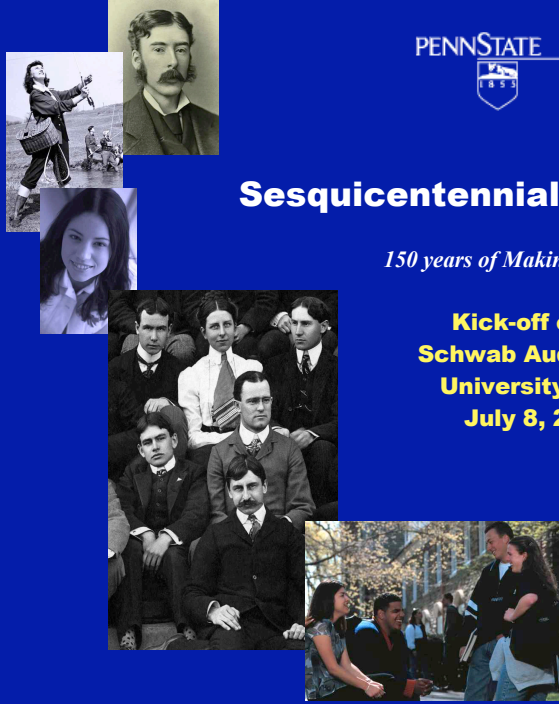




Sesquicentennial Celebration

150 years of Making Life Better

**Kick-off event
Schwab Auditorium
University Park
July 8, 2004**





Good afternoon and welcome to this wonderful celebration honoring 150 years of The Pennsylvania State University! This is a momentous occasion in the life of our University. An occasion that speaks to the tremendous accomplishments of Penn State, the success of its graduates, and its vital role in the development and economic growth of Pennsylvania.

As we kick off our yearlong observance of Penn State's founding, we celebrate not only our heritage, but also our current status as one of America's premier universities.

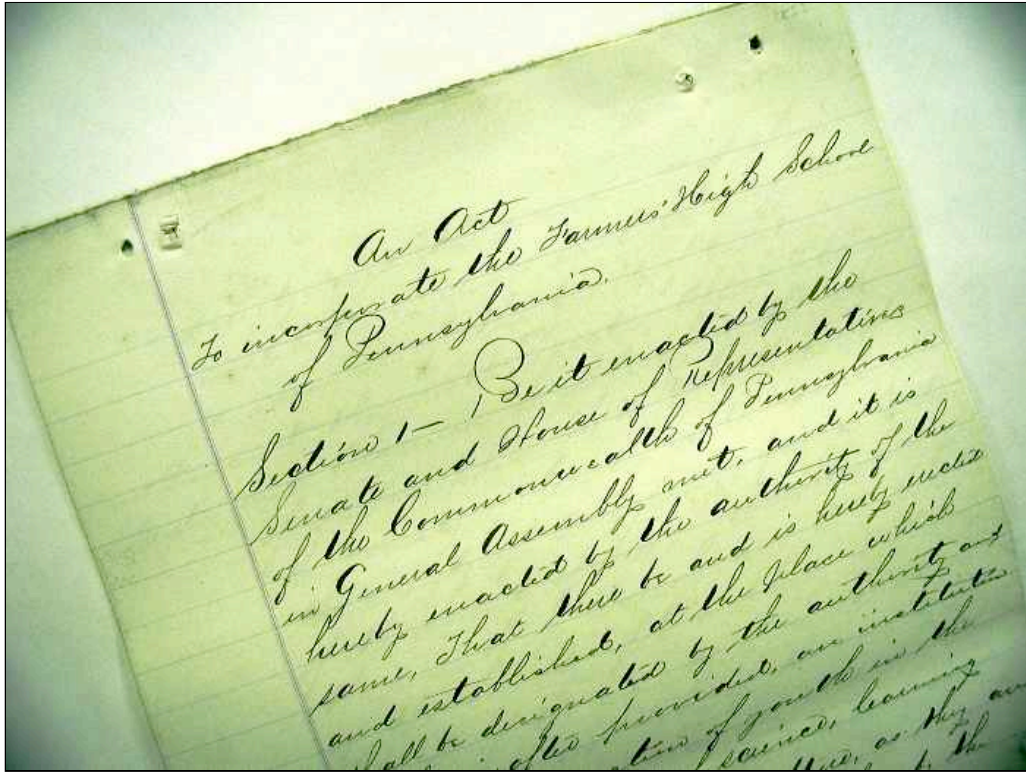


Today, I'd like to share with you a story of courage, perseverance, hard work, dedication, and devotion. A story punctuated by hope and inspiration, continuity and change, heartbreak and unimagined success. It is Penn State's story, 150 years in the making, and still unfinished.



It began in 1855, just 79 years after our country became an independent nation. On February 22 of that year, Pennsylvania Governor James Pollock signed a bill chartering The Farmers' High School as a baccalaureate institution, creating what is today The Pennsylvania State University. Governor Pollock's action not only laid the foundation for public higher education in Pennsylvania, but also created an institution of higher learning that was one of the first of its kind in the nation – an institution dedicated to teaching the scientific principles of agriculture, and educating the working class.

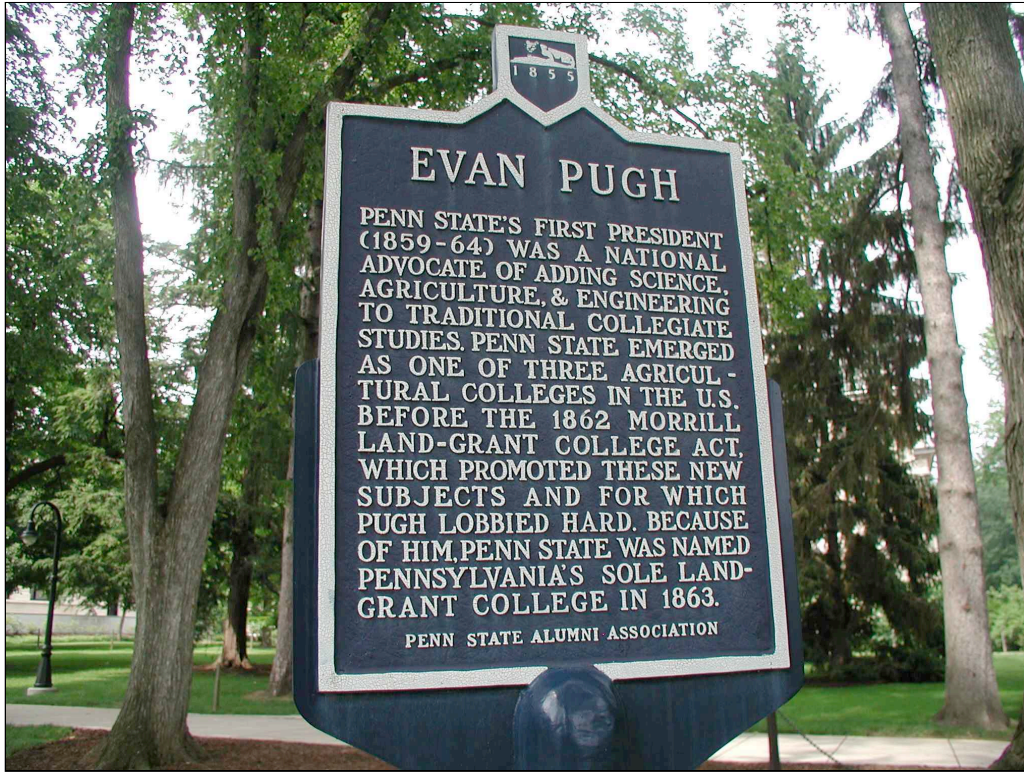
In that same year, Andrew Mellon was born, kerosene was patented, and John Rockefeller got his first job earning 50 cents a day. At the time, each of these events went unnoticed by most of the world – much like the founding of Penn State. Little did the world know of the tremendous impact these seemingly ordinary occurrences would have in the years to come.



Even Penn State's original charter, now preserved in the University archives, was written on plain paper -- an unpretentious start for a great university. Said to be "founded on little more than a shoestring," the new school was located on 200 acres donated by Centre County ironmaster James Irvin. It opened its doors to 119 students in 1859, the same year its first President Evan Pugh arrived to find Old Main only partially finished, lumber and materials strewn about, and a handful of shanties dotting the landscape. Pennsylvania's crops had failed, the nation had fallen on hard times and the Civil War was about to begin.



But President Pugh – with the help of a number of Trustees -- unreservedly accepted the challenge to build Penn State into an institution known throughout the nation for its exceptional education, not only in agriculture, but in engineering, the sciences, humanities, and other areas. Evan Pugh brought order to chaos with his forward thinking and wanted to extend to the public the knowledge being taught here. In fact, Pugh – a brilliant chemist -- was commissioned by the state to analyze commercial fertilizers so that farmers would know what they were buying.



From the very beginning, Evan Pugh saw Penn State as a source of discovery, a place of innovation, and a vast resource for Pennsylvania and its people.

President Pugh battled vehemently for Penn State's pioneering vision and worked to push legislation through Congress that would create "the people's institutions."



This legislation, known as the Morrill Act, was signed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862, and Penn State became one of the nation's first land-grant institutions, officially adopting its three-part mission of teaching, research and service. From the outset, Penn State has remained committed to providing wide access to education and using our institutional energies and resources to solve some of society's most pressing challenges.



Today, we are still Pennsylvania's sole land-grant university and we hold a special place in the history of the Commonwealth. For 150 years, we've been making life better for Pennsylvania and the world. For 150 years, Penn State has served the citizens of this state, been a worldwide source of scientific discovery, and educated hundreds of thousands of people.

Our legacy is one of success.



We have moved from a student body of about 100 in 1859 to 83,000 today. We have gone from graduating our first class of 11 students to conferring more than 557,000 degrees in the course of our history, and our alumni have gone on to lead Fortune 500 companies, serve as governors, earn the Nobel Prize, author best-selling novels, and direct humanitarian efforts across the world.



Our faculty numbers have increased from 4 at our founding to 5,000 strong today. They have discovered new planets, achieved tremendous advances in mapping the human genetic code, and made huge strides in artificial heart research. They offer courses in disciplines that weren't even dreamed of even 50 years ago— courses like information sciences, smart materials, and biobehavioral health.



The isolated 200-acre farm with a single academic building has grown to 24 locations on nearly 21,000 acres across the state. We touch nearly 5 million Pennsylvanians each year with our programs.



From the early days of Evan Pugh's fertilizer research, we have gone on to earn worldwide acclaim for our work in nanotechnology, genetics, medicine, bioengineering and other areas that could not have been imagined by our founders. Our research enterprise has grown rapidly, amounting to nearly \$600 million in expenditures last year, making Penn State one of the top research universities in the country.



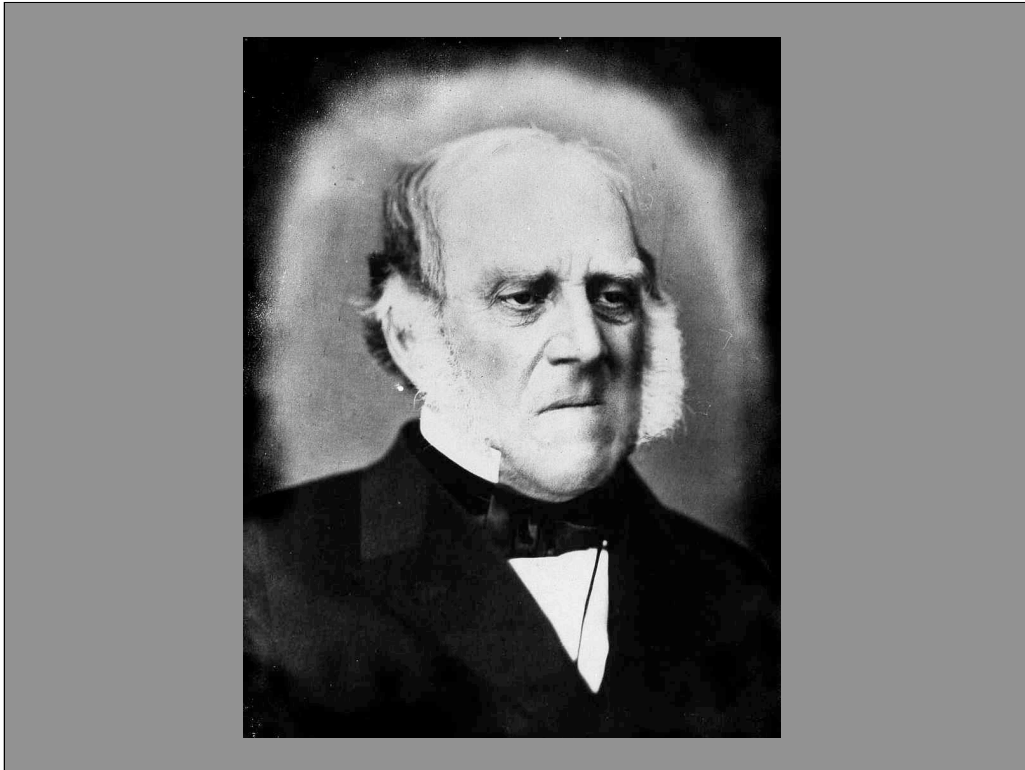
And this building in which you sit -- the first ever at Penn State financed entirely by a private gift -- celebrated its 100th anniversary as a landmark on campus last year -- the same year we brought the Grand Destiny Campaign to a close. While philanthropy has helped shape Penn State from its very beginnings, the Grand Destiny campaign raised more funds during its seven-year period than were raised during the previous 141 years of Penn State's existence.



Clearly, what began as a pioneering experiment in higher education has flourished into one of America's greatest success stories. From a small agricultural school in the heart of Pennsylvania to one of the leading research universities in the world – Penn State is now synonymous with excellence.

If the past is any indication of what we can accomplish in just 150 years, then Pennsylvania and the nation can expect even greater things of Penn State in the next 150 years.

I'd now like to invite Cynthia Baldwin, chair of Penn State's Board of Trustees and a Penn State alumna, to say a few words.



As President Spanier said, I am an alumna of The Pennsylvania State University and extremely proud of the legacy of this fine institution. A legacy that was not only made possible by Evan Pugh, and the 15 presidents who followed him, but a legacy that began when a learned man -- a lawyer and a judge – took it upon himself to lobby for the creation of a new kind of school.

That man was Frederick Watts.

Judge Watts was not only an outstanding officer of the Cumberland County court, he also was a brilliant agriculturalist who firmly believed in the application of science to agriculture and the idea that knowledge should be widely shared.



He was also the first president of the first Board of Trustees of this University, a position he held for 19 years. His name may be familiar to some. Watts Hall in the West Halls Residence area here on campus is named in his honor.

Judge Watts has been called “The Father of Penn State,” and he was definitely a man on a mission. He was the driving force behind the founding of this institution and he hired Evan Pugh as its first president. He was also largely responsible for crafting the charter that created the Farmers’ High School in 1855.

It is coincidence that I -- like our first board president -- am also a judge in Pennsylvania. But it is not a coincidence that we both share a deep and abiding passion for the success of this University. Penn State has a way of getting into your blood, making it impossible to separate yourself entirely from an institution that is so intimately connected to everything around it.



From its very beginnings, Penn State has been championed by individuals who have recognized its value and pressed for its survival. Their enthusiasm, perseverance, dedication, and love of this University were extraordinary and have set a high standard for all board members who followed.



Since 1914, 19 of the 23 presidents of Penn State's Board of Trustees have been alumni and today, 23 of the total 32-member board are graduates of Penn State. That's a remarkable statistic in higher education today and a very telling statement. It means this University has been shaped by people who have had a deep personal interest in seeing it flourish. People who are committed partners of Penn State and who vehemently support its mission of teaching, research, and service.



My colleagues on the Board, who are seated here in front of me, all have a common bond -- a deep enduring love of The Pennsylvania State University.

We come from all walks of life. Many of us are first-generation college graduates and all of us believe in the extraordinary value of higher education and in the public service mission of this University.

Like those first Trustees – we have a responsibility to ensure that Penn State continues to thrive. Those who came before us would be proud of the legacy they helped to create and gratified by the contributions Penn State makes each day to the people of Pennsylvania and beyond.



Penn State's extraordinary success is clearly a product of its people and of its strengths and traditions that have been carefully nurtured throughout the University's illustrious history. As a graduate, board president, Pennsylvania citizen, and die-hard Penn State fan, I have watched as Penn State has become one of the leading universities in the world -- all the while remaining true to its mission of teaching, research, and service.

For 150 years, Penn State has made a lasting impact on the lives of our students and in the world beyond our campuses. It is on this firm foundation that we will continue to extend our reach, setting new standards of excellence, seeking new discoveries, and educating new generations.