

# BloomSBurg

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

## The Transformative Power of Education

From our founding to our future, we look at nearly 200 years of education at BloomSBurg

Page 10



The New Education

1. Will your school be child centered?
2. Will your school allow and practice pupil participation?
3. Will your school use the project method?
4. Will interest be based on effort?
5. In your school will there be learning satisfactory doing.

ALSO INSIDE

### Homecoming 2022

Our alumni return to campus

Page 6

### A Partnership in Water Ecology

Page 8





**Transformation.** Across higher education, that word carries a host of meanings. Our Fall magazine focuses on the transformative power of education—a topic I've been thinking a lot about the past few months. Our institutions have undergone many changes, positioning us to continue our mission of educating tomorrow's leaders. Perhaps what's most striking when considering the transformation we're currently undertaking is that this process of evolution is not new to our institution. In fact, taken together with our mission of serving students and placing their needs at the center of all we do, it may be the one constant in our history.

Our cover story takes a deep dive into our past while looking to the future of teacher education. Bloomsburg, like all of Pennsylvania's State System universities, began as a Normal School with a mission to educate the commonwealth's future teachers. As we boldly reimagine public higher education in Pennsylvania in order to continue the legacies of our centuries-old universities, there is much to learn from examining our history. A lot has changed in the world and in the ways we

deliver and experience education. But innovation, progress, evolution—those have remained central to who we are. Our highest aspiration as educators has always been to change lives. To make a difference. That's the power of education.

That word, transformation, doesn't just denote the shifts happening across institutions. It's most meaningful when viewed through the lens of our students and their experiences. What we hope for them is that education will serve as a transformational force in their lives. Many of our students are first-generation. The skills, knowledge, and career preparation they gain in their time with us is life changing. It's why we have a responsibility to offer them an affordable education and the goal of allowing them to graduate ready to begin a career without financial burden.

In these pages you will read about one of the ways we're putting this promise to our students into action through partnership agreements with 50 Pennsylvania school districts in the communities our campuses call home. These agreements guarantee admission, merit-based scholarships, and on-campus housing to qualified students in our backyard—ensuring they have access to an affordable, high-quality education close to home.

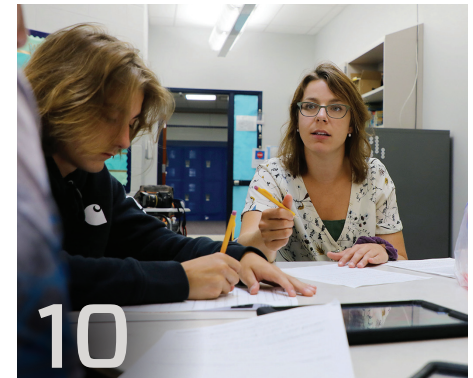
As we enter the holiday season, I wish you and your families all the comforts this time of year brings. I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our students and their goals—you are a key partner in ensuring our students have the resources and mentorship to achieve their professional goals. I hope you enjoy this issue of The Bloomsburg University magazine and wish you a wonderful holiday.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bashar W. Hanna,  
*President*





# Fall 2022



## Contents

- 2 COMMON GROUND
- 6 HOMECOMING 2022
- 8 A PARTNERSHIP IN WATER ECOLOGY
- 10 THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF EDUCATION
- 15 ALUMNI SOCIALS FOSTER STUDENT CONNECTIONS
- 16 DONOR IMPACT
- 18 HUSKY NOTES
- 22 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
- 24 THEN & NOW

Connect with us

[bloomu.edu](http://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  
 Robert W. Bogle  
 Representative Tim Briggs  
 Tanya I. Garcia, Designee for Secretary of Education  
 William "Bill" Gindlesperger  
 Allison Jones, Designee for Governor Tom Wolf  
 Daniel Klingerman '87  
 Senator Scott Martin  
 Marian D. Moskowitz  
 Acting Secretary of Education  
 Eric Hagarty  
 Representative Brad Roae  
 Alexander C. Roberts  
 Senator Judith L. Schwank  
 Zakariya Scott  
 Larry C. Skinner  
 Skytar Walder  
 Neil R. Weaver  
 Governor Tom Wolf  
 Janet L. Yeomans

**Commonwealth University Council of Trustees**  
 John Wetzel '98, Chair  
 Karen Russell, Vice Chair  
 Michael Hanna Jr., Secretary  
 Daniel Elby, Trustee at Large  
 Amy Brayford '91  
 Krystjan Callahan  
 Steven Crawford  
 Patrick Henderson  
 Susan Kefover  
 Brian O' Donnell '87  
 Karen Russell  
 Angela Smith  
 Ray Zaborney '16

**Chancellor, State System of Higher Education**  
 Daniel Greenstein

**President, Commonwealth University**  
 Bashar W. Hanna

**Executive Editor**  
 Elizabeth Arnold

**Editorial Board**  
 Jennifer Umberger  
 Tom McGuire  
 Julie Stellfox  
 Eric Foster  
 Doug Spatafore  
 Lynda Michaels  
 Ashley Koser  
 Andrea O'Neill  
 Tom Schaeffer  
 John Vitale  
 Dawn Wooster

**Designer**  
 Kerry Lord

**Contributing Writers**  
 Tom McGuire  
 Eric Foster  
 Andrea O'Neil  
 Tom Schaeffer  
 Julie Stellfox  
 Doug Spatafore  
 Mary Raskob  
 Robert Dunkelberger

**On the Cover:**  
 A 1938 education class held in Carver Hall.

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

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

Email address: [magazine@bloomu.edu](mailto:magazine@bloomu.edu)

Visit Bloomsburg University on the web at [bloomu.edu](http://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.

© Bloomsburg University 2022



## Academic Leadership Team Set to Lead



Dr. Kara Shultz



Dr. Ann Elizabeth Larson



Dr. Leo-Felix M. Jurado

As part of the Commonwealth University academic structure several individuals have been hired to lead the new integrated university.

**Dr. Kara Shultz** has been named as the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and Dean of the Honors College.

"Many of our high-performing students come to college with a large number of credits already earned through AP

and early college courses," Shultz said. "In support of this we are designing a program that will enhance the learning experiences of our most motivated students, while allowing them to design their honors college program to fit their needs"

Two new deans have also been added to the academic leadership team. **Dr. Ann Elisabeth Larson** is the inaugural Dean of the College of Education and Human Studies

(CEHS) and **Dr. Leo-Felix M. Jurado** as the founding Dean of the College of Health Professions (CHP).

"I look forward to supporting, growing, and advancing academics, research, and service in education and human studies, a diverse student body, student services, commitment to students' personalized education through quality real-life experiences, and key academic priorities and initiatives including strengthening current quality programs and developing new pathways for regional and community," Larson said.

"I am committed to supporting the integrated university's strategic initiatives especially in fostering student success and career readiness; promoting academic innovation, excellence, and expansion; and advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion in all areas," Jurado said. "I envision seeing more interprofessional education to promote interdisciplinary collaboration; faculty-student scholarly partnerships; faculty-student-alumni civic, community, and professional engagement; and establishing a stronger alliance with healthcare networks in the region."

## CGA Executive Board Named

The 2022-23 executive board for the Community Government Association (CGA) of Bloomsburg, part of Commonwealth University, has been announced. The CGA oversees various areas including: Community Activities, Kehr Union Building, University Store, Student Recreation Center, and the Honeysuckle Student Apartments.

The president is **Sabina Bower**; **Matthew Yurkunas**, vice president; **Brandon Ikeler**, treasurer; and **Kayla Kinney**, secretary. **Melannie Egan** is serving as the executive assistant; **Marina Patterson**, historian; and **Lia Killoran**, parliamentarian.

Among the many activities planned and hosted by the CGA is the group's largest event, the "Big Event," held in spring where over 1,000 students descend on the Town of Bloomsburg to help local residents with various clean-up projects at their homes.



From left, Kayla Kinney, Sabina Bower, Matthew Yurkunas, and Brandon Ikeler.





From left: Commonwealth University Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson; Commonwealth University President Dr. Bashar Hanna; Danville School District Interim Superintendent Harry Mathias; Danville School District High School Principal Jeremy Winn '00/M'09.

## Community Scholars Programs Lend Access and Affordability to Region's Students

Agreements guaranteeing admission and up to \$28,000 in merit-based scholarships, as well as on-campus housing at any location, were recently signed with 50 school districts from Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania.

The agreements guarantee admission for qualified graduates who enroll in a bachelor's degree program.

Graduates will be eligible for four tiers of academic merit scholarships according to the following academic preparedness of the student applicant:

### TIER 1

**95% or above  
or 3.8 to 4.0 cumulative GPA:**  
\$28,000; \$7,000 annually

### TIER 2

**90-94% or above  
or 3.5 to 3.79 cumulative GPA:**  
\$24,000; \$6,000 annually

### TIER 3

**85-89% or above or 3.0 to  
3.49 cumulative GPA:**  
\$16,000; \$4,000 annually

### TIER 4

**80-84% or above  
or 2.5 to 2.99 cumulative GPA:**  
\$12,000; \$3,000 annually

All scholarship recipients must remain enrolled full-time at Commonwealth University for a minimum of 12 credits per academic semester and maintain an overall GPA of 2.50 to remain in good academic standing.

The scholarship is renewable for up to four academic years, or eight consecutive fall and spring academic semesters.

On-campus housing will be guaranteed for up to four years of full-time student enrollment.

"These agreements signify the power of partnership to make a significant impact in the lives of our region's students. We are fortunate to have academically talented and driven high school students in our region who will thrive as Huskies, Bald Eagles, and Mounties. We look forward to welcoming them to our campuses," said Bashar W. Hanna, President.



CommonwealthU President Dr. Bashar Hanna with Reading Area Community College President Dr. Susan Looney.

## Community College Partnerships Create Pathways for Success

Commonwealth University leaders swiftly developed key partnerships with community colleges throughout the region. The newly established agreements embody CommonwealthU's mission to provide life-changing education access to Pennsylvania's future leaders—ensuring they can pursue their academic and professional goals unencumbered by concerns about affordability.

The creation of Guaranteed Transfer Admissions Agreements with multiple community colleges across the state guarantee graduates of the partner community college full junior-level standing at Commonwealth University. The agreements offer four tiers of guaranteed scholarship awards based on the students' academic performance at community college. The renewable scholarship is awarded for up to \$5,000 per year.

### Community College Partnerships

- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Lehigh Carbon Community College
- Luzerne County Community College
- Northern Pennsylvania Regional College
- Reading Area Community College
- 5 Additional agreements pending



## Hanna Appointed to Tuition Account Program Advisory Board



PA State Treasurer Stacy Garrity '86 with President Bashar Hanna

Dr. Bashar W. Hanna, president of Commonwealth University has been appointed to serve on Pennsylvania's Tuition Account Program (TAP) Advisory Board by Gov. Tom Wolf. Hanna's appointment runs until September 2026.

The board advises on the work of the Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program, which provides families with a tax-advantaged way to help save for their children's higher education. State

Treasurer Stacy Garrity, a 1986 graduate of Bloomsburg University, oversees the PA 529 program.

"I am honored by Governor Wolf's appointment to serve on the Tuition Account Program Advisory Board," Hanna said. "The PA 529 program is one of the most worthwhile programs offered by the state and assists families with paying college tuition. The mission of the 529 program matches the mission of Commonwealth University, which is to provide a world class, financially responsible degree option that maximizes experiential learning, career preparation, and efficient time to graduation. I look forward to working with such a distinguished group of individuals, including Treasurer Garrity."

PA 529 accounts are designed to help Pennsylvania families steadily and strategically save for future educational

expenses. The PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan allows families to save at today's tuition rates to meet tomorrow's tuition costs. More than 276,000 PA 529 accounts are open, with over \$6 billion saved for future education. Over the program's more than 30 years, it has helped families pay for more than \$5 billion in qualified higher education expenses.

"I'm excited to have Dr. Hanna join the TAP Advisory Board," Treasurer Garrity said. "He will bring a unique and important perspective to the board with his vast experience in higher education, his proven dedication to helping students, and his lifelong passion for teaching. As we continue to make the PA 529 College and Career Savings Program work better for all Pennsylvanians, Dr. Hanna will be a strong voice in support of students and their families."

## Languages and Cultures Department Partners with ROTC for Russian Language Program

Bloomsburg's Languages and Cultures Department has partnered with the Army ROTC program at the Lock Haven campus of Commonwealth University, to earn a Project Global Officer (Project GO) grant for programming in the Russian language for ROTC cadets. Commonwealth University is one of only 12 institutions nationwide that received the highly selective and competitive grant.

Commonwealth University received a total grant of nearly \$357,000 per year, renewable for three years, to help promote critical language education, offer domestic and overseas language and cultural immersion, and intercultural exposure to its ROTC cadets through Project GO. CommonwealthU is one of only two programs in the Northeastern region of the U.S. that is offering Russian.

The program is a hybrid of domestic and overseas instruction and experiences will be held at the Bloomsburg campus as well as Riga, Latvia. All fees and expenses for cadets accepted into the program are paid in full by the grant,

including all travel, accommodations and tuition costs, and students will earn 12 credits upon completion.

"Students have language requirements and this is an opportunity for them to meet that requirement, as well as have an opportunity to travel abroad and gain some professional development experience," said Dr. Mykola Polyuha, Russian language professor and chair of the Department of Languages and Cultures at Commonwealth University.

Polyuha was a driving force behind the grant proposal and application for Commonwealth University. Students accepted into the program will take advantage of Bloomsburg's strong Russian and East European studies program, the largest Russian program among State System schools and one of the largest in the state. The University also has a history of organizing successful faculty-led trips to Eastern and Central Europe and collaborating with the Institute of International Education.



## Audiology Doctoral Students from Bloomsburg Volunteer at Special Olympics

Audiology doctoral students from CommonwealthU Bloomsburg participated in the Special Olympic Summer Games this summer in State College. After a two-year pause due to the pandemic, the Special Olympics Pennsylvania Summer Games were held at Penn State University in State College from June 2-4. The event attracted more than 2,000 athletes and 750 coaches from across the state to compete in aquatics, athletics, basketball, bowling, equestrian, golf, gymnastics, softball, and tennis.



## Shawver Named Dean of the Year

Zeigler College of Business (ZCOB) Dean, Dr. Todd Shawver, was named the 2022 Outstanding Dean by the University Sales Center Alliance (USCA). Shawver received his award at the group's USCA fall meeting on Sept. 30, at Weber State in Ogden, Utah.

The USCA Outstanding Dean Award was established to recognize a dean who has made significant contributions and demonstrated unwavering support of a USCA member's sales program.

Shawver was nominated for the award by ZCOB faculty member Dr. Monica Favia. "In my nomination, I highlighted Dr. Shawver's help in establishing the Professional Sales Center and his continued efforts to secure resources, corporate sponsors, and additional sales faculty," Favia said. She also noted that Shawver is actively engaged with students, the sales team, the sales center's advisory board, and is a valued supporter of sales education.

"Recognition by the University Sales Center Alliance is an amazing honor,"



Shawver said. "Receiving a nomination by our faculty and students is an honor, but being awarded as Outstanding Dean is a complete surprise to me, and I am very humbled. I am proud to be able to support our professional sales program and our Professional Sales Center in the Zeigler College of Business."

"This recognition is not possible without the hard-working and dedicated professional sales and marketing faculty who have made the professional sales major, the only program of its kind in Pennsylvania, one of the top programs in the country," Shawver added.

"Congratulations to Dr. Shawver on being recognized as the Outstanding Dean for 2022 by the University Sales Center Alliance," said Bashar W. Hanna, President. "Todd's support for our students and

faculty and his unwavering support for the professional sales major makes him a remarkable Dean. He has truly transformed the Zeigler College of Business into a recognized leader in higher education and this award is well deserved."

Shawver was named Dean of the Terry and JoAnn Zeigler College of Business in 2019. As Dean, Shawver is building on a long-standing tradition of academic excellence in a variety of business degree programs and related initiatives. He is responsible, in collaboration with the faculty, for enhancing existing programs, supporting student success, leading accreditation efforts with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and working to identify emerging areas of growth.



## White Coat Ceremony Held

The eighth annual White Coat Ceremony was held by the Bloomsburg Department of Nursing on Sept. 17, at the Haas Center for the Arts on campus.

The White Coat Ceremony celebrates sophomore nursing students who are entering the next phase of their education.

In all, 126 students pledged their commitment to quality patient care. The most important element of the ceremony is the oath that students take in front of family members, faculty, school leaders, and peers.

Bloomsburg was among the first 100 schools to hold such a ceremony, supported by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.





# SUNSHINE, SMILES, & reconnection

Blue skies and smiles abounded as Huskies of all ages reconnected for homecoming weekend, Oct. 21 and 22. A large group of alumni and their families gathered on lower campus for the annual tent party Saturday and were entertained by the cheerleading squad and Roongo.

The Class of 1972 held a 50th reunion on Friday. On Saturday morning, university archivist Robert Dunkelberger gave a guided tour of campus, highlighting the many changes as the tree-lined walkways blazed maroon and gold in peak fall color.

At the football game halftime, **Eric Verno '98**, a 6th-grade math and science teacher at Dallastown Area School District, and his wife Devon were honored as their daughter Novalea's winning essay was read.

The Homecoming Royalty Court winners were also named at halftime with **Kimberly Speece '24**, a business education major and member of the Army National Guard, being named Queen.









A PARTNERSHIP

# in Water Ecology

By Eric Foster

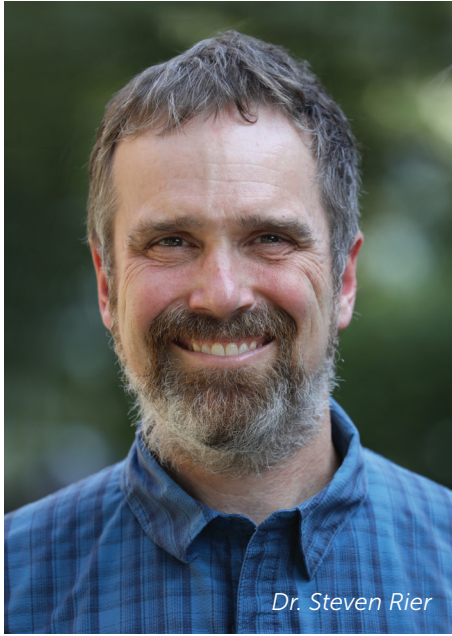
Students collect samples on a lake for Professor Stephen Rier's class.

*In a move that wouldn't have been possible without integration, five Commonwealth University faculty members, representing each of the main campuses are collaborating to create a Watershed Ecology Center. In addition to creating a resource to help preserve Pennsylvania watersheds, this future Center of Excellence expands students' research opportunities and career networks.*



Dr. Daniel Spooner has students collect samples from a stream.





Dr. Steven Rier

"About five years ago, we were noticing a bit of burnout in the students who were not getting to do what they wanted for careers related to water, water conservation and ecology in general," says Dr. Steven Seiler, professor of biology at Lock Haven. "So, we developed coursework and did a lot of small research projects with freshmen and sophomores, that would continue until the time they graduated, just to get them excited, engaged, and retained. We like to include students on our research projects with agencies and conservation groups like Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission to build connections to future job opportunities."

Seiler was joined in his efforts by Lock Haven biology colleagues Drs. Heather Bechtold and Daniel Spooner. With the integration of Bloomsburg, Mansfield, and Lock Haven as Commonwealth University, they were joined by Dr. Steven Rier, professor of biology at Bloomsburg, and Dr. Gregory Moyer, associate professor of biology at Mansfield. In addition to representing a variety of campuses, the faculty bring a variety of specializations to the Center. Bechtold specializes in contaminants and algae, Rier specializes in algae and microbial ecology; Seiler is an expert on fish and invasive species; Moyer focuses on fish and conservation genetics; and Spooner is an expert on freshwater mussels.

Water ecology is particularly relevant to Pennsylvania. "Pennsylvania has the second highest density of streams in the entire country next to Alaska," says Rier. "And there's a range of conditions of the streams — from super pristine and rich to systems that have been seriously impacted. We've got this natural laboratory right here. We can not only do research and understand it better, but we can also educate our students so they understand how ecosystems should work and how humans have impacted them."

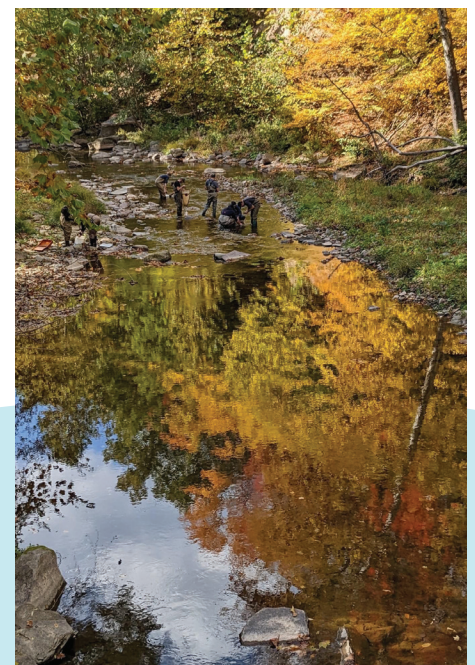
"The idea is to give students experience with hands-on skills so that they are easily employed," says Dr. Bechtold. "Before they leave our campuses if they have experience electroshocking or taking water samples, or if they know those sorts of methodologies, agencies are going to scoop them up real fast."

"Once students have their own kind of projects and participate in these research activities, there's more buy-in from the student in terms of their own education," says Spooner. "I have students whom I've done research with and now they find really interesting articles and bring them to me. They own their own science."

In addition to involving students in research on their home campuses, they also envision having students work together across campuses, particularly during summers. Dozens of students are involved in research courses and projects at each campus every semester. And this fall faculty have begun interacting with students across campuses.

"Steve Rier had me join a committee for one of his master's degree students," says Bechtold. "That's an opportunity for me to help shape the student's project and get involved in the creeks and streams near Bloomsburg."

"Connections and networking are an important part of getting a job," Bechtold added. "With our connections across the campuses, we have a large network where we can place students. We've tripled the network of any given student on any given campus. We can let our contacts know about our students, what their interests are, and they will get hired."



“ Pennsylvania has the second highest density of streams in the entire country next to Alaska and there’s a range of conditions of the streams — from super pristine and rich to systems that have been seriously impacted. We’ve got this natural laboratory right here. We can not only do research and understand it better, but we can also educate our students so they understand how ecosystems should work and how humans have impacted them. ”

— DR. STEVEN RIER,  
Professor of Biology, Bloomsburg





# STUDENTS FIRST: A HISTORY OF TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

By Andrea O' Neill and Elizabeth Arnold

**B**eginning with Ben Franklin's library system well before the United States even existed, there has never been a shortage of education innovation in Pennsylvania. In 1834, Thaddeus Stevens championed a bill that established a public school system in the commonwealth. The resulting demand for teachers created the foundation for Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) 130 years later. Today, three of those schools have integrated to form Commonwealth University and continue that tradition of innovation.

The PA Normal School Act of 1857 originally established 12 teaching, or "normal" schools that would set the "norm" for teacher education in the coming centuries. Normal Schools were designed primarily for teacher education and were considered the most affordable option for working class students at the time. By 1927, PA Normal Schools had all been purchased by the state, renamed State Teacher's Colleges, and given authority to grant bachelor's degrees. Nearly 30 years later in 1960, they were again renamed as State Colleges with the ability to confer advanced degrees. On July 1, 1983, the now 14 former Normal Schools became full universities under the umbrella of PASSHE. These institutions of higher

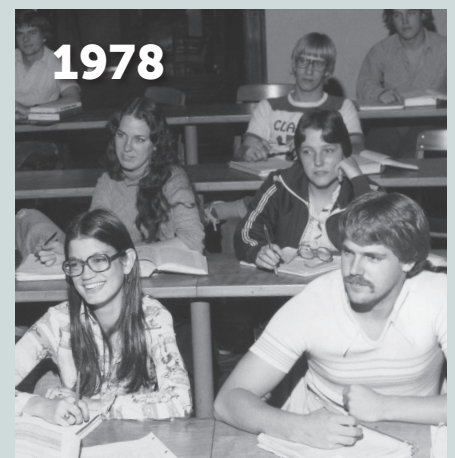
education have been evolving and growing ever since; adding new majors and using new methods, expanding and contracting to meet the needs of their students.

And while the strict and rigid rules upheld in the 19th century would be challenged, shaped and relaxed by the world around them, the goal of providing an affordable education to Pennsylvania's students has not. First year students are no longer required to wear beanies. Men are no longer required to wear a jacket and tie to dinner, and women are allowed to wear shorts to class. Today's students are no longer forbidden "amusements, visits of pleasure, [and] noise" on Sundays and rather than study penmanship and elocution, they major in digital forensics and instructional technology.

Over time, PASSHE institutions like Bloomsburg, Lock Haven and Mansfield have hosted speakers like Booker T. Washington and Susan B. Anthony, and performers such as Billy Joel, and Johnny Mathis. They've educated a vast array of professionals, including four PA governors and, since 1987 20,000 teachers who have impacted the lives of more than 500,000 students. They've adapted to social and technological changes and most recently, a worldwide pandemic. From paper catalogues to mainframes and servers, from cable to wireless, and desks to Zoom,

educational and social traditions have changed dramatically. So too have the needs of students as they not only become teachers, but also scientists, graphic designers, cyber security professionals, accountants, nurses, writers, and financial advisers. And while faculty are no longer called "professors of pedagogy," the goal is the same: to provide Pennsylvania's students an entry into a profession that will elevate them and their families to a secure and stable future.

Which leads us to question—what is "normal" anyway when taking a look at nearly 200 years of education and education preparation in the United States and Pennsylvania?







## FROM OUR FOUNDING TO OUR FUTURE: **Looking Ahead with Dean Ann Larson**

We need teachers. Now more than ever. Sitting down with **Dr. Ann Larson**, Dean for Commonwealth University's College of Education and Human Studies, it's clear that she's passionate about the field of education. "I want to share with young people that teaching is the profession of all professions," she said. "Our three universities share a rich history of education as a bedrock of civic education and democracy."

Look back nearly 200 years and follow the course of our evolution as institutions and you'll see teacher education at the core. With that focus came a pioneering spirit for innovation and cutting-edge programs and practices that have worked to propel the field of education forward through the decades.

In our cover image, taken from a Carver Hall teacher education classroom in 1938, the first question on the board points to student-centered education. The New Education as the lesson is deemed asks, "Will your school be child centered?" Perhaps the answer to what is normal is just that—the one constant through decades of education. Are we putting students first? Are we preparing them for lives of meaning and success in their profession?

As educators, it's a question we're still asking today and it's what's driving our mission to remain relevant for today's students and generations to come.

So many young people today have a calling to make the world a better place. It's a mission that's carried our universities through nearly two centuries of transformative education—empowering students to earn the skills necessary to make a difference in the world. Take a look at the faces of the men and women in our cover photo as they sit intent on the words of their instructor. It's safe to bet that they wanted to make a real difference in the lives of the students in their classrooms—to inspire greatness in their pupils.

Larson's excitement for moving the college into the future and equipping students to embrace their calling is grounded in a respect for the schools' long and successful histories of teacher preparation. "Each school has a solid heart and foundation with diverse programs. I'm eager to build on their legacies and continue recruiting teachers to our programs," she shared.

Larson has spent her career in education, beginning as a classroom teacher for middle and high school English and Language Arts. After earning a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Policy Studies, she went on to the University of Louisville where she served for nearly three decades as a faculty leader and administrator.

"At CommonwealthU, I saw three universities with strong reputations for education. Integration presented an opportunity to be part of building something new and to serve as a model for the transformations that are certain to take place in colleges and universities across the country," said Larson.







*Cathy Zavacki '99 presented a workshop on kinesthetic education for education majors at the Aspiring Educators Conference held on campus in September. The conference, sponsored by the Student PSEA, attracted 60 students.*

Recognizing and rising to meet workforce needs has proven central to the University's mission. Even before the pandemic, teacher shortages have garnered headlines. According to a national survey by Education Week, nearly 75% of principals and district officials said they did not have applicants to fill open positions going into the 2022-2023 school year. While the pandemic seemed to exacerbate the rate of teachers leaving the profession, the reasons for nationwide shortages are complicated and highly dependent on location, institutional support, and demographics. "We know since the pandemic that workforce needs have profoundly and urgently changed. There are shortages in all areas. It's crucial that our teacher candidates are strongly prepared in all disciplines," said Larson

Commonwealth U's unique charge to focus on building workforce development programs is one way that the College of Education is poised to meet the growing workforce demand while addressing the complexity of current issues. According to Larson, employing a range of strategies to reach and educate future teachers will prove key. Teacher education is now a registered apprenticeship with the Department of Labor. "We need to have a portfolio of pathways for certification," Larson said. "Traditional routes are important, but so too are alternative routes to teacher preparation through models including compressed programs and apprenticeships that allow students to be employed while taking courses."

She went on to say, "Developing and launching those programs while following

licensure and Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements will allow us to be part of the movement to continue transforming education. Workforce initiatives won't supplant our traditional programs, but will enhance our array and allow more pathways for teachers to enter the profession and receive high-quality preparation."

“The education of our future leaders is important. We have a responsibility to deliver high quality, cutting-edge programs that produce classroom-ready teachers who are prepared to meet students’ needs and foster a lifelong love for learning.”

— DR. ANN LARSON,

*Dean, College of Education and Human Studies,  
Commonwealth University*

"Teacher education has to be responsive," Larson added. "We're already looking at ways to partner with school districts and create apprenticeship programs where students don't need to drop out of the workforce to become certified to teach." Larson is encouraged by the ongoing work of alumni teachers and

the ways they're embracing innovation to meet students' needs. She said, "We have deep traditions and a strong alumni base who have long careers as master teachers, principals, counselors, and superintendents. They are our best ambassadors to recruit new students to our programs and to the profession."

"The demands on teachers are a lot," she said. "It takes a broad spectrum of knowledge and skills to be a great teacher. Children have complex lives and issues. They come to us facing issues of poverty with complex social and emotional learning needs. As teachers, we have to understand how to help students with those needs. It's why understanding human development along with technology is so important to our teachers meeting the demands they'll face in the in the classroom."

"The education of our future leaders is important," said Larson. "We have a responsibility to deliver high quality, cutting-edge programs that produce classroom-ready teachers who are prepared to meet students' needs and foster a lifelong love for learning."

Amazingly, in nearly 200 years of education and transformation, our mission has remained constant. Perhaps transformation rests at the heart of that fact—when institutions embrace change and rise to meet the challenges of their time, students and their aspirations remain central. Our students have always come to us eager to make a difference in the world. Together we will continue forging new paths for innovation and empower our students to do the same.





## Dedicated to 'All Kids Can Learn'

By Eric Foster

**Cathy Zavacki '99** (Bloomsburg) may teach chemistry in the Hillsborough (N.J.) School District "But my joy is being a teacher and teaching students how to learn. I just do it through Chemistry," she said. "My passion is inclusion and including all students of all abilities, and the idea that all kids can learn. I use the hashtag 'All Kids Can Learn' on Twitter."

Her message is gaining traction among fellow educators. Zavacki's honors include 2019 New Jersey Coalition for Inclusion Education Teacher of the Year, 2017 Excellence in High School Teaching winner for the ACS Division of Chemical Education Middle Atlantic Region, and 2016 Outstanding High School Chemistry Teacher from Princeton and Trenton Sections of the American Chemical Society.

"My favorite students are the ones who don't believe in themselves. When they walk in

your room, they're already head down. They say, 'I'm not good at science,'" says Zavacki, who is a member of the Bloomsburg Alumni Association Board. "One year, I had a girl who at the end of the year said, 'you believed in me more than I believed in myself.' "

For nearly the past 15 years, Zavacki's secret weapon in the classroom has been kinesthetic education, a method in which students move during lessons instead of sitting. For example, they may be asked to stand and step left or right to indicate the answer to questions.

"No matter their academic ability, every student is engaged. Every student interacted with each other," says Zavacki, who teaches graduate courses on kinesthetic education. "We are creatures that are meant to move. It creates a sense of belonging."

## Empowering Students to Understand The Why and How

By Eric Foster

"Teachers are not the owners of knowledge," says **Chris Grouzes '07** (Lock Haven), an English, communications, and theatre teacher at Rose Tree Media School District and a 2023 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year nominee.

"The task of the teacher has changed—it's more important to teach media literacy. Students live in a world where they can find information at their fingertips," Grouzes said. "My job is to help them filter it. Just because you have access to information doesn't mean you're an expert in navigating that information."

Grouzes first attended Lock Haven for journalism. While taking a Spanish class, one of his fellow students was on the "struggle bus." "I helped him and that was my first taste of an 'I got it' moment." A job at the campus writing center further validated education as a career for Grouzes.

Grouzes understands students' struggles. He's been there himself. In

high school, he struggled to memorize his lines for school plays and discovered he had ADHD. In the Advanced Tutoring Network ([advancedtutoringnetwork.com](http://advancedtutoringnetwork.com)) forum that he founded, Grouzes also helps coach other adults in working with ADHD. "I work with adults as well and give them permission to be weird or different," he said. "The atmosphere is 'here's why your brain works the way it does.' That experience validated that I care deeply for the art of teaching, the science of teaching. The people part of it."

"My teaching philosophy is always progressing," says Grouzes. "I really like to help the people around me break down the barrier between teacher and student. Students are internet natives. They don't know a world where they can't find the fact online." Technology has made today's students "a lot more socially aware, in terms of society and their friends," says Grouzes. He emphasizes the need to see students



as individuals. "Students aren't walking scores or grades," he added. "They are people with specific experiences."



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

Alumni Teachers Embrace Innovation in the Classroom

# Impacting a Community through Education

By **Eric Foster**

**Brendan Cregan '89** (Mansfield) never envisioned becoming a school administrator. "I've always liked school," says Cregan, secondary principal at Hempfield School District. "As a student, I only missed one day in four years of high school. I liked the camaraderie. I liked the teachers, even in the classes in which I didn't do well."

This made education a natural fit for Cregan. For college, he chose Mansfield, one of the campuses of Commonwealth University, after visiting his older sister, who was studying education. "Everybody was genuinely friendly. My three sisters and a brother graduated from Mansfield, and two became teachers."

"I could have never done the big school scene. The smaller setting was exactly what I needed," says Cregan, president of Mansfield's Alumni Association Board. "At Mansfield, I learned that the details matter—when you're preparing a lesson and when you're meeting with parents. In my role as principal, the details matter."

"I taught social studies for 10 years. It was always about building relationships with students and helping them find the best path for themselves," he said. "It wasn't about the content. It was about the student. I was teaching students. You're using the content to teach the person."

The importance of building relationships has been a cornerstone of his career. "It's very easy to get stuck behind your desk, to get away from being involved. Even as an administrator, I try to spend as much time in the hallways and classrooms as I can," Cregan said.

"In administration, you're trying to make a change in the 'who' system to help students. Each step impacts a different level of the community," says Cregan. "They've all had different rewards. As a principal, I get to see a broader spectrum of what students do."



## Focus on Curriculum and Community Partnerships

Partnerships with school districts and enrollment growth, along with establishing new curricula, represent strong areas of focus as Larson begins her role. In October, CommonwealthU signed partnership agreements with 50 local school districts guaranteeing admission, merit-based scholarships and on-campus housing for qualified students. The agreements will help to solidify CommonwealthU's campuses as strong choices for prospective students and their families who are focused on both affordability and high-quality education.

Perhaps most appealing to future students is the fact that, across programs and departments, CommonwealthU is rapidly responding to changing demands.

**Provost Diana Rogers-Adkinson** cites the curriculum review process as unique to CommonwealthU and a benefit of the integration process. She said, "We are currently engaged in a process to completely design new curricula for all programs. Meaning, that soon we will likely have the most updated curricula of any university in the world."



Throughout the summer of 2022, Bloom alumni have gathered in breweries and restaurants, at ballparks and vineyards, and in the private homes of fellow Huskies. But these socials are more than just about sharing food, drink, and memories. The alums who attend hear campus updates from the alumni association and learn about opportunities to help students.

"It adds a whole other level of connection," explained **Nathan Conroy '06**, alumni director. "These socials are a small way to bring Bloomsburg to our alumni for a few hours. It's a tremendous value that's hard to explain."

Alumni socials aren't new to 2022. The earliest regional events were held by surrounding county chapters in 1935. In the 1960s, the focus briefly moved to campus celebrations and reunions, but regional socials returned in the '70s and '80s with Berrigan's Subs picnics. Regional chapters were again restructured in 2006 to honor alumni requests for more purposeful engagement.

# Alumni Socials

## FOSTER STUDENT CONNECTIONS

By Andrea O'Neill



BU alumni gathered at the Great American Pub in Conshohocken in July (left) and the Breaker Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre in August (right) for a Husky Happy Hour. Attendees reconnected with fellow alumni, received campus updates, and learned how to get involved with Professional U.

"Alumni told us they wanted to do something that would impact students," said **Lynda Michaels, '87/'88M** AVP of alumni and professional engagement. "We've since become focused on providing alumni ways to actively participate in student success."

That focus became sharper in 2014 with the concept of Professional U when Alumni Engagement and Career Development joined to be part of a student's career community with faculty, staff, and employers. The Alumni and Professional Engagement team has since been creating opportunities for alumni to bring their successes back to Bloom as speakers, panelists, mentors, judges, mock interviewers, and resume reviewers, as well as to encourage their company to tap the talent of fellow Huskies. As part of University Advancement, the team also partners with the BU Foundation to remove financial barriers to off-campus career experiences in the form of Professional Experience Grants, or PEGs.

"Many of our alumni want to stay engaged, but they don't know how," explained Conroy. "We are grateful for the opportunity to let them know how to be involved and that what they do is appreciated and moves the needle for our students on a daily basis."

While the needs and wishes of alums have changed the association's focus over the last 151 years, the message is still simple: Bloomsburg will always be a part of you, and you will always be a part of Bloomsburg. Regardless of your major or class year, there is a student somewhere on campus right now that can benefit from your wisdom and experience.

"We still provide that social tradition, but we are also proud to have evolved to a place where we can be responsive to our alumni and provide them ways to be involved in the University's strategic goals," said Michaels. "(That goal) is to provide a quality education and help students leverage a network of nearly 80,000 Bloom alums."

"We're coming your way because we need your help to help our students," said Conroy. "We'll keep coming back to see you and provide ways to connect, socialize, and engage."

**Bring a Husky Happy Hour to your area by emailing [alum@bloomu.edu](mailto:alum@bloomu.edu) with suggestions for venues with a unique vibe and semi-private space in a convenient location, especially if that venue is owned and/or operated by a Bloom grad.**



## GROWING STRONGER

# Together

Each gift — no matter the size — donors make through the BU Foundation directly impacts our students and the BU community.

Through another challenging year filled with change, BU alumni and friends have once again demonstrated an inspiring and overwhelming amount of support and commitment to helping our students achieve success. Together, our alumni and friends contributed more than \$11.7 million in direct support during the 2021-22 academic year.

These gifts have allowed us to establish scholarships, provided immediate-use funding for students when and where it's needed most, and created countless opportunities for Huskies. Outlined below is a snapshot of the difference donor support has made this past year.

**1,583**

Scholarships and Professional Experience Grants awarded to students

**74%**

Increase in immediate-use support contributed to the Bloom On Fund

**40%**

Increase in scholarships and grants provided to support BU students

**75%**

Of gifts to the BU Foundation were less than \$250

Total New Gifts and Pledges  
**\$11,700,109**

**3,908**

Total donors made gifts in FY 2021-22



Alumni (55%)



Corporate Partners (39%)



Friends (5%)



Faculty & Staff (1%)

**\$3.7M**

In immediate-use support to the Bloom On Fund for Student Opportunity.

**\$3.6M**

In scholarships and grants provided to Bloomsburg University Students.

**\$3.5M**

Total dollars raised for scholarship support

**\$935K**

In total gifts received from donors who included BU in their estate plans.



Learn more >> [giving.bloomu.edu/Impact2022](https://giving.bloomu.edu/Impact2022) or scan here:





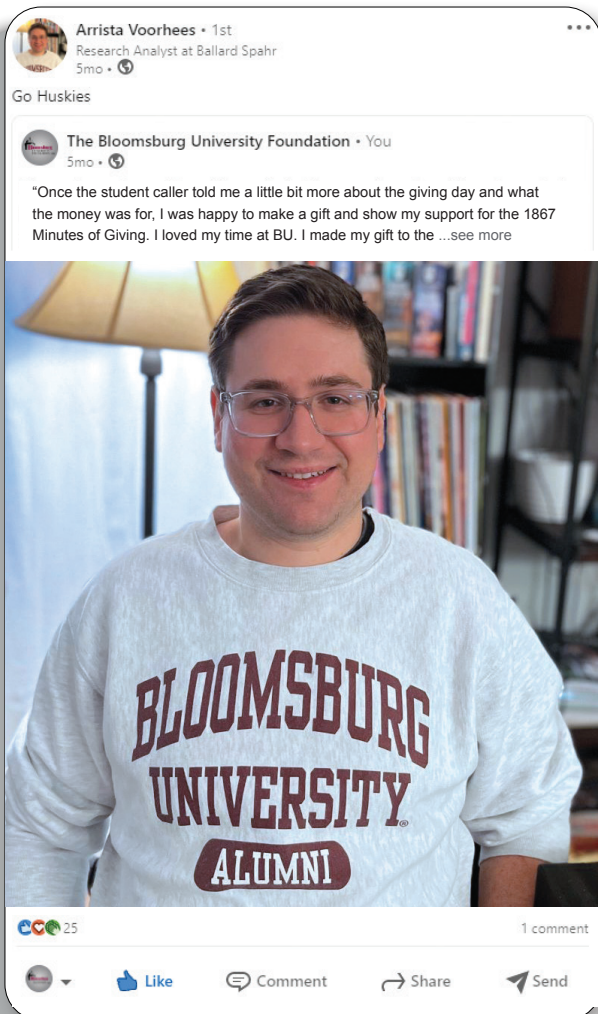
**A NEW TRADITION BEGINS WITH**

# Day of Giving

More than 600 Bloomsburg University alumni and supporters came together to help raise \$87,408 in support for BU students during the inaugural 1867 Minutes of Giving Challenge. The money raised during the fundraising event, held from 8 am Thursday, April 7, to 3:07 pm Friday, April 8, directly supports students across BU's campus.

"It is wonderful to see these results and how our donors helped make this event a success," said President Bashar W. Hanna, Ph.D. "While we're always grateful for the financial support our donors so generously provide, the purpose of this event was to generate participation and inspire alumni and supporters to come together in supporting our students."

Through the 1867-minute fundraiser, various challenges were announced, with donors having an opportunity to unlock additional money. Among these was a specific challenge issued by President Hanna and his administrative team to generate participation from 100 alumni who graduated within the past ten years, which would unlock an additional \$3,000 in scholarships for BU students. Recent Husky grads answered the call, with 171 donors Like Arrista Voorhees '15 stepping up to show their support.



BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY

# 1867 MINUTES OF GIVING



## Giving Day Success By the Numbers

# \$87,408

**RAISED DURING GIVING DAY TO SUPPORT  
BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

# \$33,219

**IN UNRESTRICTED FUNDING RAISED**

# 623

**TOTAL DONORS (GOAL: 500)**

# 32

**DONOR-FUNDED CHALLENGE GRANTS**

# 196

**DONORS RENEWED THEIR SUPPORT TO BU**

# 142

**FIRST-TIME DONORS**

The donor tally included more than 50 donors giving to each of BU's colleges, 180 donors who made a gift to BU Athletics, and 53 current students who made their own gifts to support fellow Huskies.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first-ever Day of Giving at Bloomsburg University. Please enjoy a special message of thanks from our students by scanning the QR code below:





## 70s

**Joan Platko Krasnisky '73/'75M** was named Mercer County (N.J.) Superintendent of the Year. Krasnisky has been the superintendent of the Marie H. Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Ewing since 2015 and has served as the school's director of curriculum and instruction for the past 18 years. Under Krasnisky's leadership, Katzenbach transitioned to community-based instruction and person-centered planning. She also integrated Positive Behavior Support in School (PBSIS) and added training in Applied Behavioral Analysis. She has also been instrumental in increasing and enhancing security measures on the school's campus.

**Jim Thompson '76** has taken up songwriting after retirement and was recently featured on the cover and in an article in the April 2022 edition of Country Express Magazine.

## 80s

**Richard DiLiberto '82** was reappointed chair of the Delaware Italian Commission. The commission has nine members, three appointed by the speaker of the House, three by the president pro tempore of the Senate, and three by the governor. The commission's statutory duties are to establish, maintain, and develop cultural ties between Italians and Italian-Americans, foster a special interest in the historical and cultural backgrounds of both groups, and help establish or promote Italian-language programs in Delaware schools. DiLiberto is a law partner in the personal injury litigation section of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP, and served in the Delaware House of Representatives from 1992-2002.

**Charles Warner '83** co-authored an article with Dr. Todd Harvurn for the May 2022 edition of the Greasy Grass Magazine titled: "The Hand of Providence: Contrast in Faith of Two Enlisted Men of the 7th Cavalry at the Little Big Horn."

**Charles Zwicker '88** served as one of 30 judges for Berks' Best 2022 academic award project. Zwicker serves as chief operating officer for Weidenhammer, a global digital transformation and consulting firm headquartered in Wyomissing. His volunteer roles in the community include the Boy Scouts of America, the Montgomery County Election Board, and a steering committee member at LaSalle College High School.

## 90s

**Michele McClellan Stine '91**, associate teaching professor of biobehavioral health, has been named chair and chair-elect of the Penn State Faculty Senate. A member of the American Public Health Association and a researcher with interests in health education and psychopharmacology, Stine has published more than a dozen scientific publications and abstracts. She teaches numerous courses in biobehavioral health in the College of Health and Human Development, as well as psychophysiology in the College of the Liberal Arts. She has been recognized by Penn State with the Biobehavioral Health Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Biobehavioral Health Alumni Mentorship Award.

**Mark Ream '93** has been named vice president of information technology at Eagle Transport Corporation, headquartered in Rocky Mount, N.C. He joined the Eagle Transport team as a technical project manager and senior systems analyst in 2005 and since 2020 has served as the director of information technology.

**Jaime Gallagher '94** accepted a position as assistant professor of English at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem. Gallagher has 18 years experience at Northampton as an adjunct instructor, during which he received the Award for Excellence in Teaching by an Adjunct Faculty Member (2018) and Online Instructor of the Month (June 2021).

**David Bacher '95** was named the administrative director of SUN Area Technical Institute in New Berlin. He previously taught English at Danville and Mount Carmel schools and worked as an administrator at Columbia Montour Area Vocational Technical School, Northwest Area School District and Shikellamy School District. He was most recently an assistant principal at Shikellamy.

**Jon Pollard '97** was recently appointed superintendent of the Wyoming Area School District. After graduating from Bloomsburg, Pollard continued his education at West Chester University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Wilkes University, where he earned his doctorate degree. He has been at Wyoming Area since 2010.

**Jay Green '98** has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Podcast Academy. The Podcast Academy recognizes the work of all leading and

independent podcasters with its mission to drive education and evolution of the medium. Green is the head of podcast strategy and tech for Audacy and Cadence13 and previously ran sales and content for Adlarge and PodcastOne. He also sits on the IAB's Tech Lab Audio Committees.

## 00s

**Allen Snook '01** has been named athletic director at East Stroudsburg University. He was formerly athletic director at Cedar Crest College.

**Kristin Gessner McLaughlin '02** has been named principal transportation planner at SEDA-COG, headquartered in Lewisburg. McLaughlin has been with SEDA-COG since 2012, working in their community development department administering Lycoming County's CDBG program. She has been employed in the planning and community development field throughout the region for 20 years. Her previous positions include Elm Street manager for Sunbury Revitalization, transportation planning specialist for PennDOT's Bureau of Rail Freight, and community planner for Union County Planning Commission.

**Steven Scott '03** celebrated his fifth year as a marketing instructor at the Bloomsburg campus of Commonwealth University. He also has been teaching one night a week at McCann School of Business and taught an online class at Lock Haven.

**Vincent James '07** has been named deputy athletics director for internal operations at Penn State University. James will be responsible for the athletic department's strategic planning and analysis. He will also oversee capital projects, facility and event operations, information technology, Penn State Golf Course operations, and equipment operations.

**Deanna Marcinko Smith '07** was promoted to office manager for the Scranton Member Service Office. Smith started her career with the agency in 1999 as a part-time employee in the emergency road service department. During that time, she took on various roles including trainer of new employees and shift supervisor. After earning her degree, she returned to the company full time as a night and weekend supervisor and since 2014 has managed the Honesdale Member Service Office.



**Steven Sweigert '08** has been appointed as a general board member for Atlantic General Hospital, which provides health care services in Maryland and Delaware. A financial advisor and partner with Mitchell and Hastings Financial Services, Sweigert has earned the Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor designation. Sweigert has been involved with the hospital for many years, serving on the AGH Foundation Board and continuing to co-chair the annual Robert E. Warfield Memorial Fall Golf Classic.

**Sarah Thomson Maneval '09** has been named vice president/commercial services officer at First Keystone Community Bank. Maneval comes to First Keystone with 11 years of banking experience, starting as a teller, and

moving into the commercial services specializing in agricultural and farm loans. She serves as treasurer for the Selinsgrove Rotary Club, a board member of the Middlecreek Area Community Center, and a member of the Woman's Leadership Committee with the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce.

**Christopher Zlobik '09** has been named senior vice president at First Keystone Community Bank, based out of the bank's main office on Front Street. Zlobik has been with First Keystone since 2011 and has served the past five years as deposit operations manager. He's a graduate of American Bankers Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking and the Pennsylvania Bankers Advanced School of Banking. He serves

as a member of the Berwick Industrial Development Association (BIDA) and as a member of Berwick: The Next Step Steering Committee representing First Keystone Community Bank.

## 10s

**Christopher Matthews '14** has been named assistant vice president/commercial services officer, based out of the Scott Township office, at First Keystone Community Bank. He started his banking career in Philadelphia before joining First Keystone as a credit analyst and rising to commercial loan officer. He is currently enrolled in the Columbia-Montour Chamber of Commerce Leadership Central Penn program.



The sign language performance group, recently held a 45th anniversary celebration. Attendees included current members Kaitlyn Stacherski, Madison Sloan, Riley Draddy, Kimberly Mitchell, and Anne Garrett. Former members who attended were: Kristen Blatt, Catherine Cody, Kristin Connolly, Sarah Downey, Cindy Farrell, Kristen Fitzgerald, Tushanna Flynn, Sasha Forbes, Sarabeth George, Emily Gowin, Kayla Haskins, Shanin Haskins, Valerie Hoffman, Annie Koch, Emily Krause, Kim McCall, Jennifer McGowan, Megan Newman, Becky Peters, Lisa Scala, Chloe Spranger, Hailey Sweeney, Paula Toborowski, Jennifer Warsing, Theresa Whitebread, and Tiffany Winkler.



**Jose Mojica '14** has joined the Bernards Township (N.J.) Police Department. He most recently served since 2019 as a patrol officer with the Lopatcong Township Police Department in Warren County and was previously a sheriff's officer and corrections officer in Warren County.

**Brianna Johns '17** is the new education director of Mighty Writers, a nonprofit that helps children and teens in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and Kennett Square improve their writing skills. Mighty Writers serves more than 3,500 children a year. Johns has taught elementary students at the Uncommon Schools in Brooklyn, New York, and at the John Barry Elementary School, Belmont Charter Network, and Master Charter Schools in Philadelphia. Prior to becoming the education director at Mighty Writers, she served as the upper school English teacher at the Agnes Irwin School in Bryn Mawr. She is currently completing her doctorate in English pedagogy at Murray State University and also self-published two children's books, *Nailed It* and *Reese Rescues*.

## 20s

**Lucas Mariano '21M** joined the neurosurgery team at UPMC in Williamsport.

**Christopher McCormick '21** joined Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz as an audit staff accountant in their Camp Hill office.

## In Memoriam

# ROBERT OLIVER,

*Journalist, businessperson, actor and producer*



**Robert B. Oliver Jr. '74**, a retired vice president with publishing giant Gannett who found a second career in films, died Aug. 9 of cancer at age 70.

While at Bloomsburg, he was an editor for the college newspaper, then called *The Maroon & Gold*. A high point in his collegiate journalism career was a one-on-one interview with boxing legend Muhammad Ali. He also lettered in golf, took pictures for the yearbook, and was treasurer for the student government.

A December graduate, he earned a degree in political science with certification in journalism, then went on to earn a master's in journalism at Temple University. A golf writer for more than 30 years, his work appeared in *Golfweek*, *Chesapeake Life*, and *Golf Pennsylvania/Golf Northeast*.

In retirement he became an actor and film and theater producer, appearing in 20 movies, notably as Crank the Clown in the *Clown Motel* horror movies, and produced several others.

## Marriages

Samuel Rubbico '82  
& Eloisa Batac Rubbico

Steven Scott '03  
& Jackie Scott

Jenna Butko vsky '10  
& Timothy McCarthy

Gabriella Cicerchia Walter '18  
& Andrew Walter

## Births

Samantha (Kropa) Davis '09 & Herman Davis,  
a daughter, Nalani Kai Davis, April 11, 2021.

Chris Bono '08 & Laura (Fox) Bono '07,  
a daughter, Calla Lynn, Nov. 6, 2021

Anysia Ensslen-Boggs '05/'07M  
& Christopher Boggs, twin boys, Walter  
Harold and Peter Joseph, May 10, 2022

Elizabeth Urban Skitsko '00 & Brian Skitsko,  
a daughter, Maggie Elizabeth, May 25, 2022.

Brian '14 & Amanda (Mariano) Nungesser,  
a son, Leo Martin, May 27, 2022

Lindsey (Beiter) '13 & Kyle Yeager,  
a son, Kellan James, June 22, 2022

Danielle Bailey '12 & Jeffery R. Bailey,  
a son, Jack Richard, June 23, 2022

Matthew '10 & Bethany (Blakeslee) Slonaker,  
a daughter, Adeline Kate, June 25, 2022

Michael '12 & Katie (Kudrick) Molesevich,  
a son, Lucas John, July 2, 2022

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

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



## Obituaries

- Rachel Yarowsky Ratowsky '42  
Catherine Jones Wagner '43  
Mary Pelchar Chamberlain '47  
Dorothy Winkelblech Watts '48  
Ruth Krajnik '49  
Walter Bird '50  
Marcella Evasic Marlin '50  
Donald Parry '50  
Atwood Badman '52  
Barbara Hessert Perna '52  
William Cleaver '53  
Joseph Feifer '53  
Michael Crisci '54  
Ferne Soberick Krothe '54  
Jeananne Evans Scrimgeour '54  
Nancy Snyder Brehm '55  
Alice Fisher Higgins '55  
Lake Hartman '56  
Carl Richie '56  
Harriet Link Camp '57  
Enola VanAuken Hawk '57  
Carol Hetherington '57  
Janet Plummer Masterman '57  
John Moss '57  
Robert Yori '57  
Patricia Dorsey Arnold '58  
John Jessop '58  
Lawrence Maylock '58  
Hettie Jones Bixler '59  
Ronald Davis '59  
Betty Moser Gass '59  
Earl Levensgood '59  
Raymond Sugalski '59  
Sue Greenland Williams '59  
Robert Thomas Price '60  
Donald Samsel '60  
John Seamon '60  
Jean Schell Bonta '61  
James Conrad '61  
Rebecca Henry Williams '61  
Theodore Andrewlevich '62  
Carolyn Doyle '62  
Joseph Enney '62  
Thomas Gladsky '62  
Lynn Paul '62  
John Shannon '62  
John Shuman '62  
John Smith '62  
William Archibald '63
- Paul Bingaman '63  
Carol Haswell '63  
James McShea '63  
Michael Wagner '63  
Reginald Arnold '64  
Patricia Lagana Abraczinskas '65  
Ronald Lubas '65  
Francis Plucinsky '65  
Arthur Saxe '65  
Terrance Wood '65  
Victor Campbell '66  
Mary Colarusso Scarantino '66  
Edward Grubb '67  
Clipson Martin '66  
Greta Miller '67  
William Solava '67  
John Wardigo '67  
Emma Woodruff '67  
Dennis Anna '68  
Ann Witmer Cooper '68  
Paul Recene '68  
David Roberts '68  
Thomas Baily '69  
John Bane '69  
Joyce Galli Burns '69  
Pat Swartz Chellew '69  
Marshall Childs '69  
Donna Dalesandro '69  
Betty McPherson Kase '69  
Ruth Sick Slocum '69  
Robert String '69  
Francis Chopko '70  
P. Peter Hanzlick '70  
Patrick McAndrew '70  
Robert Puchyr '70  
John Quinn '70  
Mary Coddington Umlauf '70  
Irene Mathews Williams '70  
Forrest Benner '71  
William Gallagher '71  
MaryAnn Evans Lazor '71  
Kay Sorber Ledford '71  
Joanne Antonelli Marsicano '71  
Wayne Rake '71  
Sandra Jefferson Rupp '71  
JoAnn Wolinsky '71  
Sarah Adams Frey '72  
Jack Kettler '72  
Constance Nagle Kundrot '72
- Barbara Foust McCollum '72  
Oliver Pettebone '72  
Kathleen Wisneski Drennan '73  
Gerald Mordan '73  
Phillip Struzzi '73  
Judith Surak '73  
Ralph Tribendis '73  
Sonya Rutkowski Villari '73  
Tony Fanella '74  
Michael Cerimele '74  
Patricia Jacobs '74  
Gregory Wyatt '74  
Paula Bugler Berry Zechman '74  
John Boran '75  
Michael Budzyn '75  
Lester Charles Burgess '75  
Emil Gerchak '75  
Frank Greco '75  
Irene Lebo '75  
Dennis Margitich '75  
Paul Reeder '75  
James Stank '75  
Lee Taylor '75  
Margaret Venn Zeiders '75  
Andrew Mone '76  
Donald Nauss '76  
Richard Peck '76  
Joseph Andrew Rokita '76  
Thomas Patrick Smith '76  
Judith Sider O'Donnell '77  
Joseph Siudock '77  
Rosemary Smith '77  
Nancy Williams '77  
John Baer '78  
Deborah Fedastian Bixby '78  
Michael Criqui '78  
Robert Ronald Simononis '78  
Elizabeth Barkasy Toms '78  
Susanne Johnson-Grindley '79  
Joseph Nigro '79  
Charles Novinskie '79  
Linda Machusak Reed '79  
Joan Walko '79  
Robert Auman '80  
Carol Cunningham '80  
Rosemarie Garramone '80  
Lorraine Mongiello '80  
James Peffley '80  
Ronald Shoemaker '80
- George Kmiecinski '81  
Louella Noble '81  
Robert Novak '81  
Denise Trager Prislupski '81  
Michael Kane '83  
Jill Scott '84  
Idita Toole Dennehy '85  
Kevin Turner '85  
Joann Zenon Gregory '86  
Laurie Doll Luther '86  
Shirley Hamilton Cicero '87  
Margaret Gilvary '87  
John Pisaneschi '87  
Michael Taggart '87  
M. Jane Levensgood '88  
Jeffrey Sparks '89  
Robert Aungst '90  
Sarah Vankat Luchansky '90  
Brian Nahodil '90  
Loretta Desimone '91  
Keith Houser '91  
Erin Ryan Knoepfel '91  
Wayne Rarig '91  
Joseph Marsicano '93  
Frederick Schrandt '93  
Theresa Snyder-  
Hetherington '93  
Nadine Distasio '94  
Pamela Kontz '94  
Jevin McGonigle '94  
Eleanor Wyland '94  
Nicholas Harvey '95  
Gerald Mahon '95  
Ronald Miller '95  
Carol Paige '98  
Joseph Sweeney '00  
John Brogan '02  
Harold Geise '03  
Ann Marie O'Donnell '03  
Eric Beck '05  
Michael Loughlin '06  
Christine Prep '09  
Shawn Darraugh '11  
Ross Arnold '14  
Samira Zarreii '17



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

# Class of 2022 Honored

## Six Husky Greats Enshrined Forever in the Hall of Fame

In what proved to be a fitting end to Bloomsburg’s 2022 Homecoming Weekend, six former Husky standouts were enshrined on Oct. 23 in the Athletics Hall of Fame, where they’ll be remembered forever.

The members of the 2022 Hall of Fame Class included **Christine (Basalyga) Zalewski ‘96, Rebecca Headley ‘98, Michael Lelko ‘01, Ronald Lelko ‘98, Joel Melitski ‘64, and Michael Wenrich ‘82.**

Zalewski, a standout field hockey player, was a three-time All-American who led Bloomsburg to the 1993 NCAA Division II national title. Her standout play guided the Huskies to back-to-back Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) titles in 1992 and 1993.

Headley was a two-time All-American for the women’s soccer team, who led the Huskies to a pair of PSAC runner-up finishes. Today, she still ranks fourth all-time in career goals (37) and she is sixth in career points (85).

The Bloomsburg Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2022 was officially announced in August. For more information, and for the inductee’s full biographies, visit [BUHuskies.com](http://BUHuskies.com).

M. Lelko, a standout wide receiver for the football program, earned multiple All-American honors for the Huskies. He is the school’s all-time leader in career receptions (262), receiving yards (3,574), and touchdown receptions (43).

R. Lelko played a vital role in Bloomsburg’s football dominance in the late 90s. During his four-year All-American career, the Huskies went 35-10-1, captured four PSAC East titles and made one NCAA playoff appearance.

Melitski was a four-year varsity letter winner for the Bloomsburg wrestling program from 1960-64. He was the NAIA national runner-up in 1964 and captured a PSAC title that same season.

Wenrich was a member of the men’s track & field team and also a standout basketball player during his time at Bloomsburg from 1979-82. In just over three seasons, he scored 1,397 points, the ninth-best mark in school history.



## Jahri Evans ‘07 Named Modern-Era Nominee for Pro Football Hall of Fame

Bloomsburg Athletics Hall of Famer and 2007 graduate **Jahri Evans** has been selected as one of 129 Modern-Era nominees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023. Evans is in his first year of eligibility for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Selected to the Bloomsburg Athletics Hall of Fame in 2018, Evans is one of the most decorated offensive linemen to ever wear the maroon and gold.

Evans was selected in the fourth round of the 2006 NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints. During his professional career, he was selected to six consecutive Pro Bowls (2009-14) and was named a First Team All-Pro in four consecutive seasons (2009-12). As a member of Saints, Evans helped lead the team to victory in Super Bowl XLIV and was a member of the New Orleans’ 50th Anniversary Team in 2016.

Evans is one of nine players in their first year of eligibility among the list of modern-era nominees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023. The 129 nominees will be cut to 25 semifinalists in November and the 15 finalists will be revealed in January 2023.

*Pictured, left to right: Dr. Diana Rogers-Adkinson (Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs), Michael Lelko, Christine (Basalyga) Zalewski, Joel Melitski, Rebecca (Creedon) Headley, Ronald Lelko and Dr. Michael McFarland (Director of Athletics)*





## Varano Returns, Leads Huskies in More Ways Than One



Graduate student **Nicole Varano** has been an integral part of the Bloomsburg women's soccer team's success over the last three seasons, and she took full advantage of one more run this fall with the Huskies.

Without question, her athletic accomplishments are mirrored by her academic success and prestigious status as a Bloomsburg nursing student.

Despite graduating, she was back and lead the way with her play this fall, which was once again at an elite level.

"At the time, it felt like a such a difficult decision, but looking back at it, I don't know why I made it so hard on myself," Varano said, on returning to play. "Now that I am here, I can't imagine doing anything else."

Varano's returned to fantastic form this season and she was once again honored by the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) with All-Conference honors. She was named to the 2022 All-PSAC First Team and led the team into the conference playoffs and NCAA tournament. Varano finished this most recent season with a team-high 10 goals and a Bloomsburg-best 23 points. During the regular season, her exceptional play helped guide the Huskies to a national ranking as high as No. 13.

"The chemistry and drive that we have to work for each other and not individual success is why we have been so successful.

We look at how we can improve as a team and not just individuals," said Varano. "This team, for the past four years, has been like family and I'm so happy to be a part of it. It's honestly a privilege to be a part of the Bloomsburg women's soccer family."

No doubt, Varano embodies what it means to be a student-athlete at a highly competitive level.

Previously, she was honored by the PSAC as an All-PSAC Eastern Division First Team forward in 2019. During Bloomsburg's run to the 2019 NCAA Division II Atlantic Region championship she scored 10 goals including the winning-goal versus West Chester in that regional championship match.

Her athletic accomplishments have not overshadowed her classroom success. Varano is a four-time PSAC Scholar-Athlete and a three-time Division II Athletic Directors Association (D2ADA) Scholar-Athlete. Her undergraduate career culminated with a hard-earned degree in nursing.

Varano graduated with the highest overall GPA in her nursing class. Upon graduating, the nursing department presented Varano with The Geisinger Award, given for outstanding clinical performance.

While continuing her academic career and pursuing her dreams, Varano took full advantage of a fifth-year granted by the NCAA because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her leadership and standout play certainly led Bloomsburg on another remarkable run. Varano embodies the Huskie way, and she will forever do all she can to support her teammates, and drive forward Bloomsburg's championship standard.

"I think there is a lot of talent on this team, and when you combine the talent with the love for each other, and the love for the game, you see a lot of success and we have found a way to do that."

## LIFE BEYOND THE BENCH: Q&A with Men's Tennis Captain, Oliver Wiesemann



### Oliver Wiesemann

**HOMETOWN:** Jena, Germany

**ACADEMIC YEAR:** Senior

**MAJOR:** International Business/Professional Sales and Marketing

**HONORS:**

- 2X Team Captain, 2021-22, 2022-23
- 2022 PSAC Men's Tennis Champion Scholar
- 4X PSAC Scholar-Athlete (2021-22, 2020-21, 2019-20, 2018-19)
- 3X D2 ADA Scholar-Athlete (2021-22, 2020-21, 2019-20)

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BLOOMSBURG?**

"Bloomsburg seemed like the best fit for me, because I got along very well with the coaches, and was shown, and introduced to the great sports facilities, which included 13 tennis courts! The campus is beautiful and well taken care of, so it's a great home away from home."

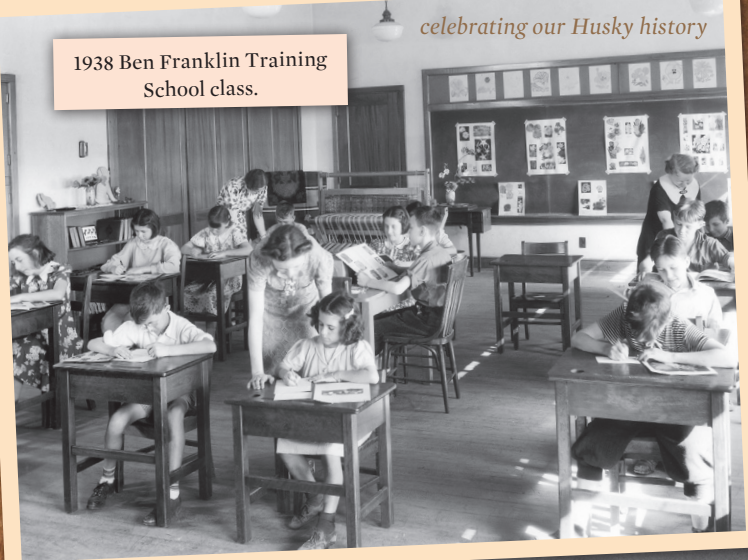
Read more  
from Oliver's  
interview  
online:







1921 Noetling Hall Training School classroom.



1938 Ben Franklin Training School class.

# The Early Years of Teacher Education at Bloomsburg

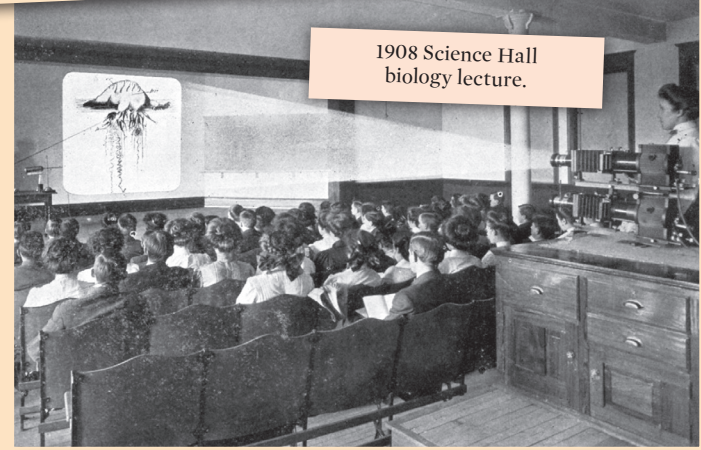
By Robert Dunkelberger

The history of higher education in Bloomsburg dates back to the Bloomsburg Academy in 1839 and did not reach a higher level until 1866, when Henry Carver opened the Bloomsburg Literary Institute. The Institute, however, only offered an academic program that led students on to college. It was not until the Institute was named a State Normal School in 1869 that a second option in education was now available. A campus elementary school was established, and the first class of teachers graduated the following year.

For the next 50 years these were the two major programs offered, with education classes primarily held in the model school building, which was named Noetling Hall in 1927. That was actually just one of the campus buildings where the Normal School students learned their craft. From its opening in 1867 until 1953 the first floor of Carver Hall held classrooms for both teachers in training and junior high school students. Science Hall, which opened in 1907, utilized newer methods of instruction, including the use of lantern slides.

It was with the elementary-age children that the Normal School students got out of their classrooms and engaged in hands-on work with teaching. Noetling Hall was the home of the model/training school until a much more modern facility, Ben Franklin, was completed in 1930 and remained the home of the laboratory school until it closed in 1967. During these latter years it consisted of kindergarten, special education class, and grades 1 to 6, with multiple student teachers working with the faculty member for each grade.

The Normal School transitioned to a State Teachers College in 1927, after the state gave it the authority to grant a Bachelor of Science in Education. This remained the sole focus of educational offerings at Bloomsburg until the 1960s, when the now Bloomsburg State College could grant both master's and undergraduate degrees in other disciplines than education. Even so, the historical focus of education remains an important component of now Commonwealth University, as Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield all have a common heritage in training teachers for the public schools of Pennsylvania.



1908 Science Hall biology lecture.



1900 Noetling Hall Latin class.



1921 Institute Hall junior high class.





COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

# TAKE *YOUR* LIFE TO THE NEXT DEGREE

The time is right to take your life to the next degree. Bloomsburg, Lock Haven, and Mansfield have joined forces as Commonwealth University to bring you advanced degree programs designed with flexible start dates, online and in-person classes, and accelerated timelines to save you time and money.

We've harnessed the power of our three universities to help you take your life to the next degree!

## MASTER'S DEGREES

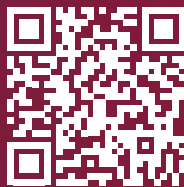
Accountancy ▶ Biology ▶ Business Administration ▶ Information Technology  
Instructional Design and Technology ▶ Education ▶ Nursing ▶ Physician Assistant  
Social Work ▶ Sports Management ▶ Sport Science ▶ And More

## DOCTORAL DEGREES

Audiology ▶ Nursing Practice

# LEARN MORE AND TAKE YOUR LIFE TO THE NEXT DEGREE!

[commonwealthu.edu/grad-school](http://commonwealthu.edu/grad-school)



Bloomsburg | Lock Haven | Mansfield  
COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA

**THE POWER OF THREE**







**MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Arts and Administration Building  
Bloomsburg University  
400 E. Second St.  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-1301



**SHOW YOUR HUSKY PRIDE,  
whatever your class year.**

Shop in-person or online [bloomustore.com](https://bloomustore.com)

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** 570-389-4175

**CUSTOMER SERVICE:** 570-389-4180

[bustore@bloomu.edu](mailto:bustore@bloomu.edu)

**A NOTE TO PARENTS**

If this issue of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine* is addressed to a daughter or son who has established a separate residence, please notify us of that new address by sending an email to: [magazine@bloomu.edu](mailto:magazine@bloomu.edu)

**WANT TO UNSUBSCRIBE?**

If you no longer wish to receive the print edition of the magazine, please notify us by sending an email to: [magazine@bloomu.edu](mailto:magazine@bloomu.edu)

**RECEIVING DUPLICATE COPIES?**

If you are receiving more than one copy of *Bloomsburg: The University Magazine*, please forward the mailing label panel from each issue you receive to:

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