Three Recent Grads Start Careers with Tech Giants

FOR THE FUTURE Campaign Nets Over $13 Million for Campus

Baseball and Softball Programs to Return to Campus Sports Lineup
Three graduates of the Four Year IST Degree offered in conjunction with Penn State New Kensington have launched careers with the world’s biggest tech companies this year. From top to bottom: Cody Weible, Eric Gmerek, and Jessica Noland.

A Message from the Chancellor

From the Head of the Class, to the top of their field... Three IST Grads Launch Careers with Global Technology Giants

For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students Nets $13 Million For Campus

For the Future: Honor Roll

National Robotics Competition Kicks Off at Penn State DuBois

Health Services Option Now Available for Penn State DuBois Business Students

Students Help Personal Care Residents ‘Move Strong’

New Students Reach Out to Communities Through Service

Wildlife Tech Students Work to Restore Area Forest

Campus Men Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Baseball and Softball Programs to Return to Campus Sports Lineup

Golf Outing Drives $6,400 Into Athletics

Stacy Downer Named Head Volleyball Coach

Golf Team Finishes Conference with Winning Record

Boddorf Takes Bronze at Greater Allegheny Invitational

Howard Succeeds Bennett as Head Basketball Coach
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PARK
Penn State DuBois

Alumni Society Update with President Amy Fatula

Roen Named Registrar

Smeal to Help Workforce Meet Educational Needs

A Fond Farewell...

Re-connect with Penn State DuBois Alumni Society
Greetings from the Chancellor’s Office!

The changing colors of this beautiful season mark the beginning of another school year and usher in some exciting news here at Penn State DuBois. But first, I’d like to take a moment to welcome all of our new students to a campus that has much to be proud of in 2014-15. I am celebrating, not only the start of my second fall semester here, but also all the students, new and returning, who made the goal of higher education a reality by choosing to attend Penn State DuBois. Identifying goals for the future and taking the steps needed to achieve them is critical for success in any endeavor whether you are a student or a university.

Like you, we at Penn State DuBois have our eyes on a bright future, and have mapped out the course it will take for us to get there. Our new strategic plan has been completed, and it outlines the mission our campus will fulfill over the next several years. In August, we celebrated the closing of For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students, the most significant fundraising campaign in the history of our campus, and all of Penn State. The amount raised for our campus alone totaled $13.3 million, far surpassing our goal of $12 million.

As identified in the campaign name, this fundraising effort was targeted “for the students”, and because of our generous donors, it will be possible for us to offer 23 new scholarships. With these new funds, our total number of available scholarships is approaching 70 and allows us to award more than $350,000 in funds to students each year.

The results of this very successful campaign will touch the total student experience. New academic programs are being developed that will not only grow enrollment, but will enable new faculty/student/company collaborations designed to meet the demands of employers locally as well as nationally and internationally. We will be able to provide resources that encourage the holistic development of our students, while building a culture based on community partnerships and service.

When graduating students leave Penn State DuBois, the season will be marked not by changing colors but by a change in perspective—a change brought about as a result of new programs developed around teaching, research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Our graduates will step into successful career paths of their choosing—strategic paths that were developed and taken one step at a time.

Melanie Hatch, Ph.D.
Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

Chancellor Melanie Hatch interacts with students at the annual scholarship lunch held this past spring.
From the Head of the Class, to the top of their field…

Three IST Grads Launch Careers with Global Technology Giants

In the competitive and fast-changing field of information technology, a small Commonwealth Campus degree program has scored a world-class hat-trick this year. Three 2014 graduates of the baccalaureate program in Information Sciences and Technology have recently started jobs with some of the biggest tech companies in the world. Cody Weible is now working as a systems engineer with Amazon at the company’s Herndon, Virginia office. And two of his classmates, Jessica Noland and Eric Gmerek, both went to work at Google as information technology residents. Noland works at Google’s New York City office, and Gmerek at the main headquarters known as the Googleplex in Mountain View, California. All three started their current positions this summer.

The baccalaureate degree in Information Sciences and Technology is offered at Penn State DuBois in conjunction with Penn State New Kensington. Students complete courses taught by New Kensington faculty online. The program is designed to train students to be leaders in the digital age. They develop skills such as management of ever changing technologies, networking, system maintenance, and the application of technology in solutions to system problems or malfunctions.

“T’m still amazed,” Weible, a Brookville native, said of his budding career. “Everyone hopes to go to work for a big company like Amazon or Google; to get that opportunity is amazing. These big tech companies; it’s like an engineer going to work for Boeing. It’s the top of the field. These companies are trying out new technology, changing the field. When you work there, you could be working on the next big thing.”

Weible is in charge of reliability and management of Amazon’s cloud services, which holds their online storage of information. He maintains availability of tools and manages operations of the cloud and information hosting sites.
Gmerek and Noland play a different role at Google, but one that is equally important to the company’s success. Both of these young professionals serve as tech support for other Google employees. In short, they maintain the very computers that keep Google online. Gmerek explained, “One thing many people may not understand is that computers break for everyone, even tech-savvy Google employees. It’s my job to solve the problems that pop up as quickly as possible, and to make sure everyone keeps working happily.”

A former DuBois resident, Noland said, “As an IT resident I provide frontline support for Googlers’ computer hardware and software needs along with support for internal tools and technologies. Internal support at Google is an amazingly impressive feat. Being the go-to folks for Google employees’ questions and helping Google to continue operating at the scale at which it does is a challenging role. But the internal support organization here at Google was developed to handle that capacity and to keep quality well above average. It is truly awesome to be a part of such a key role of the internal workings at Google.”

Noland also completed an internship at Google’s Pittsburgh office in the summer of 2013, which was covered in the Fall 2013 issue of College Place.

Gmerek, originally from Houtzdale, PA, said it was a bit daunting at first to have the responsibility of helping to keep Google running. However, he knew he was prepared for the job. “Landing a job with such a massive company, I was a bit nervous at first about how my skills would stack up to the challenge, especially being fresh out of college,” Gmerek said. “However, after speaking to some of the more seasoned employees and my peers at Google, I realized just how much the PSU DuBois IST program really taught me. I left the program knowing at least the basics about everything related to modern IT, and that’s exactly what employers want; a jack of all trades who can be inserted into any situation and know how to handle themselves.”

Gmerek went on to explain just how a comprehensive curriculum and hands-on learning experiences in his degree program gave him the right knowledge base. He said, “The broad spectrum of topics and the freedom to explore each one is what makes the DuBois IST program so uniquely awesome. In my time there, I did everything from programming to server-side networking and hardware repair. If it has to do with an IT system, you will learn about it, touch it, break it, and fix it again.”

Weible, too, credits his experience in the four year IST program with fully preparing him to enter his career. The hands-on experience in which Weible said he learned the most was Video Game Day, an event held once each semester at Penn State DuBois that is entirely run by IST students. The event draws hundreds of attendees by offering them the chance to play the latest games and gaming consoles. Video Game Day offers IST students lessons in networking and systems management, as the students set up a network of over 100 computers along with a variety of game consoles.

“Game Day is a real-world scenario of networking and monitoring availability,” Weible said. “When I interviewed with Amazon, they were very impressed that our campus holds such an event with almost 300 people attending. I can say the degree program at Penn State DuBois helped prepare me for a lot of what I’ll do in this job, and Video Game Day prepared me the most.”

When asked how he feels about the success of his students, IST program leader and senior instructor Jason Long said he’s not only proud of the individuals, but happy to see proof that his program provides a highly valuable education.

“I have been a Penn State faculty member for approximately 14 years. During that time, I have always wondered if I was doing my job well,” Long said. “I have been promoted, my peers have asked my advice on topics in my specialty, and I have been honored by awards. However, the thing that best shows me I am doing my job is how well my students are thriving in industry. No plaque, no certification or anything can measure up to the success stories of my students that have passed through the IST program at the Penn State DuBois campus.”

The students agree that Long and the IST program are doing something right. Weible stated, “I don’t think I’d have the opportunity to do this if I went anywhere else but Penn State DuBois. This hands-on program gave me this opportunity.”
For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students Nets $13 Million for Campus

The most significant fundraising effort in Penn State’s history, *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students*, has generated $13.283 million in support for Penn State DuBois, surpassing the $12 million campus goal. For all of Penn State, the total came in at $2.188 billion in private support. Penn State is one of only 12 public universities in the nation to have ever exceeded a $2 billion campaign goal, receiving support from 176,000 alumni, the most alumni donors to any campaign in the country.

More than 604,000 donors made more than 2.1 million gifts to the historic University-wide effort, including approximately $514 million pledged for undergraduate student scholarships, the top priority of the campaign. Of this total, Penn State DuBois raised more than $6.9 million for this critical need at the DuBois campus.

The campaign’s total donor figure is almost double the number who contributed to Penn State’s previous fundraising effort, *A Grand Destiny*, which lasted from 1996 to 2003 and raised nearly $1.4 billion. Penn State alumni have committed more than $920 million to *For the Future*. Penn State faculty and staff have also been important contributors to *For the Future*, surpassing their campaign goal and providing $63 million in support.

A celebration dinner marking the end of the campaign was held at the Lakeview Lodge at Treasure Lake on Friday, August 22. Guests included donors and volunteers. Chancellor Melanie Hatch shared some details about the campaign with those in attendance.

“Money raised during the *For the Future* campaign will touch nearly every part of Penn State, and Penn State DuBois. We have been working on the strategic plan for the campus that will carry us through the next five years. In mapping out our campus goals, and the actions we’ll take to reach those goals, it has become clear just how big of an impact this campaign will have on our future success,” Hatch said.

Hatch credited the passion that alumni and donors have for the campus in making such support possible. Senior Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations Rodney P. Kirsch shared that sentiment.

“The success of *For the Future* clearly demonstrates that Penn State is stronger than ever and that Penn State values endure,” Kirsch said. “Giving back is a fundamental part of who Penn Staters are as a community. In fact, this spirit of caring, generosity and volunteerism defines the Penn State family. The campaign’s focus on how philanthropic support enhances every aspect of the student experience resonated deeply with our donors as they firmly stood by our students during an extraordinarily challenging time in our history. An institution that receives support from so many alumni, friends, organizations, faculty and staff is a very special place indeed.”

At DuBois, the support by donors demonstrated the same level of loyalty.

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that all of Penn State enjoys, according to campaign chair Mark Freemer.

“To whom do we all owe the deepest gratitude? Our donors. Those who reached into their own personal funds and gave generously to Penn State DuBois students to help provide a world-class education and a bright future,” Freemer said. Donors have a variety of reasons for wanting to give; everyone has a story. But, it’s a desire to give back and to help others that drives almost anyone to make the commitment of philanthropy. In the end, the satisfaction donors gain from helping to lift up others around them is the greatest thanks they can receive.

“We got here because of the stories our donors, alumni and friends tell, and the memories they have, that have made Penn State DuBois a special place for them and their families. It’s that loyalty to our campus that enabled us to far surpass other campuses that are of similar size, or even bigger, during this campaign.

More than 93,000 new individual scholarships and awards were distributed to students across Penn State during the course of the campaign. Among the recipients of these scholarships are more than 16,000 individuals who are the first generation in their families to attend college.

Hatch took pride in explaining the impact the campaign had on scholarships at Penn State DuBois. She said, “The For the Future campaign was intended to generate scholarship dollars. An impressive 23 new scholarships have been created at our campus thanks to gifts brought in during this campaign. With these new resources, our total number of available scholarship funds is approaching 70; and we award more than $350,000 in scholarship funds to around 300 students each year. This funding will help to make the dream of a higher education come true for many students who may otherwise not be able to afford it.”

A plaque listing major donors to the For the Future Campaign at Penn State DuBois was unveiled at a celebration dinner at the Lakeview Lodge at Treasure Lake on August 22. Left to right are past campaign chair Dan Kohlhepp, final chair Mark Freemer, Chancellor Melanie Hatch, and Director of Development Jean Wolf.

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McLean Contributionship
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Charles H. ’78 ’81 ’02 and
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Melanie L. Hatch Ph.D.
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John M. ‘85 and Darlene S. Hopkins
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Scott B. ’76 and Judy A. Davis
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Marjorie M. ’90 DiGilarmo
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Karen M. Hopkins ’76 and John M. Roberts
Matthew R. and Susan J. Hopkins
Hank and Pamela P. Hufnagel
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Vivian J. Johnston
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For the future
The Campaign for Penn State Students

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S. Scott and Mary D. Reese
Charles B. ’50 and Mildred E. Reiter
Edward A. ’68 and Lois A. ’89 ’02 Richards
Rick and Diana Ricotta
S & T Bank
Joseph C. and Brenda S. ’79 Saricks
Pete M. Searfoss ’90
Mark H. Smith ’84
SMP Pharmacy and Home Medical
Gilbert L. Snyder ’60
David Stern
Gregory R. and Laurel M. Suslow
Kenneth L. ’70 and Wendy Swank
Timberland Federal Credit Union
Joan C. Vargas ’93
Sarah E. Verbeke
Evelyn F. Wambuye
Mary C. Vollero ’93 ’98 and Peter Warren ’94
John T. Wadi ’61
Jean M. Wildauer ’75 ’79 and
Christopher C. Minch
* deceased
National Robotics Competition Kicks Off at Penn State DuBois

The first round of a nation-wide robotics competition for middle and high school students takes place at Penn State DuBois in October. The BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) robotics competition takes place on October 24, and 25, in the campus gymnasium, with Penn State DuBois serving as a local hub for the competition. BEST at Penn State DuBois is sponsored by the Fairman Foundation and Atlas Pressed Metals.

At press time, the event was yet to take place. Watch for coverage of BEST in the Spring 2015 issue of College Place.

A kickoff event was held on Saturday, September 13, for teams from participating schools to attend and learn more about the contest. Participating teams come from as close as DuBois, and as far away as Connecticut.

BEST provides all necessary parts and equipment for teams to build a robot that they can use to run a course and perform specified tasks. The robot must be built within a six-week time frame. On the days of the contest, all teams will run the course, competing for the best times and course completion. Through participation in this project-based program, students learn to analyze and solve problems utilizing the Engineering Design Process, which helps them develop technological literacy skills. The goal is to better prepare these students for further education and careers in STEM fields, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

The learning opportunities with BEST don’t stop at STEM fields, however. Teams also compete and receive awards for other areas of the project, which include marketing, exhibition, sportsmanship, and team spirit.

Penn State DuBois Chancellor Melanie Hatch said she is happy to host BEST on campus, because the organization puts educational experiences for the participants at the forefront of its mission. Hatch said, “Competitions like this are on-point from an academic perspective. Activities involving STEM education get young people excited about the fields early on, and have great potential to inspire many of our nation’s much-needed future engineers, scientists, or mathematicians. Additionally, it presents opportunities for students with stronger aptitudes outside of STEM to compete in areas like marketing, where they can shine, as well.”

Schools participating in BEST at Penn State DuBois are DuBois Area High School, DuBois Central Catholic, Ridgway Area High School, Brookville Area High School, Brockway Area High School, Redbank Valley High School, Hill-Freedman World Academy of Philadelphia, Williamsburg Christian Academy of Williamsburg, Virginia; Overbrook High School of New Jersey, Miss Porter’s School of Connecticut, and Martin Luther King High School of Philadelphia.

Winners of BEST at Penn State DuBois will advance to the Northern Plains BEST Regional Championships to be held December 4-6, at North Dakota State University.

More information can be found at http://dubois.psu.edu/best
Health Services Option Now Available for Penn State DuBois Business Students

Through a partnership with Penn Highlands Healthcare, students in the Penn State DuBois Bachelor of Science in Business program will now be able to tailor their education to fit careers in the healthcare industry. The new Health Services Option is now available to business majors at the campus as of this fall. This option prepares students to pursue careers in the health services sector with emphasis on the organizational, management and administrative aspects of health care organizations.

Penn Highlands Healthcare in DuBois, Clearfield, Brookville and St. Marys will offer these Penn State students an internship experience at one of their centers or healthcare offices.

“This option will allow students to gain a specialized knowledge of the healthcare industry, and hands-on experience from their internship,” said Laurie Breakey, business program leader at Penn State DuBois. “They’ll develop the skills needed to work in hospital administration, nursing home administration, health care clinic management, and more.”

The Health Services option in the Bachelor of Science in Business degree allows a student to focus on studying and gaining real-world experience in the rapidly growing healthcare and health service industry. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics confirmed that 296,900 jobs were added to the healthcare sector in 2011. Locally, 16% of jobs in Clearfield County and neighboring counties are in the healthcare field. According to the North Central Workforce Investment Board of Pennsylvania, the healthcare industry is one of the High Priority Occupation areas in need of more educated and skilled workers to fill annual job openings across North Central Pennsylvania.

For more information, contact Breakey at 814-375-4800 or lph5@psu.edu or visit http://dubois.psu.edu/healthservices.
Some DuBois area senior citizens are literally getting a leg up on fall prevention and staying safe and healthy thanks to students in the Penn State DuBois Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program. Exercises, including leg lifts, squats, curls, and more are part of the Move Strong program that the OTA students have brought to both Village View Residential Living and DuBois Village Personal Care, parts of the DuBois Continuum of Care Community. At the same time, the students are taking advantage of some of the best hands-on learning opportunities they could ask for.

Students and OTA faculty instruct residents in Move Strong, a national fall prevention and strengthening program for senior citizens. The 10-week program focuses on keeping seniors safe while moving about their homes or navigating any location they may visit. The program offers exercises that improve strength and balance, while also providing practical tips for careful movement. The program focuses on the four key areas of strength, balance, flexibility, and posture.

“Fall risk is a concern for our residents, so we always encourage residents to participate in any program that can help prevent falls,” said DuBois Village Marketing Coordinator Carolyn Skaggs. “The students do work very well with our residents, and the residents look forward to them coming back. The students are just very, very good with them.”

The Move Strong program does provide prevention for a leading cause of injury among senior citizens, explained Penn State DuBois senior instructor in the OTA program, LuAnn Demi. She said, “A lot of falls take place because of weakness in the body, not just because of tripping over something.”

Student Dereck Seeley of Mansfield, PA said, “We focus on getting them stronger with those key areas of strength, balance, flexibility, and posture. It gives them more confidence throughout their day as they move through their activities and can more easily walk around without fear of falling.”

In providing this instruction to seniors, the Penn State DuBois students are getting some of their greatest opportunities for hands-on learning.

“We get experience; it lets us see what it’s like to work in a healthcare facility and how to perform exercises and lead groups,” said student Jen Marks, of Falls Creek. “What we are learning in the classroom, we’re applying here and putting it to good use.”

Classmate Katie Armagost, of Penfield, agreed, noting that the interaction with real patients helps to build the communication skills they’ll need for a career in occupational therapy. She said, “It helps to learn how to build a rapport with people. We can do that here, get to know them; that’s really important in any healthcare setting. It’s important to see them as people, not a diagnosis.”

Penn State DuBois OTA student Jen Marks leads residents of Village View Residential Living and DuBois Village Personal Care home in exercises as part of a fall prevention program. Seated is Kathleen Tribout, and behind Marks, left to right, are Pat McIntosh, Retha Lupro, and Tom Anderson.
As part of New Student Orientation, more than 150 freshmen, and over 30 faculty and staff group leaders participated in the Penn State DuBois Community Outreach Day on Friday, August 22. The day began in the campus gymnasium where students were broken into groups and assigned a service site. Each group was led by a campus faculty or staff member, as well as a student orientation leader, who then took students to their work site for the day. In all, the groups visited more than a dozen charitable and community-centered organizations. They performed landscaping, cleaning, litter pick up, and other duties in order to give back to their local communities around DuBois, Clearfield, Falls Creek, and beyond.

Sites visited included Bilger’s Rocks in Grampian, Goodwill Industries in Falls Creek, Gateway Humane Society in Falls Creek, Central PA Community Action in Clearfield, Downtown DuBois Revitalization, the DuBois Historical Society, DuBois Nursing Home, the Free Medical Clinic in DuBois, Paint and Play of DuBois, Rumbarger Cemetery in DuBois, the Bucktail Council of the Boy Scouts of America in DuBois, the Tri County Church in DuBois, the Children’s Aid Society, Highland View Healthcare, and Bethel Baptist Church.

At Bilger’s Rocks, students performed litter pick up throughout the vast network of giant sandstone boulders, caverns and caves that make up this natural attraction near Grampian, PA. At 320 Million years old, hours can be spent exploring or walking along the trails at the geologically unique 272 acre site. It is open to everyone, free of charge. President of the Bilger’s Rocks Association Terry O’Connor said he was very pleased to have the students pitch in to help keep the site looking good for tourists who visit it from miles away.

“People always advertise man-made things. This is natural. It’s a natural wonder here in Central Pennsylvania. It’s not a dam or a golf course, or anything man-made. So, it pulls people to our area, and we get people from all over the country, and even from other countries,” O’Connor said. “It’s so important to have volunteers. It’s a tremendous help. We always need people.”

O’Connor was happy to speak to students about the history of Bilger’s Rocks before they got to work. His talk helped to inspire the students about the service they were doing.

“It feels good to come out and help,” said Mathew Humes, an English Education major from Saegertown, PA. “It was great hearing him [O’Connor] talk about this place. It makes you want to get involved.”

Nicole Harshbarger of St. Marys, a Human Development and Family Studies major, agreed. She said, “I had no idea this place was here before. I would think about getting more involved. I like the outdoors and any opportunity to give back. I do community service often. The community gives us so much, so it’s good to give back to it.”

Throughout the year, the non-profit Bilger’s Rocks Association holds festivals, live music performances, a youth day, educational programs, and more.

Penn State DuBois Assistant Director of Student Affairs Marly Doty said she was happy to hear how students and organizational representatives felt about Community Outreach Day. She said instilling in students a passion for service, early on, can add meaning and value to their education, and even to their future careers.

“It’s important that students engage in community service right off the bat. It teaches them about social responsibility and places where they can get involved,” Doty said, “That blossoms into future projects, community service trips, and even jobs. They’re making connections, meeting people, and giving back. It increases their odds for success and builds a stronger community all at the same time.”
Students in the Wildlife Technology program at Penn State DuBois are learning by doing while also making significant contributions to the environment through their work on an area reforestation project. Assistant Professor of Forestry Aaron Stottlemyer and his students have teamed up with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) in order to bring new life back to a portion of reclaimed strip mine. The tract, in Washington Township, Jefferson County is owned by the American Chestnut Foundation.

Stottlemyer explained a reforestation project as an on-going, complex undertaking with many varied steps. Tree planting will take place, but site preparation is a crucial early step that students are now taking. At this point, they are working to eradicate invasive plant species from the area, in order to promote the growth of native trees. An invasive species is one that is not native to an area, and is harmful to plants or animals that are native to that area. In this case, honeysuckle and autumn olive are the targets. “We’re killing them because we want the forest to grow,” Stottlemyer said. “If these invasive plants were left to grow, they would drown out the trees.”

The group is pulling honeysuckle and autumn olive plants out by the roots where possible, or cutting them to the ground and treating the area with herbicide. The current focus is on a stand of aspen trees that are suffering due to the existence of the invasive plants.

Another step in promoting growth of the aspen stand is to actually cut some of the aspens down. The species of tree is known to regenerate quickly with multiple sprouts or “suckers” from a single stump.

“Hundreds of suckers will come up, and the forest will take off even faster,” Stottlemyer explained. He noted the value of the forest in the habitat and food source it will provide for multiple wildlife species such as rabbits, grouse, turkey, and more.

Gary Gilmore, a service forester for DCNR manages the property where this work takes place. He explained how crucial these efforts are, saying, “Forests are critical to our well-being, and you can’t get the benefits you need from them by simply letting them alone. Forest land must be managed, because if not, the invasives will eventually take over.”

For students who plan to embark on a career in environmental conservation, the experience is a valuable part of their education. Nate Wilson, of Brookville, worked at the site in the spring as a freshman in the Wild Life Technology program. He said, “It’s field experience, it’s hands on; it enhances our education. We’re learning from people who already work in the field. Plus, it puts things in perspective for when I hear things back in the classroom.”

Wilson also said it’s gratifying to contribute to a lasting effort. He said, “Anything that benefits the environment is great. Being able to come back years from now and see how things progress will be my reward for it.”

Gilmore said the relationship between DCNR and Penn State DuBois has offered something positive for everyone involved. “It’s a mutually beneficial relationship,” he said. “It gives students the opportunity to actually do forest management, to interact with professionals, and to really see what it takes to practice forest management. The students are the workers. They can put words on the ground; put the ideas in place by doing the physical work of preparing sites, removing invasives, planting trees.”
A total of 34 Penn State DuBois men wore high heels for the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event on October 1. The men’s march is meant to raise awareness of the battle against rape, sexual assault, and gender violence. The event was organized by victim advocacy group, Passages of Clarion, Clearfield and Jefferson Counties, in conjunction with the Penn State DuBois Office of Student Engagement. The idea behind the march is to get men more involved in issues surrounding sex crimes.

The men marched through campus, as well as off campus and down Liberty Boulevard, then back, covering a full mile in their pumps.

April Fleck, a prevention educator with Passages, said encouraging men to take a stand against issues surrounding sex crimes is a significant part of raising awareness. She said, “Particularly for men, it’s important. Getting men involved makes a difference, and decreases the amount of abuse that occurs.”

Fleck told the participating men before the march, “Every step you take in those shoes today is a step closer to eliminating sexual violence.”

According to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) someone is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes. Statistics like that are what inspired some of the marchers at the Walk a Mile event.

“It’s a lot more common than we think it is,” said student Jerod White, of Punxsutawney. “It’s crazy how many women are victims of abuse.”

Fellow marcher and student Joseph Perpich said he was happy to raise awareness in such a visible way. He said, “It’s a good cause; it’s a serious matter, and victims need help. It’s hard for the public not to see us and get the message out when they see a bunch of men walking in high heels.”

Student PJ Monella participated in the walk and rallied his fellow marchers with a short speech. He said, “When we think about sexual violence, we have to understand that sexual violence is a precursor to many other issues that can develop for a person. Sexual violence can jeopardize a person’s economic wellbeing, often leading to homelessness, unemployment, interrupted education and health, mental health and other daily stressors and struggles. The everlasting effects of sexual assault should encourage us to take as much action as possible to do the best we can for our society.”

As for the walking in high heels itself, White said, “It was a long walk, but I went the whole way. I’m in pain, but it really shows what women go through wearing these. I couldn’t do it every day.”
Baseball and Softball Programs to Return to Campus Sports Lineup

For the first time in two decades, Penn State DuBois students will have the opportunity to participate in America’s pastime as an official campus activity. Chancellor Melanie Hatch has announced that both baseball and softball programs will be resurrected, and the first Penn State DuBois teams will take to the diamond in the Spring of 2016.

Both sports had been offered on campus in years past, but both programs had been disbanded by 1991 due to budgetary reasons. Hatch said the decision to bring the programs back was based on another way of viewing the connection between academics and athletics.

“We feel that by adding these programs to our athletic lineup, we are also giving students more opportunities to succeed,” Hatch said. “Studies have shown that students who are involved in sports programs achieve better grades, and are more likely to stay in school and complete their education. Sports schedules provide added structure for athletes, helping them to stay focused on what is important. Additionally, the discipline it takes to stay competitive on the field is carried over to the classroom, where student athletes pursue their studies with more enthusiasm.”

According to a six year study concluded in 2011 at Indiana State University, the overall growth, learning, and development of student-athletes is, on average, twice that of non-athlete students.

In addition to the academic advantages, students also receive a more fulfilling experience from participation in a variety of extracurricular activities. Campus athletic coordinator Ken Nellis said, “We’re very excited to offer these programs to our students. It gives students another option to participate in extracurricular activities, and will be an opportunity for many of these athletes to continue playing a sport they’re passionate about. Many athletes have to end their career after high school because their college or university doesn’t have a program for their sport. Now, baseball and softball players from our area high schools will have the chance to keep their athletic career going, and take it to a higher level here at Penn State DuBois.”

Thanks to community partnerships with the City of DuBois and The DuBois Area School District, the Penn State DuBois teams will use Showers Field, the city park softball field, and Highland Street Softball field for games and practice.

DuBois City Manager Herm Suplizio said the shared use of the community fields illustrates a fitting collaboration that will provide the best opportunities for students. He said, “I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am that Penn State DuBois is adding baseball and softball to the campus. Young men and women that want to continue playing a sport that they love can still do so and further their education right here in their hometown. In addition, young adults from outside the town who like Penn State, the DuBois campus and the DuBois area can come live, study and work here for the duration of their college time. Everyone benefits, especially the students.”

Superintendent of the DuBois Area School District Mark Heckman was equally enthusiastic. “This is a great day for DuBois and an awesome opportunity for the students of the DuBois Area School District,” Heckman said. “Having college-level athletic opportunities for our students allows them to continue their athletic career while completing a world class education at Penn State DuBois. This collaboration between Penn State and the DuBois Area School District will only benefit through this great partnership. It’s truly a win-win scenario for the district, the university and the DuBois community.”

Extensive work must be done to prepare for the re-launch of these programs before the opening season in 2016. Campus staff has begun the process of equipment purchases, and will recruit coaching staff in the near future.

Community centered programs, such as summer clinics for middle school and high school aged baseball and softball players are planned as well.

For the latest updates on these developing programs, visit dubois.psu.edu/baseball and dubois.psu.edu/softball. 

Showers Field, the DuBois community baseball field where home games will be played.
Golf Outing Drives $6,400 Into Athletics

The Sixth Annual Penn State DuBois Athletics Golf Scramble brought in $6,400 in support of campus athletic programs.

Held on Saturday, August 23, at the Treasure Lake Silver Course, the tournament is sponsored by the DuBois Educational Foundation. All proceeds directly benefit intercollegiate athletic programs at Penn State DuBois.

The winning foursome for the golf outing consisted of Kemer Danch, Mike Whelpley, Brad Zimmerman, and Duke Moulthrop. The team tied at 24 under with the McDonald’s of DuBois team made up of Aaron Beatty, Scott Casteel, John Schneider, and Paul Rezk Jr., but won a tie-breaking chip off. Each team member received $75 of credit at the Silver Course pro shop.

The winning foursome, Kemer Danch, Mike Whelpley, Brad Zimmerman, and Duke Moulthrop.
Stacy Downer Named Head Volleyball Coach

Anastasia “Stacy” Downer has been appointed as the new head volleyball coach at Penn State DuBois.

Campus athletic director Ken Nellis stated, “We conducted a regional search for a new volleyball coach in June with several candidates applying for the position. Stacy was the best fit for the campus and the volleyball program; I am happy to have her on the staff.” Nellis continued “Stacy’s primary objective will be to recruit students who seek a quality Penn State education and want to continue to play volleyball at a higher level.”

Downer is a local product, born and raised in DuBois where she played high school volleyball and continued to play at Penn State DuBois where she earned an Associates of Science in Business Administration. Downer’s previous coaching experience was at DuBois Central Catholic. She is employed as an accounting assistant at Magnet Applications in DuBois. She and her husband, Chris, have three children; Blake, Antonia, and Peter.

The Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) is very competitive in volleyball and, building a team to challenge for the conference championship may take several years. Perennial powers PSU Fayette, Beaver, Brandywine, and Mont Alto all have quality teams. Downer commented, “I am looking forward to the challenge of building a team and turning the volleyball program into a winning team where young ladies want to come to PSUD to play.”

Golf Team Finishes Conference with Winning Record

The Penn State DuBois Golf team finished its conference schedule for this year with an overall record of 18-4-2 with a second place finish at the PSU Hazleton Invitational Golf Tournament. The PSUD team played in five tournaments this year with impressive results. The campus has captured two firsts, two seconds and one-third-place finish.

At the Hazleton Tournament, Mitchell Gilmore (Ridgway HS) fired a team low of 82 to place second in individual scoring. Tyler Woodard (Smethport HS) took fourth in the individual scoring with an 88. Kristy Hanes (Elk County Catholic) finished ninth with a 93 while Vinnie Montanari (Redbank HS) carded a 95 to round out the team scoring.
Boddorf Takes Bronze at Greater Allegheny Invitational

The Penn State DuBois men’s and women’s cross country runners had an explosive start to their first conference race at the Penn State Greater Allegheny Invitational on September 13.

Participating in the invitational along with Penn State DuBois as part of the PSUAC were Penn State Worthington Scranton, Penn State Fayette, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, Penn State Brandywine, Penn State Schuylkill, Penn State Mont Alto, and Penn State Greater Allegheny. The conference teams were also joined by Pitt-Greensburg, Potomac State, the Community College of Allegheny County, and Westmoreland County Community College.

Both men’s and women’s teams ran a 5k for this event and the Penn State DuBois runners adapted with ease. Juliann Boddorf championed her first race in the conference by taking third place overall and third place in the PSUAC with a time of 22:41. Heidi Rodgers and Tamera Anthony debuted in 24th and 27th place overall and 20th and 25th place within the conference, respectively.

On the men’s side, Matthew Burke led the pack while taking 14th place overall and 7th in the conference with Austin Hawkins at 41st and 25th, Charles Miller 45th and 28th, and Micah Shaffer coming in 54th and 36th accordingly.

Boddorf is the first female runner to medal within the conference for Penn State DuBois since 2009.

“I said before that Penn State DuBois is going to make a lot of runners nervous in our conference and our athletes demonstrated that today. I couldn’t be more proud of them,” said Coach Kyle Gordon of Penn State DuBois.

Winning the race with a time of 21:43 for the women was Rachel Ramsey of Penn State Greater Allegheny. Winning for the men was Aaron Flowers from Westmoreland County Community College with a time of 17:56.
Howard Succeeds Bennett as Head Basketball Coach PSU DuBois

Dylan Howard has been named head coach for the Penn State DuBois men’s basketball team following the departure of head coach Dave Bennett. Howard has served as assistant coach for six years. Bennett, who held the position for eight years, resigned to pursue other challenges, and continues to teach and instruct the game that he loves. Coach Bennett’s teams have captured the Penn State Athletic Conference (PSUAC) Championship twice in his career and have played in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Tournament four times; finishing 2nd in 2007 and 4th in 2010.

Coach Howard has been a part of the campus basketball program for 10 years. In addition to his time as assistant coach, he enjoyed an outstanding career as a player at Penn State DuBois, earning Academic All-Conference honors three times, first team All-Conference player honors in 2008, USCAA All-American Honorable Mention also in 2008, and scoring 1,070 points in his career.

“I am happy for both Dave and Dylan at this time of transition for our campus basketball team,” said PSU Athletic Director Ken Nellis. “Dave has created an environment and attitude of excellence on campus and in the community towards academics and basketball. We can’t thank Dave enough for the time, energy, and commitment to his players over the past eight seasons; I will miss having him on the sidelines next season.”

On turning the reigns over to Dylan Howard Bennett stated, “I’ve been fortunate to have had the pleasure of coaching Coach Howard for three years and having him as part of my coaching staff for another six years. Through that time, I have seen Dylan grow and mature into a remarkable basketball coach and leader. He has shown exceptional knowledge of the game, the ability to recruit outstanding student-athletes, and genuine devotion to the success of student-athletes on and off the court. Dylan will be an excellent head coach, and the Penn State DuBois Basketball Program is in great hands going forward.”

Nellis commented on Dylan Howard taking over the basketball program, saying, “Dylan has the same philosophy as Coach Bennett towards academics being priority one. The style of play should be similar since they have worked together for many years and have been successful. I am pleased Dylan has accepted the position and do expect the basketball team to continue to do very well in the PSUAC conference and USCAA tournament.”

“Dave has created an environment and attitude of excellence on campus and in the community towards academics and basketball. We can’t thank Dave enough for the time, energy, and commitment to his players over the past eight seasons; I will miss having him on the sidelines next season.”
A Season of Thanks
As the Penn State DuBois welcomes a new class of freshmen to campus, I would like to welcome them along with alumni and friends to the DuBois Alumni Society update.

As we enter the Fall season, it is a time for us to reflect on the year and be thankful for the success of our alumni and campus. Since the last update, the DuBois Campus celebrated another Spring commencement, which in turn added new members to the Penn State Alumni Association (PSAA). With each graduating class, the PSAA continues to grow and remain the world’s largest dues-paying alumni association, with membership at 174,379 and growing. These Alumni have the opportunity to stay engaged with the Penn State experience through the activities of the Penn State DuBois Alumni Society.

We are thankful for the direction of the Alumni Society Board, and the opportunities to engage Alumni, students, and the community. This summer and fall have proven to be packed with opportunities to celebrate our Penn State pride.

The Alumni Society hosted a summer picnic in June at Cook Forest. Alumni gathered and enjoyed a day of fun including a group outing on the Clarion River. As the summer came to a close, the Alumni Society Board identified deserving individuals for the annual Alumni Awards Banquet to be held on November 20. We are thankful that the campus has Outstanding Alumni, Robert Ellinger and Craig Pearce, as well as a Distinguished Ambassador, Joyce Fairman, to honor for their outstanding accomplishments and support of the campus.

Each fall the Alumni Society participates in the Homecoming Parade. We are thankful for the enthusiastic Alumni, students, and families that put time and effort into showcasing the Penn State DuBois Campus for all to see.

We are thankful for the opportunity to offer innovative activities to engage Alumni and the community. This year we have collaborated with the Centre County Chapter of the PSAA to showcase the beauty of our region through “A Night in the Wilds” on October 2. We were proud to share the Elk Country Visitor’s Center and expertise of campus alumnus, Rawley Cogan, with fellow Penn State Alumni and friends.

Finally, we are thankful to those who have supported our many events throughout the year. Due to the success of the events, we have been able to add additional scholarship money to directly impact the educational dreams of several students on campus. For this I know that they are thankful.

I hope you take time to reflect on what you are thankful for, and consider creating new experiences and memories with the Alumni Society. We encourage you to become engaged with the campus. We are continually offering opportunities on campus and in the community. There are several ways to stay connected. You can contact the Alumni Relations Officer at 814-375-4775, visit our webpage: www.ds.psu.edu.alumni, or like us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/duboisalumni.
Roen Named Registrar

Chancellor Melanie Hatch announced this summer that Garrett Roen assumed the position of campus registrar on July 1. Roen has been employed in the Enrollment Services Department as an admissions counselor since November of 2006. His educational background includes an associate degree in IST and a bachelor degree in Letters, Arts, and Sciences.

Roen’s technical proficiency and his thorough knowledge of Penn State programs and curriculum gained from his experience as an admissions counselor will be valuable to the campus as he assumes his new duties.

In this new role as the registrar, Roen’s chief responsibilities will include the generation of class schedules, the maintenance of student records, and the collection and processing of student data. His office is housed in the Swift Building.

Smeal to Help Workforce Meet Educational Needs

In July, Chancellor Melanie Hatch was pleased to announce that Michelle Smeal joined the Office of Continuing Education (CE) at Penn State DuBois as an education program associate. She assumes the sales responsibilities previously assigned to John Blasdell prior to his retirement from Penn State.

Smeal’s focus is on program management of onsite contract training and CE credit. She will also oversee the outreach site located at the Community Education Council at 4 Erie Avenue, St. Marys.

Smeal hails from Williamsport, Pennsylvania and is a graduate of Penn State with a B. A. in Economics. She comes to the campus from the United States Department of Agriculture where she interpreted and administered programs. She brings with her many years of sales experience and expertise in organizing, coordinating and managing all aspects of financial and business related organizations.
Several members of the Penn State DuBois family entered retirement this year. Best wishes to these friends as they begin their next chapter. Our sincere thanks and gratitude for your years of dedicated service.

A Fond Farewell....

John Blasedell  
Interim Director of Continuing Education

Diane Gigliotti-Spratt  
Director of the Center for Undergraduate Excellence (CUE)

John Johnson  
Professor, Psychology

Richard Kopley  
Distinguished Professor of English

Mark Matusky  
Assistant Director of Business Services

Jan Monaco  
Administrative Staff, Advising Center

Charles "Hoagie" Schaadt  
Assistant Professor, Wildlife Technology

June Strohm  
Instructor, mathematics

Sally Vavala  
Assistant Professor, HDFS

Christine Klinger  
Administrative Staff, Academic Affairs

Jeff Pernesky  
Technical Service

Brian Weiner  
Professor, physics
Penn State DuBois Alumni Society invites you to re-connect...
There are 9600 Penn State DuBois Alumni.
4600 live in the Greater DuBois Tri-county Area.

Have you re-connected?
Whether you are a Penn Stater from DuBois or another campus you are invited to re-connect to
Penn State through the Penn State DuBois Alumni Society.

There are several events through out the year planned to help you get re-connected, and most of them are
free! Please check out our calendar of events and plan to attend one this year...
...the Board of Directors look forward to connecting with you!

Other ways to re-connect!
facebook: Penn State DuBois Alumni Society & Penn State DuBois Events
Alumni eNews: to subscribe to this quarterly electronic newsletter,
please email duboisalumni@psu.edu subject heading, Alumni eNews.

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_____ Yes, sign me up for the Alumni eNews

Please return this form to: Alumni Relations Office, Penn State DuBois, One College Place, DuBois, PA, 15801
A group of incoming freshmen collaborate on team building exercises around a table in the lower section of the DEF Building during New Student Orientation at the beginning of the fall semester.