

THE SHENANGO AMBASSADOR

50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION MAGAZINE | 2016



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50TH
ANNIVERSARY

NEWS AND
PICTURES!



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PennState Shenango

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A NOTE FROM THE Campus Director



Dr. Jo Anne Carrick

in an exterior wall of our Forker Science building. What many of you probably do not know is that the discovery of the time capsule was quite serendipitous, to say the least.

Our first inkling that there was a time capsule planted on our campus was when we were renovating Forker Lab in the summer of 2014. While our crew was cleaning, they came across a few campus yearbooks dated just after the University moved the campus to its permanent site on Shenango Avenue. The books were stowed away in a closet, and inside one of them were pictures of people placing the time capsule. Of course, there was no clear evidence from the pictures where exactly the capsule was located. So after a long search, our Facilities Supervisor Jay Roberts walked into my office one day early in January 2016 to tell me he had found the time capsule location. At that moment, we both agreed that we would make sure our new time capsule would not be so difficult to find.

After several discussions, we decided we would place our time capsule in the Atrium of Sharon Hall. This location would guarantee the capsule's security, but more importantly, its accessibility.

We recently designed a plaque identifying the capsule's placement, which matched the design of the original Sharon Junior High School plaque that is located at the entrance to Sharon Hall. We have also been working on which items should be placed in the time capsule to ensure that its contents will be unique and interesting for those who will open it in 2066.

I didn't think much about the significance of the time capsule plaque, or its meaning, until I saw the final

design with my name and signature placed alongside President Eric Barron's and Advisory Board President Thomas Burich's. I paused and stared at the plaque for several minutes before reality set in. I thought to myself, it's quite likely that I will not be living when this capsule is opened — a very sobering thought to say the least.

So, where am I going with this story, you may be asking? Well, I can tell you that when you see your name etched on a plaque for many to see, you may ask yourself, "How will I be remembered?"

Our time capsule, however, is not about me. I just have the privilege and honor to be the leader of this wonderful campus in this time and place. There will be many more leaders, faculty, staff, and students who will continue to shape the identity of what Penn State Shenango is all about for years to come. So I ask this same question to all of you: "How will you be remembered?"

As you consider the answer, you may find yourself reflecting on the things you have done or accomplished in your work, family, or career. I am sure many of you have achieved noteworthy accomplishments. In this magazine, you will read the stories from some of our students and alumni who have been faced with many challenges but have risen to greater heights because they stayed true to themselves and didn't give up. You will read about Penn State Shenango's achievements and our plans for growth with new programs, upgraded facilities, and our continued commitment to our local community.

As we look back on what we have done this past year, we realize that what is even more important than the past is what we plan to do now and into the future. So let's continue to be dreamers. When others say it will never happen, prove them wrong. When our time capsule is opened in 50 years, let us hope that those who follow will recognize that they are beneficiaries of our hard work and commitment to providing a first-class education. May they, too, embrace what it truly means to be Penn State alumni and carry that legacy into the next fifty years.



Thanks and Good Luck!

Following 20 years of prosperous fundraising for Penn State Shenango, this past fall, former Director of Development and Alumni Relations Steve Hessmann moved on to a new development position with his alma mater, St. Francis University, in Loretto, Pennsylvania. During his tenure, Hessmann visited and worked with many alumni and friends of the Shenango campus to raise more than \$10 million, completing two very successful Capital Campaigns.



Campus launches '\$3,000 for your 3.0 GPA'

As of fall 2015, high school seniors are guaranteed a \$3,000 scholarship to attend Penn State Shenango, and the only qualification is that they have at least a 3.0 grade-point average.

"We are doing everything we can to help our students graduate with as little debt as possible," said Dan Pinchot, director of Enrollment Management at Penn State Shenango. "We started this new initiative in the fall to financially help students who want to earn a Penn State education, and I am pleased to say that we've had a lot of interest and new students because of it."

Penn State Shenango currently gives out more than \$600,000 in scholarships yearly to its incoming freshmen and returning students. And, for the past

three consecutive years, the Shenango campus' tuition has remained the same. Students who are eligible for this guaranteed \$3,000 scholarship will receive a 24 percent savings on their tuition.

"Students and parents alike are starting to look carefully at the amount of debt that they are going to incur while attending college," said Jo Anne Carrick, Penn State Shenango campus director. "We want them to know that the Shenango campus is very affordable. By living at home for at least the first two years and receiving guaranteed scholarship money, plus any grants or aid available, Penn State Shenango is a competitive choice. When students stay at Shenango

to complete their baccalaureate or associate degree, the cost savings increases even further, and our graduates will always have Penn State's strong name recognition when they begin interviewing for jobs."

In a 2015 ranking by Washington Monthly Magazine, Penn State Shenango placed 16 out of 402 colleges and universities in the northeast region in the "Best Bang for the Buck" category. And, with this latest initiative, Penn State Shenango becomes an even stronger "bang for your buck" choice.

For more information about the guaranteed \$3,000 scholarship, visit shenango.psu.edu/gpa, or contact the Penn State Shenango Admissions Office at 724-983-2803.

Shenango introduces new degree program

Penn State Shenango, in collaboration with the Penn State campuses of Beaver, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, and New Kensington, was granted joint authorization to deliver the bachelor of science in Project and Supply Chain Management program. The new four-year major will begin in fall 2016.

The project and supply chain management major centers on developing knowledge, skills, and abilities in project management, an important discipline in modern corporations. Project management skills include the development of new projects and coordinating procurement and project delivery systems. The major also emphasizes the integration of manufacturing and service operations, logistics, purchasing, and distribution that enable organizations to develop supply chain networks.

Graduates will be prepared for careers in many professions in business. They are able to manage supply chain and project initiatives in global corporations, government, public sector organizations, construction, third-party logistics providers, and goods and services distribution operations.

"There are many businesses and manufacturing companies not only

in western Pennsylvania and over the border in Ohio but also across the nation that are in need of students coming out of college with this degree," said Penn State Shenango Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick. "We believe students will have a number of employment opportunities availed to

them upon graduation."

All courses needed for the degree will be offered at each campus, although students in the program should expect to take some courses through a combination of Web-based and face-to-face technology, in addition to the traditional classroom setting.

Panel discusses project and supply chain management

This spring, Penn State Shenango hosted a panel discussion on "Project and Supply Chain Management: In Business and In Health" to talk about the real world of supply chain management. Representatives from FedEx Corporation, UPMC, and JMC Steel Group composed the panel of experts.

"The business faculty at Penn State Shenango initiated 'In Business and In Health' in order to bring together members of business and health care community to hear from experts in their fields about the importance of supply chain management in today's world," said Lisa Bertin, coordinator of the Project and Supply Chain Management program. "We could not have been more pleased how the event turned out. There was great discussion and our panel experts were quite knowledgeable and informative."

The panel of experts included Harry Gillespie, director of information technology, FedEx Corporation; Tim Nedley, vice-president of materials management, UPMC; and Tim Feeny, general manager of operations, JMC Steel Group (Wheatland Tube). Tom Roberts, executive director of the Hope Center for Arts and Technology moderated the active discussion.

For information about this new degree program, contact Penn State Shenango Senior Business Instructor Lisa Bertin at lrb19@psu.edu or call the Admissions office at 724-983-2803.

Shenango receives \$50,000 grant

Penn State Shenango recently received a \$50,000 seed grant through the Invent Penn State initiative to expand entrepreneurial endeavors. Shenango is one of six campuses to be named part of the newest wave of entrepreneurial sites across the Commonwealth that are poised to become sites of economic strengths in their region.

"We were delighted to learn that we were chosen to receive this grant," said Jo Anne Carrick, campus director and chief academic officer. "With this funding, we will be able to provide student entrepreneurs with the facilities, equipment, and mentorship necessary for success. We look forward to working with the eCenter@LindenPointe to capitalize on their offerings, while bringing our faculty's expertise to these entrepreneurial student teams."

Invent Penn State is a Commonwealth-wide initiative that blends entrepreneurship-focused academic programs, business startup training and incubation, funding, and key regional partnerships for the benefit of Pennsylvania and beyond. These six new awards follow on the heels of six similar \$50,000 grants awarded to Penn State campuses in 2015.

Penn State Shenango's VenturePointe is a new entrepreneurial incubator that will cultivate start-up resources for students who are interested in

both not-for-profit agencies and for-profit businesses. The incubator also will invest in economic development. This new, student entrepreneurial resource center will be located in the eCenter@LindenPointe and will include space for networking, faculty experts, collaborating with the eCenter's leadership, establishing internships, and enhancing technology by creating a Maker's Studio with 3Dprinting capabilities. Shenango students who have established a new agency as part of their upper-level courses in human development and family studies, and who are interested in turning their projects into actual agencies, will be among the first students to participate in VenturePointe. Penn State Shenango business students will also have an opportunity to participate.

"The process for awarding these six additional grants was very competitive," said Madlyn Hanes, vice president for Commonwealth Campuses. "I congratulate the recipients who share a deep commitment to the economic well-being of their communities. They are connecting the talent of Penn State faculty and students with community partners to bring innovation and entrepreneurial activity to the regions we serve. The Invent Penn State initiative is a powerful driver of economic development."

Other Penn State campuses that are receiving funding in this latest round



include Altoona, Berks, Great Valley, Schuylkill, and York.

Prior to this round of funding, Invent Penn State also awarded grants to the Penn State campuses of Abington, Behrend, Harrisburg, Lehigh Valley, and New Kensington for collaborative economic ventures in their communities.

"VenturePointe is a great model for a partnership between a college and an incubator," said Ketaki Desai, executive director, LindenPointe Development Corporation. "Students can develop their ideas for new businesses while in school and then implement their business plans with the help of our resources in the real world. This is a key step towards building an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in our region, and we are very excited to start this new partnership with Penn State Shenango."

For more information on Invent Penn State, visit www.invent.psu.edu.

Campus lights first holiday tree

Nearly 15 years ago, two small trees that were used as decorations on the Penn State Shenango Hermitage Light Up Night Parade float were transplanted next to the campus' Community Garden. This past holiday season, one of those trees was proudly placed at the front entrance of the campus, where it was adorned in Penn State blue and white lights and ornaments. The campus celebrated its first, official tree lighting with brief remarks by Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick and Student Government President Mandy Eagler, while Campus Counselor Tony Paglia led the campus community in festive singing.





AMISH UPBRINGING

INFLUENCES SHENANGO GRADUATE



Photo by Cimperman Co. Photography

Raised in an Amish community in Pennsylvania until the age of 23, Linda Byler, a 4.0 student who graduated from Penn State Shenango in December 2015, knew at a very young age that she would leave

the old-order sect to pursue her dreams and live a life that included more than what limited options were available to her.

Growing up Amish meant starting the day milking dairy cattle and harvesting crops. Linda was a middle child, with three sisters and three brothers. Her mother and father were loving parents who taught their children to be hardworking and true to themselves.

"I really did not mind working in the fields," said Byler. "Sure, it could sometimes be exhausting, but there is

something very satisfying about working together as a team and accomplishing a difficult task. My family was very close-knit."

Like most Amish children, Linda spoke with a German dialect when she was very young. She attended their sect school from first through eighth grade, learning basic English, arithmetic, and geography. According to Linda, most Amish children complete the eighth grade by the age of 14 or 15 and are able to add, subtract, multiply, and read and write in English. In her sect, Linda was taught by older Amish girls who had been taught by their elders in the same manner.

"I have always been a very curious person," said Byler. "I enjoyed school very much, but what we learned seemed so limited. When my older siblings went to school and brought home their textbooks, I would spend hours reading and looking through them. Once I started school, I learned about children in non-Amish schools who were learning more subjects, and I felt like I was being cheated."

The sect where Linda was raised held

church services in one of the Amish family's homes where a bishop would preside. At the time the church also included ministers, who supported the bishop, and several families who made up the congregation. As more families became part of the sect, more congregations were formed. In Linda's Amish sect, there were nine churches.

"We would attend church every other week for four or five hours, to hear and learn the Amish doctrine," said Linda. "Living Amish, however, meant practicing your religion every day, in all ways."

According to Linda, ordinary activities were meant to reflect religious practice. For example, "Waking up in the morning and putting your Amish clothes on is a way of practicing your religion. It is a very important part of the Amish way of life. I did not believe or feel that sense of importance, and with time, this became a personal problem for me."

Growing up, Linda never felt any different than people who were not Amish, although she was constantly reminded by the elders of the



community that she was different and that she should feel different.

“When I interacted with people outside my religion who attended regular, public schools, it was so painfully obvious that they could learn and become whatever they chose to be, and I was confined to a very limited world. This is when education and learning really became a passion of mine, and I would constantly read the dictionary and the encyclopedia. I was just being the person who I felt I was.”

“Learning has always been my passion in life.”

Leaving her Amish sect was more a progression than a spontaneous decision. Linda’s family had sold their dairy farm when she was 12 or so. When she finished eighth grade, Linda began cleaning houses and dog sitting for some local, non-Amish families.

Although there was no rule against working for the English, the leaders of the sect frowned upon her being employed outside their group.

Eventually, Linda began living a double life – wearing English clothes and going out like other, non-Amish teens. During this time, she got to experience a different way of life, which gave her a sense of freedom that she had never experienced.

Being born into an Amish sect does not automatically make a person a member of the church. Membership becomes official when a person decides to be baptized, usually between the ages of 18 and 21. So eventually, the leaders of the sect gave Linda a choice: Be baptized and become a member of the church, or leave. Because of her strong convictions and knowledge that she could never become a member of the church, Linda decided it was in everyone’s best interest to leave.

“Even though I felt pressure from members of the community to join the church from the time I turned 18, I would not do it,” said Linda. “I did not believe in the doctrine, and so it would be much easier on my family if I never [joined].”

Leaving was very difficult for both Linda and her family. However, she knew these hard decisions had to be made.

“I have always believed in taking responsibility for my actions,” said Linda. “Staying would have given my parents hope that I would one day become a member of the church, which I knew would never happen.”

After leaving her family’s home and the Amish sect, Linda was invited to stay with a family for whom she had worked for several years. Although she had been privy to the English lifestyle, it was not an easy adjustment. Linda felt incapable of being completely independent because she did not have an education.

“When I left home, I knew I had to go back to school,” said Linda. “I wanted to be completely independent and take care of myself.”

Another woman Linda knew before

“When I left home, I knew I had to go back to school. I wanted to be completely independent and take care of myself.”

she left the sect helped her to obtain her GED. She took math classes at the Literacy Council and earned her diploma in six months.

After passing her GED, Linda’s next step was to get into college. After taking her ACT, she put an application into Penn State Shenango. She was accepted and began her studies in business in fall 2011 with a goal of graduating with a 4.0 GPA. She also moved to Conneaut Lake with her sister who had left the Amish sect as well.

When she talks about her experience at the Shenango campus, Linda smiles and reflects on her first memories as a student.

“I wasn’t totally comfortable when I first started taking classes,” she said. “I didn’t mind still being an observer and wasn’t interested in opening up. When you tell people you are Amish, they have preconceptions. There were many people, however, that just got to know me and didn’t assume anything.”

Linda soon realized that being just an observer wasn’t working, and she knew that she needed to let people know her story.

“I began to understand from my classes and professors that if people knew more about me then they would be more likely to understand me, so I started talking about my past, my present, and my future goals.”

The longer Linda was in school, the more comfortable with the professors and other students she became.

“I felt most comfortable in one of my business classes,” said Linda. “The professor made me feel that it was okay not to know certain things, like sports and cultural things. That made me open up about things that I did know about, making me feel like I belonged.”

During her senior year, Linda received an internship at Penn Northwest of

(Byler, continued page 24)

Senior Standouts

THE SHENANGO AMBASSADOR WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THREE SENIOR STANDOUTS ON THEIR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THEIR TENURE AS STUDENTS AT PENN STATE SHENANGO.



Misha Savage

graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in business. She was born in Sharon and grew up in Sharpsville, where

she graduated from high school. While taking some time off from school, Misha entered the workforce and had an array of jobs including babysitting, teaching at Zion's Christian Learning Center, and working at a packing facility and as a sales associate.

After seven years out of school, Misha enrolled at Penn State Shenango in fall 2012. "I faced many challenges in my life but furthering my education was by far one of the greatest. Re-learning everything that I had essentially forgotten was extremely demanding, and I felt like quitting at one point. However, I persevered and I wouldn't trade these struggles for anything. I am so glad to be Penn State proud!"

Penn State English instructor Angela Pettitt called Misha "one of the best critical thinkers on campus. She demonstrated incredible insight and comprehension of every topic and in every class."

Scholarships and awards

- 2013 recipient of the President's Freshman Award
- 2-year recipient of the Dr. Joseph J. and Margaret Conti Trustee Scholarship
- 2015 recipient of the Sharonsteel Foundation Trustee Scholarship
- Various awards for Lion Leaders, Student Government, President of SMILE, and Most Outstanding Club 2014-15

What will you remember most about Penn State Shenango?

There are so many things that I will remember about this campus

so choosing just one is very hard. Still, if I had to choose I would say I'll remember all of the opportunities I was presented with by coming here. I used to be extremely shy, and my first semester was spent alone and barely connecting with anyone. The following semester I chose to dive head-first into clubs, events, and just being part of the campus. Because of this, I have had many offers both on and off campus. I will never forget the connections I've made or the friends gained.

What are a few of your proudest accomplishments while at Penn State?

I know it sounds cliché, but I am extremely proud of my grades. I wasn't the best high-school student, and my grades were less than stellar. As a college senior I look back on those days and think about how far I've come, how much I've matured in the way of dedication. This place has given me a drive for learning and succeeding. I have pushed myself to be the best that I can these past four years and I couldn't be more proud of that.

I'm also very proud of SMILE, the organization I started. I have a great group of people helping me make this club everything I knew it could be.

What clubs or organizations were you a part of? Did you ever serve as an officer?

I started out as a member of THON. Those were some great memories! For the past two years, I have been a member of Student Government, acting as SGA Treasurer, and I have been a Lion Leader since sophomore year. As a junior, I joined the Lion Ambassadors and even established my own club dubbed SMILE, aka Students Making Individual Lives Easier. Our fundamental goal of the club is to make people feel awesome by performing random acts of kindness and teaching them how to pass that kindness on.

What career plans do you have after graduating?

This question always stumps me when people ask it, because there are so many things that I want to do. My ultimate goal is to open my own business, a dinner theater to be exact, so I would love to have a job in an establishment that could teach me the "ins and outs" of the business.

I want to hone my craft and grow more knowledgeable in this industry before setting out on my own. So I guess you can say that I don't exactly have a career path planned out, but that's ok. I'm a mover and a shaker, so I'm sure that plan would change eventually anyhow.

Who has had an important influence or impact on your education (family member, partner, professor, friend)?

First and foremost would be my mother. She is an extremely smart and powerful woman, and I wanted to emulate that. When I told her I was going back to further my education, the look in her eyes was one I'll never forget; it was one of such pride. She has encouraged me throughout these long four years and has definitely been a source of drive for me to achieve my degree. It goes without saying that my friends have influenced my education as well. Their understanding and words of encouragement are appreciated more than they will ever know. Lastly is Instructor Lisa Bertin. She may not know it but she has enabled me to go above and beyond academically, even when I have doubted myself.

Misha Savage



Mandy Eagler came to Shenango in fall 2014 and graduated in May with a degree in business and a minor in accounting, which she plans to put to

use as a Certified Public Accountant. She previously earned an associate degree in hospitality management from Penn Highlands Community College and is both a first-generation college student and service member in her family. She earned Dean's List every semester at Penn State and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Mandy is a member of the PA Army National Guard, stationed in Beaver Falls. She served as a Supply Specialist and is currently first on the state list to earn the rank of sergeant. In 2012, Mandy was deployed for eight months as a helicopter refueler in Northern Afghanistan.

Recently, Mandy was featured in national media, including Good Morning America and Women's Health magazine, speaking about her experience dealing with PTSD. "Realizing that no one wanted to speak publicly about their mental health illness prompted me to be brave and speak up."

In August, Mandy will marry her fiancé, Aaron Stingis, and then will begin testing to become a CPA.

Clubs and Student Activities

- Student Government Association, President 2015-2016
- Business Club Treasurer
- SMILE Club

- Drama Club, 2014-2015
- Lion Leaders, 2015-2016
- Lion Ambassadors, Fall 2015
- Student Veterans Association, Founder and President
- Veterans Resource Center Task Force

Scholarships and awards

- Captain McCombie Scholarship
- Cofelt Scholarship
- Internal Scholarship
- Jarret Yoder Memorial Scholarship
- Penn State Academic Grant
- Ann Wansack Award, 2015
- Student of the Month, April/May 2015

What will you remember most about Penn State Shenango?

I think what I will remember most is the staff, faculty, and students that I met during my time at Penn State Shenango. By being involved on campus in clubs and activities, I made lasting friendships and powerful network connections. The whole campus has this friendly atmosphere that just resonates. Were it not for the faculty and staff that work at Penn State, I truly believe that I would not have enjoyed college as much as I did.

What are a few of your proudest accomplishments while at Penn State?

I would have to say I am most proud of my involvement in developing the Veterans Resource Center for Shenango's campus. There were so many helping hands that assisted in making this possible, so it was an amazing experience to see something we worked so hard for become a reality. Veterans affairs is something that I feel very passionately about, and I wanted to make sure that our campus was

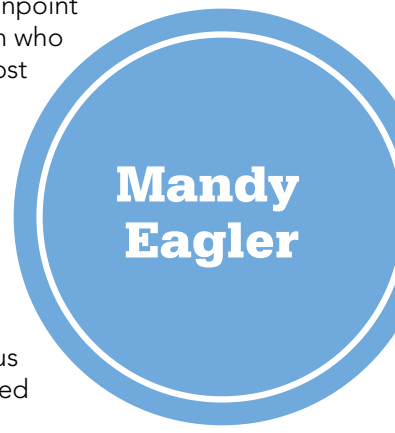
more equipped to provide assistance and connections for veterans and their families.

What career plans do you have after graduating?

I will begin sitting for the CPA exams this year. There are four different sections that must be passed in order to become a CPA. I take the first section in August. I am also actively seeking employment. I hope to work in public or corporate accounting. I did not want to jump into just any job after graduation. I want to find a company that I can begin building my career with.

Who has had an important influence or impact on your education (family member, partner, professor, friend)?

It's hard to pinpoint just one person who has had the most impact on my education. Both Jammie Clark (Assistant Director of Student Affairs) and Dr. Carrick (Campus Director) inspired me. They were always very supportive and challenged me in different ways. Both truly want the campus to grow and thrive, so it was very impactful on me to work with them for SGA. This encouraged me to get involved and work to get others involved as well. Both are strong, successful women, and I will try my best to model myself after them.



(Senior Standouts, continued page 10)

Helping our veterans

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Penn State Shenango staff worked with the Shenango Student Veterans Association to establish a new Veterans Resource Center on campus. The center will ensure that veterans benefit from a successful transition from military to college life by providing a safe and supportive environment via such services as mentoring, social networking, and peer-to-peer support. With the help and support of a several people, organizations, and businesses, work has begun in Sharon Hall Room 308 to establish the center. The campus welcomes community support. **For more information on how to help or to learn more about the center, call 724-983-2905 or visit <http://www.shenango.psu.edu/35345.htm>.**



Nikita Wright

graduated from Hickory High School in 2012 and attended Penn State Shenango all four years of her college

career. While attending Penn State Shenango, she was on the Dean's List every semester, received the Willaman Mary and Prescott Scholarship and the V4-2 Global Network Scholarship. She worked as a tutor for the Learning Center and SHARC for three years and graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in human development and family studies (HDFS). Nikita looks forward to traveling and seeking more adventures after college.

HDFS instructor Roxanne Atterholt said in her nomination letter, "In addition to academic excellence, Nikita demonstrates leadership in the classroom and community. She is widely respected by her peers, and has established herself as a leader by delivering results, maintaining

collaborations and valuing others. Her level of engagement and quality of work has set a standard of excellence among these emerging professionals."

What will you remember most about Penn State Shenango?

I will remember the incredible friends I have made while at Penn State Shenango. I have made friends that will last a lifetime. They mean the world to me and I'm so thankful I got to meet them while I was here. I will also remember the amazing professors I have had and the impact they have made on my education and future.

What are a few of your proudest accomplishments while at Penn State?

I got an A in a Nash class! Just kidding. My greatest accomplishment while at Penn State was that I learned what it means to be truly happy. I learned to believe in myself, and I learned what true friendship is.

What career plans do you have after graduating?

After I graduate, I hope to travel before I begin my career.

Who has had an important influence or impact on your education (family member, partner, professor, friend)?

My family and friends have been so supportive of my education and I couldn't have accomplished everything I have without them. My instructor, Roxanne Atterholt, has also had an incredible impact on my education and has helped me succeed throughout my educational career.



Collaboration provides internship opportunities for Shenango students



The Penn State Nittany Connection, which opened last June, is an apparel and gift shop located inside Cravings Café and Creamery in downtown Sharon. The store is managed and staffed by Shenango campus business students who are completing their internships under the supervision of Penn State Shenango Business Instructor Georgia Macris, with oversight from Penn State Shenango Bookstore Manager Patty Bobbie. The Cravings/Penn State Nittany Connection collaboration was formed as a joint venture between Primary Health Network' Charitable Foundation, which operates Cravings, and Penn State Shenango.

The current student interns operating the Penn State Connection are Mikalyn Duffy from Pulaski and Ali Izzo from Hermitage (pictured right to left).

"The goal of this initiative was to engage Shenango students in running a real business operation of their own, while utilizing what they've learned from their business classes," said Macris. "The student interns, Mikayllin Duffy, who is taking BA 495B, Research in Business, and Ali Izzo, who is taking BA 295A, which is our business internship class, are responsible for the store's marketing and social media, merchandising, inventory control, and communicating with Barnes and Noble buyers, but most importantly, the store's success."

The Nittany Connection hours are Monday through Thursday from noon until 8 p.m. and Fridays noon to 6 p.m.

Penn State and Spring Fling team up for marketing competition



members at Visit Mercer County PA in March about the Downtown Sharon Spring Fling; and the actual competition held in April.

During the February event, students heard from several media account representatives, including Su Killar, iHeart Radio; Stefan Marcella, The Sharon Herald; Eric Doan, WFMJ; and Sara McCauley, Visit Mercer County PA/ Social Sara. Each representative talked about his or her form of media, in addition to speaking

It was West Middlesex High School students who came out on top in Penn State Shenango's inaugural Marketing Competition, which was held in the campus auditorium in April. Lakeview High School came in a close second place, and Hickory High School students took third. The event was held in conjunction with the Greater Sharon Associates (GSA) and its Downtown Sharon Spring Fling. High school teams of two to five students were required

“It was very challenging to pick just one winner. Each team had elements of their presentation that could be used. Kudos to the students and their advisors!”

– LAURA ACKLEY

to create and present an integrated marketing plan for this year's Sharon Spring Fling. Students from Farrell High School and Mercer County Career

Center also gave strong presentations.

“The judges were so impressed by each team's ingenuity and effort,” said Laura Ackley, general manager of Donna's Diner, Buhl Mansion Guest House, and director of marketing for Tara-A Country Inn. “We thought all of the students did an excellent job. The panel of judges had to grade not only on creativity, but feasibility, professionalism, and budget. It had to be a plan that could be implemented

to promote downtown Sharon's Spring Fling event on May 7. It was very challenging to pick just one winner. Each team had elements of their presentation that could be used. Kudos to the students and their advisors!”

The competition included three parts: a preliminary event held in February at the Shenango campus where students heard presentations on “Building an Integrated Marketing Plan” by Penn State Shenango Business Instructor Georgia Macris and learned about the actual Sharon Spring Fling event from Laura Ackley; a meeting with GSA

about ways of getting free publicity and exposure.

The students had a total of six weeks to prepare their integrated marketing plan before they returned on April 2 when they presented in front of a panel of six judges, including Penn State Shenango Business Instructors Lisa Bertin, Georgia Macris, and Michael Wachter; Penn State Shenango staff member Liz Izenas; and Visit Mercer County PA Sales and Marketing Coordinator Carmen Aiello; and Laura Ackley.

“We were so pleased to have five local schools participate in our inaugural Marketing Competition,” said Chuck Greggs, associate director of Admissions. “We originally discussed crafting an event where the students could create a plan for a fictitious organization; however, after meeting with Laura Ackley, who is instrumental in organizing Sharon's Spring Fling each year, we came up with the idea to have the students put together a marketing plan for an actual event, and I think the outcome was great. We are looking forward to next year's event.”

CELEBRATING

50

YEARS

1965-2015



PennState
Shenango

Discussions that brought Penn State University to Shenango Valley began more than 50 years ago when a group of local citizens had a dream of bringing an affordable college to the area so that students could continue their education. Following that idea, in 1964, the Penn State Board of Trustees met with The Shenango Valley Citizens College Procurement Committee, and a year later, the first students enrolled at the Penn State Shenango Valley Campus, which occupied the east wing of Kennedy



Photos by Cimperman Co. Photography and Shana Scherer

50th Celebration

SPANS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Christian High School for the first two years of operation.

Flash forward to 2015-16 academic year, and Penn State Shenango now sits on 14 acres in downtown Sharon as the only urban campus in the Penn State system. The campus offers both baccalaureate and associate degree programs as well as the first two years of more than 160 Penn State majors.

During the past fifty years, the Shenango campus has completed millions of dollars of new building construction, as well as major renovations, transforming the former Sharon City School District's grade school and junior high, and the downtown North Flats area, into a state-of-the-art higher education institution. The campus boasts up-to-date technology and computer labs, advanced chemistry and biology labs, a student-centered Great Hall and fitness center, a contemporary library and auditorium, a valued Academic Resource Center, modern offices, outside sitting and studying areas, as well as many other amenities.

"Our campus has transformed itself many times over the years," said Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick. "Keeping with the small campus setting, we have modernized our buildings, constructed state-of-the-art labs and classrooms, and

provided our students with beautiful areas to relax and workout. As we look at the next 50 years, we will continue to upgrade our campus facilities, establish new academic offerings, provide our students with opportunities only a Big Ten University is able to do, and collaborate with our local leaders and government in making our region an area where people want to live and learn."

In celebration of its 50 years, Penn State Shenango hosted multiple events throughout the academic year, including a 50th Anniversary Alumni and Friends Kickoff event and a 50th Anniversary Blue & White Gala.

Guests, both young and old, enjoyed a free Community Open House in August with live music, children's



activities, refreshments, and more. The kickoff celebration was followed by an Alumni and Friends picnic that evening with music by Grant Street Exit, tours of the campus, a video montage of photos from the last half century, and a Penn State football raffle ticket drawing.

In March, the campus held its 50th Anniversary Blue & White Gala. The evening began with a reception in the campus' Atrium/Great Hall area, followed by dinner, speeches, and music by '80s Cheese Band, Velveeta. More than 200 alumni, friends, and employees from the Shenango and University Park campuses came together to celebrate.

Prior to dinner, Roger Williams, retired director of the Penn State Alumni Association, gave a historical presentation of Penn State and the Shenango campus. Following dinner and the presentations of local, county, state, and house citations, President Eric Barron gave special remarks and made a surprise announcement that the Shenango campus had been

awarded a \$50,000 Seed Grant as part of his Invent Penn State initiative. The speeches concluded with an entertaining talk by Penn State Women's Volleyball Coach Russell "Russ" Rose.

"This has been a great year for our campus," said Liz Lzenas, chair of Penn State Shenango's 50th Anniversary. "It's been a year of reconnecting with alumni and friends, reminiscing about the campus' changes and renovations, and developing new friendships, collaborations, and

programs. We want to thank all of our alumni and friends who participated in our celebrations!"

In celebration of its 50 years, Penn State Shenango hosted multiple events throughout the academic year, including a 50th Anniversary Alumni and Friends Kickoff event and a 50th Anniversary Blue & White Gala.



Time Capsule

UNVEILS GLIMPSE OF SHENANGO CAMPUS HISTORY



It was 45 years ago this past fall that a copper time capsule containing contemporary papers and items was placed in the, then, new science building, which was being erected on the Shenango Valley Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. David Goldberg, then president of the Penn State

Shenango Valley Advisory Board, placed the time capsule in the cornerstone of the building. Harold Sargent, then campus director, and other advisory board members were in attendance at the event.

On Monday, March 28, 2016, this same time capsule was extracted from the campus' science building by Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick, as members of the Student Government Association and Penn State Shenango Advisory Board members looked on.

Following the removal, the time capsule was opened in the Great Hall, where students, faculty, staff, and board members listened and watched as each piece of information was carefully opened and read.

Some of the items unveiled included letters from Sargent and Goldberg, a faculty/staff directory, a 1970-71 Student Handbook, a letter from the City of Sharon's Mayor Basil Scott, as well as several other papers and letters.

"I was very surprised how well the letters, documents, and other items stayed preserved these last 45 years," said Carrick. "Although the time capsule was buried in 1970 and not when the campus first began in 1965, we thought it was the right time to open it as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. A new time capsule, which will be filled with items from our current students, departments, and alumni, and advisory boards, will be sealed in our Atrium between our Lecture and Sharon Hall buildings this coming fall with the expectation of it being opened in 2065."

The contents of the time capsule are on display in the campus' Atrium in two enclosed glass cases.



50th anniversary scholarship established

Campus Director Jo Anne Carrick recognized the donors of Penn State Shenango's most recent endowed scholarship during the 50th Anniversary Blue & White Gala on March 30. The 50th Anniversary Scholarship was endowed to provide financial assistance to promising, full-time students with excellent academic records.

This new scholarship will be a remembrance of the campus' 50 year-milestone in the Shenango Valley. Through the generosity of several donors, including Penn State Shenango Advisory Board member Bill Casey and his wife Janet, owners of Warren Glass and Paint; Penn State Shenango Advisory Board and Alumni Society Board member Sam Bernstine and his wife Pam; Penn State Shenango Advisory Board member Joseph Kerola, owner of P.I.&I. Trucking; Penn State Shenango alumni and friends Tom and LuAnn DeNoi; Penn State Shenango friend Joanne Baugh; and the Penn State Shenango Alumni Society board, talented students will be given the opportunity to achieve academic success at Penn State Shenango.

For more information on how to establish a scholarship or donate to Penn State Shenango, call the Development Office at 724-983-2905.

MORE FROM THE 50th Anniversary Kickoff Event



MORE FROM THE 50th Anniversary GALA Event



Photos by Cimperman Co. Photography and Shana Scherer



Wheels turn as HopeCAT collaboration brings high school students to campus

Penn State Shenango and The Hope Center for Arts and Technology (HopeCAT) began collaborating on a new venture this past fall to begin an after-school pilot program with Farrell High School students. Focusing on ceramic art, the program is being taught by world-class ceramist and arts educator Christian Kuharik.

"When Tom Roberts (Executive Director of HopeCAT) approached me last fall to team up with HopeCAT, I never dreamed that the collaboration would be this successful," said Jo Anne Carrick, Penn State Shenango campus director and chief academic officer. "It has been a win-win experience for all of us — the Hope Center, Farrell High School, and our campus. It gives us great pleasure to know that the use of our state-of-the-art ceramic lab is providing students with a warm, embracing environment to learn and grow."

This initial pilot program is an extension of the Manchester Bidwell Education Model, which includes visual arts after-school programming for youth and demand-driven career training for adults. The model promotes on-time graduation for high school students and effectively transitions individuals from unemployment and underemployment to entry level careers.

"It has been a pleasure working with Penn State to bring a world-class, proven education model to the region starting with Farrell High School," said Tom Roberts, executive director of The HopeCAT. "Our pilot concepts started with the question, 'What assets do we

have here in the area we can leverage to positively impact our community?' And Dr. Carrick and the Penn State team have been wonderful offering to extend the use of the campus for our program."

The first cohort in the program included 14 Farrell High School students in grades nine through twelve. The program began mid-October and ran for six weeks. A goal of the program was to provide students with skills that they can directly transfer into their education to promote academic achievement. Many of the students from the fall returned this past spring to complete another successful program.

"The Farrell Area School District was very excited about our collaboration with Penn State Shenango and the Hope Center," said Farrell Superintendent Lora Adams-King. "The students who attended in the fall, many of whom returned in the spring, have been positively impacted by their experience. I've been to the Manchester Bidwell Center in Pittsburgh, met with Bill Strickland several times, and seen firsthand the impact of this program model. While this entire region will ultimately benefit from the Hope Center, Farrell was very honored to have our students pilot the program here."

HopeCAT is based on Manchester Bidwell President Bill Strickland's belief that environment shapes behavior and that "all human lives are valuable." Strickland's life was changed when he was inspired and mentored by his high school ceramic art teacher, Frank Ross,

in Manchester, an inner-city Pittsburgh neighborhood.

"I'm proud to see the efforts of the Sharon community come together in the new Hope Center for Arts & Technology," said Bill Strickland, president of Manchester Bidwell. "HopeCAT's collaboration with Penn State University and Farrell School District exemplifies the Manchester Bidwell Education Model's core value of cooperative community efforts. When school districts, higher education, and community organizations like HopeCAT work together, real change becomes possible."

"The Farrell Area School District was very excited about our collaboration with Penn State Shenango and the Hope Center."

—LORA ADAMS-KING

Renovation began on the HopeCAT's new building, located on the West Hill in the old Sacred Heart Elementary School this spring. Roberts hopes to continue collaboration with Penn State Shenango even after construction is completed at the new facility, which will feature a world-class environment displaying professional art and providing Shenango Valley youth and adults access to industry-standard resources.

For more information about The Hope Center for Arts and Technology, visit HopeCAT.org.

Alumnus organizes water collection for Flint residents

Thanks to many people in the Shenango Valley and at Penn State Shenango, Penn State alumnus Tom Runyan and his friend Eric Pagan, both from Sharon, collected more than 800 cases of needed water for the people of Flint, Michigan. Over a two-week period this past spring, the two men, with help from Penn State Shenango's Maintenance Department, collected and stored the water until it was time to transport. Along with Runyan's brother, Tim, the group came together to load



the water onto a truck bed donated by P.I.&I. Trucking. The driver of the truck, who used his own cab and time

to haul the cases of water to Michigan, asked not to be identified, but was "just happy to help."



Shenango receives community service award

Penn State Shenango was honored to be the recipient of this year's Community Counseling Center (CCC) of Mercer County's DeWitt Boosel Community Service Award. The Shenango campus received the award for its successful partnership and collaboration with CCC for more than a decade.

"It is an honor for our faculty, staff and students to work with such a wonderful organization, such as CCC, to promote their mission of 'helping individuals and families live healthy and fulfilling lives,'" said Claudia Brown, instructor in human development and family studies at Penn State Shenango. "We look forward to another decade of working with CCC and sharing our resources for the betterment of the people in our community."

Jameson and Penn State Shenango announce partnership for nursing education

The Jameson Health System School of Nursing and Penn State Shenango have announced the formation of a partnership for nursing education that will offer area residents the unique opportunity to earn a diploma in nursing from Jameson and then a bachelor's degree in nursing from Penn State Shenango in a seamless and timely manner.

"The flexibility of this program allows students who wish to work as registered nurses the opportunity to do so at completion of the diploma program, while completing the remaining coursework for their bachelor's degree in a timely manner," said Associate Professor of Nursing Kathy Mastrian. "We believe it's a great model for today's students."

For more information, contact the Penn State Shenango Nursing Department at 724-983-2860, Jameson Memorial Hospital School of Nursing at 724-656-4052, or visit www.jamesonhealth.org/schoolofnursing.

SHENANGO INSTRUCTOR BECOMES AN IRONMAN

On Saturday, October 17, at 7:30 a.m., Penn State Shenango instructor Angela Pettitt waded into the 64-degree waters of the Choptank River in Cambridge, Maryland, for the first leg of a 140.6-mile race. After swimming 2.4 miles around the bay, she climbed on her bike and set off on a 112-mile ride around the Maryland countryside, and finally concluded her day with a 26.2-mile run through the city.

“It was an incredible, unforgettable experience”

And for her efforts, Pettitt has claimed the title of Ironman after completing the most challenging race in the sport of triathlon. Several such races are held around world each year for athletes to test their endurance in ways most people can't imagine.

Pettitt competed with 1,300 other triathletes that day, including twenty-six from the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys who are part of the Steel Valley Triathlon Club.

“It was an incredible, unforgettable experience,” Pettitt said of her race. “It was definitely the most challenging experience of my life, but much like giving birth, once it's over, you sort of forget how hard it was and decide you just might do it again.”

Pettitt took 16 hours, 18 minutes to traverse the 140.6-mile course, which she said put her in the back of the pack, but she's okay with that.

“I know I'm not fast. I'm out there for myself, and my goal was just to cross that finish line.”

Although Pettitt has been competing in triathlons for about two years, she had only ever tackled the sprint and Olympic distance races, which are significantly shorter than a full Ironman. But when members of the Steel Valley Tri Club began registering for Ironman Maryland in support of a member who was making a comeback after surviving throat cancer, Pettitt knew it was her

chance to be part of a very special experience.

“With 26 of us training for the same race, I knew I would have more support and encouragement than I could ask for. And getting to support a fellow triathlete who had overcome so much and who was such an inspiration was a once-in-a-lifetime chance.”

For the next nine months, Pettitt swam, biked, and ran six days a week while also teaching English and American Studies at Shenango and doing her best to be a wife and mother.

“It's a tough balance, and there is no possible way I could have done it without the unconditional support of my family. My husband and son made this possible by picking up all the pieces that I couldn't carry while training and working.”

Then, after months of preparation, all hopes were crushed when Hurricane Joaquin threatened the East Coast and forced the cancellation of the race three days beforehand. Following the cancellation, the city of Cambridge, which relied on the race as a source of tourism revenue, asked the Ironman parent company, World Triathlon Corporation, to reschedule.

“It was unprecedented,” Pettitt said. “Ironman had never rescheduled a race before, but they did this time. I about cried with relief.”

A storybook ending would have race day dawning warm and sunny with perfect conditions for a swim, bike, and run. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. While no hurricanes were in the forecast, high wind advisories caused the swim to be delayed and the course modified.

Also, 64-degree water temps and 45-degree air temps made for a chilly day.

“I've never experienced anything like

it,” Pettitt said of the 20-mph winds. “It never stopped, from 6:30 in the morning until 11 that night.”

While it might have slowed her down a bit, Pettitt said nothing was going to stop her. “I never considered quitting. I knew I would keep putting one foot in front of the other until I got to that finish line or they pulled me off the course.”

It took until just before midnight, but she crossed that finish line, and her husband and son were there to greet her.

“I can't say this was the hardest or most important thing I've ever done. How do you measure a race against other life moments like the birth of a child, or your wedding day, or college graduation? They are all so very important. But this is definitely up there on the list.”



Shenango faculty love to 'tri'

Swimming, biking, and running are familiar activities for three Penn State Shenango faculty members who all participate in the sport of triathlon.

English Instructor Angela Pettitt completed her first Ironman in fall 2015; Biology Instructor Tammy d'Artenay recently competed in her first two races; and Occupational Therapy Instructor Tammy Divens competed in several regional triathlons, including a half-Ironman in Cleveland.

Pettitt and d'Artenay both discovered triathlons as part of their fitness and weight loss journeys.

D'Artenay said, "My Weight Watchers leader was training for her first triathlon and encouraged me to join the Steel Valley Triathlon Club. I thought it would be a great way to meet new people and get me to my final goal weight. So far it has worked. I have lost 95 pounds and I am five pounds from my goal."

Pettitt, also a member of SVTC, started cycling and swimming as a way to participate in more fitness activities than just running. "I don't like running enough to make it my only activity. I've always loved riding my bike, so after I learned to swim, I decided it would be fun to sign up for a tri."

Long-time runner Divens made a spontaneous decision to enter a triathlon after swimming with some friends. "Early in the morning of the first triathlon, as we were treading water in a lake awaiting our start, we questioned our decision. But it ended up being a great experience."

Divens enjoys the run portion of the race because, "I have been a runner ever since I can remember. It comes naturally to me and is a stress management coping technique."

However, d'Artenay who has competed in two sprint triathlons, prefers the swim. "I have always loved swimming since I was a child. I find it both peaceful and exhilarating."

Triathlon swimming usually takes place in open water rather than a pool, which can be challenging for people who are only familiar with lap swimming. For d'Artenay, that wasn't a problem. "I just completed my first open water training swim last

weekend, and I enjoyed it more than pool swimming. The water is murky, but it is nice to not have to stop and turn around constantly."

Pettitt agrees. "Open water swimming is so much fun. There are more challenges, like dealing with limited visibility and potential waves, but it's a very exhilarating experience."

"I enjoy the training and the motivation it gives me when I commit to an event. The training forces me to create time for workouts and for socialization with my training friends."

– TAMMY DIVENS

All three women have families and careers that take up much of their time, so finding the hours needed to train can be a challenge.

Divens' solution is to take advantage of early mornings. "We usually find ourselves working out at 5 a.m. because that is generally the only time we can fit it in."

D'Artenay added, "The only way I am able to train is because my husband is willing to take care of our children while I am out on my bike, or running around the neighborhood, or at the pool early on Saturday mornings. I wouldn't be able to do this without his love and support."

For these triathletes, the sport is both a fun hobby and a way to keep fit. "I use training as a way to relieve stress and get back into shape from years of inactivity. Right now, it is just something fun to do," d'Artenay said, but that doesn't mean she doesn't have goals she would like to work toward. "I might try to do an Ironman someday," she said. But, "Not anytime soon!"

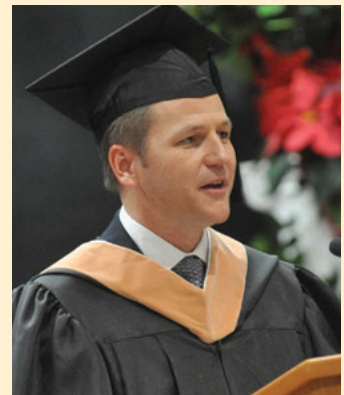
Divens said, "I enjoy the training and the motivation it gives me when I commit to an event. The training forces me to create time for workouts and for socialization with my training friends."

Pettitt and d'Artenay are both planning to take part in the MiltonMan Triathlon at Lake Milton, Ohio, while Divens said her immediate plans are still undetermined.

"Training is the important part," Pettitt said. "The race is the reward."



Paul Bucciarelli, vice-president, senior sourcing manager for The PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh and a Penn State Shenango Advisory Board member, gave this year's Penn State Shenango Spring Commencement address. Bucciarelli is a Penn State alumnus, graduating in 1976 with a bachelor's degree in communication and journalism. He began his education at Penn State Shenango and finished his degree at the University Park campus. He earned a master's degree in business administration from Youngstown State University.



Tom Roberts, executive director of the Hope Center for Arts & Technology (HopeCAT) was this year's Penn State Shenango Fall Commencement speaker. Roberts is a Penn State alumnus, graduating in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in labor and industrial relations. He was a proud member of the Penn State Blue Band performing at Homecoming at Beaver Stadium.

Photos by Cimperman Co. Photography

SHENANGO ALUM RETURNS TO HELP 'Stamp Out Stigma'

By Jack Luchette



My journey to becoming a mental health professional and advocate began four years ago as a client receiving outpatient mental health and addiction counseling at Community Counseling Center of Mercer County. Years of self-medicating in an attempt to cope with anxiety and insomnia led to substance dependence, which negatively impacted numerous areas of my life.

After several unaided attempts at recovery proved unsuccessful, I made perhaps the best decision of my life: to seek professional help, which ultimately led me to pursue and earn my bachelor's degree in human development and family studies from Penn State Shenango.

While conducting research for a class project at the Community Counseling Center, I learned about a nationwide campaign called Stamp Out Stigma, which seeks to reduce the shame associated with mental health and substance abuse disorders by talking about them openly.

Since then, I have worked to help others understand mental health issues and substance abuse through Stamp Out Stigma, which was most recently presented to the Penn State Shenango community in October 2015 and will return again in the fall.

SOS presentations consist of both facts and real-life experiences regarding mental illness and addiction and encourage the audience to view psychological afflictions as no different from those which effect the body.

Mental illness and addiction are more prevalent in the United States than heart disease and cancer combined. When left untreated, they can be just as deadly. No one would think twice about seeking professional medical attention to treat a physical ailment out of shame or fear of being labeled. Why then is there a stigma surrounding disorders of the mind?

Stamp Out Stigma presentations beseech their audience to view both equally.

I became inspired to organize such an event at the Penn State Shenango campus, as I felt its message exemplified the mission of aspiring human services workers such as myself and my fellow human development and family study classmates.

With assistance from others in my degree program and the support of the faculty, I was able to turn my vision into a reality. The inaugural Stamp Out Stigma presentation took place on campus in October of 2014.

I returned the following year as an alumnus to organize and present what has become an annual event at the Shenango campus. Each Stamp Out Stigma event at Penn State Shenango features a student speaker sharing their own personal struggles overcoming mental health issues, offering a message of hope to members of the audience that may be suffering in silence.

My message is both simple and realistic: If you are suffering from a mental health or substance abuse disorder, life does get better after seeking professional treatment.

With encouragement and support, those who are coping with mental illness and addiction may feel comfortable seeking the help they need. Assistance from caring professionals and proper interventions increase the likelihood of living a happy, productive life.

One lesson I've learned from my experience as an event organizer and presenter is that the most impactful message that can be delivered is a personal story. At future events, I plan to share more of my own story. It is my hope to serve as an example that those struggling with mental illness or addiction need not be ashamed to reach out for help. I believe it takes a great deal of courage to admit one cannot overcome their issues on their own, and I aspire to instill that strength in others.

Penn State Shenango provides the ideal platform to spread the Stamp Out Stigma message. A diverse group of open-minded college students are the perfect audience to promote discussion regarding this sensitive yet important topic. The willingness, enthusiasm, and hard work of the Penn State Shenango students and faculty make this yearly assembly possible.

The Stamp Out Stigma initiative challenges each of us to transform the dialogue on mental health and addiction from a whisper to a conversation. Let's begin that conversation today.

The 2016 Stamp Out Stigma presentation at Penn State Shenango will take place on October 12 at noon in the Great Hall. Questions about Stamp Out Stigma can be directed to Jack Luchette at jaluchette@gmail.com

Luchette graduated from Penn State Shenango with a bachelor of science in human development and family studies. He is currently employed as a residential program worker by Community Counseling Center of Mercer County.

Mastrian recognized with University Leadership Award



Kathleen Mastrian, associate professor of nursing at Penn State Shenango, was the recipient of the 2016 Undergraduate Program Leadership Award.

The award recognizes a faculty member who has demonstrated exemplary leadership; has major responsibilities for the delivery of undergraduate education within a unit; and who has provided leadership that has transformed or revitalized the undergraduate program in some way.

Mastrian is a pioneer in the field of nursing informatics and is recognized as one of the top 15 professors in the field.

Decades ago, Mastrian realized

the potential technology possessed in enhancing communication among health care providers as well as its ability to strengthen patient safety. Her journey to transform the industry began with the development and design of the first nursing informatics course, which became required for the baccalaureate program for registered nurses, known as the RN to BS major.

When Mastrian began teaching at Penn State in 1979, she also quickly realized that the baccalaureate program was not the right fit for the practicing registered nurse. An expert in academic policies, she found solutions to the barriers of changing the existing curriculum.

"The traditional BS program was designed for pre-licensure students to prepare them for practice," Mastrian explained. "We needed to design courses that recognized and embraced what the nurses were bringing to the classroom, and that challenged the nurses to build upon these knowledge and skills."

Next, she redesigned the primary junior- and senior-level nursing courses that would later become course-specific

for registered nurses. Her strategy was to integrate the practicing nurses patient care experience with the theoretical and ethical components that were missing in the more practice-based hospital and associate degree-based curricula.

"I believe her biggest contribution has been in transforming the nursing curriculum to meet the needs of the adult practicing nurse who returns to college to complete their baccalaureate degree," said a nominator.

Additionally, she's instrumental in the development of the highly successful online curriculum for the RN to BS program being offered through Penn State's World Campus, said a nominator.

An accomplished writer who has written numerous articles in the field, Mastrian co-authored the award-winning book, *Nursing Informatics and the Foundation of Knowledge*, which won the Book of the Year Award from the *American Journal of Nursing* in 2010. Now in its fourth edition, the book has been utilized extensively across the U.S. in more than 200 colleges and in 17 countries.

Faculty bring expertise to annual lecture series

Penn State is known for its outstanding faculty and their world-renowned research. This year, Penn State Shenango faculty delivered riveting presentations and talks to the campus and community, beginning with Lavarr McBride, instructor in administration of justice, whose lecture was titled "Through a Crime Victim's Eyes: Helping Them Find a New Normal."

The lecture series continued with Diane Kuharsky, instructor in biology, who spoke in December on "Fall Risk Assessment and Preventive Strategies for Individuals with Compromised Balance Stability." Part of Kuharsky's research involves vestibular rehabilitation and gait assessment. Over the years, she has attended and presented research at several meetings, as well as given seminars on the role of physical therapy in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

In February, Maureen Dunn, instructor in nursing at the Shenango campus, along with Jill Harry from Penn Dot and Cathy Tress from PA DUI, spoke on drinking and driving at the Community Library of the Shenango Valley. Dunn's presentation was titled "Buzzed or Drunk? Are You Impaired to Drive?" This particular lecture, which also contained a hands-on workshop, was well-received and highly promoted by the local media as a public service message about drinking and driving.

The lecture series concluded in April with presentations by Georgia Macris, instructor in business, who spoke on "Culture Trumps Strategy: Do You Know the Health of Your Corporate Culture and Is It Driving Your Business Strategy Forward or Holding It Back," and Barie Goetz, instructor in administration of justice, who gave detailed information on former inmate David Camm, a death

row inmate who spent 13 years in prison for a crime he did not commit, before being acquitted in 2013. Goetz's lecture was titled "The David Camm Case: A Study of Prosecutorial Incompetence and Deceit."

Penn State Shenango is gearing up for its fourth Annual Faculty Lecture Series, which will begin this fall.





'SCOOP 'N PAINT'

BRINGS OUT LOCAL TALENT AND GENEROSITY

The campus' Heart of Shenango Committee hosted its inaugural Scoop 'n Paint fundraiser at Cravings in downtown Sharon this spring. The event was organized by the Heart of Shenango Committee, which is made up of Penn State Shenango faculty and staff, to support the Heart of Shenango Scholarship for incoming transfer students.

Penn State Shenango Art Instructor

Ed Hallahan shared his talent, knowledge, and techniques of painting to a nearly sold-out crowd. Participants enjoyed a healthy serving of delicious Penn State Berkey Creamery ice cream before leaving the event with a beautiful painted sunflower.

"We were very pleased with the turnout," said Renee Neil, co-chair of the committee. "We raised close to \$1,000 for our Heart of Shenango

Scholarship. Our committee feels strongly about supporting Shenango students, and this is one way, we, as staff and faculty, can give back."

The Heat of Shenango Committee, which is also co-chaired by Associate Professor of History Philip Nash, hosts many fundraisers and events throughout the academic year.

Advisor shares experience of first-year seminar



Academic Advising Coordinator Amy Petrucci-Effinite was chosen this spring to present at the 35th Annual First-Year Experience Conference in Orlando.

Effinite's interactive presentation was titled "First-Year Seminar and Career Collaboration: Incorporating LinkedIn." The workshop included discussion on a campus-wide first-year seminar that integrates a partnership with career services to engage students in active learning strategies, alternative teaching methods, assessments of interests, skills, and values, while stressing the need to make meaningful connections as early as the first college year.

Effinite, who has been in academic advising for nearly 20 years, has always been passionate about working with first-year students. She feels strongly that it is important for students to gain new learning techniques early in their education to ensure college success, including the need to learn about themselves.

Since first-year students need an understanding of the relationship between their self-assessments, interests and abilities, Effinite designed the First-Year Seminar so students could learn about themselves and focus on what they need to succeed at the University. Although most colleges offer the First-Year Experience to their students, according to Effinite, the Shenango course enables students to see a real-life purpose in taking the class. Active learning also opens up the possibility for greater student motivation.

"We teach our students material that they can apply directly to their other courses, including study strategies, learning preferences, and the importance of making connections and networking early," said Effinite. "We also use assessment results to show our students the important link between learning about themselves and reaching their goals. I'm seeing some positive results among our students."

Shenango hires development director

Allison Engstrom joins the staff of Penn State Shenango as the new director of Development and Alumni Relations.

Engstrom comes to the Shenango campus from Akron Children's Hospital, Mahoning Valley, where she held the position as coordinator for Special Events and Fundraising. Engstrom was first hired by Akron's Children Hospital in 2011 as a development services assistant.

"We are so pleased to welcome Allison to our campus community," said Jo Anne Carrick, campus director.

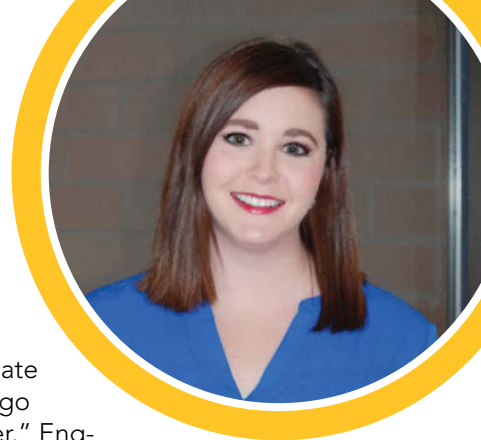
"She brings a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to this position, not to mention her Penn State background, and is ready to get out and meet and work with our alumni and advisory board to raise necessary funds in support of our students and programs."

Engstrom received a bachelor of science in business administration from Penn State Smeal College of Business, where she majored in marketing with a focus in management.

"As a proud graduate of Penn State Behrend in Erie and Penn State University Park, I experienced the many ben-

efits a smaller campus like Penn State Shenango can offer," Engstrom said. "I am very pleased and honored to serve as director of Development, and I'm so excited to combine two of my passions — Penn State and fundraising."

Engstrom and her husband, Adam, who is also a Penn State graduate, currently reside in Boardman, Ohio.



Faculty Notes

Roxanne Atterholt, instructor in human development and family studies, joined 11 other Penn State faculty members on an Embedded Programs Workshop in Jamaica last summer. The trip was designed to show faculty the ins and outs of working an intensely focused, international experience into their own curricula. Atterholt also attended the 2015 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, titled "Conflict, Violence and War: Family Risks and Resilience," Nov. 11-14, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Jennifer Jewell, instructor in physical therapy, presented at a national physical therapy conference held in Anaheim, California. The presentation was titled "Transforming the Role of the PTA to Meet the Vision of the Physical Therapy Profession." This two hour educational session included results from her national research project that was completed regarding the role of the physical therapist assistant in the current healthcare environment.

Georgia Macris, instructor in business, attended the 13th Annual Teaching Professor Conference sponsored by Magna Publications, which was held June 3-5 in Washington DC.

Kathleen Mastrian, associate professor of nursing, published

the fourth edition of her award-winning book *Informatics for Health Professionals* with co-author Dee McGonigle, director of the Virtual Learning Experiences (VLE) and professor of graduate programs, Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Kevin McDade, instructor in biology, published "Improving Cancer Gene Expression Data Quality through a TCGA Data-Driven Evaluation of Identifier Filtering" in *Cancer Informatics* in December 2015. Co-authors are Uma Chandran and Roger S. Day, Department of Biomedical Informatics, University of Pittsburgh.

Bill McGuigan, associate professor of human development and family studies, presented a research poster titled "Treating Violent Adolescent Males Who Experienced Childhood Physical Neglect" at the 20th International Summit on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma, Aug. 23-26, 2015, in San Diego.

Philip Nash, associate professor of history, published "A Woman's Place is in the Embassy: America's First Female Chiefs of Mission, 1933-1964," in Glenda Sluga and Carolyn James, eds., *Women, Diplomacy and International Politics Since 1500* (Routledge, 2016) and "Female US Ambassadors: The Early Years," in *Border Crossing* (The Hague, Netherlands: Diplomat

Magazine, May 2016). He also recorded podcasts on the atomic bomb, Cuban Missile Crisis, and other subjects with Professor Buzzkill, "destroyer of historical myths," available at professorbuzzkill.com.

Margaret Pendzick, senior instructor and program director for the Occupational Therapy Assistant program, and **Michael Wachter**, instructor in business, presented "Add Marketing to Your Tool Kit: Developing and Promoting OT's Distinct Value" at the 2016 American Occupational Therapy Association National conference in Chicago in April. They were joined by two OTA students and one business student in a panel discussion.

Math professors **C.R. Selvaraj** and **Suguna Selvaraj** published their article "Positivity of Linear Transformations of Mean-starshaped Sequences" in the journal *Positivity* in November 2015. The article is available online at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11117-015-0386-9>.

Joneen Schuster, instructor in psychology, attended the Association for Psychological Science 28th Annual Convention, held May 26-29 in Chicago, Illinois.



Shenango duo promotes wellness at UP conference

Co-coordinators of the Shenango Wellness Program, including Joan Humphrey, instructor in nursing, and Tony Paglia, mental health counselor and disability coordinator, presented at Penn State's annual Schreyer Conference held at University Park in October. The theme of conference was "Transformative Teaching and Learning." The two presented on the Shenango campus' holistic wellness program, which is also supported by undergraduate student Danielle Johnson. Their presentation highlighted a wide variety of programs that have been offered to students, faculty, and staff over the past several of years, including yoga and meditation classes, walking challenges, a community garden, and various physical and mental health awareness events. "The goal of our committee is to create a culture of wellness at the campus and for our programming to serve as an extension to the content covered in our health-related courses," said Paglia. Humphrey added, "We want to give Shenango students all kinds of opportunities to take what they are learning in the classroom about wellness and apply it to their personal and professional lives."

(Byler, continued from page 7)

Mercer County, where she was able to work on data analysis and market research in order to complete an economic report of Mercer County and prepare a speech and PowerPoint presentation on her findings.

"I very much enjoyed working at Penn Northwest," said Linda. "I was given a great opportunity to learn, and I met some wonderful people who made my experience there very rewarding. They work very hard to bring economic opportunities to the community, and I was honored to be a part of their team during my internship."

Linda graduated with highest

honors from Penn State last summer with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She received her diploma at this year's fall commencement ceremony, where she gave the graduating student address.

Following graduation, Linda was hired by First National Bank Corporation as an investment accountant.

"Learning has always been my passion in life," said Linda. "I am fortunate to have found a position with a company that supports and encourages their employees to learn and develop their skills. F.N.B. Corporation is an exceptional place to work. I have extraordinary mentors who are supportive of my desire to learn as

much as I possibly can."

Asked if it was all worth it? "Yes," she said. "There are so many beautiful, positive things about the Amish; however, there are some parts that I did not believe in nor could follow. Through all of this, however, I can honestly say that I drew from what my parents taught me at a young age – to work hard, be free, but most of all, stay true to myself. I will always love them for what they taught me, and I know that they would be very proud of my accomplishments."

Linda is now 29 years old, and although she occasionally sees her family when she is out in public, she has not visited her home since she left almost six years ago.