

Bloomensburg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Success!

It's Personal campaign
raises record \$62 million. Page 8.

ALSO INSIDE

Keeping the Trust

Marc Steckel brings pragmatic
leadership style to FDIC. Page 14.

Balancing Act

Nancy Vasta juggles career, family
and service to BU. Page 18.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Bashar Hanna congratulates a graduate at December commencement.

AS I SAT DOWN TO WRITE my first letter for *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*, I reflected on my first seven months as president of Bloomsburg University and couldn't believe how quickly the time has passed. It seems like only yesterday I was walking into Carver Hall to meet the staff and begin this incredible journey, one that started 40 years ago, as a child coming to the U.S. and not speaking a single word of English.

In August, I joined the the Orientation Workshop Leaders (OWLS) and many others to welcome our largest fall freshman class and their parents to campus and the BU family. That was followed in October by the grand finale of the *It's Personal* capital campaign that will impact our university for decades, while in December I participated in my first graduation ceremonies as president. In between, I have met many warm and wonderful people who have made me feel so welcome. I have interacted with alumni, faculty, staff and students along with leaders of the local community, including government and industry leaders, and the one common denominator is they all share the same feeling, a love for BU and a desire to take it to an even higher level.

As you read this issue of our award-winning magazine, you'll see stories highlighting the incredible alumni, students, faculty and staff that make BU such a great place and who give back with their time, talent and treasure. We highlight dedicated people like trustee Nancy Vasta who gives back to BU in so many ways. Also, read about Marc Steckel who serves on the BU Alumni Board and Foundation Board and returns to campus regularly to work with students through Professional U, and about two students, Bethany Noll and Derek Berger. Bethany, a doctoral candidate, has already made an impact with her work bringing the gift of hearing to children around the world, while Derek has landed a job with the NSA months before his graduation.

I am honored to be part of the BU family. We have so much to build upon and so much yet to accomplish. Over the coming months, I will continue to meet and talk with as many individuals as is possible. Together we will be stronger in our pursuit of excellence. Until then, GO HUSKIES!

PHOTO: BRETT SIMPSON



Boenell Kline '17 shared her story at the *It's Personal* campaign finale in October.

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HUSKY NOTES
SPORTS UPDATES
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COVER PHOTO: Brett Simpson



unleash your inner *husky*



BU GOSPEL CHOIR members Filomena Alves, Iris Chase and Rianna Daughtry sing at BU's Fall Gospel-Rama held in Carver Hall in November. The choir will schedule another concert in spring semester.

around THE quad

From left: John Huckans, associate professor of physics, students Rachel Yenney and Zhipeng Li, and physics professor Ju Xin in BU's UltraCold Laboratory.

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

Exploring quantum physics in Paris and at BU

TO THE NON-PHYSICIST, the laboratory at Université Paris 13 in Paris would be right at home in a science fiction film. The worktable is overwhelmed by machined metal, tubes, wires, and lasers beaming through prisms and lenses.

But for Rachel Yenney, a December physics graduate from Collegeville, it was familiar setup. Bloomsburg has been building a similar apparatus in a project directed by physics professors John Huckans and Ju Xin.

The science underlying the laboratories at BU and Paris is staggeringly complex. An apparatus consisting of custom machined aluminum chambers, lasers tuned to specific wavelengths, powerful magnets and liquid nitrogen cooling lines are the physical manifestation of that complexity. When all parts of the apparatus work in concert, investigators can observe how microscopic particles behave.

Huckans says that about 40 students have been involved in the project over six years, gaining hands-on experience in several areas of physics, including optics, electronics, mechanics, and quantum mechanics.

“The opportunity as an undergraduate to work with an apparatus that is normally found only at Research 1 institutions, tended by teams of graduate students and postdocs, is extremely rare,” says Huckans.

“BU helped prepare me for this experience in many different ways. The diversity on campus and in my classes taught me to appreciate and understand many different cultures,” says Yenney, who plans on pursuing a graduate degree in civil engineering. “Most importantly, my work with professor Huckans prepared me so well for the work I was doing at Université Paris 13.”

PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER



Dancing to make a difference

THE BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY Dance Ensemble held its first dance marathon in November. The afternoon-long event raised \$5,378 for the Children's Miracle Network at Geisinger to benefit the Janet Weis Children's Hospital.

Professors awarded National Geographic Society grant

TWO BU PROFESSORS were awarded a National Geographic Society grant to continue their investigation of water management practices at the Classic Maya (250-900 CE) city of El Perú-Waka' in Petén, Guatemala.

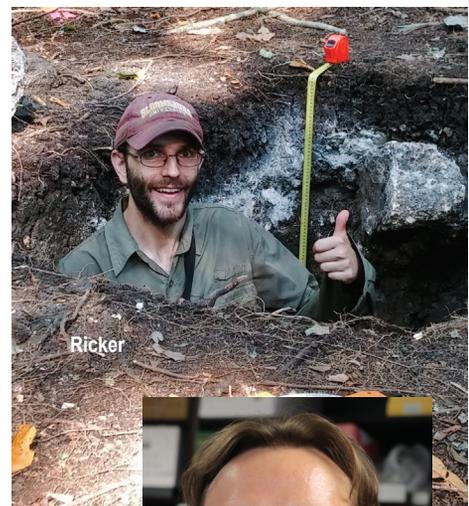
Matthew Ricker, assistant professor of environmental, geographical and geological sciences, and Damien Marken, instructor of anthropology, received a \$25,300 grant for their research "Living with water: Classic Maya pond management at El Perú-Waka'."

They are investigating how Classic Maya peoples created and cultivated water resources in their tropical environment. They are using archaeology and soil science to understand how the ancient Maya managed surface water systems. They will be part of the international multi-institutional Waka' Archaeological Project (PAW), which has been investigating this capital of

Classic Maya civilization since 2003 with permission from the Guatemalan government's Institution of History and Anthropology.

The Bloomsburg team's research is based on the idea that the Maya living in El Perú-Waka' needed to construct landscapes specifically to capture and distribute water due to the scarcity of potable rivers or lakes in that area, which are not adequate for the high settlement density of 6,000 people living within less than a square kilometer. Their research also suggests that the Classic Maya not only collected rainwater to drink but created "living ponds" where contaminants were filtered by plant and animal life.

Accompanied by Bloomsburg students, this will be Ricker's third year at the site, and the 13th year for Marken, who is also a PAW co-director.





Playground pops up on campus

COMMUNITY CHILDREN and parents took over the Student Recreation Center in November at BU's Pop-Up Adventure Playground. The free event featured repurposed materials such as recyclable items, household wares, and natural materials. The event was organized by Michael Patte, professor of teaching and learning, and a leading expert on "playwork," the theory and practice of maintaining spaces for children to play in a way that is freely chosen, directed and intrinsically motivated by the children. Bloomsburg University recently instituted a minor in playwork, the first of its kind in the U.S. Shown at the event are Seol Go and her son Shane Oh.

BU business honor society recognized

THE CAMPUS CHAPTER of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society, has earned highest honors from its national organization. The highest honors distinction allows the BU chapter to submit nominations for multiple society-wide awards and gives one free registration to a BU member to attend the Global Leadership Summit.

New certificate in game design

BU IS OFFERING a new five-course, 15-credit graduate Instructional Game Design certificate. The certificate provides students with specialized knowledge to develop interactive learning games or add "gamification" to existing instructional content. The certificate is for individuals who already have some experience in the field of instructional technology but seek a specialized track of courses focusing on instructional game design and development.

BU Magazine honored

THE 2017 ISSUES OF *Bloomsburg The University Magazine*, won the Gold Award in the 2017 Marcom Awards, administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. Over the past decade, BU publications have won seven gold and three platinum Marcom Awards. Approximately 15 percent of entries won platinum awards and 20 percent of entries gold awards.

Trustees approve out-of-state tuition scholarship

THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES has approved a new "Good Neighbor" program that will invest more than \$1.7 million over four years in a renewable out-of-state tuition scholarship program. The investment is projected to increase enrollment by yielding almost 80

additional high-quality out-of-state students annually.

The Trustees were responding to a plan that seeks to develop an out-of-state enrollment plan that provides for student access while ensuring student quality. It is similar to the successful

scholarship program for Pennsylvania residents established last academic year known as the Academic Success scholarship. That program awards 60 renewal scholarships to high academic achieving in-state students.

Focus ON Students



Digital forensics major lands NSA job

DEREK BERGER KNEW as early as ninth grade that a future in digital forensics was possible. Today, that future isn't just possible — it's happening.

Berger, a senior digital forensics major, is BU's first Department of Defense Information Assurance scholar, a program which will land him a full-time job when he graduates this spring.

This opportunity — sponsored by the DoD and executed by the NSA — was made possible through BU's recent designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education.

"This scholarship opportunity came from the hard work and dedication my professor, Diane

Barrett, has towards the (digital forensics) students," says Berger.

To receive the CAE designation, the digital forensics program had to meet stringent criteria regarding curriculum, faculty and research, and BU had to show a commitment to information assurance practices and education.

Jointly sponsored by the NSA and the Department of Homeland Security, CAE programs reduce vulnerability in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in information assurance by producing a growing number of professionals with information assurance expertise in various disciplines.

"Starting from no knowledge of digital forensics, I've grown immensely in the field in four short years," Berger says. "This program is designed exceptionally well in getting you on your feet and starting from the basics of computers and forensics."

Since coming to Bloomsburg, Berger chose to also major in Arabic to become a better candidate for a government agency. "Arabic has made me open my eyes to the world around us culturally and linguistically," says Berger. "Without this study, I believe it would have lowered the chances of me receiving a federal job." •

– Hannah Miller '18,
Communications Assistant



The gift of hearing

BETHANY NOLL, a third-year student in the clinical doctorate of audiology program, has put her knowledge and training to good use in helping Third World countries.

First fitted with hearing aids when she was 4, Noll understands what it's like to be a child who wears hearing aids. "It helps me interact with patients. I have a personal perspective related to them," she says.

Noll began her charitable work two years ago in Haiti and has made several trips to Guatemala and Zambia. "I became involved with Entheos Audiology Cooperative through my boss at A&E Audiology," Noll said. "I began working for her in 2012. She invited me to go with her in 2015 to Haiti. Since that first trip, I have been hooked."

"This trip captured my heart," Noll said. "I saw some of the most impoverished areas in Haiti. I fit a middle-aged woman with hearing aids in both ears. She told us she

believes she lost her hearing during the earthquake that struck Haiti in 2010."

In Haiti Noll also fit her first child with hearing aids. "He had profound hearing loss. When we fit him with bilateral hearing aids a smile lit up his face. He rushed over to his friends to show off his new hearing aids."

Later that year, she continued her service in Zambia. There she fitted hearing aids for a 4-year-old girl, Sylvia, whose family was having trouble paying for her schooling. Noll made it her mission to help find a solution, traveled to the school and met the founder. He agreed to sponsor Sylvia to go to his school and receive a proper education.

On a 2017 trip to Panajachel, Guatemala, Noll met a 16-year-old girl, Esmerelda, who she had fitted with hearing aids the previous year.

"The hearing aids had helped her tremendously, but her ear molds were deteriorating," says Noll. "She

told us how she was planning to go to school to become a teacher the following year. We wanted to fit her with new hearing aids that are a receiver in the ear style so it does not require an ear mold. We didn't have hearing aids that were suitable for her hearing loss."

In that moment, Noll and her boss decided to take Noll's hearing aids off her ears to reprogram them for Esmerelda. "My hearing aids at that time were considered one of the top-of-the-line hearing aids in the United States, and we gave them to Esmerelda," says Noll.

Noll said she hopes to travel to Zambia or India this year. "I'm looking to help at the nonprofit audiology clinic that my boss has started in Lancaster County while I'm still in graduate school," Noll said. •

– Megan Hawbecker '18,
Communications Assistant



Making it Personal

*It's Personal Campaign
transforms the university*

By Jaime North and Thomas Schaeffer



BU president Bashar Hanna thanks former BU president David Soltz for his campaign leadership.

One person *can* make a difference. And when it becomes personal, it leads to a big difference.

A difference of more than 2,800 students having new scholarships. A difference of nearly 11,000 students having career development opportunities to help them land that first job. A difference of nearly 20,000 donors and volunteers having a new sense of engagement and school pride.

An unprecedented transformation.

This fall, Bloomsburg University celebrated the conclusion of its most successful capital campaign ever, *It's Personal*. The seven-year campaign raised more than \$62 million for new scholarships, new faculty professorships and fellowships, and new learning opportunities for each student to receive career experience every year until graduation.

"When the Council of Trustees selected me to serve as president of Bloomsburg in 2008, they assigned me the task and priority of putting the infrastructure in place that would allow us to begin building a culture of philanthropy," says former BU President David Soltz.

The assignment couldn't have been timelier. A shift in demographics in the state and a sharp drop in the number of college-

aged students meant that the competition to attract new students would soon increase immensely. After extensive research and planning, in 2010 Soltz, in collaboration with Council of Trustees, university administrators and the Bloomsburg University Foundation Board, launched *It's Personal: The Campaign for Bloomsburg University*.



But the campaign was always about more than money. It was about people.

"This campaign was our opportunity to engage alumni and friends and ask them to be more than just donors," says Erik Evans, vice president for university advancement. "Our goal was to create a philanthropic culture where they would be valued as partners who would invest in our students and faculty and contribute to the continued growth and success of the university."

"*It's Personal* grew very quickly and organically into much more than a campaign name or slogan," Evans adds. "By connecting our supporters with their own passions at Bloomsburg, we created exactly the types of partnerships we were hoping for."

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



The celebratory evening featured performances by the Huskies Marching Band and Concert Choir. Choir members and campaign chair, Duane Greenly, announced the final campaign total by holding up numbers.

PHOTOS: BRETT SIMPSON

That inspired donors to make gifts that were not only strategic to our continued success, but that were also personally meaningful to them.”

At the time of the public campaign launch on Oct. 16, 2015, contributions already received from more than 14,800 donors had raised nearly \$37 million.

The *It's Personal* theme served as both a framework for the stories that inspired alumni and friends to give back, and a guiding principle to focus the campaign on four specific areas — academic and athletic scholarships; recruitment, support and retention of outstanding faculty; professional experiences for students; and emerging opportunities for the university.



By early November 2016, the university had already exceeded its initial goal by more than \$10 million. This success led to the campaign officially closing six months earlier than anticipated to coincide with Soltz's retirement in June 2016.

On Oct. 6, 2017, the BU community of donors, alumni, faculty and staff celebrated the milestone and the impact it will have on the future of the university. The evening culminated with a fireworks display that served as both a celebration of the campaign's success and the kickoff to the weekend's Homecoming festivities.

“Seven years ago, when Dr. Soltz and Bloomsburg University began to build their vision for what they thought this effort could accomplish, these were the results we were hoping for,” says Duane Greenly,

chair of the *It's Personal* campaign. “I always had faith that we would reach our goal, but it is hard for me to express how proud I am to be a part of the Bloomsburg University community and to see how we have come together to turn this dream into a reality.”

For BU President Bashar W. Hanna, the success of the campaign represents an opportunity to build on a solid foundation.

“The success of the campaign is an extraordinary milestone, but we won't stop here,” says Hanna. “These are challenging times in higher education, but Bloomsburg is well positioned to meet those challenges. I look forward to taking the next steps together with the Bloomsburg University community as we build on the positive momentum and energy created with this campaign.” •



From left: BU president Bashar Hanna, campaign cabinet members Steph Pettit, Mike Boguski, Pat Mica, chair Duane Greenly, Terry Zeigler, Ed Breiner, Nick Giuffre and former BU president David Soltz. Not shown are cabinet members Barbara Hudock, Drew Hostetter, Susan McDowell and the late Joseph Mowad.



Impact By The Numbers



17,860
individual donors
have made a total of
71,929
gifts through the
It's Personal campaign.



\$62,075,064
raised over seven years.

11
New Professional
Experience Grants
in support of Professional U,
providing every student with one
professional experience each year
until graduation.



137
New Academic and
Athletic Scholarships
totaling more than
\$26 million
A total of
439
scholarships now support the
commitment to admit students
from all backgrounds based on
academic ability, not ability to pay.

9
New Endowed
Professorships and
Fellowships
supporting recruitment,
retention and recognition of
outstanding faculty devoted to
student success.

3
New Institutes

- Zeigler Institute for Professional Development
- McDowell Institute for Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support
- Confer Radio Talent Institute

2
New Centers
for Experiential Learning

- Giuffre Center for Supply Chain Management
- Benner-Hudock Center for Financial Analysis

3
New Named
Athletic Facilities

- Danny Hale Field
- The Burt Reese Tennis Center
- Steph Pettit Stadium

1
New Location in the Community
The Greenly Center, home to
the Bloomsburg University
Foundation in downtown
Bloomsburg

and...

1
Newly Named College:
Zeigler College of Business

Read and see more stories about the impact of the *It's Personal* campaign at itspersonal.bloomu.edu.



PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

The Power of a Second Chance

By Thomas Schaeffer

IN THE FALL OF 2016, Briheem Adger got the news every future graduate wants to hear. Just one semester shy of graduation, he had already been offered a full-time position at Enterprise Rent-A-Car based on his excellent performance as an intern.

And then he got bad news. The salary from his internship wasn't enough for him to pay for spring semester. His financial aid had run out and he couldn't borrow additional funds. His job offer was contingent upon graduating.

Five years earlier, this story might have ended there, another instance of a degree almost completed and a young person's career path derailed. But this story doesn't follow that path. Adger's fellow students in the Community Government Association had established the *It's Personal* Emergency Scholarship Fund in 2016 for this type of situation.

Adger applied for an Emergency Scholarship and he, like 54 other students, received the support he needed. He was able to finish his career at BU and begin his new career at Enterprise.

"I almost gave up. I was so frustrated. I needed something to go right and it did."

Adger says. "I felt like every time I took two steps forward to better myself, I kept getting pushed back. But I kept working hard and thanks to people who gave of themselves to help someone they didn't know, I made it to the finish line."

Adger had already overcome a host of obstacles on his road to a degree. As a high

Thanks to people who gave of themselves to help someone they didn't know, I made it to the finish line.

– Briheem Adger

school student in Downingtown, he sat in his living room with his mother during a visit from a guidance counselor, who advised that he shouldn't pursue college because he "probably wouldn't do well" because of his scores on an aptitude test.

Adger was a good student, so the advice surprised him and shook his confidence. But he didn't let this deter him from his goal of becoming the first member of

his family to graduate from college. His father, a longtime custodian in the West Chester School District, and his mother, a data entry clerk for the Chester County Health Department, always stressed the importance of education to their son.

"I knew I wanted to go to college, and I did well in high school," Adger says. "My dad was always telling me that education was the most important thing, and stressing that he wanted me to take advantage of my opportunities to make a better life for myself."

Positive feedback from friends and a visit to campus steered Adger to BU, and he enrolled as a summer freshman in the ACT 101 program in 2011. But the next two years were rocky — a strong semester followed by a weak semester. A failed introductory writing class in his sophomore year pushed his GPA below a 2.0. He wouldn't be able to return to Bloomsburg for his junior year.

"When I got that letter saying I couldn't come back, it was like I was sitting in my living room all over again, listening to them tell my mom that I 'probably wouldn't do well in college,'" says Adger. "So I said 'no, I am going back to Bloomsburg, that's where I started and

that's where I'm going to finish.' I was not going to let that man define my story."

With a renewed sense of purpose, he enrolled at Luzerne County Community College and improved his GPA to return to Bloomsburg.

"I received a call, and they told me that I was accepted back to Bloomsburg, but I would have to take the writing course again," Adger says. "I thought I would never escape that class, but they set me up with an academic coach, Dr. Robert Wislock, who helped me immensely, and I completed the course."

This time around, Adger was determined to take full advantage of all the resources available to him. He engaged with Toni Barrile, Assistant Director of TRiO Student Support Services, and pushed himself to become the student he knew he could be.

"Briheem came to TRiO Student Support Services on a weekly basis," says Barrile. "We mapped out his goals and his classes he needed to take for each of his remaining semesters and what grades he wanted to achieve in each of his classes."

With his newfound focus and his commitment to doing everything he could to succeed, Adger set a goal of reaching a 3.0 GPA to get back to the academic level he had achieved in high school. "I never did reach that goal, but it kept me hungry," says Adger. "I kept pushing myself to reach it, and I knew that I was never going to get there by sitting on the couch playing video games or hanging out with my friends."

Barrile went on to work with Adger, tutoring him and offering help in areas where she knew just a quick push would get him over the hump. "He was the kind of student that you couldn't help but root for," Barrile adds. "He was committed to doing his best, so you always wanted to do what you could to help him.

"I will be forever grateful to Bloomsburg University for not giving up on me," says Adger, "and for giving me a second chance, thanks to the support from the Trio Upward Bound office and the scholarship I received." •

Thomas Schaeffer is communications coordinator for the BU Foundation.



Digging for Experience

WHEN ISABEL MISKE '17 found herself as the only American in a group of 10 students preparing to sleep on the floor of an underground museum in Italy, she wasn't sure what she had gotten herself into, but she knew she was up to the challenge.

An anthropology major from Pottsville, Miske was at the beginning of the biggest adventure of her life — an archaeological field school in Abruzzo, Italy. It was a trip she had dreamed of, but never thought would happen.

After completing an internship in her junior year at The Hershey Story museum, Miske was convinced that she wanted to work in the field of museum study. She met with her adviser, anthropology professor Deanne Wymer, and asked about the next step toward achieving her goal.

"I was glad she was excited about this potential career, but I told her this was a very competitive field and if she were really serious about it, she would have to get out of the classroom and get some hands-on experience that goes beyond the course work," Wymer says. "The beautiful thing about Isabel was, once I told her about the opportunities available to her, she took the initiative."

Miske worked with Wymer to complete her application and was accepted to the field school, but now she faced another dilemma — she had

no way to pay for the trip. Miske also applied for a Professional Experience Grant (PEG), provided by donors through Bloomsburg's Professional U initiative that helps students supplement the costs of real-world experiential learning opportunities.

Thanks to funding from the PEG, Miske was able to attend the field school in the summer of 2017, with the cost of her flight and most of the tuition covered.

Over four weeks, she and nine other students from Ireland, Canada, Bulgaria, Argentina, Australia, and Italy lived, slept, worked and learned together in two large rooms of a museum in the remote countryside of Italy.

The field school was split between two dig sites where Miske and her counterparts unearthed prehistoric and ancient Roman artifacts. They awoke each day at 5 a.m. and worked in the blazing sun in the morning, while the afternoon was spent hearing lectures from University of Pisa professors or cleaning the artifacts they discovered.

"I had no idea how much work goes into digging and moving the rocks and dirt with pick axes and shovels to get to the artifacts," says Miske. "It was empowering to leave the country knowing what I'm capable of achieving if I work hard enough." •



PHOTO: GORDON WENZEL/IMPRESSIONS

Marc Steckel, vice president of the BU Alumni Association, talks with students at a luncheon sponsored by the Alumni Association.



Keeping the *Trust*

Marc Steckel brings a pragmatic leadership style to the FDIC and shares his experience with BU students

By KELLEY FREUND

GROWING UP in Slatington, a town of 5,000 in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, Marc Steckel '93 recalls being a bit wild and giving his parents ulcers.

Two decades later as a leader at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), Steckel helped protect residents of small towns like Slatington from financial ruin as the Great Recession of 2007-2009 tore through communities.

"As long as deposits are under the insurance limit, a person is guaranteed their money if a bank fails. \$250,000 is a lot to most people," says Steckel. "And when you give them that satisfaction that they're going to get their money, it's great to be able to do that for people."

The scope of the 18-month crisis was vast, large enough to strain the resources of even the FDIC. The pragmatic problem-solving skills of Steckel — described by a colleague as the antithesis of an ivory-tower bureaucrat — played a role as the FDIC worked to ensure that the needed financial resources were in place by working with banks and having them prepay their insurance to pay current losses while avoiding the use of taxpayer funding.

Credit his blue-collar upbringing. Credit his experience at Bloomsburg University. Either way, Steckel has worked his way up the FDIC ladder over the course of 24 years, and kept his alma mater in his heart.

Steckel chose Bloomsburg because the campus was far enough from home,

but close enough that he didn't have to get on an airplane. It was a good fit for his family financially as well. BU offered him a Mitrani Scholarship, which allowed Steckel to get through college without needing a student loan.

"But there was also a performance component," says Steckel, who was in the Scholars Program (now Honors Program) and was a Tau Kappa Epsilon brother. "I was effectively guaranteed the money the following year if I maintained a 3.5 GPA in the current year. It kept me focused."

He had worked for a year to save up money before coming to Bloomsburg, so when he arrived, Steckel adopted a workday view of school. "School to me was 9 to 5," he says. "During the day I was typically in the library if I wasn't in class."

Steckel's courses taught him critical thinking skills, including a 400-level finance class that he remembers as a special challenge. "The professor would randomly pick a student, and that student was on stage for the whole class. You didn't know if it was going to be you, so you had to come prepared. The pressure of not knowing what the questions were going to be, to have a deep understanding of what you were talking about, and having to defend yourself in front of someone who's a smart questioner, it was a worthwhile experience. It was probably the closest thing to what real life in the workplace is like."

Those skills prepared him well for his career. In the fall of Steckel's senior year, the FDIC came to recruit on

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PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

As an adult, I've come to understand the mandate of BU and how transformative it can be.

– Marc Steckel

Marc Steckel talks with students in BU's Honors Program. Steckel joined the students on a trip to Poland in December.

campus — he joined the organization in June 1993 as a bank examiner in Harrisburg, traveling to banks across central Pennsylvania. Since then he has worked his way up, serving in different roles for the FDIC across the country and gaining a broad understanding of the organization.

Throughout the financial crisis, the FDIC resolved over 500 failed banks (in contrast to just seven from 2003 to 2006), and while these were typically smaller, community banks, there was a need to address issues related to large institutions as well. In 2011, a new group was established to focus on that, with Steckel at the helm as deputy director of complex financial institutions in Washington, D.C.

“In my job, I deal with fascinating public policy issues. I absolutely love it,” Steckel says. “And I like the FDIC’s mission. Regular working people can put their life savings in a bank and not

have to worry if they’re going to get their money back.”

Sean Cassidy ’87, a colleague at the FDIC, says Steckel is seen as an inspiring leader. “In addition to taking on the new responsibilities, he went on a road show to ensure others in the division understood the mission of this new branch, including the challenges ahead,” Cassidy says.

“Marc is well respected, values relationships and connects well with people at all levels of the corporation.”

Much of Steckel’s success comes from his ability as a great communicator. Not only is he very personable, Cassidy says, but he also has a talent for explaining complex topics to ensure everyone, whether they are executives, managers or staff, has a clear understanding of the content.

Once established with a successful

career, Steckel said he and his wife, Diane, were in a place financially where they could start being charitable. They began to donate to some organizations, but felt something was missing.

“It felt like we weren’t having the best impact,” Steckel says. “People come and ask you for \$100 or \$500. You write the check, and then you’re not quite sure what happens with it. You can do that all day long, and maybe you give away a good bit of money, but we weren’t sure what the lasting impact of any of it was.”

They became more strategic with their donations. Since the Mittrani Scholarship had played a pivotal role in his career, Steckel wanted to repay that kindness.

“As an adult, I’ve come to understand the mandate of BU and how transformative it can be. If I had not gone to Bloom, and not gotten



Diane and Marc Steckel with their scholarship recipient Clarissa Hoke '17.

the financial assistance, I might have ended up in another career, maybe a less-impactful one,” says Steckel. “I realize how important BU was for me and I want that for the students now.”

The Steckels began directing money to scholarships for students in the Honors Program. And that was the beginning. Steckel went from coming back to campus periodically for a homecoming to becoming a key member of BU’s alumni community. He has been an active alumni network leader for the Washington, D.C. region, hosting Bloomsburg students for internships and for a Husky Career road trip to the FDIC. Now serving as vice president of the Bloomsburg University Alumni Association, he also comes to campus to work with students through the school’s Professional U initiative.

“That was a catalyst for getting to know a lot more people,” says Steckel. “It was fun to be able to connect back to the university as an adult. There are lots of interesting things to learn, getting to know the organization, learning the reasons behind the decisions that are made — as a student I didn’t have a window on this side of the university.”

Steckel received the William T. Derricott '66 Volunteer of the Year Award last April in recognition for his

volunteer activities in 2016. “I was actually a little embarrassed,” he says. “I’m not doing it for the recognition — I’m doing it because the interactions are rewarding. I enjoy being able to help students.”

One of the key themes Steckel stresses when he speaks with students is recognizing that success comes from both situational awareness — recognizing the problems that need to be solved — and self-awareness — what you can bring to the situation to help solve it. “You can be a leader or you can be a boss. If you want to lead people somewhere, it’s an act of faith. There must be a sense of trust that you’re taking them somewhere they want to go,” he says.

“I’ve never had a bad reception from students,” says Steckel. “Every time I speak with students they are so grateful, they’re engaging, and they ask great questions. To say, ‘Hey, I was just like you a few years ago ...’ I think a lot of students connect to that, and they seek advice.”

Steckel says a common theme throughout all his volunteer activities is that he never knew there was a need for alumni to give time to the university. But he now recognizes how essential alumni are to the Bloomsburg experience for students.

“I think it’s important for alumni

like Marc to give back to the university so that students can learn from their experiences and expertise,” says Barbara Romano, president of the BU Alumni Association. “If we can bridge the gap for one student and make them feel more comfortable as they begin their journey after Bloomsburg, then I consider that a success.”

Many Bloomsburg students come from working-class roots, like Steckel, and he says it’s one of the unique things about his alma mater.

“There’s a pragmatism that comes with that, the recognition that this is not esoteric stuff that we’re working on, that things need to get done,” he says. It’s the same attitude that his parents instilled in him, the same concept his Bloomsburg experience reinforced, and it’s how he tries to lead his team at the FDIC. Asking questions, getting things accomplished. No B.S.

“I don’t know what the opposite of wonkish-ness is,” Steckel jokes, “but Bloomsburg graduates tend to not be wonks. We try to understand something, then figure out what to do. But then actually being able to get things done is key.” •

Kelley Freund is a freelance writer based in Virginia.



PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

Balancing act

By WILLIE COLÓN

Nancy Vasta juggles family, career, and giving back to Bloomsburg

NANCY VASTA LEADS the busy, fast-paced life of a highly successful corporate executive. But inside beats a small-town heart, and it's Bloomsburg that gave it a pulse.

“When I think about Bloomsburg University, I think about the camaraderie and the balance of academics, having fun, and being in a relaxing environment,” says Vasta, '97/'99M, vice president of Consumer Health Engagement at Cigna. “To this day I love small towns because of the experience I had at Bloomsburg University.

“I’ve always lived close to Philadelphia, and sometimes you don’t realize the pace and stress when you’re in it,” she adds. “To be able to extract yourself from that and be in a place that’s so conducive to focusing – I long for that.”

Vasta seems to have learned her small-town, life-balancing lessons well. In addition to juggling family and career, this magna cum laude graduate shares her time and talents generously with the university that she says prepared her well for the demands of the corporate world.

She has recruited Bloomsburg grads for

Cigna and enthusiastically participated in a variety of fundraising efforts. She also has served on the Zeigler College of Business Advisory Board and, since 2009, Bloomsburg’s Council of Trustees.

“Bloomsburg has given me so much,” Vasta says, “that I feel honored to have the opportunity to give back.”



“Fresh off the boat” is how Vasta laughingly refers to her Sicilian-born parents. Growing up in Bucks County, family and community were of prime



Nancy Vasta at a meeting of the Council of Trustees, above, and with her husband Mike Reynolds '99 and son Jack before a commencement ceremony.



importance. Education also was highly valued, and like many Bloomsburg alumni, Vasta was the first in her family to graduate from college — at least, in the U.S.

“For my generation, there was a sense of pride in going to college,” she says.

Vasta transferred to Bloomsburg after two years at the University of Pittsburgh. It was a decision spurred by several reasons, including romance.

“My boyfriend at the time — now my husband, Mike Reynolds '99 — was also at Bloomsburg. So that had something to do with it,” Vasta says. She adds that Bloomsburg roots run deep in her husband’s family: Mike’s great-great-grandmother graduated from Bloomsburg, as did both of his parents, Pete '70 and Mary '70, and his sister, Caroline '06.

Vasta had also decided she wanted to teach. Among the benefits of pursuing a teaching degree at Bloomsburg was the lower cost, she says. “And it was good for me to be in a smaller environment with more access to professors,” Vasta adds. “They know you by name.”

Ultimately, she decided that teaching wasn’t a good fit.

But Vasta has a curious mind, broad interests, and a lot of energy. She graduated with a major in secondary

education and history, and a minor in computer science.

Those varied interests and experiences found a perfect outlet in BU’s instructional technology master’s program. The program, which focuses on the creation of web-based instruction, fused her background in education and technology into one.

In ways she could not have predicted, it would set the stage for her career and the many ways she would give back to Bloomsburg.



Chip Peters, '93/'95M, says he knew Vasta would be a corporate star from the moment he saw her. Peters was part of the Corporate Advisory Council that evaluated the final project of Vasta’s graduate school cohort.

“She was the most polished — the absolute standout,” says Peters, who worked for Cigna at the time. He remembers turning to another Cigna colleague and saying, “She’s the one we’re getting.”

“It’s like when you see the person you know you’re going to marry,” Peters adds. The company wined and dined her, he remembers, until Vasta accepted a position

at Cigna’s office in Connecticut. She’s been with Cigna ever since.

“Because of the Bloomsburg connection, I was endorsed and mentored at Cigna,” Vasta says. “That setting, that network, was unique to Bloomsburg and the way that program was structured.”

The program and her many experiences at Bloomsburg also prepared her for the different roles she was to play at Cigna. Vasta explains that she’s held several positions in different areas within the global health services company. Her focus is now is on redefining the healthcare experience for Cigna customers to improve health and save money.

It’s clear that Peters’ first impression of Vasta was on the nose. But as he got to know her better as a co-worker and friend, Peters was equally impressed by her genuine desire to support others. “She’s always willing to go the extra mile for a friend,” Peters says. “She’s someone you can rely on.”

Vasta is also someone who values paying it forward, something she’s been doing for well over a decade.

“When I started with Cigna, there was more work than people,” Vasta says. “So I was told, ‘You’re doing a great job. Go find more like you at Bloomsburg!’”



Nancy Vasta with student scholarship recipient Jaime Carroll.

And for several years after she graduated, Vasta, like Chip Peters and other Bloomsburg alumni before them, was a member of the Corporate Advisory Council that evaluated the informational technology master's candidates' final projects.

That role evolved, and Vasta was soon helping to recruit Bloomsburg grads from other disciplines — accounting and nursing grads, for example. Her connections and networking continued, and former Bloomsburg Trustee Lee Davis, a longtime family friend who knew both Vasta and her husband as they grew up, recommended Vasta for the Council of Trustees.

“She was the right fit for the trustees,” Davis recalls. “I was always impressed with her love of Bloomsburg and how it changed her life, but she’s also pragmatic. And she has a wonderful personality. She engages with people; she’s a good listener.

“If she spends enough time on the Council of Trustees, she will be a significant factor at Bloomsburg for the next several decades,” Davis predicts.

And Davis notes that Vasta sees the big picture in any situation. For Bloomsburg, that means understanding the necessity of raising money given relatively flat state funding.

“She’s a conversationalist, endearing, passionate, enthusiastic,” says Erik Evans, BU’s vice president for university advancement. “And when she touches something, she’s all in.”

Her role as the first chair of the Henry Carver Fund, BU’s annual fund, is a case in

point. Evans notes that with her business skills, Vasta helped develop the marketing plan that grew the Carver Fund from \$450,000 to \$1.6 million over a seven-year period.

“She modeled for others the ways that you could volunteer with passion and energy — how you can be involved with your alma mater in a way that’s rewarding personally and can have a huge impact on the university,” Evans says.

“As Henry Carver helped lay the foundation for Carver Hall, Nancy helped lay the foundation for the \$62 million *It’s Personal* campaign as the first Henry Carver Fund chair,” he adds.

Vasta also took the title of the *It’s Personal* campaign to heart. In 2013, she and her husband established the Mary L. Reynolds scholarship in memory of Mike’s mother, a Bloomsburg alumna and elementary school teacher who lost her battle with breast cancer in 2012.

“We gave the scholarship to my father-in-law as a Christmas present,” Vasta says. As a scholarship recipient herself, Vasta says she understands the impact it can have on a student’s life. At the same time, she and her family are also supporting the university’s mission.

The scholarship is for elementary education students, preferably from a rural background and with financial need. Various family members now regularly contribute to it. “It has become a good way to honor and recognize Mary,” Vasta says.



How does Vasta find enough hours in the day to juggle her various responsibilities?

A flexible work environment helps as does a supportive family. And her close ties to Bloomsburg play a part as well. As Vasta explains, Bloomsburg is the one place where the major threads of her life can come together.

“When I go to Bloomsburg, I get rejuvenated,” Vasta says. “It brings me back to the small-town atmosphere I want to be living in. And I turn it into quality family time.”

For example, while she won’t take her 9-year-old son, Jack, to a business meeting in Texas, she often does take him to Bloomsburg.

“When I go to a trustees meeting, it’s not odd for my mom, son, husband or some combination of the three to come with me,” Vasta says. “For my mom, in some small way, it’s like she’s experiencing higher education.”

Her remarkable and seemingly effortless balancing act has not gone unnoticed.

“What’s amazing to me is that she can balance so many things — an incredible career, a beautiful family, her volunteer roles — and take each seriously and invest in Bloomsburg in so many ways,” Erik Evans says. “It’s inspiring.” •

Willie Colón is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia.



Vasta with instructional technology faculty, from left, Mary Nicholson, Karl Kapp and Helmut Doll.



Duane and Sue Greenly with
BU President Bashar Hanna, left.

Greenlys establish grants to support student science research

A NEW ENDOWED GIFT from Bloomsburg University Foundation board member Duane Greenly '72 and his wife Sue Greenly '72 will support experiential learning opportunities for students in the College of Science and Technology.

The \$575,000 gift will provide Professional Experience Grants (PEGs) to help fund outside-the-classroom opportunities for students to work with faculty members on research collaborations. The gift is consistent with the university's Professional U focus, which is to provide high-impact practices, integrating student academic experience with professional experience in "real world" settings.

Duane Greenly, who served as chair of the Bloomsburg University's recently-concluded *It's Personal* campaign, and Sue both graduated from Bloomsburg in 1972; Duane with a degree in chemistry and Sue in special education.

"The commitment we made to support the university

throughout the *It's Personal* campaign was important to us because our gift was very personal," Greenly says. "We thought for a long time about how we could take this next step with our support to help sustain one of the campaign priorities, which was to create more hands-on experiences for BU students."

The couple's history of support for BU extends back to 1991 with their first gift to the Henry Carver Fund and includes significant contributions, including the establishment of the Greenly Center in downtown Bloomsburg along with the Duane and Sue Greenly Scholarship.

"Sue and Duane's continued support and their recognition of the importance of experiential learning as an integral part of a BU education is inspiring," said BU President Bashar W. Hanna. "This extraordinary gift will expand experiential learning opportunities for our science and technology students ensuring success in their chosen discipline after graduation."

Focus ON Faculty



PHOTO: ERIC FOSTER

Robin Drogan interacts with children at Danville School District's Liberty Valley Intermediate School.

An educator for every child

ROBIN DROGAN found her career path as a special educator when she was 16 and working as a camp counselor in Maryland. Her inspiration was a fellow camper.

“The camp supported children with disabilities. The children with disabilities were included with their peers and participated in all activities,” recalls Drogan. “I was paired with a child named Jay. He taught me so much about appreciating life and working hard. The experience allowed me to think openly and creatively, to foster independence for Jay, and encourage him to believe that he could do it all.”

For Drogan, that camp experience was transformational. “There was never a question that I had chosen the right path.”

She became a special educator,

working in Maryland and Pennsylvania for 15 years and earning her master’s degree in special education at BU in 2008. Before joining BU’s faculty in 2013, her experience ranged from teaching individuals with disabilities from preschool to adults. “My area of concentration initially was supporting individuals with complex instructional needs who are affected significantly by a disability. I broadened my area of interest to include students who display significant challenging behavior.”

Today, the assistant professor of exceptionality programs shares her wisdom with a new generation of teachers, both in the classroom and as a supervisor for students participating in the Danville Professional Development School practicum experience (BU has similar practicums in other districts).

“The six-credit practicum experience is unique,” says Drogan. “The standards are high.” BU students are paired with a cooperating teacher as support for two days each week at the school in the fall semester and with whom they will student teach in the spring. The continuation from practicum to student teaching increases both rigor and depth of the field experiences.

“The rapport that the teacher has with the students is critical to understanding the learner,” says Drogan. “Children learn differently. Teachers need to understand what motivates each student and use data to make educational decisions.”

The other half of being a great teacher is planning. “To truly meet the needs of all learners, teachers need to be intentional about their teaching. Planning the lesson is as important as teaching the lesson. Each time you teach, you learn from the students and you use what you learn to shape the next lesson,” says Drogan.

“For example, a student may need a personal connection to the material to write a paragraph,” says Drogan. “A picture of a positive or negative event that actually occurred helped this student to give information in her sentences. But instead of providing a picture as a prompt for just this student, the teacher could provide pictures for all of the students and plan to include the student based on learning strengths.”

“All children can learn,” says Drogan. “For me, working with students with diverse learning needs is about the presumption of competence. It is our job as teachers to find the most successful, research-based, strategies to support that learning.”

— Eric Foster



A Legacy of Family

GREG VIOLA '71 will always hold Bloomsburg University close to his heart. Family trips taken to BU with his wife Barbara would eventually lead to both of their children, Gregory '93, and Gina '98, choosing Bloomsburg for their undergraduate degrees.

That's why, when Greg, a loyal donor since 1982, was approached with the idea of creating a scholarship through a planned gift in his will to the Bloomsburg University Foundation, he was intrigued by the idea.

"What many of my classmates don't realize is that when we went to school here, tuition was minimal at a state school," says Greg. "That funding from the state has decreased drastically over the years."

For Greg, a retired educator and technology consultant in Sarasota, Fla., this was the perfect opportunity to increase his support and create a legacy for his family at BU.

"We were in a position where we had the means to create the scholarship and it really didn't take a lot," Greg says.

"It was easy to spread it out and to grow it over the years."

And it wasn't long before the Violas would have the opportunity to grow their scholarship. A few months after it was established, Greg's son, Gregory, learned about the gift and asked how he could contribute too.

Gregory, a retired US Coast Guard lieutenant commander and accountant/consultant who also met his wife Stephanie '93 at BU, is helping to grow the endowment of the scholarship by making an annual gift each year.

"As soon as I found out about the scholarship, I wanted to be a part of it," Gregory says. "Bloomsburg has always taken care of its students. I know it has done a lot for our family, so I'm glad we can help as a family to continue that tradition."

"Bloomsburg has played such an important role in our family and has given us so many memories," Greg added. "Including the university in our will and creating a scholarship for students who will come here in the future seemed like the best way for us to honor those memories."

To learn more about how you can create your own legacy at BU, visit

giving.bloomu.edu/plannedgiving



husky notes



Gwen Wiscount with a student in Kenya. In 2017, Wiscount climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for a school in Kenya.



FULL THROTTLE

Bloomsburg alumna takes all-out approach to career and life

By SUSAN FIELD

GWEN WISCOUNT doesn't believe in half measures. When she goes after something, she goes after it all the way.

At age 23, Wiscount '09, a business administration and marketing major, managed a \$2 million business for a multimillion-dollar environmental packaging company. At age 27, she co-founded a sales and marketing company and was named partner at age 28. And now at age 31, Wiscount's firm is generating \$6 million dollars in revenue and recently made its first acquisition.

Her success is no surprise to those that know her.

"I'm not even a little surprised. She's a superstar," says Steph Pettit '89, president of the Tampa-based Clean Earth Systems, Inc. and Wiscount's employer for four years. "She's very well-defined in who she wants to be and how she goes about it. She's extremely bright, articulate, and driven."

And while launching a company in the fall of 2014, she trained for, and completed, the Chicago Marathon.

In 2017, Wiscount received Bloomsburg University's

Maroon and Gold Excellence Award. The award recognizes young alumni who have made significant achievements in their professions, to Bloomsburg University, the alumni association, or humanity, and has demonstrated the potential for further contributions.

Wiscount's company, FullFunnel, is a sales and marketing advisory firm that helps businesses increase sales and income.

"We started the company to provide organizations access to top sales and marketing talent, but without the cost and risk they typically face when hiring these revenue-generating roles. FullFunnel is different from a traditional consulting firm in that we work with you, as an extension of your team to execute and optimize the programs over time," says Wiscount, who is based in the Boston area and oversees six companies within her portfolio.

A Pine Grove native, Wiscount approaches her professional career in the same way she did her student career: with great ambition. At BU, Wiscount excelled

Recognizing Service

at academics, was in a sorority, student government, worked at the football office and was a cheerleader.

“I learned how to juggle my academics with my extracurriculars because I wanted to do it all, and do well,” Wiscount says.

Wiscount also credits her experience with Pettit’s Clean Earth Systems Inc., as building a foundation for her career today. Wiscount met Pettit, a member of the 1985 Huskies football team and the namesake of the university’s soccer/field hockey/lacrosse stadium, through alumni football events. As the company’s northeast regional sales manager, Wiscount managed a \$2 million territory spanning 11 states.

“For me to be in the position I am now, where I consult C-level executives of multimillion dollar companies, having that exposure early on in my career allowed me to be better at this stage in the game,” Wiscount says.

Despite her booming career, Wiscount finds time to be active in a Boston-based charity called Flying Kites. One of the organization’s goals is to provide students with access to high-quality education. Flying Kites recently built a primary school and home for at-risk and orphaned children in the Aberdares Mountains of Kenya. In early 2017, Wiscount traveled to Kenya to work with the non-profit — and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the school.

Upon winning the Maroon and Gold Excellence Award, Wiscount was excited to return to BU to share not only how happy she was with her education and how it helped to launch her career, but also to share more about her experience in Kenya.

“Being there, meeting the kids firsthand, and seeing the positive impact that Flying Kites has had and how it’s shifted their lives is unimaginable,” Wiscount says. “It makes you realize that being a little more generous can give a child an opportunity to change their life’s path. Giving back to humanity is so important me.” •

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



Retired? Not Really

JIM POMFRET retired a decade ago (in 2008) as a professor and chair of BU’s department of mathematical and digital sciences. But you wouldn’t know it based on how often he’s on campus.

On most days during the academic year, Pomfret is working as executive director of the BU-based Global Awareness Society and tutoring high school students taking classes at BU.

Pomfret came to Bloomsburg in 1972. The Boston native had done missile-related research in the corporate world and taught in the SUNY (State University of New York) system, South Carolina, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

“Bloomsburg students have a work ethic that not everyone has,” says Pomfret. “And there are a lot of first-generation students.”

Bloomsburg has become part of the Pomfret family tradition. His son, Jim ’95, graduated from BU with a degree in anthropology; his daughter, Deborah ’87, graduated with a degree in Spanish. His wife, Penny, is active in the community as a preschool teacher.

“Students are capable of more than they think they are. They need to be pushed,” says Pomfret.

Pomfret had a push of his own in 1991 when he took his first big international trip to China for eight weeks to lecture on using computers to teach math. The experience was transformative and many other trips, both as part of BU courses and through the Global Awareness Society, followed.

Since then the Pomfrets are still helping give students the “push” they need by funding a scholarship that enables a student to study abroad.

“Students are going to work in an international environment,” says Pomfret. “Even if they work for a firm in Allentown or Harrisburg, they are going to work with people internationally.”

— Eric Foster

husky notes

'50s

Irene Zielinski McCarthy '57 taught Spanish and English before raising four children, three of whom are teachers.

'60s

James McCarthy '60 was inducted into the Jackson School District, Jackson, NJ. Alumni Hall of Fame.

'70s

Alan E. Jones '75 retired as a colonel from the Army Medical Service Corps.

'80s



Rebecca Funk Campbell '83 was named president of The Walt Disney Company Europe, Middle East and Africa. Campbell was the president of ABC Owned Television Station

Group and ABC Daytime, responsible for the company's eight local TV stations and their digital assets in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Houston, Raleigh-Durham and Fresno. In addition, Campbell also oversees ABC National Television Sales, and ABC Daytime. Campbell is on the board of the Broadcasters Foundation of America, Girls Inc., and serves on the board of directors of Broadcast Music, Inc.

Edward Schicatano '86 is a professor of psychology at Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre. Schicatano is the co-director of the NeuroTraining and Research Center at Wilkes and is the coordinator of the psychology degree program, as well as the head of the neuroscience program.



Barry Hamp '88 MBA, has been named executive director of Beebe Healthcare's Oncology Service Line at Tunnell Cancer Center, Rehoboth Beach, Del. Hamp previously served as the interim director of Oncology Services at Northern Arizona Healthcare.

'90s

Carl Risch '92 is assistant secretary of state for consular affairs in the U.S. Department of State. Risch heads an agency that employs more than 12,000 and is in charge of approving passports to Americans and visas to foreigners. He previously served as acting chief of staff in the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service. Risch and his wife, Wendy Taylor Risch, have two daughters, Anneka and Ilse.

Crystal Reustle Patil '93 is the associate dean for academic affairs in the Honors College at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Patil was an associate professor of anthropology in the College of Nursing at UIC. She is a global health researcher who focuses on health disparities and has conducted projects in several African countries and in the United States.

Keith Bailey '94 is dean of online learning and continuing professional education at West Virginia University. Bailey was the director of the Office of Online Learning at the University of Georgia.

Scott Ungemach '95 is a chiropractor for De Jesus Family Chiropractic, Sugarloaf Township. He has provided chiropractic care in the area for 18 years.

Andrew Dunning '96 is senior vice president and general manager of Digitas Health in San Francisco.

Robert Walton '96 is chief zoning administrator in Fauquier, Va. Walton previously served as assistant chief of zoning. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children and live in Bealeton, Va.

Christie VanHorn Livengood '97 is executive director of Lancaster Dollars for Higher Learning. Livengood was director of operations for the Power Packs Project.

Aimee Johnson Metrick '98 received the Communicate Award from The Washington, D.C. and Baltimore Chapter of Women in Cable Telecommunications for her work as vice president of communications for Comcast's Beltway Region.

Laurie Tarantola Notari '98 is vice president of Baltimore Life, Westminster, Md. Notari previously served as assistant vice president of human resources at Euler Hermes North America, where she was the administrator of human relations of approximately 450 employees. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management and the Chesapeake Human Resources Association.

Desiree Anderson '99 was named to the Council of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for a two-year term. She is a supervisor with Jones Kohanski & Co. PC in Sugarloaf Township.

'00s

Nafeez Amin '01, president of Sherpa Prep, a Washington, D.C.-based test preparation company, has co-authored a series of textbooks geared towards helping people with the quantitative portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Angela Runciman '03 received a Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award from Binghamton University. Runciman is a Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature.



Jake Miller '05 received the Pennsylvania Teacher of Excellence award. He is a seventh-grade social studies teacher in the Cumberland Valley School District. He is the author of the website *theeducatorsroom.com* and a former community columnist for the Harrisburg *Patriot-News*.

Jared Owens '06 has opened Owens Audiology and Hearing Aid Center in Shamokin. Owens is a doctor of audiology with a Certificate of Clinical Competency through the American Speech and Hearing Association.

Crystal McCaffrey Meinert '08 is director of human resources GWC Warranty, Wilkes-Barre. Meinert spent four years with CVS Health in a variety of roles, including successful tenures as an HR consultant, HR manager and senior HR adviser.

Alison Myers '08 is a legal assistant with Vinsko & Associates PC, Wilkes-Barre. Her past experience includes call center operator at Martz Group and social media coordinator at EnergyBits.

Cara Bolton Sarubin '09 is director of content marketing for Altitude Marketing, Emmaus. Sarubin designs marketing plans for clients.

'10s

Mark Strunk '10 is assistant vice president of PNC Bank for northeastern Pennsylvania.

Darrin Doran '11 received a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Doran is continuing his medical training in family medicine at Geisinger Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre.

Sean Duffy '12 is an investment analyst with Conrad Siegel Actuaries, Susquehanna Township. Duffy supports the defined contribution and defined benefit investment team.

Kelsey Gallagher '12 is girls basketball coach at Emmaus High School in the East Penn School District.

Justin Shirk '13 was the 2017 Indoor Football League's championship game MVP for the Arizona Rattlers. Shirk registered 1.5 sacks and a tipped pass in Arizona's 50-41 win over the Sioux Falls Storm in the 2017 United Bowl.

Seth Lewis '14 is a technology consultant in the sales department of DOCEO Office Solutions. Lewis provides office solutions to customers in the Maryland market.

Shelby Pealer '14 is curriculum and instruction specialist at Spectrum Center Schools and Programs, Inglewood, Calif.

Jackie Eddy '14 is associate director of communications for the Patriot League Division I athletic conference. At BU she spent nearly two years working in the sports information department.

Danielle Empson '15 is director of school-based behavior health in the McDowell Institute at Bloomsburg University.

Jessica Byra '16 is an associate at Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill.

Charles Evans '16 is an associate at Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill.

Rachel Hillibush Seitzinger '16/MSN is a nurse practitioner at St. Luke's Family Medicine in Coaldale and St. Luke's Primary Care Nesquehoning.

Santino Stancato '16 is the athletics digital content coordinator for Temple University Athletics. Previously Stancato was the marketing manager for the Brooklyn Cyclones (New York Mets SS-Affiliate) and a marketing assistant at Marshall University.

Olivia Best '17 is a graduate student in Villanova University's Master of Science in Experimental Psychology Program. She is research assistant in the Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience of Behavior Laboratory and project director of a personality and eating attitudes study. Best is also a psychiatric technician at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Nicholas Wolfgang '17 is an associate at Valley National Financial Advisors, Bethlehem.



Hudock family honored with philanthropy award

Barbara Benner Hudock '75 and the Hudock family of Williamsport received the Philanthropist of the Year award in October from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of The Association of Fundraising Professionals as part of the group's 2017 National Philanthropy Awards (NPD).

National Philanthropy Day recognizes the contributions of volunteers, professionals, community and business leaders, who are active in the philanthropic community.

The Philanthropist of the Year award honors an individual or family with a proven record

of exceptional generosity who, through direct financial support, demonstrates outstanding civic and charitable responsibility, and whose generosity encourages others to take philanthropic roles in the community.

The Hudock Capital Group and the Hudock family have donated more than \$3.8 million to their community.

Firm owners Barbara Hudock and her son Michael, as well as their spouses, Mike Sr. and Lyneah, have championed the importance of cutting-edge health care and the healing power of the arts.

the line up

reunions, networking and special events



Class of '69 meets up in D.C.

Six alumnae from the class of '69 met for a mini reunion in Washington D.C. in October. Shown from left are, back row: Glenanne (Zeigenfuss) Farley, Chris (Gruss) Ketz, Nancy (Strauss) Boos, Bobby (Cramer) Huffard. Front row: Cathy (Owen) Raggio, and Nancy (Geiger) Smith.



Sixties-era wrestlers hold picnic

Shown from left, front row: Mike Smith '69, Ron Russo '70, Tom Vargo '67, Joe Gerst '68, Steve Peters '68 (on ground) Keith Taylor '71 and John Stutzman '70. Second row: Frank Yartz '69, Bob Bartoletti '70, Wayne Heim '69. Back row: Bill Paule '65, Jim Rolley '67, Doug Grady '72, Wayne Smythe '71, Mike Cunningham '69, John Weiss '71, Ed Ladamus '66, Rich Lepley '70, Joe Bordell '72, Jim Owen '70, Carl Poff '79, assistant coach Russ Hughes and head coach Marcus Gordan.



Nursing Legacy

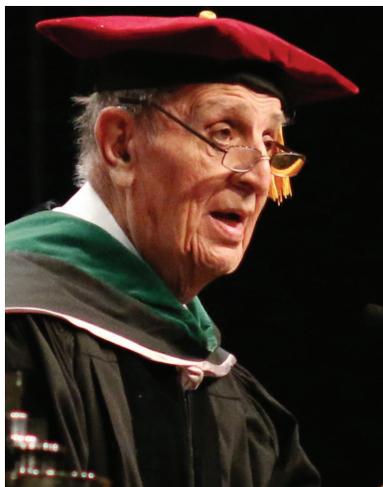
Cheri Rinehart '79 and her daughter Amber Le Cadre '06 were panelists for the College of Science and Technology Career Day in October. Rinehart is the president and chief executive officer of The Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers. Le Cadre is a registered nurse with UPMC Pinnacle.



Husky Road trip to Vanguard

A Husky Career Road Trip visited Vanguard Financial Services in October. Shown are 12 BU students from the accounting, economics and finance departments, with Jonathan Ohn, chair of the finance department and two alumni, Brad Ungard '13 and Michael Baranowski '97. Alumni who participated in the visit included: Kimberly Laudenberger '98, Ian Kennedy '13, B. Scott Hendershott '15, James Fazio '16, Kyle Defelice '10, Austin Pfeiffer '15 and Wade Cooper '17. While at Vanguard the students had an opportunity to meet the founder of Vanguard, John C. Bogle. More than 100 BU alumni are employed by Vanguard today.

IN MEMORIAM



Trustee Dr. Joseph Mowad

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES MEMBER Dr. Joseph Mowad of Danville passed away Nov. 7, 2017. Dr. Mowad was appointed to the Council of Trustees in November 1994, and served for more than 23 years. He is survived by his wife, Josephine, and daughters, Dr. Christen Mowad and Nicole Mowad-Nasser and their families.

In 2008 he was named an Honorary Alumnus of Bloomsburg University by the school's Alumni Association.

Dr. Mowad was senior vice president of Geisinger Health System and director emeritus of the urology department at Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, where he had worked since 1968. •



Foundation Board member Victoria Mihalik

VICTORIA LOEFFLER MIHALIK, a longtime member of the Bloomsburg University Foundation Board, died Dec. 5, 2017, at the age of 69. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Mihalik attended George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and lived in the Bloomsburg area since 1972.

Mihalik served on the foundation board since 1993, serving as chair for two and a half terms and was instrumental in hiring full-time foundation staff. She was director of the Bloomsburg YMCA Preschool, where she taught for more than 40 years.

She is survived by her husband John (Jack) Mihalik; son Dennis Mihalik; grandchildren Donovan Mihalik, Deidre Mihalik and Derek Mihalik and three great-grandchildren. She is also survived by sisters Karen Loeffler, Christine Findlan and Laurie Assadi. •

Liberal Arts Symposium brings graduates to campus

The College of Liberal Arts held a symposium for students featuring alumni speakers in October.



Art Department panelists were from left: Brock Dent '08, Professor Ron Lambert, Erik Pedersen '13 and Martin Wixted '79.



Theatre Department panelists were from left: Abbi Parker '10, Titus O'Neil '17, Phil Czekner '13, Maggie Korell '16, Liz Nugent '12, Zach Knoll '05, Rebecca Kestle '14, and professor Karen Anselm.



History Department panelists were from left: professors Jeff Long, Jennifer Oast and Jeffrey Davis, Rachel Grim '05, Andrea O'Neill '06, Elizabeth Kaminski '04, Michelle Geczy '94, Christina Zamon '99, and professors William Hudon and Lisa Stallbaumer-Beishline.

the line up reunions, networking and special events



Volleyball club alumnae meet up

A group of former Club Volleyball players met in May to catch up. Shown left are: Allie (Lucik) Bauer, Meghan (Nairn) Pettine, Ellen Miller, Laura (Shawaryn) Perkins, Susan Kim, Katie (Labenberg) Kluge, Justine (Miller) Biechler, Alana Cassidy, Danielle (Cooper) Rosado, Amy (Wolfgang) Keener and Nicki (Heiland) Miller.



Tri Sigma 1980 alumnae gather

Tri Sigma sisters and 1980 alumnae gathered in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2017 for their annual reunion. Shown from left are: Terry Mizdol Giordano (S.C.), Marianne Deska Braithwaite (Pa.), Nancy Whitman Peterson (Col.), Mindy McMaster (N.C.), Jill Laylon Confair (Pa.), Annie Silvonek Dempsey (N.Y.) and Sue Kingeter Puderbach (N.J.).



Class of '67 holds reunion

The class of 1967 held a reunion at Homecoming in October. Attendees included: Diane (Brzowski) Davis, Marcia (Earnhart) Bryan, Carol (Cox) Chamberlain, Eileen (Albertson) Chapman, Janet (Space) Curcio, Hedy Davis, Laroy (Lee) Davis, Brenda (Harleman) Dorshimer, Kerry Fetter, Alexandra Fitzpatrick, Michael Fitzpatrick, Thomas Fowles, Carole Gerhard-Hostetter, John Hatton, Susan Hicks, Joan (Van Durick) Jordan, Pat (Zelner) Kaczmarek, Phillip Landers, Robert Logue, Ruth (Oberdorf) Lunger, Gerald McBride, Michael Mehle, Alana (Matter) Remley, Angelica Sacco, Harry Saxton, Joan (Heiser) Shirk, Ray Shirk, Laird Shively, William Jack Shope Linda (Vansaders) Stirling, Regis Stirling, Betty Swartz-Fetter, Pat (Szymanek) Mica, James Walsh, James (Feimster) Walters, John Wise, Frank Gilotti, Kathleen (Shanoski) Mulligan.

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

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

M. Raphael Vantine '73 and husband, **John '73**, a granddaughter, Makena, April 13, 2016

M. Raphael Vantine '73 and husband, **John '73**, a granddaughter, Camila Inez, April 13, 2016

Melissa Snyder Wolf '01 and husband, **Mark '06**, a son, Maddox James, Aug. 31, 2017

Peter S. Umlauf '03 and wife, Marie, a daughter, Malia, Sept. 17, 2017

Sheila Zilinski Hughes '04/'06M and husband, John, a daughter, Reese Emilee, Aug. 2, 2017

Katie Hershour McMahon '04 and husband, **Brian '02**, a son, Patrick Joseph and daughter, Elizabeth Rose, July 11, 2017

Michael Espinosa '06 and wife, Ashleigh, a daughter, Kadence Lynn, Dec. 11, 2016

Karalyn Eifler '06 and husband, **Norman '06**, a son, Ethan Oliver, Nov. 1, 2017

Christopher Shaffer '06 and wife, Nancy, a daughter, Julianna Reese, Sept. 7, 2016

Christine Whitehead Litsch '07 and husband, **Erik '04**, a son, Henry Robert, March 18, 2017

Heather Krohn '09, a son, Grayson William, 8-14-17

Emily Kowalski Moffat '10 and husband, **Steven '08**, a daughter, Reagan Jann, Sept. 19, 2017

Emily Schwartz '09 and husband, **Harry '02/'10M**, a son, Cooper Joseph, May 4, 2017

Brittany Costa Fritz '10 and husband, **Dereck '10**, a son, Lawson Michael, Jan. 14, 2017

Marriages

Carol Vance Wary '60 and Robert Edwards, Feb. 4, 2014

Ryan Yarmel '01 and Joell Martinelli, Aug. 6, 2016

Steven Herman '02 and Elizabeth Reagan, June 11, 2017

SuAnn Ritter '02 and Michael Hoffman, Nov. 19, 2016

Benjamin Riley '03 and Lisa Goldman, March 8, 2012

Anthony Tini '03 and Danielle Kravitz, Oct. 14, 2017

Anysia Ensslen '05 and Christopher Boggs, May 20, 2017

Jerrold Ferrence '05 and Ariel Yordy, Sept. 1, 2017

Michael Espinosa '06 and Ashleigh Wetzell, June 13, 2015

Kathryn Guenther '06 and Craig Vagell, Jr., July 27, 2017

Christopher Shaffer '06 and Nancy Kruger, Nov. 28, 2015

Sandra Dinnella '07 and **Joseph Starkey '07**, Nov. 3, 2017

Christine Whitehead '07 and **Erik Litsch '04**, May 28, 2017

Meghan Nairn '09 and **John Pettine '12**, Sept. 2, 2017

Nathan Glose '09/11 and JadeLee Strella, Nov. 10, 2017

Amanda Lockard '10 and Kenneth Schetroma, Aug. 12, 2017

Karie Yefko '11 and Jared Lukowski, June 24, 2017

Caitlin Harrison '12 and Michael Ossont

Erin Johnson '12 and Stephen Rittle, June 17, 2017

Zachary Edwards '13 and Lindsey Schadler, Sept. 30, 2017

Jennifer Kurtz '13 and Patrick Norton, Sept. 17, 2017

Lauren McLain '13 and Stephen Franchak, June 20, 2017

Klarese Donnelly '14 and **Andrew Rector '15**, Aug. 26, 2017

Danielle Rieland '15 and Nicholas Constantino, March 18, 2017

Obituaries

Marion Defrain Danowsky '33
Edna Zehner Long '42
Nancy Berlew Lyhne '45
Grace Funk Crawford '49
Stanley Semic '49
Shirley Boughner Treon '49
John Carl '50
Alice Smolski Peterson '50
Ronald Steinbach '54
Hope Horne Cunfer '55
George Derk '55
Mildred Ertel Lay '56
Donald Hare '57
Alice Swartz Ludwick '57
Isaiah McCloskey '57
William Hand '58
Marjorie A. Corrao Myers '58
Joseph Thiraway '58
Alton Pellman '59
Joseph Devaney '60
Albert Francis '60
Gary Makuch '61
H. Claude Rhodes '61
Gail Sorce Timbrell '62
Robert Hartman '63
Joan Stackhouse Bankus '65
Lawrence Splitt '66
Daniel Wolfe '66
Carol Campbell Logue '67
David Keefer '68
James Carter '69
Ronald Rupert '69
Timothy Knecht '70
Robert Marquette '70
James Valania '70
Barbara Hershey Myer '71
Brenda Stoneback Shoemaker '71
Rita Strohl '71
Michael Bickhart '72
Michael Poremsky '72
Ronald Woodring '72
Marcella Fallon '73

Sandra Fuhman Northrup '73
Ralph Snyder '73
Robert McNamara '74
Milton Morse '74
Joseph Piccolo '74
Carl Bilotta '75
Wayne Brokenshire '77
Peggy Markey Knaub '77
Mary Evelyn Clune Kuprevich '78
Joanne McCurdy '79
Shirley Ann Newell Smith '79
Patricia Campbell Emanuel '80
Audrey Smith Hibbs '81
Karen Schick Rampulla '81
Jo Ann Highland Haggerty '83
Scott Alan Flinchbaugh '85
Roger Gatti '85
Bryan Snyder '85
Scott Wilcox '86
Kim B. Rook Kuhn '87
Laurie Powell Skillman '88
Kristen Turner '88
Cynthia Donlan '93
Jeffrey Frey '93
Christopher Lazur '93
Lori Mutchler Crowder '96
Daniel Grim '96
Kimberlee Kullman Pisarek '97
Sharon Sylvester '98
Steven Thompson '99
Paul Hauspurg '01
Kristy Ryczak '01
Clayton William Nungesser '05
David Nowicki '07
Joseph Mowad '08
Michael Phillips '10
Nikitah Maczuga Farver '13
Hitoshi Sato (Faculty)
Nancy Coulmas (Faculty)
Robert "Bob" Reeder (Faculty)
Joseph Mowad (Trustee)
Victoria Loeffler Mihalik (Foundation)



The Alumni Association celebrated Homecoming under tents on the Academic Quad in October.

Send information to: magazine@bloomu.edu

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Doing more through the Army

THERE'S AN OLD Army recruiting slogan — “In the Army, we do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day.”

That's why Ali McKay, a field hockey player and Army ROTC member, starts her day at 5 a.m. She's got a lot to do. This past fall, McKay was sworn into the Army. She participates with the Army ROTC at the university and is also a starter at forward.

Coming from a military background, McKay always knew that she wanted to serve her country. “My grandfather was in the Army, my brother just switched from the Navy to the Army, and my dad was in the Army. My dad told me about the opportunities for nursing in the Army, so I applied for the scholarship and was accepted,” says McKay.

The 5 a.m. alarm allows McKay enough time to be ready for ROTC workouts, also known as PT (physical training) from 6 to 7 a.m. The PT usually consists of push-ups, sit ups and running exercises. Following PT she will get a quick bite to eat and then head to field hockey practice from 9 to 11 a.m. three days a week, with class starting at 11 a.m.

“My day starts earlier when we go on rucks ranging from three to 14 miles,” McKay says. “A ruck is when you are carrying a

35 pound backpack and jog/walk the required the distance in a certain amount of time.”

“I balance my responsibilities by planning my schedule and dividing my time,” says the sophomore from Dover, Del. “Nursing is a difficult major but the topics interest me and my professors are very supportive. I enjoy learning and it makes it easier to find time to study for a subject I like.”

For McKay, her time playing for the nationally ranked field hockey team is the relaxing part of her day.

“I use field hockey as a stress reliever and I love going to practice, getting a good workout and spending time with my teammates,” says McKay. “ROTC helps me train for a future career in the military and it just really excites me. The timeline of events can sometimes seem overwhelming but I just take each day at a time and do my best and focus on whatever I'm doing at the moment.”

“It helps me with time management a lot. I know I can't stay up until 2 a.m. knowing I have to be up at 5 a.m., so it motivates me to get all my work done.” •

Soccer coach Payne retires

HEAD MEN'S SOCCER COACH Paul Payne announced his retirement following the 2017 season and departed as the all-time winningest coach in school history. In his 19 seasons at the helm of the Huskies' men's soccer team, Payne amassed an overall record of 146-174-32.

Payne has led the Huskies to seven PSAC playoff berths, PSAC Championship appearances in 2011 and 2014, an NCAA playoff berth in 2014. He coached four Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-Americans in Bryce Shaffer (twice; 2011 and 2012) and Josh Smith (twice; 2015 and 2016) as well as 2014 Daktronics All-American Matt Zima. Overall, Payne coached 34 All-PSAC honorees, 22 All-Region selections, and two PSAC East Freshmen of the Year. He was twice named the PSAC Coach of the Year.

In 2009, Payne created the national "Red Card Cancer" program which is designed to raise awareness of and money for cancer research. All gifts to Red Card Cancer benefit research, teaching and patient care at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center. ●



HALL OF FAME

THE 36TH ANNUAL Athletic Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony was held in October in the Kehr Union Ballroom. The first women's soccer coach in program history, Chuck Laudermilch, was inducted as part of the Hall of Fame Class of 2017. The other five inductees were former athletes – Michele Baylor Kane '00 (women's lacrosse), Kathy Frick '90 (field hockey/women's lacrosse), Eric Jonassen '91 (football), Ralph Moerschbacher '70 (swimming), and Michelle Wolyniec '00 (women's cross country/track and field). Frick also was the head coach of the women's lacrosse team for six seasons. The induction of six individuals brings the number of members in the Bloomsburg University Athletic Hall of Fame to 175. To make a nomination for the Hall of Fame, visit buhuskies.com and click on the traditions tab at the top of the page. ●

Foran named head strength and conditioning coach



ANDREW FORAN is the Huskies' new head strength and conditioning coach. Foran joins Bloomsburg after serving as the strength and conditioning coach at Albright College. He is a certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and he holds a certification from the national USA Weightlifting (USAW) organization. Foran also owns a

certification in Reflexive Performance Reset (RPR).

Foran, a native of Warminster, is a 2013 graduate of Shippensburg University and also earned his master's degree from East Stroudsburg University in 2014. ●

Bloomsburg awarded NCAA Choices Grant

BLOOMSBURG was awarded an NCAA Choices Grant to educate students about the risks of misusing alcohol. Through the support of the NCAA Foundation and Anheuser-Busch Company Inc., Bloomsburg is one of 13 schools nationwide to receive the three-year, \$30,000 grant. The NCAA Choices program provides funding for NCAA member institutions and conferences to integrate athletics departments into campus-wide efforts to reduce alcohol abuse.

The focus of the grant will be to reduce the prevalence of underage drinking; reduce the academic consequences of alcohol use; reduce experiences of sexual misconduct, harassment or violence due to alcohol use. ●

over THE shoulder



The Haas family in 1930.



Francis Haas in 1930.

The Haas years: An era of transformation

by Robert Dunkelberger

TWO ANNIVERSARIES IN 2017 commemorated the connection between Bloomsburg University and former president Francis B. Haas. One was 90 years since his hiring as principal of the newly designated Bloomsburg State Teachers College and the other 50 years since the dedication of the building named in his honor. Haas is best remembered for guiding the college through the Great Depression, serving 18 years as state superintendent of public instruction, and devoting his entire life to education.

Francis Buchman Haas was born June 6, 1884, in Philadelphia and earned a teaching degree from the Philadelphia School of Pedagogy in

1906. He spent the next 14 years in the public schools, receiving a bachelor's degree from Temple University in 1913. Haas began working in the State Department of Public Instruction in 1920, earned his M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1922 and a Doctor of Pedagogy from Temple in 1925. That year he was appointed state superintendent.

Two years later, January of 1927, another superintendent was named, and just three months later, when the Bloomsburg State Normal School was looking for a new principal, Haas was the unanimous choice. He was praised in the Morning Press newspaper as possessing, to a high degree, "the combination

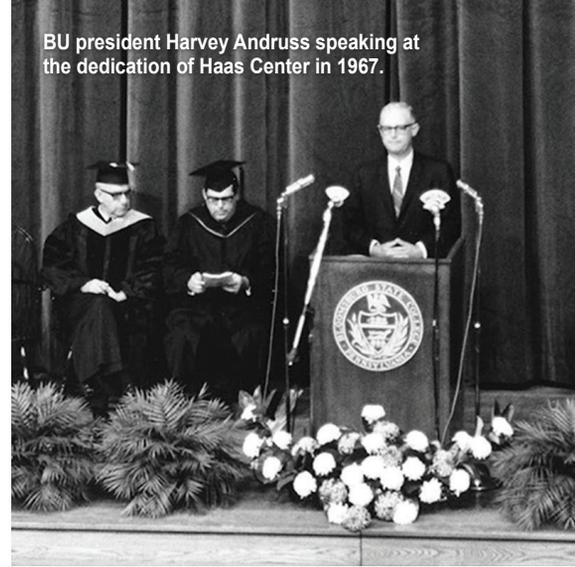
of professional, administrative, and executive skill of which great educators are made."

For the next 12 years, Haas broadened and expanded Bloomsburg's physical campus, academic curriculum, and relationship with the town. The new training school, Ben Franklin Hall, was dedicated in 1930, along with a laundry building (Simon Hall). Later construction came from federal money financed by New Deal programs: a recreation field that opened in 1936, tennis courts, and in 1939 Centennial Gymnasium, Navy Hall, and a shop building.

During his tenure, the teachers college started to develop specialties



The Haas Center construction site in 1966.



BU president Harvey Andruss speaking at the dedication of Haas Center in 1967.

in education. The first was a commercial department founded in 1930 under Harvey A. Andruss. It offered a four-year course for training teachers to educate students intent on a career in business and was the forerunner of the College of Business. Five years later, Haas added the second new program, special education, which developed into the current Department of Exceptionality Programs.

For community outreach, Haas inaugurated the Rotary-Kiwanis-College night dinners, held yearly to bring community leaders to campus. Alumni became more involved thanks to the annual Homecoming celebrations begun in 1928. The largest single event to bring the college, alumni, and community together was the 1939 Centennial Celebration, commemorating 100 years since the

college's founding.

Haas resigned as president in August 1939 when he was reappointed state superintendent. He was missed at Bloomsburg because of the respect he had won and his ability as an organizer and builder. Francis Haas died Feb. 28, 1966, at the age of 81. But the building that would honor his legacy was already under construction. As early as 1930, Haas dreamed of a much larger campus, one that would include a separate auditorium to replace the one in Carver Hall.

With state funding approved, construction began in July 1965 and finished in August 1967. The college now had a \$1.2 million facility with a seating capacity of nearly 2,000. Haas Auditorium was dedicated Oct. 12, 1967, when Dr. Andruss announced the building would bear the name of the former president. Within four years, it

became the Francis B. Haas Center for the Arts, recognizing the center's role in promoting art, music, and theatre.

Since then, several renovations have occurred in Haas. In the mid-1980s, an acoustic shell and a new sound system were placed in the auditorium, paid for with a donation by Marco and Louise Mitrani, for whom the hall was named. The stage and lighting were renovated at that time and the seating replaced in 1996. The latest major work on the Haas Center, completed in 2008, was a \$7.9 million project that provided an addition to house the music program and renovations to the interior. For 50 years, the Haas Center for the Arts has acknowledged the place that art and the performing arts have in society, named for an individual who helped to shape Bloomsburg University for the better. ●



Haas Center construction nearing completion in 1967.

Academic Calendar

SPRING 2018

Classes Begin

Monday, Jan. 22

Spring Break Begins

Monday, March 12

Classes Resume

Monday, March 19

Mid-Term

Tuesday, March 20

Classes End

Friday, May 4

Finals Begin

Monday, May 7

Graduate Commencement

Friday, May 11

Undergraduate Commencement

Saturday, May 12

Alumni Events

Visit bloomualumni.com for details on these and additional events or to register for Homecoming events. For information, contact Alumni Affairs at 800-526-0254 or alum@bloomu.edu.

Philadelphia Area Alumni Social

Wednesday, March 7, 6 – 8 p.m.
General Warren, Philadelphia Area

Art Exhibitions

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

Lauren Kalman

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

Maria Lux and Katrina Majkut

The Gallery at Greenly Center
March 8 – April 19
Reception: Thursday, March 8,
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mary Anne Mitchell

Haas Gallery of Art
March 22 – May 3
Reception and Gallery Talk:
Thursday, March 22,
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Spring 2018 Senior Exit Show

The Gallery at Greenly Center
April 24 – May 11
Reception: Tuesday,
April 24, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Celebrity Artist Series

Events in the 2016-2017 Celebrity Artist Series season will be presented in Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall, and Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium. For more information and to order tickets, call the box office at 570-389-4409 or visit cas.buzz. Programs and dates are subject to change.

The Berlin Philharmonic Piano Quartet

Saturday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Dublin Irish Dance

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

The Cashore Marionettes

Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross
Auditorium

Mostly Monday Film Series

Independent film series that brings quality films, directors and cinematographers to Bloomsburg University. Each documentary is screened at 7 p.m. in Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium. Admission: \$3.50 in advance/\$4 at the door. For more information and tickets, call the box office at 570-389-4409 or visit cas.buzz.

Little Stones

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Big Sonia

Monday, March 26

Ghost Town to Havana

Monday, April 9

Concerts

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

Faculty Recital

Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Student Recital

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Student Honors Recital

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Guest Recital

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Student Recital

Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Student Recital

Friday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

University-Community Orchestra

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Faculty Recital

Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Voice Studio Recital

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Student Jr. Recital

Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Main
and Iron St.

Women's Choral Ensemble

Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Husky Singers

Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

BU Concert Choir

Saturday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Student Jr. Recital

Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Main
and Iron Streets.

Jazz Concert

Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

University Concert Band Spring Concert

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Percussion Ensemble

Thursday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

University-Community Orchestra Concert

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall
Masterclass: Friday, April 27, 7 p.m.
Haas 166.

Knoebel's Grove "Pops" Concert

Sunday, April 29
2 p.m. - Concert Band
5 p.m. - Jazz Band

Guitar Ensemble

Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Piano Studio Recital

Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Young Artists' Recital

Saturday, May 5, 3 p.m.
Carver Hall, Gross Auditorium

Other Events

Machinal

Wednesday, Feb. 21 – Sunday, Feb. 25
Alvina Krause Theatre, 226 Center St.

8th Annual Dance Minor Concert

Sunday, April 22 & Monday, April 23
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Special Events

Siblings and Children Weekend

Friday to Sunday, April 13 – 15

Renaissance Jamboree

Saturday, April 28

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



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