

97 within 6 years, compared to a national average of 62 percent for student-athletes at all Division I NCAA institutions.

The football team produced an especially noteworthy academic performance, with 86 percent of the freshmen entering in 1996–97 earning their degrees—significantly above the national rate of 54 percent.

Since 1854, when the school was founded as Farmers' High School, Penn State has revolutionized the way our state approaches farming and continues to be among the world's leaders in agricultural research and innovation.

Over the years, Penn State has expanded its offerings to include every serious academic discipline.

U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Graduate Schools 2004" places a number of Penn State programs among the nation's top ten, including supply chain/logistics, industrial/manufacturing engineering, materials engineering, nuclear engineering, agricultural engineering, higher education administration, administration/supervision, vocational/technical education, counseling services, ceramics, and rehabilitation counseling.

Penn State's Smeal College of Business has been ranked among the nation's top "Best Undergraduate Business Programs" at public universities.

The honors extend to undergraduate disciplines across the academic spectrum. In 2003, 15 Penn State faculty or staff members received regular grants to lecture or conduct research abroad as Fulbright Scholars, more outgoing Fulbright grants than any other institution in the United States.

But the measure of a university extends beyond commencement day and even beyond the classroom or research lab.

A university's reputation in businesses and communities across the nation is carried and enhanced by that university's alumni.

Penn State has 466,000 living alumni worldwide, 240,000 of them in Pennsylvania.

The Penn State Alumni Association, formed in 1870, has more than 146,000 members, making it the largest dues-paying alumni association in the nation.

These men and women carry the standard for their alma mater and are proof of the world-class education Penn State students receive during the time on campus.

I am honored to join my colleagues in both House and Senate from the Keystone State in honoring Penn State and thanking its administrators, professors, students, and support personnel for offering a terrific education at a reasonable price to so many for so long. It is an honor well-deserved.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the resolution congratulating the Pennsylvania State University on its 150th Anniversary and reaffirming its designation as a land grant university.

On February 22, 1855, Pennsylvania Governor William Pollock signed the charter that

created what eventually became The Pennsylvania State University. Penn State will be celebrating its 150th anniversary on July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Penn State on its achievements over the years. In addition, I would also like to recognize the importance of the branch campuses to the success of Penn State University.

Initially a small college dedicated to the study of scientific agriculture, Penn State was designated the Commonwealth's sole land-grant institution in 1863. In 1874, the Agriculture College of Pennsylvania became the Pennsylvania State College and in 1954 became the Pennsylvania State University.

Currently, Penn State has an enrollment of 83,000 students, which consists of individuals at the main campus in University Park, the 20 branch campuses, located across Pennsylvania and students at the College of Medicine, the Dickinson School of Law and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. As a result, 1 in every 8 Pennsylvanians with a college degree attended the Pennsylvania State University.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the branch campuses in my district for the role they play in educating Penn State students. There are three branch campuses located in my district: Penn State Hazleton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Penn State Worthington-Scranton. These branch campuses came about in the 1930's when students could no longer afford to travel away from home to college because of the Depression.

Since then, these branch campuses have evolved, offering the four-year bachelor degrees, associates degrees and a wide range of continuing education classes to students in our area. In addition, the branch campuses offer certificates and professional development credits. As a result, many businesses in my area encourage their employees to take classes at the branch campuses. The branch campuses, therefore, have not only increased the educational attainment level of the workforce in my district, they have also helped promote economic development in the region.

Over the next year, the Pennsylvania State University will mark its anniversary with series of special events highlighting the achievements of the university. I wish them well over the next year and in the years to come as they continue to provide quality education to students in Pennsylvania.

HONORING 150 YEARS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, since its inception 150 years ago as a pioneering land grant college located in an area now known to millions as "Happy Valley," the Pennsylvania State University has come to the forefront of American collegiate academic and athletic achievement by doing things honorably and exceptionally . . . by doing things "The Penn State Way."

Today, Penn State still maintains their commitment to providing premier agriculture

science education while expanding their national prominence in the areas of engineering, business, architecture, meteorology, social sciences, arts, and communications. Penn State's 24 campus locations boasts an unprecedented 83,000 undergraduate, graduate, law and medical students that have the opportunity to take 11,300 courses in 180 degree majors! With so many scholastic avenues worth pursuing and exploring, Penn State provides every undergraduate student with a well-balanced education through their extensive general education requirements. However, Penn State's educational leadership far exceeds the boundaries of the classroom through their distance education and statewide agricultural extension programs.

If you have ever talked to a Penn State alumnus—and with 1 in 720 Americans holding a Penn State degree, it isn't hard to find one, it will take just a moment for them to envelop you with their enthusiastic love for the Nittany Lions. As Americans we have all benefited in one way or another from either a Penn State alumnus, or Penn State research guided achievement. Imagine what our lives today without the only FDA approved heart pump, the electron microscope, the screenplay to "Casablanca" or a Fischer Price toy. In addition to the hundreds of my constituents graduating from Penn State every year, I have been able to personally benefit from Penn State's outstanding academic programs through the knowledge that was imparted to my current staff, Judy Borger, Amanda Murphy, and Jeff Urbanchuk, and to former staff member Sara McGraw.

If you are lucky enough to visit, it can take as little as a walk through Old Main lawn while enjoying a scoop of Peachy Paterno ice cream from the Creamery, or sitting among 108,000 of your closest friends in Beaver Stadium watching the Marching Blue Band perform their signature "Floating Lions" drill to perfection, to understand why Penn State has the largest alumni association in the world . . . because once you've experienced Penn State, you will never want to let go.

For years, Penn State has built a reputation of integrity, respect, and competitiveness in their nationally-renowned programs in fencing, gymnastics, women's volleyball, women's basketball, soccer, and swimming—while more importantly serving as a shining example to other universities by putting the student before the athlete.

And then there's the football. One cannot talk about Penn State's history and achievements without acknowledging the 53 years of unmatched leadership from Joe Paterno—a truly great example of what it means to be Penn State proud. Under his watchful eyes, Penn State has become a national powerhouse in men's college football, accruing 2 national championships and 5 undefeated seasons. However, when asked about his most important successes, Mr. Paterno will not quote these figures for you, nor will he mention that he is one of the most winning coaches in NCAA history, because the most important figure to Mr. Paterno is his team's graduation rate—with over 80 percent of Penn State football players graduating within 6 years, well above the national average.

Even if a student hasn't experienced the pride of playing in the nameless blue and white uniforms, or enjoyed a Saturday afternoon at Beaver Stadium cheering on the team