

Bloomsburg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Trailblazer

The diaries of Edith Angeline Dennis, Class of 1919, provide a window into the life of Bloomsburg's first African American boarding student.

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ALSO INSIDE

Moved to Action

Students respond to a racist video by making their voices heard and working for change.

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Living the Hustle

Writer and producer J.C. Lee '05 has forged a career in the competitive world of theatre, TV, and film.

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President Bashar Hanna with Trustee Ramona H. Alley and her husband, Dr. Ali A. Alley.

Dear BU Family,

I hope the new year has treated each of you well so far as we begin this new decade. As we celebrate the achievements of African Americans and their significant contributions to our country this February, it seems quite appropriate that we honor the first African American graduate of BU on the cover of this issue of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*. The story of Edith Dennis, Class of 1919, and her family is an inspiring one – and the fact that her two sisters also graduated from Bloomsburg serves as an affirmation of the “BU family” as far back as a century ago.

Also, in this issue, you will read about our students’ impressive display of courage and leadership last fall, when student leaders organized a peaceful demonstration on our Academic Quad. This protest was mainly in response to a disturbing video on social media that depicted one of our students, but it was also a call to action from our students for a more diverse, inclusive, and safe campus.

I am quite proud of our students for having the courage to speak their minds and stand up for what was right. As you read about them, you’ll learn more about our Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, which I established last year. Through the guidance of this commission, we will ensure that BU becomes a model institution that welcomes all and embraces diversity of all kinds.

Further inside, we share news of transformational gifts from two BU alumni, Steph Pettit ’89 and Mike Boguski ’85. I am ever grateful to Steph and Mike for their continued support. You will also learn about a valuable program that allows our students to get “out of the classroom and into the community” to demonstrate to inner-city high school students the value of a college education. In addition, we profile proud BU alumnus and accomplished writer, J.C. Lee ’05, as well as professor Ed Keller for his work with the citizens of Rwanda.

Lastly, we have a few new leaders on campus: Dr. Daryl Fridley is our new dean of the College of Education, former Husky great Frank Sheptock ’86 is our new head football coach, and Gary Sohosky is our first women’s golf coach. I welcome each of them, thank all of you for your continued support, and wish you the best in 2020.

GO HUSKIES!

Sincerely,
Bashar W. Hanna
President





Homecoming Traditions

Cheerleaders march in front of Carver Hall on a bright sunny morning for the Homecoming Parade last October. A new tradition was started with the parade following a new route, beginning in the Andruss Library parking lot and moving down Second Street.

More Homecoming photos on page 20.

Photo: Eric Foster

Winter 2020



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Executive Editor

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Eric Foster
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Designer

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Sports Information Director

Dave Leisering

Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Irene Johnson

Contributing Writers

Thomas Schaeffer '02
Andrea O'Neill '06

Cover image editing

Eric Foster

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

Email address: magazine@bloomu.edu

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Turn the Page

More than 500 students, including 85 graduate students, participated in December commencement in Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall.

“The right career can have a profound impact on your entire life, so don’t stop until you find it,” said Shavonne Shorter, associate professor of communication studies and the speaker for the morning undergraduate ceremony. “And when you get it, make the most of it. Be innovative, be original, work smarter, blow their minds. Let your actions show the world just what it means to have a Bloomsburg degree behind your name.”

“We’re all part of a story, and you’re about to write the next chapter. Don’t be afraid to turn life’s pages. Be brave. Be bold. Don’t miss an opportunity,” said Jennifer Venditti, associate professor of biological and allied health sciences and afternoon ceremony speaker. “As Bloomsburg University graduates, I’m confident you’re prepared to tackle whatever you find on the next page.”

Top honor graduates with the highest grade-point average in their college were Kathryn Rose Spirk, College of Liberal Arts; Taylor Cecelia Bozza, College of Science and Technology; Derek Grant Swartzentruber, Zeigler College of Business; and Danielle Ileana Ghingold, College of Education.



“
The right career can have a profound impact on your entire life, so don’t stop until you find it.”
– Shavonne Shorter, associate professor of communication studies

Photos: Jaime North



Allentown schools sign BU admission agreement

The Allentown School District (ASD) and Bloomsburg University have begun an expanded partnership that will guarantee university admission to qualifying students.

The partnership established last year at Dieruff High School, known as the 'Husky to Husky' pipeline, is now poised to give all ASD graduates – be they a Husky, Phoenix or Canary – a chance to become a part of the BU family.

"Having grown up in Allentown, the 'Husky to Husky' program is personally gratifying to me, and it is exciting to expand the agreement to all schools within the ASD," says BU President Bashar W. Hanna.

ASD seniors who achieve admission requirements, apply to, and are accepted into a bachelor's degree program at BU will also have their application fee waived.

Throughout the school year, ASD and BU will collaborate to increase touchpoints between students and their families with BU's admissions counselors. Additionally, ASD has committed to hosting a reception and open house events for students and their families with admission, financial aid, scholarship and advising opportunities. BU will also offer university scholarships to eligible students, ranging from \$2,000 to full tuition.



MBA going online

Bloomsburg's MBA program is going online this fall, and students can get a head start on their degree by taking online courses this summer.

The Zeigler College of Business and its MBA program earned AACSB accreditation – the hallmark of excellence in business education that has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world's business programs.

Bloomsburg's MBA is focused on leadership development and real-world application. Bloomsburg is also the 16th accredited business school in the nation to offer the MBA-level strategic communications course as part of its MBA curriculum.

In-person MBA classes will still be offered on Bloomsburg's campus. **For more information, contact MBA-director@bloomu.edu.**

BU designated Guard-Friendly

BU is one of 30 colleges and universities statewide that has earned the Pennsylvania National Guard Association's inaugural PNGAS Guard-Friendly School designation.

Developed by the PNGAS Education Advisory Council, the Guard-Friendly School standards were designed to recognize colleges, universities, and trade schools that meet criteria for having a supportive learning environment to assist members of the Pennsylvania National Guard pursuing post-secondary degrees.

BU is the educational destination for over 300 military students, a number that has been growing steadily. A centerpiece of BU's services for military personnel is the Office of Military and Veterans Resources.

PNGAS, a nonprofit organization, is not legally connected to the Pennsylvania National Guard.



Daryl Fridley named new dean of College of Education

Daryl Fridley is Bloomsburg University's new dean of the College of Education. Fridley comes to Bloomsburg with nearly 30 years of experience in public education, including the last 13 years at Southeast Missouri State University.

Fridley began at Southeast Missouri State as a faculty member in the history department and coordinator of the Social Studies Education program. During this time, he oversaw a significant revision of the program, which garnered national recognition from the National Council for the Social Studies. In 2013 he was named associate dean in the College of Education, Health, and Human Studies.

As associate dean at Southeast Missouri, Fridley coordinated and oversaw all aspects of the Educator Preparation Program, including certification, curriculum alignment, field experiences, assessment, and accreditation. Under his leadership, the program developed an annual program review process, revised nearly all programs to align with new state guidelines, achieved CAEP accreditation in the spring of 2018, and earned a renewal of its status as an Apple Distinguished School.

Fridley spent the first half of his career teaching in P-12 schools in Georgia, New Mexico, and Missouri. Inspired by challenges he encountered in schools, Fridley applied for and was awarded a Morris Doctoral Fellowship to study at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He earned his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction in 2006; an M.A. in history from Southeast Missouri State in 1999; and a B.A. in secondary education and social studies from Anderson University in 1989.

Before Fridley's arrival at BU, Darlene Perner, professor of exceptionality programs, had been serving as the College of Education's interim dean.

Professional Sales and Marketing degree approved

Bloomsburg University was granted approval by the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education to offer a bachelor of science degree in professional sales and marketing, the only one of its kind in Pennsylvania.

"There is a need that this program addresses," said Monica Favia, chair of the Department of Marketing and Professional Sales. "The addition of the major, along with BU's membership in the University Sales Center Alliance, represents a distinctive advantage for Bloomsburg University and its students. This fall, three students graduated with the major."

"The professional sales major is a unique and innovative program in Pennsylvania," said Todd Shawver, dean of the Zeigler College of Business. "The program will have a big impact on regional, national, and global economies and will provide our students with boundless and lucrative career opportunities."

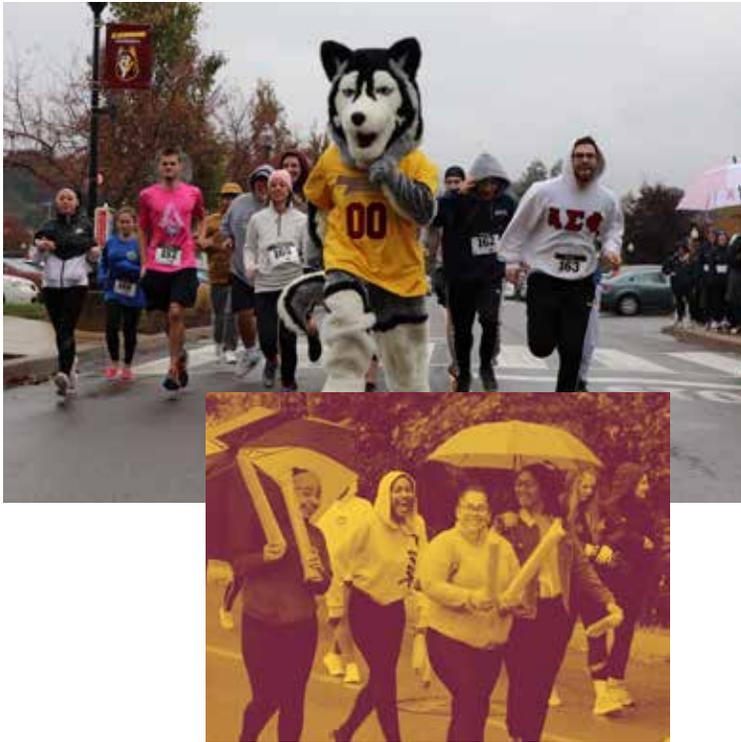
Ranked among the best

Bloomsburg University is ranked among the nation's best colleges and universities by *US News & World Report* in its "Best Colleges" guide. BU is tied for 37th in Regional Public Universities in the North and is tied for 113th overall in Regional Universities in the North (both public and private) – up four places from last year.

BU is also ranked among the nation's best colleges and universities by both *Forbes'* Top Colleges in 2019 and *Money Magazine's* Best Colleges for Your Money in 2019. BU has also been ranked among the Best Regional Universities in the North for 2019 by CollegeConsensus.com.

Other rankings include: the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is ranked third in Pennsylvania by Zippia, a job and career-seeking website.

BU's Zeigler College of Business ranks among the top 500 programs in the country.



After 17 years, annual 5K run raises \$170,000 for PA Breast Cancer Coalition

With nearly 500 student participants, Bloomsburg University's 17th annual 5K Breast Cancer Awareness Walk/Run held in October raised \$10,524 for the PA Breast Cancer Coalition.

October's tally brings the fundraiser's 17-year total to more than \$170,000 to benefit women diagnosed with breast cancer and support the families of those who've lost the battle. The event is coordinated annually by the Office of Multicultural Affairs.



^ Nicole Cronenwett

A new start for Fraternities and Sororities

Bloomsburg University is reforming its fraternity and sorority system.

The reforms are aimed at curbing dangerous drinking, hazing, sexual assault, and other negative behaviors following conversations and exchanges of information with other institutions that have forged new paths for their fraternity and sorority communities. The scope and intended outcomes align with national standards and will reestablish safety as the primary focus of the fraternity and sorority system that has traditionally been private and unregulated.

"BU is taking important steps to strengthen fraternity and sorority life on campus and protect the safety and well-being of our student-members so that their experiences can be cherished and admired," said BU President Bashar W. Hanna. "With these changes, we have established new standards of excellence to which we can all strive. As a community, we have put a stake in the ground with respect to our values and standards for the benefit of our fraternity and sorority communities, and most importantly, for the safety of all our students."

Previously known as the Office of Greek Affairs, the office now known as the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is directed by Nicole Cronenwett, Ph.D., who brings more than 15 years of experience in fraternity and sorority life to the position. In addition, the office now reports directly to President Hanna.

During the next 18 months, the entire fraternity and sorority community will be in a probationary period as the new reforms are implemented. Organizations and individuals who do not meet the requirements will be held accountable and adjudicated through the student conduct process.

To view the list of reforms, visit bloomu.edu/ofsl.



Boguskis Honored for Professional U Support

Michael '85 and Beth Boguski have committed \$500,000 to the Bloomsburg University Foundation to support experiential learning opportunities for students. In recognition of this gift and continued support of the student experience, Bloomsburg University named the dean's suite in the Zeigler College of Business in their honor.

Since 2014 the Boguskis have championed professional development for students at Bloomsburg University, starting with a gift of \$1 million to support BU's commitment to Professional U. Their latest gift will assist students applying for Professional Experience Grants; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs; and students competing in the Husky Dog Pound.

"We believe it is important to help fund the education of Bloomsburg University students, especially experiential learning," says Michael Boguski. "Providing our students with access to internships and professional experiences is a competitive advantage for them and is a mission we are pleased to support."

"Mike and Beth Boguski embody the unique spirit and determination of our students," says BU President Bashar W. Hanna. "They share our passion for and commitment to our mission of providing experiential learning opportunities for our students so that they can achieve success during and after their years at BU. I am ever grateful to Mike and Beth for their continued generosity and support of Bloomsburg University."

A former member of the campaign cabinet for BU's largest-ever capital campaign and a current member of the BU Foundation board, Michael Boguski maintains a strong connection to BU. He was a first-generation college student who began his career in risk management and insurance in 1986 after graduating with a B.S. degree in business management.



continued next page.

Boguski spent the last 22 years at Eastern Alliance Insurance Group, a member of the ProAssurance family of companies. In May of 2019, he assumed the role of president, Specialty P&C at ProAssurance in Birmingham, Ala. Eastern Alliance Insurance Group, under the leadership of President Kevin Shook, continues to partner with Bloomsburg University on numerous student initiatives, including the Earned Income Tax Credit program.

As one of eight in his family to graduate from the university, Boguski places a high value on the experiences and education he received at BU. His son, also named Michael, graduated in 2018.

"BU is a special place with special people and was an all-around great college experience for me," Boguski added. "We are extremely pleased to support the student experience into the future. Our family is proud to have our legacy associated with these positive and impactful opportunities for BU students."



^ From left: Beth and Michael Boguski, President Bashar W. Hanna, and Todd Shawver, dean of the Zeigler College of Business.

100 Years of Giving



Donna Watson '69,
elementary education,
38 years of consecutive
giving

"Once I was out of high school, I enrolled at Bloomsburg State College with the intent of becoming a school teacher and that's exactly what I did. I taught kindergarten and second grade students in Bucks County for almost 40 years.

I was able to do that because of the education I received at Bloomsburg and specifically thanks to some help I received through scholarships to pay for my schooling.

For a very long time, I had given just a general alumni donation, but within the last few years I received some pieces in the mail that told us about students who might need emergency scholarships or they may not be able to complete their education, so I wanted to support that."



Jeanie Golden '99,
communication studies
major, anthropology
minor, **21 years** of
consecutive giving

"A big part of my decision to go back to school to get my degree in 1999 was because my husband Mark and I moved to Bloomsburg after he retired from the Navy and started working for PPL Nuclear.

After we retired and were living less than a mile from the university, I saw it as the perfect opportunity to go back to school and get my degree, as I had always wanted to do. And of course, my husband who was my biggest supporter encouraged me to do so.

I am especially grateful for the education I received and the relationships I built while I was there.

Since my husband is a retired Navy captain, we thought a great way to support young service members and their families would be to create an annual scholarship to help them pay for their education."

BU

238 ↑
DONORS *Surpassed our 200 Donor Goal*

Dec. 4, 2019

20 
NEW DONORS

GIVING TUESDAY

OVER
30K
DOLLARS RAISED

RESULTS

19 
REACTIVATED DONORS



David Gillis '82, communication studies, **20 years** of consecutive giving

“My parents worked hard to give my brother and I the

chance to be the first members of our family to go to college. The crazy thing is, when I graduated, tuition was only \$475 per year.

It wasn't easy for our parents then, so I can only imagine how hard it is for students and their families today.

To me, that's why giving back is so important. We can't give a whole lot, but we want to do our part to give others the same opportunities we had. It's also about pride in where you came from and wanting to help your school to be the best it can be.

I give back primarily to support athletics because that was one of my passions, but have also recently directed some of our giving to support emergency scholarships.”



Stephen Andrejack, D.Ed. '74, secondary education, **17 years** of consecutive giving

“As a life-long educator, with 40 years in the public school system, I

am very passionate about the importance of education, and my family shares that passion.

But as a first-generation college student, no matter how much school I attended or additional degrees I have attained, the one that is closest to my heart is the one from Bloom. They were the best four years of my life.

As a city boy from Harrisburg, I fell in love with Bloomsburg and forged so many great relationships with all the people I met there, including Dr. Jim McCormick, who became president my senior year and his wife, Maryan.

My wife and I give and volunteer to many organizations, but we have always made giving to BU a priority.”



Cheryl Tedder '97, business economics, **4 years** of consecutive giving

“When I arrived at Bloomsburg, I knew this was where I wanted

to spend my next four years. Even though it was more affordable than other schools, I still had to take out loans by the time I had entered my sophomore year.

Luckily it worked out for me and I went on to pursue my masters in economics at Rutgers University and then law school at Villanova.

When I started working and was in the position where I could make charitable contributions, I thought back to my time at Bloomsburg and wanted to give back what I could to ease that burden on future students and their parents in that same situation.

I don't give back to any specific area because I want my gift to be used where it is needed most. Plus, my firm matches unrestricted contributions, which allows me to maximize my support.”

A window into the life of a Trailblazer

By Eric Foster

When Edith Angeline Dennis stepped on the Bloomsburg Normal School campus in 1917, she was blazing a new trail. She and her first cousin Priscilla (Young) McDonald were Bloomsburg's first African American boarding students.

Trailblazing was a family trait. Edith Dennis' ancestors — the Perkins-Dennis family — were free African Americans who moved to Pennsylvania from New England in the late 1700s, settled in Kingsley, and established themselves as prosperous members of the community.

"There was never any doubt that Edith would go to college. The family had been educated going back generations," says her great-niece Denise Dennis. "There were other schools she was interested in, but she chose Bloomsburg. Her two younger sisters, Marion and Hope, subsequently graduated from Bloomsburg in 1921 and 1925. All three loved their time at Bloom."

While at Bloomsburg, Edith Dennis '19 kept a diary — a window into the life of a self-assured young woman who would go on to be an educational leader in the state and a community that welcomed her.

"Oh! What an exciting day, it seems as though I were in a dream. I have arrived at Bloomsburg State Normal School," wrote Dennis on Sept. 4, 1917.

Edith Dennis was at Bloom when World War I ended and her entry for Nov. 11, 1918, begins:

"Peace Final: This morning was awakened at 4:30 a.m. by ringing of the bells and of course got up and went to town where we had a big time. After study hall Pris and I had our picture taken, Boy! There was a parade at 2 p.m.

“

Oh! What an exciting day, it seems as though I were in a dream. I have arrived at Bloomsburg State Normal School,” wrote Dennis on **Sept. 4, 1917.**



The end of World War I was particularly important because Edith's brother Norman had enlisted in the Navy, and his ship was torpedoed two days before the Armistice. Fortunately, Norman survived the war and years later taught Denise Dennis their family history.

The diaries also highlight a professor who arranged for Edith and Priscilla to meet the head of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama shortly after headmaster Booker T. Washington died.

"Professor Alberts told Priscilla and me that he was going to try and get us positions in Tuskegee. We are to meet Dr. Moton in January," wrote Edith on Dec. 7, 1917.

While the cousins did not end up working at Tuskegee, Denise Dennis notes that it's remarkable that the professor at Bloomsburg had a network to the Tuskegee Institute that he used for his students.

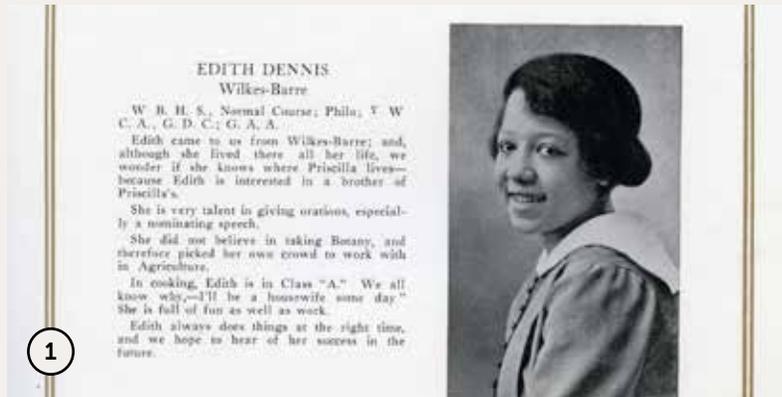
After Bloomsburg, Edith became a respected teacher in Pennsylvania, earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, and directed Harrisburg's first Head Start program. Twenty years after she graduated from Bloom, she financed the restoration and renovation of the historic family farmhouse and 153-acre farm for use as a summer home, continuing the funding until she passed away in 1980.

Denise Dennis and Edith's youngest sister, Hope Dennis '25, who died in 2006, founded the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust in 2001 to continue to maintain the Susquehanna County property and open it to the public as a historic site.

"The property is historic in so many ways. The stone walls, the wall-enclosed cemetery, house, and the barn complex remains are all archaeologically significant," says Dennis. The farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and 30 artifacts and documents from the farm and family are in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African

American History and Culture. When the Smithsonian had its preview exhibition in 2015, the first exhibit was, “Early Settlers, the Perkins-Dennis Family.”

1. Edith A. Dennis in Bloomsburg's 1919 yearbook.
2. The front page of Edith A. Dennis' diary for 1918.
3. Denise Dennis with the Revolutionary War powder horn (shown in inset) taken from the body of Gershom Prince, a Dennis family ancestor. Photos provided by the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.
4. Edith Dennis at about the time of her retirement in 1965.



Connections Across Time

Edith Dennis and the Dennis Farm came to BU's attention when Denise Dennis, founding president and CEO of Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust, reached out to Nathan Conroy, director of alumni engagement, for a yearbook photo of Edith to use at the Annual Dennis Farm Symposium last fall, which honored Edith on the 120th anniversary of her birth.

“What was exciting to me was the possibility of developing a relationship with the family in connection with the President’s Commission on Diversity and Inclusion,” says Conroy ’06. Conroy and BU anthropology professor David Fazzino attended the symposium. Plans are being made for Denise Dennis to speak on campus and for the University Archives to scan the historic diaries to make them available to the public. There may also be opportunities for anthropology students to conduct research at the Dennis Farm.

Two African American veterans of the American Revolution, family members, are buried in the Perkins-Dennis cemetery on the farm. A carved and signed Revolutionary War powder horn taken from the body of Gershom Prince — a soldier and Dennis family ancestor who was killed in the Battle of Wyoming in 1778 — is on loan to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

“Although they were free men, in spite of their service and that of thousands of black men in the Revolution, liberty and equality were denied to the majority of Americans of African heritage in our nation’s early history,” says Dennis. “When my ancestors purchased their land, only 10 percent of African Americans were free. Since that time, we have been working and are still working to become a more perfect union that lives up to the early promise of equality, especially in regard to race.”

“Our farm is an example of what is possible — that an African American family could live in an all-white community and thrive more than 200 years ago,” says Dennis. “I can’t tell you how many people are astonished by our family history. They are not aware that there were also free African American landowners long before the Civil War who contributed to this nation and lived the American Dream.”

“That’s one of the reasons we set up the farm trust. There’s more we need to know about our history.”

Transformed by Rwanda

By Tom McGuire

A dozen years ago, Ed Keller, assistant professor of information technology management, was a globetrotting executive for IBM. But a mission trip to a tiny landlocked central African country transformed his life more than any business deal.

"I'd done a lot of mission work, and my son and I had the opportunity to go to Rwanda to work in an orphanage," says Keller, BU's Stephen J. Jones Professional U Fellow in the Zeigler College of Business. "That trip was transformational. I was able to experience the people and the culture of this tiny country — the smallest country in Africa, about the size of Maryland — that just went through a million people being slaughtered in a genocide in 1994. It changed me forever. I was an executive at IBM, and I kept asking for more time to work there." Keller soon separated from IBM — but not Rwanda.

While working at firms such as Sierra-Cedar, Ciber Global, IBM, Allfon, LLC, and PriceWaterhouse, Keller continued to return to the African nation. And through Keller, Bloomsburg University has begun to forge a connection to the University of Rwanda (UR) — a school of over 30,000 students. Keller has met with the chancellor of UR multiple times, been offered a professorship, and stewarded the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Under the memorandum, BU and the University of Rwanda will collaborate in student exchange programs to promote the development of joint studies, research and training activities, and other educational programs of mutual interest.

"I remember leaving Sutliff Hall one night, realizing we need to have a partnership with the University of Rwanda. Our students need to have that opportunity. One of my dreams is to replicate our 3D Printing lab at the University of Rwanda," says Keller. "Our students could go and teach their students. We could build prosthetics for Rwandese people, just as we're doing and teaching here in the states, with students from both universities working together."

"Since 2008, I've taken two or three trips a year to work, immerse myself in the culture, and meet with government leaders," says Keller. "We've built a school for 281 children and a church for a community of 500. I would walk with their children about two miles each way to school and teach grammar and teach English. We've partnered with the sector government in the south province to identify where the poorest children are and how we can provide them with food, clothing, and education."

"What stunned the Rwandans was when they found out that I've been there before, and I've come back. Many people come the first time; few come back. But it was a warmth and a surprise that I came back. And I know so many people in the community now. A part of my soul rests in the land of a thousand hills — Rwanda."

✧ Keller, back row, center, returning to a familiar village.





⤴ Keller teaching children in the school that he helped to build.
 ⤵ Keller with leaders at the University of Rwanda.



⤴ Keller teaching children in the school that he helped to build.

“

I remember leaving Sutliff Hall one night, realizing we need to have a partnership with the University of Rwanda. Our students need to have that opportunity. One of my dreams is to replicate our 3D Printing lab at the University of Rwanda. Our students could go and teach their students. We could build prosthetics for Rwandese people, just as we’re doing and teaching here in the States, with students from both universities working together.”

– Ed Keller, assistant professor of information technology management





Photos: Eric Foster

Moved to Action

By Tom McGuire

“Enough was enough.”

Those were Community Government Association President Steve Lopez’s words after watching a hate-filled video surface on social media over a November weekend last fall. “We knew we had to take a stand against the racist language in the video and fight for what is right.”

Lopez and several of his CGA officers and senate members — Krystal Garcia, Brianna Vera and Matt Lassus — decided to build upon a protest that was being talked about on social media.

“A post by a student was urging students to come out on the Academic Quad at noon on Wednesday to protest the video,” Vera says. “Our first thought was how do we make this protest effective? How do we make it peaceful and make sure everyone’s voices are heard?”

The group of under-represented students didn’t sit back and wait for someone to speak for them. Instead, with just two days of planning, hundreds of students, faculty and staff, gathered on the Academic Quad to show the campus community they would not stand for racist behavior.

Details of the event spread through social media — even beyond campus. “We heard from BU alums, individuals at other schools like East Stroudsburg and Kutztown, and even students from the



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Enough was enough.”

Those were CGA President Steve Lopez’s words after watching a hate-filled video surface on social media over a November weekend last fall.

local middle school," Lopez says. "It was amazing."

"Our goal from the start was a peaceful protest," says Lassus. "If it wasn't peaceful, it wouldn't have the impact we were hoping for. We wanted it to be powerful and peaceful."

Starting from the patio of the Warren Student Services Center with a prayer among the organizers, the prayer circle quickly enveloped the whole patio. The crowd then moved to the quad where it eventually numbered more than 500 and included BU President Bashar Hanna as well as many faculty and staff.

The voices spoke in unison on that sunny day. We want "DIS — Diversity, Inclusion, Safety." From the quad, the activists marched to Carver Hall where the president addressed the crowd pledging his support.

"The CGA president and vice president informed us that they were planning this," says Hanna. "I believe in their goals, every human being deserves safety, inclusion and diversity. I am proud of them for voicing their opinions in a safe and respectful way."

For the organizers, the event gave a voice to those without one.

Garcia, vice president of CGA, grew up in the foster care system and often had others speaking on her behalf. At BU and as a member of CGA, she has found her voice.

"I am in power to simply give up my power to people who don't have access to it," says Garcia. "I didn't want to be spoken for anymore. I made it my goal to find my crowd and if they need me to, to be their voice."

Vera, who was just one of two students of color in her high school, rejects the label "snowflake" placed upon her generation by some in the media.

"We hear that we're too sensitive or that 'everything hurts our feelings,'" says Vera. "But if I am upset or distressed by something, I am going to speak up. It hurt me and those around me."

"What's different about this generation is that we are used to having a voice on issues through social media," Garcia says. "We don't see the idea of having an opinion as a privilege. It is a human right. It's a fundamental difference of this generation."

"Past CGA President Joar Dahn was our spark here," says Vera. "He inspired and taught us to use our voice for

change. We've all come together to be here at BU for a reason to lead our fellow students."

The protest also brought new urgency to the president's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion, which President Hanna established in the spring of 2019.

"The number one charge for that commission is to make sure Bloomsburg University becomes a model among universities for how we celebrate each other — and more importantly embrace each other, regardless of color, regardless of sexual orientation, regardless of religious background," says Hanna. "As someone who comes from a minority background, the reality is there is nothing more damaging to a person's future than being oppressed. We deserve equal rights in society."

"They made the rally a catalyst to make the changes on the commission level to create tangible policies and practices," says Shavonne Shorter, chair of the Commission on Diversity and a communication studies associate professor. "I don't know if the students realize how much of an impact they had on educating their colleagues. It was transformative and powerful to me, to see the students in a short amount of time, bring the message that we are serious about not tolerating racism on this campus. The first class I saw that week, we spent the majority of our class having that conversation."

"We have meetings set up now with Dr. Hanna for the spring to keep the conversation going," says Garcia, who is a member of the Commission on Diversity. "As we said, we want diversity, inclusion and safety. We want to take meaningful steps to make that happen. There are a lot of underclassmen involved with wanting to see change. It's impactful."

"We're changing the culture," says Lassus. "We want the involvement of the younger classes because we need to train new leaders for the future."

“

The CGA president and vice president informed us that they were planning this," says Hanna. "I believe in their goals, every human being deserves safety, inclusion and diversity. I am proud of them for voicing their opinions in a safe and respectful way."



Photo: Eric Foster



Photo: Jaime North

Out of the Classroom, Into the Community

By Tom McGuire

It's important to see what you want to become.

When Ralph Godbolt took over as director of Access and Success and Act 101/EOP — BU's academic, social and cultural support program designed to help selected students achieve academic excellence — his vision was to connect academics and real life for his students. Through his "Out of the Classroom, Into the Community" program, he accomplished that and more.

In its second year, Godbolt took a group of students to Philadelphia in November. In 2018, the group ventured west to Pittsburgh.

"A program like this is powerful since it exposes our students to experiences and situations that are new to them," says Godbolt. "The high school students we interact with get inspiration to picture themselves in college someday."

In Philadelphia, Godbolt and 18 BU students visited Frankford High School and Harding Elementary and its Autistic Support Program.

"Before our trip, we talked with both the school district and the Jahri Evans Foundation (Evans '07 is a Frankford graduate) and learned how we could be most useful," says Godbolt. "The school district recommended the Autistic Support Group since not many people interact with those students."

"We engaged the autistic students in dance and physical activities and talked about healthy eating," says Shannon Musgrove, assistant director of Act 101/EOP. "Our theme this year is healthy eating, so we made sure all of the Harding students left with a bag of fruits and vegetables. People don't realize there are neighborhoods where there are no grocery stores with fresh fruits and vegetables."

"At Frankford, we talked with 25 students about all aspects of going to college," Godbolt says. "The students were very critical thinkers — asking what college is like, how do they manage time, or what is it like being a black male in college. Most of the students never saw college as an option before the meeting. It was a powerful interaction."

On the second day of the Philadelphia visit, the BU students and several alumni from the area did a cleanup around Frankford.

"It was inspiring to see our current students and alumni working together to beautify the area around the school," Godbolt says. "It was nice for BU to give back to Jahri's high school since he has been so generous to BU over the years."

Godbolt knows this is just the beginning for this program. "Our vision is to grow 'Out of the Classroom.' We want our students to know they can make a difference in their communities. They are hungry to give and we'll be there to show them how."



BU students shown in photo: Kyree Dingle and Aminah Cooper

“

A program like this is powerful since it exposes our students to experiences and situations that are new to them, The high school students we interact with get inspiration to picture themselves in college someday.”

– Ralph Godbolt, director of Access and Success



Brittany Delcastillo



Living the HUSTLE

By Eric Foster

There's no road map to having a career like that enjoyed by J.C. Lee '05, playwright, television writer and producer, and now, film writer and producer.

"The hardest thing is that you graduate and you go, 'where do I start?'" says Lee, whose own start was far from L.A., where he lives and works today. "I grew up in a housing project in New York — growing up like working-class people grow up. Every choice is meaningful. We are taught to survive."

Lee — who has been a writer and producer for the television shows "How to Get Away with Murder," "Looking," and currently, "The Morning Show" — visited campus in November for screenings of his 2019 film "Luce" and spoke with students. "What inspires your work?" a student asked. "Paychecks," Lee shoots back. "The hustle is real."

BU prepared Lee well for that hustle. The English/secondary education major took a theatre class and connected, finding mentors in theatre professors Ross Genzel and the late Michael Collins. "The relationships between the professors and the students, the late nights putting up sets — it spoke to me of a kind of family that I was hungry for."

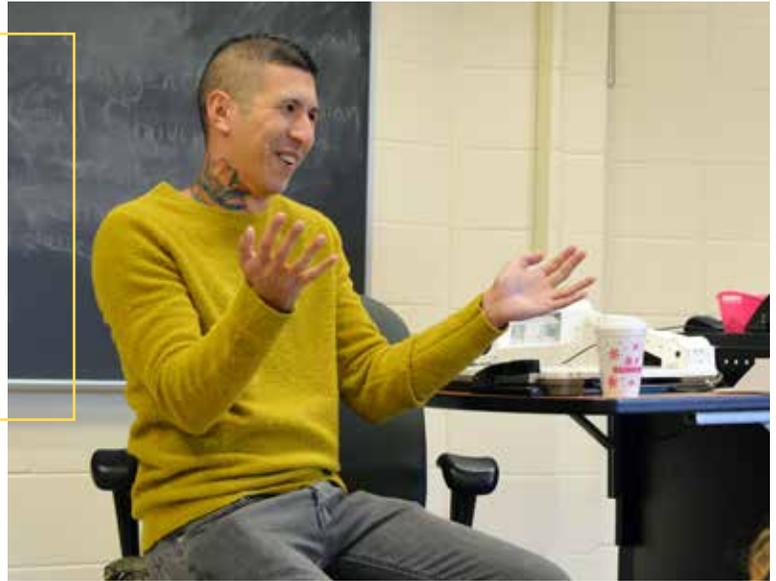
"There was a scrappy quality to the work — everyone constantly hustling and being resourceful because we don't have all the money in the world," says Lee. "It instilled an ethos of hustle where you can make it on your own. That ethos found its way into my bones, and I took advantage of it dramatically. We started putting together shows in my sophomore into junior year."

One of those plays, written in a diet-soda fueled session, was the dark satire "Night of the Wannabes," which became an underground BU classic that was nominated to go to the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

“

“When I produce a TV show, I’m running a business. The budgets are millions of dollars. Film, TV, and theatre are distinctly different businesses, but I like to have a project going in each space because they help make me better in the other ones.”

– J.C. Lee



“The experience of self-production taught me so much. It taught me my goal is to entertain people. Asking people to come to a dark room to watch something is a big ask — understanding that helps you make it better. You’ve got to give people something,” says Lee. “Print the flier and work to get someone to see it who is not your friend. That’s really hard. You learn that no one wants your Samuel Beckett play on the El train. No one wants that.”

Which does not mean that Lee’s works are lightweight. “Luce,” adapted from Lee’s play of the same name and co-written and directed by Julius Onah, garnered critical attention, mostly positive, for its provocative storyline about race and identity in the U.S.

The play was a result of Lee’s experience at Julliard in New York City. “I wrote sci-fi plays — that was my thing. My professor at Julliard insisted I write a grown-up play.”

That play was “Luce,” which premiered off-Broadway in 2013 and was reviewed positively in *The New York Times*. Through Julliard, Lee got an agent, the initial gatekeepers of the entertainment industry, and went to Los Angeles to work in TV — first as a writer and then as a producer.

With one film under his belt, Lee is already at work on the next screenplay based on a Stephen King horror story, two TV shows, and a play.

“When I produce a TV show, I’m running a business. The budgets are millions of dollars. Film, TV, and theatre are distinctly different businesses, but I like to have a project going in each space because they help make me better in the other ones,” says Lee, who wakes at 5 or 6 a.m. for writing time.

The hustle is real.

“Flexibility is important,” Lee tells students. “Undergrad is the last part of your life where you take a class just because it sounds interesting. Give yourself time to explore. Don’t let a passion for one subject prohibit openness to new experiences. Then you have a story to tell. And stories are what writers do.”



HOMECOMING 2019



Photos: Jaime North

The peak of the fall season draped over "The Only Halloween Town in Pennsylvania" for a Homecoming celebration that championed maroon and gold, from the morning's Color Run to a newly routed parade. Then onward to the Alumni Tent Party and upward for the day's ultimate climb to Redman Stadium, cheering on the Huskies to a victory and crowning our first-ever Homecoming Royalty — Matthew Lassus '20.





Photo: Eric Foster

Ready to Work

By Andrea O'Neill '06

Tom Mason '84 arrived at Bloomsburg University unsure of his career path, but the business major was certain the campus felt like home.

"It turned out to be a great place for me socially and academically. I grew a lot at BU," says Mason. "I was very active in both athletics and Greek Life and combined with the strong academic program at BU, I graduated a very confident individual."

Hired in claims management at Liberty Mutual Insurance right after graduation, Mason moved on to Travelers Insurance and served as the second vice president of claim management for many years. Recently named national claim director at CNA Insurance, Mason regularly returns to campus to mentor students and to identify potential hires.

"When I left Travelers, the Pennsylvania office alone had 26 BU alumni — six joined from the class of 2019," says Mason. "The reason we hired so many BU grads is that they were ready to get to work on day one."

"We have found over and over again that Bloomsburg students have a good work ethic and the initiative to get things done and solve problems," says Mason. "We can teach the technical skills of the industry, but we can't teach good interpersonal skills or initiative. That is what a BU degree brings."

Mason is impressed with how many opportunities there are for alumni to come and give back time to help students with career development.

Events like the COLA Symposium, COST Pathways in Science and Technology, Zeigler Institute for Professional Development, and CATCH (Collaborating to Assist Teacher Candidates in Hiring) Conference in the College of Education bring hundreds of alumni and organizational partners to campus to inspire and guide students. Workshops, webinars, networking events, and other programs provide more tools necessary for students to continue that climb long after they leave campus. It's a commitment to student success the university has named Professional U.

"There are a lot more opportunities today than there were 30 years ago," says Mason. "Alumni come back, and they're successful, smart, and have a lot to share."

'50s

» **Ralph Wetzel '59** retired from the P.I.A.A. District 1 wrestling steering committee after a record 46 years. He is a member of the Hatboro-Horsham Athletic Wall of Fame, the Southeast Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

'60s

» **Robert Tucker '68**, a former NFL star, was honored by the Hazleton Area High School and the City of Hazleton at the Hazleton Area football home opener. A Hazleton native, Tucker was a durable NFL All-Pro who played 11 seasons with the New York Giants and Minnesota Vikings and who helped revolutionize the position of tight end in professional football.

'70s

» **Eugene E. Cioffi III '70** received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award presented by Marquis Who's Who.

» **David E. Tracey '73** retired after 45 years of clinical social work. A decade of advocacy, clinical and training work with the National Center on Institutions and Alternatives in Washington D.C. led him to be a co-founder and partner of Family Advocacy Services, an urban mental health agency offering a continuum of treatment programs. For the last 21 years, Tracey directed the counseling and wellness program at the Park School of Baltimore, where he also maintains a private clinical practice.

» **Richard C. Whitmire '73** retired after 45 years of clinical social work practice from the U.S. Penitentiary Lewisburg as a clinical specialty consultant responsible for drug treatment programs. Whitmire was commissioned in 1993 as a health services officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, and retired in 2018 with the rank of captain. Before that, he served as a psychiatric social worker at Danville State Hospital. He maintains a private practice specializing in anxiety, depression, and couples psychotherapy in Bloomsburg.

» **Michael Valenti '79** is a commercial relationship manager with First Interstate in Boise, Idaho. He is a small business administration loan specialist and has held senior leadership roles at financial institutions in California and Idaho, including community banks, community small business lenders, and national banks.

'80s

» **Bette Anderson Grey '81** was appointed to the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine for a four-year term, serving as the respiratory therapist on the board.

» **Barbara Bogart Willders Romano '83** was inducted into the Warrior Run School District 2019 Hall of Fame in Turbotville.

» **David Gass '84** was appointed a judge on the Arizona Court of Appeals. Gass began his career in private practice at Lewis & Roca, LLP, where he practiced primarily in the areas of tort, commercial, and insurance litigation. Before joining the law firm, he clerked for then Arizona Court of Appeals Judge Ruth McGregor. Gass has served in all three branches of Arizona government. He was an assistant attorney general and director of legislative affairs with the Arizona Attorney General's Office, counsel to the Democratic Caucus of the Arizona House of Representatives and previously served on the Maricopa County Superior Court.

» **Grace Crampsie Smith '84** is a member of the Bethlehem City Council. She was an adjunct faculty member at Lehigh Carbon Community College and also worked as an addictions counselor and coordinator of community and early intervention services for the office of Lehigh County Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. She completed the Bethlehem Citizen's Police Academy program.

» **Wayne Brookhart '85** will retire as superintendent of the Berwick Area School district.

» **Laura Toole '85**, LCSW, is executive vice president of The Northeast Regional Cancer Center, Scranton, supervising community and patient services, including the Patient Navigation Screening Program, community education, family of survivors programs and special events, and healthcare professional education.

» **Kelly McBride Young '87** purchased the Magic Carpet Preschool in Bloomsburg with her daughter.

» **Jamie Pepper '87** is supervisor of instruction for elementary programs in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at St. Mary's County Public Schools, Leonardtown, Md.



» **David Lesko '88** retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force after 31 years of service. Lesko was commissioned through the Air Force ROTC

program and served on active duty as a medical administrator. His final assignment was Robins Air Force Base, Ga., where he was the commander, Detachment 5, supporting over 1,500 medics, chaplains, and Judge Advocate General military members.

» **John Rohrbach '88** is vice president of operations of Rowen Enterprises, Reading. He is responsible for managing sales and operations for all three door divisions. Rohrbach was the general manager of Overhead Door Co.

» **Debbie Waibel Hippensteel '89** is an investment portfolio manager with River Wealth Advisors, Allentown.

'90s

» **J. Karl Alexy '90** is the associate administrator for railroad safety and chief safety officer of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). He was most recently the FRA's deputy associate administrator for railroad safety and had responsibility for the Office of Safety Analysis, the Office of Technical Oversight, and the Office of Regional Operations.

» **Matt Clavin '94**, a professor at the University of Houston, has published his third book, *The Battle of Negro Fort: The Rise and Fall of a Fugitive Slave Community*. The book examines the United States' destruction of a colony of runaway slaves in Spanish Florida in 1816.

» **Mary Gronsky Floyd '94** is a colonel in the U.S. Air Force. She is stationed at the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Army Base, Anchorage, Alaska.



» **Jason Kirsch '96M** received the 2019 Ernest R. McDowell Award for Excellence in Public Relations by the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society.

The award recognizes individuals for sustained excellence in both the public relations field and the community. Kirsch is a partner and senior counselor at PRworks, Harrisburg.



» **Peter J. Mayes, '97** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in educational leadership at East Stroudsburg University. He is the principal of Nitschmann

Middle School in Bethlehem.

» **Steven Small '98** is vice president of information services at Quality Contact Solutions in Aurora, Neb.

'00s

» **James Becker '00** is superintendent of the Southern Columbia School District in Catawissa. Becker served as Southern's middle school principal for four years after teaching middle school math in the district. He became Southern's high school principal in 2006.

» **Stephen Ott '01** is head coach for cross country and track and field at Parkland High School, Allentown. Ott is also the head coach for indoor track and has been with the district as a teacher and coach for 19 years.

» **Susan Berryman Moyer '01** graduated with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nursing Science from Villanova University. Moyer, who recently accepted a full-time tenure-track position as an assistant professor of nursing at Millersville University, is a Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse Educator, and member of Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society.

» **Christian Temchatin '03** is the superintendent of the Kutztown School District. Before joining Kutztown, he was the principal of Pennridge Central Middle School in Bucks County for three and a half years. His previous administrative experience includes three years as principal and one as assistant principal of North Schuylkill Junior/Senior High School.

» **Michael DelPriore '04/'06M** was published in the Fall 2019 edition of the *Pennsylvania Administrator* magazine of the Pennsylvania Principals Association. His article was "Transitioning from Teacher to Administrator: Keys for Success."

» **Rebecca Bender '05** was inducted into the Warrior Run School District 2019 Hall of Fame in Turbotville.

» **Maurice Dennis '05** is a vice president commercial loan officer at The Dime Bank, Honesdale. Dennis began his banking career 10 years ago as a commercial credit analyst underwriting and evaluating commercial loans.

» **Kimberlee Pedersen Josephson '05** is associate dean of the Breen Center for Graduate Success and assistant professor of business administration at Lebanon Valley College.

» **Heather Goshert '06** is a nursing assistant residency instructor at Geisinger and a practical nursing instructor at the Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center. In these two jobs Goshert will support career pathways for low-income individuals as well as be an educator.

» **Richard Canter '09** is senior associate athletics director/administration at Longwood University in Farmville, Va. He joined Longwood as an assistant strength and conditioning coach in 2011, and has since worked as Longwood's director of sports performance, assistant athletics director for sports performance, and most recently associate athletics director for student-athlete enhancement.

'10s

» **Lisa Dooley '11** is town manager of the Town of Bloomsburg.



» **Lauren Erdman-Sheeler '14** received the Emerging Fundraising Professional of the Year Award from the Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Association of

Fundraising Professionals.

» **Bryce Foster '15** is an urban park ranger for the New York City Parks and Recreation Department, based in Central Park. As a ranger, he is responsible for helping New Yorkers and visitors discover and explore NYC's natural world through environmental education, wildlife management, and active conservation.

» **Megan Doe '16** received a J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Award to conduct research, teach English, and provide expertise abroad. Doe received her Masters of Science in Global Studies and International Relations from Northeastern University in Boston and will support English teaching at Westfalen-Kolleg Paderborn in Germany as part of a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship.

» **Beth Myers '16** was selected as one of the 30 Under 30 Learning Leaders by CloserStill Media, the producers of the Learning 2019 conference. Myers works for C2 Technologies.

» **Nicholas Pellechia '18** is a part-time police officer of Yardley Borough. Pellechia attended the Delaware County Police Academy and interned with the Locust Township and Northampton Township police departments.

» **Christine Eckenrod '18M** will lead the radiography program at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Eckenrod was the radiography program director at JFK Muhlenberg Snyder School of Radiography in New Jersey, where she also served as a radiography instructor. She has been a CT/X-ray technologist for Altoona Hospital and a CT/MRI technologist for Alliance Imaging Inc. and 611 MRI and CT.

» **James Farano '18** is an accounting associate at Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill.

» **Katrina Heiser '19** was accepted into the Peace Corps and departed for the eastern Caribbean to begin training as a primary English literacy volunteer.





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HUSKY WEDDINGS

1. **UPPLING and HAVILAND** — Kelsey Uppling '12 and Jeffrey Haviland '12 were married June 8 in Bloomsburg at the Pump House B&B. They met while working in the university mailroom and the wedding was attended by a number of Bloomsburg alumni and staff.
2. **BARTOL and BACKER** — BU alumni at the wedding reception of Brittany Bartol '15 and Derrick Backer '14 on July 6.
3. **HOLTRY and PEITZ** — From left Carl Peitz Jr, Jillian Peitz, Carl Peitz Sr, Pamela Peitz, Steven Peitz '15, Jennifer Holtry '14, Sara Peitz, Allison Conklin, Joshua Conklin and children Gavin and Nora Conklin.



IN MEMORIAM - Art benefactor Tom Toth passes away



Tom Toth '65, who along with his wife, Ceil, was a long-time benefactor of BU, died at home Sept. 29, 2019, of complications from pancreatic cancer.

A resident of Long Neck, Del., Toth was born in 1943 in Bethlehem and graduated from Liberty High School in 1961 and BU in 1965 with a teaching degree in biology. He and Ceil met at a fall dance in the Husky Lounge in 1962. Tom and Ceil Toth taught in the Baltimore County School System for more than 30 years. He was one of three teachers chosen to start the Gifted and Talented Science Program in the county.

The Toths endowed the Thomas J. and Cecelia Mistal Toth Scholarship to benefit students of any major through a planned gift in their will. They also donated an art collection to the university. Ceil's brother, Stanley R. Mistal, was an artist who introduced them to the art world in the 1960s. Over the years, in addition to Stanley's paintings, the Toths amassed a large collection of paintings by mostly Hungarian artists, many of which are now part of the university collection. The collection is on display in Centennial Hall.

THE LINE UP

Marriages

Samantha Kropa '09 and
Herman Davis, April 22, 2017

Thomas Visicaro '10 and
Christina Timoldi, Oct. 19, 2019

Kelsey Uppling '12 and
Jeffrey Haviland '12, June 8, 2019

Julie Fufla '12 and
Scott Yagielniskie, Aug. 10, 2019

Kelsey Harm '13 and
Stephen Grib '13, Sept. 7, 2019

Jennifer Holtry '14 and
Steven Peitz '15, March 23, 2019

Nicholas Wilson '14 and
Ellyssa Saroscek, Nov. 2, 2019

Benjamin Carlucci '16M and
Leeanne Smollen, Sept. 1, 2019

Anna Marie Duna '17 and
Andrew Slick '18, May 31, 2019

Briana Jastrzebski '17 and
Jared Stock, June 29, 2019

Births

Amy Clewell Goodwin '94 and husband,
George, a daughter, Mia Grace, Feb. 25,
2017

Jessica Postal '09 and husband, Brent
'08, a son, Landon Michael, Dec. 15,
2018

Lauren Erdman-Sheeler '14 and
husband, Ben, a son, Charles Paul,
March 31, 2019

Samantha Davis Kropa '09 and husband,
Herman, a daughter, Brynleigh Reese
Davis, April 10, 2019

Jessica Shuman Harry '07 and husband,
Kevin '02, a daughter, Swayze Grace,
May 28, 2019

Michael Espinosa '06 and wife, Ashleigh,
a daughter, Elena Rose, June 29, 2019

Amy Forbes-Witt '99 and husband,
Glenn Witt '97, a daughter, Rowan Mae,
Aug. 1, 2019

Jeffrey Fellman '06 and wife, Danielle,
a son, Milo Richard, August 23, 2019

Sandra Dinnella Starkey '07 and
husband, Joseph '07, a daughter,
Adalynn, Sept. 12, 2019

Christine Whitehead Litsch '07 and
husband, Erik '04, a daughter, Julia,
Sept. 22, 2019

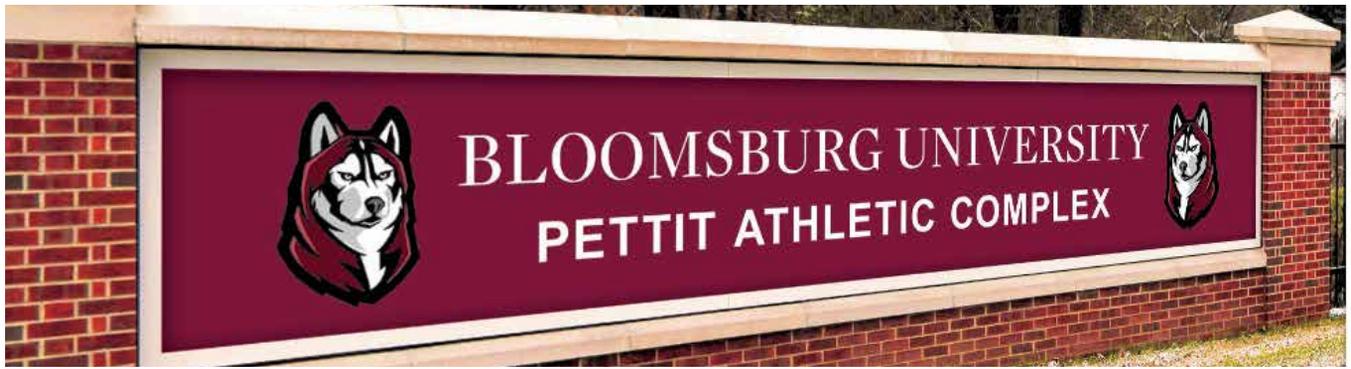
Obituaries

James Deily '41
Stuart Hartman '42
Reba Henrie Fellman '43
Ella Schargo Zinzarella '44
Buddy Hartman '49
Robert Millard '49
Earl Blake '50
Neil Dent '50
Ruth Glidden Radicchi '52
Phyllis Morgan Harper '53
Constance Wallace Morris '55
Marjorie Felton Mackert '56
Vivian Scott Malczyk '56
Bette Gibson Bisco '57
Charles Puckey '58
Robert Beaver '59
Roland Buck '59
Julia Ann Muir Krajack '59
Leo Mulhall '59
Rodman Roy Ralston '59
John Eberhart '60
Edward Wojciechowski '60
Bernard Balkiewicz '61
Philip Houser '61
David Loughlin '61
Ronald Davidheisir '62
Daniel Renn '62
Thomas Davis '63
Gordon Thomas '63
Charles Klobe '64

Virginia Palmer '64
Dorothy Deitterick '65
Thomas Toth '65
Jerry Fritz '66
Carol Ripa Oliver '66
Alice Merkle Stahl '66
Henry Wenzel '66
Ronald Anderson '67
Adrian Callender '67
John Hatton '67
Donald Hock '68
Linwood Nester '68
Betty Seidel Dietz '69
Janice Langville '69
Leonard Pawlowski '69
Margaret Lamison Waltemyer '69
Frank Yartz '69
Gayle Thorpe Baar '71
Linda Szoke Houser '71
Michael Stugin '71
Marie Gvazdauskas Scriptunas '72
Steven Smith '72
Debra Hunt '73
Garry Korman '73
Denise Martinkovic Rank '73
Arlene Trush Boles '75
Kathleen Little Gaydos '75
Frederick Gessler '75
Joseph Wertz '75
John Simon Bernosky '78
Caryll Lorimer Eck '78
Arlene Miller '78
Patricia Hughes Baltusavich '79
Steven Smith '79
Robert Elliott '80
Virginia Taylor Cummings '82
Elizabeth Hickey Dennen '82
Susan Dickinson Zerfoss '84
Jo Ann Michetti Gonsar-Scull '85
Amy Delvecchio Hackenberg '92
Keith Weaver '92
Justin Snarponis '96
Beverly Miller Yocum '98
Michael Carroll '02
Renay Volciak '02
Erin Bratton '07
Robert Piekarski '09
Andrew Hackenberg '11
Zachary Kravatz '11

Send information to: magazine@bloomu.edu

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By Tom McGuire

AIMING HIGHER



Athletic Complex Named to Honor Steph Pettit's \$10 Million Gift

Bloomsburg University coaches will have new tools for recruiting and BU athletes will have new scholarships thanks to a \$10 million gift from Steph Pettit '89.

The gift designates \$5 million to support athletic priorities, specifically scholarships, and a \$5 million trust to support future university needs. In recognition of the impact of this donation, BU has named the upper campus athletic complex the Bloomsburg University Pettit Athletic Complex.

"My goal is to elevate the athletic program at BU by giving the coaches the resources needed to recruit student-athletes from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and beyond with stronger academic and athletic profiles," says Pettit. "Competition is fierce in the world of intercollegiate athletics, and our coaches need more scholarship money to compete at the highest levels. I am honored to be able to make this gift and support their efforts to compete for championships at the conference level and be competitive on a national level."

The gift makes Pettit the largest donor in BU history, bringing his total contributions to more than \$12.5 million.

"This gift by Steph, who often calls Bloomsburg University his home, is transformational," says BU President Bashar W. Hanna. "We talk about the grit and determination shown by our students. This is an attribute Steph has shown from the first time he set foot on campus and continues today. On behalf of our student-athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, and alumni, I want to thank Steph for his extraordinary generosity to our university. His gift will impact generations of Huskies."

"Steph's passion for BU is unmistakable," says Director of Athletics Michael McFarland. "He is an ambassador for all our teams with a desire to see each of them be successful."

Pettit, who was awarded an honorary doctor of humane letters in the spring of 2019, graduated with a degree in mass communications and was a four-year member of the Huskies football team. He was part of the 1985 squad that was the first team in school history to win 12 games while capturing the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference title and reaching the NCAA Division II semi-finals.

After graduation, he was a sales manager for E. & J. Gallo Winery before taking ownership of Clean Earth Systems, Inc. in 1993. The company has grown into a nationwide distributor of hazardous waste containers.

Pettit has given back in many ways to BU. He served on the record-setting \$62 million *It's Personal* campaign cabinet as the lead advocate and ambassador supporting athletics. Pettit also co-chaired the First & Goal football scholarship campaign as well as establishing the SP-59 annual football scholarship, the Under Armour Football sponsorship, and the Steph Pettit Legacy Scholarship.

He supported athletics with a \$1 million contribution for stadium improvements to the former Sports Stadium and additional athletic scholarships. The Steph Pettit Stadium serves as the home to Huskies' field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and women's lacrosse teams, in addition to hosting local high school teams, BU athletic summer camps, and university intramural and club activities. Pettit also supported the banner project at Redman Stadium that improved the look of the facility.

Pettit supports mass communications by funding experiential learning opportunities through a production company for current students that features documentary and long-form video projects.

Sheptock Comes Home as Football Coach

Frank Sheptock '86, a key member of the Huskies 1985 undefeated football team, has returned to lead the team as BU's 28th head football coach.

Sheptock previously coached at Division III Wilkes University, serving as the defensive coordinator from 1990-95 and head coach from 1996-2014. As head coach at Wilkes, he went 107-81 overall and led the team to nine postseason appearances.

Sheptock also served as the head coach and athletic director at Berwick High School from 2016-19, posting a mark of 27-11 after taking over for legendary head coach George Curry. His Berwick teams reached the District 2 Class 4A title games and a trip to the district semifinals in his final year. He also served one-year stints as an assistant at Misericordia University (2019) and BU (2015).

"I am humbled and honored to be the Bloomsburg University head football coach," says Sheptock. "Bloomsburg significantly impacted my development as an individual, and I take great pride in being allowed to continue that positive impact on our current and prospective student-athletes. I look forward to building relationships with our current student-athletes and continuing the legacy of success of Bloomsburg University football."

A member of the NCAA Division II Team of the Quarter Century (1973-97), Sheptock played linebacker for head coach George Landis and holds the school records for tackles in a career (537), single-season (159), and single-game (23), as well as career fumble recoveries (12).

Sheptock was inducted into the Bloomsburg University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1997, the College Football Hall of Fame in 2007, the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2010, and was named to the PSAC's 150 Contributors of College Football in 2019 as one of BU's 10 honorees.

“

I am humbled and honored to be the Bloomsburg University head football coach.”

– Frank Sheptock



Photos: Eric Foster

A Second *Magical* Season for Women's Soccer



The women's soccer team had another magical season in 2019, firmly establishing itself as one of the premier programs in the country.

The Huskies won their second consecutive NCAA Division II Atlantic Regional title and finished the season with an 18-3-1 record, including a record-setting 13-straight victories, a 15-game unbeaten streak, and a second straight trip to the Elite Eight round. Bloomsburg was ranked sixth in the country at the end of the season after a fifth-place finish in 2018. Bloomsburg's 18 wins tied the program record for most victories in a season and its 35 wins over the last two seasons sets a new program record.

Senior defender Tayah Naudascher, redshirt junior goalkeeper Jenna Hawkins, and junior midfielder Lauren Hoelke earned All-American honors by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) and the United Soccer Coaches. Hoelke earned Second Team honors from the D2CCA and Third Team accolades from United Soccer Coaches while Hawkins earned Third Team laurels from both organizations. Naudascher was a Third Team All-American by the D2CCA.

Hoelke and Maggie McDonald were named to the 2019 United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division II Scholar All-East Region team with Hoelke named a 2019 NCAA Division II Second Team Scholar All-American.

The team was also recognized for excellence off the pitch.

For the second-straight season, the coaching staff, led by head coach Matt Haney, was recognized by the United Soccer Coaches as the Atlantic Region Staff of the Year. Haney also earned the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Coach of the Year for the first time in his career. The team earned the Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Bronze Award as well as the Team Academic Award following the 2018-19 academic year from the United Soccer Coaches.



Lauren Hoelke



Tayah Naudascher



Jenna Hawkins



Christina Podpora

Sohosky Named First Head Women's Golf Coach



Gary Sohosky, a veteran PGA professional with four decades of experience, is the first head coach of the new women's golf program.

"Gary's golf knowledge and understanding of the region ensure we have the right coach in place to build BU's 22nd varsity sport," says Director of Athletics Michael McFarland. "We look forward to the fall of 2020 and to meeting the student-athletes he recruits."

The Huskies' home course will be the Golf Course at Frosty Valley in Danville.

Sohosky has been a Class A PGA Golf Professional since 1980 and has worked at PGA teaching clinics and workshops throughout the country since 1983.

Before coming to BU, Sohosky was the head golf professional at Frosty Valley Resort while also serving as the head instructor and club technician at Tee to Green Golf Center. Before that, he was the head golf professional at Mill Race Golf and Camping Resort from 2017-18.

Sohosky has worked at the Hershey Pocono Resort in White Haven, TPC of Scottsdale in Arizona, Stratton Golf School in Vermont, Split Rock Resort in Lake Harmony, Wilkes-Barre Golf Club, and White Deer Golf Club in Montgomery. TPC of Scottsdale serves as the permanent site of the Phoenix Open on the PGA Tour. He also served as the head coach at Penn College of Technology where he led the team to three conference titles from 1993-98.

Women's golf is the second female sport to be added at Bloomsburg in the last three years after women's volleyball began play in 2017.

Bloomsburg becomes the 11th institution in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) to offer women's golf. The 2020 PSAC Championship will be held at the Hershey Country Club from Oct. 15-17.

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Seven individuals were inducted into the BU Athletic Hall of Fame in October. Shown from left are Director of Athletics Michael McFarland, Joel Melitski '64 (who accepted the award on behalf of inductee Richard Scorese '64), Trisha (Leitzel) Hoffman '03, Alea (Balthaser) Floren '02, Megan Hunsinger '99, Joanne McComb, Ron Morgan, Justin Shepherd '07, and BU President Bashar Hanna.



125 Years of Basketball

By Robert Dunkelberger



The story of basketball at Bloomsburg University is a long and rich one that goes back to nearly the beginning of the game itself.

Basketball was invented in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith at the YMCA in Springfield, Mass. Just two years later, Bloomsburg State Normal School students were shooting hoops influenced by Albert Aldinger, director of physical education, who trained at a YMCA.

The 2019-20 season marks the 125th in the history of the men's team at the university. Only four other NCAA institutions have played as many seasons: Allegheny College, Bucknell University, the University of Minnesota, and Yale University.

In the early days of the game, Bloomsburg was the Duke University of basketball in the region — dominating the competition. The 1898-99 season was a high point. Though Aldinger took a leave of absence two games into the season to complete his medical degree, the team won the final eight games to finish undefeated at 10-0. After three close victories to start the season, the Bloomsburg team steamrolled over its next seven opponents by a combined score of 298-65, including a 30-6 rout of Penn State. In a recent ranking of teams from that year, Bloomsburg was second behind only Yale.

Over the next several decades, Bloomsburg teams continued to excel — going 21-9 from 1919 to 1921 and 28-6 from 1923 to 1925. In 1932, George Buchheit came to Bloomsburg after having served as head coach at both the University of Kentucky and Duke University — the only person to ever coach both programs. He set a Bloomsburg career record with 92 wins in 13 seasons, 10 of those coming in 1944-45 with a team composed of Navy cadets.

In 1949, new coach Harold Shelly brought an offensive focus to Bloomsburg. In his 11 years, his teams won 10 or more games six times — 112 in all. Three players (Len Kozick, James Gustave, and William Swisher) set the all-time scoring mark for a career in consecutive years from 1957 to 1959, while Swisher was the first basketball player in school history to surpass 1,000 points. Shelly also coached Chuck Daly, who would go on to become a world-wide coaching legend.

A member of the Huskies team for two years, Daly averaged more than 12 points a game, including a team-high 13.3 in the 1950-51 season. Later, as head coach at the University of Pennsylvania, Daly led his teams to a record of 125-38 in six years, winning four Ivy League and three Big Five titles. In the NBA, he was an assistant coach for the Philadelphia 76ers and head coach of the Cleveland Cavaliers, Detroit Pistons, New Jersey Nets, and Orlando Magic. While coaching for Detroit,

Daly led his team to back-to-back NBA championships. He is most famous for serving as the head coach of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team, the original “Dream Team” — considered by many the greatest collection of basketball talent ever to be assembled.

In 1960, Bill Foster took the helm of the Huskies squad and, in just three seasons, led Bloomsburg to a 45-11 record and the school's first-ever NCAA playoff berth. Foster went on to Rutgers and later coached at Duke, leading the team to the 1978 NCAA Division I national title game.

In 1971, young coach Charlie Chronister elevated Bloomsburg's game to new heights. In his third season, Chronister led the Huskies to the PSAC East title and a trip to the NCAA playoffs. Over his 32 years, Chronister would go on to win 558 games and earn a national coaching reputation. The Huskies claimed one PSAC title, nine PSAC East championships, and seven NCAA playoff appearances during Chronister's tenure, while the coach earned three PSAC Coach of the Year awards.

Among Chronister's stars was Mike Ellzy, who would set a new career scoring mark with 1,911 points, while overall, 21 players topped 1,000 career points. More recently, the Huskies would see a new all-time scoring leader when Christian Mortellite surpassed Ellzy's mark and finished with 2,037 points while playing for head coach John Sanow.

But the men are not alone in dominating the hardwood. The women, who began playing in 1897 and first fielded a varsity team in 1962, have also set a high standard of success.

With more than 700 career victories, the women's team has earned 10 NCAA championship berths and 30 PSAC playoff appearances. The 1991-92 and 2012-13 teams each won PSAC titles. In 1988-89 the women's team was ranked No. 1 in the country after going 28-0 in the regular season before losing both its playoff games.

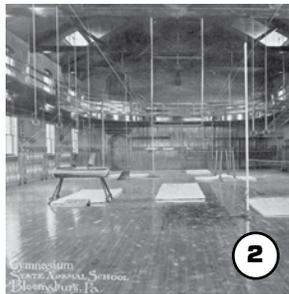
Two dominant eras for the women were from 1987 to 1993, when Bloomsburg was 139-31 under head coach Joe Bressi, and from 2010 to 2015, when coach Bill Cleary guided the women's team to a record of 124-28. Current coach Alison Tagliaferri has built on that legacy, winning 20 games a year ago.

Now, after 125 years and nearly 1,400 victories for the men's basketball team and more than 700 for the women's team, Bloomsburg University has set the standard in the state. And the student-athletes of today have emulated the enthusiasm of those players more than a century ago, who were the first to learn a new sport and represent their school with pride.

1. Head Coach William Foster's three teams won 80 percent of their games from 1960 to 1963.
2. The new gymnasium in 1894, soon after it opened. Most spectators watched games from the elevated running track.
3. The first team from 1894-95. Coach Albert Aldinger is at center holding the ball.
4. The 1944-45 team composed of Navy cadets, with Coach George Buchheit standing in the middle of the back row.



1



2



3



4



6



5



7



8

5. The 1973-74 team that went to the NCAA championships. Charles Chronister is kneeling at center, with John Willis (44) and Jerry Radocha (40) behind him.
6. Mike Ellzy going for the basket against Lock Haven in 1995.
7. Coach Charlie Chronister
8. The current all-time scoring leader with 2,037 points, Christian Mortellite (15), taking a foul shot versus Kutztown in 2018.

CALENDAR

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Spring Break begins Monday, March 9
Classes resume, Monday, March 16
Graduate Commencement, Friday, May 8
Undergraduate Commencement, Saturday, May 9

SPECIAL EVENTS

Homecoming

Friday, Oct. 23, through Sunday, Oct. 25
bloomu.edu/homecoming

ART EXHIBITS

Haas Gallery of Art

Jackie Brown
Through Feb. 24
Reception: Monday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Gallery Talk 1:15 p.m.

Kristopher Benedict
March 4 through April 9
Reception: Thursday, April 9, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Gallery Talk 1:15 p.m.

Warren Release Reception
Sunday, April 26, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Selected Student Exhibit
May 29 through Sept. 16.

The Gallery at Greenly Center

Student Exhibition
Feb. 25 through April 14

Spring 2020 Senior Exit Show
April 23 through May 8
Reception: Thursday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meredith Re' Grimsley, Solo Show-Summer
May 18 through Sept. 24
Reception: Thursday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
Artist Talk 1:15 p.m.

CONCERTS

Faculty Recital, Duo Montagnard

Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Orchestra Concerto Concert

Sunday, March 1, 2:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Guest Recital, Duo Sureño

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Voice Studio

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Concert Choir

Saturday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Market St., Bloomsburg

Husky Singers

Friday, April 3, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Orchestra and Choirs

Saturday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Concert Band

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Percussion Ensemble

Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.
Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Jazz Concert

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Guest Recital, Burleson

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Knoebel's Grove Pops

Sunday, April 26, 2 and 5 p.m.
Knoebel's Grove, Elysburg

Guitar Ensemble

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Piano Studio

Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Acapella for a Cause

Thursday, April 30, 7 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Main and Iron Streets,
Bloomsburg

Young Artist Recital

Saturday, May 2, 1 and 3:30 p.m.
Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

THEATRE

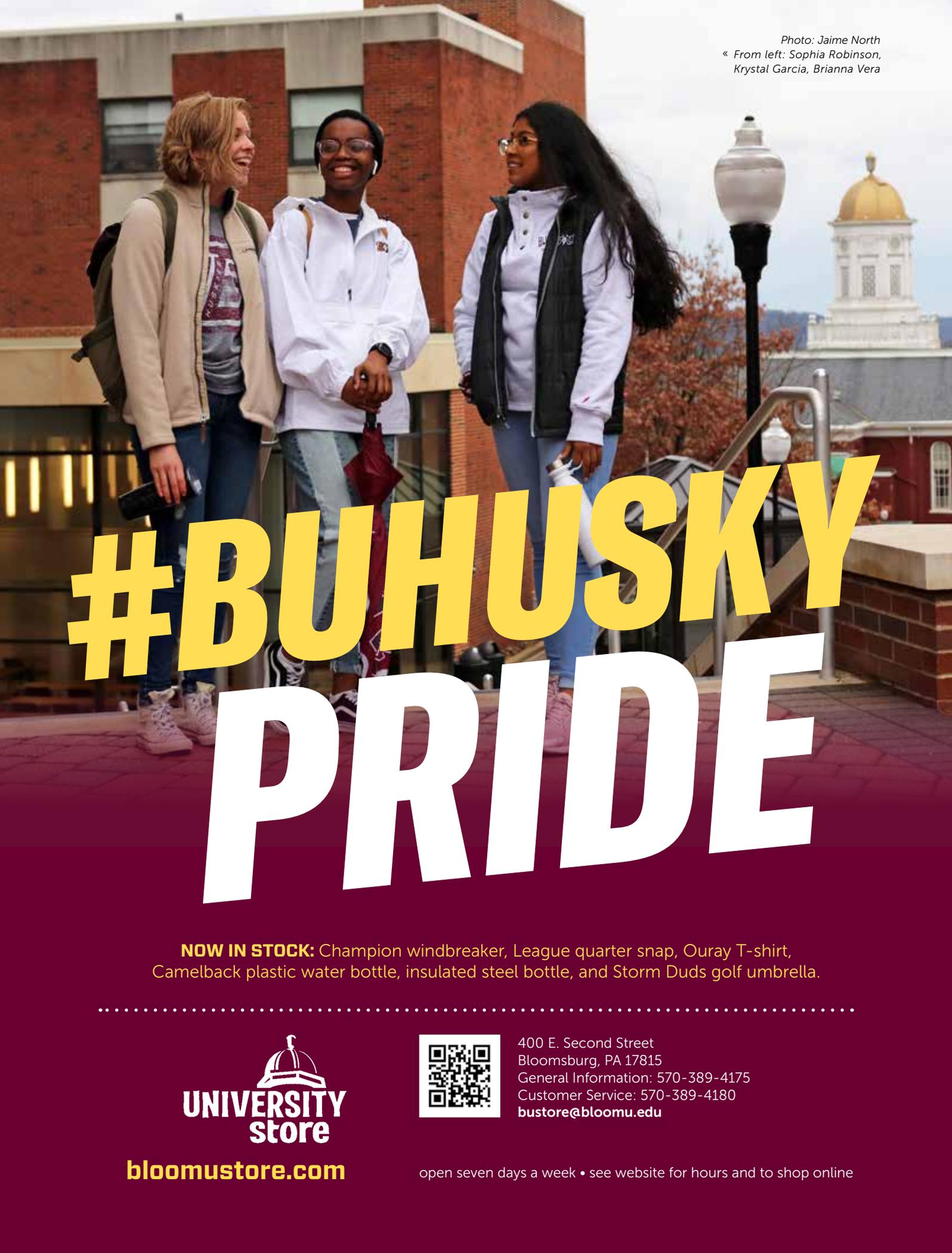
Everybody

Feb. 26 to March 1, Alvina Krause Theatre, Bloomsburg
Performances at 7:30 p.m., except Sunday at 3 p.m.
Free for BU Students/CGA Activities Card Holders, \$6 for adults,
\$4 dollars for students/seniors

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

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Photo: Jaime North
« From left: Sophia Robinson,
Krystal Garcia, Brianna Vera



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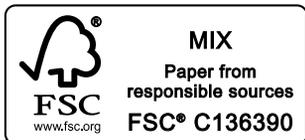


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Trinity Irish Dance - Sunday, March 29, 7:30 p.m., Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

Tickets: Adults: \$29. Children under 12 and BU students: \$15.

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION: bloomu.edu/arts-in-bloom or 570-389-4409

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