

Penn State Berks

# BLUE & White

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Photo by Kapnick Photography



A MESSAGE FROM THE  
**CHANCELLOR**

Dr. Susan Phillips Speece

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## Saying Good-bye and Thank You

**T**en-and-a-half years ... my gosh, where did they go? I vividly recall a grueling drive across the country, pulling up to my new home, and crashing on an inflatable mattress with a hole in it. It did not matter that the mattress deflated during the night, I slept the sleep of one contentedly at home.

For the past ten-and-a-half years, you have made Berks County my home. You have welcomed me, supported me, and even challenged me—all in the name of “Good Old State.” Over my tenure, we have been able to create a team of extremely competent professionals. You know the saying, “You are only as strong as the weakest link.” Well there are no weak links in the team here at Penn State Berks—just honed professionals who are also wonderful human beings.

Together as a team we have been able to bring NCAA athletics to the college and community. We have doubled our baccalaureate offerings, and increased the number of faculty and the student enrollment by about 40 percent. The quality of our faculty’s research has reached new levels of excellence. With world-class leaders and a community-minded agenda, the faculty and staff at Penn State Berks have become invaluable assets to the greater community.

Finally, after a nine-year effort, we are also seeing the completion of a classroom and laboratory building that will house the Business, Engineering, and Information Sciences and Technology division. The new building will serve the college and our students for decades to come.

There are two other elements of our team. One would be the students: They are our reason for being here. Many of you were students here during the past decade. I hope you feel as though you were well prepared for your careers, and we also thank you for letting us know where we can improve.

The second element of the team would be the community folks. Without the support and interest of the community, Penn State Berks would have a difficult time meeting its land-grant mission.

We really are a team and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of it. In a few months, you will have the opportunity to welcome a new Chancellor for Penn State Berks. Dr. R. Keith Hillkirk comes to us from Penn State Schuylkill campus and has an intimate knowledge of Penn State. I hope you will welcome him as warmly as you have welcomed me, and I know he will be doing his best to cheer on this fantastic team.

My best wishes to all in the Penn State Berks family and thank you for a great ride.

Sustainable well wishes,

Dr. Susan Phillips Speece, Chancellor, Penn State Berks

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Photo by: Theo Anderson

## On the Cover: College Pays Tribute to Dr. Susan Phillips Speece

Community leaders and members of the college joined together to pay tribute to Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece during a retirement celebration on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at the Reading Crowne Plaza. In addition to the celebration, over \$25,000 was raised for the Susan Phillips Speece Endowment for Science and Innovation. *Continued on page 6.*

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## Social Media Sites Connect College Community



Want the latest news about what's happening at Penn State Berks? It's just a click away when you visit the college's Facebook fan page, Twitter updates, and YouTube channel.

Join the college's nearly 2,000 Facebook fans by visiting the fan page at [facebook.com/pennstateberks](http://facebook.com/pennstateberks) and be the first to receive news and feature stories, invitations to campus events, photos, and video footage. Additional college Facebook pages are linked to this main page, including a specific site for alumni ([facebook.com/pennstateberksalumni](http://facebook.com/pennstateberksalumni)).

Fans of the microblogging Twitter site will

get the latest news, 140 characters at a time, at [twitter.com/pennstateberks](http://twitter.com/pennstateberks). Users can sign up to follow Penn State Berks and subscribe to an RSS feed for up-to-the-minute news.

Maybe you prefer your information in video format. Just visit the college's YouTube site to view short videos about a variety of campus topics—from campus life to adult students—at [youtube.com/pennstateberks](http://youtube.com/pennstateberks). The site includes both professionally produced and amateur videos highlighting various aspects of the campus.

All three social media sites have links on the college's Web page: [berks.psu.edu](http://berks.psu.edu).

### ECO - BOX

Penn State Berks saved the following resources by using a paper produced with 30% post-consumer fiber.

12 trees preserved for the future.

5,176 gallons of wastewater flow saved.

573lbs of solid waste not generated.

1,128lbs of net greenhouse gases prevented.

8,630,475 BTUs of energy not consumed.

351lbs of water-borne waste not created.

### Want to Reduce Your Incoming Mail?

In the interest of sustainability, we are reducing our mailing list to include only alumni who attended Berks campus. However we do not want to exclude alumni who did not attend Berks but are interested in participating in our events. In the coming months, these alumni will receive a postcard asking if they would like to continue to receive the BLUE & WHITE in the mail. The postcard must be returned to remain on our future mailing list.

Please note: The BLUE & WHITE can also be viewed online at [berks.psu.edu/Information/BlueWhiteMag.htm](http://berks.psu.edu/Information/BlueWhiteMag.htm).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011

## June 21

WPI Meeting, 2 p.m., Janssen Office Building.



## July 8

Phillies vs. Atlanta Braves Bus Trip, Citizens Bank Park. Bus departs from Franco at 2:30 p.m., game starts at 7:05 p.m. Cost: \$60, includes ticket, sub, and beverage. For more information, visit [psuberkschapter.com](http://psuberkschapter.com).



## August 3

Atlantic City Bus Trip. Bus departs from Franco at 9 a.m. and from Atlantic City at 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$30. Attendees will receive casino credit and must be 21-years-old and have valid ID. For more information, visit [psuberkschapter.com](http://psuberkschapter.com).

## August 11-14

Fall Classic Tennis Tournament for adults and juniors, Exeter Community Park. Cost: \$40, includes entry fee for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Contact Ralph Tutlane, [kingtut039@aol.com](mailto:kingtut039@aol.com).

## August 16

WPI Meeting, 2 p.m., Janssen Office Building.



## September 11-December 16

Art Exhibition: 9/11 Memorial. Reception: Sept. 11, 6 p.m. Exhibit will showcase work created in response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. Part 1, Crisis/Reaction: Sept. 11-Oct. 20; Part 2, Response/Healing: Nov. 6-Dec. 16, Freyberger Gallery.



## September 13

Long Trout Winery Tour, Wine & Cheese Tasting, 6:30 p.m., FREE. Sponsored by Alumni Society. Contact Ralph Tutlane, [kingtut039@aol.com](mailto:kingtut039@aol.com).



## September 17

Football Bus Trip/Tailgate for Penn State vs. Temple at Lincoln Financial Field. (See ad on p.3.)



## October 1

Annual Alumni Reunion, Homecoming Weekend & Football Tailgate. (See ad on back cover). For more information or to RSVP, contact the Alumni Office, 610-396-6052, [berks-alumni@psu.edu](mailto:berks-alumni@psu.edu).

## October 4

Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute Reunion, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Perkins Student Center Multipurpose Room.



## October 23

Ghost Stories & Walking Tour with Paranormal Expert Charlie Adams '82. Tour Gring's Mill canal at 4:15 p.m.; ghost stories and refreshments in the barn immediately following tour. Cost: \$10; limit 100 people. Contact Ralph Tutlane, [kingtut039@aol.com](mailto:kingtut039@aol.com).

## October 27

Chancellor's Circle Dinner. 6 p.m., Viva Bistro & Tapas Lounge, Wyomissing. For information on becoming a member of the Chancellor's Circle, contact Dave Delozier, 610-396-6056, [DCD11@psu.edu](mailto:DCD11@psu.edu).

## Berks County Chapter of PSAA Meetings

Berks County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association meetings will be held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. in the Janssen Conference Center: June 28, August 30, October 25. For more information, contact Shawn Hinkle, 610-921-1914 or [shinkle@psualum.com](mailto:shinkle@psualum.com).

## Berks County Chapter of PSAA Events

The chapter holds a monthly social/networking event the second Thursday of each month from 5-7 p.m. June's event will be held at the Captain's Cove on Hill Rd. in Reading, and subsequent events will be held at Viva Bistro & Tapas Lounge in Wyomissing. Check the Chapter website ([psuberkschapter.com](http://psuberkschapter.com)) for a full listing of events.

## Alumni Society Meetings

Alumni Society meetings will be held on the following dates at 6:30 p.m. in the Janssen Conference Center: June 16, July 7, September 22, October 20. For more information, contact Ralph Tutlane, [kingtut039@aol.com](mailto:kingtut039@aol.com)

## Alumni Trip to Kraków, Poland

**Date:** March 1-8, 2012

Travel to Kraków, Poland with the Penn State Berks Alumni Office and Arawjo Tours on the college's second international trip.

The setting of Steven Spielberg's masterpiece *Schindler's List*, Kraków is a city whose contemporary youthfulness and energy, coupled with the medieval landscape, make it an up-and-coming tourist destination. Visitors will enjoy delectable Polish cuisine, the purest vodka, a grand Market Square, Klezmer music in the Jewish Quarter, and countless opportunities for excursions to such fascinating places as the Wieliczka Salt Mine, the resort town of Zakopane in the Tatra Mountains, and, for those interested in World War II history, Auschwitz and Birkenau.

Kraków's roots date back to the early Middle Ages, when the original settlement functioned as a fortified castle on the Wawel Hill. The city has a complex history that includes serving as the seat of the Polish kings until 1609, being incorporated into the Austrian Hapsburg Empire as part of Galicia in 1846, and, during World War II, becoming the capital of the Nazi general government.

Today an intellectual center, Kraków is home to one of the oldest universities in Central Europe, the Jagiellonian University, first established in 1364 by King Kazimierz Wielki.

Like Prague, Kraków has many beautifully preserved buildings, but the atmosphere is distinctly medieval, with narrow alleys, cobblestone streets, and cellar restaurants and taverns.

Details will be posted on the alumni Web site: [berks.psu.edu/alumni](http://berks.psu.edu/alumni). For more information or to be added to our Kraków contact list, contact the Alumni Office at 610-396-6052 or [berks-alumni@psu.edu](mailto:berks-alumni@psu.edu).





# Summer CAMPS

## at Penn State Berks

A residential option is available for high school camps. Scholarships are available.

For more info, call 1-800-BERKS-CE or visit [berks.psu.edu/summercamps](http://berks.psu.edu/summercamps)

### Middle School

**Exploring Today's Energy- Alternative and Renewable Sources Camp**  
JUNE 20-24

**Film and TV Camp**  
JUNE 27-JULY 1

**NEW! You Be the Chemist® Camp**  
JUNE 27-JULY 1

**Science of Technology Camp**  
AUGUST 1-5

**Middle/High School Basic Theatre Camp**  
JULY 25-29

### High School

**Computers and Cyber Security Camp**  
JULY 11-15

**Engineering Camp**  
JULY 11-15

**Forensic Science Camp**  
JULY 11-15

**Veterinary Science Camp**  
JULY 11-15  
JULY 18-22 (commuter only)

**Advanced Filmmaking Camp**  
JULY 18-22



## ENJOY PENN STATE FOOTBALL AWAY GAMES WITHOUT EVER LEAVING BERKS COUNTY!

The Alumni Office and Reading Crowne Plaza are hosting a series of football tailgate parties for away games. Doors open at the Crowne Plaza one hour before kickoff.

Tailgate refreshments will include wings, hot hors d'oeuvres, and a fruit-and-cheese tray, donated by the Crowne Plaza. There will be door prizes, games, and fun for the entire family! RSVP is required at [berks-alumni@psu.edu](mailto:berks-alumni@psu.edu) or contact Heather Angstadt, 610-396-6052.



**CROWNE PLAZA**  
READING



October 22-Northwestern



November 19-Ohio State



November 26-Wisconsin

## PENN STATE FOOTBALL BUS TRIPS

Do you have tickets for a Penn State game but don't want the hassle of driving? Then join the Alumni Office for their football bus trips to all home games with an evening kickoff. Schedule will be set when game times are announced. All bus trips depart from the Franco Building parking lot, departure time TBA. Seating is limited, so register early. Contact Wendy Kimock, 610-396-6057.

**September 17-** Bus Trip/Tailgate for Penn State vs. Temple at Lincoln Financial Field. Departure time and cost, TBA, includes game ticket. Attendees may bring a covered dish or enjoy lunch on their own. For more information, visit [psuberkschapter.com](http://psuberkschapter.com) or contact Ralph Tutlane, [kingtut039@aol.com](mailto:kingtut039@aol.com) or Mike Rowley, [michaelrowley@comcast.net](mailto:michaelrowley@comcast.net).



# ALUMNI Profile

## KJ Weinstock has recipe for success

By Lisa R. Weidman

**H**ard work, determination, and a Penn State Berks degree in Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Management (HRIM)—these were the ingredients for success for Kathy “KJ” (Lupica) Weinstock ’95, who is the co-owner with her husband of two restaurants and a catering business in downtown Harrisburg and an upscale catering venue in Mechanicsburg.

Weinstock began her college career at Penn State Berks as a Communications major in 1990, and from the start, she was very active in campus life. At that time, the first phase of residence halls had just been built on campus, and she fondly recalls being the first student to live in her residence hall suite. She also served as president of the Residence Hall Council and as a Lion Ambassador.

Then in 1992, she went to University Park campus, planning to complete her degree.

Fate intervened when she was awarded a summer internship at Walt Disney World in Florida—one of only twenty-five Penn State students to receive this honor. At the time, she did not realize how this internship would change her life and her plans for the future.

Weinstock enjoyed the experience of working for Disney so much that when the internship ended, she took a break from her studies in Communications to work at the Disney Store in the King of Prussia Mall.

In the meantime, she had developed an interest in the restaurant business and decided to change her major to HRIM—and to return to the Berks campus to complete her degree.

As part of the HRIM degree requirements, Weinstock took a part-time job as a waitress at Houlihan’s restaurant, where she met her future husband, Stephen Weinstock ’93, who was her manager at the restaurant and a recent graduate from the HRIM program at Penn State University Park. They shared a love of Penn State football, so it seemed only fitting that for their first date, they went to a Penn State football game. One year later, he popped the question and they were engaged.

She graduated in 1995 with an associate degree in HRIM and got married in November 1997.

Just three months later, she and her husband opened their first restaurant, Stock’s on 2nd, in February 1998. Their namesake eatery serves American cuisine and is located on Second Street in Harrisburg, just a short walk from the Capitol Rotunda. It also features outdoor dining in the warmer months.

A few years later, they purchased a building located behind the restaurant and opened a catering business, Stock’s Catering, which serves businesses and organizations in downtown Harrisburg, such as the Bar Association and local museums. In addition, it is a lunchtime destination for bus trips to the Capitol.



KJ Weinstock poses by the sign for the first restaurant she and her husband opened.

Then in 2007, they opened Carley’s Ristorante and Piano Bar, named for their two children, Carter and Ashley. It serves Italian cuisine in a rustic atmosphere, and it is centrally located on Locust Street, just a few steps off Second Street. In fact, Carley’s shares a kitchen with Stock’s.

Their most recent venture is Stock’s Manor, an upscale catering venue in Mechanicsburg. Originally a farmhouse built in the 1700s, the Weinstocks are in the process of renovating the facility and adding a veranda. They will cater their first wedding at Stock’s Manor this spring.

Weinstock commented that she is always eager to employ Penn State HRIM students at her businesses because she knows they come well prepared. She credits much of her and her husband’s success to Penn State’s HRIM program.

In particular, she praises Dr. Jim Bardi, recently retired coordinator of the Berks HRIM program, for helping her get started.

“Dr. Bardi made us learn everything about the restaurant business, and helped me prepare to own a restaurant someday. He really helped me with the accounting aspect of the business. When I’m doing the books, I can still hear his voice in my head,” Weinstock jokes.

Weinstock and Bardi have kept in touch over the years, and she came back to Berks to speak to one of Bardi’s HRIM classes.

When asked what advice she would give to students thinking of opening a restaurant, she said, “Go to a great school like Penn State, but make sure you like the restaurant business by working as a cook or server before completing your degree. It’s hard work and you have to be willing to make sacrifices. You have to be a certain kind of person to be willing to have 1,000 things going on at one time, and you have to have thick skin, but most of all, you have to have fun with it: You have to work hard to play hard.”

The Weinstocks do both. When they are not working at one of their many businesses, they like to go “RVing,” especially to Penn State football games, and they try to take at least one vacation together—just the two of them—a year.

For more information on Stock’s on 2nd ([stocksonsecond.com](http://stocksonsecond.com)), Carley’s ([carleysristorante.com](http://carleysristorante.com)), or Stock’s Manor ([stocksmenor.com](http://stocksmenor.com)), visit their websites. ■

**“Dr. Bardi made us learn everything about the restaurant business, and helped me prepare to own a restaurant someday. He really helped me with the accounting aspect of the business. When I’m doing the books, I can still hear his voice in my head.”**



# Olympic Medalist Allison Baver Receives Alumni Achievement Award

By Lisa R. Weidman

Olympic bronze medalist and Penn State Berks alumna Allison Baver '03 was honored with the Penn State Alumni Achievement Award during an award ceremony at University Park on Friday, April 8, 2011. She spoke about her accomplishments at Penn State Berks on Wednesday, April 6, to an audience of students, faculty, and staff.

Baver is the second alumnus from Penn State Berks to receive the Penn State Alumni Achievement Award, which recognizes alumni under the age of 35 for their extraordinary professional accomplishments.

"All that I have achieved in my career athletically and professionally, including this award, would not have been possible without the support of Penn State University and the professors and staff at Penn State Berks," comments Baver. "I am honored to receive such a prestigious award."

Baver was recognized for her success as a three-time Olympic Short Track Speed Skater, National Champion, 2010 Olympic Winter Games Bronze Medalist, and founder of the foundation Off the Ice, an educational sports movement that uses skating as a catalyst to inspire character values, goal development, and healthy lifestyles in children. It also brings skates, related equipment, and facilities to communities throughout the world.

"Off the Ice is all about skating your way to your dreams," explains Baver. "It's about separating fantasy from reality, and turning 'I want' into 'I will.'"

Baver actually began her career "off the ice," competing in roller and inline skating. Growing up with the sport, she believes skating kept her out of trouble "off the ice" and focused on winning and being her best "on the ice." She also believes that the lessons she learned and success she enjoyed on the ice helped her achieve her goals.



Allison Baver (left) is pictured with Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece at the awards ceremony.

Baver is putting her bachelor's degree in Business, with a minor in Marketing and Management, to good use. She credits her marketing savvy to the education she received at Penn State Berks.

"I didn't realize until I got out in the world how big Penn State really is," comments Baver. "When I would travel and tell people that I graduated from Penn State, they were impressed. I am really proud of the education I received."

When asked why she chose Penn State Berks, Baver explains that she had more than one dream: In addition to her Olympic goals, she also wanted to earn a college degree. Penn State Berks helped to make both dreams a reality.

"The professors were very understanding, more so than at other schools" explains Baver. "It says a lot about Penn State taking success to the next level. Everyone there wanted to see me succeed."

In addition to her impressive sports career and philanthropic endeavors, Baver is also a model with Wilhelmina Artist Management of New York. She explains that she joined the agency because as a powerful figure in women's sports, she wanted to be a role model for young girls. ■

# Retired Professor Establishes Scholarship for Honors Students



A retired Penn State Berks Chemistry professor, along with his wife, established an endowed \$100,000 scholarship to benefit future Honors students at the college. First preference for this scholarship will be given to students in the Honors program who are studying Science, and second preference will be given to students in the Honors program. Although the donors want to remain anonymous, they are passionate about education and wish to reward students who excel academically. The couple hopes that students will strive scholastically to be awarded such a scholarship.



# The FINAL Farewell

## College Community Pays Tribute to Speece

By Lisa R. Weidman

Community leaders and members of the college joined together to pay tribute to Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece during a retirement celebration on Thursday, April 21, 2011, at the Reading Crowne Plaza. In addition to the celebration, over \$25,000 was raised for the Susan Phillips Speece Endowment for Science and Innovation.

Approximately 250 guests attended the celebration. Senator Judy Schwank presented a proclamation from the Pennsylvania Senate.

The dinner program began with opening remarks from Penn State Vice President of Commonwealth Campuses Madlyn Hanes, who praised Speece's leadership of the college. Hanes was followed by Penn State Berks Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Paul Esqueda and Associate Professor of Mathematics Mohamad Ansari, who provided anecdotes and personal reflections on Speece's tenure at the college. Speece's brother, Dr. Truman Phillips, offered remarks from the family and thanked the guests for attending the celebration.

During dinner, guests were serenaded by Dave Delozier, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, who brought his guitar to the gathering and performed a humorous musical tribute to Speece set to

the Beatles' tune "Yesterday."

Later in the evening, guests heard from Zachary Karazsia, Berks alumnus and former student government president. Pat Langiotti, president of Creative Management Concepts, and Tracy Hoffmann, chair of the Penn State Berks Advisory Board and Managing Partner of Niemczyk Hoffmann Group, spoke about Speece's involvement in the community. Hoffmann then presented Speece with a retirement gift, a piece of original artwork from local artist Ted Ormai '70, who held an exhibition at the Freyberger Gallery in 2002.

The grand finale was the announcement of the Susan Phillips Speece Endowment for Science and Innovation, raised through generous contributions from community members and Penn State faculty, staff, and alumni.

Speece thanked the guests for attending the celebration and contributing to the endowment.

"Thank you for your incredible generosity," exclaimed Speece. "We are here for the students and this endowment will help to support them in their future endeavors. Thank you for sharing this night with me. You have left footprints on my heart." ■





“I remember when Dr. Speece came to the campus, I was working at the time in my role as County Commissioner. We formed a fast friendship, and I watched her career and saw her blossom here in the community. I consider her a friend and colleague and she has taught me a lot.”

–Judy Schwank, *State Senator*

“You are leaving a grand legacy. The growth, development, and vitality of this campus are certainly among your many accomplishments. Under your leadership, this campus has become a destination of choice and has had the highest growth rates of any campus over the last decade.”

–Dr. Madlyn Hanes, *Penn State Vice President of Commonwealth Campuses*



“Susan is one of the most multitalented and diverse individuals I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Her wide range of talents and interests, as well as the astonishing variety of organizations, activities, and groups she has chosen to affiliate with, clearly illustrate this point.”

–Pat Langiotti, *President of Creative Management Concepts*

“We have been a leader at Berks campus in many things. We are a leader in technology and conservation. Susan brought many of those ideas to the campus. We have a renewed commitment to research and development under Susan’s guidance and Susan’s stewardship.”

–Tracy Hoffmann, *Vice President and Managing Partner of Niemczyk Hoffmann Group and Chair, Penn State Berks Advisory Board*



# London Calling

Alumni travel across the pond on first international trip

By Wendy N. Kimock

**H**ow many towers comprise the Tower of London? Who built Stonehenge? Where is the Rosetta Stone on display? Ask any of the twenty Penn State Berks alumni and friends who recently traveled to London with Arawjo Tours and you're likely to get some pretty good answers.

Heather Angstadt '04, Alumni Relations Coordinator for Penn State Berks, and Kevin Arawjo '89, Instructor in History at Penn State Lehigh Valley and owner of Arawjo Tours, organized the first annual Penn State Berks International Alumni Trip to London, March 3–9, 2011.

Following an overnight flight, our group began exploring London with a half-day tour of the city by private motor coach. We vicariously lived the lives of the rich and famous as we passed Harrod's department store and the exclusive neighborhood of Belgravia. We viewed the sites of royal weddings past and present at St. Paul's Cathedral (Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer) and Westminster Abbey (Prince William and Kate Middleton).

Crossing the River Thames on both London Bridge and Tower Bridge, we saw the Tower of London and the gigantic ferris wheel, known as the London Eye. We glimpsed several of London's numerous museums, including the National Portrait Gallery and the British Museum, current home of the Rosetta Stone. The tour was a great way to get an overview of the city. We observed sights to which many of us would return, including the West End Theatre District, Trafalgar Square, the shops and restaurants of Covent Garden, and Piccadilly Circus, the "Times Square" of London.

That evening, our group attended a reception at the Swan Pub in Hammersmith, hosted by Berks Chancellor Susan Phillips Speece and the London Chapter of the Penn



State Alumni Association. We enjoyed pub snacks, or "nibbles," and beverages. Our Penn State Berks group presented the London chapter with a Penn State banner for use at their gatherings and events, including their active participation in a local dodgeball league and get-togethers with other Big Ten alumni living in London.


After the first day, everyone was free to go their own way. Most of us did so by using "the Tube," London's extensive subway system: the fastest and easiest way to navigate the city. Many members of our group used the Tube to find their way to locations such as Buckingham Palace, the British Museum, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London (a total of twenty towers make up this fortress), and the Big Ben clock tower to further explore these national treasures.

In addition to several days of free time in London, two full-day optional excursions were provided by Arawjo Tours for an additional fee.

The first tour visited the famous rock formation, Stonehenge, and the town of Bath. The exact purpose and origin of Stonehenge remain mysteries, but our group experienced

the magic of viewing this exceptional relic from a prehistoric culture. We also witnessed the strange energy force, or ley lines, on this site. Copper rods held a few inches apart moved toward each other, marking an "x" over these currents of radiation. While Stonehenge is undoubtedly ancient, the town of Bath is a contrast of old and new, from the Roman bath house to ultra-modern, trendy shops.

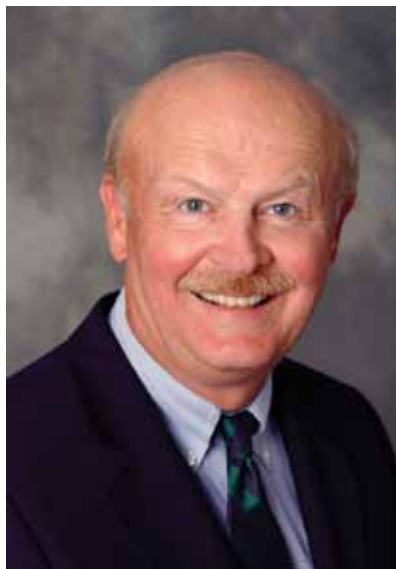
Travelers on the second tour took in the sights of Stratford, Oxford, and Warwick. Participants experienced the birthplace of Shakespeare—Stratford-upon-Avon, and a tour of Stratford. They learned that an Oxford degree can be obtained by attending any of its multiple self-governing constituent colleges, including Christ Church College, which the group visited. For another view into the life of royalty, a stop at the medieval Warwick Castle rounded out the day.

Exhausted but enchanted by our experiences in London, our applause on the bus as we headed to the airport proclaimed this trip a success. And many of us are already making plans for the second annual Penn State Berks International Alumni Trip to Kraków, Poland, March 1-8, 2012. 



# Hillkirk To Lead Berks Campus

By Lisa R. Weidman



Dr. R. Keith Hillkirk, who has served as Chancellor of Penn State Schuylkill since 2005, will be leaving the campus to become the new Chancellor at Penn State Berks, effective July 1, 2011. Hillkirk will replace Dr. Susan Phillips Speece, who is retiring effective June 30.

“Over the past five-and-a-half years, my colleagues and I have worked to further the University’s mission of recruiting, retaining, and graduating a diverse student body at Penn State Schuylkill,” said Hillkirk. “Four years ago, our enrollment grew by approximately 15 percent, and we have sustained those enrollment gains through a number of ongoing initiatives. Penn State Berks is roughly twice the size of Schuylkill, and I’m looking forward to the challenges and opportunities the breadth of the campus’ program and degree offerings brings to the Chancellor’s position.”

Before becoming Chancellor of Penn State Schuylkill, Hillkirk served for seven years as Dean of the College of Education and Human Services at Southern Illinois University Carbondale and nine years as a faculty member, Director of Partnerships, and Assistant Dean for Teacher Education in the College of Education at Ohio University. Before that, Hillkirk, a Pennsylvania native, served as an Assistant Professor of Education at Penn State’s University Park campus, and was a graduate assistant in Penn State’s College of Education while earning his doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction.

Hillkirk holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Allegheny College and a master of education in English from Shippensburg University. His scholarly interests include models of professional development and the creation and maintenance of partnerships among universities, schools, and communities. ■

## College Bids Farewell to Retirees

By Lisa R. Weidman



### Bob Rehrer, Police Chief

Police Chief Robert Rehrer will retire in July 2011 after fifteen years of service to Penn State Berks. Under his leadership, Police Services has expanded its scope of operations and the department became an armed unit in 2002.

“When I was hired at the college, they were looking for someone to build the department,” states Rehrer. “That’s what we’ve done over the last fifteen years: We’ve become a very capable, competent, and professional unit of the college.”

A graduate of the PA State Police Academy in Hershey, Rehrer started his career as a police officer in Ontelaunee and then Spring Townships, before assuming the role of Manager of Security at Carpenter, and finally coming to Penn State Berks.

He recalls taking night classes at the campus when he was a police officer in Spring Township and earning both his associate degree in Community Services and his baccalaureate degree in Administration of Justice from Penn State Berks. He went on to earn his master’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration from West Chester University.

When asked about his plans for retirement, Rehrer commented that he plans to pursue his lifelong passion for photography. He resides with his wife Marcia in Wernersville. They have three grown children. ■



### Dr. Andrew Romberger, Assistant Professor of Physics

After four decades at Penn State Berks, Dr. Andrew Romberger will retire in June 2011. He joined the campus in 1971 as an Instructor in Physics and was named Assistant Professor of Physics in 1976.

During that time, he helped to establish the college’s baccalaureate degree in Science, serving as program coordinator for the General Science Option of the degree. In addition to his teaching duties, he has served as chair of the college’s Faculty Senate and a member of the University’s Faculty Senate, Campus/College Representative for the Eberly College of Science at University Park, and the college marshal at Berks, carrying the mace and leading the campus’ commencement ceremonies.

A Penn State alumnus, Romberger earned his Ph.D. in Physics in 1976. He spent a year, from 1983–84, as a visiting professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he conducted laser damage studies.

When asked about his time at Penn State Berks, Romberger commented, “I’ve seen the college grow significantly in the last forty years, from 800 students when we were located in the former WPI facilities in 1971, to 2,800 students at our current location. I’ve always been impressed with the community’s support of Penn State Berks.”

Romberger resides with his wife Judy in Spring Township. They have two grown children and one grandchild. ■

# THON

## Berks raises more than \$48K for THON

By Lisa R. Weidman

Students kicked up their heels and raised \$48,786 for THON through a variety of fundraising events and activities throughout the academic year, culminating in the 46-hour dance marathon to benefit the Four Diamonds Fund. The event was held from Friday, February 18 to Sunday, February 20, 2011, at the Bryce Jordan Center at Penn State University Park.

The THON final total was \$9,563,016.09, earning its name as “the largest student-run philanthropy in the world.” Penn State Berks ranked fourth among all Penn State campuses for fundraising, which began in the fall of 2010 and included canning weekends, a talent show, a flapjack breakfast, a breakfast with Santa, a THON 5K run, and many other events.

In addition, Brian Tran, a former Penn State Berks student, ran in The Hope Express, a 24-hour, 135-mile run created to bridge the gap between families at the Hershey Medical Center who could not attend THON and the THON dancers. The run began on February 17, at 6 p.m. at the Hershey Medical Center and ended at the Bryce Jordan Center in time to kick off THON weekend.

A personal experience spurred Tran to action: He was inspired to help four years ago after a close friend was diagnosed with leukemia.

Tran was a THON dancer in 2009, and he was named co-chairman of the THON effort at Penn State Berks in 2010. This was his first year running the Hope Express and he raised more than \$1,000 for the run, which collected an unofficial total of \$52,000.

“Seeing the smiles on the children’s faces and knowing what they went through makes me want to give back,” he said.

The Berks County Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA) also presented a check for \$14,575 to the Berks THON organization. Most of the donation came from Reading Royals Night, which was sponsored by the PSAA and the Reading Royals on Saturday, January 29, 2011.

Five dollars from every ticket sold through the event website was donated to THON, and the Royals’ players all wore special Penn State football-themed jerseys that were autographed and auctioned off after the game, raising more than \$11,000. In addition, the Chapter donated \$3,000 raised through their annual golf outing in 2010.

“As a chapter, we strongly feel that we are a service organization,” said Shawn Hinkle, PSAA President. “We are here to serve our fellow alumni and the University, as well as our Berks County community.”

Short for the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, THON is a year-long effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. THON’s fundraising helps offset the cost of a child’s cancer treatment and helps establish research endowments aimed at increasing the cure rates of pediatric cancer treatments. ■



Berks THON dancers included (left to right) Ryan Cameron, Kristine Potts, Deven Barbine, and Nicole Messner. Pictured in front is Emilie Yeakel, THON public relations chair.



The Berks County Chapter of the PSAA held a Reading Royals Night, which raised more than \$11,000 for THON.



Brian Tran raised \$1,000 participating in The Hope Express, a 24-hour, 135-mile run to benefit THON.





(1) Pictured above are the ten students who participated in the Alternative Spring Break. (2) Berks students are pictured with the community members and children served by the school. (3) Students completed several projects including building walls for the school. (4) Students also helped with moving furniture and desks into the newly constructed classroom. (5) The students, community members, and teachers are shown in the new classroom.

# Alternative Spring Break

## Students volunteer at Mexican school

By Jessica Didow

While a group of ten Penn State Berks students spent their spring break in Mexico, they were not enjoying sand and surf; rather they spent the week renovating and expanding an elementary school. The students joined ProWorld Service in the revitalization project at La Escuela Bicentenario, located in the town of Zaachila, about forty minutes outside of Oaxaca City.

Student volunteers included seniors Raechel Baker and Cory Varona; juniors Trevor Houck and Chellby Kilheffer; and sophomores Alana Augello, Mehari Ghebremicael, Lauren Hedrick, Kristen Levan, Tyler McCarthy, and Kimberly Von Holt.

The students worked side-by-side with community members, including children who attend the elementary school.

“I thought the community and school board members were fantastic,” commented Kilheffer. “They were very welcoming and appreciative, which made me see immediately that the project was going to be a tremendous success.”

Von Holt added, “The children were a definite highlight for me. Each day we arrived

on site, they were nothing but encouraging for our team. Their joy was contagious, and being around them was an absolute pleasure.”

The project was organized by Andrea Pfaff, Student Activities Coordinator. She was joined on the trip by Maria Tinoco, Admissions Counselor.

The school, which currently has thirty students, was originally built to accommodate only twenty-five. The renovation and expansion project involved redesigning and expanding the school into two classrooms—one for upper and one for lower grades.

Berks students played a significant role in the expansion, installing windows, building a porch and a bathroom, and painting both the interior and exterior of the building.

The students were in Mexico for seven days, four of which they spent on the project. During that week, they stayed with host families, giving them an opportunity to learn more about the Zaachila community and the school.

“Staying with the host families provided amazing opportunities to learn about the culture and communicate in a different

language,” explained Augello.

When they were not working on the La Escuela Bicentenario project, the students had time to explore the region.

ProWorld also offered several organized day trips, including a visit to Herve el Agua, home to several mineral springs that run into bathing pools. With an incredible cliff-top location, the area boasts magnificent views of the valley. They also visited San Bartolo Coyotepec to witness throwing techniques for making black clay pottery, which is unique to that town.

“Through working with the people and students of Zaachila, I was able to build my own appreciation for everything that I have been blessed with,” summarizes Houck. “It was a mutually beneficial experience, one that I hope more students will take advantage of next year.”

The alternative spring break trip was partially funded by the Howard O. and Jean Beaver Endowment for Community Service. In addition, students held fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for the excursion. ■

# Business students take first place in Smeal competition

## Penn State Berks students are No. 1!

By Lisa R. Weidman

A team of Penn State Berks Business students took on teams from fourteen other campuses and received first place honors in the inaugural Penn State Smeal College of Business case competition, held February 3-5, 2011, at University Park campus. The competition was sponsored by Kohl's Department Stores, and the winning team was awarded a \$5,000 Kohl's shopping spree.

The Berks team was comprised of seniors Laura Hayes and Cory Varona, and juniors Tyler Sweigart and Janessa Weaver. The students traveled with Ron Jastrzebski, Lecturer in Accounting, to compete in the round-the-clock competition.

Each team, comprised of four students, had approximately twenty-four hours to review the case, conduct research, and prepare a presentation to address the business problem presented. Executives from Kohl's crafted the case and served as judges for the competition, along with Smeal alumni. After the first round of presentations, the judges selected the top teams for further questioning about the case and their presentations in the final round.

"It was the best experience of my college career thus far," Sweigart said. "Getting this kind of real-world experience in a real-time scenario was very challenging."

The competition kicked off on Friday, February 3, with a welcome reception and networking dinner. Teams received the proposed challenge the following morning in the order of their assigned presentation time. The presentations were held on February 5, and the winning team was announced later that evening at an awards dinner held at the Nittany Lion Inn, followed by a reception.

"We are extremely proud of our students," comments Dr. Lolita Paff, Coordinator of the

Business program and Associate Professor of Business Economics. "They represent the best of the Berks Business program. Our program focuses on interdisciplinary teamwork, which really helped the team to be effective in developing a response to the Kohl's case."

The competition was organized by Smeal's Career and Corporate Connections and Undergraduate Advising departments, along with the Penn State Marketing Association, a Smeal student organization. ■



The Berks team that won first place honors in the inaugural Penn State Smeal College of Business case competition included (left to right) seniors Cory Varona and Laura Hayes, and juniors Tyler Sweigart and Janessa Weaver.



## Perkins Plaza plans unveiled

To the left is an artist's rendering of the proposed Perkins Plaza to be constructed at the center of campus, in the area between the Perkins Student Center and the Thun Library. The plaza will include outdoor seating areas, a fountain, and a clock carillon to be dedicated in honor of the first Campus Executive Officer, the late Dr. Harold Perkins who led the campus from its founding in 1958 until 1984. A groundbreaking for the new plaza was held on May 6, 2011, following a memorial event that included remarks from past faculty and staff, as well as community leaders and Perkins family members. For more information on making a gift toward the Perkins Plaza project, contact the Penn State Berks Office of Development at 610-396-6056.



# CLASSNOTES

'62 **Richard C. Hoffman**, associate degree in Drafting and Design, is retired from Tyco Electronics and resides in Lebanon, PA. After graduation, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Lebanon Valley College in 1966 and a master's degree in Engineering Science from Penn State in 1971. During his time on campus, he and a group of six other students formed what they called the "Magnificent Seven." As their 50th anniversary of graduation approaches, Hoffman would like to reconnect with the other members of the group. He can be contacted via e-mail at [rchoffma@itech.net](mailto:rchoffma@itech.net).



The "Magnificent Seven" was comprised of seven students from the Class of 1962. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Richard Hoffman, James Lawrence Meloy, Stanley M. Reich, (back row) Charles H. Scholl, Stanley J. Ball, William D. Lapish, and Haskell C. Royer.

**Melvin R. Noll**, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering is retired from IBM Corporation. He resides in Bluffton, SC.

## In Memorium

**D. Darwin Angstadt**, 94, WPI Class of 1936

**Walter E. Broadbelt**, 85, WPI Class of 1948

**LeRoy E. Degler**, 94, WPI Class of 1933

**Joseph P. Finocchio**, 81, WPI Class of 1933

**Robert B. Gettis**, 75, WPI Class of 1956

**Ralph J. Hartzell, Jr.**, 72, Class of 1972

**Harold J. Kretz, Jr.**, 79, WPI Class of 1952

**Gordon H. Madeira**, 78, WPI Class of 1957

**Charles F. Marburger**, 78, WPI Class of 1957

**Robert R. McConnell**, 92, WPI Class of 1938

**Carl E. Ritner, Sr.**, 84, WPI Class of 1943

**Carl M. Roth**, 85, WPI Class of 1947

**Julia V. (Luczewski) Seidel**, 86, secretary to the Dean of Students, 1968–1985

**Wayne J. Silas**, 60, Class of 1977

**Stratton Stefanowicz**, 31, Class of 2004

**Frederick J. Villforth, Jr.**, 94, WPI Class of 1938

**Richard P. Whitman**, 72, Class of 1959

**Sharon A. Zebertavage**, 53, Class of 1981

'03 **Jeremy A. Donmoyer**, B.S. in Kinesiology, works as a health and physical education teacher at Schuylkill Valley School District. He resides in Dublin, PA.

'07 **Kendy Shupp**, B.S. in Kinesiology, is employed as a disability adjudicator with the PA Dept. of Labor and Industry in their Wilkes-Barre office. Shupp is pursuing a master's degree in health administration from King's College and she resides in Wilkes-Barre.

'09 **John G. Bogedain**, B.S. in Business, is a management trainee with Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Norristown, PA. He resides in Plymouth Meeting.

**Timothy Hillert**, B.S. in Business, is a partner at Mass Mutual in New York. He resides in Brooklyn, NY. He is a current board member of the Penn State Berks Alumni Society.

'10



**Mark Phillips**, B.S. in Business, is employed as Assistant Manager of the Penn State Berks Bookstore. Donning the Nittany lion mascot costume, he recently proposed to Kristen Hassler '11, Elementary and Kindergarten

Education, during a campus Information Session where Hassler, a Lion Ambassador, was giving a tour to prospective students. They met during a Penn State Berks orientation weekend, when she was a first-year student and he was a sophomore.

## CLASS NOTES SUBMISSIONS NOW ONLINE!

We love to hear from you! Please keep us informed about where you are and what you're doing. Let us know if you've moved, taken a new job, or have other news to share. Submit your information online at: [berks.psu.edu/alumni/classnotes.htm](http://berks.psu.edu/alumni/classnotes.htm)



## Jack Franklin Chapin, Professor of Chemical Engineering

Jack Chapin passed away on February 28, 2011 at the age of 94. He will be best remembered as a Professor of Chemical Engineering at Penn State Berks, where he taught for close to twenty years. He was recognized as teacher of the year, and he designed and implemented the two-year chem-tech program. Prior to his tenure at Penn

State, he worked at Reneut International, where he contributed to research on the process of polarization for sunglasses, and then for Polymer Corp. of Reading.

Chapin graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1938, where he studied chemical engineering and was a member of the college crew team. He found rowing to be most rewarding because it "required a strong back and a weak mind." He was proud to say that in all his years of rowing, his team never won a match. He understood that, in sports, it was the participation and the joy of competition that truly mattered.

He was a World War II veteran with the rank of lieutenant colonel. He served in occupied Japan and in Australia, where he was an ordinance commander, disposing of unexploded bombs and overseeing the loading of bombs onto aircraft.

It was while serving in Australia that he met and married the love of his life for sixty-three years, the late Stephanie Fell Chapin. His son Ross Arnold Chapin also predeceased him. He was survived by his son, Bruce Earle Chapin, and his two grandchildren.

# Alumni Reunion, Homecoming, and Football Tailgate

One weekend, one location—several great Penn State events!



## Friday, September 30–Sunday, October 2, 2011 Penn State Berks

The weekend kicks off with a float building party on Friday, September 30. Alumni can get a group together and build a float to compete in the second annual Penn State Berks Homecoming Parade on Saturday, October 1. The parade will culminate with the crowning of the student homecoming king and queen.

Bring your family and reminisce with former classmates at the fourth annual Penn State Berks Alumni Reunion and Pregame Tailgate on Saturday, October 1. Then stay to watch the Penn State vs. Indiana game. This year's reunion will feature the famous bathtub derby races and many other fun activities for the entire family.



These events are open to all Penn State Berks alumni and Penn State alumni who attended Berks campus, as well as their family and friends. Attendees must RSVP by calling the Alumni Office at 610-396-6052 or via e-mail at [berks-alumni@psu.edu](mailto:berks-alumni@psu.edu).

As the details are confirmed, additional information will be posted to the Alumni Web site: [berks.psu.edu/alumni](http://berks.psu.edu/alumni).