

# Bloomsburg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

ALSO INSIDE

## Our Onward is Upward

BU has a bold new brand to better reflect our Husky Spirit.

*Page 10*

## Unleashing Opportunity Together

The Bloomsburg University Foundation raised more than \$10MM last year.

*Page 7*

## Raising Expectations

Provost Diana Rogers-Adkinson has defied expectations and wants to assist others to do the same.

*Page 13*

## Ready for His Second Half

Jahri Evans '07, a standout in the NFL, is making new plays as a businessman and entrepreneur.

*Page 16*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear BU Family,

As I write this note, our students have recently returned to campus, classes have begun, and the fall semester is well underway. The beginning of a new academic year is always a glorious time of year. With the summer months now behind us, this is a time of rejuvenation not only for our students, but for our faculty and staff as well. In addition to welcoming back our returning students, we welcomed the Class of 2023 – always an exciting time for our newest pack of Huskies. Also very recently, I am thrilled that BU was recognized again as one of the nation's best colleges and universities by *Forbes*, *Money.com*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *College Consensus*. What a great testament to our faculty and staff's dedication on behalf of our students.

In this issue of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*, you will read about the launch of our new branding campaign after numerous conversations with many constituents. My thanks to all of you who have been part of this conversation; your voices have been instrumental in this truly comprehensive campaign.

You will also learn about two members of the BU Family who embody the “Husky Spirit” and tackle life's challenges with grit and determination. Our new Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Diana Rogers-Adkinson shares an inspiring story of overcoming long odds – hers is a story that will surely resonate with our students and alumni. Also, Jahri Evans '07 made it to the National Football League and won a Super Bowl over the course of a dozen successful years in the NFL, and he continues that success in his second career as an entrepreneur. Last but certainly not least, you will read about the great accomplishments of our faculty and students, the results of which are making a profound impact on our local community and the world.

With the positive recognition our University is receiving on a national level and the noteworthy initiatives on our campus, there is much for us to be excited about at BU. As always, our students' success remains the heart of our mission. The dedication of the new SEKISUI Professional Experience Lab will help towards that goal. We are determined to prepare our students for personal and professional success during and after their years at Bloomsburg, and I am honored to be leading this charge. I look forward to making this another outstanding year for Bloomsburg University, and thank you for your continued support. I hope you will join us in the coming months, whether for Homecoming in October, or to cheer on our student-athletes this fall season.

**GO HUSKIES!**

Sincerely,  
Bashar W. Hanna  
President



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# Fall 2019



7

## Unleashing Opportunity Together

The Unveiling of the SEKISUI Professional Experience Lab in Greenly Center was the capstone in a year that saw Huskies contribute more than \$10 million to provide new opportunities for students.



10

## Our Onward is Upward

BU is rolling out a new brand this fall, but it's about more than looks. It's about telling the BU story of providing opportunities to students who have talent, drive and a strong work ethic.



13

## Raising Expectations

A first-generation college student herself, Provost Diana Rogers-Adkinson knows what it means to defy expectations. She's made her career helping students do the same.



16

## Ready for His Second Half

After making an impact for 12 years as a guard in the NFL, Jahri Evans '07 is ready for his second half as a businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

## Contents

- 2 Unleash Your Inner Husky
- 4 Common Ground
- 20 Student Focus
- 22 Husky Notes
- 26 View From The Top
- 30 Then & Now
- 32 Calendar

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## Small birds LEAD TO BIG RESEARCH

By Tom McGuire

Students can only learn so much sitting in a classroom. It's the reason Lauri Green, a faculty member in biological and allied health sciences, and graduate student Victoria Roper spent months in the wetlands of Columbia County doing research that may one day save a species of bird that has been in decline in North America.

The project is studying the tree swallow, a bird that feeds on flying insects, and examining nesting, reproductive success, chick growth, and foraging behaviors while comparing populations in natural and artificial wetlands.

Green and Roper started their research in the cold of February 2019 by installing more than 140 bird boxes on three locations near wetlands in Columbia County. In April and May the swallows showed up to start nesting. Then they observed how many birds nested in the boxes, the number of chicks, and their behavior. As Green and Roper returned to check on the birds in the heat of June they were pleasantly surprised to see to hundreds of tree swallow chicks.

"We had six or seven chicks per box and overall occupancy rate of 70 percent, which are very good numbers," says Roper. "After the chicks were born we had a lot of work to do. I was checking the weight of the chicks, drawing blood to compare with insects we captured in the area and measuring the chicks' growth every three days up until they were 12 days old."

"The tree swallow project hibernates for the winter as the birds fly south," says Green. "But we are actively processing data and Victoria is preparing her thesis and master's defense. We'll be sharing our results with everyone when we're done."

The work of the professor and student attracted quite a bit of media attention. The WNEP-TV program "Pennsylvania Outdoor Life" featured the project twice. The story also appeared in Bloomsburg's *Press-Enterprise*, the Scranton *Times-Tribune*, Wilkes-Barre *Citizens Voice*, Hazleton *Standard-Speaker*, and the Shamokin *News-Item*.

»  
*Lauri Green, assistant professor of biological and allied health sciences, is interviewed by Don Jacobs from WNEP's Pennsylvania Outdoor Life.*



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*A group of tree swallow chicks waits to be weighed and measured.*



«  
*Graduate student Victoria Roper takes chicks from a bird box for measurements, left, and measures the growth of a tree swallow chick, below.*



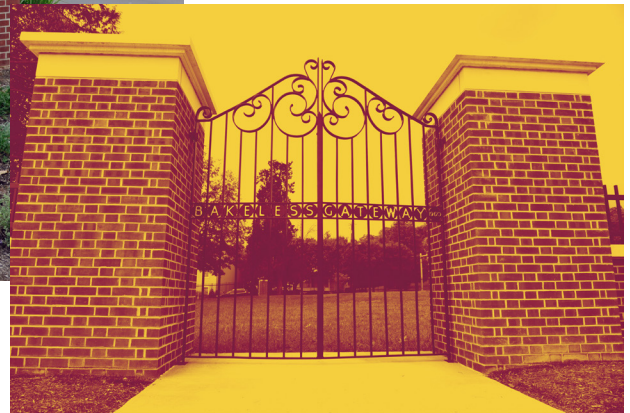
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*BU has a brand-new entrance to go along with an improved intersection on Lightstreet Road between the lower and upper campuses. As part of the gateway project, iron gates that were a gift from the Class of 1960 were installed near the new entrance to campus. The gates were formerly part of Old Waller Hall and were put in storage when that building was taken down.*



## A new welcome to campus

# Middle States Reaffirms **BU** Accreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education has reaffirmed accreditation for Bloomsburg University with no monitoring report. The next evaluation visit is scheduled for 2026-27.

“The reaffirmation is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff and the great work they do each day on behalf of our students,” said President Bashar Hanna.

Middle States institution-wide accreditation is required by the U.S. Department of Education for Bloomsburg University and its students to be eligible for any form of financial assistance from the federal government, including grants, scholarships, and federally guaranteed student loans.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation. Middle States accreditation instills public confidence in institutional mission, goals, performance, and resources through its rigorous accreditation standards and their enforcement.

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**The reaffirmation is a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff and the great work they do each day on behalf of our students.”**  
 – President Bashar Hanna

As part of the process, a steering work group designed an institutional self-study and coordinated the re-accreditation process. Eight working groups were established to thoroughly address the seven standards and compliance components that are the focus of the self-study and review process. Approximately 90 faculty, staff, and students participated in this process.

The self-study highlighted the university’s distinctive mission, the student learning experience, noteworthy accomplishments since last accredited, and areas for improvement. The self-study was submitted in January and the process culminated with a team of peer evaluators who used the report as the basis for their on-site evaluation in March.

## COMMON GROUND

»  
Students with Kerby Confer are, from left: Nassir Bryant, Molly Nesselrodt, and Catherine Rose.

### Campus Radio Station GETS A NEW NAME

BU's student radio station, 91.1 FM, has a new name — **WHSK-FM, Home of the Huskies.**

Since going on air in 1985, the 600-watt radio station had used the call letters WBUQ. "Mr. Confer, who has owned and operated over 200 radio stations, and is an inductee into the Pennsylvania Radio Hall of Fame, made a big investment in the station and has helped spearhead the call letter change to align the station's brand with that of the university," said David Magolis, radio station adviser and Kerby Confer Faculty Fellow for Communications.

"We completed the installation of a complete digital equipment upgrade to the station's studios and it seems appropriate to rebrand the station to highlight the students' connection to the university as Huskies. WHSK, "HUSKY 91.1," said Confer. "Working at the station will be a bonding experience they will take with them for a lifetime."

Last fall Confer pledged \$375,000 to extend his support of the Confer Radio Talent Institute,

hosted by BU each July; as well as an annual scholarship awarded to students majoring in mass communications and a faculty fellowship.

"My thanks to Kerby Confer for his generous support of our radio station, for his expertise and vision, and his passionate belief in our students and their success," said President Bashar Hanna.

"The quality of the broadcasters assembled to teach in this 10-day radio immersion is amazing," said Confer. "In fact, at this moment we are hiring two past Confer Radio Talent Institute graduates."



### Shawver Named Zeigler College of Business Dean

Todd Shawver has been named the dean of the Zeigler College of Business. Shawver had served as interim dean of the college since August of 2018. Previously, he served as chairperson and associate professor of accounting.

As dean, Shawver is responsible, in collaboration with the faculty, for enhancing existing programs, supporting student success, leading accreditation efforts with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and working to identify emerging areas of growth.

Before joining the BU accounting faculty in 2012, Shawver served as a learning and development manager for the Institute of Management Accountants, instructor of accounting at Lafayette College, assistant professor of accounting and finance at Lock Haven University, visiting professor of finance at Bloomsburg University, and adjunct professor of accounting at both Wilkes University and King's College.

Shawver is a graduate of Nova Southeastern University where he earned his Doctor of Business Administration with a finance concentration. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Plymouth State University and a bachelor's degree from New England College. He holds the Certified Management Accountant designation and is a registered tax return preparer as affirmed by the Internal Revenue Service. He also serves as treasurer and vice president of communications for the Pennsylvania Northeast Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants.

## Interoperative Neuromonitoring Program Accredited

BU's post-BA intraoperative neuromonitoring (IONM) certificate program has received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), making it one of just three such accredited programs in the country.

IONM is directly aimed at reducing the risk of neurological deficits after operations that involve the nervous system. IONM makes use of recordings of electrical potentials from the nervous system during surgical operations. Monitoring the state of the nervous system in "real-time" during surgery allows for corrective actions to be implemented if necessary.

BU's IONM program is aimed to bridge the gaps between the increasing demand of qualified technologists and lack of formal educational programs by providing a one-year training program for students interested in pursuing a career as IONM technologists.

The CAAHEP is a programmatic postsecondary accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. CAAHEP currently accredits more than 2,200 entry-level education programs in 33 health science professions.

## Nursing Department Ranked

BU's Department of Nursing is ranked fourth in the state of Pennsylvania by RNCareers.org, which also ranked the program 51st in the nation.

Bloomsburg's overall score is 97.29 percent. Programs were ranked by their accumulated NCLEX-RN passing rates for the last three years as reported by their state board of nursing. Programs such as BU's that are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education were also given a higher ranking. Bloomsburg was the highest ranked school from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in the RNCareers.org ranking.



Photo: Eric Foster

## Zeigler College of Business Partners with Barron's

BU's Zeigler College of Business is offering its students free access to Barron's financial magazine by partnering with the Barron's in Education program.

The partnership, facilitated by the generosity of Barbara Hudock '75, founder and CEO of Hudock Capital Group, will provide students, faculty and staff with in-depth analysis and commentary on the markets, updated every business day online.

"The partnership between Barron's in Education and the university is another great opportunity to invest in the

professional growth of BU students," says Hudock, who has a history of strategic giving at BU.

"This is one of the leading resources available to help students learn about best practices in the finance industry."

Benefits include:

- Barron's digital licenses for business students and faculty
- Distribution of Barron's "Weekly Review" for business faculty
- Guest speakers and webinars available from Dow Jones
- Exclusive opportunities to connect with Barron's corporate recruitment teams for intern and job opportunities



# UNLEASHING OPPORTUNITY

# TOGETHER

By Tom Schaeffer '02



**Hard work gets results, but sometimes, it takes more. And Huskies know that. This past year, the Bloomsburg University community together raised more than \$10 million to create opportunities for student success.**



Signs for the SEKISUI Professional Experience Lab are unveiled by Judge Mary Jane Bowes, chair of the Council of Trustees; Ronn Cort, president and COO, SEKISUI SPI; President Bashar Hanna; and Ian Moran, president of SEKISUI America Corporation.

Two years after the record-breaking \$62 million *It's Personal Campaign*, one might expect philanthropic support to slow down. That would be typical in higher education.

### **Huskies aren't typical.**

During the 2018-19 academic year, nearly 5,000 alumni and friends of BU chose to help the university reach \$10 million in support, funding 971 scholarships (19 of them new), and 181 professional experiences for students.

Support for BU also came from the business community, with an understanding that creating professional training opportunities for BU students elevates the entire region.

On September 5, SEKISUI SPI and BU unveiled the result of a \$500,000 gift and partnership that will propel both the university and region forward. Ronn Cort, SEKISUI president and COO, recently joined the BU Foundation Board because he recognized the shared vision of preparing students for success in the classroom and in the workforce.

"For us, it was an easy decision," says Cort. "We already partner with the university to make sure we can participate in campus events, panels, and professional development opportunities for students who could eventually join our workforce. When I met with Duane Greenly (namesake of the building) we discussed a collaborative space to benefit BU, SEKISUI, and the town. We were considering building something ourselves, but when we heard about

BU's plans for a Professional Experience Lab (PEL) at the Greenly Center, we thought it would make perfect sense to help them build it. This lab allows us to enhance our partnership with BU while also helping them to better serve students, the community and local businesses."

"When I arrived in 2005, I saw hard-working people who would do anything to get a job done," says Cort. "As I met faculty members at BU, I soon found students with that same spirit. But the students were leaving the area after graduating. We needed to retain those talented people."

"If you consider BU a thread, SEKISUI a thread and the town a thread, when you wind them together, the thread is stronger together than separately," says Cort. "We want to see our workers graduate from BU and strengthen all of us."

The SEKISUI PEL will be open year-round as a training center to students majoring in professional selling and marketing and to provide resources to students in all majors in areas like job interviewing, virtual presentations, and competitions to prepare them for professional success.

The Greenly Center also houses BU's Alumni & Professional Engagement team (comprising Career Development, Internships & Alumni Engagement operations) providing an innovative collision space for career and professional development for BU students.

"This gift is a perfect example of just how much impact the support from donors means to our students," says Erik Evans, BU vice president for advancement. "Thousands of students will benefit from these facilities each year."

Notable philanthropic highlights from the year also include a \$400,000 gift to establish Professional U Faculty Fellows and a \$2 million bequest that endowed BU's Anchor Program, which serves teens aging out of the foster care system.

Alumni and friends together supported the university's first Giving Tuesday initiative last November to raise more than \$20,000 in immediate use funds in just one day.

"This year, more than ever before, our community has shown that we realize just how much every gift, no matter the size, impacts student success," says Evans. "One of the most exciting parts of this achievement is the momentum we are building."

The momentum has become contagious. This May, more than a third of graduating seniors made a gift to support BU before receiving their diplomas.

*Watch a video celebration of the Dedication of the SEKISUI PEL*

[bit.ly/2kT88qF](https://bit.ly/2kT88qF)

## **PARTNERS IN SUCCESS**

**Ronn Cort, BU Foundation Board member and president and chief operations officer at SEKISUI SPI, saw an opportunity to support BU students while also partnering with the University. SEKISUI made a \$500,000 gift to create a professional experience lab in downtown Bloomsburg to help prepare students to enter the workforce.**



# Giving by the Numbers

## \$10MM



in total philanthropic support raised to create opportunities for BU student success

## \$1.9MM



in immediate-use funding raised to address student-need

## \$2.2MM



committed through estate intentions

## 4,757



donors made gifts to support the BU community



### INTEGRATING OPPORTUNITIES

BU Foundation Board member Steve Jones '83 pledged a gift of \$400,000 to establish four Professional U Faculty Fellowships. The fellows receive funding to support collaboration with faculty and deans to create a menu of professional experiences — some existing, some new — for students in all of BU's colleges. Jones made his gift in alignment with BU's vision to integrate students' academic experiences with high-impact practices.



### PAYING IT FORWARD

More than one third of the graduating class of 2019 made their first gifts to show thanks for those who supported their BU journey and to support future Huskies. The students' gifts totaled \$10,000, which prompted BU President Bashar W. Hanna to provide a \$5,000 matching gift to support the class of 2019 Scholarship. Shown with President Hanna are the class officers wearing their student philanthropy cords.

# OUR ONWARD IS UPWARD

## Bloomsburg builds a new brand

In the hands of prospective students, on the highway, in ads, on campus and in this magazine, you'll find that Bloomsburg University has a brand new look ... bolder, more vibrant, and running strong with the university colors of maroon and gold.

Launched this fall semester, the new brand is more than skin deep. It's rooted in research — based on a year of study and talking with (and surveying) thousands of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and employees. The goal was to uncover, articulate and differentiate the BU story to support recruitment and elevate the university's reputation.

Partnering with higher-ed branding and marketing firm Ologie, the University collected nearly 4,000 surveys, had more than 400 people attend feedback sessions and student intercepts, and conducted 65 in-depth interviews about

their experiences at BU and what makes the University special.

An overarching theme emerged.

"BU provides raw ability and untapped potential with an opportunity to thrive so that our students become higher-achievers and contributors to their community and industry," says Jennifer Umberger, associate vice president of marketing and communications. "We offer high-quality academics, a high return on investment for this collegiate experience, and a distinct culture and attitude — what we call our Husky Spirit. We're also an economic driver for the region and beyond."

The research resulted in a brand positioning statement to guide both the content and the style of how BU tells its story.



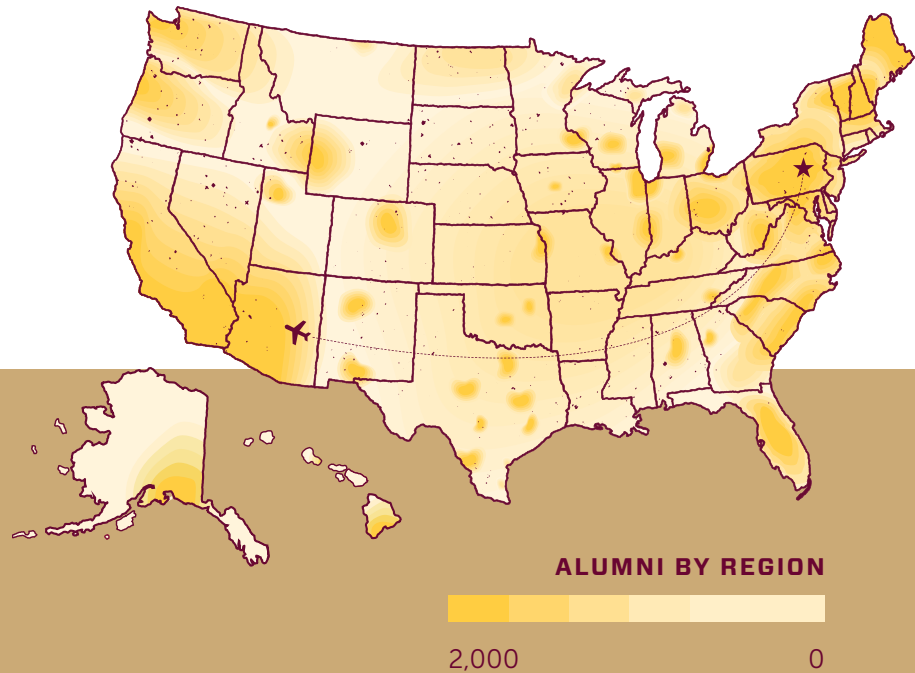
**We believe that opportunity is created—fought for by individuals with a clear vision and fierce determination to achieve. This is why we show up every day, on a mission to transform the lives of our students so that they can succeed while lifting others up. This is the attitude found within every Husky. At Bloomsburg University, creating opportunity for our region, and beyond, has been our vision since the very beginning.**

Alumni and friends played a key role in filling out the Bloomsburg story as they engaged with the surveys, modeling brand personality traits such as “practical, genuine and loyal. (Husky spirit runs strong here.)”

The opportunity for students to make connections with alumni is a major part of BU's new admissions messaging, which highlights the success of BU's 76,000 alumni with a map of showing where alumni live in the U.S. (Hint: All 50 states are covered.)

Through the journey of discovery, the BU family learned a great deal about itself.

## OTHERS TOUT THEIR ALUMNI NETWORKS. OURS IS ALL OVER THE MAP.



“

At Bloomsburg University, we believe opportunity belongs to those who are ready to work for it and unafraid to do something great with it,” says President Bashar Hanna. “Here, our onward is upward. Come along with us.”



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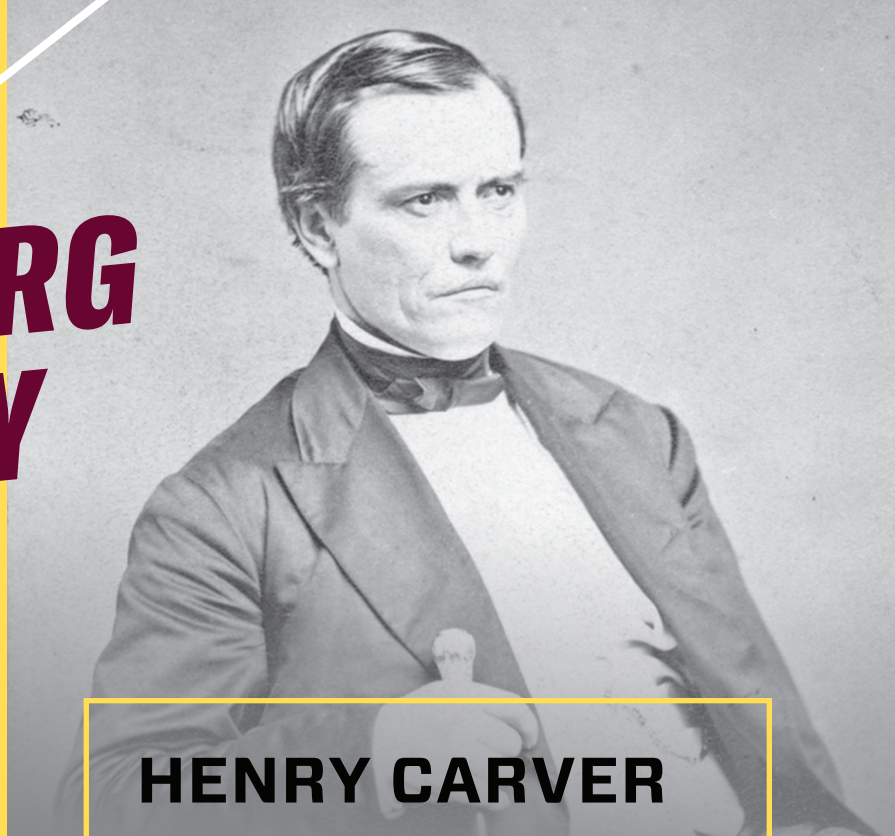
Watch the Video: *Your Onward and Upward Await.* [bit.ly/2mlKV0w](https://bit.ly/2mlKV0w)

# THE BLOOMSBURG STORY

Some see an uphill climb as a sign of struggle. At Bloomsburg University we see it as a sign of strength. Because people who can see past the easy path know how to get the job done. They answer “you can’t” with “watch me.” They work harder. Make more with what they have. And take every challenge as a new way forward.

**Bloomsburg sees this quality, and unleashes it. We see hustle as business sense. Persistence as rigor. Grit as mental toughness. Heart as emotional intelligence. Work ethic as a prerequisite for success.**

**From whiteboard to boardroom to bedside. Employers spot it right away. They put a high value on a Bloom degree, and the person who earned it. And if you’ve got a forward focus and the spirit to back it up, BU is your place. Your onward and upward await at Bloomsburg University.**



## HENRY CARVER

### The iconic founder of BU

The BU personality of today — the motivated go-getter who overcomes obstacles to succeed is rooted strongly in the personality of its first president, Henry Carver.

A native of the New York Catskills, Carver headed academies in Binghamton and Cortlandville, N.Y., before moving west in 1865 to teach at the Oakland College School in Oakland, Calif. While there he lost his left hand in a hunting accident and returned east to recuperate. A trip through Bloomsburg in 1866 changed the town forever. Carver was impressed with the beauty of the area and thought it would be a good place for his wife Elizabeth Ann and children to live. The town also needed an institution to provide a better education than was available.

That April, Carver, 44 years old, reopened the Bloomsburg Literary Institute (originally chartered in 1856) in the old academy building that had been built downtown in 1839. While institute trustees raised money for a new building, Carver designed, then constructed the new facility, laying some of the bricks himself. Institute Hall was dedicated in April of 1867 and 60 years later was renamed Carver Hall in his honor.

In addition to serving as principal, Carver was a professor of mental and moral science and taught the theory and practice of teaching. Carver left Bloomsburg shortly after an illness forced him to miss most of the winter term in 1871. But in five short years he laid the foundation for what would one day become a state university. After Bloomsburg, he served as an educator in Colorado, New York, New Jersey and back to Pennsylvania before his death from illness in Colorado in 1889.



# RAISING EXPECTATIONS

By Eric Foster

*BU's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, Diana Rogers-Adkinson, knows what it's like to be counted out.*

"My mother has a high school sophomore education. Her mother, an eighth grade education. My graduation from high school was an accomplishment," says Rogers-Adkinson, who joined BU in June.

College was not a family tradition.

"My grandpa Rogers was offered a full football scholarship at Indiana University and turned it down because we weren't those kinds of people ... meaning going to college. We didn't

need college, so my dad went to work in his dad's wreath factory when he graduated at 18," she says.

"My mom had me, rather than finishing high school. Dad had summer parenting duty. By the time I was 12, I was making wreaths every summer, threading branches into a ring and blistering my fingers through the gloves."

"There are quite a few people who would not have predicted I'd be where I am now."

So Diana Rogers-Adkinson has firsthand experience in defying expectations. And helping others defy expectations

is a big part of the reason she chose to come to Bloomsburg.

Being an educator was her dream. "In kindergarten, I wanted to be a teacher. I played school as a kid. It was always there," says Rogers-Adkinson, who became passionate about students with special needs in high school. "I had an aunt who incurred mental retardation through contracting meningitis. I had an interest in special education and volunteered in the special education room in high school. I chose Ball State over studying in Massachusetts, where my mom lived, because of their special education program."

"Higher education unlocked a lot of doors for me," says Rogers-Adkinson. "My experience at Ball State was a pretty eye-opening one. I probably didn't think I was that smart."

"Bloomsburg has a reputation for unlocking doors as well," she adds. "Having done my doctoral work in Ohio and knowing the Pennsylvania system, it always was on my list of top regional comprehensive universities. There were certain characteristics I looked for in institutions when I was applying. A small-town campus that's not too far from cities. Programs such as learning communities, and a strong commitment to community engagement."

"You've got the students coming from Philadelphia, you have students coming from farms, and you've got everybody in between. I like that opportunity to have students who come with a variety of voices," she says. "We need — as a nation, as a community — to be able to carry on conversations across a variety of voices. Higher education is a place where that's supposed to happen. Regional comprehensives like Bloomsburg have a better ability to do that because we're serving the typical population of our communities and our states."

In her new position, Rogers-Adkinson oversees the University's Office of Academic Affairs, which includes the College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Technology, and the Zeigler College of Business, as well as technology and library services, undergraduate education, graduate studies and sponsored research, and institutional effectiveness.

"I see the role of the provost as being a pivot point between advancing the agenda of the president and advocating for the faculty," she says. "Sometimes a provost's job is to slow down the president, and sometimes it will be to speed up the faculty."

In the next year she will also oversee the development of BU's new 10-year strategic plan.

"The strategic plan should align our role in creating learned citizens for Pennsylvania," says Roger-Adkinson. "It's there to remind us of our true north of what we're supposed to accomplish and how we spend funds from students' tuition and the taxpayers in a very thoughtful way."

"I've been working with President (Bashar) Hanna consulting with institutions that have excellent strategic

plans. We're debating whether to have an internal facilitation process rather than hiring a company. We're lucky we had our Middle States accreditation visit last year, so there are a lot of things we've already done that can be transferred to the strategic plan. Over the next academic year, we will define work groups to assess areas of campus need. There will be many ways that we will include the campus community fall and spring."

“

**Our students graduating today may live to the year 2100. What kind of experiences will they need to be prepared for the year 2100? Preparing them with those experiences, that's the big challenge.”**

Rogers-Adkinson is an unapologetic data geek, especially when talking about institutional effectiveness. "Decisions have to be data-driven. It allows us to know what we're doing and share that information with a donor or a member of the legislature. That's why I love this stuff."

*Provost Diana Rogers-Adkinson has started informal morning coffee meetings with students and faculty.*







*Rogers-Adkinson was formerly a nationally-ranked master sprinter and remains a fan of Indy Car racing.*

Outside the office, she and her husband, Greg, are down-to-earth fans of Indy car racing. She is so passionate about the sport that she served on driver Sarah Fisher's team as an educational consultant in preparing materials to engage girls in science and engineering.

Their two sons — Alex, who is starting an MFA program in sculpture in Florida, and Zach, who has come to Pennsylvania with them — and two cats and a pair of Australian shepherds.

And their family extends to two other young people who they helped raise: Aron and Liz.

"Aron was in my freshman learning community when he went to college at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater with circumstances that caused him to need another parent or two. So we never gave Aron up. And we also added Liz to our family. She was in my learning community and grew up in foster care. Tragically, her foster mother died her freshman year of college."

"They're fun kids to have brought along. They call me and Greg about the things kids call their parents about," says Rogers-Adkinson. "Aron and Liz taught me about what's happening for students outside of the classroom. It helped me see the whole student."

As provost, Rogers-Adkinson will be a key leader in ensuring Bloomsburg continues to open doors for another generation of students as she and her husband opened their doors for Aron and Liz.

"We have a student-centered campus," she says. "But we need to expand the definition of student-centered. We need to prepare students to be thinkers in addition to providing them with the facts to do a job. Because the jobs they will have in their lives may not exist today."

"Our students graduating today may live to the year 2100. What kind of experiences will they need to be prepared for the year 2100? Preparing them with those experiences, that's the big challenge."

## **Diana Rogers-Adkinson** **Career**

**Southeast Missouri State University,  
Cape Girardeau, Mo.**  
**2012–2019**

Dean, College of Education, Health, and Human Studies, leading seven departments serving 3,100 undergraduate and 500 graduate students. (Previously dean of the College of Education)

Supervised University Autism Center, Lift for Life Charter School, Reading Recovery Program and Regional Professional Development Center.

Co-founded the Core Academy: Investing in Innovation group, which brought technology into rural schools and received \$300,000 in grants.

**University of Wisconsin–Whitewater**  
**1999–2012**

Professor and chair, Department of Special Education  
Inaugural director of the University Learning Communities

**Wichita State University, Wichita, Kan.**  
**1994–1999**

Assistant professor

**Special education teacher**  
**1983–1989**

## **Education**

**Kent State University, Kent, Ohio**

Doctorate in Special Education, emphasis on research

Doctorate in Counseling and Human Development Services, emphasis on marriage and family therapy

Doctoral teaching fellow

**Ball State University, Muncie, Ind.**

Bachelor's degree in Special Education

## **Additional Education**

American Council on Education Leadership, Advancing to the Chief Academic Officer, October 2017

American Academic Leadership Institute — Becoming a Provost Academy, 2015-2016 Cohort

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Leadership Academy, June 2013

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Higher Education Leadership Management Development Program, June 2007

**READY FOR HIS**

# **SECOND HALF**

By Tom McGuire





Photo: Douglas Benedict

## **If the life of a professional athlete is looked at like the length of a game, Jahri Evans '07 is starting his second half.**

After spending 12 years as a standout guard in the NFL with the New Orleans Saints and Green Bay Packers, preventing future Hall of Fame quarterbacks like Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers from getting pounded into the turf, Evans now wrangles with business plans, employee hires, and multiple business interests.

Evans came to Bloomsburg University on an academic scholarship. As a Frankford High School player in Philadelphia, he had been recruited by many of the "big time" universities before a broken leg dried up most athletic scholarship offers. But his Frankford head coach Tom Mullineaux made sure any college coach who came to recruit one of his other players also spoke with Evans.

Paul Darragh, then a Huskies assistant coach and now head coach, says Evans passed the "eye-test" and on his recommendation, former BU head coach Danny Hale was sold.

Evans earned a Board of Governor's scholarship and turned down several Division I offers after coming to visit Bloomsburg and falling in love with the campus.

At BU, he soon established himself as a player who had the skills needed to play in the NFL. He was named twice to the Associated Press Little All-America first team and became a finalist for the Gene Upshaw Award, which recognizes the top lineman in Division II each season.

Chosen by the Saints in the fourth round of the 2006 NFL Draft, Evans just wanted to make the roster that first year. But an injury to the player in front of him put him in the starting lineup, and he stayed there for 11 years, winning a Super Bowl ring in 2009.

Now 36 and a graybeard in the world of football, Evans is seizing the second half of his life with the same power and passion he deployed to prepare for a big game.

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**Playing football came naturally to me, but being a businessman is tough. I'm learning as I go. But I'm enjoying the ride.”**

**– Jahri Evans**

Standing on the rooftop deck of his condo near Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, he is just steps from Independence Hall with a million-dollar skyline view of the City of Brotherly Love. Behind him is the Ben Franklin Bridge and a view of New Jersey. With his wife, Takia, and young son, Atlas, by his side, Evans has beaten the odds every step of the way in his journey.

One statistic he has heard many times is that more than 80 percent of NFL players go bankrupt within five years of their careers ending. He has bucked that trend in a big way, and it wasn't luck. After hitting the weight room, Evans was hitting the books.

"The first program I did was the franchising boot camp at the business school at the University of Michigan," says Evans, who has a degree in exercise science from BU. "Then I earned my MBA from the University of Miami. It was a two-year program during the off-season. There were very long days, averaging about 12 hours a day, with about 20 professional athletes and entertainers from WWE [wrestling], tennis and more. After classes were over, we would then meet with our tutors for additional help. It wasn't easy."

Evans started investing in Bloomsburg and New Orleans real estate back in 2007, and now owns residential and commercial properties in three states. He co-owns a 24-hour fitness center in Bucks County with his long-time personal trainer and BU alum Julius King '03/'05M. He's also part owner of several restaurants in the Philly area, has an interest in a Napa Valley winery called OneHope, and is part owner in a vacation club company called G2G (Getaway2Give) Collection. Both G2G and the winery, where every bottle of wine sold benefits a charity, recently passed \$10 million in charitable donations. He also has an interest in a venture capital company with investments around the globe.

And football is still very much a part of his life. Evans is a minority owner of the Philadelphia Soul of the Arena Football League (AFL), which led him to purchase an interest in the league. "We originally reduced the number of teams in the AFL, but are coming off a year where we added teams in Columbus, Ohio and Atlantic City with more expansion next year," he notes.

"Marques Colston (former Saints teammate) got me started with the Arena League," Evans continues. "We're the second oldest football league in the country behind the NFL. It's also great getting to work with fellow BU alum Nick Giuffre '78, who is also part owner of the Soul. He is a great guy with lots of experience."

Giuffre, who didn't know Evans before he was brought into the Soul's ownership group, has been very impressed by his business acumen.

"Jahri wasn't hands-on at first, but he is a smart guy who now asks a lot of questions," says Giuffre. "Plus, because of his NFL



Evans working out at All Fitness 24 with fellow alumnus and gym co-owner Julius King (right) '03/'05M.

connection, he has street cred with the players. He's really a great guy."

But Evans finds that running a business has headaches of an entirely different sort than the clash of linemen.

The toughest challenge? That's an easy one. "Employees," Evans deadpans. "I've never had to deal with employees before. Finding good managers is tough. There is a lot of turnover in the restaurant business. Good people are out there, you just have to keep looking for them, all the time. Playing football came naturally to me, but being a businessman is tough. I'm learning as I go. But I'm enjoying the ride."

While business has become his focus, the Jahri Evans Foundation and its work in Philadelphia schools has been a big part of his life for many years.

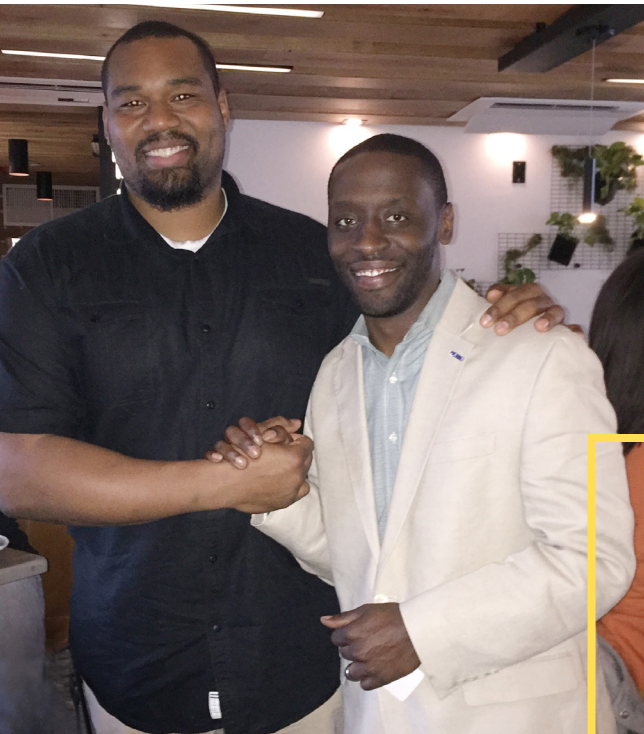
The foundation was created in 2008 to help student-athletes learn that academic excellence paves the way to athletic excellence with encouragement, determination and hard work. Evans and his foundation have made more than \$1.5 million in charitable donations to date, including donations to the Philadelphia School District, building and rebuilding of homes with Habitat for Humanity, the Wounded Warrior Project, United Way, and Operation Home in New Orleans for residents and military veterans, as well as donations to many other youth organizations and community groups.

The foundation hosted a free youth football and cheerleading camp for 11 years with more than 300 youth participating annually that featured several NFL players from Philadelphia. "It is important for me to give back to the Philadelphia School District that I grew up in and to help the students in the city," Evans says. "The goal is to drive home the importance of education and encourage continuous higher learning and establish healthy habits. We also help with school supplies and food drives, clothing and bike drives and assisting the educators in the system. My sister, Carmella Green is a teacher. She works in the school district and runs the foundation."



^  
The Jahri Evans Foundation hosted more than 300 youth annually at his football camp

Evans at SOMO SoPhi with Philadelphia Councilman At-Large Isaiah Thomas.  
v



Takis and Jahri Evans holding son, Atlas.  
Photo: Jaime North  
v



Edward J. '77 and Julianne Miller '77 Breiner  
Nik...  
Jahri D. Evans '07

Evans also has been an active supporter of both academic and athletic scholarships at Bloomsburg, contributing more than \$1 million, including \$500,000 for a new video scoreboard for Redman Stadium last year.

He is also very giving of his expertise in what it takes to get a business started.

"I get many proposals given to me for the next 'can't miss' deal," says Evans. "Fortunately, I know what to look for when I receive pitches. One of my employees — a chef at our restaurant — has a company and a brand that she's trying to build. And she was asking me about a business plan. And typically a business starts with ideas. You take those ideas and then you develop a plan and put it down and step by step you add to it or take some things away from it. She's going to be going places for sure."

“

**It is important for me to give back to the Philadelphia School District that I grew up in and to help the students in the city.”**  
– Jahri Evans

While he is all but officially retired from football, if ... by chance ... the right chance came along, would he strap on the helmet one more time?

"An offer would have to be extremely generous and would have to be with a future Hall of Fame quarterback that can win now," Evans says with a smile, joking that "I'd also need to have written into the deal no training camp, no weigh-ins the day before games, no bed checks and no curfews. Those could be deal-breakers."

"I'd certainly think about a career in coaching, especially if Atlas decides to take up 'Dad's game,'" he says. "But more importantly, I just want to stay around the game in some way, educating the next generation."

But he doesn't see himself sitting with a drink on the beach as he paints watercolor sunsets. Rather, he'll be most happy continuing as a hands-on business owner and passing on the grit and determination needed to succeed to the next generation. A real American dream.

# Lifting up migrant children

By Tom McGuire

Students in BU's College of Education are playing an important role in the Migrant Education Program (MEP) in both Hazleton and Harrisburg, giving children of migratory agriculture workers a better chance at academic success.

At both sites, BU is partnering with the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit Migrant Education Program to facilitate a summer school/camp experience for English learners over a four-week period. Established nationally more than 50 years ago, the MEP provides educational support to a highly mobile student population.

Caryn Terwilliger, associate professor of teaching and learning, spearheads the program for BU students.

"Our education majors participating in the MEP summer school/camp earn college credit while gaining valuable teaching experience that provides language and academic support to assist English learners," Terwilliger says. "Having BU education majors working with learners in their certification area and being mentored by MEP teachers creates opportunities for these future teachers to understand how to plan and implement learning activities that are meaningful and relevant to the varied needs of their learners."

One BU graduate involved with the program, Jenny Lipps '16, knows firsthand how the students feel because she arrived in the United States from Ecuador in 1992 not knowing English.

"It was important for me to be part of this program because I wanted to share what I know, and work to become a teacher," says Lipps. "I know exactly what these students feel when they walk into the classroom and don't understand anything."

"In class, when you can't understand what's being said, it's like waking up from a coma," says Lipps. "You can't comprehend anything. You have to learn how to do everything all over again. Even how to dress and eat, all while trying to learn a new culture."

Children can be in the program for up to three years and in those three years can have quite a progression in their skills. Reina Alberto '18, a native of the Dominican Republic, is in her third year with MEP.

"There was a student in the class my first year when I was doing a practicum," says Alberto. "I've had him in class for each of the three years I have been here and I can really see the progression in language and confidence."

"The benefits of the MEP summer school/camp always



Reina Alberto works with two of the students in the program

“

**In class, when you can't understand what's being said, it's like waking up from a coma. You can't comprehend anything. You have to learn how to do everything all over again. Even how to dress and eat, all while trying to learn a new culture."**

– Jenny Lipps



BU graduates and students, from left: Jenny Lipps '16, Rebecca Bove '19, Reina Alberto '18, Molly McCafferty '18, Michael Fox '17, Alissa Hetherington '20

exceeds what our education majors expect," Terwilliger says. "Not only does this experience develop their ideas about teaching and learning, but it also enhances their cultural awareness."





# AN INTERNSHIP WITH INSPIRATION

By Jaime North

Clayton Newton's local summer marketing internship with SEKISUI SPI was more than just a valuable professional experience. In some ways it was life-changing.

"I felt like SEKISUI actually wanted me to work there and that I wasn't a frivolous intern," says Newton, a dual international business and marketing major at BU. "Their culture was positive, inviting, capable, and efficient." This approach was loud and clear to Newton.

"They wowed me each week with their productivity and ability to get things done," Newton says. "Every department practiced Kaizen (Japanese for continuous improvement). Each fellow intern told me about some large new project that was going on in their department that would bring them to new efficiencies."

"I was taken back when I learned about the workloads each department took on and championed. In addition to learning about the company, SEKISUI added a need for positive culture and progressive thinking to my standards for my next job search. Because of them, I'll be investigating more than just salary for my first full-time position."

Newton's many job duties over the summer provided him a diverse list of business and marketing skills he'll now take into his job search. Among them are supporting a sales team, shipping procedures, designing trade show exhibits and corporate communications.

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**Our aspirations will become more in line with what we need. We can now collaborate on our own campus with an \$11 billion titan that constantly redefines what's possible in plastics. What better example to follow than that?**  
– Clayton Newton

"I learned that work is a place where relationships develop," Newton says. "I made friends there of all ages, and I didn't expect to make any. I guess that's my inexperience talking, but each week I learned more about the people around me and by the end I felt lucky to be able to call my colleagues friends."

Newton sees BU's relationship with SEKISUI only growing stronger and more beneficial for students. Being able to interact and observe the company's forward-thinking approach, corporate efficiency and access to its internal career opportunities is a distinct advantage, he says.

"Our aspirations will become more in line with what we need," Newton says. "We can now collaborate on our own campus with an \$11 billion titan that constantly redefines what's possible in plastics. What better example to follow than that?"



# design to Purpose

By Susan Field

If you've spent much time online, there's a good chance you've encountered the work of Philadelphia's Think Company without knowing it. Think Company works within companies to make software and websites simple and easy to use with more than 100 clients globally, including Comcast, Transamerica, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and Merck.

"Companies realize that one of the most important differentiators, maybe the most important, is a great customer experience," says CEO Russ Starke, '97M instructional technology. "One that is intuitive, consistently accessible, and useful across devices."

Think's leadership team includes three other BU alumni; Dave Kitchenman, senior vice president of client engagement, '88 marketing, Doug Gnutti, vice president of client engagement, '98M instructional technology, and Greg Greiner, director of technical delivery, '91 computer science.

"The core principles of this company are strongly influenced by what I learned in BU's MSIT program," says Starke. "Without Bloomsburg University, I wouldn't be where I am today. Think Company might exist without my involvement, but it wouldn't look like it does now. We put intentionality and rigor



“  
The core principles of this company are strongly influenced by what I learned in BU's MSIT program. Without Bloomsburg University, I wouldn't be where I am today. Think Company might exist without my involvement, but it wouldn't look like it does now.”  
— Russ Starke





**“  
The people who are hardest on you are the  
ones that teach you the most about yourself  
and real life.” – Dave Kitchenman**

around design, and that came from the MSIT program. All of us who went to BU knew that others coming out of its programs would be rock solid.”

In 12 years, the company has grown from one location and a handful of staff to three sites and a team of 112. Think Company has been named a “Small Giant” by *Forbes*, ranked a top workplace by Philly.com and the *Philadelphia Business Journal*, and repeatedly listed on the Inc. 5000 list.

Think grew from lunch break conversations with Starke and co-founders Brian McIntire and Carl White at their old jobs. “We said, “it would be fantastic to have windows we could open and big open collaborative spaces ... we should just get a brownstone somewhere,” says Starke. “We decided, we have something special here, let’s make a run at starting this company.” In 2007 they launched Think Brownstone, later rebranded as Think Company.

Kitchenman has fond memories of BU as a marketing major. “In my senior year, professor Alan Carey was extremely tough on our class, but I learned the most from him. The people who are hardest on you are the ones that teach you the most about yourself and real life,” says Kitchenman, who was also a defensive back on the Huskies football team that went to the NCAA playoffs for the first time in school history during his sophomore year in 1985.

Greiner recalls his computer science program as supportive and providing a solid technical foundation that helped him land software development and technical project management jobs

out of college. Professor Paul Hartung, in particular, continued to serve as a mentor after graduation.

“When I think of all the people I went through school with, they’re all over the country now. It’s a very wide network that I continue to draw from,” says Greiner, who now works from Atlanta. Starke and Gnutti were referred to the

**“  
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Flexible  
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most important  
thing I learned.”  
– Doug Gnutti**



MSIT program by professors at their undergraduate universities. “Usually you learn in a box, but with the MSIT program, you got out of the classroom very quickly and that applicability was key,” says Gnutti.

The MSIT program includes a Corporate Advisory Council practicum that Gnutti and Starke found invaluable.

The practicum starts with a request for proposals from a real company. Students work in teams to come up with solutions and pitch their ideas to a professional audience.

“In each class, we were talking about how to solve challenges. Over the course of the semester, you learned how to work with a team and deliver a pitch. You had to have the ability to articulate ideas both credibly and creatively, and to have grace under pressure,” Gnutti says. “Flexible thinking was probably the most important thing I learned.”

Starke and Gnutti remember the influence of professors Mary Nicholson, Timothy Phillips, and Karl Kapp. “Nicholson showed us that you don’t have to be cutthroat to be credible,” says Starke. “She was generous, supportive, and gave us a lot of freedom, but also knew how to give tough feedback and rein us in if we were going off track.” Gnutti cites Kapp as a mentor, and regularly consults him to help with client projects.

While Starke and his team all earned their degrees before the rise of the internet and cell phones (Starke and Gnutti’s first email addresses began with bloomu), the technical and interpersonal skills they found at BU remain a foundation of their success.

“The best designers and technicians are successful because of their ability to operate according to a set of principles that transcend any tool, language or technology,” says Starke.

**“  
When I think of all the people I went through  
school with, they’re all over the country now.  
It’s a very wide network that I continue to  
draw from.” – Greg Greiner**





## J.C. Lee film ‘Luce’ in theatres

J.C. Lee '05 is cowriter of the film “Luce” with director Julius Onah. Adapted from Lee’s play of the same name, the film focuses on a married couple and their son, adopted from Eritrea, whose status as an all-star student is threatened by an alarming discovery by a devoted teacher. Stars include Naomi Watts, Octavia Spencer and Tim Roth. The film has earned a 93% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and a 7.2 star rating on IMDB.com. It’s been reviewed by *Variety*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New York Times*.

“Luce” will be screened on campus Thursday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 15, at 4:30 p.m.

## 3 Alumni named CPA leaders

Three BU alumni have been recently elected to leadership positions for the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs (PICPA). Timothy J. Gooch '83, CPA, was elected vice president; John J. Kaschak '98, CPA, was elected to council; and Melissa M. Wolf '01, CPA, was named to the nominations committee.

Gooch is a partner with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP in Wellsboro, specializing in small business consulting services, tax planning, and compliance. He serves on PICPA’s Natural Resources Committee. Gooch also serves as treasurer and a past president of the Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce, as well as a finance committee member of St. Peter’s Catholic Church.

Kaschak is the executive deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. He serves on PICPA’s Local Government Accounting and Auditing Committee. Kaschak is on the boards of Grace United Methodist Church and Grace Christian Child Care.

Wolf is a senior manager with Baker Tilly Virchow Krause LLP in Wilkes-Barre, specializing in employee benefit plan audits and Form 5500. She serves on PICPA’s Committee on Professional Ethics, Employee Benefits Plan Committee, and Employee Benefits Plan Conference Planning Subcommittee. Wolf is also secretary/treasurer of the board of directors for Leadership Wilkes-Barre.



Timothy J. Gooch '83,



John J. Kaschak '98



Melissa M. Wolf '01



## Tomcavage named chief nursing executive

Janet Tomcavage '80, has been named chief nursing executive at Geisinger Health.

Tomcavage, former chief population office, has been with Geisinger since 2014, and most recently helped launch Geisinger at Home, a home-based care model for medically complex patients. She has held various senior leadership roles, including serving as chief administrative officer at Geisinger Health Plan, which serves nearly 600,000 members.

Tomcavage is the first Geisinger nurse to receive the Pennsylvania Nightingale Award for clinical excellence. She also is an active member in several professional societies and has served in various leadership roles in the American Nurses Association and the Alliance of Community Health Plans.

## '60s

» **Dennis Siegmann '68** was inducted into the Connecticut chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame after earning a Lifetime Service award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla.

» **Patricia Budd, Ph.D., '69** received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award presented by *Marquis Who's Who*.

» **Dennis Crim '69** was honored in Harrisburg in August for 50 years of officiating with the PIAA in football, wrestling, and lacrosse. Crim has officiated football at both the high school level as well as NCAA Divisions 1, 2, and 3. For several years he was a TV communicator for the NFL at the Eagles' home games and is now the instant replay coordinator for the Northeast Conference.

## '70s

» **Rev. Donald H. Geyer '73** was ordained in The Wesleyan Church in 2005 while serving as part-time assistant pastor and full-time comptroller at Ark Safety. He retired from Ark Safety after 38 years in 2013 to take a full-time pastorate at Agape Fellowship in Christ Church, Harrisburg. He earned a Master of Divinity degree in 2014.

## '80s

» **Michael Wentz '80** retired from The Industry Data Exchange Association, Arlington, Va. Wentz was executive vice president of sales and marketing since 2010. He started his electrical industry career 38 years ago with a distribution software company.

» **David Fenstermacher '84** is vice president of Precision Medicine and Data Sciences, Mountain View, Calif. Fenstermacher is responsible for overseeing the company's data management solutions for precision health and drug discovery applications at leading cancer centers, academic institutions, health care providers, and pharmaceutical companies.

» **Wayne Frick '85** is inventor, founder, and chief product evangelist at Chirpsounds, a Bluetooth microphone system that allows backyard birders to hear birds with their windows closed.

» **Gene Kinney '89** is chief executive officer, director, and president of Prothema Corporation in Ireland. Kinney was senior vice president, of Pharmacological Sciences at Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Kinney also held positions at Bristol-Myers Squibb and was an assistant professor at the Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

## '90s

» **Joseph Bergstein '93** is senior vice president and chief financial officer of PPL Corporation, Allentown. Bergstein has been with PPL for 20 years, most recently as vice president-investor relations and corporate development and planning.

» **Sara Parrish '99/'04M** was recently promoted to assistant principal of Solanco High School in Lancaster County.

## '00s

» **Jessica Zimmerman Llanaez '00** received the 2019 Staff Person of the Year for the Denville Township School District in Denville, N.J. Llanaez, recognized for her dedication and passion for teaching, has been teaching grades 1 through 3 at Riverview Elementary School since 2001.

» **Susan M. Moyer '01** received a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science from Villanova University, where she was selected as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Future of Nursing Scholar. Moyer is a registered nurse, certified nurse educator, a member of Sigma Theta Tau International nursing honor society, and an assistant professor of nursing in the College of Science and Technology at Millersville University. She was employed as an assistant professor in the associate degree nursing program at Reading Area Community College.

» **Christopher Thompson '02** is manager of football operations of the New York XFL team. He was the director of football operations for the Atlanta Legends of the Alliance of American Football. Previously, Thompson was the offensive coordinator and director of football operations for the Albany Empire of the Arena Football League and head coach and assistant general manager of the Lehigh Valley

Steelhawks. He was named the National Arena League coach of the year in 2017. Since 2012 Thompson coaches a team in the annual college football all-star game for the FCS National Bowl.

» **Laura McCourt '09** graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree.

## '10s

» **Kimberlee Courtney '10** is director of marketing at CCI Consulting, Blue Bell. Courtney is the firm's first dedicated marketing manager.

» **Emily Barge '13** is communications and marketing manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence, Harrisburg. Barge will lead the branding and communications strategies for the center and its foundation expanding the center's reach to dairy stakeholders through social media, press releases, web content, email marketing, earned media and other digital marketing efforts.

» **Jacob Miller '15** is director of athletics media relations at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C. Miller recently served as the first assistant sports information director and new media manager at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, N.C.

» **Lauren Oliveri '16** has joined Klebon Insurance Group, Elysburg. Oliveri started her insurance career in 2017 and is licensed in property, casualty and life insurance.

» **Samantha Gross '17** received a Video of the Year Award for "Sports Betting Gambling Concern," first place in the category TV/Online Spot News "Little Falls Flash Flooding" and first place in the category Sports Feature "Ready, Set, Curl" from The Garden State Journalist Association. Gross is an associate producer at The Video Call Center, Palisades, N.Y.

» **Matthew Bamonte '17M** is a learning experience designer with Amazon Robotics, Reading, Mass.



# THE LINE UP

## Marriages

Alice Wesner '91 and Thornton Bobbert, May 11, 2019

Susan Goetz Honomichl '99 and William Mansfield, Dec. 1, 2018

Jennifer Fitzgeorge '05 and Nick D'Arcy, May 31, 2019

Adrienne Mael '08 and Maximilan Angle

Kaitlyn Schiccatano '10 and BrianSchroyer, July 13, 2019

Cassandra Carns '11 and Joseph Anczarski '11, Sept. 15, 2018

Shannon Ettl '12 and Kyle Lichtner '12, Feb. 9, 2019

Jennifer Bree '13 and Timothy Gill '12, June 10, 2017

Julia DeVincent '13 and Nick Donofry '14, July 13, 2019

Sarabeth Clever '14 and John George '13, July 20, 2019

Chloe Stine '16 and Matthew Harris '16, June 22, 2019

Morgan Miller '17 and Mark Grove '17, Aug. 1, 2018

Rebecca Yannes '17 and Hunter Samec '18, Aug. 3, 2018

Avery Roberts '18 and Victoria Herbenner

## Births

Sarah Burkhardt Snyder '10 and husband, Dan, a daughter, Charlotte James, Dec. 12, 2018

Kristen Brockman (Barrett) '07 and husband, Tim, '06, a son, Andrew Barrett, July 3, 2019

Joseph Anczarski '11 and wife, Cassandra '11, a daughter, Scarlett Wade, Aug. 8, 2019

## Obituaries

Donald Rabb '43  
William Selden '43  
James Stimmel '47  
Francis Hantz '49  
Arlene Pope Bohner '50  
Luther Roth '50  
Stephen Sakalski '50  
Muriel Wagner Brush '51  
Richard Kressler '51  
Shirley Ashner Rabuck '51  
Leon Coval '52  
Samuel Yeager '53  
Phyllis McLaren Barkley '54  
Virginia Roth Price '55  
George Chaump '58  
Robert Smith '58  
George Fetterman '61  
Dean Morgan '61  
Mildred Linetty '62  
Janice Gerber Rudy '62  
William Steinhart '62  
Thomas J. Davis '63

Kathryn Deibler Garinger '63  
Mary Palevich Lemma '63  
Dennis Reiter '63  
Anthony Conser '65  
Roberta Kistler Sittler '65  
Cecelia Gross Smith '66  
Harry Balliet '67  
Carol Rhinard '67  
Gale Kovalich Kleha '68  
Betty L. Dietz '69  
Francis Hawke '69  
Linda Mackavage Pender '69  
Thomas Smeltzer '69  
Barbara Tommor Balkunas '71  
Gayle Elizabeth Thorpe Baar '71  
Vida Richendrfner Horn Creveling '71  
Norma Link '72  
Casandra Marasco Grutza '73  
Gary Violanti '74  
Karen Beasley Hiller '77  
Frank Kile '77  
Virginia "Ginny" Cummings '82  
Scott Righter '84  
Donald Traugh '80  
Ronald Gayton '88  
Kenneth Paisley '88  
Lori Lewis Esposito '89  
David John '89  
James Lilley '90  
Paul Dietz '91  
Denise Guinn-Bailey '94  
Jared Hontz '98  
Patricia Hines '98  
Christopher Pawlowski '16

*\*Correction: Charles Ryan '82 and Gail Reiss Heimbach '82 were inadvertently listed in the obituaries in the Spring 2019 issue. We regret the error.*

Send information to: [magazine@bloomu.edu](mailto:magazine@bloomu.edu)

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## IN MEMORIUM - BU Foundation Board Treasurer



James Slamon '74, BU Foundation Board treasurer, died in an airplane crash in Labrador, Canada, on July 15. At Bloomsburg, he earned a degree in accounting and later earned his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

Slamon, age 67, had retired as the chief financial officer of United States Cold Storage in 2015 after working for the firm for more than 30 years. Slamon was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed traveling to hunt and fish. Since retirement he has been active in the Tunkhannock Presbyterian Church and the local food pantry.

Born in Wilkes-Barre April 16, 1952 he was the son of Dorothy Slamon and the late James Slamon. In addition to his mother, he is survived by, sister, Janie Slamon and brother-in-law, Bruce Luff, of Emmaus; nephews, Samuel and Thomas Luff; niece, Beth Luff. He was predeceased by his sister, Nancy.



«  
 Julia DeVincent '13 and Nick Donofry '14 were married on July 13 in Philadelphia. DeVincent was a BU swimmer and Donofry played baseball. Their wedding was attended by many alumni and alumni athletes.

»  
 BU alumni from the greater Harrisburg area gathered for an alumni social at Crostwater Distillery in Lewisberry in August. Alumni enjoyed some refreshments while learning more about Crostwater during a guided tour of the distillery and welcoming remarks from co-owner Duane Greenly '72. The Huskies are well represented at Crostwater by two members of the ownership group, Duane Greenly '72 and Terry Zeigler '76.  
 Attendees included: Stephen Andrejack '74, Stephanie Andrejack, James Blockus '77, Kathleen Blockus, Nathan Conroy '06, Erik Evans '95M, James Fisher '72, Jane Fisher '71, Duane Greenly '72, Jered Hock '63, Elaine Hock, Edward Horvath, Richard Howenstine '76, Karen Howenstine '76, Karen Kirkpatrick '02, Kyle Kirkpatrick '00, Patricia Klinger '18M, Eleanor Lewis '98M, Mary Mahoney '76, David Maxwell '93, Marie Maxwell '95, Lynda Michaels '87/'88M, Angela Pontius '05, Christine Ritro-Pugh '79, Richard Pugh '82, Jeffrey Smith '83, Melva Smith, Elizabeth Swivel '84, Rick Swivel, Andy Swivel, Kayla Rafferty, and Terry Zeigler '76.



«  
 Kyle Lichtner '12 and Shannon Ettl '12 celebrated their wedding on Feb. 9, 2019. From left are Evan Makuvek '12, Jamie Severini '12, Alex Alvarez '13, Mitchell Davis '12, Erik Jones '12, Blake Harris '12, Amanda Smith '12, Kyle Lichtner '12 (groom), Carsten Kuha '12, Shannon Ettl '12 (bride), Christine Kuha '13, Brittany Jones, Marybeth Kish '13, Jeff Stefankiewicz '11.



# HALL OF FAME

## CLASS ANNOUNCED

Seven individuals will be inducted as the 38th Athletic Hall of Fame class, bringing the total number of honorees to 189. Being inducted to the Hall of Fame Class of 2019 are Alea (Balthaser) Floren '02 (women's soccer), Megan Hunsinger '99 (softball), Trisha (Leitzel) Hoffman '03 (field hockey), former women's basketball coach/administrator Joanne McComb, former equipment manager Ron Morgan, Richard Scorese

'64 (wrestling), and Justin Shepherd '07 (men's cross country/ track and field). The induction dinner and ceremony will be Friday, Oct. 11, starting at 6 p.m. at the Kehr Union.

For tickets to the dinner or to learn more about this year's inductees, visit [buhuskies.com](http://buhuskies.com).



## Tennis Coach Named

Rebecca Helt has been named head coach of the men's and women's tennis teams. Helt replaces Marty Coyne who retired following the 2018-19 season after guiding both teams for more than 25 years.

Helt comes to BU after a 22-year stint as the head coach of the women's tennis team at Bucknell University. Helt leaves Bucknell as the all-time winningest coach in program history, compiling an overall record of 241-220. While at Bucknell, Helt served as the coordinator of tennis since 2013. She also coached the men's program from 2002-13 and guided a doubles team to the NCAA Championships for the first time in both Bucknell and Patriot League history.

Over the past 16 seasons, Helt's women's teams finished in the top three in the Patriot League standings on nine

occasions and made six consecutive appearances in the championship match from 2005-10.

During her impressive career at Bucknell, Helt coached two Patriot League Players of the Year and five Patriot League Rookies of the Year. She also guided 46 All-League selections (34 women, 12 men) and had seven Academic All-League honorees.

A 1990 graduate of Lock Haven University, Helt earned a degree in journalism while competing for the Lock Haven tennis team. In 1991, Helt earned a teaching certification from the United States Professional Tennis Registry and worked as a teaching pro at West Branch Racquet Club in Williamsport and the Doylestown Racquet Club in Doylestown.

# HUSKIES HONOR

## Top Student-Athletes for 2018-19

second consecutive season. He shined in the postseason, going 2-0 with a 0.56 ERA and allowing only five hits – and no walks – in 16 innings. He earned All-Region and All-PSAC honors following the season.

**Nick McGuire** from the men's cross country and track and field teams was named the Outstanding Senior Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. In the fall, McGuire became the first BU male runner to qualify for the cross country national championships since 2006 after placing sixth overall at the regional meet. He also placed third at the conference meet – the best finish by a Huskies' male runner since 2005. During the track and field season, he added three podium finishes – one at the PSAC Indoor

The athletic department announced its major award winners for the 2018-19 season.

Swimmer **Becca Cubbler** earned the Joanne McComb Underclass Female Athlete of the Year after collecting the first three All-American accolades of her collegiate career. She finished 12th

Soccer standout **Allie Barber** earned both the Eleanor Wray Senior Female Athlete of the Year as well as the Outstanding Senior Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. She led the Huskies to the program's first PSAC Championship since 2002, the Atlantic Regional Championship, and a trip to the Elite Eight in 2018. She was named



**BECCA CUBBLER**

**KYLE DIX**

**ALLIE BARBER**

**NICK MCGUIRE**

**ASHTON RAINES**

in the 500 free (4:53.65), 13th in the 1000 free (10:09.18), and 16th in the 1650 free (17:03.48) to become the first female swimmer since 2008 to earn All-American status in three individual events in the same year.

Swimmer **Kyle Dix** collected the Danny Litwhiler Underclass Male Athlete of the Year honor. He won three Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) titles and finished second in four other events at the conference meet to earn All-PSAC accolades in all seven races he participated in. He went on to compete at the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships.

a United Soccer Coaches Second Team All-American and a First Team Scholar All-American which highlighted a number of postseason accolades. In the classroom, Barber graduated with a 3.89 GPA in audiology and speech pathology.

**Ashton Raines** from the baseball team was the Robert Redman Senior Male Athlete of the Year. The righthander went 8-2 with a 1.94 earned run average, leading all conference starters in that category. He struck out 54 batters to give him 197 for his career – a new BU record. He led the Huskies to their first PSAC title since 1965 and a spot in the Atlantic Regional tournament for the

Championships and two at the PSAC Outdoor Championships. He graduated with a degree in political science and had a GPA of 3.86.



# THE REDMAN

# LEGACY



By Robert Dunkelburger

**Robert Redman** was one of the most renowned coaches in BU history. He was head of the football program for five of the best seasons in school history, winning 38 of 42 games from 1947 to 1951 with two undefeated seasons and the first official Pennsylvania Conference Football Championship.

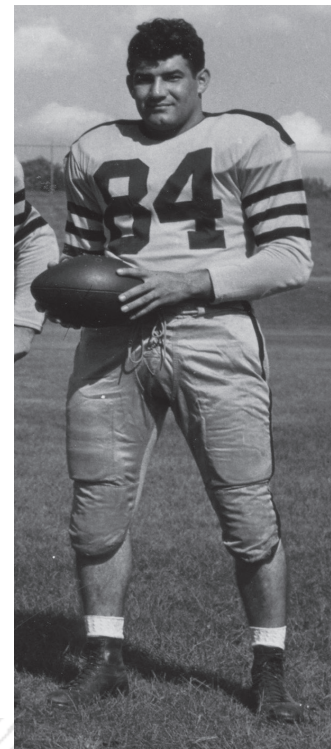
When Redman left Bloomsburg in 1952, it was for the East Orange (New Jersey) High School, where he was a teacher, coach, and principal.

For his players, Redman’s impact was felt long after those five seasons were over. More than 20 of his former players became coaches themselves – most at high schools in central and eastern Pennsylvania, with a number in New Jersey. Inspired by Redman, those alumni have, in turn, impacted thousands of students as coaches.

For several, the commitment to coaching became their life’s work as decades later, they were still involved in high school athletics as a coach, athletic director, or both.

Angelo Albano (1924-2014), a native of Shenandoah and 1949 Bloomsburg State Teachers College graduate, began working at the Burlington City (New Jersey) High School in 1952 and remained there for nearly three decades. Albano was respected and made a positive impact on the students he encountered while teaching math and science, coaching football and track, and serving as athletic

⤴  
The man who started it all, Robert Redman, in 1947.



⤴  
Angelo Albano, a quarterback for the Huskies, 1947.



»  
*Husky players on the old practice field, with the corner of Navy Hall in the background, September 1948. Within five years all four were coaching. Holding the ball is Tom Schukis, who went to Clayton, New Jersey; behind him at quarterback is Angelo Albano; at back on the left is Bill Dugan, who coached at Montgomery; and to the right of him Dan Parrell, who returned to his hometown of Hazleton.*



director. Former students called him “a neat guy” and “very well-liked, always fair.” Albano, like Redman before him, expected effort and good behavior from his students and helped them as they pursued college or careers.

Redman alumnus Paul Slobozien (1928-2015) served as a high school teacher, coach, and administrator. A native of Johnstown, he graduated from the college in 1950. After three years in McConnellsburg, Slobozien returned to Johnstown and worked there until his retirement in 1987. At the high school, he taught physics; coached not just football, but basketball, track, baseball, golf, and girls’ volleyball; and served as athletic director.

Slobozien’s decades of dedication to secondary education and athletics mirrored what Redman did both before and after his time at Bloomsburg. Prior to arriving at the teachers college, he taught and coached at Sayre High School and North High School in Binghamton, New York.

A third former player, John Babb, not only coached at the high school level, but also served in that capacity at BU. A town native who graduated in 1951 and first taught in Hughesville, Babb came back to Bloomsburg to teach English at the high school and coach baseball. In 29 years as head coach he never had a losing record, winning 431 games.

Babb was involved for decades with local baseball at all levels, including Little League, Teener, and American Legion ball, in addition to serving for many years as a high school official in basketball and football.

In 1984, Babb became Bloomsburg University’s head baseball coach. He worked six years to build the program.



^  
*John Babb, Bloomsburg University baseball coach from 1985 to 1990.*



^  
*John Babb in 1986 while coaching at third base, with an enthusiasm that was infectious and made his teams winners.*

His first team had talent but was on a run of 12 losing seasons in 14 years before he arrived. Babb’s “back-to-basics” approach, sense of humor, and especially enthusiasm, got immediate results. One of his former players at Bloomsburg High School, Todd Remley, was glad to once again have him for a coach. Babb loved the game and stressed to his players that the point of baseball was to have fun while playing it, which would lead to success.

Babb had a winning record in five of his six seasons, four with 20 wins, and an overall record of 116-95 — the most wins in school history at the time. He decided before his final season to step down as coach and it was his best. The 1990 team won 23 games, made the school’s first-ever PSAC playoff appearance, and Babb was named Coach of the Year.

These three men, along with many others, exemplified what they learned from Robert Redman — to be a gentleman, have a sense of humor, and as a coach insist on basics, discipline, and execution.

### **The Husky legacy continues among more recent Husky coaches.**

Danny Hale inspired Chet Hinicle ‘95 to coach at the high school and collegiate level. Jan Hutchinson, one of the all-time coaching greats nationally, has inspired her own coaching tree. Among that long list are the current field hockey coach, Nikki Hartranft ‘04, and both the head and assistant BU softball coaches, Susan Kocher ‘88 and Dee Wolfe ‘06. Men’s and women’s swimming coach Stu Marvin ‘78 has also developed a coaching tree with more than two dozen former swimmers now coaching at various levels of competition, including current assistant coach Bridget Hilferty ‘13.



## CALENDAR

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Mid-Term, Tuesday, Oct. 15  
Reading Day, Tuesday, Nov. 26  
Thanksgiving Recess, Wednesday, Nov. 27  
Classes resume, Monday, Dec. 2  
Classes end, Friday, Dec. 6  
Finals begin, Monday, Dec. 9  
Finals end, Friday, Dec. 13  
Graduate Commencement, Friday, Dec. 13  
Undergraduate Commencement, Saturday, Dec. 14  
Winter Session Classes Begin, Monday, Dec. 16  
Winter Session Classes End, Friday, Jan. 17, 2020  
Spring Semester Class Begins, Thursday, Jan. 21

[bloomu.edu/academic-calendar](http://bloomu.edu/academic-calendar)



### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### Parents and Family Weekend

Friday, Oct. 4, through Sunday, Oct. 6.

#### Homecoming

Friday, Oct. 25, through Sunday, Oct. 26.

[bloomu.edu/homecoming](http://bloomu.edu/homecoming)



### ART EXHIBITS

#### Haas Gallery of Art

Frank DePietro

Through Oct. 24.

Reception: Thursday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gallery Talk: 1:15 p.m.

#### Fall Senior Exit Show

Nov. 21 through Dec. 13.

Reception: Thursday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Balcony Talks

#### The Gallery at Greenly Center

Student Theme Show: Presence

Oct. 3 through Dec. 3.

Reception: Friday, Nov. 1, 6 to 8 p.m. (Coinciding with LGBTQ Symposium — Living Proud: Your Presence Matters)

Melanie Johnson & Loraine Lynn

Dec. 12 through Feb. 12.

Reception: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Artist talks, 1 to 2 p.m.



### THEATRE

#### Be More Chill

Oct. 31 to Nov. 3, Alvina Krause Theatre, Bloomsburg  
Performances at 7:30 p.m., except Sunday at 3 p.m.

Free for BU Students/CGA Activities Card Holders, \$12 for adults, \$8 dollars for students/seniors



### CONCERTS

#### BU Choirs Fall Choral Festival

Sunday, Oct. 13, 2:30 p.m.

Carver Hall, Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium

Featuring Women's Choral Ensemble, Husky Singers and the Concert Choir

#### Percussion Ensemble Concert

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Wind Ensemble Concert

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Concerto Competition

Sunday, Nov. 17, 2:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Bloomsburg University Community Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Jazz Ensemble Concert

Thursday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Guitar Ensemble Concert

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall

#### Carols by Candlelight Concert

Thursday, Dec. 5, and Friday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 345 Market St., Bloomsburg

Featuring the Concert Choir, Husky Singers, and Women's Choral Ensemble. No admission fee but tickets are required from the Mitrani box office 570-389-4409

#### Tuba Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 7, 4:30 p.m. (Concert at 7 p.m.)

Haas Center for the Arts, Mitrani Hall.

For the latest information on upcoming events, check the Bloomsburg University website [bloomu.edu/events](http://bloomu.edu/events). For alumni events, visit [bloomualumni.com](http://bloomualumni.com), call 800-526-0254 or email [alum@bloomu.edu](mailto:alum@bloomu.edu) for details.



# #BUHUSKY PRIDE

Photo: Jaime North

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# Arts IN BLOOM

## 2019-2020 Season

**SEVEN** - Saturday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. • **The Queen's Cartoonists** - Saturday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
**Slavic Soul Party!** - Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, 7:30 p.m. • **Trinity Irish Dance** - Sunday, March 29, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

**FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION: [bloomu.edu/arts-in-bloom](http://bloomu.edu/arts-in-bloom) or 570-389-4409**

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