



PennState  
York

All Things

Blue & White

Keeping in touch with alumni and friends of Penn State York

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Summer 2019

LIVE2LEAD



John Maxwell

Presented by



Live2Lead

Presented by The Goble Group  
in Collaboration with  
Penn State York  
Continuing Education  
Fri. October 11, 2019 at 8:45 am

**Live2Lead** is a half day leadership development live simulcast designed to equip participants with new perspectives, practical tools and key takeaways.

The Speakers:

**John C. Maxwell**, a #1 New York Times best-selling author, coach and speaker, was identified as the #1 leader in business by the AMA in 2014.

**Rachel Hollis** is a #1 New York Times best-selling author of *Girl, Wash Your Face*. She is deeply passionate about empowering women in business. She is one of the "Top 30 Entrepreneurs under 30" according to Inc. Magazine.

**Angela Ahrendts** was most recently senior vice president of Apple Retail. Ahrendts has consistently been recognized by Forbes, Fortune and the BBC as a Top 100 Global Executive.

**Marcus Buckingham** is a global researcher and thought leader focused on unlocking strengths, increasing performance and pioneering the future of how people work.

**Chris Hogan** is the #1 national best-selling author of *Everyday Millionaire* and *Retire Inspired: It's Not an Age. It's a Financial Number*.

To purchase tickets, visit [Live2LeadYork.com](http://Live2LeadYork.com) or call 717-505-8900.

## Researching Lizard Malaria in California



Dr. Anne Vardo-Zalik, associate professor of biology, Josh Wolgamuth, Huntur Woodard, back row left to right, with Elias Vargas at the research station.



Man versus lizard with a fishing rod.

experiences in his backyard. This will be Wolgamuth's final research trip with Vardo-Zalik and he shares, "My favorite experience was working with Elias and inspiring the next generation of young researchers. This trip and research will forever hold a special place in my heart."

The opportunity for mutual learning experiences through undergraduate research, especially research that takes Penn State York students and professors out of the comfort zones of the classroom and laboratories and immerses them into the rawness that is field research, is what Dr. Anne Vardo-Zalik loves most about her job. Vardo-Zalik shared that together, she and the two students, Josh Wolgamuth and Huntur Woodard, who accompanied her, learned the importance of teamwork, patience, and having a wacky sense of humor.

Woodard learned that through this two-week adventure in field research, he could be a good team member, a good friend, and handle California's blistering sun in the daytime and scorpions at night. He shared, "I was thrown into the wilderness to catch lizards with a fishing rod, and I learned how important patience and determination are to succeed through the constant trials of man vs lizard."

For Wolgamuth, what started as a fascination for lizards as a young boy, has become a beautiful moment, as a college student, where he relived his childhood excitement by planning, organizing, and executing a ten-day lizard malaria research project – a far cry from his early

Huntur Woodard works with one of the lizards.





## Alternative Spring Break

### Students Help Others Rebuild Homes and Lives



Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity for students to travel to a devastated area of the country and give up their spring break of relaxation for the satisfaction of helping others. This past March, thirteen Penn State York students joined forces with students from across the country, visiting Wilmington, North Carolina, to assist families still trying to recover months after Hurricane Florence.

Noah Pak knew none of his Penn State companions, nor any of the other student volunteers, when he began this adventure. He learned quickly that they all had the same mission of giving their energy to help others rebuild their homes and lives. Pak's experience included donning a yellow hazmat suit with a respirator, and working beneath a home to remove damaged air conditioning pipes. After climbing out of the tight and dirty conditions, the homeowner couldn't stop thanking him. Pak said he would never forget how appreciative the family was, as he reflected on how grateful he felt to have a home unaffected by the hurricane.

Carolyn Kunkel tells about their assignment to work on a home with mold growing in the insulation and drywall. The homeowner shared that he was juggling caring for his sick wife with negotiating claims with the insurance company. Just as he was giving up on the house, he got the call that student volunteers were coming to help. The team spent several days working on this project, removing all the drywall and insulation in the home and preparing it for the next step towards rebuilding. Kunkel shared that growing closer together as a team was the best part, and that the experience changed her perspective on life and has made her want to do more in her community.

In addition to their residential work, the Penn State York team worked on a project for the New Hanover Humane



Society. They painted a shed at the shelter, and of course they painted it blue and white!

When you ask the student affairs staff chaperones, Scott Simonds and Sheri Yoder, what impressed them the most about this diverse team of students, they share two thoughts: the students' willingness to give of themselves, with seemingly no end in sight, and the students' strong work ethic combined with their compassion for others really moved us.



Kristen Jackson (left) and Noah Pak don protective gear while working with mold in a home in Wilmington, North Carolina



## Graham Center Executive in Residence Speaks to the Graduating Class – Spring 2019



Graham Center Executive in Residence (EIR), Graham and Campus Advisory Board member, and Commencement Speaker Bill Yanavitch wore many hats for Penn State York this past year. His commitment to supporting Penn State York students was the theme that tied these four roles together.

Yanavitch found time, while establishing and growing his own consulting business, to represent The Graham Center in the community: finding new internship opportunities, introducing our students to phenomenal business leaders through the speaker series, and increasing the Center's corporate partner ranks by building relationships with new companies.

The wisdom Yanavitch shared with students during the commencement ceremony was based on his life experiences. He had four pieces of advice in discovering new paths and blazing new trails: 1) Be a learning machine; 2) Be resilient and learn from failures, tough lessons, and heartache; 3) Be family; and 4) Be grateful and giving by recognizing that we all receive help throughout our journeys and we must give back and help others. He concluded with a reminder to dream big, blaze your own trails, and create new stories.



Bill and Kimberly Yanavitch at spring commencement.

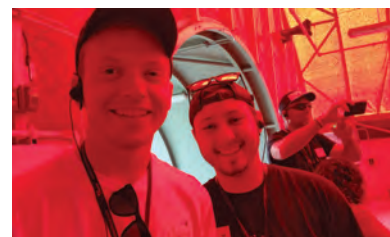
## In the Spirit of Blue and White. . . Embrace the Magic of Water and Light

Penn State York's Alumni and Development team held an event for Central Florida alumni in Disney's Animal Kingdom on March 9. Our attendees shared blue and white memories and enjoyed sweet treats at an ice cream reception, Disney's



sticky bun bread pudding, tasting as close to grilled stickies as you can get, topped with Sticky Bun ice cream shipped in from the Penn State Berkey Creamery. Afterwards, our alums were treated to reserved seats at the Animal Kingdom's River of Lights show. Special thanks to Kristy Altland, York alumna and Disney event manager, for sharing her Disney hospitality with our entire group.

Coordinating the event on behalf of the York campus was Joshua Wolgamuth, a junior biology major at Penn State York, the current Alumni and Development intern, and a student researcher whose work is focused on lizards. This was Wolgamuth's first visit to Disney World and Kristy Altland worked her magic to provide a one-of-a-kind visit to the Disney Nutrition and Veterinary Center. Wolgamuth met the senior veterinarian team, toured the on-property labs, and learned about the level of preparation and care that goes into the daily operations for the animals at Animal Kingdom. Wolgamuth said, "Hands down, my favorite part was the emergency visit by a lizard that came into the veterinary hospital. I was smiling from ear-to-ear as the staff worked to diagnose the situation and answer my questions. That was truly Disney magic."



Wyatt Franks '18, left, and Josh Wolgamuth, event coordinator





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**Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live!**  
September 14, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Xanadu**

September 27, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Kindred Spirits: Behind the Hauntings**  
with Amy Bruni & Adam Berry  
September 29, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Sean Larkin of Live PD**  
October 3, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

An In-person Conversation  
with **Kathy Najimy**  
Plus A Screening of *Hocus Pocus*  
October 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Cirque Mei**  
October 17, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.



**Taylor Dayne**  
October 20, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**The Ten Tenors**  
Home for the Holidays  
December 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m.

**Dinosaur World Live**  
February 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

**The Music of Sam Cooke**  
Starring Bradd Marquis  
February 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

**That Golden Girls Show**  
A Puppet Parody  
February 16, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

**The Greatest Love of All**  
A Tribute to Whitney Houston  
Starring Belinda Davids  
March 7, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.

**Andrew McCarthy Live** with  
A Screening of *Weekend at Bernie's*  
April 2, 2020, at 7:30 p.m.



**ThePulloCenter.com**  
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## Penn State York Breaks Ground for the New Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration



Dr. Madlyn Hanes, Dr. David Christiansen, Don Graham, President Eric Barron, Nittany Lion, Maria Polli, Michael Hady, Bill Kerlin, and Paul Rudy, left to right, surrounded by Graham students.

The groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, April 17, atop the hillside between the Pullo Family Performing Arts Center (The Pullo Center) and the Main Classroom Building, signaled the beginning of the construction project to build the Graham Center for Innovation and Collaboration at Penn State York. Thanks to generous support from Donald Graham, York business leader and philanthropist; John and Maria Polli, local philanthropists; two local foundations, the Powder Mill Foundation and the J. Warehime Foundation; and the University, The Graham Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Studies (The Graham Center) will have a new home.

“Don has long been a wonderful advocate for advancing entrepreneurship and innovation at Penn State and across the region,” said Penn State President Eric Barron. “He has led by example, and we are deeply grateful for all his incredible leadership and commitment to Penn State students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.”

“The Graham Center for Collaboration and Innovation will transform the Penn State York campus. It will provide a permanent home for our growing Graham Fellows program and allow the campus to offer new entrepreneurial leadership programs open to every student on our campus,” said David Christiansen, chancellor of Penn State York. “The addition of the Graham Center building is a visible reminder of the partnership between Penn State and Donald Graham to prepare students for a successful professional career.”

To follow the construction progress and learn more about the The Graham Center, visit [york.psu.edu/grahamcenter](http://york.psu.edu/grahamcenter).

### A Message from the Chancellor – July 2019

As my first year as chancellor at Penn State York ends, I have been reflecting on how impressed I have been with the campus community. Individuals from across the state, the country, and the world have come together to create something special here at Penn State York.

The quality of students on our campus is among the highest of the twenty Commonwealth Campuses. Although nearly 40 percent of our students are the first in their family to attend college and more than one-half work twenty hours or more each week to pay for college, they are graduating at higher rates than students at other campuses. Over this last year I have

attended student research presentations, athletic events, and theatrical performances, and met with multiple student clubs and organizations. All along I have been impressed with the passion with which our students approach their work.

The faculty at Penn State York is, simply speaking, exceptional. Over the years we have had University-wide teaching award recipients, including Dr. Anne Vardo-Zalik, associate professor of Biology, who won the Penn State Teaching Fellow Award in 2018; Dr. Ali Kara, professor of Business Administration, who won the Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2019; and Joan Smeltzer, assistant teaching professor in mathematics, who won the Teresa Cohen Mathematics Award for the second time in 2019. I have been greatly impressed with the willingness of faculty members to invite students into their labs and provide guidance to our undergraduates as they develop their own research project.

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Dr. Christiansen, right, congratulates mathematics award recipient, Joan Smeltzer.



## Alumni and Friends Had a Blast to Support Penn State York Athletics



Celebrity guest Brandon Short.

Penn State York continues the tradition of bringing together Penn State fans to have a BLAST to support the campus athletics program. On May 1, 100 guests enjoyed an afternoon of orange clays, special competitions (i.e. beat the celebrity) on and off the course, demonstrations by The Sportsman's Shop, and a great tailgate with Joe Paterno stories from our celebrity guest – Brandon Short. Short is a '99 grad,

former Nittany Lion and

NFL linebacker, and serves

as a current member of the University's Board of Trustees.

He took a side trip to York on his way from London to

University Park for the May board meeting.

Student athletes and coaches were on hand in record numbers this year, from helping to serve lunch to manning stations on the course. They were able to share stories and information about their teams and the experiences they had this past academic year, coaching and competing. Special thanks go out to our dedicated volunteers – campus staff, alumni and friends who pull for our guests at the stations, work the registration table, and transport folks across the course to get their team photos taken.

Plans are in the works for our 2020 Sporting Clays event next May. Sponsorships are already coming in and we would love to hear from you if you want to register a team to take a shot at supporting Penn State York Athletics. Contact Di Hershey for information.

The 2019 Clay Shoot Volunteers.



Brandon Short and the Lion, kneeling, with student athletes and coaches.



### A Message From the Chancellor continued...

I am also deeply appreciative of our professional staff and the pride with which they support our students. Staff members across the campus – including the Student Affairs, Advising and Career Development, the Nittany Success Center, the Registrar's Office, the Bursar's Office, and Admissions, to name a few – are committed to student success. Without their support, activity on campus would quickly come to a halt. Many of our staff members also volunteer as advisers for student clubs and organizations. For instance, Barb Dennis, coordinator of publications and promotion, serves as the adviser of the THON Club here at Penn State York.

As the 2018-19 academic year came to an end, I'm excited about what we have done over the last year and I'm excited about what we have planned for 2019-20. Before we know it, students will be arriving on campus in August! In the meanwhile, I wish you a rewarding summer.

WE ARE . . . PENN STATE  
David Christiansen