

Bloomsburg University
of Pennsylvania



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Welcome Back

Welcome back to Bloomsburg University and a new academic year filled with new opportunities, new possibilities and more than 1,500 new freshmen.

Before classes began, we had a special visit from State System Chancellor Frank T. Brogan, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera and their staffs. This was the third year Chancellor Brogan and his staff helped with freshmen move-in at one of the State System universities, and we were pleased he chose Bloomsburg. Our campus looked great on the chancellor's [annual welcome video](#).

To provide deeper insight into our university, I will host a State of the University meeting on Friday, September 23, at 3:30 p.m. in Carver Hall's Kenneth S. Gross Auditorium. The meeting will include an update on developments since last spring's town hall meetings, plans for 2016-2017 and results of the employee satisfaction survey. Please join me for this important meeting as we return to the rhythm of the academic year.

Challenges are part of each academic year and 2016-2017 will certainly have its share. Throughout the coming year, please remember the qualities that make this university so special: outstanding students, dedicated faculty and staff, loyal alumni and the opportunities and possibilities that make this a great place to be you.

Sincerely,



David L. Soltz, Ph.D.
President



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ON THE COVER:

Frank Brogan, Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, helps students move into Elwell Hall.

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President's Office



BU listed among top schools in the country

Bloomsburg University is ranked 169th, in the top 25 percent, on *Money* magazine's list of best colleges in the nation, based on quality of education, affordability and alumni success. A total of 705 four-year colleges and universities were reviewed.

BU **ranks within the top 200** for value in part due to its 65 percent six-year graduation rate, which is nearly 30 percent higher than other colleges and universities in the region. The *Money* listing includes Bucknell University at 152 and Susquehanna University at 313.

Academic Affairs

Appointments announced

Linda Ficht was recently appointed associate dean of the College of Business. Formerly associate professor of business law at Indiana University Kokomo, she has extensive experience with Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation including a dual appointment as director of AACSB Accreditation and Assurance of Learning at Indiana University and Purdue University Indianapolis – Columbus campus.



Other appointments include:

Shaheen Awan, Interim Assistant Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies, filling a vacancy created by Bob Gates' retirement.

Steven Ekema Agbaw, Interim Associate Dean of Academic Achievement

Jennifer Oast, Department Chair of Academic Enrichment, fall semester

Steven Hales, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs

Jennifer Venditti, Acting Assistant Dean of the College of Science and Technology

Patricia Beyer, Special Assistant for Student Success,

PRSA honors Byrum

Kristie Byrum, assistant professor of mass communications, was elected to the Public Relations Society of America's (PRSA) College of Fellows. Byrum is receiving the organization's highest honor in recognition of her significant contributions to the communications profession and outstanding lifetime career achievement. Fewer than 2 percent of PRSA members — only 350 of the 22,000 members nationwide — have been accepted into the College of Fellows. Byrum is among 23 public relations professionals who will be recognized at the International Public Relations Society of America conference in October in Indianapolis.



Honors for Beta Gamma Sigma

BU's **Beta Gamma Sigma Chapter** was recognized with the organization's highest honors award for the 2015-2016 academic year. Beta Gamma Sigma is the premier honor society in the field of business, recognizing only junior, senior and graduate business students who rank among the highest GPAs at their institution.

BU joins program for prisoners

Bloomsburg University is one of 67 colleges and universities nationwide selected by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in a pilot program that will offer Pell grants to incarcerated people. **Second Chance Pell** will enroll about 12,000 prisoners at 141 correctional institutions across the country. BU may enroll 30 Pell-eligible students during the 2016-17 academic year and will focus on the state prisons at Muncy and Mahanoy. Most participants are scheduled to be released within five years.

Nursing is healthy

BU's **nursing program** is rated number one in the commonwealth and 60th in the nation by *CollegeAtlas.org*. The rating, based on 2013-14 academic year data, considered affordability, academic quality, accessibility and pass rates on the board exam. May 2016 nursing graduates have a 100 percent pass rate on NCLEX, which is the third year in a row for May graduates. All nurse anesthesia and nurse practitioner graduates passed their certification exams, and all graduates passed on the first attempt.

App enhances campus safety

Bloomsburg University is adding one more tool to enhance campus safety for students, faculty and staff, an app nicknamed **Husky Safe**. The Husky Safe app primarily serves as an emergency communication tool between the campus community and Bloomsburg University Police. The free app may be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play by searching 911Shield, selecting Bloomsburg and the appropriate group and following the prompts. For information, contact BUPD at 570-389-2211.

Waller replacement building planned

A \$37.5 million project will bring a new **administration and instructional building** to the Academic Quad and extend the lifespan of the Waller Building by as much as seven years. BU's Trustees recently approved a plan to construct a new building on the site of the Centennial Hall parking lot. The structure, expected to be completed in 2021, will provide space for Waller's current occupants, academic departments now in Old Science Hall, registrar, admissions, bursar and financial aid. After the new building is complete, Waller will house occupants of the oldest portion of the McCormick Center for Human Services while renovations take place. Waller will then be demolished to make way for a faculty/staff parking lot.

Construction update

The first phase of the Kehr Union Ballroom sound system upgrade was completed during the summer. Phase one included the replacement of the sound, house and theatrical lighting systems; ballroom lobby lighting; and ceilings in both areas. The second phase – new floor and wall treatments in the ballroom and ballroom lobby and ADA code compliant rest rooms in the lobby – will begin during winter break.

Other projects completed during the summer include:

- Centennial Hall roof replacement
- Redman Stadium running track replacement
- Hutchinson Softball field bleacher improvements
- Schuykill Hall mechanical room renovations
- Old Science and McCormick Center fire alarm panel replacement

Construction of the new pedestrian bridge over Lightstreet Road is expected to take place during spring and summer 2017.



Residence hall on track

Work on BU's **new residence hall** continues with the structure on track to open for fall 2017. Work this summer included the concrete foundation and base along with the placement of the building steel framework.

The seven-story, \$61.9 million structure will house 394 students in 138 suites on the upper six floors. The ground floor will provide space for the University Store, dining services, mailroom and interactive learning. The building is BU's first suite-style residence hall.

Relay for Life success

Through the support of 1,167 volunteers making up 62 teams, BU's Relay for Life event raised a total of \$53,294.66 for the American Cancer Society. Held in communities around the world since 1985, Relay for Life is an organized, overnight community fundraising walk that includes food, games and activities. Today, more than 4 million volunteers raise over \$400 million each year through Relay for Life activities.



A video crew captures footage to be used in Bloomsburg TV ads. Participants include Jennifer Venditti, acting assistant dean of the College of Science and Technology, and Shaidy Moronta, senior pre-med major.

Status of Strategic Enrollment Management Planning

Bloomsburg is making significant progress toward the development of an intentional, data-informed enrollment plan that meets the university's enrollment goals. In mid-August, consultant Brad Goan from Ruffalo Noel Levitz returned for the fourth time to meet with the steering committee and campus representatives. During the meetings, Brad reviewed the "first wave" of action plans identified during his visit in mid-May and provided feedback. The next strategic enrollment planning meeting is scheduled for September 28 and 29.

Fall enrollment update

As of September 9, total headcount fall enrollment is 9,763, which is 123 fewer students than last fall, but 52 above the overall enrollment target. That enrollment figure includes 9,097 undergraduate and 666 graduate students. Compared to last fall, graduate enrollment is 43 students higher, continuing student enrollment has increased by 23 and non-degree enrollment has increased by 36. The official enrollment figure is reported on the 15th day of classes, which will be September 19.

CGA makes gift to support students in need

Recognizing a need to help fellow BU students who are facing financing hardships and in danger of not being able to continue their education, Bloomsburg University's Community Government Association has made a \$350,000 gift to help support the University's It's Personal Campaign. Their gift will permanently endow the It's Personal Scholarship Fund. The It's Personal Scholarship Fund was created this past April and provides financial resources to these students to help keep their educational dreams alive.

BU in the news

BU programs and events garnered significant [media coverage](#) from outside the local area this summer, including WNEP, WBRE, PennLive/The Patriot-News and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Program achievements and key strategic initiatives highlighted include:

- [Pilot program to offer Pell grants to incarcerated people](#)
- [Allentown Project provides pathway to college](#)
- [ESSE Program wraps up first summer experience](#)
- [Clinical Athletic Training team begins role in nationwide concussion study](#)
- [Area teachers sharpen STEM skills](#)
- [Nursing program earns top ratings](#)
- [Professional Sales program named one of nation's best](#)
- [Digital Forensics program recognized for excellence in cyber security education](#)
- [CAS awarded three grants](#)
- [Faculty duo honored at graduation](#)

Donation benefits McDowell initiative

A donation from local philanthropist Susan McDowell will support training to help educators identify students who are confronting non-academic barriers to learning.



McDowell has committed \$200,000 to the Bloomsburg University Foundation to establish the Youth Mental Health First Aid program as part of BU's [McDowell Institute for Teacher Excellence in Positive Behavior Support](#). The funding supports a coordinator of school-based behavioral health within BU's College of Education, outreach to school districts, and a copy of the related textbook for each education major.



More than 17,000 donors have contributed \$46.2 million to [It's Personal: The Campaign for Bloomsburg University](#) to date. The total encompasses 121 named scholarships, 10 Professional Experience Grants and eight endowed professorships and fellowships.

What's happening on campus?

As the academic year gets underway, the calendar fills with activities, including performances, lectures and special activities, many free and open to the public. To stay up-to-date, read the weekly e-newsletter, *The Week Ahead*, and check the [Today page](#).



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