I am very pleased and honored to be the new Dean of the Schreyer Honors College. My tenure as Dean follows in the footsteps of Dr. Kathleen Bieschke, who did an outstanding job as the Interim Dean during the 2016-17 academic year. During Dr. Bieschke’s brief term, she made many positive changes and left the College in great shape. She also worked with me to create a smooth transition, for which I am most grateful. In addition, Dr. Christian Brady, who served as Dean for a full decade prior to Dr. Bieschke, has been gracious in spending time familiarizing me with various aspects of the College and his visions for its future. It is upon the outstanding and caring shoulders of these two recent Deans that I assume this leadership role, and I am delighted to be a part of the Schreyer Honors College community.

The past year was a remarkable year for the College. We had 3,722 applications for admission for the 2016-17 academic year and 501 graduates with an average GPA of 3.81. The Schreyer Honors College continues to be sought out as a highly competitive college for Penn State students. In addition, 23 percent of our students went on to graduate school and the remainder went to work in a wide variety of occupations.

During this past year, a new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs joined our staff. Dr. Keefe Manning, a Professor of Biomedical Engineering here at Penn State, is working on collecting data that can be used to assess the progress of our students and the College, along with strengthening the academic curriculum. Prior to coming to the Schreyer Honors College, Dr. Manning was an honors adviser in the Biomedical Engineering Department, served as a thesis supervisor for many students, and participated in the admissions review process.

The Schreyer Honors College is fortunate to have a very active, engaged constituency of alumni and friends. Our External Advisory Board, Scholar Alumni Society Board, and Parent Advisory Council together create a caring community that provides input, advice, and assistance to our College. Along with these groups, our Alumni Council, our Associate Deans, a talented and devoted staff, and the Student Council, we very much look forward to a new and exciting next phase for our College.

I am honored and excited to serve as the Dean of the Schreyer Honors College. The commitment of Penn State and the Schreyer Honors College to outstanding scholarly activity is very strong. I am looking forward to working with an exceptional group of students, staff, and alumni, and collaborating with colleagues across the University to strengthen and advance Penn State’s already strong reputation in honors education.

peggy A. Johnson
Dean, Schreyer Honors College
Penn State University
Mission
The mission of the Schreyer Honors College is to promote:
• Achieving academic excellence with integrity
• Building a global perspective, and
• Creating opportunities for leadership and civic engagement

Vision
To educate men and women who will have an important and ethical influence in the world, affecting academic, professional, civic, social, and business outcomes. To improve educational practice and to be recognized as a leading force in honors education nationwide.

Scholar Spotlight
EMILY KOHLMAN
After one Russian class at Penn State, Emily Kohlman was hooked.

From there, the journalism major decided to study abroad in Saint Petersburg in the summer of 2015, then add Russian as a second major. This summer, she attended the Davis School of Russian at Middlebury College’s immersion program, signing a language pledge to communicate only in Russian.

“Living in a foreign language is taxing but extremely humbling,” Kohlman said, “and I am glad that I have taken this opportunity to enrich my language abilities and become a more confident Russian speaker, which will help me share stories with the rest of the world.”

Kohlman is already on her way toward her goal of becoming a foreign correspondent in Eastern Europe and sharing stories internationally. An anchor, reporter, and producer with ComRadio, WPUN, and WPSU, she also has extensive journalistic experience outside of Penn State, publishing stories on the Republican National Convention through McClatchy and the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and covering the presidential election in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Czech Television.

“It made me truly appreciate the way that the news is broadcast in Central Europe, where viewers have different questions about U.S. politics that they want answered,” Kohlman said. “Access is a powerful thing, and the stories of these individuals should be shared with the rest of the world — this situation is one of many others that are little talked about or waiting to be told.”

Kohlman is a member of the Paterno Fellows program, the director of the Donald P Bellisario College of Communications’ peer mentor program and the vice president of the Penn State Association of Students in Russian. She credits the Schreyer Honors College with providing her with the financial support to practice journalism around the world and with pushing her to travel on all the continents she plans to visit.

“I have always been a storyteller fascinated with learning new things.”

This past spring, she traveled to Panama and reported on Cuban asylum seekers at a makeshift migrant camp.

“This experience taught me that, as a reporter, it is my duty to tell the stories of people who cannot,” she said. “Access is a powerful thing, and the stories of these individuals should be shared with the rest of the world — this situation is one of many others that are little talked about or waiting to be told.”

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“I have always been a storyteller fascinated with learning new things.”
When he was in high school, Matthew Roda suffered a concussion during an ice hockey game that would cause him to miss more than a month of school. But neither he nor anyone else knew that at the time.

During the past few months, he and his co-founders have discovered that high-school trainers — Reflexion’s key target group — are interested in the device already for vestibular therapy, “There’s a doctor’s office in Lancaster that uses it, but he hasn’t had to wait until then to see the Edgex making an impact,” Roda said. “It’s something we didn’t initially start out thinking we were going to market.”

Roda has also learned the importance of networking and how the marketplace is ever-evolving. “As a 20-year-old, you don’t typically think of yourself as an employer,” Roda said. “But to be able to have the fine line between friendship and business is something we’ve had to learn over the last few months. It’s really helped me with my leadership skills as well.”

“WE'RE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE.”

Apoorva Mathur, who has performed Indian dance since she was a young child, is also involved with Penn State Infusion, which organizes Filmi-Fusion dance competitions. She has been a consulting intern for the Malini Foundation, a non-profit group that works to find educational and employment opportunities for women and children in Sri Lanka.

“WE CAN’T JUST STOP IN THE CHARACTER OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING, WE HAVE TO BE MORE APPLIED TO PEOPLE WANTED TO HELP THEM。”

Reflective Interactive is progressing quickly. A team of Penn State researchers led by Dr. Semyon Slobounov is helping it prove the scientific validity of the concept, and a team of seven employees — four of whom are also Schreyer Scholars — are helping with software and adding a different dynamic to the young team.

“I think there’s a lot of great things happening in those industries because of the amount of technology that’s involved,” said Mathur, who is minoring in French. “They’re making products that have been around forever, but they’re constantly introducing new technologies to improve them. It’s crazy how they incorporate a lot of things into what we use on an everyday basis.”

“I think that would be a really different take on something that I’ve been part of for so long and really love,” she said. Mathur was also a consulting intern for the Malini Foundation, a non-profit group that works to find educational and employment opportunities for women and children in Sri Lanka.

“My job throughout the year was help them develop their educational programs, reach out to people willing to give seminars or online lectures,” Mathur said.

“MALINI SAYS their best about engineering is the feeling it gives her that she is a “part of the building of the future.” She often experiences the same feeling when she is with her peers in the Schreyer Honors College.

“I don’t think that would be a part of a better community,” she said. “A lot of my close friends have been Schreyer Scholars. They have been the ones who have supported me and encouraged me to do the best I can. Without them, I would have had a much different college experience.”
Juan Miguel Hingada has always liked working with numbers, and the Penn State Berks student and Schreyer Scholar also believes his Accounting major will help him find a place in a field that is “always needed” in any business. He also likes working with — and for — people.

As part of his Marketing 301 class, a course he honors optioned, Hingada developed a social media campaign for Be Bold, take Charge, a campaign designed to improve the lives of the citizens of Reading through increased physical activity and more nutritional choices.

Hingada targeted segmented audiences of different ages using Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and Snapchat and creating advertising via Google AdWords, Facebook and Youtube. He also devised challenge activities promoting health, fitness, and nutrition at various organizations throughout Reading.

“I was able to learn how an organization works, which is definitely important for business and accounting,” he said. “I became better at working with other people about how to organize things. I learned about the backbone of an organization and how they get things done.”

Hingada presented his plan at an undergraduate research and creativity conference held by the Higher Education Council of Berks County (HECBC) this spring.

Born in the Philippines, Hingada moved to the United States a little more than 10 years ago and attended Owen J. Roberts High School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Staying close to home at the Berks campus appealed to him.

“I liked the feel of it. It’s very homey,” he said. “It’s a lot smaller than main (campus), but you still feel you’re part of the Penn State family.”

Before he starts his second year at Penn State Berks this August, Hingada will complete his training as a Lion Ambassador. He plans to study abroad for at least a semester — he spent a week in Denmark as part of an embedded course last year — and said he would like to participate in future conferences similar to the one held by the HECBC in April. Most of his goals involve influencing others.

“One of my main goals is to be able to give back to Penn State as much as they’ve been able to give to me, all these opportunities, especially with Schreyer,” he said. “I’d like to find ways of making the campus more welcoming to students and get them engaged in more activities and organizations.”

“ONE OF THE THINGS I ALWAYS LIKED WAS WORKING WITH NUMBERS AND BEING ABLE TO ANALYZE HOW NUMBERS WILL AFFECT A BUSINESS.”
Completing a thesis is an integral and rewarding part of the Schreyer Honors College experience, but it can also be stressful. Our academic staff is here to help.

Since 2013, more than 1,400 Scholars have attended a Schreyer Thesis Boot Camp. These seven-hour thesis-writing programs help senior Scholars through the sometimes-difficult writing stages of the thesis process. By providing a peaceful and supportive environment, Boot Camps give Scholars the structure and motivation to overcome typical road blocks in the thesis process.

Scholars bring their writing materials, laptops and resources, while Schreyer Honors College staff is on hand to help with formatting issues and questions and to keep morale high. Breakfast snacks, lunch, and coffee are provided. There are typically 2-3 Boot Camps held on Sundays each fall and spring semester and limited to students graduating at the end of that semester. Beginning with the 2017-18 scholastic year, however, fall Boot Camps will be open to Scholars graduating in the spring.

“I cannot stress how useful this was to me. Those seven hours allowed me to focus and write more of my thesis than I have in the last month. Thank you so much!”
— Aidan Wharton

“Thesis Boot Camp is exactly what I needed this semester. A quiet place to work, motivation from my peers, and plenty of caffeine makes it easy to be productive and not feel stressed. Thanks SHC!”
— Kokila Shankar

“Motivation doesn’t always come easy. It’s often difficult to find time to work among the many obligations and activities I have. This was a great way to remember we’re all in this together!”
— Alex Calderaro

“...
**Facts & Figures**

Scholars come from 38 different states (including PA) and 29 different countries.

1,861 Schreyer Honors College students (97% female, 4% male)

1,405 Pennsylvania residents (79%)

349 Out-of-state residents (18%)

107 International (residency code other than N or PA (6%)

231 First-year students from PA (70%) (outstanding class of 2028-29)

77 First-year students from out-of-state (25%)

First-Year Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2016</th>
<th>Fall 2015</th>
<th>Fall 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHC and 550 range High School GPA</td>
<td>4.00–4.23</td>
<td>4.00–4.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHC and 580 range High School GPA</td>
<td>3.50–3.97</td>
<td>3.50–3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHC and 620 range SAT</td>
<td>1440–1500</td>
<td>1480–1500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SHC indicates student is an Honors student.

First-Year Students: 1,189

Fall 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gateway Scholars</th>
<th>Supportive Scholar</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshman</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,189</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gateway Scholars are offered admission to the Schreyer Honors College upon the completion of at least one semester of attending Penn State having demonstrated a record of academic achievement and having met the minimum ACT or SAT score for admission to the Schreyer Honors College.

Supporting the Schreyer Honors College

Your support can help build the legacy of the Schreyer Honors College as we continue to “shape people who shape the world.”

Please contact us today at 814-865-4268 or ScholarAlumni@psu.edu.
Penn State School of Music
Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine
Princeton University
Purdue University
Royal Veterinary College at University of London
San Francisco State University
Syracuse University College of Veterinary Medicine
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Stanford University
Temple University
Tulane University’s School of Law
Tufts University School of Medicine
University of California—Berkeley
University of California—Davis
University of California—Los Angeles
University of California—San Diego
University of Colorado
University of Colorado—Boulder
University of Colorado—Denver
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy
University of Toronto
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Vanderbilt University
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Wiley College
Washington and Lee University
Yale University
Penn State Hershey College of Medicine
Oregon State University
NYU Sackler Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences
Northwestern University
New York University
Mount Sinai Icahn School of Medicine
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
London School of Economics and Political Science
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Hofstra University
George Mason University
Durham University—United Kingdom
Duke University
Drexel University
DeSales University
Cornell University
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Columbia University
Colorado School of Mines
Chatham University
Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Detroit Publishing Institute at the University of Detroit
DeSales University
Drexel University
Drexel University College of Medicine
Duke University
Dartmouth University—United Kingdom
George Mason University
Harvard University
Holy Cross University
Imperial College London
Iowa State University
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
London School of Economics and Political Science
Massachusetts General Hospital—Dana Farber Cancer Institute
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mount St. Mary’s College of Liberal Arts
New York University
Northwestern University
NVU, Saxelby Institute of Graduate Biomedical Sciences
Ohio State University
Oregon State University
Penn State Hershey College of Medicine
2016-2017 Graduate School Breakdown
Overall 118 students will be attending Professional Schools
2016-2017 Graduate Outcomes
- Workforce 50.3%
- School 33.5%
- Fellowships 9%
- Internships 16% - Service 15% - Research 11% - Travel 13%
*Breakdown of Other Outcomes
- Other 19%

John and Jamie Davidson are pleased with the quality and value of the education their son James received in his first year as a Schreyer Scholar. They are also helping to give other students that quality and value through the Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program.

Penn State provides a $2.1 million dollar grant to create scholarships benefiting students enrolled in one of the five pilot programs designed to help students earn their degrees, reduce debt, and excel at Penn State. These programs include Pathway to Success: Summer Start, the Student Transitional Experiences Program; raise.me; Complete Penn State; and Smart Track.

The scholarship the Davidsons are funding targets students in their senior year who come from various financial backgrounds and are at risk of not graduating. If no students meet this criteria in a given year, the scholarship will support students who meet the requirements for need and who are enrolled in any of the other pilot programs in the Schreyer Honors College. If no eligible students are enrolled in any of the pilot programs in a given year, the scholarship will support any students who meet the requirements for need, outlined above, within the unit. The scholarship will stay restricted to the Schreyer Honors College.

"It’s important for students to know that there's help for them," Jamie said, "whether it’s financial or emotional, or in whatever way they need.

The Davidsons were inspired to give by James, who wrote about Osteopathy and since coming to Penn State has worked for both a nonprofit organization and Balfour Interact, a start-up company co-founded by Schreyer Scholar Matthew Miller that is developing a concussion screening device.

“We have the attitude that by doing this, we’re continuing on the path that he actually blazed for us,” John said, “both in the way he accepts and is appreciative of good fortune and the fact he is very concerned about others and tries to help them.”

To learn more about the Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program, please contact Jean Miller, Schreyer Honors College Director of Development and Alumni Relations at jmm401@penn.edu or (814) 863-4542.

**Endowment and Gift Spending**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016-17 Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Number of Awards</th>
<th>Amount Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence Scholarships</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>$6,840,122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Merit Scholarships</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>$497,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors College Scholarships</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>$234,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,878,717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Endowment Value**: $96,964,356.16 (as of July 1, 2017)

**A Campaign for a Greater Penn State**

Greetings, fellow alumni and friends of the Schreyer Honors College.

As I write one year into our new five-year Campaign: A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence. The priorities for our campaign continue to be the following themes: Open Doors, Create Transformative Experiences and Impact the World.

This is a campaign that is focused on implementing the University’s and the Schreyer Honors College’s strategic plan. The goals of the cam- paigns are priorities to help the College remain competitive in the country.

However, we cannot do this without the unwavering support of our alumni and friends. Our Col- lege has a campaign goal of $30,497,000, and our ability to achieve our goals will be defined by our commitment and support. Please join me in contributing to the future of the Schreyer Honors College, in recognition for which this great college has done for us and our community.

We Are,

Ryan L. Newman
Schreyer Honors College Campaign Chair
A Schreyer Grant has helped Grennan cover the costs of specific probes she needs to perform qPCR (a laboratory technique which monitors the amplification of targeted DNA molecules in real time), which are expensive and can only be used a few times each.

“Without this grant, I wouldn’t be able to do the research that I’m doing as in-depth as I’m doing it right now,” Grennan said.

During breaks between semesters, Grennan volunteered at the Saint Clare’s Hospital in Dover, New Jersey, shadowing ER doctors. It has been a place where her loves of science and sociology converge.

“You’re dealing with people that are from different socioeconomic backgrounds, racial and ethnic backgrounds,” said Grennan, who is considering a career in emergency medicine. “I really enjoy that part of medicine, and I think I can bring a lot to the table with that.”

Grennan participates in intramural soccer, the Biomedical Sciences Club, and the Atlas Honor Society, which have helped her develop her sense of “cultural relativity.”

“I think that without Schreyer and PLA, I would be more close-minded on issues,” she said. “It probably helps me think better, formulate things more of that.”

Price, who led the brigade to Panama this past spring, helped with triage, worked in a pharmacy and shadowed local doctors and dentists, seeing hundreds of people along the way. She likes the way Global Brigades seeks to work on preventative strategies — making eco stoves to help people, apply oneself in a scientific way, and then just kind of advance the field that there is in.

Price, a biology major, has applied herself to helping where on a large scale during her time with the Penn State chapter of Global Brigades, an international non-profit organization that empowers communities to reach their health and economic goals. With the help of Schreyer travel grants, she has made 10-day trips to Nicaragua, Honduras, and Panama to support various public health projects.

“We’re very aware of not going into these countries and handing off aid and leaving,” she said. “We’re very big on sustainability and wanting these projects to out-live our stay in the communities.”

“None of the chapters can succeed without the others,” Price said. “It’s made me see the healthcare field in a different way.”

Price has conducted biomedical research on trypomastigotes at CSEP and is currently working, with Penn State assistant professor of biology Charles Anderson in a lab on the labeling of plant cell walls. She plans to go on to medical school and pursue a career field in a different way.

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“Most of my best friends are people I’ve met in my honors level classes. I feel like I’ve had better relationships with my professors.”

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“Most of my best friends are people I’ve met in my honors level classes. I feel like I’ve had better relationships with my professors.”
He’s not sure he would have done any of it if he didn’t become what was at the time the youngest Schreyer Scholar Alumni Danielle Bassett.

“I think it’s very motivating to me,” she said. “I think to become a creative, well-rounded academic who is going to be able to see ideas in a new place, it’s important to have that extended period of discovery and exploration,” she said. “Now, looking back on it, I think that slightly hands-off approach was very motivating to me.”

A 2004 graduate with a bachelor of science in physics minor in mathematics, and honors in physical chemistry, Bassett received the NIH-Cambridge Scholarship and continued her studies at the University of Cambridge. She was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2014, and her current research involves using statistical mechanics to try to understand patterns of connectivity between neurons or between large-scale brain areas.

“This line of research seeks to understand healthy neurons or between large-scale brain areas. It is not at all related to physics—it was purely with the brain, and she pursued that interest from a different angle as an undergraduate at Penn State,” Bassett said. “I think that was at the behest of her freshman English professor, Sandy Feinstein, Bassett joined the Schreyer Honors College through the Gateway program and embraced her research experiences, which included a physical chemistry project involving trying to develop cells that would deposit drugs into a person’s body in a targeted manner.

“It was not at all related to physics—it was much more fundamentally biology,” she said. “But I did give me the initial appreciation of what research was actually like.”

“Shah took the same kind of math and engineering-intensive courses he would have taken at Penn State, but noticed some differences in the academic culture. Class participation, for example, was not valued in Singapore like it is in the United States.

“The curriculum there was more rigorous,” he said. “It was very fast-paced.”

Shah has never shied away from a challenge; in fact, his adviser, while encouraging him, sometimes admonishes him not to spread himself too thin. He is the international programming team for TEDxSU and was a co-op intern at Bosch. He also practices Vipassana meditation, which he says has helped him to be ethical, moral, and mindful and increased his awareness.

“I think they all inspire me, motivate me, and being in their company just makes you push yourself harder,” he said.

“During the past year, Karan Shah went snorkeling in Malaysia, hiked up mountains in Indonesia, and celebrated Chinese New Year in Singapore. A Schreyer travel grant paid his air fare, but Shah believes that the College did more than that to place him in the program in the first place.

“NUS is a very competitive place,” Shah said. “A lot of students apply and very few are selected. I had more background in terms of things that I had done — the research, the honor’s did, I think it helped me get selected in the program.”

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“I think it’s very motivating to me,” she said. “I think to become a creative, well-rounded academic who is going to be able to see ideas in a new place, it’s important to have that extended period of discovery and exploration,” she said. “Now, looking back on it, I think that slightly hands-off approach was very motivating to me.”

A 2004 graduate with a bachelor of science in physics minor in mathematics, and honors in physical chemistry, Bassett received the NIH-Cambridge Scholarship and continued her studies at the University of Cambridge. She was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2014, and her current research involves using statistical mechanics to try to understand patterns of connectivity between neurons or between large-scale brain areas.

“This line of research seeks to understand healthy neurons or between large-scale brain areas. It is not at all related to physics—it was purely with the brain, and she pursued that interest from a different angle as an undergraduate at Penn State,” Bassett said. “I think that was at the behest of her freshman English professor, Sandy Feinstein, Bassett joined the Schreyer Honors College through the Gateway program and embraced her research experiences, which included a physical chemistry project involving trying to develop cells that would deposit drugs into a person’s body in a targeted manner.

“It was not at all related to physics—it was much more fundamentally biology,” she said. “But I did give me the initial appreciation of what research was actually like.”

“Shah took the same kind of math and engineer- ing-intensive courses he would have taken at Penn State, but noticed some differences in the academic culture. Class participation, for example, was not valued in Singapore like it is in the United States.

“The curriculum there was more rigorous,” he said. “It was very fast-paced.”

Shah has never shied away from a challenge; in fact, his adviser, while encouraging him, sometimes admonishes him not to spread himself too thin. He is the international programming team for TEDxSU and was a co-op intern at Bosch. He also practices Vipassana meditation, which he says has helped him to be ethical, moral, and mindful and increased his awareness.

“I think they all inspire me, motivate me, and being in their company just makes you push yourself harder,” he said.

“During the past year, Karan Shah went snorkeling in Malaysia, hiked up mountains in Indonesia, and celebrated Chinese New Year in Singapore. A Schreyer travel grant paid his air fare, but Shah believes that the College did more than that to place him in the program in the first place.

“NUS is a very competitive place,” Shah said. “A lot of students apply and very few are selected. I had more background in terms of things that I had done — the research, the honor’s did, I think it helped me get selected in the program.”

Those experiences were very profound for me,” he said.
Jeremy Frank is very much an engineer — practical, process-oriented, purpose-driven — but the president and co-founder of KCF technologies likes to spend the occasional afternoon hanging out at the Makery with various local artists.

Amy Frank, the owner of the Makery, a State College arts and crafts studio, has always had an artistic eye and is very much the sensitive type — but she’s also a very driven, type A personality. Amy, who previously worked as a consultant at Accenture, helps her husband create training programs. Jeremy, who has an MBA from Penn State, is a resource for his wife when she goes over The Makery’s financial records.

“This businesses could not be more different,” Amy said, “and the way we run them could not be more different.”

This State College couple couldn’t think of a place where they would rather run their respective businesses and live with their four children.

This balanced match was made not far away, at the Schreyer Honors College.

Jeremy and Amy met during their sophomore year at Penn State at a Dance Marathon public relations committee meeting (Jeremy would later confess that he and a friend had joined the committee only to meet girls). Jeremy, a mechanical engineering major, had also gotten into MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and Cornell, but thought that he would get to interact with more different types of people at Penn State.

Amy had considered New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology but thought Penn State offered a better value. Unlike her husband, she didn’t join what was then the University Honors program until her sophomore year but was pleased to discover she could register early for classes and found that she enjoyed writing her thesis.

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Living and working in State College, the Franks have kept close tabs on the Honors College and its growth since they graduated.

“When we were in school, Schreyer was just becoming what it is today,” Amy said. “The more we are engaged with Schreyer, the more we see the amazing opportunities these kids have, to really create their own education.”

Jeremy was one of the alumni panelists at Connect 2017, the Schreyer Honors College’s annual career event. Three of the students he met there wound up working for KCF Technologies, which develops and commercializes products and solutions for industry and the military.

“They are an extremely high caliber of person that’s really hard to find in the world, but even Penn State at large,” he said. “These people coming out of the program, it’s not just about academics; they’re prepared for life in a way that’s advantageous to any other education.”

The Franks believe it is important to stay connected with the College and help where they can, citing relationships they formed with mentors such as Robert “Bear” Roshier, the former Penn State accounting professor.

“That’s the personal motivation I have for spending time there, is to try to influence somebody who was maybe in the same place I was 20 years ago,” Jeremy said.

Scholar Alumni Society Board:

Message from Todd Bacastow, President

Dear Scholar Alumni,

the chime of old Main’s bell tower.

Creamery Ice Cream.

Late nights studying in Atherton Hall.

Doesn’t it seem like yesterday that we were anticipating a fall semester as Schreyer Scholars?

the incredible people, intellectual curiosity of academic endeavors, and fun we experienced as students draw us back to Penn State even as alumni. We have the opportunity to help ensure that Schreyer Scholars following in our footsteps have the tools to make the most of their Penn State experiences.

I’ve been fortunate to lead the Scholar Alumni Society Board (SASB), serving alongside an outstanding group of fellow alumni who share a passion for Penn State and honors education. This work uniquely allows us to serve future and current Scholars, and alumni, through various initiatives including the Alumni Alumnus Interview Program, Mentoring with Honors, and the Scholar Alumni Society Future Leaders Scholarship. Many of you are already involved with these programs — thank you for your time and support. For those of you interested in learning more, we invite you to participate.

We have some exciting opportunities this fall. Please also look for upcoming emails highlighting ways to volunteer with fellow Scholar Alumni to support students. You may also check out on our new Get Involved page on the Schreyer Honors College website. I look forward to working together on one of these projects and meeting you.

For the Glory,

Todd M. Bacastow
President, Scholar Alumni Society Board
Schreyer Honors College
College of IST, Class of 2005

Alumni Spotlight: Meet Amy and Jeremy Frank

Jeremy and Amy met during their sophomore year at Penn State at a Dance Marathon public relations committee meeting (Jeremy would later confess that he and a friend had joined the committee only to meet girls). Jeremy, a mechanical engineering major, had also gotten into MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and Cornell, but thought that he would get to interact with more different types of people at Penn State.

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Erin Vrana considered several private colleges when it came time to selecting a school four years ago, but she ultimately wanted a fuller experience.

“What tipped her over the edge toward Penn State was the Schreyer Honors College,” said Vrana’s mother, Sheila. “She could see that it was all the benefits of a private school tucked inside a large university.”

Erin graduated this May with bachelor of science degrees in biochemistry and molecular biology and French and Francophone studies. She was the recipient of an Erickson Discovery Grant and the winner of the Health and Life Science Division of the Penn State Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Biotechnology 2017 Undergraduate Research Exhibition.

“She came out with a lot of self-confidence that she might not have had going in,” Kent said. “She’s surrounded by wicked smart people right now, and I don’t think she’s intimidated.”

“Keener Discovery Grant and the winner of the Health and Life Science Division of the Penn State Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Biotechnology 2017 Undergraduate Research Exhibition. She will attend Vanderbilt University School of Medicine this fall, and her parents, Sheila and Kent Vrana, say she is noticeably more independent, accountable and willing to take a leadership role than when she began at Penn State.

“All of the benchmarks and milestones were in place that she finished well in advance,” Kent said. “I’m sure she stressed, but we certainly didn’t, because she was getting things done.”

The Vranas joined the Schreyer Parent Advisory Council in 2013 and will be the council’s co-chairs for the 2017-18 year. They both wanted to take an active role in their daughter’s education and, now that she has graduated, continue to help the College live its mission.

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“There are lots of great aspects to the university,” Kent said, “but to think you’ve got a top five or top 10 honors college at one of the largest universities in the country, I want to see that fulfilled and maintained.”