummage Winter; and standing: Harrison Morson, Charles Kwiatkoski, Doris Krzywicki Smith, Bill Bitner, Bunny Bowman Bitner, Charles Skiptunis, Mike Homick, Sarae Uhrich Homick '54, Roslyn Verona Pennington, Joanne Hester Gentry, John Koch and Betty Carvolth Johnston.



WATCHING IN WARMINSTER: Alumni watched Huskies football on national TV at parties organized by BU Alumni Association regional networks. Among those attending a party in Warminster are, left to right, front: Cameron Smith '84 and Sue Smith Bednarik '84; standing, front row: Bill Fonner '71, Melissa Harris Brown '90, Gary Metarko '71, Alice Kotch Cromwell '66, Hedy Fuchs Davis '82, Rich Boerner '65 and wife Kathy, and Lee Davis '67; Standing, back row: Bob Beam '70, John Dasch '70, Tom Beier '71, Sandi Wood Smith '86 and Ken Cromwell '66.



TO THE MOVIES: Bob and Wendy Piekos Pflugler, both Class of 1988, won the BU Alumni Association's Homecoming Tent Party grand prize of a home theater system. They are joined by BU President David Soltz and their children, Joshua and Jessica.



CELEBRATING FOUR DECADES: More than 60 alumni celebrated 40 years of Sigma Sigma Sigma during Homecoming 2011. Shown in photo, left to right, are Kerry Snyder Foley '92, Debra Hogan-Byrne '93, Karen Craig Weingarten '94/'95M, Valerie Reilly Metzker '92/'94M and Shelly May Smith '95.



CLASS OF 1961: The Class of 1961 marked its 50-year reunion during Homecoming 2011. Members of the reunion committee, left to right, are: Argie Zevas Andralis, Mary Ann Kiessling Beasom, reunion chair Marti Williams Frey, Marjorie Ginnick Stover, Constance Terzopolos and Gail Hurter Gerber.

CALENDAR

Activities and Events

Academic Calendar

SPRING 2012

Spring Break Begins
Monday, March 12

Classes Resume
Saturday, March 17, 8 a.m.

Classes End
Friday, May 4

Finals Begin
Monday, May 7

Finals End
Friday, May 11

Graduate Commencement
Friday, May 11

Undergraduate Commencement
Saturday, May 12

SUMMER 2012

Session I: May 21 to Aug. 10
Session II: May 21 to June 29
Session III: July 2 to Aug. 10

Art Exhibits

Exhibitions in the Haas Gallery of Art are open to the public free of charge. For more information, gallery hours and reception times, visit departments.bloomu.edu/art/haas.html.

Michael Francis Donovan,
sculpture
Through Feb. 13

Erik Waterkotte, printmaking
Feb. 17 to March 19
Reception: March 8,
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Juried Student Art Show
Late March to mid-April

Senior Exit Show
April 1 to May 12
Reception: April 1,
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Celebrity Artist Series

The following events in the 2011-12 Celebrity Artist Series season will be presented in the Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall. For more information and to order tickets, call the box office at (570) 389-4409 or visit www.bloomu.edu/cas. Programs and dates are subject to change.

The Philadelphia Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra
Leading players from the Philadelphia area
Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.

The Color Purple
National Broadway Tour
Celebrating Black History and Women's History months
Saturday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.

Complexions Ballet
Featuring Desmond Richardson,
seen on *So You Think You Can Dance*
Saturday, March 31, 8 p.m.

Grace Kelly with Phil Woods
Jazz saxophone phenom
appears with jazz legend
Friday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Concerts

Listed events are open to the public free of charge. For information, see http://departments.bloomu.edu/music/Music_Events.html.

Chamber Orchestra
Sunday, March 4, 2:30 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church,
123 N. Market St. Bloomsburg

Husky Singers
Friday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

University-Community Orchestra
Sunday, April 1, 2:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

Percussion Ensemble
Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

Jazz Festival
Friday, April 13, noon
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

Concert Band
Sunday, April 15, 2:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

Gospelrama
Friday, April 20
Kehr Union, Ballroom

Women's Choral Ensemble
Sunday, April 22, 2:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, K.S. Gross
Auditorium

Wind Ensemble
Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts,
Mitrani Hall

Concert Choir
Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church,
345 Market St., Bloomsburg

**Knoebels Amusement Resort
"Pops" Concert**
Sunday, April 29. Concert Band,
2 p.m.; Jazz Ensemble, 5:30 p.m.
Weather permitting

Guitar Ensemble
Monday, April 30, 7 p.m.,
Carver Hall, K.S. Gross
Auditorium

Theatre

Tickets for Bloomsburg University Players productions are available at the Haas Center for the Arts Box Office, open Mondays through Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. and remaining open Wednesdays until 7 p.m. when classes are in session. For show times and tickets, call the Haas Center Box Office, (570) 389-4409.

Dead Man's Cell Phone
by Sarah Ruhl
Feb. 22 to 26,
Alvina Krause Theatre,
226 Center St., Bloomsburg

The Shape of Things
by Neil LaBute
April 18 to 22,
Alvina Krause Theatre,
226 Center St., Bloomsburg

Alumni Events

Visit www.bloomualumni.com for details or to register. Contact Alumni Affairs at (570) 389-4058, (800) 526-0254 or alum@bloomu.edu.

**New: Moving to May
Alumni Weekend**
Friday through Sunday,
May 18 to 20
Alumni Awards Luncheon
Class of 1962 50-year reunion

Special Events

Husky Leadership Summit
Saturday, March 3
Monty's, Upper Campus

Symphony Ball
Saturday, May 5, 6 p.m.
Kehr Union, Ballroom
Featuring University-Community
Orchestra
Reservations: (570) 389-4287

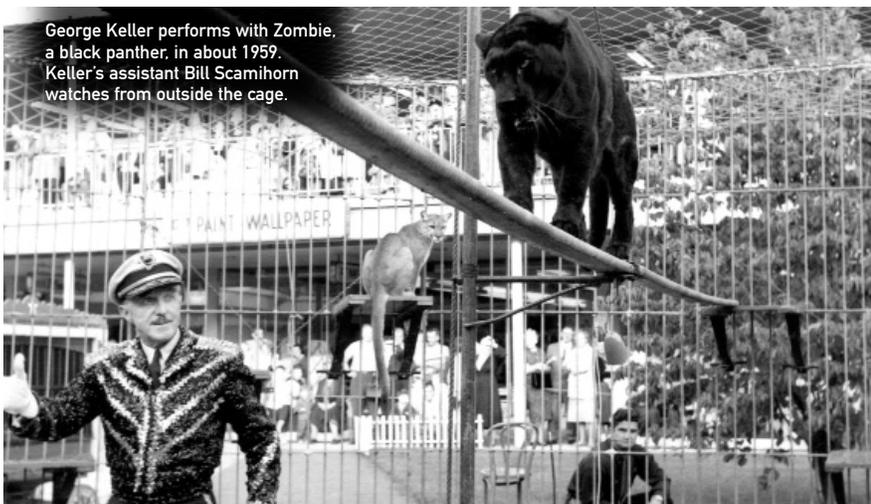
Parents' and Family Weekend
Friday to Sunday,
Sept. 14 to 16

Homecoming Weekend
Friday to Sunday,
Oct. 12 to 14

over the shoulder

Keller's Jungle Killers

by ROBERT DUNKELBERGER, UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST



George Keller performs with Zombie, a black panther, in about 1959. Keller's assistant Bill Scamihorn watches from outside the cage.

BLOOMSBURG NATIVE George Keller was an accomplished artist hired in 1921 to teach fine arts at the Bloomsburg State Normal School. He also had another gift — an outstanding rapport with and love for animals.

In the late 1920s, Keller began raising huskies and in 1933 the student body of the state teachers college adopted the animal as its athletic mascot. However, it was the gift of a mountain lion a year earlier that enabled him to have his own wild animal act, a dream since childhood. For the next 18 years, Keller continued to teach college students while honing his circus act with many breeds of big cats, including lions, mountain lions, tigers and leopards.

Keller ended his academic career in 1950 to devote his full attention to performing with his cats. The act, Keller's Jungle Killers, appeared as one of the first shows at Disneyland and in Madison Square Garden with Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He met singer Virginia Lowery in 1954 while touring with the Polack Brothers Circus. The pair became engaged in early 1956 and bought a ranch together in the Malibu Hills, northwest of Los Angeles.

Lowery, now 87 years old, recently talked for the first time about her years with Keller, recalling their wedding ceremony on Feb. 19, 1957, in a circus ring in Cleveland, Ohio. Although publi-

cized at the time as a legitimate ceremony, Lowery admitted their actual wedding occurred two weeks earlier in Joliet, Ill., with her family in attendance.

The couple continued to tour with the wild animals for the next three years, but the 63-year-old Keller began to experience health problems. He collapsed in front of his wife and 3,000 spectators during a performance in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Oct. 14, 1960. Attempts to revive him were unsuccessful.

The act continued with Keller's assistant Bill Scamihorn until a 1971 accident in Colorado killed driver Al Lapchak and injured several of the cats. The remaining animals were sold, bringing an end to Keller's Jungle Killers.

In honor of George Keller, BU's Andruss Library Special Collections has more than 30 books about circuses and wild animal training, including his autobiography, *Here Keller — Train This.* ●

Editor's Note: University archivist Robert Dunkelberger interviewed Virginia Lowery in August 2011 near Agoura Hills, Calif., for his upcoming book: Keller's Jungle Killers: The Story of a College Professor and His Wild Animal Act.

THE UNIVERSITY STORE



Bloomsburg memories.

Often, it's the tiny details that go unnoticed, but can bring back memories of a time or a place. That's the idea behind the images of BU's campus by Prints Charming that spell out "Bloomsburg" and "Huskies" in architectural and landscaping details. From a winding pathway in the Academic Quad to the zigzag roofline of Haas Center for the Arts, images in these framed, matted prints will always remind you of BU's beauty.

The University Store offers hundreds of items Bloomsburg students and alumni can wear, display and enjoy. Shop for BU insignia gifts from T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats to pennants, stadium blankets and glassware. And remember to stop back often for the apparel that lets you show your Husky pride in the latest colors and styles. Can't decide? Gift cards are available in any amount.

The University Store offers the convenience of shopping online for hundreds of items at bloomustore.com.

For a traditional shopping experience, the University Store is open seven days a week, with extended hours for special Saturday events. Stop by in person or online for everything BU.

Semester Hours

Monday through Thursday:
7:45 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: Noon to 4:30 p.m.

THE UNIVERSITY STORE

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THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING SHAKING IN BLOOMSBURG.



ON ANY GIVEN weekend and many week nights, you'll find something special to do in Bloomsburg — on campus, downtown or both.

Beyond major university events scheduled months in advance, there are performances by the community's nationally recognized Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble, gallery exhibits, literature readings, documentary film screenings, intimate music recitals and the occasional dance extravaganza like the BU Dance Ensemble Spring Show (pictured).

Check out www.bloomu.edu/arts_culture, find out what's happening at the university and downtown, and schedule some fun.

