

Fayette

NITTANY NEWSLINE

2008 ANNUAL



PENNSTATE



Fayette The Eberly Campus

FAYETTE CAMPUS
EMBRACES COMMUNITY



The year 2008 was challenging for all of us. We watched the national economy slip into a recession and wondered how that was going to affect our enrollment and general support. I am happy to report that, while we had a modest decline in enrollment compared to the previous year, we were still able to count on our alumni and friends who continued to support us in different ways. Several new scholarships were established, significant contributions were made to benefit specific programs, and donations from hundreds of individuals have made it possible for many of our students to pursue a Penn State education.

Also, the timing could not have been better for us to have developed a new strategic plan that will guide us through the next five years. Our priority is our students, but to such a degree of excellence that Penn State Fayette will be recognized as the region's finest student-centered university, focusing on academic excellence. In addition, we are extending our reach outward, with a focus on the social, cultural, and economic development of the greater campus community.

With well-defined goals, we will stay true to our mission and stay on a course that will carry us through these challenging times.

On the bright side, in 2008, we recognized many accomplishments you can read about in this issue of the *Fayette Nittany Newsline*.

The first Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival—September 27, 2008—was a phenomenal and successful partnership between the community and the campus to celebrate the unique history of coal and coke in our region.

CEO Conversations, a program started in fall 2007 to provide a venue for business leaders to interact with our students, expanded into a fall and spring series open to the public, with seven outstanding guests in 2008.

In 2008, we began taking Penn State Fayette “On the Road,” in order to reconnect with our alumni. Our first stop was in Harrisburg in November. We plan several excursions in 2009—so, stay tuned.

Cultural and educational offerings—and even politics—brought a cross section of the community together on our campus throughout the year.

And our Lady Roaring Lions volleyball team captured the Pennsylvania State University Conference championship, and finished eighth place in the nation in the USCAA national championships held in Fort Wayne, Ind., in October.

As we look to the year ahead, 2009, we will continue to grow, make connections, and graduate students who are prepared to take on the challenges of their time.

We will continue to seek ways to help our students afford their Penn State education, through additional scholarship initiatives, such as the Blues and White Scholarship Gala scheduled for April 18, 2009, at Nemaquin Woodlands Resort. We invite you to join us if possible.

Through the dedicated support of our faculty and staff, we will continue to ensure a Penn State Fayette education has the reputation of excellence that a Penn State degree imparts.

And we will continue to make our campus a place where people from the community can attend events, such as the USCAA National Basketball Championships that Penn State Fayette will host in 2009 and 2010, and the 2009 Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival scheduled for September 19.

I thank all of you for your ongoing support of Penn State Fayette, and I encourage you to stay connected, stay in touch, and visit us soon.

Emmanuel I. Osagie, Ph.D., PMP

IN MEMORIAM

ABBY CHECK

Penn State Fayette student Abby Check, 19, passed away following a car crash in April. She survived for two days, but succumbed to her injuries April 9. She was a 2006 honor graduate of Uniontown High School. At the time of her death, Check worked at the Shop 'n Save in South Union Township while attending classes at Penn State Fayette.

RICHARD MULL

Penn State Fayette student Richard Mull, 57, passed away suddenly on October 2, 2008. He was enrolled at Penn State Fayette, where he was earning his associate degree in IST (Information Sciences and Technology).

THE EBERLY CAMPUS

FAYETTE NITTANY NEWSLINE

Editor

Susan Brimo-Cox

Designer

Donna Painter

Contributors

Susan Brimo-Cox
 Vince Capozzi
 Nicole Guappone
 Gib Prettyman

Photography

Jennifer Areford
 Michael Black
 Susan Brimo-Cox
 Bill Hager
 Mark Meredith
 Annemarie Mountz
 Daniel Salitrik
 Brooks West

Printing

Bondi Printing Co., Inc.

Send letters to the editor to:

Fayette Nittany Newsline
 Office of Public Relations
 Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus
 P.O. Box 519
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 Phone: 724-430-4199
 E-mail: smb34@psu.edu

Send address changes to:

Office of Development
 Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus
 P.O. Box 519
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 Phone: 724-430-4190
 E-mail: jrk22@psu.edu

Visit us on the Web at:

www.fayette.psu.edu

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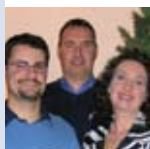
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COAL AND COKE AND MUSIC MAKE FOR A FESTIVE COMBINATION

by Susan Brimo-Cox

Nearly 1,000 people enjoyed a day of music and festivities September 27, as the Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival debuted at the Penn State Fayette campus. This new music festival was organized to celebrate the music, arts, and culture indigenous to the coal and coke region of southwestern Pennsylvania, and the pride and progress these industries fostered.

A group comprised of Penn State Fayette faculty, staff, and students joined with numerous individuals in the local community to plan and launch the festival. It was designed to be a multigenerational and multicultural event, offering a full day of musical entertainment of all kinds, local arts and crafts, and ethnic foods of the region. And there was a steady stream of people touring the Coal and Coke Heritage Center throughout the day!

Planning Committee Chair and Penn State Fayette Instructor Gina Jones observes, "It was a huge success! We were able to host close to 1,000 people for an event that not only celebrated the culture and history of the community, but also provided entertainment."

More than eighteen musical acts performed, covering a wide range of musical styles, including jazz, folk, polka, German, rock, gospel, and much more!

Performers with national reputations included The Atlanta Drumline, River City Brass Band with Lisa Ferraro, Harold



Bettors, the MCG Jazz Legacy Project, Chuck Cantalemma, and the Ferla-Marcinizyn Guitar Duo.

Local favorites included NewLanders, Simple Gifts, The Fabulous Softwinds, FiddleKicks, the Augsburg German Band, Sammy Bill Orchestra, Ray Ryan New Orleans Riverside Band, and Fred Adams.

Community response from the event has been so positive and favorable, the Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival will be an annual event at the campus each September.



NEW STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTED

Among the least dramatic and yet most important of the many initiatives undertaken during spring 2008 was the creation of the Fayette Campus Strategic Plan for 2008-2013.

Led by the newly-created Strategic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness (SPIE) Committee and the Campus Management Group, the strategic planning process involved establishing major campus goals, and then collecting ideas and input from all campus constituencies—from students to faculty and staff to the Advisory Board. Campus directors compiled ideas into initial drafts, which were then hammered into shape during a series of marathon meetings. After further consultation and polishing, the final plan was unveiled in July.

The plan centers around the campus vision statement: "Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus will be recognized as the region's finest student-centered university, focusing on academic excellence, and the social, cultural, and economic development of the community." The strategic plan develops this vision with five major goals, each elaborated into specific objectives and strategies.

Associate Professor and Head Librarian John Riddle, who chaired the SPIE Committee in spring 2008, says the process of writing the plan was a long and exhaustive one. However, the "final" plan is just the beginning of the real work. The SPIE Committee will now "monitor the progress of the plan's goals and objectives," Riddle says, and "the plan will also be reviewed annually to determine if certain objectives need to be adjusted or new ones added to meet significantly changing conditions or opportunities."



BENEDUM GRANT FUNDS SCIENCE FORENSICS

“Science Forensics: An Academic Pathway in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics” entered its second year in 2008 at Penn State Fayette, thanks to a \$229,000 grant from the Benedum Foundation, and support from the Westmoreland/Fayette Workforce Investment Board. The program was initiated in 2007 as a way to combat a deficit of students graduating from high school proficient in math and science.

The goal of the Science Forensics program over a four-year period is to assist approximately 125 rising 9th graders with



grades of C or D in math and English. The Benedum Foundation awarded the campus a \$229,000 grant to fund Science Forensics for 2008-2010.

Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie says the need to motivate youngsters to learn science and math is vital to southwestern Pennsylvania, in part to meet the growing demand for the technical workforce that continues to emerge in Fayette County, but also to help ensure our region's youth can take advantage of a variety of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics secondary-education opportunities when they graduate from high school. “The support of this program by the Benedum Foundation is illustrative of how important the education of our youth is to the Foundation. It is a mission the Foundation and Penn State Fayette share. We are honored by this partnership with the Benedum Foundation.”

The summer camp component of Science Forensics was attended by 27 new students and 15 returning students. Continuing throughout the academic year, while Science Forensics students attend high school, they also participate

in eight weekend sessions at the Fayette campus, and Penn State student tutors provide on-campus tutoring on an ongoing basis for any of the students who may have difficulties with math, science, or English. Results show that grades are improving for more than half of the students.



by Gib Prettyman

New SPIE Chair Terry Halfhill, coordinator of the campus Business program, agrees. “Implementation is by far the most important and difficult part of this process,” Halfhill says. “Converting ideas to behaviors is never easy, and most people do not embrace change without some level of discomfort.”

The ultimate success of the plan will thus be measured by concrete outcomes, as well as by its ability to provide an effective and collective set of institutional goals for the next five years.

2008-2013 Strategic Plan Goals:

1. Continuously strive to be the premier student-centered higher education institution in the region by focusing on the total learning experience of students at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.
2. Strengthen academic excellence through support of the highest quality teaching, research, and service.
3. Enhance and foster a more inclusive, civil, and diverse learning community.
4. Plan for steady growth by aligning programs and services with available fiscal resources while seeking new sources of income and support.
5. Enhance the social and cultural vitality, economic development, and global perspective of the campus, community, and the region.

You can read the entire strategic plan on the campus Web site at: http://www.fayette.psu.edu/Documents/Information/2008-Fayette-StrategicPlan_Final.pdf

CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

NEW RN TO BS PROGRAM THE MOST ACCELERATED IN REGION

Penn State Fayette launched an accelerated RN to BS nursing program in 2008, thanks to a three-year, \$841,514 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

The accelerated program allows registered nurses (RNs) to earn a bachelor of science in nursing degree in twelve months—an achievement that usually takes two years or more. The courses are taught in a “blended” format, including in-class, Web-enhanced, and Web-delivered offerings. Students need to spend only one day per week on campus, and clinical experiences are coordinated with partnering health-care institutions.

Melissa Miner, coordinator of Penn State Fayette’s Nursing program, explains, “Penn State Fayette was selected as one of the two campuses in the Penn State system to offer this accelerated program

—CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

continues on page 6

FAYETTE CAMPUS GETS “GREENER”

Penn State Fayette was the recipient of \$1 million in capital funding in 2008 to renovate its environmental systems to save energy and vital resources. Among the projects completed included upgrades to heating and air conditioning systems across the campus, the installation of more efficient lighting, and the use of occupancy sensors and system controls. University Park funded the projects in anticipation of the campus recouping the money in future energy savings.



Shelby McMahon and Joe Machnik

Another green initiative, a campus-wide recycling program, was launched April 30, 2008, under the leadership of Assistant Professor of Biology Dr. Joseph Shostell. A program five years in the making, Shostell says it involved many parties, including the Recycling Committee, the staff of the campus' Physical Plant, The Department of Environmental Protection, and Fayette County recycling coordinators. A \$30,000 grant from the DEP made it possible.

To encourage consistent use, recycling receptacles were placed throughout the campus, including large units located in the parking area by the tennis courts to accommodate drive-up and drop-off convenience for the public for glass, plastics 1 and 2, aluminum cans, tin cans, and newspaper.

“The tiered setup and regular collection of recyclable materials helps make this a smooth operation,” Shostell says. “It’s common practice to just throw things into the trash. However, much of what is sent to the landfill can be recycled, if people made the effort. Penn State Fayette’s recycling program will help preserve the environment.”

Students also had their own green projects. Several students in the AET 229, “Analysis of Building Environmental Systems,” class identified opportunities



Dr. Joseph Shostell

to put classroom education into practical applications.

Joe Machnik designed a system to collect air conditioner condensate into a 55-gallon recycled olive barrel. The campus' maintenance workers use the collected water to water potted plants on campus. And Shelby McMahon and Machnik installed a green roof on the engineering building, to show support for sustainable building design. The materials and plants used to create the green roof were donated.

McMahon and Machnik won first place at the Spring Learning Fair for their academic efforts on these projects.

—CAMPUS NEWS BRIEFS

continued from page 5

because Fayette is a rural county that borders other rural or underserved counties. The importance of increasing the number of nurses with bachelor's degrees has been identified in the state and this program will help enhance the quality of health care in our region.”

Ten students make up the program's first cohort. Miner says the students are pleased that the program meets their professional and personal needs. “All classes in the program—nursing and non-nursing—are offered one day per week, so nurses can keep their jobs while pursuing their advanced degree.”

NON-LETHAL WEAPONS PROGRAM WINS AWARD

Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus' non-credit certificate program “Non-Lethal Weapons: Policies, Practices, and Technologies” received an Award of Excellence from the University Continuing Education Association at its Mid-Atlantic Region Awards of Excellence ceremony in Wilmington, Del., in early October. The Non-Lethal Weapons: Policies, Practices, and Technologies Certificate Program is a Web-based/DVD-based, university-level, non-credit certificate program developed for the United States Department of Defense under a contract from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Joint Non-

Lethal Weapons Directorate based in Quantico, Va.

The development of this high-tech course involved the collection and incorporation of more than 2,500 photos and more than 250 hours of recorded video to enhance the module materials, including approximately 50 hours of interviews and video interviews by many world-recognized subject matter experts. Developed as a distance-learning program with 62 hours of instruction, it has been delivered to approximately 2,500 military personnel on four continents and in 47 states.

MINING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GAINS ACCREDITATION

Penn State Fayette's Mining Technology program received accreditation from the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of ABET, Inc., in July 2008. The accreditation is a significant achievement for the program that began in 2005 and graduated its first students in May 2007.

The accreditation is retroactive and covers all of the program's students, including those that graduated in 2007 and in spring 2008. Students who choose to continue their education toward a bachelor of science degree also benefit from the ease in articulating and transferring credits earned during their first two years.

STUDENTS GO DIGITAL WITH DIGITAL COMMONS



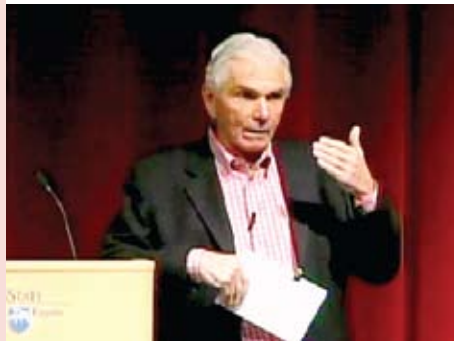
The campus' new Digital Commons opened in the fall, giving students and faculty the opportunity to tackle multimedia projects. The Digital Commons is a dedicated facility for filming, editing and creating videos, podcasts and other multimedia productions. Faculty members can use the Digital Commons to develop special lectures, online classes, and other applications.

Bobby Salitrik, instructional materials designer and coordinator of the Digital Commons, says, "It is critically important that students have access to contemporary technologies—including digital media—that will help them be competitive and give them an edge as they enter the career world. These facilities will help them maximize the technologies with which they are already familiar. It really complements their academic learning."

"CEO CONVERSATIONS" GROWS TO MULTIPLE EVENT SERIES



Luke Ravenstahl, mayor, City of Pittsburgh



James O'Donnell, CEO of American Eagle Outfitters



Nancy Vernon, Fayette County District Attorney



Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett



Edward Stack, CEO of Dick's Sporting Goods



Stephen Sheetz, chairman of Sheetz, Inc.

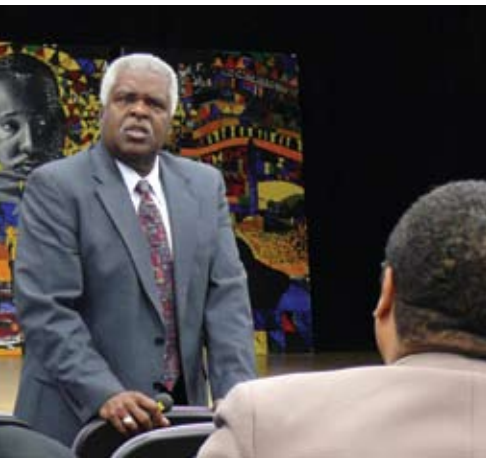


Laura Deklewa, owner and president of Allegheny Construction Group

The 2008 "CEO Conversations" lineup featured seven prominent guest speakers. Business and government leaders featured in the spring series included Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett and Fayette County District Attorney Nancy Vernon; Chairman of Sheetz, Inc., Stephen Sheetz.; and CEO of American Eagle Outfitters James O'Donnell. The fall series featured Edward Stack, CEO of Dick's Sporting Goods; Luke Ravenstahl, mayor of the City of Pittsburgh; and Laura Deklewa, owner and president of Allegheny Construction Group.

"CEO Conversations" is a special recurring series designed to bring the business community on to campus to give students the opportunity to hear from and talk with key individuals in the local, regional, and national business world about business, entrepreneurship, and leadership. The free series is open to the public.

"CEO Conversations" debuted in fall 2007 with local businessman, philanthropist, and former Fayette County Commissioner Joseph Hardy III as the guest speaker. Hardy continues to play an important role in the series, providing ongoing sponsorship.



"Where are the leaders?" was the topic when Penn State University Vice-Provost of Education Dr. Terrell Jones visited the campus in April. His talk promoting leadership and social justice echoed the semester's theme, "The March Continues ... Live the Dream."



Roughly 4,000 people packed into Penn State Fayette's Community Center March 24, to hear presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton (left). Penn State welcomed the Clinton campaign to campus as part of the University's effort to expose students to the 2008 presidential campaign and is part of an open-door policy for the campaigns of both parties' presidential candidates. Speakers at the event included Sheriff Gary Brownfield, Fayette County Commissioner Vince Vicites, Fayette County Commissioner Vince Zapotosky, state Sen. Richard Kasunic, U.S. Rep. John Murtha (center), and Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell (right).



The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre entertained audiences with a special performance in May. It was the first time the award-winning ballet company has performed in Fayette County. In conjunction with the public performance, key dancers with the ballet held special masters classes for local ballet students.

Traditional Cajun music was the focus of a special cultural performance November 6, when Grand Bon Rien performed their lively music in Swimmer Hall. The driving, danceable beat on traditional two-steps and waltzes, and the band's tight harmonies on songs sung in Cajun French delighted the audience.



Part of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on campus featured local business leader Ben Wright, who discussed the history of the Civil Rights Movement, how it may have helped shape Martin Luther King, and its impact on African-Americans.



Penn State Fayette's advisory board honored Terry McMillen Sr. (center) as the recipient of the 23rd Outstanding Fellow of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Award. McMillen's support of Penn State Fayette has been ongoing. For many years he was a member of the campus' engineering faculty. Then, after starting his own business, he continued educating and assisting Penn State Fayette students through mentoring and internships, scholarships, and financial contributions to a variety of student activities. He is pictured here with Wayne Port (left), chairman of The Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette, and Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie.



Penn State Laureate and world-renowned cellist Kim Cook visited the campus in December to give two performances, as well as give a presentation, "Getting to Know the Cello." She performed with accompanying pianist Svetlana Rodionova.



As part of the fall Vive la France celebration, visiting Haitian musical artist and cello instructor Fabienne Fanord (left) and Dr. Linda Jennings, assistant professor of music at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, presented "Music Beyond Mountains," a program that provided insight into the history of Haiti and the importance of art of all kinds to the island nation.



As part of the National Engineers Week celebration in February, internationally-recognized expert Terry Townsend came to the campus to talk about green initiatives in schools. His presentation, titled "The Student Challenge: Be an Agent for Change," discussed the need to take charge of our global environment, and how students can choose careers that can help save energy, money, and the environment.



Denise Robinson, chairman of the 2008 Fayette County Heart Walk, presented a Fit Friendly plaque to Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie at the Heart Walk, held on Penn State Fayette's campus in October. The Fayette campus received the recognition for creating a healthy workplace environment.



As part of Discover Latin America Week, a special cultural performance was presented March 27 featuring Azucar, a Pittsburgh-based Latin dance band that has played with Wynton Marsalis, Tony Bennett and the Temptations. The performance included a variety of Latin music styles, such as Salsa, Merengue, Cha Cha Cha, Bolero, Rhumba and Latin Jazz.



Diversity Week on campus in February was chock full of events designed to allow students to understand different perspectives, including students learning what it's like to use a wheelchair. One of the guest speakers that week was Denise Hinds-Zaami, Penn State University's Diversity Advocate for all of the campuses.



The 27th Women's Day at Penn State featured two popular keynote speakers—motivational speaker Nancy Coe (right) and regional favorite Jennifer Antkowiak. The day also featured several workshops, a Community Service and Information Fair, a luncheon, and more.



Debra LeBlanc (right), director of strategic programs at Hewlett-Packard in Houston, and sister of Fayette nursing instructor Janet Ritenour, spoke on campus in October about "Women in Management Roles." Among the tips she shared: "If you're going to be a leader you need to inspire and energize people; you help people understand a vision of where you want to go."



Douglas Leech Jr. (center) was honored as the recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Alumnus Award. Leech is founder, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Centra Financial Holdings, Inc., and Centra Bank, Inc., in Morgantown, W. Va., and is responsible for establishing the new Centra Bank Trustee Scholarship at Penn State Fayette. Leech is an honors graduate of Penn State. He started at Penn State Fayette in 1973 and graduated from University Park with a bachelor of science in accounting in 1977. He has been a member of the Schreyer Honors College Advisory Board since 2003. Joining Leech at the ceremony are Wayne Port (left), chairman of The Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette, and Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie.



The Lion Players presented their 11th annual production in April: "The Merry Wives of Windsor," a rare Shakespeare comedy telling the story of Falstaff and his interactions with two "merry" wives and their husbands.

DEIREE MARTIN: THE LITTLE VOICE THAT ROARED

by Susan Brimo-Cox

Desiree Martin doesn't look like a powerhouse. She looked much like many other Penn State Fayette students, but her actions spoke louder than her words, in a good way—actions that got her noticed in our community, and as far away as University Park.

In the spring of 2008, Desiree was one of five students from among the entire University's 80,000 students selected for the Rock Ethics Institute's inaugural Stand Up awards. She was the only non-University Park student to receive the honor. The award—which she received for innovative leadership and developing a program that raised awareness of diversity and accessibility issues on campus—surprised her. Her motives were not for glory but, simply, to make a difference.

“My personal philosophy of service is to affect changes which make campus and community life better for everyone and leads to the personal growth of my fellow students,” she explains. Raising awareness of diversity issues is a strong focus for Desiree in all aspects of her life.

Desiree points out that she lives a very diverse life: she's part Native American, a single mother who raised two sons and two nephews, the father of those two nephews is African American, a member of her family is gay, and some members of her family have been diagnosed with mental disorders. In addition, she works with the elderly and disabled as a caregiver.

“For many years I was ashamed of some of the diverse areas of my life, but I have become an advocate for diversity. I want to give a voice to those who can't speak for themselves,” she says.

As a student she became involved with a wide range of campus organizations and assumed leadership roles as vice president of the Diversified Students Association, as the Adult Student Organization's president, as the chair of the Student Government Association's first Diversity Committee, and with the Human Development and Family Studies Association, Lion Ambassadors, Orientation Team, and as a peer mentor.

Gina Jones, a Penn State Fayette faculty member and Desiree's internship advisor, says Desiree's most widely-recognized accomplishment was the planning and organization of a semester-long series of events in spring 2008 focused on the theme “The Dream Lives On.” The events included informational sessions, films, guest speakers and activities covering the topics of sexual orientation; ethnicity, race and culture; disabilities; and prejudice and hate.

Her work on this program resulted in Desiree receiving one of the campus' most important awards, the Eric A. and Josephine S. Walker Award, as well as the prestigious Stand Up award.

Modest in her demeanor, Desiree handled all these activities while she was attending classes full time, holding a job, raising a family, and being active in her church and community.

Desiree graduated in May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies. She was and remains a positive role model for other students, and her actions and words have inspired others to be aware, care, and be proponents for diversity of all kinds.

FAYETTE STUDENTS RESURRECT ROARING LION NEWSPAPER

One roaring lion that doesn't get as much recognition at Penn State Fayette as, say, the athletic teams, is the *Roaring Lion* student-run newspaper.

The *Roaring Lion*, which had been off the news press for three years, was resurrected by James Tylka, who served as editor, in the spring of 2008. In May, the *Roaring Lion* staff received a Student of the Semester Award.

Editor Steven Wilt and Co-editor Morgan Najewicz took their posts in fall 2008. Since then, they have been working to create a newspaper that offers students a broad scope of both local and campus news.

The *Roaring Lion* staff includes writers Danielle Brownfield, Chris Kmetz and David Orr and photographer Jessica Adamcheck. Stories have also been published by other contributors. They offer editorials on such subjects as the Pennsylvania smoking ban, and utilize the paper to provide readers with updates on past and future campus club events. In addition, writers attend campus activities and report on them, such as the monthly Coffee House or the Rock the Vote voter registration event that was held before the 2008 presidential election.

Najewicz, a freshman at Penn State Fayette, is an engineering major, whose favorite part of working on the *Roaring Lion* is the time she gets to spend with the staff. She would also like to encourage more students to join the *Roaring Lion* because, she says, “it's a lot of fun and doesn't require a lot of work. We would really like to see some new faces in the upcoming semester.”

(Tylka is currently completing his degree in broadcast journalism at University Park.)



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THON TEAM NO. 1, AGAIN!

by Nicole Guappone

The Penn State Fayette THON Team was No. 1 again among Penn State's 19 Commonwealth Campuses in its money-raising effort to fight pediatric cancer in 2008, raising \$45,370.78 for the Four Diamond Fund. The team has been in that No. 1 spot nine of the past 11 years; placing second in 2005 and 2006. In total, Penn State Fayette THON has raised \$421,435.54 over the past 11 years.

When asked what it means to her, 2008 THON dancer and current (2009) THON Chair Brienne Nero says, "I love helping people—especially children—reach their dreams and support them in any way I can."

Assistant to the Director of Student Affairs Chad Long is the THON Team advisor. As a Penn State Fayette student in 1998, Long went to a Summer Leadership Conference and learned about THON from other Penn State students. Soon after, he decided to start a branch of THON at the Eberly Campus.

THON is named for the 46-hour long annual dance marathon held at University Park, which raises money for The Four Diamonds Fund. Founded in 1972 by a

small group of Penn State students who held the first dance marathon, THON has raised more than \$52 million, making it the largest student-run philanthropy in the world. The money raised not only helps families pay for insurance, but also covers cancer research and social workers, and helps pay for extras like hotels and food for the families of the patients.

The 2008 Penn State Fayette THON Team included: Chairman Jonathan Wik, Advertising Captain Merchant Brownfield, Financial Captain Kendal Galand, Morale Captain and dancer Ryan Edsall, Community Programming Captain and dancer Bri Nero, Campus Programming Captain Anthony Zirpoli, dancer Emily Wallace, dancer Stefanie Long, dancer Joel Heavner, dancer Tiffany Blocker, Elizabeth Bartholow, John Brant, Danielle Brownfield, Candace Casterline, Brienne Catalano, Janice Collins, Corey Filburn, Sarah Geska, Brittany Giarnelli, Hilary Griffith, Bethany Harris, Shaina

Jamieson, Hannah Lewis, Eric Long, Nicole Loughman, Cami McKinney, John Marcolini, Danielle Reed, Julie Sawlsville, Shawn Shrum, Paul Silvis, Kritrina Stoots, Derek Sweeney, Maria Turner, and Scott Yetsko.



Penn State Fayette Student Government Diversity Chair Alicia Darr organized the November 11 "Erase Hate" forum, designed to help shift people's personal attitudes from tolerance to appreciating differences.

STUDENT NEWS BRIEFS

MATRICULATION BOOK BECOMES NEW TRADITION AT FAYETTE



Incoming freshman Ashley Acklin is the first to sign Penn State Fayette's new Matriculation Book. She is assisted by campus registrar Germaine Fotta.

Nearly five dozen new incoming students, joined by their family and friends, participated in Penn State Fayette's Convocation ceremony in August, celebrating the milestone of new incoming students joining the campus' community of learners. Beginning a new tradition in 2008, the incoming students signed their names into a Matriculation Book—indelibly entering their names into Penn State Fayette's history. They also received a "golden key to success," which is designed to serve as a constant reminder of their choice to partner with Penn State Fayette to help ensure their future success.

CETES STUDENTS LAUNCH AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS

Just Simply Clean, a new local cleaning business founded by Penn State Fayette students, won first prize in the Second Annual Student Business Plan Contest held at Penn State Fayette in December. The annual contest allows students to create a real business plan for their own business, and present the plan in front of a panel of judges for monetary awards totaling \$1,000.

Galadriel Strauser and Luke Horton are the founders of Just Simply Clean, a commercial and professional cleaning service started this fall in Fayette County.

—STUDENT NEWS BRIEFS
continues on page 22

A CLOSE-UP LOOK AT WINTER

When most people head south for a winter break, one of Penn State Fayette's students went north. Biology major Jamel Lewis, along with Assistant Professor of biology Dr. Joseph Shostell, spent seven days in Lake Placid, N.Y., in mid-February 2008, working alongside NASA scientists and teachers from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Alaska as part of History of Winter 2008: An Immersive Cryosphere Science Training Camp.

Being the only student among teachers and science professionals was a little intimidating for Jamel, at first, but not for long. "Being around high school teachers



Dr. Joseph Shostell and Jamel Lewis

was a confidence builder. Science is more than reading a text book. You have to go out and do it. The experience made me curious about new things, such as global warming and winter ecology."

HOW 2008 was a collaborative effort of the National Institute for Aerospace, NASA and the Center for the Advancement of STEM Education (CASE). The focus of the program is to provide teachers with experience they can use to enhance their classroom instruction. Shostell says, "Jamel plans to be a future biology professor and, therefore, positive learning experiences like this one dealing with scientists in action are extremely beneficial to him. I'm always amazed that not everyone wants to be a scientist, because it's one of the few fields in which a person doesn't need to grow up. Scientists are big kids, they just have different toys."

The participants studied layers of snow in snow pit excavations, took core samples



of lake ice, examined snowflakes, worked with thermochrons (small, watch battery-size thermometers), and learned about winter ecology. Even the ice climbing provided an education. Jamel scaled about 70 feet, learning about the denseness, color, and texture of ice.

"When you look outside in winter, it looks like everything is asleep. But there actually is a lot of activity going on during winter—it's just out of sight," Jamel observes.

STUDENT CHOIR BRINGS MUSIC TO THE CAMPUS

For the glory of old State, for her founders strong and great, for the future that we wait, raise the song, raise the song.

The "Penn State Alma Mater" by Fred Lewis Pattee was the first song the newly-formed Penn State Fayette campus choir learned.

Choir Director Jason Kendall, a music lecturer at Penn State Fayette, formed the choir with the help of Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie and Interim Director of Academic Affairs Dr. Delia Conti, as there was a desire to have a performing ensemble on campus.

The choir made its debut at an early December performance by cellist and Penn State Laureate Kim Cook. During the musical event the choir performed a number of holiday selections. The choir is scheduled to perform at the spring 2009 commencement ceremony, in addition to a variety of community concerts.

The Penn State Fayette Choir is open to students who love to sing. It is counted as a one-credit course and students may participate for eight semesters. There is no audition requirement.

The choir hopes to "provide another exciting visible—and audible—representation of our students and the spirit of our campus," Kendall says.



LADY LIONS VOLLEYBALL WINS PSUAC!

*F*or the third time in the last four years, Penn State Fayette is the reigning PSUAC volleyball champion.

The Lady Roaring Lions won the 2008 title when they beat Penn State Mont Alto in the conference finals held at Fayette in mid-October.

The Lady Roaring Lions posted an incredible 19-1 record in the PSUAC, losing only four sets in 20 matches against PSUAC opponents.

By winning the PSUAC, the Lady Roaring Lions earned a berth in the 2008 USCAA National Volleyball Championships in Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 23-25. There, the Lady Roaring Lions finished eighth in the nation after defeating Unity College 3-0.



The PUSAC volleyball champions Penn State Fayette Roaring Lions (from left): Alexandra Rossi, Lauren Flanigan, Samantha Hawk, Abbie Renze, Brienne Nero, Heather Kelly, Lauren Golden, Meghan Leary, Katie Sleasman, and Cassie Emery.

by Vince Capozzi



During the season, junior Heather Kelly became Fayette's all-time career kills leader. And she wasn't the only player to reach a milestone in 2008.

Kelly, Alex Rossi and Katie Sleasman were named USCAA Honorable Mention All-Americans, and Bri Nero, Kelly and Lauren Golden were named to the All-Academic team. Sleasman was twice named the USCAA National Player of the Week.

The honors continued to roll in as Kelly, Sleasman and freshman Samantha Hawk were named first-team All-PSUAC, while Rossi received an honorable mention.

Casey O'Brien, who became the interim head coach when Michelle Pergar resigned just two week prior to the start of the season, was named the 2008 PSUAC Coach of the Year.

COACH SMITLEY ACHIEVES 100TH CAREER WIN

*O*n Sept. 7, Head Baseball Coach Ray Smitley notched his 100th career win when the Roaring Lions defeated Robert Morris in the first game of a doubleheader.

"It's really a great honor," Smitley said. "But it really is due to the players and coaches who helped me get here. It's their honor, too."

Smitley took over from the late Joe Gessner four years ago and has managed to continue the tradition of excellence that has become the hallmark of the men's baseball program at Penn State Fayette.

The Men's Baseball team finished the fall portion of its schedule with a 20-6 record.



Coach Ray Smitley receives the baseball from his 100th win, autographed by the team's players, from Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie and Athletic Director Vince Capozzi.

JARED EARLY HONORED FOR SPORTS AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS



*A*s the 2008 academic year came to a close, Jared Early (right) completed one of the most storied athletic careers in the history of Penn State Fayette. Coach Ray Smitley explains, "On the baseball field, Jared was one of the team's stars." He hit .440 for his career and holds several records, was a United States Collegiate Athletic Association national All-American, and, to date, he is the only player in the history of Penn State Fayette athletics to have his jersey number retired.

Smitley says Early captured the total respect of his teammates.

While Jared's work on the field is well-known, his academic success is the other half of the story. Smitley recalls, "Success in the classroom did not come easy for Jared in his freshman year. Once it concluded, he decided to drop out of school. But, realizing the importance of a college education, Jared returned. In May 2008, he graduated with a business degree and sported a 3.25 GPA."

by Gib Prettyman

Dr. Beverly Peterson knows what it's like to make mid-life career adjustments. But throughout its twists and turns, the common denominator in her career has been a commitment to teaching and learning.

Peterson, a Penn State Fayette English professor since 1995, began her career as a public school teacher in Virginia in 1972. After earning her master's degree,

“Students seem more willing to accept my help with challenging tasks when they know I respect their talents.”

professor. Fortunately, Peterson says, colleagues from the campus Women's Studies program encouraged her to return to school, and she was accepted into the American Studies program at William & Mary. “I always try to pass along this advice to adult students, particularly women—that it really is possible to pursue a new career at mid-life,” Peterson says.

Of course it wasn't easy. In March 1995, as she waited for news of her interview at Penn State Fayette, Peterson was featured in a *U.S. News & World Report* article about “Gypsy Profs”—university instructors who patched together jobs at multiple schools to make ends meet. However, after three years in the job market and more than 100 application letters, Peterson landed the job at Fayette that fall. Since 2000, she has served as honors coordinator, and in 2002 she won the campus Teaching Excellence award.

What have these varied experiences taught her about being a good teacher? Peterson says it's important to be willing to learn from students. “They always come to the material with fresh eyes and intellect. Some teachers are reluctant to admit that they can learn from their students, but I'm always delighted when it happens.” She also points out the need to appreciate students for their diverse talents and interests. “Students seem more willing to accept my help with challenging tasks when they know I respect their talents.” She also thinks teachers should take every opportunity to learn new and challenging things—she recalls scuba lessons, for example, and the vexing game of golf—in order to remember just how hard it is to be a student.



Not surprisingly, Peterson is proudest of those moments when teaching and learning have flourished dramatically: leading team-taught honors courses on topics like Jack the Ripper and the Beatles, for example, and taking students on trips to London and Liverpool. She is also proud of helping students to recognize the need to think for themselves.

“In the Jack the Ripper course, students met two internationally-known authors on the subject: Patricia Cornwell and Donald Rumbelow,” Peterson recalls. “Each author had strong ideas—and each ridiculed the other's theories. It demonstrated perfectly to the students that published authorities are just the starting point for learning to think for themselves.”

In June 2009, Peterson's career will take another turn when she departs from Penn State.



Peterson declined a government job in Washington, D.C., opting instead to teach high school in one of Virginia's poorest counties. “Partially, I wanted to repay the state of Virginia for funding my degree,” Peterson explains, “but also I just missed the classroom.”

Eventually Peterson began teaching at the college level, first part-time at a community college, and then as a full-time instructor at Old Dominion University. When ODU offered her a position as senior instructor, she faced another career decision: take this final step in a non-tenured career path, or return to graduate school to pursue a Ph.D. and a career as a full-fledged university



FAYETTE WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

LAWRENCE DRISCOLL, PH.D.



Lawrence Driscoll, Ph.D. joined the Administration of Justice program. Dr. Driscoll is teaching “Introduction to Criminal Justice,” “Criminal Justice,” and “American Policing.” He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in administration of justice from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Ph.D. in criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He also received certification from the Polygraph Personnel Research School for Lie Detection in Philadelphia, Pa., in their Basic Polygraph Examiners Course and Advanced Training. He is

currently working on two research areas and is planning to construct an instrument that will assess the credibility of reports of crime which make direct accusations against another human being.

LAWRENCE HUNCHUCK



Lawrence Hunchuck joined the Mining Technology program, and is teaching “Mine Plant Technology,” “Mine Management,” and “Strata Control Methods.” Hunchuck received his bachelor’s degree in Engineering of Mines from West Virginia University and his master’s degree in Mining Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Previously, Hunchuck was an area manager at U.S. Steel Mining Company, Inc., where he was accountable for all Environment, Safety, and Health regulations as required by the Mine Safety and Health Administration

(MSHA), and the Department of Deep Mine Safety for the state of Pennsylvania; a longwall supervisor; and operating engineer. He then worked for U.S. Steel Corporation as a senior supervisor. This has helped him to bring “real-world” examples into his classroom to further add to his students’ academic experiences.

SUSAN CRAMPTON-FRENCHIK, PH.D.



Susan Crampton-Frenchik, Ph.D. joined the Penn State Fayette campus as a French instructor and was appointed as coordinator of the International and Intercultural Programs Office. In addition to teaching the French language, she also instructs Francophone culture courses.

Dr. Crampton-Frenchik received her bachelor of arts degree in French language and literature from Duke University in Durham, N.C., her master of arts degree in French literature from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va., and her doctorate degree from the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. As the new coordinator of International and Intercultural Programs, she is excited to “guide students as they expand their cultural and academic horizons.”

FILBURN AND CRAWFORD REACH 25-YEAR MILESTONE

Senior Instructor Dr. F. Russell Filburn (left) and Associate Professor Dr. James Crawford were recognized for 25 years of service in 2008. Most students who graduate from Penn State Fayette have had to take at least one class—public speaking—from Filburn, a senior instructor in the Communications Arts and Sciences program. He has taught more than 5,000 students in 25 years. In addition to teaching, he also has served in numerous leadership roles in faculty governing organizations, currently as chairman of Faculty Senate. Crawford, a professor of physics, is known for his student focus and is frequently sought out by students for guidance. He has been the recipient several times of campus research and teaching excellence awards, and also is involved in University governance.

BRIAN FERNANDES: SERIOUS WITH A SMILE

by Susan Brimo-Cox

If you hear the words “Hey, buddy!” more than likely you’ll turn around to see the bright smile of Brian Fernandes.



“Having the ability to help students come to Penn State Fayette is very rewarding! Our students have such opportunities here. I enjoy coming to work every day.”

This positive attitude is typical of Fernandes, who joined the campus in July 2008 as director of Student and Enrollment Services. Fernandes heads up a variety of activities at the campus, including admissions, financial aid, student services, career services, and the athletics department.

Fernandes came to the Fayette campus from Bethany College in West Virginia. His background in student affairs, admissions, financial aid, and placement, as well as a master of education degree in math and computer science, and a bachelor of arts degree in communication studies, have provided him a launch pad to explore and implement innovative ideas to enhance enrollment, retention and student services at the campus, especially at a time when college recruiting is getting tougher with the ever increasing economic pressures.

“I was at the peak of where I could be at Bethany. This position has brought me new challenges and opportunities to make a difference,” Fernandes says.

Students are responding to the student-focus of Fernandes and his department staff. From helping a student learn about financial aid to helping a student with disabilities maximize his or her education, Fernandes’ goal is to find solutions that work for Penn State Fayette’s students. And, it is working. Fernandes reports, “Many students we have worked with keep in touch. They let me know how they’re doing and how they’re succeeding.”

FOND FAREWELL

Familiar faces on campus are fewer, as several long-time staff and faculty members retired in 2008. Among them (from left) are:

PATRICIA ZEBRASKY was an administrative support assistant in the Nursing program. She was employed at Penn State for 36 years. She began her career at the Fayette campus in Student Affairs. She says, "Over the years, I have enjoyed sharing in the successes and accomplishments of our students, and take pride in knowing that I contributed to their educational experience." Patty was the Sexual Harassment Resource Person for the Fayette campus for more than 17 years and was an active member of the Women's Day on Campus workshop committee since its inception, more than 27 years ago.



JOY FIKE was part of the Fayette campus staff for 35 years. At the time of her retirement, she was the staff assistant for Student Affairs. Fike says, "It was my privilege to have worked closely with students during their formative years. [They] have enriched my life in so many ways and my greatest hope is that I have been there for them not only in an academic capacity, but also as a friend and mentor." Joy began her career at Penn State Fayette in the Registrar's office, but also worked in the Business/Finance Office and Admissions, which, she adds, kept her job interesting and challenging.

GERRY DOROBISH started working for Penn State Fayette as a student worker in the library in 1969, switching to full-time in 1972. She recalls, "During my tenure at the library, I have had the opportunity to move from student worker, to staff assistant, to library assistant, to acting head of the library for almost 10 years, and finally to my current position as a reference librarian since 1999." Among her many activities in the library, which included helping faculty and students search for answers to their reference questions and teaching students how to do library research, she especially enjoyed planning and implementing reading programs for young children.

DR. RICHARD CUPELLI, senior instructor of business administration, came to Penn State Fayette in 1977. Over three decades he worked to instill an appreciation for life-long learning in his students and sought to be a guide as they continued their education at Fayette. In addition, he served as interim director of academic affairs and twice as acting campus executive officer. Cupelli reflects, "As a business administration faculty member and campus administrator, I was surrounded by enthusiastic students, dedicated colleagues, and an entire campus community committed to making life better. My greatest reward comes from knowing I could touch and be touched by the lives of so many wonderful people who experienced Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus."

STUDENT AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES TEAM GROWS



Several new staff members joined the Student and Enrollment Services department in 2008, to better serve Penn State Fayette's current and prospective students. From the left: Athletic Director Vince Capozzi, Admissions Assistant Adam Checkton (who also is the head men's basketball coach), Admissions Counselor Scott Nemeth, and Student Activities Assistant Vanessa Myers.

LORI OMATICK:
BRINGING NEW IDEAS
TO FUNDRAISING AND
ALUMNI RELATIONS

by Nicole Guappone

Before becoming Penn State Fayette's new director of Development in January 2008, Lori Omatick had worked closely with Penn State for many years through the Fay-Penn Economic Development Council and Advanced Acoustic Concepts Inc.



As director of Development, Omatick directs efforts to procure private sources of funding from individual donors, corporations and foundations. Her department also acts as a liaison for University alumni relations.

Some of Omatick's new initiatives in 2008 included launching the Penn State Fayette "On the Road" series, the first Scholarship Donor Recognition Dinner, and support for the Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival. New projects she is planning or working on include the For the Future Campaign, the inaugural Blues and White Scholarship Gala, the 2009 Coal and Coke Heritage Music Festival, and other special projects.

Omatick observes that even though this is a challenging time for development with the current economy, Penn State has one of the largest alumni associations in the country and everyone is still generous. "We know that we have something great to offer to the community and there's a lot of energy surrounding the campus. I'm proud to be part of a team with such vision."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT *Awards, publications and other special achievements in 2008*

G. MICHAEL COMISKEY, PH.D.: Comiskey received the Penn State Fayette 2008 Public Service Excellence Award.

SUSAN CRAMPTON-FRENCHIK, PH.D.: Crampton-Frenchik's article, "Ousmane Sembene: Patron of Progressive Africa" was published in *Rondas Literarias*, Fall 2008. She also presented a paper: "Women's Work: Mobility as Identity in the works of Malika Mokeddem and Yamina Bachir-Chouikh" at the 2008 Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference at Duquesne University.

JERROLD HOEG, PH.D.: Hoeg served as referee for the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships Program, the American Philosophical Society's Franklin Research Grants Program, and the Fulbright Scholar Award Program for Nicaragua. He was also elected Diputado Nacional for the Círculo de Cultura Panamericano for the period 2008-2009. Hoeg co-edited *Latin American Women Writers: An Encyclopedia* (Routledge, 2008), and signed contracts to co-author *Reading and Writing the Latin American Landscape*, and to co-edit *Darwin and Hispanic Literature*. He also edited Volumes 12 and 13 of *Ometeca*, and co-authored an article entitled "La Ciudad De Les Arts I De Les Ciències: La ciudad dentro de la ciudad," in *Círculo: Revista de Cultura* 37 (2008). He also wrote a review article entitled, "Science and the Creative Imagination in Latin America," in *Ometeca* 12 (2008), and presented two papers, "La evolución de la narrativa" at the Congreso del Círculo de Cultura Panamericano, and "Human Nature in *Como agua para chocolate*" at the IX Congreso sobre las relaciones entre las Ciencias y las Humanidades at the University of South Florida.

DAVID MEREDITH: Meredith received the international E.K. Campbell Award of Merit from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); the ASHRAE Region III Regionnaire Award; the Penn State Fayette 2008 Ellen M. Laun Advising Excellence Award; and the Alumnus of the Year for Lifetime Contributions from the Quaker

Foundation, New Philadelphia, Ohio. In October 2008, Meredith was the keynote speaker at the Expand Your Horizons Conference hosted by Women in the Sciences & Engineering Institute (WISE) at University Park.

DANIELLE MITCHELL, PH.D.: Mitchell received the Penn State Fayette 2008 Teaching Excellence Award. She also authored "Critical Literacy, Social Justice, and Rural Intellectuals: An Experiment with the Inappropriate" in *The English Record: New York State's English Council Journal* 58.1 (2008), and "I Thought Composition Was About Commas and Quotes, Not Queers: Diversity and Campus Change at a Rural Two-Year College" in *Composition Studies* (2008).

LYNN PETKO: Petko received the Evelyn Hovanec Creative Writing Award for her short story, "The Garden."

EVELYN PLUHAR-ADAMS, PH.D.: Pluhar-Adams was author of "Das Recht, nicht gegessen zu werden" (translation of "The Right Not To Be Eaten") in Alexander Zehmis and Ursula Wolf, eds., *Texte zur Tierethik* (Reclam, 2008); an essay on the "Philosophy of Tom Regan" in J. Baird Callicott, ed., *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy* (2) (Thomson Gale, 2008); and "Must an Opponent of Animal Rights Also Be an Opponent of Human Rights?" in Clare Palmer, ed., *The International Library of Essays on Rights* (Ashgate Publishing Ltd., 2008).

GIB PRETTYMAN, PH.D.: Prettyman was associate editor of Volume 32 of *Resources for American Literary Study* (2008). He presented a paper entitled "Assessing the Utopianism of Le Guin's 'Taoist Agenda'" at the Society for Utopian Studies International Conference, Portland, Maine, October 30–November 2, 2008. As interim director of Academic Affairs, he wrote two successful grant applications for the campus totaling \$34,800.

WILLIAM ROGERS: Rogers was named a research fellow at the Center for Thomas More Studies in Dallas. The appointment carries a three-year term. He also authored "Thomas More's Polemical Poetics" in *English Literary Renaissance* 38 (2008), and "MAAXimum Results: Service Learning and Engaging the

Student-Athlete-Citizen" in *First-Year Civic Engagement: Sound Foundations for College, Citizenship and Democracy*, ed. Martha J. Labare. Columbia, SC: New York Times and The National Resource Center for First-Year Students and Students in Transition, 2008.

JOSEPH SHOSTELL, PH.D.: Shostell received the 2007-2008 Educator of the Year in the Post-Secondary School Division from the Fayette Chamber of Commerce, the Penn State Fayette 2008 Scholarly Excellence Award, and the 2008 Learning Fair Bear Award for his mentoring of undergraduate research assistants. He was co-author of: "Molecular Differentiation among *Inia geoffrensis* and *Inia boliviensis* (Iniidae, Cetacea) by means of nuclear intron sequences" in *Population Genetics Research Progress* (2008); and "Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Detritivorous Fish Stoichiometry in a Large Eutrophic Reservoir" in the Penn State York Research Symposium-proceedings (2008).

JUDITH STURGES, PH.D.: Sturges was selected as the Westmoreland County Community College 2008 Distinguished Alumnus.

PROFESSOR SPEAKS AT POLICY ISSUES FORUM

Penn State Fayette Associate Professor of Engineering Dave Meredith was a featured panelist at the Schreyer Honors College Policy Issues Forum 2008: "Making an Informed Decision" at University Park October 27. Leading Penn State faculty panelists discussed domestic and global issues impacting the 2008 election. Meredith addressed issues related to energy and the environment.



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 Mark D. Cindric
 Virgil L. and Joyce A. Clemmer
 Chuck and Barbara Coffey
 John J. Cole and Lisa M. DeFrank-Cole
 Connellsville Towers Residents Assn.
 Heather J. Conway
 Donald Correal
 Stephen T. and Andrea Cuppett
 Mark M. and Jacquelyn Smith Curtis
 Fred K. and Bertha K. Davis
 HighMark Inc.
 Michele P. Di Marco
 Beverly A. Domer
 John L. Blair III and Marianne Dooley-Blair
 Matthew J. Drozd
 Michele L. Dulac
 David L. Dulik
 Norbert G. and Gloria Laughery Duritsa
 Sylvia M. Earley
 Samantha J. Elleard
 Andrea L. Emerson
 William and Stephanie Kacur Epstein
 Miriam C. Erinc
 Michael L. Farich
 Fayette County NAACP
 F. Russell Filburn
 Jonathan R. Fornal
 Susan F. Frenchik
 Richard W. Frey
 Lance W. and Erin B. Gallagher
 Patricia C. Gamble
 Christopher J.I. and Sharon K. Gannon
 Andrzej J. Gapinski and Ewa A. Rudnicka
 Philip J. Gaydos and Dolor N. Baltazar
 Gary M. and Sharon M. Gerba
 Wayne and Janet Plava Gibson
 Caroline M. Gleason
 Roy A. and Eileen W. Glisan
 Jacqueline J. Goodwin
 Anthony and Paula Verry Gribble
 Eric J. and Susan M. Guiser
 Robert H. and Barbara H. Haase
 Todd A. and Teri A. Hackley
 Mary P. Hackney
 Marc B. and Rebecca Clift Haines
 Edward and Margaret Halavick
 Mary Ann Haney
 Rachelle L. Henderson
 Patricia A. Herring
 Shirley A. Hnottavange
 Richard P. Honsaker
 Phillip T. and Mabel A. Howard
 Patricia L. Hritz
 Clifford P. Hughes and Angela M. La Porte
 John M. and Lou Ann Hunchuck
 Mary E. Inks
 Clarence M. and Linda A. Johnson
 Herbert E. Jordan
 Mark W. Jordan
 Michael A. and Tammy Jordan
 Randy P. and Renee T. Juhl
 June A. Kaleita
 David A. Kapalko
 William and Carrie J. Keener
 Nancy J. Kerr
 Jeffrey S. King
 Marlene S. Kolosky
 David G. and Susan Kostelnik
 Angela M. Lambo
 Maria A. Laporte
 David V. and Nancy LaPorte
 Anthony and Pauline M. Law
 Lear's Antique Renovations/Holly J. Lear
 Harry S. Lee
 Vickie Hardy Leone
 Edward R. and Dorothyanne S. Lipps
 Gary W. Livengood
 Harold S. Lloyd and Barbara A. Shirey-Lloyd
 Paul D. Love
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 Margaret A. Macho
 Margold Inc.
 Laurel B. Marker
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 Irene Goron McKenna
 Wade A. and Cindy B. McMahon
 Carrie A. Meyokovich
 Keith M. and Kathleen John Miller
 Monroeville Public Library
 Michael L. Nazmack
 John and Regina Nilson
 David B. and Jenny Fleming O'Casey
 Christopher G. Omiros
 George J. and Sophia Omiros
 George B. and Kathy Oros
 Peter E. and Polly Sweitzer Ostrander
 Cheryl V. Parker
 Charles E. and Kathleen M. Patterson
 John P. and Kathleen Rohall Pechunka
 Daniel L. and Kristin T. Peperak
 Beverly Peterson
 Russell C. and Deborah R. Petrosky
 Stephen Petruska

Pfizer Foundation, Inc.
 Joseph V. and Joy E. Pisula
 Werner Pluhar and Elissa J. Hoffman
 Charles and Karen M. Prettyman
 Thomas E. and Dana L. Rocks
 Dale W. and Nancy M. Rovenolt
 William and Roberta H. Ryan
 Eugene and Regina Mills Sebeck
 Ryan E. Seighman
 Ruth A. Shal
 John A. and Catherine A. Shandor
 Jeffrey R. and Fonda Sharp
 Gregory P. and Natalie N. Sharpe
 Christina L. Silva
 Helen N. Snyder
 Edward D. Snyder
 Curtis R. Sproul
 Mark F. Stauffer
 Alisa D. Steele
 Christopher C. Stevenson
 Cynthia A. Stirling
 Joseph G. Streamer
 William C. Strenske
 Richard M. Takac
 Lori R. Taylor
 Mike and Jodi L. Thamman
 Ronald C. and Deborah J. Thomas
 Thomas Trupkovich
 UPS Foundation, Inc.
 Gary and Judith H. Van Bremen
 Michael R. and Darlene Vukmanic
 Irene L. Wallace
 Allen and Pamela S. Whyel
 Carolyn A. Yasechko
 Candice A. Yekel
 Norman and Catherine M. Zimmerman

ADVISORY BOARD OF PENN STATE FAYETTE, THE EBERLY CAMPUS TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

The Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, has established a Trustee Scholarship to provide financial assistance to students at the campus. Advisory Board Chairman Wayne Port explains the board felt a major gift was needed, and that endowing a scholarship was aligned with the goals of the University's capital campaign, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students. "This is the first time that the board as an entity has made such a gift, and it gives me great pleasure that nearly all of the members have contributed to the scholarship fund, which will be in existence and helping students for many years to come."

CENTRA BANK TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP

The Centra Bank Trustee Scholarship was established at Penn State Fayette to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students enrolled at the campus. The funds for the scholarship came as a result of a successful first year of the bank's presence in Fayette County, according to Douglas Leech Jr., founder and CEO of Centra Bank. Leech attended Penn State Fayette in the 1970s, graduating from the University Park campus in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in business. Centra Bank has four offices in Fayette County.

CONSOL ENERGY GIFT

CONSOL Energy awarded \$25,000 to the campus to assist the mining technology program. In presenting the check to Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie (right), Jeffrey Hohn, staffing and recruiting specialist for CONSOL Energy, observed, "Penn State Fayette has delivered a much needed educational tool to CONSOL and the mining industry. The mining engineering technology program provides advanced technical training to CONSOL's supervisory workforce, which will enhance our safety, production, and cost. It is a great investment!" The gift is part of CONSOL Energy's "Financial Aid to Education" initiative.



UNIONTOWN HOSPITAL AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP

The Uniontown Hospital Auxiliary donated \$10,000 to Penn State Fayette's Nursing Scholarship Program. The organization contributes annually to benefit students seeking a degree in nursing at the campus with proceeds from the group's Festival of Trees fund-raising event. Above, Mary Fornili, chairwoman of the Festival of Trees Committee, presents the check to Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie, as Sally Spegar (right), hospital auxiliary president, and Melissa Miner, coordinator of Penn State Fayette's nursing program, look on.



UNITED PARCEL SERVICE GIFT

United Parcel Service presented a check in the amount of \$3,500 to Penn State Fayette to provide scholarship assistance to students participating in UPS's Earn & Learn program. From left are: Matt Rypczyk, workforce planning manager, United Parcel Service; Jennifer Butler, human resources representative, United Parcel Service; Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie; and Penn State Fayette Career Services Coordinator Davida Cavallo. United Parcel Services has recruited 44 Penn State Fayette students under its Earn & Learn program.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, DONORS, SPONSORS RECOGNIZED AT SPECIAL DINNER

A

a special recognition dinner Oct. 7, scholarship recipients and scholarship donors and sponsors got to meet, many for the first time.

More than 200 students, family members, donors and sponsors attended the recognition dinner, during which recent scholarship awards were announced for 79 students and three newly established scholarships were recognized.

Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie points out, "Penn State Fayette awards nearly \$416,000 in student scholarships each year. Of that amount, 93 percent is funded by private philanthropy. The idea of hosting a scholarship donor dinner with 318 students that received scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year was something we could not pass up."

Ashley Wadsworth (above), a new Penn State Fayette student and recipient of several scholarships, spoke at the dinner about how scholarship awards helped her attend Penn State.

Scholarship donors and sponsors who also spoke at the dinner included Carolyn Blaney, representing the Eberly Family Scholarship and the Eberly Family Scholarship in Business; Sally Spegar, representing the Uniontown Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship; Terry McMillen, representing the Terry E. and Denise E. McMillen Award in Engineering; Ed Franczyk, representing the Centra Bank Trustee Scholarship; and Wayne Port, representing the Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Trustee Scholarship and the Port Family Scholarship.



A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY IS THE MISSION OF NURSING GRAD AND FORMER INSTRUCTOR

by Susan Brimo-Cox



*N*urses are caring people. None more so than Penn State alumna Patty Tobal of Hopwood, Pa. A 1967 graduate of the Uniontown Hospital School of Nursing (a program that transitioned into Penn State Fayette's nursing program), Tobal has a long history with Penn State Fayette and helping the community.

In 1974, while working as a nurse, she signed up for a class in the campus' new ENURS program. "At the time there weren't many non-traditional students. Nonetheless, I worked part time at the hospital and through the program earned my BSN in 1982," she explains. With her new degree, Tobal was eligible to teach at the Uniontown Hospital School of Nursing, which she did, while still working as a nurse.

Eventually, Tobal became a radiation oncology nurse, working with individuals who had or were going through treatment for cancer. It was a challenging career move, she says, but her experience at Penn State and the faculty and fellow students I interacted with "gave me the confidence to do it."

Pursuing her education further, she earned a master's degree from Duquesne University in 1998, and shortly after began teaching part time in Penn State Fayette's nursing program. "While I was an instructor at the Fayette campus I taught a community health nursing course. The focus of that course is on prevention." She discovered she wanted to extend the prevention initiative and, in 2001, the Fayette County Community Action agency was awarded a Nurse-Family Partnership grant which offered her an opportunity to take prevention education out into the local community.

Tobal implemented a program to help low-income, first-time mothers—putting registered nurses together with the mothers to teach them parenting skills, good decision-making skills, and more. "In Fayette County, the local outcomes were among the best in the state," she reports.

But she didn't stop with one program. As the chair of Healthier Hopwood, Tobal promoted physical activity and good nutrition, getting local businesses and local government officials involved. And she was instrumental in developing a county-wide health ministry project, along with a health ministry team at her church.

Reflecting on her many achievements, Tobal says, "I love nursing and I love everything I've done, but it is one of the best things I've ever done, making a difference one person at a time. It is very satisfying."

Tobal retired in 2007, but, as she says, you can't just quit in the business of caring.

She took advantage of a local leadership grant from the CDC Steps Program that is allowing her to continue doing the work she began with her other community programs, volunteering her time, talent, and expertise to improve the health and wellbeing of community residents. In 2008, Tobal was one of seven individuals across the country honored in Washington, D.C., with a 2008 Steps Community Heroes Award.

BREDE AT 2008 COMMENCEMENT

*A*n important part of any commencement ceremony is the keynote speaker. In 2008, the commencement speaker was Penn State alumnae Debra Brede.

Brede is president of D.K. Brede Investment Management Company of Needham, Mass., a firm she founded in 1989. She has more than 25 years of financial experience, and has served on the System Advisory Board of the Boston Stock Exchange and was chairman of the District Economic Education Committee for the Security Industry Association.

Brede shared valuable information with students on how to maximize their



education and their careers. In one example from her own experience, she told them to always do more than what is expected, because that is how they will be noticed.

Brede graduated from Penn State in 1978 with a bachelor of science degree in biology. She graduated from the Harvard Business School Owners-Presidents Management Program in 2007.

PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In support of the University's new fundraising drive, For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, the Penn State Alumni Association has pledged a gift of \$2.1 million to support students across the University. The gift will establish 35 Penn State Alumni Association Trustee Scholarships, each endowed at \$50,000 in 12 colleges, at 20 campuses, and three additional undergraduate units—including Penn State Fayette. Proceeds for the gift will come from the Alumni Association's Margin of Excellence Fund, an endowment established in 2000 to support major gifts to the University. The \$2.1 million pledge will be paid over seven years, at the rate of about \$300,000 per year.

PENN STATE FAYETTE GOES “ON THE ROAD”

In an effort to reconnect with members of our campus family, a new initiative was launched in 2008 to reach out to alumni outside of the immediate Fayette County area. The first “Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus on the Road” event was held on December 2 at Scott’s Grille in Harrisburg, Pa.

Several campus alumna from various disciplines attended the after-hours social. Pictured, from the left, are: Penn State Fayette Associate Professor of Engineering Andrzej Gapinski, Bob Pento, Jason Kowalczyk, Joe Martinak, Director of Development Lori Omatick, Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie, Jason Baird, and Ben Letvin. The chancellor was on hand to interact with the group, share campus updates, and solicit feedback on the strategic plan of the campus.

Plans are in the works to reach out to hundreds more alumni in various parts of the country in 2009. The plan also includes reunion events designed to bring alumni back to campus.



—STUDENT NEWS BRIEFS

continued from page 11

Also competing was Paul Keslar, who presented the business plan for his company, Keslar Lumber. Just Simply Clean won the contest’s first prize of \$700 and Keslar Lumber received \$300 for second place.

The annual business plan contest was offered by the Center for Entrepreneurial Technology Education Services (CETES) and funding was made possible by Penn State Fayette Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie, who called the winning team “just simply brilliant.”

SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE FINALISTS



Finalists for the 2008 Scholastic Excellence Award included (from left) George Aul, who presented “Suffering Children and Non-Custodial Fathers”; William Hugland Jr., who presented “Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus Small Business Incubator”; and award recipient Franklin La Cava, who presented “Sherwood Anderson, Author.”



NURSING STUDENTS SEND THANK YOU PACKAGES TO IRAQ

For the second year in a row, nursing students at Penn State Fayette sent thank you packages to nurses serving in Iraq. The students collected food and toiletry items for the project that coincided with National Nurses Week in May. Twice as many items were collected over 2007’s total, plus a significant donation of candy, gum, personal care products and books from Dollar Tree of Uniontown, boosted the shipment that benefited a substantial number of nurses serving in the war zone. The packages were sent to Shelia Neidigh for distribution to nurses in her unit. Neidigh is earning her bachelor of science in nursing via Penn State’s World Campus while serving her country. Some of the nursing students who helped with the project included: (bottom row, from left) Charles Holt, Sara Graham, Kristen Knestrick, Ashlee Check, Claire Cramer, Tiffany Blosser, Christa Patterson; (middle row from left) Danielle Davison, Brian Bird, Nicole Brown, Sherri Kisner, Kari Leichter, Kaylin Mathews, Chuck

Keilbach, Michelle Lyons; (top row, from left) Misty Kibe, Charity Stamates, Wayne Allamon, Melissa White, Mark Jenkins, Amanda Hurley, Jill Meyokovich, and Suzanne Moody.

RALLY AT THE ROTUNDA

Penn State Fayette students made their annual pilgrimage to the state capitol in Harrisburg. Pictured from left: Ryan Edsall, Shawn Shrum, Elizabeth Bartholow, Bri Nero, Taun Peterson, Derek Sweeney, John Brant, Hilary Griffith, Colletta Weimer, Danielle Brownfield, and Johnny Marcolini (front).



PENN STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ADMINISTRATORS VISIT FAYETTE CAMPUS



Penn State Alumni Association administrators visited Penn State Fayette November 18 for a campus tour and meetings with campus alumni association representatives. (from left to right) Front row: Chancellor Emmanuel Osagie; Heather Cowles, assistant director, Membership; Janet Kowalczyk, assistant to the director of Development, Fayette; Lori Omatick, director of Development, Fayette; Wayne Port, chairman, Advisory Board of Penn State Fayette. Second row: Roxanne Shiels, associate director of alumni travel and education, Program Development and Enrichment; Amy Caputo, director, Strategic Communications; Geoffrey Conrad, associate director, Business Relations. Third row: Alan Janesch, director, Penn State Grassroots Network; Roger Williams, executive director, Penn State Alumni Association. Fourth row: Tina Hay, editor, The Penn Stater; Charlene Gaus, regional director (Western Pennsylvania), Volunteer Services. Fifth row: Tom Hammond, associate director, Volunteer Services; Kevin Barron, director, Volunteer Services.

ALUMNI NOTES

JUSTIN BAIRD, '95 AET/BEST, '01 SDCET, has his Professional Engineer certification and designs bridges (including the West End Bridge project in Pittsburgh) for Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

HEATHER GUMBERT, '08 2BACC, was promoted to retail sales representative for Verizon Wireless.

DAVID GUMBERT, '89 2EET, '02 BSBCC, was promoted to manager of field operations for Pennsylvania American Water Southwest Region.

JASON KOWALCZYK, '04 AET, is a construction inspector with Century Engineering in New Cumberland, Pa.

BENJAMIN LETVIN, '92 BEST, is an assembly technician at Mercury Electronics in York, Pa.

CHAD LONG, '00 4BSB, and his wife Krista welcomed the arrival of Morgan on March 6, 2008. Long has plans that she will be the Fayette campus Thon chair in 2027.

JOE MARTINAK, '03 LAS, is an educator at River Rock Academy's Shiremanstown Campus. He is currently pursuing a master's degree in American studies at Penn State Harrisburg.

BOB PENTO, '91 BSCE, is a professionally-licensed CE in Pennsylvania, managing a section in PennDOT's Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering.

PENN STATE FAYETTE ALUMNI: STAY CONNECTED

When was the last time you updated your alumni information? It's easy to stay connected. Simply complete this form and mail it to Alumni News, PO Box 519, Uniontown, PA 15401, fax it to 724-430-4172, or go online at www.fayette.psu.edu/Alumni/alumservices.htm

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ E-mail: _____

What years did you attend Penn State Fayette? _____ Other Penn State Campuses attended: _____

Penn State degree and graduation year (if applicable): _____

Spouse/significant other's name: _____

Share your news! Let us know about job promotions and career advancements, new jobs, awards and significant accomplishments, important family news (weddings, birth of a child, etc.), alumni get-togethers.

I want information about joining the Penn State Fayette Alumni Society.

I want information about making a gift to Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus.

I want information about including Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus in my estate planning.



PENNSTATE



Fayette The Eberly Campus

1 University Drive
 P.O. Box 519
 Uniontown, PA 15401