

FALL 2020

BloomSBurg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Mover of Obstacles

Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel '98 is a nationally-known advocate for corrections reform.

Page 12

ALSO INSIDE

Five Minutes Can Change a Student's Life

Jake Miller '05 has been honored for excellence in teaching. His secret: teach children before content.

Page 22

The Unforgettable Season

Twenty years ago, the world learned about the Huskies football team.

Page 28

bloomu.edu

Dear BU Family,

Over the past 181 years, our alumni have been thriving in business, science, education, health care, technology, and other fields, and they are also making a positive impact in their communities. We are fortunate that our rich history is filled with such influential leaders across many disciplines, and I am so very proud of all BU graduates who are making a difference in the lives of others.

In this issue of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*, you will enjoy reading our profile on a proud BU alumnus and a true difference maker:

John E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Corrections since 2011. A trusted voice within the BU community and across the entire Commonwealth, Secretary Wetzel is also a leading voice and advocate on a national scale. Having led the charge to reduce Pennsylvania's prison population for close to a decade while serving governors of both parties, Secretary Wetzel is one of our country's foremost experts on prison reform. A member of BU's Council of Trustees and an active supporter of his alma mater, Secretary Wetzel was recently awarded the well-deserved William T Derricott, '66 Volunteer of the Year award from the BU Alumni Association. Congratulations to Secretary Wetzel for his service on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth, and my heartfelt thanks to him for his steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to Bloomsburg University.

The COVID-19 virus continues to remain at the forefront of our collective consciousness. This past August, the University started the semester offering a mix of in-person and remote learning. Due to an increase in positive COVID cases among students just a couple weeks into the semester, we quickly pivoted to remote learning for the remainder of the fall. While the campus is usually abuzz with activities and events at this time of year, this is not a normal semester. We must continue to follow health and safety protocols during the pandemic, restrict large in-person gatherings, and host events virtually where possible. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming virtual events; please refer to bloomu.edu/husky-spirit for the latest updates on events for alumni and friends.

As always, thank you for your continued support of BU, and all the best to your families and you this coming holiday season. Please be safe and stay healthy.

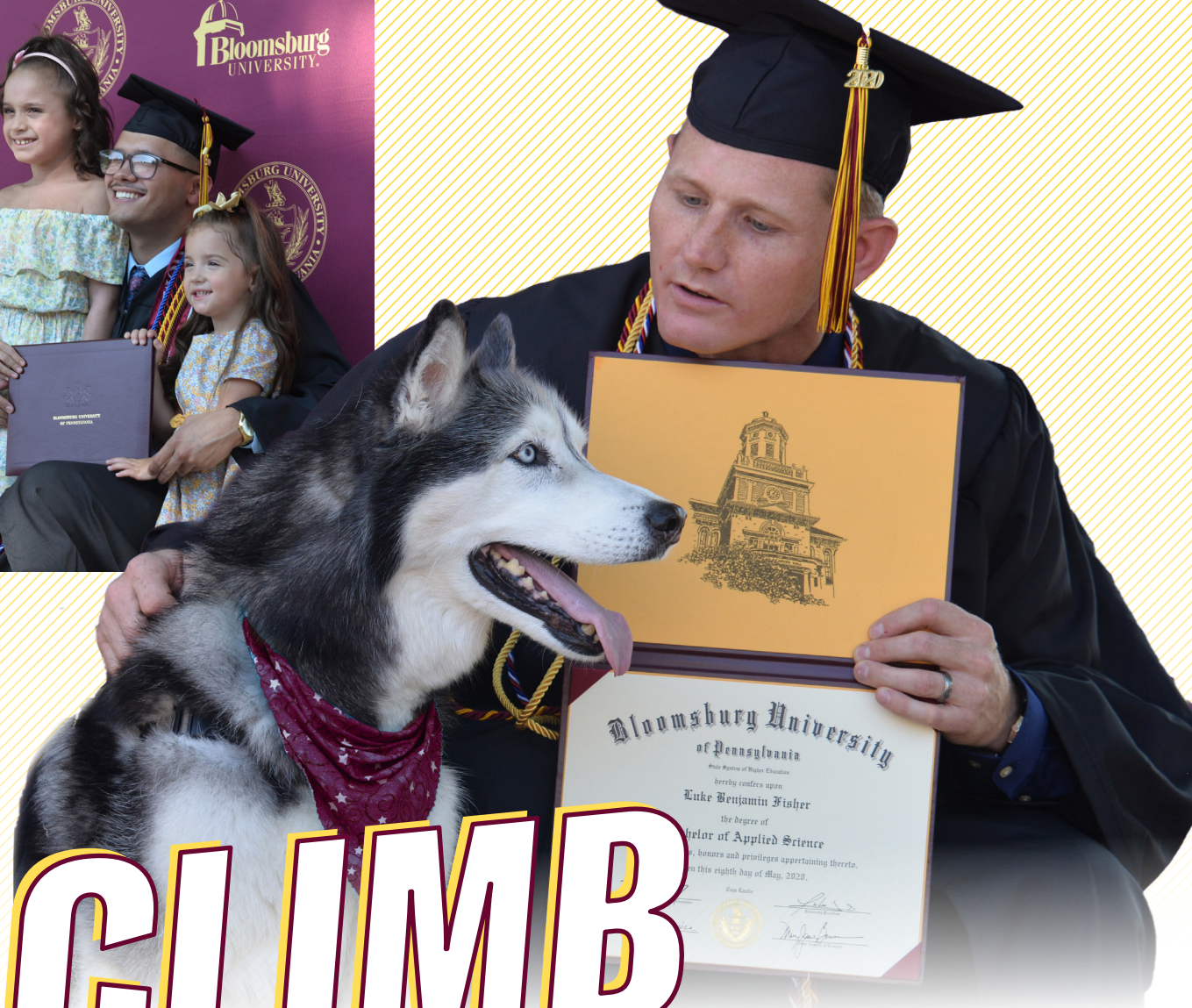
GO HUSKIES!

Sincerely,
Bashar W. Hanna



President Bashar Hanna





CELEBRATING A CLIMB COMPLETED



Hundreds of students and their supporters celebrated graduation this August in a COVID-19 safe and socially distant way with a photo walk across the Haas Center stage and a handshake with President Bashar Hanna.

Outside, there were hugs and smiles among family members and a chance to take photos to preserve the day.

More photos on page 36.

Fall 2020



9



12



19



24



28



33

Contents

- 4** COMMON GROUND
- 9** THE PIVOT
- 12** MOVER OF OBSTACLES
- 14** INSPIRATION AND IMPACT
- 19** SETTING THE PACE FOR SUCCESS
- 21** BLOOM IS WHERE THE HEART IS
- 22** FIVE MINUTES CAN CHANGE A STUDENT'S LIFE
- 24** BUILDING A CAREER ONE VIDEO AT A TIME
- 26** HUSKY NOTES
- 28** ATHLETICS: A VIEW FROM THE TOP
- 33** THEN AND NOW

Connect with us

bloomu.edu



Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Board of Governors

Cynthia D. Shapira, Chair
 David M. Maser, Vice Chair
 Samuel H. Smith, Vice Chair
 Representative Tim Briggs
 Audrey F. Bronson
 Nicole Dunlop
 Alex Fefolt
 Donald E. Houser Jr.
 Patricia Landis
 Senator Scott Martin
 Marian D. Moskowitz
 Thomas S. Muller
 Noe Ortega
 Representative Brad Roae
 Senator Judith L. Schwank
 Meg Snead
 Stephen L. Washington, Jr.
 Neil R. Weaver
 Governor Tom Wolf
 Janet L. Yeomans

Chancellor, State System of Higher Education

Daniel Greenstein
Bloomsburg University Council of Trustees
 Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Chairperson
 Nancy Vasta, Vice Chairperson
 Brian O'Donnell, O.D., Secretary
 Amy Brayford
 Edward G. Edwards
 Duane Greenly
 Daniel Klingerman
 Colin McIntyre
 Secretary John E. Wetzel
 Raymond Zaborney

President, Bloomsburg University

Bashar W. Hanna

Executive Editor

Jennifer Umberger

Co-Editors

Eric Foster
 Tom McGuire

Designer

Stacey Newell

Sports Information

Dave Leisering
 Mary Raskob

Marketing/Communications Coordinator

Irene Johnson

Contributing Writers

Thomas Schaeffer '02
 Andrea O'Neill '06

Cover Photo

Eric Foster

Bloomsburg: The University Magazine is published three times a year for alumni, students' families, and friends of the university. Back issues may be found at issuu.com/buhuskies.

Address comments and questions to:
Bloomsburg: The University Magazine
 Waller Administration Building
 400 East Second Street
 Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1301

Email address: magazine@bloomu.edu

Visit Bloomsburg University on the web at bloomu.edu.

Bloomsburg University is an AA/EEO institution and is accessible to disabled persons. Bloomsburg University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, or veteran status in its programs and activities as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and other applicable statutes and University policies.



Honoring a mentor, a teacher, and a mother

Sons Dedicate Serenity Garden to Honor Maryan G. McCormick

The BU community has a new place on campus to retreat to for refuge from a busy day. The Dr. Maryan G. McCormick Serenity Garden was dedicated in a virtual event this October. The Serenity Garden, located near the Haas Center for the Arts, is a gift from McCormick's two sons, David and Douglas, and their families.

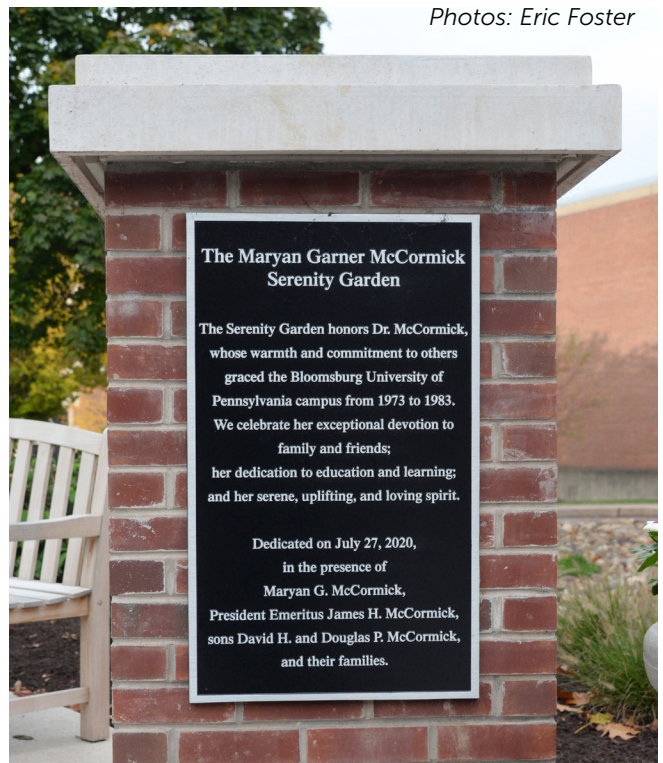
McCormick is the wife of former Bloomsburg University President James H. McCormick, who served from 1973 to 1983. During her 10 years at then Bloomsburg State College, she was a mother, teacher, and educator who mentored countless women. She also served as assistant executive director of the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit and as the executive director of the Instructional Support System of Pennsylvania.

The plaque at the garden reads:

The Serenity Garden honors Dr. McCormick, whose warmth and commitment to others graced the Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania campus from 1973 to 1983. We celebrate her exceptional devotion to family and friends; her dedication to education and learning; and her serene, uplifting, and loving spirit.

"Maryan McCormick has woven her understanding, patience, and nurturing spirit into countless numbers of lives over the years and has impacted generations of families through her work," said President Bashar Hanna. "May this garden do as Maryan has done throughout her life: may it provide in the years ahead that same sense of calm, comfort, and serenity. Thank you to the McCormick family for creating this lasting tribute to a wonderful member of the BU Family."

Photos: Eric Foster



The garden, originally scheduled to be dedicated on July 27, her birthday, will receive light both day and night and includes several benches, a stone water fountain, and a red maple tree that will provide shade to those who stop there.

Students Select Top Teachers



“
“Receiving the Outstanding Teaching Award is very inspiring.”
— Carolyn Lamacchia



“
“To know that my students nominated me for this award means more to me than I can put into words,”
— Erin Brummett

Carolyn LaMacchia and Erin Brummett were named BU’s 2019-20 Outstanding Teaching Award recipients by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement (TALE) Center.

LaMacchia is an associate professor in the Department of Information and Technology Management in the Zeigler College of Business, while Brummett is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts. The two were nominated by graduating seniors and selected by the TALE’s Outstanding Teaching Award Committee.

LaMacchia teaches undergraduate courses on developing databases, analytics, and programming skills and also teaches in the Master of Science in information technology program. Students who nominated her wrote of her “dedication to teaching not stopping at the classroom door.”

A consultant in information technology prior to working at BU, LaMacchia was praised for drawing upon her experience to help students apply course content to the “real world.”

“Each time I experience a student’s growth, whether it be academically or professionally, I feel rewarded knowing that I may have played a part in the student’s development,” said LaMacchia. “Receiving the Outstanding Teaching Award is very inspiring.”

Brummett was lauded for her ability to make “every classroom an accepting and open environment” that creates transformative learning experiences. She teaches courses in the interpersonal communication area of the major, including interpersonal communication, conflict management and resolution, a special topics course on interracial communication, and a course that she developed for the department curriculum titled “Communicating Identity and Difference.”

“To know that my students nominated me for this award means more to me than I can put into words,” said Brummett. “I love my job because of the students. Everything I do in this profession is to encourage them to be the best versions of themselves that they can be in life and provide tools that they can use in their journeys along the way.”

Both teachers will receive a plaque and be acknowledged by Provost Diana Rogers-Adkinson at a future date. They will also receive a professional development stipend sponsored by the BU Foundation.

Community Collaborations



A New Welcome to Bloomsburg

A collaboration between the Town of Bloomsburg and BU has resulted in five new signs welcoming visitors to the only Town in Pennsylvania and Bloomsburg University. The cost of the project was split between the town and the university. Shown from left are: front row, Bonnie Crawford and Justin Hummel, Bloomsburg Town Council members; center row: Drew Barton, LIVIC Civil (the Town's engineer – assisted with land use contracts and installations), Jocelyn Wagner, Weis Markets assistant store manager for Bloomsburg (donated land for one of the signs), and Jim Garman, Bloomsburg Town Council member; back row: BU President Bashar Hanna and Bloomsburg Mayor William Kreisher.



YMCA Gym Wall Mat

A new BU-branded gymnasium wall mat was installed at the Bloomsburg Area YMCA, thanks to a \$3,000 sponsorship from the Bloomsburg University Foundation's Community Engagement Fund. The mat was produced by Resilite Sports Products, Inc., a Northumberland company that celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2019 and whose president is Paul Gilbert '82. Shown from left are Bloomsburg YMCA CEO Joe Flanagan, BU Director of Athletics Michael McFarland, BU President Bashar Hanna, and YMCA board member Tim Wagner.

Chemistry students get top marks in accreditation exam

Three BU students in the B.S. chemistry and biochemistry option passed the national American Society for Biochemistry and Biochemistry Molecular Biology (ASBMB) Accreditation Exam. Jason Stone, Tara Full, and Stepan Budkin were among 926 students nationwide that took the rigorous exam in spring 2020 and among the 40.4% (374 students) who passed. Additionally, Stone was awarded certification with distinction for extraordinary success on the exam. Including this year's cohort, nine BU students have earned the national certification recognition and three have earned high distinction. Bloomsburg's 50% certification rate exceeds the national average of 43.8%.

BU was the first PASSHE program to garner ASBMB program accreditation in 2014. Only 85 programs nationwide hold ASBMB accreditation, including five others in Pennsylvania.

"The ASBMB has routinely validated what we have always known," says Michael Borland, ASBMB accreditation coordinator and professor of chemistry and biochemistry. "Small class sizes, hands-on laboratory experiences, use of cutting-edge instrumentation/methods, and the high impact practice of one-on-one faculty-mentored research experiences creates students ready for nationwide success in whatever path they choose."

A Financially Responsible Option

BU a 'Best College' says *Money*

BU is ranking No. 6 in *Money's* 2020 rankings of public universities in Pennsylvania. BU is also ranked 32nd among all colleges and universities in Pennsylvania.

"This latest ranking by *Money* is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff," says BU President Bashar Hanna. "The credit goes to them, and most importantly, to our high-achieving students who are determined to achieve even more."

The personal financial website's seventh annual "Best Colleges for Your Money" assessed more than 700 four-year colleges. The rankings combine the most accurate pricing estimates available with indicators of alumni financial success, along with a unique analysis of how much value a college adds when compared to other schools that take in similar students.

BU awards \$4 million in scholarships to students each year. BU's Professional U initiative offers students the opportunity to engage in one professional experience per year — ranging from career development workshops to internships.

Money estimates a college's "value-add" by calculating its performance on important measures such as graduation rates, student loan repayment and default rates, and post-graduation earnings, after adjusting for the types of students it admits. This year, given the economic outlook, they've increased the emphasis on affordability. Affordability now accounts for 40 percent of the ranking, while quality of education and outcomes each account for 30 percent.



BU Selected to Print Etchings of Famed Artist

BU has been selected to print editions from etching plates by Donald De Lue (1897 – 1988), regarded as one of America's greatest monument sculptors of the 20th century. His prolific 60-year career led him to receive dozens of commissions up and down the East Coast. In the early part of his career, De Lue created a small series of etchings. After his death in 1988, 13 plates were found in his studio. In 2017, the De Lue estate brought all 13 plates to BU to see what could be done with them.

In the summer of 2019, Hanna Sheppard, studio arts and art history major, enrolled in an Independent Study with faculty member Chad Andrews, printmaking and foundations, to research, clean, and proof all the plates. The proofs were presented to the De Lue estate and they were so impressed that they have requested editions of 10 from each plate.

The art and art history department is using the Haas Gallery as the temporary "Haas Print Annex" and student Aleah Slish will make 13 to 15 impressions taken in pursuit of making 10 identical prints for each edition. The editions will then be collated into 10 folios. One of these folios will become part of BU's permanent collection.

The work in progress may be viewed through the end of the fall semester Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nursing Professor Earns National Honors



Nursing faculty member Kimberly Ann Olszewski has been named a 2020 Fellow by the American Academy of Nursing.

Olszewski is one of 230 distinguished nurse leaders from around the globe, and one of just 10 individuals from Pennsylvania, to join the 2020 class. The inductees will be recognized for their significant contributions to health and health care at the Academy's annual Transforming Health, Driving Policy Conference, taking place virtually Oct. 29-31.

An associate professor of nursing, Olszewski holds the Breiner Family Endowed Professorship for Nursing at BU, a five-year presidential appointment she received in 2018. She serves as graduate program coordinator, and the nurse practitioner and doctorate in nursing practice program director.

Olszewski is an American Nurses Credentialing Center board certified adult nurse practitioner and a Certified Occupational Health Nurse Specialist and Case Manager from the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN), where she serves on the board of directors as president-elect.

Olszewski has also been appointed to serve on the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) for a three-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2021, and ending Dec. 31, 2024. The BOSC is a federal advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations to the EPA's Office of Research and Development on technical and management issues of its research programs.

Findura Named to Good Works Team



Alex Findura became the first BU football player to be named to the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team for stepping up to help those in need. The senior defensive lineman is one of 22 student-athletes across the country named to the 2020 team.

Before enrolling at BU, Findura served four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and, during his service, was a member of an elite team known as the Body Bearers. The section's primary mission is to bear the caskets at funerals for Marines, former Marines, and Marine family members at Arlington National Cemetery and the surrounding cemeteries in the National Capital Region.

You can vote for Findura to be the captain of the 2020 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team by visiting [espn.com/Allstate](https://www.espn.com/Allstate). Vote once a day through Nov. 22.

Andino Named Fellow for Hispanic Association

BU's Interim Vice Provost Mindy Andino is a Fellow for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

Andino, an associate professor of teaching and learning, is one of 26 fellows from across the country selected for HACU's second cohort of its Leadership Academy/La Academia de Liderazgo.

La Academia seeks to increase the number of talented individuals who aspire to leadership positions of existing and emerging Hispanic-serving institutions. Fellows selected for the program participate in an array of leadership development activities that will prepare them for leadership roles in the full spectrum of higher learning institutions and in Hispanic-serving institutions.

"I look forward to learning from an outstanding group of mentors from around the country as we work to increase diversity in higher education leadership, as well as being able to

better serve our Hispanic students and all students of difference here at BU," says Andino.

"Through this experience, Dr. Andino will engage with and learn from other leaders in higher education from across the country for the benefit of our students, and particularly our underrepresented students," says President Bashar Hanna. "The focus of this HACU program is to champion student success, which aligns perfectly with BU's strategic priorities."

The one-year fellowship program includes three seminars. The first took place in October in conjunction with HACU's 34th Annual Conference. "Fostering Excellence and Social Justice." The second seminar will lead into HACU's 26th Annual Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education in April 2021. The third seminar will be held in late spring or early summer of 2021, with a focus on international collaborations.



"I look forward to learning from an outstanding group of mentors from around the country as we work to increase diversity in higher education leadership, as well as being able to better serve our Hispanic students and all students of difference here at BU."

— Vice Provost Mindy Andino

Grant Helps First-Generation and Under-Represented Students

BU's TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) office was awarded \$319,609, a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide opportunities for students who are first-generation college students, Pell-eligible, and/or students with a documented disability.

TRIO SSS's mission is to help under-represented students persist in college and earn their degree. The office offers one-on-one support to help students manage their academic and social transitions during their time in college.

Theresa Bloskey, director of the Bloomsburg University TRIO SSS office, and her staff authored the grant. Assistance in securing the grant was provided by the offices of U.S. Sen. Robert Casey, U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey and U.S. Rep. Dan Meuser.x

The grant allows the TRIO office to continue providing individualized support for academic advisement, personal and professional development, and help navigating higher education financing, as well as academic tutoring with master tutors.

"Securing this grant for the fifth time is a testament to the outstanding work of all those in the TRIO office," says President Bashar Hanna. "The grant will provide us the necessary resources to continue helping our students on their path toward earning a BU degree. My thanks and appreciation to Senators Casey and Toomey and Congressman Meuser for their efforts and support."



THE PIVOT

By Eric Foster

Behind the masks were smiles as more than 2,300 students moved onto campus in the early weeks of August for the fall 2020 semester.

After months of planning how to deal with living and learning safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty and staff found innovative ways for students to carry on.

To prevent crowding, families moved to campus in stages, aided at each step by HOWLS (Husky Orientation Welcome Leaders) and residence life staff. Dining services spaced tables and chairs and switched to disposable utensils.

Real innovation came in classrooms, labs and studios.



Photos: Jaime North and Eric Foster

⌘ David Tedford, assistant professor of music, rehearses the Bloomsburg University Community Orchestra, with students masked and distanced.

Corridors were marked with directional lanes to help social distancing and students were spaced between multiple lab rooms. In the arts, faculty donned plastic face shields in order to get close enough to students to provide personalized feedback. Music rooms were compartmentalized so woodwind and brass musicians could play together. Small rooms were wired so voice professors could give feedback to the students in nearby rooms with no lag.

However, by the end of August, the number of students testing positive for COVID-19 climbed to over 100 and the university decided to pivot.

While many courses were already being taught remotely or in a combination of remote and in person, all courses in the Zeigler College of Business and the College of Education

were switched to remote instruction, as well as most courses in the College of Science and Technology and the College of Liberal Arts.

While classes may have been remote, the Husky can-do attitude was present in full force. Many students chose to stay on campus in order to experience college life in some way. And upper level students in the sciences and arts continued their work in labs and studios.

Facebook became a concert hall as musicians painstakingly recorded and posted their performances to the Arts in Bloom page. And a sidewalk became a gallery as work was exhibited in the window of Greenly Center on Main Street.

And to cap off the semester, the BU Players will stage six short plays virtually on Nov. 11 and 12. Virtually, or in person, Huskies don't stop.



^ Matthew Polinski, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, wears a face shield to work with students in labs.



^ Chris Kilcullen, a senior music audio/visual recording major, mixes tracks for a virtual performance of the BU Jazz Ensemble to be shared later this fall semester.



^ BU child life specialist majors give virtual presentations for their 120-hour experience with Camp Victory in Millville over the summer.



Photo: Abby Manns

⌘ The BU Jazz Ensemble rehearses with musicians separated by plexiglass shields. Installation of the shields was a collaboration between Abby Manns, director of performing arts facilities and programs, and BU alumnus Zak Knoll '04, a theatre alumnus whose company develops and manufactures the shields.

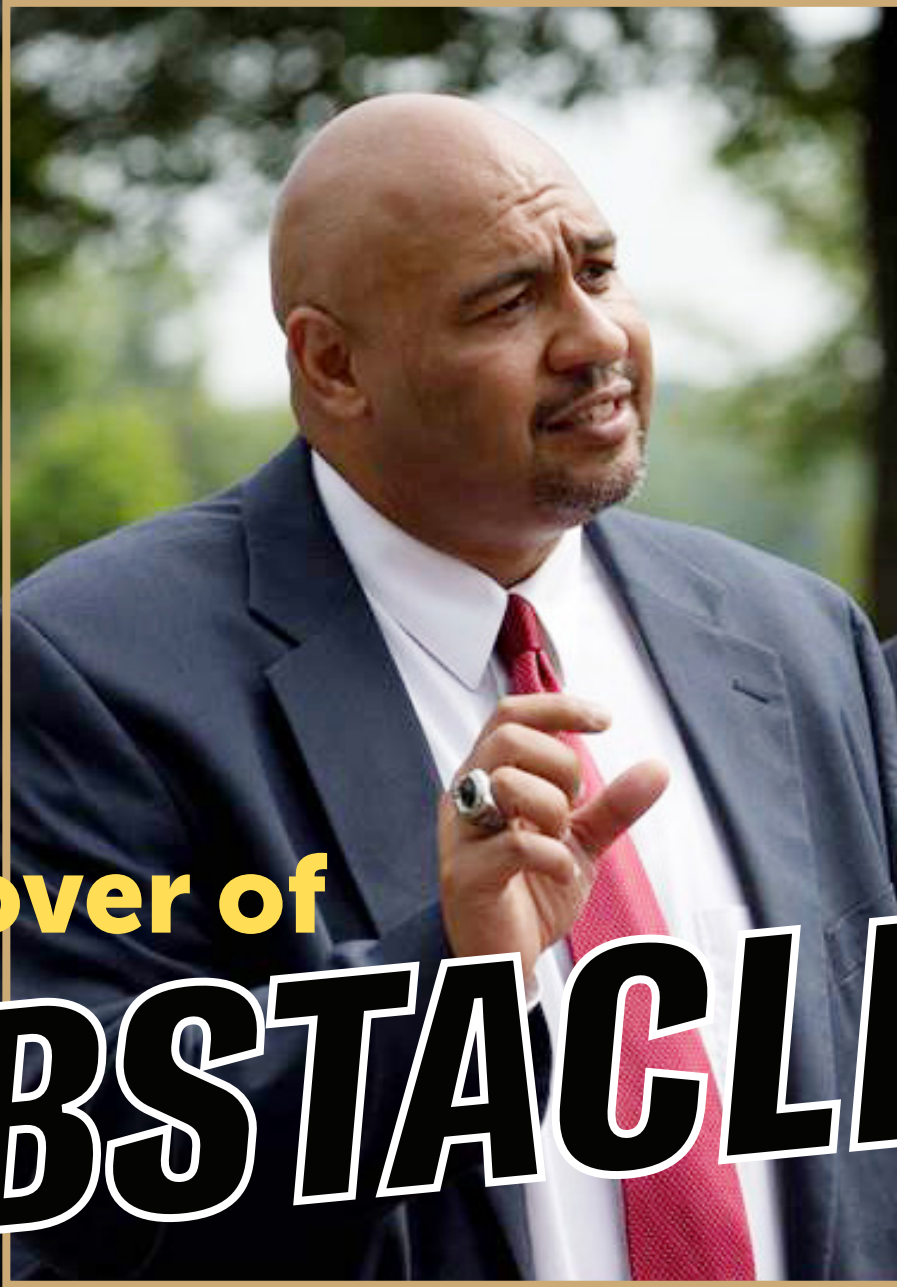


⌘ A student walks in a hallway marked with directional lanes in Hartline Science Center.



⌘ Meredith Re' Grimsley (above), chair of the Department of Art and Art History, teaches a fabric design course.

Photo/ »
Governor's
Office



Mover of **OBSTACLES**

By Eric Foster

If Old Corrections Policies Were an Immovable Object, John Wetzel is an Unstoppable Force

"My entire life is football," says Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections John Wetzel '98.

"My job was to move obstacles out of the way," the former offensive lineman says. "That's my leadership style, remove obstacles, and empower people."

Today, more than 20 years after graduating from BU, Secretary Wetzel has racked up statistics off the football field that have made corrections leaders throughout the country stand up and take notice.

He's a go-to expert to speak on prison reform in the popular media — having been featured on "60 Minutes" and in USA Today. Among his peers, he's president of the Correctional Leaders Association and a member of Harvard's Executive Session on Community Corrections.

For four decades, Pennsylvania's prison population grew by an average of 1,500 people each year. "We have 10,000 fewer people incarcerated than when we took over in 2011," says Wetzel. "And that's while the crime rate has also gone down. In the history of Pennsylvania, nobody has seen a population reduction like that."



^ John Wetzel, third from left in the back row, with his Husky teammates.

Toughness and Sensitivity

It's a feat that seems only possible by someone with Wetzel's unique combination of toughness and sensitivity — qualities that were developed and mirrored in his experience at BU.

Reminiscing about his days on the offensive line, he quips that "there's nothing like moving a man from point A to point B against their will."

But in the classroom, the 6-foot-3 student-athlete found that he was the one being moved — by a psychology professor.

"Eileen Astor-Stetson was my adviser, and I had her for a cognitive psychology class. She sat me down and lit me up. She said, 'I'm frustrated because you don't come to class,'" says Wetzel. "I said I come to two-thirds of my classes. She said, 'That's not a lot.'"

"She also told me that I'd never be happy working for someone that wasn't as smart as me."

The lesson didn't take immediately. After his last football season with the Huskies, Wetzel left BU, a semester from graduation, and began work as a corrections officer in Berks County. Several years later, an argument with a co-worker brought Astor-Stetson's words back to him.

"I walked out so angry. When I get home, I called Astor-Stetson. 'Can you please help me get back into school?'"

Wetzel hit the books as hard as he had once hit defensive lineman. After one semester as a part-time student, he moved to Pottsville, midway between campus and his job in Reading. And he switched his work to third shift to take a full course-load and make it to graduation. He found another mentor in professor Marion Mason, who made him read Viktor Frankl's "Man's Search for Meaning," chronicling his experiences as a prisoner in Nazi concentration camps, and his strategy to find a positive purpose in life.

"It starts with BU. That's the launching pad for me," says Wetzel. "I went there as a child. As an undergrad, my life revolved around football. I came back as a grown-up and finished my degree."

Do It Quick, But Don't Hurry

"I had a football coach who said, 'do it quick, but don't hurry.' Every step counts. I was graded at every step. Everything you do counts," says Wetzel, who played semi-pro football in 1996 and 1997 and was an assistant coach at Shippensburg for four years. "Lessons on the football field translate to the office, the prison, and the Capitol."

The first of those lessons: "Toughness. There will be people who are stronger, people who are faster, people who are smarter," says Wetzel. "You can control how hard you work and how tough you work. I focus on what I can control."

Putting his coach's words into action, Wetzel rose through the ranks quickly — becoming warden of Franklin County Jail in 2002, appointed to the Board of Pardons by Gov. Ed Rendell in 2007, and selected to be secretary of corrections by Gov. Tom Corbett in 2011.

But he also made a difference at each step of his career. At Franklin County, he oversaw the construction of a new jail while expanding treatment and program options, so the inmate population declined from 322 to 297 by the time he left.

Wetzel's impact as secretary of corrections was felt quickly. Shortly after his appointment, he made bold moves, canceling a new prison in Fayette County in western Pennsylvania and revising plans for the new prison at Graterford in Montgomery County to include facilities for female inmates who would soon be released.

The moves raised some political hackles, but his reasoning was based on unimpeachable facts. There were more beds in western Pennsylvania than prisoners, and housing inmates from the east in the west made it more difficult for them to successfully return to their communities.

"We're going to release 20,000 people this year. You're going to run into someone who's been involved in a state prison," says Wetzel. "It's in everyone's best interest for these people to be successful."

Armed with a compelling vision and no-nonsense attitude, Wetzel has been effective at working across political boundaries to make change. While he was appointed secretary of corrections by a Republican, Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf reappointed him in 2015 and again in 2019.

On the federal level, he's worked with both Democratic and Republican administrations. He was tapped by President Barack Obama to be the corrections expert on the Chuck Colson task force—tasked with assessing the Federal Bureau of Prisons and providing the administration and Congress with recommendations on improvements. President Donald Trump named him to the Congressional Oversight Committee to the Federal First Step Act.

And he's been an unapologetic advocate for his vision in the media, among his peers, and in prisons themselves.



^ John Wetzel shows his Husky pride even when he's away from campus.



^ Wetzel giving remarks at a 50-State Summit on Public Safety sponsored by the Council of State Governments.

∨ Wetzel speaking to Department of Corrections staff at a leadership event.



Shining a Light on Human Costs

At Graterford in 2014, Wetzel organized a TEDx event that featured talks by inmates and gave the final talk himself.

"The TED talks put a face on our policy," says Wetzel. "Our system previously had a policy that we couldn't show inmates' faces. We have a focus on really humanizing the population."

Wetzel is no Pollyanna. "We have prison for a reason," he says. "There are some people who need to be there." But his career has been focused on the human costs of incarceration and creating human opportunities to avoid it.

"For every problem, corrections is at the back of the system," says Wetzel. "Look two or three steps upstream and be more proactive. One of the starkest facts is that a young black kid who drops out of high school has a 70 percent chance of being incarcerated."

"Education is one of the key foundational things because it's transformative," says Wetzel, who has championed educational programs. "I see what education did for me."

"Forty percent of new inmates don't have a high school degree. Seventy-five percent have an addiction," says Wetzel. "A third are experiencing mental illness."

“

"We have to help people overcome trauma. Historic polices have had a terrible effect, particularly on minority communities. We have a responsibility to do better. I have about 41,000 inmates and they have 80,000 children. When you look at generational incarcerations, we need to change the narrative. I control the environment. I control the programs we offer:"

— John Wetzel

And he notes, 80 percent of male prisoners experienced trauma as a child — ranging from mental, physical, or sexual abuse to being exposed to alcoholism, drug use, and domestic violence.

"We have to help people overcome trauma. Historic polices have had a terrible effect, particularly on minority communities. We have a responsibility to do better," says Wetzel. "I have about 41,000 inmates and they have 80,000 children. When you look at generational incarcerations, we need to change the narrative. I control the environment. I control the programs we offer."

"Our GED pass rate is 10 points higher than the community pass rate. Providing college classes to people who are incarcerated — that's a no-brainer."

To that end, Wetzel's Department of Corrections has partnered with universities — including BU — to provide courses for inmates with federal funding through policies begun by Obama and expanded by Trump. BU's 24-credit Rehabilitative Justice Certificate Program, established in 2016, has provided 40 inmates with a foundation to complete two-year and four-year degrees. BU's first partner in the program, Cathy Pickett, guidance counselor at the State Correctional Institution at Muncy, was honored with a 2020 College of Liberal Arts Dean's Salute to Excellence award.

His role as secretary of corrections means that the father of four daughters — Johna, Tamaira, Ariel and Michaela, aged 18 to 25 — is on call 24/7. If he does get some time away from the cell phone, he's looking forward to travelling.

For now, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges, but Wetzel notes that infection rates at his institutions are lower than in inmates' home communities.

"Now more than ever, reentry matters. Screening people and making sure they have a place to live," says Wetzel. "A connection to medical infrastructure is really critical. [So is] setting people up to be successful in the community."

"It's taken a lot of work to convince people and move the policy," says Wetzel. "Our policy makers are very conservative."

Fortunately, John Wetzel specializes in making things move.

✧ *Wetzel shaking hands with a graduate at commencement.*



Wetzel Honored with Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award

While he may spend his days walking the halls of the Capitol in Harrisburg and touring correctional institutions around the state, John Wetzel has never lost touch with his alma mater.

"Every trip to BU, I always go to the stadium. That's where I built my career," says Wetzel. "Lessons on the football field translate to the office, the prison, and Capitol. Without BU, I don't have the career, the impact, none of that happens without Bloomsburg."

This fall, Wetzel was recognized as the 2019 recipient of the William T. Derricott '66 Volunteer of the Year Award in acknowledgement of his efforts on behalf of BU. In addition to serving on the Council of Trustees, Wetzel is an advocate for numerous programs and initiatives, including the BU Anchor Program, the "It's On Us" Grant Program, new trustee appointments, and the annual PASSHE Advocacy Day, where students travel to Harrisburg to speak with legislators about funding and issues important to the State System and higher education.

He also served as the co-chair of the head football coach search committee and participated in the Middle States Accreditation Review last year.

"When I've had students down to Harrisburg, he loves introducing them to legislators," says Dan Knorr, director of external and government relations. "It's been really great to have someone who champions for BU wherever he goes."

Wetzel also makes sure the state Department of Corrections promotes jobs and internships to BU students interested in pursuing a career in corrections.

"Kids coming out of BU are hardworking kids. It's important they get a sense of the field they're working in. The class works a lot better when you can apply lessons to the real world," says Wetzel. "I try to tailor the experience to them to make sure they get what they want out of the experience."

The Derricott Volunteer of the Year Award was established in 2012 to recognize BU's most outstanding volunteer. The selection is determined by a scoring system that assigns values to different volunteer activities.

Inspiration and IMPACT

Celebrating Husky Alumni Award Winners

By Andrea O'Neill '06



Elizabeth Miller

Maroon and Gold Excellence Award

Elizabeth Miller '17 transferred to Bloomsburg University from St. John's University in Queens, N.Y., in 2014 because she wanted a smaller school, and she immediately felt "home."

"It was what you picture a college campus to look like — quaint, comforting and homey," says Miller. "There was never a time when I was upset to be in Bloomsburg."

BU was recommended to her by a teacher at St. John's.

Miller settled on a dual major in history and Arabic, with a minor in Middle Eastern Studies, a choice resulting from the death of her father on September 11, 2001, when she was 6.

Douglas Miller, 34, was finishing an overnight shift as a member of New York fire department Rescue Company 5 on Staten Island when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center. He died in the collapse of the south tower while evacuating civilians.

But while you might expect anger and hate growing up in the wake of that tragedy, Miller has taken her mom's lead in approaching the tragedy with understanding and empathy. The thoroughness with which she has studied the context of the attack has allowed her to heal and grow, and presented her with opportunities to impact her profession and give back to her alma mater.

"I've spent a lot of time trying to learn more about the events that led to my father's death," Miller says. "What I ended up discovering was a beautiful culture that is often misunderstood. I learned that we can move forward from tragedy, and my time at BU gave me the opportunity to not embed myself in the hatred and fear of 9/11. To see all sides, in a sense."

Opportunities outside the classroom — studying abroad in Morocco, a work-study position in the history department, and an Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity project on the radicalization of Osama bin Laden before September 11 — helped her make life connections and gain professional experience.

"There was always a piece missing when I was growing up," says Miller. "I had lost one parent, and I felt I gained another in Bloomsburg. Faculty and staff were invested in me and wanted to see me do well. They were my family."

After graduation, Miller was a social studies teacher in Yonkers, N.Y., before moving to Pace University and later becoming the exhibitions research coordinator at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in Manhattan. Her work has included content writing and fact-checking for the museum, including a newly opened exhibition about Osama Bin Laden. She has recently completed a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies and plans on continuing her education to become a trauma counselor. She also plans to eventually write a book about her 9/11 story that is more inclusive of people around the world.

"Bloomsburg gave me the tools to be versatile and to make myself adaptable for certain positions," says Miller. "You have to take charge and be persistent. Try to be a leader in any situation so other people understand you and see who you can be."

Miller established the Douglas Miller Memorial Scholarship for history students who have overcome obstacles and demonstrated a desire and effort toward cultural understanding. She hopes this scholarship can assist those in need while emphasizing the importance of historical narratives and cross-cultural relationships.

"Scholarships had always helped me with my education, and the history department was so beneficial to my growth as a student," says Miller. "My 9/11 story is a lot different than that of other people, and I wanted to channel understanding through my father at a university that helped form some of those ideas for me. My dad's legacy lives on in Bloomsburg."

The BU Alumni Association honored five of its own on Saturday, Oct. 10, during a virtual celebration.

Nominees are submitted for consideration by their peers and colleagues and are then evaluated by a committee of the Alumni Board of Directors. In addition to the Grimes Loyalty Recognition, which acknowledges alumni for their engagement with the University the past year, the BU Alumni Association will award the following:

Bill Bent '83 and Paul Clifford '96 are the recipients of the Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes alumni who have excelled with significant accomplishments in their profession, outstanding service to Bloomsburg University and/or the Alumni Association, and contributions to humanity.

Elizabeth Miller '17 and Lamar Oglesby '07 are the recipients of the Maroon and Gold Excellence Award. The award recognizes alumni who have graduated within the past 15 years and have met one or more criteria for the Distinguished Service Award and have demonstrated outstanding potential for further contributions.

John Wetzel '98 is the recipient of the William T. Derricott '66 Volunteer of the Year, which recognizes alumni who, through their volunteer contribution of time and talent on behalf of the BU Alumni Association, supports the mission of BU and exemplifies Husky spirit.



Lamar Oglesby
Maroon and Gold Excellence Award

Lamar Oglesby '07 called his application to Bloomsburg University a "shot in the dark." A first-generation student from an underperforming and underserved high school, he hadn't even toured the campus. But thanks to his grit and use of available resources, the business

administration graduate now serves as director of grants and contract accounting for Rutgers University's office of research and economic development. He is also a mentor to other young professionals and provides financial support for current Huskies.

"I fell in love with Bloom immediately," says Oglesby. "It was so different from what I had known; I didn't even know where to start."

After four years of juggling academics with frequent full-time employment, seeking out jobs around campus just so he could do laundry, and nearly being forced to withdraw over an unpaid bill, Oglesby began his career as a mutual fund accountant. It was a watershed moment for the Philadelphia native.

"I was so proud I had landed a job before I graduated and was in a profession associated with my degree," says Oglesby.

Oglesby switched to higher-ed in 2012 when he became a grant analyst at Temple University, moving up to interim director of post-award operations before landing at Rutgers in 2018. Oglesby is responsible for maintaining the financial transparency and compliance vital to both the reputation of Rutgers and the hundreds of millions of dollars in sponsorships and grants that fund faculty and student research there.

"You have to be good at it because there is a lot at stake," says Oglesby. "We are talking about faculty life's work — like curing cancer and putting people on Mars. There is no room for delays."

As a self-described introvert, Oglesby said that BU forced him to initiate conversation, ask for help, and get involved on campus. All of which provided the foundation necessary for his success.

"My field is highly collaborative, and interpersonal communication is essential," says Oglesby. "Professors introduce that idea early on through group work and making you learn how to work together. At the time, I found it frustrating, but now I realize how much that prepares you for the professional world. Regardless of what you do, you have to work with people."

Because of his successes, he and his wife and fellow '07 grad, Dominika, with whom he has four children, decided to give back. They created the ACT 101 scholarship to support those who, like Lamar, came to BU with no idea where to start.

"I was very underprepared academically, but the ACT 101 program prepared me. As a first-gen student, your family is counting on you, and that pressure to be 'more than' causes students to drop out. It was difficult. So when we saw that we could help young students of color who came from where we did and faced similar challenges, we knew we were making the right decision."

The seasoned professional also has some advice for students and young alumni.

"Work ethic is air — without it you will suffocate," says Oglesby. "Don't be afraid to fall in love with a person, a career, or an area of study and work hard to develop that deep emotional connection. You will mess up multiple times, but that does not define you. Keep going."



Bill Bent

Distinguished Service Award

Bill Bent '83, executive vice president for retail production at Loan Simple, is more than a mortgage banker — he is an accomplished speaker, author and executive coach. After a life-altering accident that almost killed him

in 2014, he made it his mission to share the wisdom of his life experience and his professional skill in helping companies grow and flourish. He is passionate about helping people be their best on all levels — mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

Before Bent's accident, he was five times named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Mortgage Executives by *Mortgage Executive Magazine*. He previously served on the board of directors at Academy Mortgage Corporation and as the executive vice president of national production.

Under Bent's guidance, Academy grew from being a 130-person regionally-based mortgage company to one of the nation's largest independent mortgage companies, operating in 40 states, employing over 2,300 people and generating over \$8 billion in annual production in 2015. Previously, Bent was with Waterfield Financial Corporation for 21 years prior to its sale, where he served as executive vice president of production for 10 western states. During his tenure, he built the highest producing branch in Waterfield's history, and developed the western region into the largest in the company, managing \$1 billion in annual production.

As a speaker, Bent has presented to organizations that include the Colorado Mortgage Lenders Association, Harvard University Business Leadership Club, and AmeriFirst Financial.

Bent and his wife, Liz, have three children. He is an avid runner, and enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing and golfing.



Paul Clifford

Distinguished Service Award

Paul J. Clifford '96, chief executive officer of the Penn State Alumni Association and associate vice president for alumni relations for Penn State, remains a Husky at heart as an active volunteer at BU activities such as Career Intensive Boot Camps.

Clifford, who began his tenure in 2016, guides Penn State's alumni relations strategy; oversees engagement with more than 174,000 alumni and 300 affiliate groups; leads a 70-member staff; and manages a broad range of programs, benefits, services, and resources, including a \$13 million annual operating budget.

Clifford has spent his entire career in the alumni relations field and has broad national experience. A 12-time CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Award winner, he has served on or chaired myriad CASE committees and is a five-time faculty member for the organization's Summer Institute for Alumni Relations.

Clifford joined Penn State after serving as the University of Oregon's associate vice president of advancement and executive director of the University of Oregon Alumni Association. Previously he held positions at East Carolina University, the University of Connecticut, SUNY New Paltz, and James Madison University.

Clifford earned his bachelor's degree in history from BU and holds a master of education degree in higher education from Penn State.

Paul and his wife met at BU where Paul was a walk-on to the football team and Jennefer was a walk-on to the women's swimming team. In 2016, they established the Paul and Jennefer Clifford Walk-On Scholarship to benefit walk-on student-athletes.

Clifford is also the host of "Alumni Trending", a highly-rated nonprofit business podcast aimed at fellow advancement professionals. A native of Conyngham, Clifford and his wife Jennefer '96 have three children: Aidan, Avery and Abbey.

Setting the Pace for Success

By Tom Schaeffer '02

With nine Ironman Triathlons under his belt, John Schneider '88 is no stranger to keeping his head down, pushing forward, and doing what it takes to achieve his goals.

Schneider, who lives in Colorado, says he adopted that mindset when he was a member of the men's swimming team at BU.

Schneider swam for three different coaches — Mary Gardner, Eli McLaughlin, and Dave Rider. All with very different coaching styles.

"It probably would have been pretty easy for me to give up on swimming with all the changes I had to deal with each year and some other trying circumstances," Schneider says. "But I stuck it out because that was what I wanted to do when I got there, and I'm glad I did."

Originally from Collegeville, Schneider chose Bloom after he took summer courses here and felt the school was the right place for him.

"It was just small enough that I wasn't lost in the crowd," says Schneider, "and I didn't feel like a number, but I could still fly under the radar."

After graduating with a degree in business administration and computer science in 1988, Schneider started working in information technology in southern Maryland. A little less than a year later, he relocated to Denver, where he met his wife, Kathy, and the two have lived there ever since.

Schneider has worked in health care IT for his entire career, mostly remotely, and is a senior analyst for Cone Health based out of North Carolina. He attributes his steady success to his experience at BU.

"I felt very comfortable there from the moment I arrived, with my surroundings and my professors," adds Schneider. "They didn't just teach us what was in the textbooks. They always taught us real-world stuff, not just boring programming that we'd probably never use."

When Schneider thinks back on his time at Bloomsburg, he realizes it shaped more than just how he approaches his work, but also how he approaches life in general. He credits his experience as a student-athlete for preparing him for success in his career, his marriage, and with his passion for competing in triathlons.



“

“There weren't a lot of options for swimming scholarships when I was there, and that's why I always gave to support that, but I wanted to do more to help out future swimmers.”

— John Schneider

“Being on the swim team really helped me learn how to juggle things,” says Schneider. “I had practice, and worked as a lifeguard and at the concession stands. I had to balance that with my studies, too. It helped me as I started to manage projects at work, and learn how to pace myself during races.”

That's why he has always felt compelled to give back to his alma mater. Schneider has been a regular supporter since he graduated, giving to men's and women's swimming scholarships.

Tom Ruhl, relationship manager with the BU Foundation, noticed Schneider's dedication to supporting BU swimming and reached out to ask if he'd like to create more opportunities for student-athletes. The meeting led to Schneider taking a significant next step in his support by pledging a \$1 million gift in his estate to BU which will establish the John O. Schneider Swimming Scholarship.

“After meeting with Tom and learning all the options, I discussed it with my wife, and we decided this was what we wanted to do,” Schneider adds. “There weren't a lot of options for swimming scholarships when I was there, and that's why I always gave to support that, but I wanted to do more to help out future swimmers.”

continues on next page.

The average Ironman Triathlon race, the kind Schneider trains for, consists of a 2.4-mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike ride, and finishes with a 26.2-mile run, with each leg of the race immediately following the last.

"It takes a lot of heart to finish a race like that, and if you push too hard, you might burn yourself out. That's something Bloomsburg instilled in me," Schneider says. "If I'm able to help future students learn something like that through this gift, then it will be money well spent."

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

"At first it didn't seem real. I didn't leave campus for a week because I didn't want it to be true."

Those are the words of Angela DiPasquale '20, senior goalie for the women's lacrosse team, as she recalled the moment when she and the rest of her teammates learned they would miss out on their spring 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Once I finally came to terms with it, I was a little depressed," says DiPasquale. "I worked really hard in the offseason and I was coming off a really good junior year. I was hoping to be an All-American as a senior."

The story was the same for a member of the women's tennis team and several senior baseball players whose final seasons were abruptly canceled.

"When I had to deliver the message to our student-athletes last spring, it was one of the most heartbreaking moments of my career," says Director of Athletics Michael McFarland.

The news was so disheartening that McFarland met with coaches and members of the BU Foundation to see if they could bring those seniors back to finish their BU athletic careers in the spring of 2021.

Athletic administrators and coaches shared that they could save scholarship spots for the returning seniors due to the unusual circumstances. However, those scholarships were not budgeted for the 2021 fiscal year, so financial support would be needed.

With the help of the BU Foundation, McFarland and baseball coach Mike Collins reached out to potential donors looking to support the initiative, which they named the *Finish What They Started* campaign.

An anonymous donor was eager to help these Huskies finish their climbs, while inspiring others to join him. The result was a generous challenge gift pledged to provide more than half the money needed if other donors came together to provide the other half.

Thirty-two donors stepped up with gifts totaling more than \$20,000, surpassing the challenge goal, and with the \$25,000 challenge gift, funds are now available for the seniors to return.

Seven 2020 senior student-athletes will return in spring 2021 to continue their education as graduate students and play their final season in maroon and gold.



A New Name for a Brighter Vision

Henry Carver was one of a kind. He crisscrossed the country in service of education at a time when most never strayed beyond their hometown. A hunting accident slowed him down long enough for him to establish and serve as the first president of Bloomsburg University in 1839.

We know Carver's story well. For years his namesake fund gave a much-needed hand up to students who embody his spirit. But as BU recently introduced its new brand, which focuses on encouraging students to seize the opportunities that will propel them onward and upward to success, the BU Foundation did some research of its own. What we learned was that our alumni and friends want their support to align with BU's goals and mission.

As a result of that research, the Henry Carver Fund will now become the Bloom On Fund. Alumni and friends will notice a fresh new look that closely mirrors the University's new brand and focuses on how donor support creates opportunities for our Huskies through access to flexible and immediate funding.

With this new name and renewed focus on how our donors are impacting the lives of students, we can better convey how gifts to the Bloom On Fund help keep every onward moving upward at BU. This will allow us to share the stories of our students' success with our donors and show how their support can make a difference when it makes all the difference.

From a scholarship to fit in an extra class, to funds that cover travel to an internship or study abroad opportunity, to conference fees so a student can present his or her research — a gift to the Bloom On Fund addresses the greatest and most immediate needs of the Husky family, making possible a fuller and more rewarding BU experience.

In a phrase: It will help our Huskies Bloom On.

To learn more about the Bloom On Fund or to make a gift today, please visit: giving.bloomu.edu/BloomOn.

BLOOM is where the heart is



By Jaime North

There aren't many perspectives of Bloomsburg University that Wayne Whitaker '79 hasn't seen.

As a student. As a graduate. And for more than 30 years, as an employee, helping spearhead a new vision for admissions and mentoring students in academic enrichment, many of whom were the first in their family to attend college.

As of this summer, add retiree to the list.

In many ways, Bloomsburg has become family. Quite literally.

"I spent four and a half years as an undergrad and had a great college experience," says Whitaker, a co-founding member of BU's Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity chapter who capped a 33-year career in July as assistant director of diversity and retention. "College not only brought me an education, but also a wife and child."

After graduating from Bloomsburg State College as a psychology major in 1979, Whitaker was first employed with the National Job Corps Program in Lopez. Two job opportunities soon caught his eye, he says — one at a retreat correctional facility and the other in BU's Office of Admissions as a minority recruiter.

"I thought what a wonderful opportunity it would be to work at my alma mater," Whitaker says. "I would have to thank Dr. Jesse Bryan and Dr. Irvin Wright for making me aware of this opportunity and mentoring me."

His first position at BU wasn't short on challenges.

"Bloomsburg did not have the best reputation in the urban communities due to some incidents in the early '80s," Whitaker says. "I felt in my heart that BU had something to offer all students and the personal challenge was to make it a competitor with other schools. The assistance of fellow alums, community leaders, faculty and staff, and satisfied parents helped put BU on the map."

One such indicator of progress, according to Whitaker, was a shift in how BU had to recruit underrepresented students to campus for an admissions visit. During this time BU went from having to provide bus trips to campus for tours to students choosing to travel to Bloomsburg on their own for a campus visit.

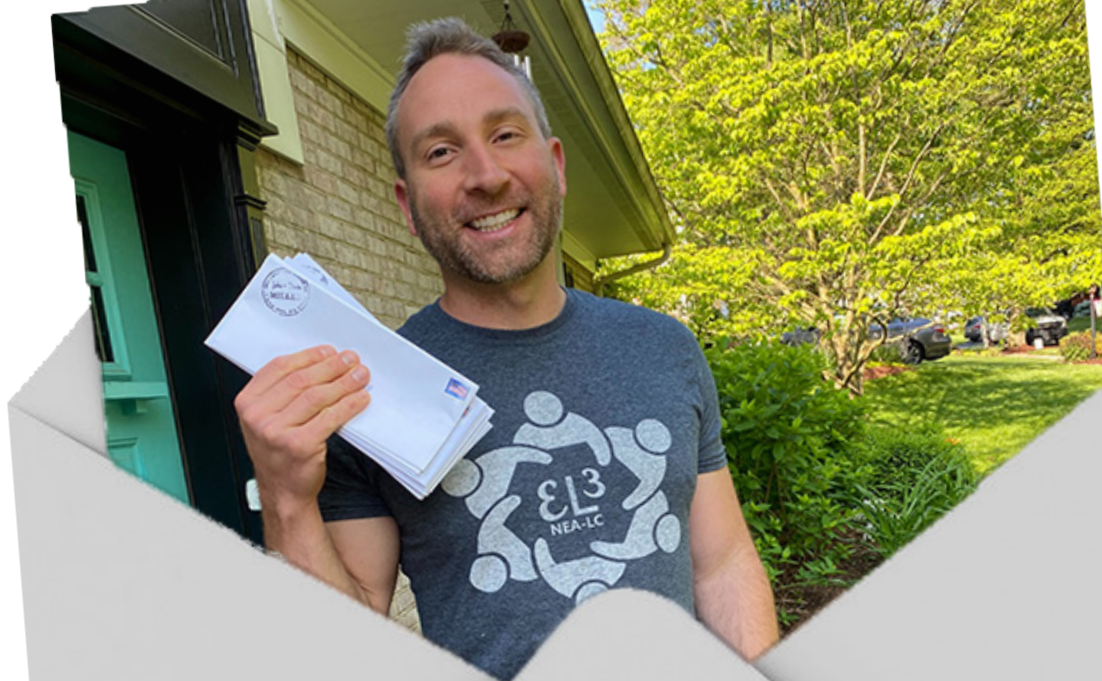
"I was able to increase the number of students of color applying to Bloomsburg," Whitaker says. "There was a noticeable increase in diversity often mentioned by faculty and staff."

Through collaboration with colleagues on campus, fellow alumni, and community leaders, we helped make Bloomsburg a school of choice for underrepresented students."

After 23 years in admissions, a career shift for Whitaker presented itself. He went from bringing students onto campus for their first steps of college life — many as the first in their family to do so — to advising them through school onward to taking steps across the graduation stage.

"The lasting impact so many students have had on me is they persevered through difficult circumstances and graduated," says Whitaker, who also helped lead BU's Board of Governors Program. "This let me know they were ready for the challenges that life was going to present. Some students even returned to the campus with their own families and wanted their children to be a part of the Bloomsburg experience."





memories I'll
taking it equ
2nd highest
to not just
Ben Troutlein,
you, each &
When I've
your sister, it
But you, a
high bars o
Coupled wi
Mission is
don't get r
your opport
things on
looking f
not just i
but in th
follow. D

5 MINUTES CAN CHANGE A STUDENT'S LIFE

By Eric Foster

How much time does it take to change a child's life for the better? Eighth-grade teacher Jake Miller '05 strives to make sure he has a one-on-one talk with each of his students.

"I make sure I get a good five- to seven-minute conversation with every student before the end of a semester," says Miller, who teaches social studies in the Cumberland Valley School District.

"I teach kids before content. Focus on hearts first, minds second," says Miller. "Nobody cares what you know until they know you care. You need to build a relationship. That's from Day One."

Miller's humanistic approach has made him a star in his field, garnering honors such as Pennsylvania History Teacher of the Year in 2016, a National Education Association Global Fellow to China in 2017, and a semi-finalist for State Teacher of the Year. He also knows first-hand the transformative power of education.

"I struggled in high school. At one point, my family was not well off. My favorite teacher in high school (Rick Morgans '81) took me to visit colleges. I loved how much he loved Bloomsburg," said Miller. "I am eternally indebted to the university. It pulled me out of poverty. I'm the first person to graduate from college in my whole family."

Miller arrived at BU in 2001, just after 9/11 occurred, and soon became involved in the American Democracy Project and Democracy Matters on campus.

"I was kind of introverted and never thought I would put myself out there," says Miller. "Twenty-five kids showed up at the first meeting, and I was nominated as the first president."

Miller and others in the group presented at hundreds of classes and registered 4,000 students to vote — so many that a voting precinct was established on campus. Students ran for town council, and one, Dan Knorr '07/'16M, was elected mayor of Bloomsburg in 2007.

Initially, Miller didn't set out to be a teacher. "I went with different majors until I took a history class with Jeff Davis. One of the first lessons was how swear words reflected on history. I was hooked."

As he finished his career at BU, Miller had a paid internship with state Sen. John Gordner and later worked for state Senate Republicans on the Education Committee, where he helped craft legislation.

But Miller was called to teaching. At one point, he was set to study for a master's in public policy on a scholarship at Carnegie Mellon. "I bawled my eyes out on what I thought was the last day of my teaching," he recalls.

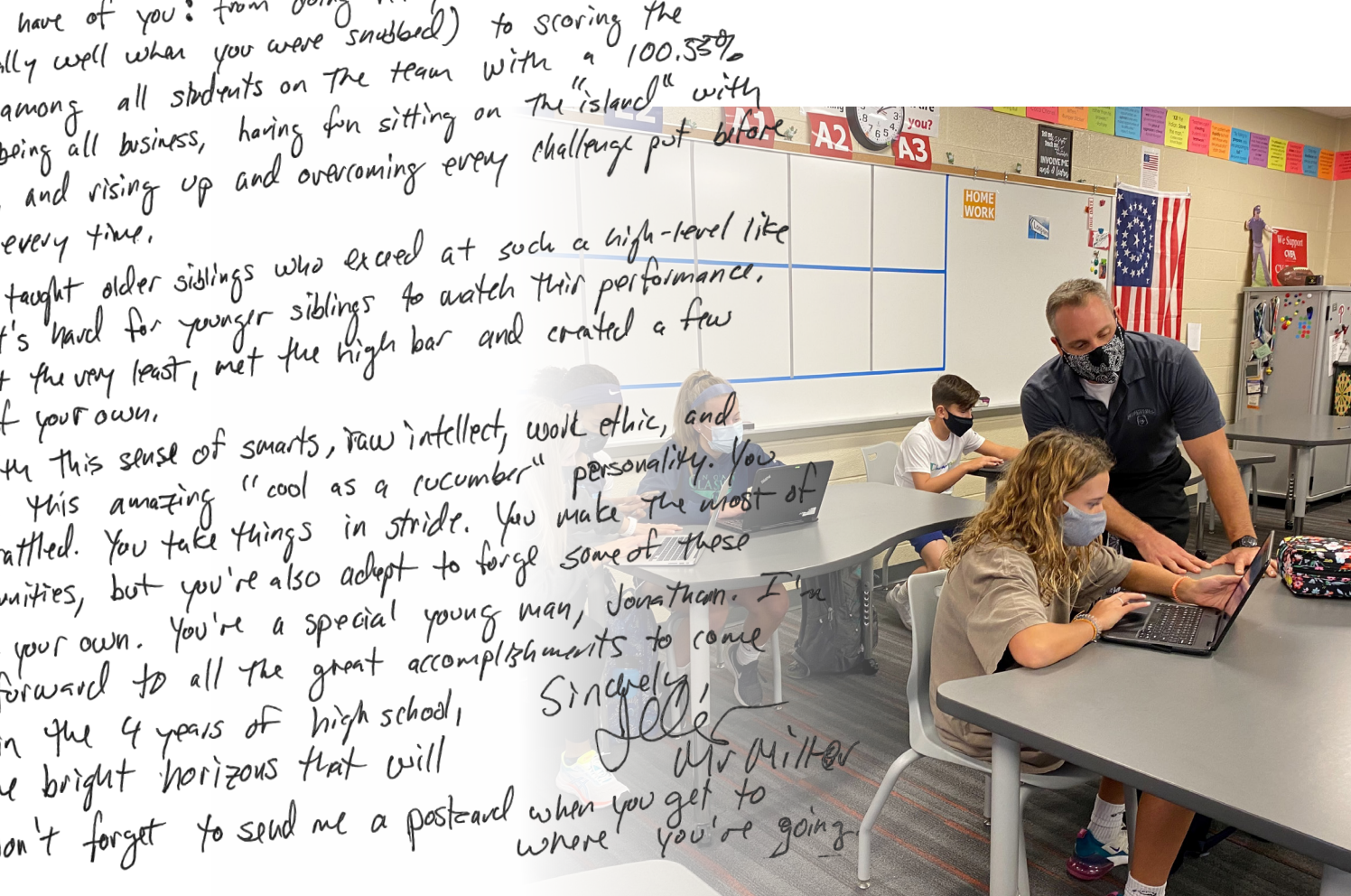
Starting out at Panther Valley School District in Lansford, Miller has taught math, reading, economics, and civics in grades six through 12. But middle school is where he's found his home. "I love middle school because they're weird, and I'm weird."

have of you: from doing...
ally well when you were snubbed) to scoring the
among all students on the team with a 100.53%
being all business, having fun sitting on the "island" with
and rising up and overcoming every challenge put before
every time.

taught older siblings who excelled at such a high-level like
it's hard for younger siblings to watch their performance,
at the very least, met the high bar and created a few
of your own.

in this sense of smarts, raw intellect, work ethic, and
this amazing "cool as a cucumber" personality. You
rattled. You take things in stride. You make the most of
opportunities, but you're also adept to forge some of these
your own. You're a special young man, Jonathan. I'm
forward to all the great accomplishments to come
in the 4 years of high school,
the bright horizons that will
don't forget to send me a postcard when you get to
where you're going.

Sincerely,
Jake Miller
Mr. Miller



Miller actively shares his teaching knowledge as a speaker and writer at theeducatorsroom.com and on his website, mrjakemiller.com.

Raising two young boys, ages 2 and 4, Miller has some tips for parents struggling with shifting school routines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Do not put off chasing dreams because of these new barriers," he says. "Communication is key. Teachers and parents are on the same team. Parents should be in touch with teachers."

"And treat kids like people. Kids have different preferences. What works for one might not work for the other. If there's a silver lining to COVID, it's that maybe we can meet those needs and diversify our approach."

After moving to entirely remote instruction last spring, Cumberland Valley is offering in-person classes this fall.

But, the abrupt switch to remote teaching in the spring robbed Miller of the opportunity to have that meaningful conversation with every student, so he wrote letters to all 140 of them, each acknowledging specific qualities of that student.

"I don't know many with the power of empathy — the ability to wear another's skin or walk in their shoes — like you do," he wrote to one student. To another, he wrote: "When you pointed to the flag indicating where your family came from, you noted the struggle that your parents made to get you here and work to realizing the American dream."



"Do not put off chasing dreams because of these new barriers. Communication is key. Teachers and parents are on the same team. Parents should be in touch with teachers."

— Jake Miller

He then made a personalized video for 40 graduating seniors, several of whom are coming to BU.

"Kids crave in-person learning. Science supports that," says Miller. "I'm going to have 40 percent of the in-person time as I'm used to. I'm proud of my colleagues in our profession. The way we do things has changed more in the past year than since education became compulsory."

"I love the between class moments where a kid will come up and say something like I never thought about that before. Or going up to them and say 'You had a great basketball game,'" says Miller. "Those are foundational for the relationship. You can't hang around on Zoom and say these things."

"In the end, this is going to build a lot of resiliency in kids. One thing for them to grasp onto is that their teachers are rooting them."



building a career one video at a time

By Mary Raskob

Cailley (Breckinridge) Lombardo, '16, jokes that she's "grateful to say she watches cartoons for a living."

A producer for Nickelodeon's Viacom CBS digital studio, Lombardo is responsible for researching, scripting, producing, and editing content for six of the network's YouTube channels.

The "Visual DNA of Kendrick Lamar," "Henry Hart House Tour," and "Top 13 Krabby Patty Moments." Yep, those are Cailley Lombardo's. These three videos account for over 17 million views on YouTube, with the Krabby Patty video alone accounting for more than 15 million views, making it the highest viewed video on the channel and part of the Krusty Krab installation at the 2019 Comic Con. The Henry Hart Tour video had 1 million views in its first month on YouTube.

While Lombardo's job seems fun, her career has been built on putting in long hours to hone her craft — one video at a time.

As a student, Lombardo worked in BU's marketing and communications office, editing and producing videos that informed the campus of events and promoted the university. She was also president of the National Broadcasting Society and was the managing editor of BUNow, where she learned responsibility, collaboration, and had the chance to "flex all of her creative muscles."

"I loved that the mass communications department (now called media and journalism) allowed me to dip my toes in so many different types of media," remarked Lombardo. "I was a telecommunications major, but I also took courses in journalism and emergent media — two skills I use daily."



While students may feel they spend a lot of time in McCormick now, Lombardo sees how developing that work ethic and persistence is paying dividends. “Thinking back to my BU days whenever I am working on a fairly large project and feel a little overwhelmed, I am reminded of all the hours I put in at the editing bays in McCormick, and it helps me put into perspective that if I could create awesome projects even as a student I can get through any challenge that comes my way.”

“The professors and department really prepared me to work hard and not to give up or take short cuts. Whenever I am on shoots with my team, I think of working with the equipment in the studio in McCormick and how I am so thankful I had the opportunity to learn how a studio runs and how to properly run a shoot.”

When Lombardo first came to BU, she dreamed of a career in TV news. “After a few editing classes and creating videos, I knew I wanted to write and edit the stories, not just tell them.”

That change in mindset spurred Lombardo to take risks with her assignments and hone her dialogue skills. “I wanted to think out of the box and do something no one else was doing. At the end of your time as a student, those projects will be what you have to show to future employers, so do what you can to make yourself stand out.”

Lombardo set her sights on digital rather than traditional television because it offers more flexibility, and “allows you to be as creative and as weird as possible.”

The road to Nickelodeon included stops as an intern for MTV News and a production assistant for its digital platform. Then she was promoted to associate producer, creating videos that revolved around pop-culture, daily breaking news, and big events such as the Video Music Awards and the Movie and TV Awards. A perk of working with MTV News was meeting celebrities such as Nick Jonas, The Chainsmokers, Aubrey Plaza, Chole X Halle, and Cardi B.

For Lombardo, no days – or assignments – are the same. A simple execution, like a listicle – an article in the form of a list – can take around two days to source clips from research or memory, and then arrange in a simple timeline before sending off to final delivery. Longer videos require research, scripting, sound mixing, voice-over work, and a graphics treatment. It can take up to five days from beginning of research to final approval.

“But what’s nice is that my schedule really varies. I am not in a routine where I am stuck at my computer for long stretches of time and I can give myself a little bit of a mental break when working on less complicated projects,” said Lombardo.

With Nickelodeon, Lombardo is involved in every step of the process from conception to the final delivery, while collaborating with writers, editors, and graphic designers. “Every day is different for me. One day I’ll be pulling clips of every time SpongeBob SquarePants said, “I’m Ready!” and the next day, I am deep diving into every relationship Tori Vega from Victorious ever had.”

Having good knowledge of the digital space, such as YouTube, IGTV, Facebook, and Instagram gives Lombardo an extra edge, while she is trying to learn new things and do something different. “When it comes to the internet, something is viral one week, and the next week, it’s entirely different, so I need to be a few steps ahead of the trends.”

Lombardo’s advice to students dreaming of a career in digital production: work hard, have fun, and keep a positive attitude.

“Create your own YouTube channel! Vlog, create stories, or get together with friends to collaborate with any fun ideas. These will not only beef up your portfolio but give you another chance to work on tightening up your skills for your future career. It may not always be easy, but hard work and a positive attitude can take you a long way in the industry.”



“

“I wanted to think out of the box and do something no one else was doing. At the end of your time as a student, those projects will be what you have to show to future employers, so do what you can to make yourself stand out.”

— Cailley Lombardo

HUSKY NOTES

'60s

» **Larry Greenly '65** signed a film rights option for his book, *Eugene Bullard: World's First Black Fighter Pilot*.

'70s

» **Samuel Ceccacci '74** is a member of the Keystone College Board of Trustees. The former executive director of the Scranton Lackawanna Human Development Agency, Inc., Ceccacci spent his entire career with the agency as Head Start coordinator, director, and executive director.

» **Barbara Benner Hudock '75** was named one of the top 10 Women Wealth Advisors in Pennsylvania. Hudock is the chief executive officer and founding partner of Hudock Capital Group. Earlier this year, she was included in the *Forbes* 2020 Pennsylvania Best-In-State Wealth Advisor Rankings and in the *Barron's* 12th Annual Top 1,200 Advisors. Together, these rankings place her among the highest-ranked women financial advisers in the nation.

» **Kathleen Williams Gaughenbaugh '79** retired from Saint Columba School in Bloomsburg.

'80s

» **Randy Deitrich '80** retired from Ashland/Valvoline. He progressed from entry-level accountant to financial systems manager.

» **Diane Lewis Long McAloon '80** retired as director of alumni relations after 19 years at Penn State Lehigh Valley.

» **Victoria Bloss Seifred '80** retired after 38 years from the Red Clay Consolidated School District, in Wilmington, Del. Seifred served as a social studies teacher and school counselor and was honored twice as Teacher of the Year as well as the Delaware School Counselor of the Year.

» **Nancy Amone Goldfader '81** retired as treasurer from the board of Greater Honesdale Partnership. Beck was a certified public accountant in Pennsylvania.

» **Alfred Beck '82** retired from Larson Design Group, Williamsport.

» **Denise Molchany Hozza '82** was named as a Lehigh Valley Business Women of Influence winner for 2020. Hozza is a certified valuation analyst with Concannon Miller.

» **Dwayne Hoffman '85** is vice president of franchise development at Duck Donuts Franchising, Mechanicsburg.

» **Martha Geiger King '85** is chief client officer with Infosys, a global retirement hub in Vanguard. King was managing director of Vanguard Institutional Investor Group since 2015.

» **Regina Speaker Palubinsky '87** is executive director of the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Previously, Palubinsky was the superintendent of the Great Valley School District in Chester County, assistant superintendent for the Phoenixville Area School District, and special assistant to the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education.

» **Thomas Beck '88** is senior vice president and chief risk officer of Mifflinburg Bank & Trust. Beck has 31 years of experience in audit, compliance, and risk management, 25 of which are with Mifflinburg Bank & Trust.

» **Nichola Delbalso Gutgold '88M** has written a children's book, *Growing Up Supremely: The Women of the Supreme Court*, that won first place in the biography/autobiography category of the Purple Dragonfly Contest.

» **Linda Lehman Hock Swisher '88** was named registrar of Bloomsburg University. Swisher had served as associate registrar since 2012.

'90s

» **James McCormack '90** has been promoted from colonel to general in the Pennsylvania National Guard. McCormack, BU's associate vice president for student development and campus life, began his military career as an enlisted infantryman in 1987. He earned a commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1990. Among his numerous command and staff positions, McCormack served as the deputy garrison commander and director of public works of the Kabul Compound, the senior NATO headquarters at the time, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul, Afghanistan in 2003-2004. He also served as the senior Intelligence and operations officer for the 213th Area Support Group charged with general support logistic management and distribution throughout central Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007-2008.

» **John Kveragas '94** is senior vice president, chief audit officer of Bryn Mawr Trust, owned by Bryn Mawr Bank Corporation. Kveragas has more than 20 years of auditing experience, including 12 years at ING Direct/Capital One, where he served as a director of corporate audit and security services.

» **Marae Pharr Reid '94** is principal at Overton Elementary School in Salisbury, N.C. Reid has been an assistant principal with the district since 2007 and served as a testing coordinator, bus coordinator, support coordinator, and dean of students.

» **David Manbeck '98** is an equity member with Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill. A CPA with more than 20 years of experience, Manbeck chairs the firm's not-for-profit services group. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants Not-for-Profit Committee and Not-for-Profit Conference Planning Committee. He also serves on the board of directors of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

» **Jessica Light '99M** is raising money to start a nonprofit, the JumpStart Cart, to provide young adults with special needs job opportunities operating a food truck.

'00s

» **Belinda Price Heltzel '00** is owner of Central Penn Field Hockey. The Camp Hill-based youth club was named the 2020 USA Field Hockey National Club of the Year.

» **Karen Quintero Molina '00**, a K-5 World Language Teacher in the Denville Township (N.J.) School District, was named the 2020 Staff Member of the Year for her dedication to her students and the community. She has been teaching in Denville since 2000.

» **Peter Cheddar '00** is the superintendent of the Mount Carmel Area School District. Cheddar served as junior high school principal at his alma mater since 2012.

» **Rev. Shawn Simchock '02** earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass. Simchock was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of Scranton on June 27 and has been assigned as assistant pastor at St. Faustina Parish in Nanticoke, Pa. and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Lake Silkworth, Pa.

HUSKY NOTES

» **Crystal Skotedis '03** is an elected principal owner of Boyer & Ritter, Camp Hill. Skotedis, CPA, CFE, is co-chair of the firm's employee benefit plan services group.

» **Jennifer Drey '05** was named the Pennsylvania Business Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Business Education Association. The award goes to a PBEA member who demonstrates excellence in business, computer or information technology in a kindergarten through 12th grade, or post-secondary education setting.

» **Chad Garrapy '07** is a senior attorney at Geraci Law, Indianapolis. Garrapy has been practicing law since 2011 when he graduated with honors from Michigan State University College of Law.

'10s

» **Amanda Schaffer '10** is executive director of Sewickley Valley Historical Society.

» **Senahid Zahirovic '10** is a director at Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill. Zahirovic is a CPA and member of the firm's government services practice group. He is on the board of Dauphin County Crime Stoppers and is a 2017 graduate of Leadership Harrisburg Area.

» **Jeremy Scheibelhut '11** is a director at Boyer & Ritter CPAs and Consultants, Camp Hill. Scheibelhut is a CPA and member of the firm's auto dealership and not-for-profit services groups. He is on the boards of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and Harrisburg Young Professionals, a 2016 graduate of Leadership Harrisburg Area. He is a second lieutenant in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

» **Eliza Reed '12** is an emergency medicine physician at Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg. Reed received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

» **Caitlin Donahue '16** is an associate attorney with Cipriani & Werner, P.C. in Lancaster. She practices employment, business and contracts, and workers' compensation defense law.



Marriages

Clarissa Coffay '14 and Michael Mock '13, June 13, 2020

Andreana Yocum '03 and Jonathan Chappel, Sept. 13, 2019

Births

Andreana Yocum Chappel '03 and husband, Jonathan, a daughter, Amelia, July 21, 2020

Crystal Litzenbauer Kovacs '05 and husband, Charles '05, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, June 10, 2020

Chad Romig '07 and wife, Jenna, a son, Blake, Dec. 15, 2016

Elise Henne Gledhill '10 and husband, Ryan, a son, Wyatt, August 6, 2020

Amanda Brooks Winters '09 and husband, John, a daughter, Nora Josephine, May 22, 2020

Brad Fritz '10 and wife, Caitlin, a daughter, Kaylee, July 15, 2020

Elizabeth King Salas '11 and husband, Ryan '08, a daughter, Ava, July 6, 2020

Hope McLaughlin Vaughn '12 and husband, Peter, a son, Bennett, August 21, 2020

Jessica Pavlik '12 and husband, Christian, a son, Luca Pavlik, November 24, 2019

Tiffany Drasher Stagliano '15 and husband, Aaron '09, a son, Tyler, June 5, 2016

Stefanie Morris Hower '15 and husband, Adam, a son, Jacen, July 7, 2020

Krista Lipps '16 and Wade Joline Jr., a son, Chase Conrad, May 26, 2020

Obituaries

Ann Evans Bacon '42

Merrill Deitrich '42

Charlotte Reichart Sharpless '48

Rosemary Snierski Fiscella '54

Carol Shupp Heard Clarke '55

Ann Snyder Roadarmel '55

Shirley Carey '56

Miriam Miller Argall '57

John Simko '60

Dora Forney Jarrett '63

Frank Harris '64

Paul Levitski '64

Caroline Sager Bakelaar '65

Judith Radler Truex '65

Gerard Dick '66

Wesley Rothermel '66

Louis Centrella '68

Claude Coccodrilli '68

William Roberts '68

Richard Snell '70

Marie Walker Carchilla '71

Claire Sieber Jeppsen '72

Paul McAuliffe '72

Barbara Neuhard '72

Barry Sutter '72

Gerald Witcoski '74

Terry Burns '76

Diane Beers Johnson '76

James Kodlick '76

James Perrige '78

David Fox '82

Carol Sue Miller '82

Todd Remley '86

Filomena Costantino Covert '88

Craig Moyer '92

Wendi Friedberg Schrof '93

David Greene '96

Morgan Fornwald Baker '12

Michael Dessino '14

Send information to: magazine@bloomu.edu

Bloomsburg: The University Magazine | Waller Administration Building | 400 E. Second Street | Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1301

Two decades ago the football world learned about the

HUSKIES

By Tom McGuire



With apologies to the Beatles ...

It was 20 years ago today

Danny Hale taught the team to play,

They were going up the rankings in style,

But they're guaranteed to raise a smile,

So may I introduce to you,

The act you've known for all these years,

The 2000 Bloomsburg University football team!

Two decades ago the BU football team turned the Division II football world upside down and made a dramatic run to the NCAA Division II national title game.

Head coach Danny Hale had high hopes going into the 2000 season after finishing the previous season with four straight wins. In the 2000 PSAC East preseason poll, BU was ranked third behind Millersville and West Chester.

"We were optimistic going into the year," Hale says. "We had a prolific offense and an experienced defense, and I felt like we could be successful."

Eric Miller, a three-year starter at quarterback, led the offense. At his disposal were wide receivers Mike Lelko and Tierell Johnson and running backs Marques Glaze and Arrastene Henry. An offensive line led by Jeff Smith, Sean Flueso, Manny Henrie, and Matt Russel gave BU fans a lot to be excited about.

Defensively, the Huskies also featured a veteran crew led by defensive tackle Brian Sims, linebackers Jeremiah Dyer, Matt Keys, and Greg Roskos and defensive backs Toyae Berry, Trent Flick and Rudy Garcia.

"We were solid at every position," said Hale. "And our goal that year was to win the PSAC East title. Then we started with two tough losses."

BU dropped road games to Carson-Newman, the 1999 D-II national finalists, and Shippensburg. "We wanted to win the Newman game in the worst way. They thought we were going to be a cupcake team," says Hale. "And playing at Shippensburg was never easy."

"At 0-2, as coaches, we had to keep the guys together. We knew they could have easily packed it in on us."

The Huskies, though, got wins over Lock Haven, Cheyney and West Chester. A Homecoming win over previously unbeaten IUP that featured a horrific injury to Juney Barnett (see story on page 30), turned the heads of the football world and gave the Huskies something they really needed.

"The IUP game gave us confidence," says Hale. "They were a legit team and suddenly we knew we could play with anyone."

The Huskies closed out the regular season with five more wins, including victories over Millersville and Slippery Rock, both ranked as the top team in the NCAA East Region at the time, securing a berth in the NCAA playoffs with a 9-2 record.

"We were excited about making the NCAA playoffs after how we started," said Hale. "That doesn't happen often. It was a real tribute to our team that year how they stayed together."

BU took care of two Michigan teams, Saginaw Valley and Northwood, at home in the opening rounds to reach the NCAA D-II semi-finals. However, staring them squarely in the face was one of the toughest teams the program had ever encountered, long-time powerhouse UC Davis, unbeaten at 12-0.

"Our goal was to do our best," Hale says. "Our chances weren't good for sure. We had only 8.5 scholarships to their fully-funded team. They figured it was the year for them to win it all. For us, it was going to be our bowl game."

The Huskies, in front of 10,000 fans, trailed 48-29 heading into the final period.

"After three quarters, my thought was just to make the final respectable," Hale jokes. "I was working to keep the guys from giving up. It was one play at a time. UC Davis could have easily won that game, but they got greedy trying to add to their point total."

As the final period began, Miller gathered his team and said, "Guys, this could be the last quarter of football most of us will ever play. Let's just have fun. We're playing for pride right now and you never know what could happen."

What happened was one of the most remarkable comebacks ever. The Huskies outscored the Aggies, 29-0, in the fourth period — winning 58-48 and propelling the Huskies to Alabama for the national title game.

To this day, the words "Bloomsburg University" can't be spoken around some people from UC Davis who were there that day, says Mark Honbo of UC Davis athletic communications.

Honbo recalls, "Before the game, I asked a buddy of mine who knew about Bloomsburg; he replied, 'Everyone hates playing Bloom. They're always good, and even when they're not, they're always scary because they still can beat anybody on the right day.' So when the game was over, he and I looked at each other. He put both hands up and had this amused look on his face that effectively said, 'I told you...'"

"The bubble burst" the next week in the words of Danny Hale when Delta State of Mississippi gave a good 'ole beat down to the Huskies, 63-34, in the national title game in Florence, Ala. While the final game was not what the Huskies had hoped for, the 2000 season remains one of the most storied in BU athletic history.

Tom McGuire served as BU's director of sports information from 1997 to 2016 before becoming the school's director of communications, and covered the exploits of the 2000 BU football team.

✧ Quarterback Eric Miller set several NCAA post-season passing marks for the Huskies.



✧ BU players make a tackle during the NCAA Division II title game against Delta State.

✧ The picture of the final seconds of the come-back win at UC Davis that stunned the college football world.



Juney's Journey

By David Leisering

Tough times create tough people. For Juney Barnett, no truer words have ever been said.

The 2000 Bloomsburg University football team made a historic run to the NCAA Division II national title game (see related story on page 28) — but it didn't come without its challenges.

Barnett, a junior at the time, was the Huskies' starting cornerback. He and his teammates started slowly in 2000 losing the first two games, both on the road. After the slow start, the Huskies got home to Redman Stadium and knocked out both Lock Haven and Cheyney. An easy road win at West Chester set up a homecoming matchup with PSAC West-rival IUP.

The night before the game, Barnett recalls watching "Remember the Titans" with his teammates. As he describes it, never in his wildest dreams would he have ever guessed he would have the lead role the next day.

"I remember IUP driving down the field," explains Barnett. "The next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital. I could hear my mother's voice, but I couldn't speak or see her. She told me that I just had emergency surgery on my head."

Barnett had made a helmet-to-helmet tackle in the second quarter that ended his career, but far worse, nearly his life. He later learned that he had suffered a subdural hematoma (a brain bleed usually associated with traumatic brain injury). Had the doctor not performed surgery on time, he could have died. He remained in the hospital for nearly a week, but felt well enough to attend the Huskies' home game against East Stroudsburg the following Saturday. He stayed until halftime, reflecting the whole time that he had played his last football game.

Barnett went home with his parents to North Carolina but gained enough

strength to return to Bloomsburg to go back to class and finish the semester. Once he returned, he learned what exactly had happened that October day.

"I spoke with Dr. (Joe) Hazzard (retired BU athletic trainer), and he told me that I had made the hit on the field but never got up," Barnett recalls. "I was in and out of consciousness, and then I stopped breathing. Dr. Hazzard and his training staff put a tube down my throat to allow me to breathe and ultimately saved my life, and, for that, I am forever grateful."



Dr. Joe Hazzard

Barnett's goals and vision shifted after returning to Bloomsburg as he began to study athletic training because he "didn't want what happened to me to happen to anyone else."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in exercise science in 2002, he completed an internship at Drexel, then returned to BU to earn his master's degree in exercise physiology in 2003. Following stints at Division I institutions and in the National Football League, Barnett became the director of sports performance for the football program at Northern Illinois University in June.

Now that he is a Husky again — albeit at Northern Illinois — Barnett looks back to his days as a Bloomsburg Husky as a time that he wouldn't trade for anything.

Even his journey to Bloomsburg began with a bizarre twist.

"My attraction to Bloomsburg came from a magazine," explained Barnett. "I was in Panama with my parents as we were stationed there with my father being in the Air Force. Not many scouts came to Central America to recruit for American football. One day, my father gave me a magazine that included the top 10 teams in Division II. I sent highlight tapes to three schools and went on two visits. Out of the two, Bloomsburg's campus was the most breathtaking."

While on his visit, he had the chance to sit down with head coach Danny Hale. "I will never forget the words he said to me — 'Juney, you have it. I don't know what that is just yet, but you have it.'" Barnett knew, at that time, that he belonged at Bloomsburg.

"To play under Coach Hale was special," remembers Barnett. "He motivated you using the tone of his voice, the look in his eye, or just putting his hand on your shoulder. The staff was also special — the late Coach (John) Devlin, Coach (Bill) Perkins, Coach (Frank) Williams, Coach (Maurice) Daly. And, when we came to the center of the field after a victory and Coach Hale would do the 'Oh Yeah' chant — there was no other place I wanted to be."

Amidst the challenging times our country is in, Barnett hopes his story can provide some solace. "In life, you may face many obstacles, but, remember, it's nothing you can't overcome. Right now, these are uncertain times, but keep the faith that we will all make it through."

And, as Barnett says, "once we get past these tough times, we can all chant 'Oh Yeah' in victory."





Cubbler Named D2 Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Becca Cubbler '20, who just completed her four-year career with the women's swimming team, was named the Division II Conference Commissioners Association Atlantic Region Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year for 2019-20.

The award adds to a long list of postseason honors.

An early childhood education and special education major, Cubbler was a four-time D2 ADA Scholar-Athlete, a four-time PSAC Scholar-Athlete, a three-time NCAA Academic All-American, a two-time College Sports Information Directors of America First Team Academic All-American, and a two-time member of the PSAC Winter Top Ten list. She also was named the PSAC's 2019-20 Pete Nevins Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Cubbler was the third student-athlete ever from Bloomsburg, male or female, to garner the conference's highest postseason individual honor.



In the water, Cubbler is one of the top swimmers in BU history. She wrapped up her career as a six-time All-American, an 18-time All-PSAC honoree, a two-time PSAC champion, and competed at

the NCAA Division II National Championships in each of her four seasons. She also owns six school records — the 200-yard freestyle, the 500-yard freestyle, the 1000-yard freestyle, the 400-yard medley relay, the 400-yard freestyle relay, and the 800-yard freestyle relay.

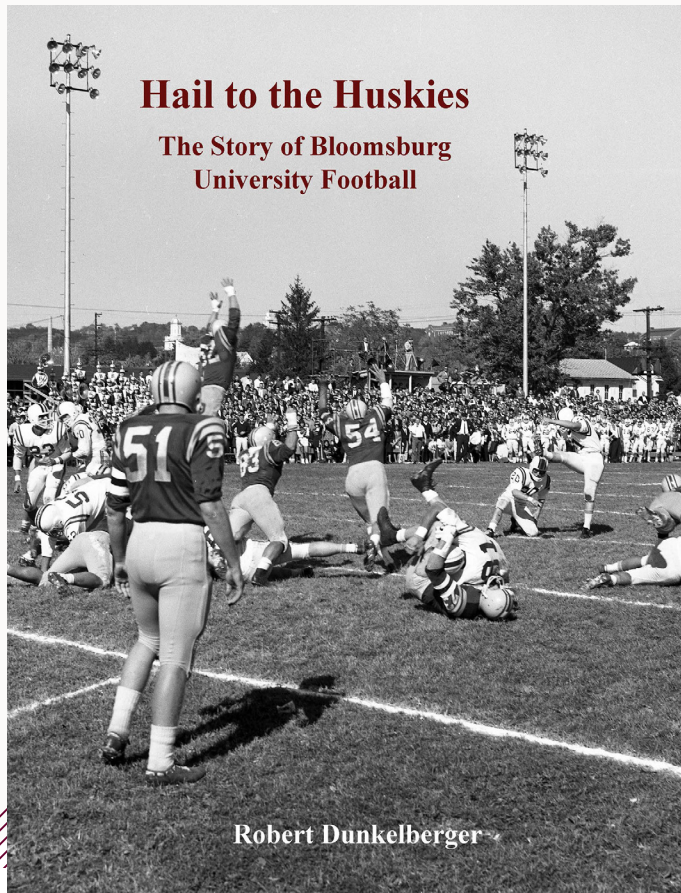


Go Beyond the Bench

Go behind the scenes and gain insight into your favorite teams in a new weekly video series, "Beyond the Bench: A View From the Top with BU Coaches."

Each week, fans can hear from a different head coach to get insights on what each program has done to stay active during the pandemic, what to expect in the coming year, and what it means for each coach to be a Husky. The series will wrap up with Director of Athletics Michael McFarland, to preview a busy 2021 calendar year.

Visit buhuskies.com to view the videos.



Hail to the Huskies

The Story of Bloomsburg
University Football

Robert Dunkelberger

Hail to the Huskies

In the fall of 1892, a history professor and interested students at the Bloomsburg State Normal School organized the school's first team of an increasingly popular sport for academic institutions. Ever since, football has held the imagination of the fans of what is now Bloomsburg University.

Written by BU archivist Robert Dunkelberger, "Hail to the Huskies" is the complete history of football at Bloomsburg — the players, coaches, teams, and seasons that have made the sport one that thousands have turned out to watch year after year. Learn about or relive the memories of days past in the more than 120-year saga of Bloomsburg football.

"Hail to the Huskies" is available for purchase online through the University Store with proceeds benefitting athletic scholarships at Bloomsburg University. **To order your copy, please visit bloomustore.com.**

Athletics Launches Protect Our Pack Campaign

The Athletics Department has launched a Protect Our Pack campaign to bring awareness to social justice issues and help students overcome challenges.

"Protect Our Pack is a great way to bring hard topics to light," says Courtney Noll, assistant field hockey coach and student-athlete advocate. "This campaign will make a positive impact on all of our Huskies."

Student-athletes have partnered with coaches and administrators to address bullying, racism, LGBTQA and gender discrimination and other social injustice issues. The Protect Our Pack concept is being developed and led by student-athletes to create safe spaces where they can speak up and protect themselves and their teams while getting the necessary support to excel.

The group announced its first executive board in mid-September. The board consists of president Angela DiPasquale (senior; women's lacrosse), vice president Lauren Hoelke (senior; women's soccer), secretary Bryce Evans (junior; men's soccer), and technology director

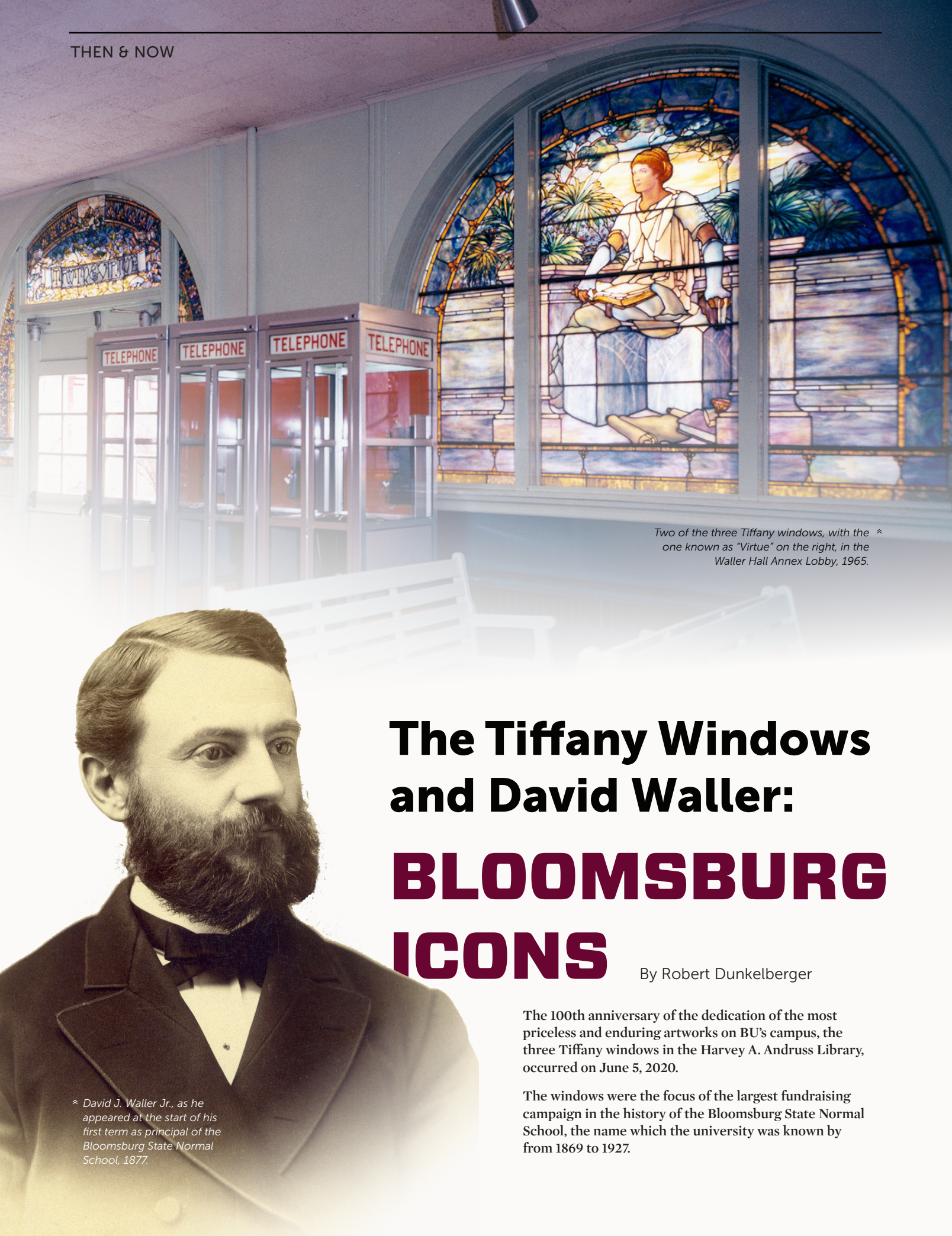


Mackenzie Gebhardt (senior; women's soccer).

There will be educational opportunities offered for student-athletes, including a resource page on buhuskies.com, as well as posters, videos, and speakers, to combat the social justice issues.

"During these challenging times, this student-driven initiative helps improve life as a Husky," says Michael McFarland, director of athletics. "To Protect our Pack can mean something different to everyone. Yet, with the core values of celebrating diversity, fostering inclusion, stopping bullying, breaking down barriers, and ending racism, each student-athlete can have a voice in making our campus a better place."

Visit buhuskies.com for more information.



Two of the three Tiffany windows, with the one known as "Virtue" on the right, in the Waller Hall Annex Lobby, 1965.

The Tiffany Windows and David Waller: **BLOOMSBURG ICONS**

By Robert Dunkelberger

The 100th anniversary of the dedication of the most priceless and enduring artworks on BU's campus, the three Tiffany windows in the Harvey A. Andrus Library, occurred on June 5, 2020.

The windows were the focus of the largest fundraising campaign in the history of the Bloomsburg State Normal School, the name which the university was known by from 1869 to 1927.

David J. Waller Jr., as he appeared at the start of his first term as principal of the Bloomsburg State Normal School, 1877.



^ The Tiffany windows "Truth" (left) and "Virtue" in Andruss Library today.



^ The three Tiffany windows in the west side of the first Harvey A. Andruss Library, August 1972.



^ Taylor Leonard, a first-year education major from Lititz, studies in front of the Tiffany windows at the beginning of the fall semester.

The fundraising for the windows, a gift to the school by the Alumni Association, began in 1919 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Normal School's first class of teachers. A committee was organized and all alumni were encouraged to make subscriptions to the fund between one and ten dollars.

In September 1919, a \$3,500 contract was signed with the ecclesiastical department of Tiffany Studios of New York City. The windows, to incorporate figures representing Truth and Virtue, were to fill two existing semi-circular frames in the lobby of the annex to the main dormitory. In addition, there would be an arched window over the doorway between the frames.

The windows arrived in town in late May 1920, were installed, and dedicated on June 5. They honored not only 50 years of graduates, but also one of the most influential leaders the school has known, David J. Waller Jr. Several months before, he had announced his retirement after having served a combined 27 years as principal of the Normal School.

Waller was born in Bloomsburg in 1846, where his father was pastor of the Presbyterian church. He went through the town's school system, and graduated from the Bloomsburg Literary Institute under Henry Carver in 1867. After earning his bachelor's and master's from Lafayette College and a degree in religion from the Union Theological Seminary, Waller was convinced to take over leadership of the Normal School in 1877. Financially shaky the first few years, by 1890 the school was in better shape when Waller was named state superintendent of public instruction.

After three years in that position and 13 as principal at the Indiana State Normal School, Waller returned to Bloomsburg to complete a distinguished 43-year career in education. He was beloved by his students and highly respected by the school's faculty. In 1922 a Tiffany bronze tablet was purchased, now installed on the wall near the windows, on which were inscribed the sentiments: "With culture and efficiency as educational aims, he placed character, honor, right living, and high ideals above every material success."

The windows remained in the dormitory, named Waller Hall in 1927, until they were moved to the first Andruss Library (now the Warren Student Services Center) in 1966. The windows remained there until they were installed in the current library, which opened in 1998. Placed in the front of the building overlooking the Academic Quad, "Truth" and "Virtue" remain icons of Bloomsburg University to this day, a remembrance of its graduates and the dedicated service of David Waller.

MASK UP

HUSKIES

We've got you covered

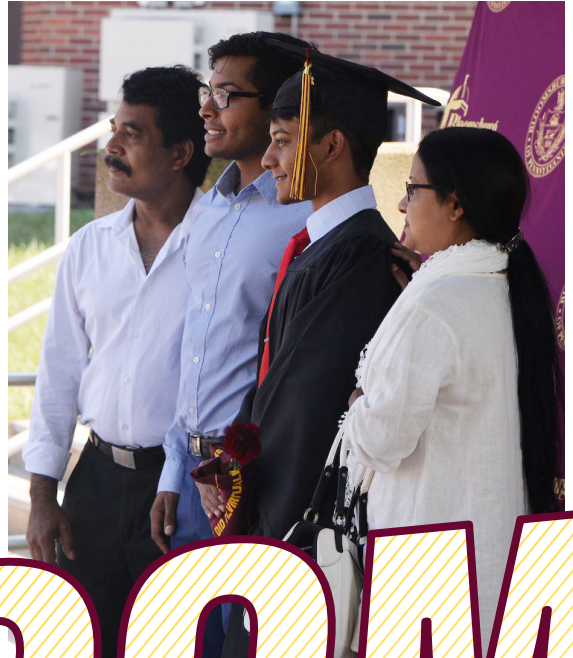


**UNIVERSITY
store**

bloomustore.com



400 E. Second Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815
General Information: 570-389-4175
Customer Service: 570-389-4180
bustore@bloomu.edu



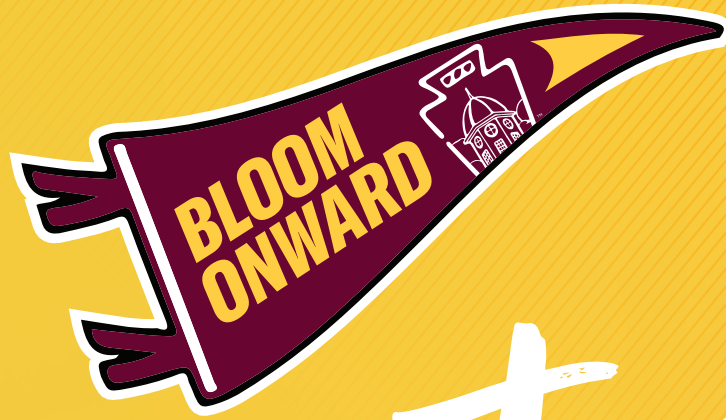
#BLOOM





ONWARD





spirit of **BU**

While our traditional Homecoming has been canceled for safety this year, we're moving onward in celebrating our Husky Spirit into November through more than 20 virtual events such as the #BackThePack 5K, a historical look at our Tiffany stained-glass windows and a series of 10-minute student-written theatre productions... not to mention the 50th reunion of the Class of 1970.

bloomu.edu/husky-spirit

