End of Year Rush

Like most academic institutions, Bloomsburg University experiences an escalated level of intensity in the classroom and across campus each April as the spring semester wraps up. Completing end-of-year reports and projects, planning and attending award and commencement ceremonies and hosting guest lectures take a lot of stamina and focus.

In the opinion of most of the campus community, this is clearly the busiest time of the year!

The official close of the academic year comes this week when we celebrate the graduation of 1,432 students at this year’s commencement ceremonies on Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18. Delivering this year’s commencement address is alumna Barbara Benner Hudock ’75, CEO and founding partner of Hudock Moyer Wealth Resources, Williamsport, Pa. Many of you know Barbara, a former member of the Bloomsburg University Foundation Board, who has more than 36 years of financial services experience. Active in the community and in professional organizations, she is a director of WVIA Public TV and Radio, Susquehanna Health, Woodcock Foundation for the Appreciation of the Arts and the Pershing Advisor Solutions Advisor Council.

BU will hold two undergraduate commencement ceremonies Saturday in the Academic Quadrangle – 10 a.m. for graduates of the College of Education and College of Liberal Arts and 3 p.m. for graduates of the College of Business and College of Science and Technology. Master’s and doctoral degrees will be conferred during a ceremony at 6 p.m., Friday, May 17, in Haas Center for the Arts. The ceremonies will be streamed on the web.

Congratulations, graduates! And thank you, faculty and staff, for your dedication, hard work and all that we have accomplished together this year.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

David L. Soltz
President, Bloomsburg University
Undergraduate Research Grants Awarded

Thirty-three projects were awarded Bloomsburg University's 2013 Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity (URSCA) grants. The program, open to all BU undergraduate students, provides stipend support of up to $6,000 for summer undergraduate research, scholarship or creative activity under the guidance of faculty mentors. Administered by the Office of Sponsored Research and Grants, the URSCA program promotes high-level student-learning outcomes through experiences outside the classroom. The goal is to establish a university-wide, sustainable model for undergraduate research on campus. Students experience the process of research and scholarship as a creative intellectual activity. Funded projects cover topics as diverse as water quality, economic impact, community development, Pennsylvania dialects and clotting. Follow student progress at URSCA.

Educational Pathways Initiative:
Bloomsburg partners with Allentown School District

Twenty-five rising high school seniors in the Allentown School District will experience college's academic and community life during the first Bloomsburg Experience, June 30 to July 19 on BU's campus. The three-week residential experience will offer students the opportunity to engage in classroom and community activities and service projects designed to attract these high-achieving students to Bloomsburg University's science, technology, engineering and math majors, known as STEM.

Participants will be selected based on academic achievement, desire to learn and letters of recommendation. This partnership is supported by a 2012 Presidential Strategic Planning Grant.

Strategic Planning Grants

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council 2 (SPARC 2) has invited six teams to submit full proposals for the 2013 Presidential Strategic Planning Grants.

Thirteen letters of intent were submitted for review in early April. Seven teams were invited to submit full proposals.

Full proposals are due Sept. 20. Grant recipients will be announced in November. Read more.

Student Dan Copes performs at the International Banquet. Copes is undertaking a URSCA-funded project this summer to explore music in China. More photos at: www.bloomufocus.com.
Faculty Research / Grants – Spring 2013

John Hranitz, professor of biology, National Science Foundation (NSF), $316,000, “Behavior of honeybees and solitary bees in natural pollination systems and their responses to environmental stressors,” (Partnership with the University of Central Oklahoma). Researchers on the eight-week project in Turkey and Greece during summer 2013 will include faculty from six universities in three countries, as well as undergraduate student researchers.

Karl Kapp, professor of instructional technology, National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technology Education (ATE), $250,000, “Development of an open source, online virtual tensile strength testing stimulation,” (Partnership with Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio, and the National Office of Project Lead the Way). Materials created from this three-year project will be used by undergraduate engineering technology students and pre-engineering high school students in the Project Lead the Way network of 4,215 schools nationwide.

Heather Feldhaus, assistant dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Center for Rural Pennsylvania, $14,000, “Rural homelessness,” (Collaboration with Columbia County Housing Authority, Columbia-Montour Homelessness Task Force and researchers from Bucknell University and Lycoming College). The study will identify, gather and evaluate existing patterns of homelessness and housing insecurity. Researchers will report on the current situation and collaborate on a long-term plan to better measure and track homelessness in rural Pennsylvania.

More Research and Scholars.

PASSHE Performance Funding Program Update

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) has implemented a new Performance Funding Program from 2012-13 through 2016-17. The program supports PASSHE and University strategic directions and centers around the themes of student success, access and stewardship.

Each university will be evaluated annually on ten performance measures over the next five years. Five mandatory performance measures are degrees conferred, closing the first-time freshmen achievement gaps, closing the access gaps for first-time freshmen, faculty diversity and private support. Universities selected five additional measures from a list of options or designed a university-specific measure. Bloomsburg University’s selected optional measures are student persistence, closing the achievement gaps for transfer students, closing the access gaps for transfer students and facilities investment.

A university-designed measure of high-impact practices was also selected. Yearly targets will be established for each measure for the university to meet in addition to peer targets. Points awarded for meeting targets will be used to determine the allocation each university receives from the PASSHE performance funding pool. More information on Bloomsburg University’s measures. The presentation reflects the baseline data and final target for each measure as the annual targets are still under negotiation.
Swisher Drive Reconstruction

The reconstruction of Swisher Drive and Chuck Daly Way to East Second Street this summer will replace the roadway and install a road better able to handle its current heavy bus traffic volume. In addition, crews will install electrical and tel-data conduits and manholes in preparation for planned electrical distribution system expansion and improvement. This work will significantly impact typical campus traffic patterns and an alternate access route will be put in place when it is necessary to close Swisher Drive. More details will be provided when the final plan and site logistics are determined. This work is scheduled for May through August, starting after commencement and finishing before fall semester 2013. More details.

Summer Maintenance Work

Plans and specifications are complete for renovations to the bathrooms in the Montgomery Place Apartments (MPA) and the Luzerne Residence Hall. The work from May through August will replace the fixtures and interior finishes within the bathrooms. The Luzerne Hall work is limited to the women’s and men’s large common restrooms.

Hot water and heat boilers in Columbia Hall will be replaced with steam-based heat exchangers. With this equipment replacement, the building’s heat and hot water will come from the central steam plant like 95 percent of the lower campus buildings. An added element is the inclusion of secondary piping connections to allow for the placement and connection of a portable boiler to provide heat and hot water in an emergency. The work will occur from May to July.
The Big Event

More than 1,500 students representing more than 50 organizations, including more than 450 students from Greek life and 300 athletes, participated in the fourth annual Big Event for the town of Bloomsburg on Saturday, April 6. The students raked and cleaned more than 140 individual homes and community locations. Sponsored by the Community Government Association (CGA), the massive spring cleaning project gives back to the community students call home while enrolled at the university.

View the pictures and read more at #CGABigEvent.

Elwell Renovation

Summer 2013 will see construction in the west wing of Elwell Residence Hall and the final phase of the renovation project, Phase 4. Similar to the east wing work completed in August 2011, all bathrooms will be fully rebuilt with new ceramic tile, sink and toilet fixtures and individual shower units. The project also features new floor tile in rooms, new hallway carpeting and new heating and cooling units with individual room control.

Multiple, suite-style living areas will be created in the basement level. The work will start in May and will be complete for August move in.
Greenlys contribute $1 million to make downtown center possible

Alumni Duane and Susan Basar Greenly, members of the Class of 1972, have donated $1 million to establish The Greenly Center, the new home of the Bloomsburg University Foundation in downtown Bloomsburg. Pending needed approvals, the project on the site of the former Coles Hardware will begin with the razing of the current structure in August; completion of the $6.5 million project is expected in June or July 2014.

The Foundation's move to downtown Bloomsburg may open the door for other university offices or university-affiliated functions to relocate to the business district.

Duane Greenly is a member of the Bloomsburg University Foundation Board of Directors.

Watch the video news story.
Breiner Scholarship to benefit Business and Science and Technology Students

A $520,000 donation from alumni Edward J. Breiner ’77 and his wife Julianne Breiner ’77 will endow a new scholarship program at Bloomsburg University. The funds will be divided equally between the College of Business and College of Science and Technology, with first preference within the College of Science and Technology given to the School of Health Sciences. Edward Breiner is president of Schramm, Inc., located in West Chester.

Four scholarships will be awarded in fall 2013 to freshmen with demonstrated financial need. The scholarships are recurring for four years as long as the students remain in good academic standing.

BU has gone Mobile

Bloomsburg University has officially gone mobile. Online users can access many key features of the university website, including BOLT course information and Andruss Library Labstats, from their mobile device. Users can also view the latest announcements and event occurring across campus, keep up with Huskies athletics, check computer lab availability and access the university directory. Bloomsburg Mobile is available free on iTunes for Apple devices and Google Play for Android devices.

Unleash Your Inner Husky Contest Winners

Christina Davis and Elliott Zackoski are the winners of the Unleash Your Inner Husky Contest. Davis and Zackoski received $2,500 scholarships made possible by the Bloomsburg University Foundation and the BU alumnus Michael Boguski ’85.

More than 2,000 people voted in the competition. The fall 2013 competition will be announced in early August. Contest Rules.
Henry Carver Fund support grows 51%

Thank you alumni, parents, faculty and staff for your generous support to The Henry Carver Fund. In just four years the Henry Carver Fund has increased by 51%.

**New Initiatives:**

Donors to the Henry Carver Fund have more options this fiscal year when designating their Henry Carver Fund gifts. Gifts to the Henry Carver Fund can be designated to:

- Henry Carver Fund
- Henry Carver Fund Academic Scholarships
- Henry Carver Fund College of Business
- Henry Carver Fund College of Education
- Henry Carver Fund College of Liberal Arts
- Henry Carver Fund College of Science & Technology
- Henry Carver Fund General Athletics

There is still time to make or renew a gift before the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2013.

Donate Now.

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**About the Henry Carver Fund**

The Henry Carver Fund, Bloomsburg University Foundation’s Annual Fund, is dedicated to helping students meet today’s challenges. Named in honor of Bloomsburg University’s founder, Henry Carver, the Fund is our most powerful tool for assisting students. Gifts to the Henry Carver Fund are utilized to support the current needs of students, faculty, and staff and initiatives that align with the university’s strategic plan.

Unrestricted and restricted gifts to the Henry Carver Fund provide scholarships to help deserving students to attend college; makes professional development opportunities possible, such as presenting research and findings at conferences; enhances student’s ability to compete in the job market by providing travel expenses for internships and other forms of practical training.

Learn more.