Bloomsburg University’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi initiated 199 students (16 graduate students and 183 undergraduates) into the oldest, largest, and most prestigious all-discipline international honor society. Chapter 202 also initiated 3 faculty members: Dr Shaheen Awan (Audiology & Speech Pathology), Dr. Christian Grandzol (Management), and Dr. Craig Young (Teaching and Learning). Student and faculty initiates were honored at the Spring Initiation Ceremony on Sunday, April 17th at 2:00 p.m. in Kehr Union Ballroom. Visit http://www.phikappaphi.org to learn more about the benefits of membership.

Two Phi Kappa Phi student members won national awards this year. Jessalyn Wood (Philosophy major) was one of 50 undergraduates who won the national Study Abroad Grant, a $1,000 award, to support travel to London this summer for a Bloomsburg University faculty-led program. Bloomsburg University graduate Alana Greene (2015, Psychology major) was one of 150 undergraduates nationwide who were awarded the Love of Learning award ($500) in support of post-baccalaureate professional development.

Each year, Chapter 202 nominates a graduating senior to represent Bloomsburg University in Phi Kappa Phi’s National Fellowship Competition. Selection criteria include the student’s academic record, standardized test scores, promise of success in graduate or professional school, leadership experiences, letters of recommendation, as well as stated academic and professional goals. Chapter 202 congratulates this year’s nominee—Kira England (Biology major). Kira will be attending Cornell University in the Fall of 2016 to pursue a Master’s in environmental planning. Kira joins other young scholars entering their first year of graduate or professional study in competition for one of 51 Fellowships of $5,000 each and 6 Fellowships of $15,000 each. For more information about the application process, visit http://www.phikappaphi.org.

In February, Chapter 202 hosted an informal gathering of Phi Kappa Phi members to encourage networking and the exchange of ideas. The event, organized by Dr. Beth Rogowsky (Teaching and Learning), had over a dozen attendees.

In June, Chapter 202 will also host a Phi Kappa Phi Cluster Meeting on June 10th. The meeting is an opportunity for officers to share ideas about how best to manage and enhance local chapters.
Chapter 202 Faculty News for 2015-2016

Dr. Kevin Ball (Psychology) published two original research manuscripts this year. “Effects of repeated yohimbine administration on reinstatement of palatable food seeking: Involvement of dopamine D1-like receptors and food-associated cues,” in Addiction Biology (in press) and “Yohimbine reinstates extinguished 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA; ecstasy) seeking in rats with prior exposure to chronic yohimbine,” in Behavioral Brain Research (2015).

Dr. George Chavez (Psychology) was awarded a grant from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) to conduct research on the psychological factors contributing to behavior in diverse and ambiguous racial and gender contexts. He and his independent study student (Nicholas Feldman, Phi Kappa Phi student member) will present research funded by this grant at the 2016 SPSSI Conference in Minneapolis, MN in June.

Dr. Noreen Chikotas (Nursing), attended the Education and Simulation conference sponsored by Drexel University in Clearwater Florida in April 2016. She presented a paper entitled, “A Collaborative Effort Between Nursing and Health Communication Studies in Implementing a Standardized Patient Experience for the Advanced Practice Nurse,” the purpose of which was to examine the impact of standardized patient experiences (SPE) in the education of the Advanced Practice Nurse. She also published a manuscript (with Dr. Nicole Defenbaugh) in the February education of Nurse Education in Practice entitled, “The Outcome of Interprofessional Collaboration: Integrating Communication Studies into a Standardized Patient Experience for Advanced Practice Nursing Students.”

Dr. Mary Katherine Duncan (Psychology) was named the first Joan and Fred Miller Distinguished Professor of Good Work and was invited to offer an inaugural talk, entitled "For the Good of the Good," for BU’s Paths for Passion: Inquisitive Journeys public lecture series. Dr. Duncan and Dr. Jennifer Johnson, co-leaders of the BU Good Work Initiative, worked with undergraduate psychology major Ashley Schoener to co-author an original research manuscript entitled "A First-year Undergraduate Summer Assignment Designed to Introduce and Reinforce Good Work Concepts" in press at the Journal of College Orientation and Transition. Drs. Duncan and Johnson also supervised an undergraduate research workgroup (Kristin Tully and Cassandra McMillen) which yielded two additional Good Work-inspired research posters presented at the Eastern Psychological Association’s annual meeting in New York City.

Under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Johnson (Psychology) and her three independent study students (Emily Funk, Emily Matusz, Jessica Minnich), Bloomsburg University participated in its 6th annual Brain Awareness Week (see photo right). Brain Awareness Week is an international initiative to raise public awareness of neuroscience. Dr. Johnson and her team developed fun, interactive activities to teach local school students about the brain, and then trained 90 Bloomsburg University student volunteers from a variety of majors (e.g., Psychology, Education, Audiology/Speech Pathology) to present those activities. The volunteers taught over 400 students about neuroscience through the interactive activities at six local schools (Magic Carpet preschool, WW Evans Elementary, Memorial Elementary, Central Columbia Middle School, St. Columbia Middle School, Bloomsburg High School). In total, BU students volunteered 350 hours of their time in support of the initiative. Dr. Johnson and her team intend to present the outcomes from the outreach program at the Society for Neuroscience conference this November.

After several years of preliminary work directed by Dr. Marion Mason (Psychology) the Aging Studies and Gerontology Minor was launched in August, 2015. The interdisciplinary program is open to all students and is intentionally designed to complement any major. Currently there are 30 students working toward completion of the minor. As part of the College of Liberal Arts Symposium, Dr. Mason also organized a session titled, “Success! Finding a Meaningful Job with your BA in Psychology.” Eight alumni returned to campus to share their experiences and offer advice to students.

Dr. Beth Rogowsky (Teaching and Learning) co-authored a publication with her former graduate student and fellow Phi Kappa Phi member, Elizabeth E. Kribs. The title of the work, “A Review of the Effects of Visual-Spatial Representations and Heuristics on Word Problem Solving in Middle School Mathematics” appears in the Winter 2015 issue of the International Journal of Research in Education and Science. Dr. Rogowsky also organized a Phi Kappa Phi “Coffee Break” in February 2016. Over a dozen faculty members participated to network with one another over coffee and breakfast. Dr. Rogowsky serves as co-chair for the university-wide Faculty Professional Development Committee.

Dr. Blair Staley (Accounting) will present a paper, with Dr. Donald T. Williamson, entitled “The Reversal of Judicial Decisions by Statute: U.S. v. Home Concrete & Supply, LLC” at the American Accounting Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting this year.