A view of Bloomsburg through student eyes

The best way to understand any institution is through the eyes of those who experience it daily. For this year’s President’s Report, Vision, we asked several students to reflect on their undergraduate experiences at Bloomsburg University. Their personal reflections and individual videos at www.bloomu.edu/vision will introduce you to their life stories, career goals and the reasons they chose Bloomsburg University.

I invite you to take time to read and hear the students inspiring stories. As always, I welcome your comments at president@bloomu.edu.

David L. Soltz, Ph.D.
President, Bloomsburg University
President’s Office

Presidential Strategic Planning Grants

Six projects received the President’s Strategic Planning Grants totaling $169,500 through the Strategic Planning and Resource Council (SPARC). The projects are:

- A real-time water quality monitoring station for Fishing Creek, Steve Rier, $50,000
- A model program to attract quality STEM transfer students from community colleges, Toni Bell, $35,000
- BU Institute for Liberal Arts: Educating for Life, Phase 1, James Brown, $30,000
- Center for Leadership and Engagement, Ed Valovage, $25,000
- Sports Leadership Academy, Susan Kocher, $15,000
- Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Steve Clickard, $14,500.

BU’s Economic Impact

In the academic year of 2012-13, Bloomsburg University added $350.3 million to the local economy, according to an Economic Modeling Specialists International study. The EMSI study was conducted to create an overall analysis of BU’s local economic impact.

The EMSI study demonstrates that Bloomsburg University is truly an economic and opportunity engine. The positive impact of Bloomsburg and her sister institutions across the commonwealth clearly shows that investing in higher education is one of the best ways Pennsylvania can ensure prosperity for all citizens.

To learn more of BU’s economic benefits and to view the full EMSI report, visit to bloomu.edu/economic-impact.
Gifts Bring New Faculty Opportunities

Two recent gifts to the Bloomsburg University Foundation support new opportunities for faculty.

Ed and Julie Breiner, both Class of 1977, established the university’s first endowed professorship in support of an exceptional teacher, mentor and leader, with a gift of $1.9 million. The Breiner Professorship of Nursing will create a new senior faculty position for the new Doctor of Nursing Practice, with additional funding to be used for research, conferences, travel, software and equipment or other professional expenses.

A gift of $500,000 from Joan Miller, nursing faculty emerita, and her husband, Fred, established the Joan and Fred Miller Distinguished Professor of Good Work endowment. Mary Katherine Duncan, professor of psychology, is the first recipient.

“The Distinguished Professor will creatively choose options that will enhance student and faculty learning and experiences, enabling faculty to advance as educators and encouraging students to advance as leaders in a chosen profession,” said Joan Miller.

Faculty Research & Scholarship

Amber Pitt and the Susquehanna Hellbender

BU professor Amber Pitt led a team of undergraduate and graduate student researchers to assess the habitat and distribution of hellbenders (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis) in the Susquehanna River Drainage. Hellbenders are large, long-lived, aquatic salamanders that inhabit high-quality, highly oxygenated, fast-flowing streams and rivers in the eastern United States.

With their research, Pitt and her team hope to learn the current distribution of hellbenders in an area that has undergone dramatic land use changes, reveal the main drivers of population decline and local extinction, and provide valuable information that can be used to inform management and conservation decisions. Learn more from BU’s College of Science and Technology newsletter, SCITECH, January 2015 edition.
ACCREDITATIONS

Middle States Commission Reaccredits Bloomsburg

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education accepted Bloomsburg University’s Periodic Review Report and reaffirmed accreditation.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a voluntary, non-governmental, membership association dedicated to quality assurance and improvement through accreditation via peer evaluation.

During the past year, Middle States approved several “additional locations,” permitting BU to offer degree programs at BLAST Intermediate Unit 17, Williamsport; Geisinger Medical Center, Danville; Hazleton Area School District, Hazle Township; Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville; and Reading Area Community College, Reading.

College of Business Reaccredited by AACSB

The College of Business has been reaccredited for the second time by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, known as AACSB International.

BU’s College of Business is one of 716 business schools in 48 countries and territories – less than 5 percent of the world’s business programs – with AACSB accreditation. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees in business and accounting.

Chemistry and Biochemistry Accredited

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry has received a three-year provisional accreditation from the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB) for the biochemistry program. BU is the first university in Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education to be awarded an ASBMB accreditation.

Faculty Research & Scholarship

McLaurin on Geological Mapping Project

As part of the U.S. Geological Survey’s STATEMAP program, associate professor Brett McLaurin is working to map the geology of central and eastern Pennsylvania.

The primary objective of the STATEMAP program is to establish the geologic framework of areas that are vital to the welfare of individual states. Recently, McLaurin mapped a 1,000-foot-deep well that was drilled north of Williamsport. He and a group of BU students have the entire rock core on campus to describe and catalog for the project.

For more information, contact McLaurin at bmclauri@bloomu.edu.
New University Division

Strategic Enrollment Management, the newly created university division, under the leadership of Tom Fletcher, vice president for strategic enrollment management and dean of extended programs, encompasses recruitment and enrollment, including admissions, financial aid, registrar and institutional research. It retains distance education and web-based instruction, extended programs, corporate and continuing education, off-campus programs, Advance College Experience (ACE), summer college, winter session and global and multicultural education.

BAS-TL partnership with NCC

Bloomsburg University recently formalized a partnership to offer the Bachelor of Applied Science in Technical Leadership at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem. The agreement enables NCC’s students to complete the BAS-TL on the community college’s Bethlehem campus. Similar agreements are in place between BU and Lehigh Carbon Community College, Reading Area Community College and Harrisburg Area Community College.

Student Success Collaborative

In June 2014, Bloomsburg University became the fifth State System institution to join the Education Advisory Board – Student Success Collaborative (SSC). The SSC combines technology, research, process improvement and predictive analysis to help improve student success. The kickoff to BU’s participation in the SSC was March 18.

BU Police Undertake Safety Initiatives

Bloomsburg University Police have undertaken several new initiatives to improve the safety of the campus community. These initiatives include:

- University police director Tom Phillips and other university police officers have presented training programs in seminar classes and residence halls. The programs, available on request, include information on personal safety, awareness of surroundings, and the dangers of alcohol and drug use. Employees have been trained how to handle difficult situations and disruptive individuals.

- Two training sessions, Responsibilities for a Campus Security Authority and Active Shooter Response and Safety, are presented at new employee orientation.

- Campus safety presentations are given at student and parent orientations.

- Officers have been directed to report burned out lights on campus and in streets surrounding campus.

- In partnership with the Office of Social Equity, the BU Police Department recently completed a daylong Campus Racial Diversity training with WSM Trainers and Consultants.

Director Phillips has enrolled BU in the Clery Center Collaborative, which provides training, resources, networking opportunities and self-assessment tools to enable continued compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act.

Additionally, Phillips has become a member National Association of Clery Compliance Officers and Professionals (NACCOP).
Bloomsburg University Honored for Community Engagement

Bloomsburg University is one of 240 U.S. colleges and universities awarded the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s 2015 Community Engagement Classification. Eighty-three institutions, including BU, received the classification for the first time.

Included in BU’s application was information on construction of the BU Foundation’s Greenly Center, the Community Government Association’s involvement in major improvements along the Lightstreet Road/Route 487 corridor, student athletes’ volunteer efforts and the Celebrity Artist Series’ enrichment of the area’s arts and entertainment environment. The designation demonstrates an institutional commitment to volunteerism and community involvement.

BU also was named to the President’s Higher Education Honor Roll for Community Service for the fifth consecutive year and sixth time overall. The honor roll recognizes institutions that achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes as they place students on the path of civic engagement and help solve community problems.

Students, Advisers and Organizations Honored

BU students, advisers and organizations received leadership awards during the university’s first Legacy of Leadership Banquet on Saturday, February 28. Honored were:

- Jessa Wood, Orangeville, a senior majoring in philosophy and psychology, Outstanding Student Mentor Award recognizing outstanding leadership as a mentor for a fellow student or group of students.
- Eric Michael Schwartz, York, a sophomore majoring in exercise science, H. Preston Herring Scholarship for leadership and service to the Town of Bloomsburg and the BU community through volunteering, community employment and participation in on-campus organizations. The award is named in honor of BU’s late vice president for student affairs.
- Pi Lambda Phi, Student Organization of the Year Award, for demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities through involvement in campus events, leadership development, organizational programming and service.
- Chaza Abdul, instructor of business education and information and technology management, Student Organization Adviser of the Year Award, for involvement in the student organization Odyssey of the Mind.
- Former student leaders Paul Kappel ’89, Susan Kocher ’88 and Shawn Rosler ’02, Legacy of Leadership inductees for continuing to demonstrate leadership skills in their personal and professional lives.

The awards ceremony was held as part of BU’s Husky Student Leadership Summit, a free day-long conference presented by BU alumni, faculty, staff and student leaders, and sponsored by the Office of Alumni Engagement, Center for Leadership and Engagement and Community Government Association. John Wetzel, Pennsylvania’s Secretary of Corrections and a 1998 graduate of Bloomsburg, delivered the keynote address at the Leadership Summit.

Huskies Football Team Wins Lambert Cup

The Bloomsburg University football team capped their 11-2 season by officially receiving the 2014 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Lambert Meadowlands Award, symbolic of the most outstanding team in the East in Division II. Details.
Outstanding Gifts to the University

The following gifts were made to Bloomsburg University through the generous support of BU alumni:

- Lake Hartman ’56 established the Lake Hartman and Susan Dinsmore Scholarship in support of two students from Milton, Lewisburg or Mifflinburg.

- The Rev. Michael Dubbs ’86 of Southern Pines, N.C., gave a gift to create the Joannne Pileski ’64 & Dubbs Family Athletics Scholarship.

- Jeff Davis, professor of history, established the James E. and Wilma Davis Track and Field and Cross Country Scholarship in memory of his parents. The scholarship was selected because Davis’s daughter Kelsey, is a BU track and field athletic and competed in the NCAA national meet last spring.

- Dan Klingerman ’85 endowed a Husky Wrestling Scholarship in support of the BU wrestling program.

- Carol ’87 and David Doermann ’86 established the Carol (Hetrick) and David Doermann Educators Scholarship benefiting a student who is dedicated to teaching and service from the Secondary Education/Mathematics department.

Learn more about how you can take action at bloomufdn.org.

Hearing the Call of the Six String

Victoria Hummer transferred to Bloomsburg University from a smaller school specifically to study guitar.

Hummer, a 2015 graduate in guitar performance and audio recording, learned to play guitar very well, indeed. She also learned something much more universal.

“Bloomsburg taught me what it takes to be really good at something,” says Hummer, a native of Franklin, a town in the far western part of Pennsylvania.

Learn more about Hummer and see her video.

New BU Commercials

Learn more about how you can take action at bloomufdn.org.