***Letter from Dr. Jim Schupp***

Dear Friends,

Since 1980, the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center (FREC) has

provided affordable temporary housing for graduate students, post-doctoral

candidates and visiting scientists in two house trailers. Over the past 35 years,

FREC has housed 32 graduate students, 7 post docs and 2 visiting scientists

in Biglerville, Pennsylvania. In 2014, these house trailers were deemed

unsafe and not cost efficient to repair. This led to a discussion about not

only replacing the trailers, but also to upgrade these facilities with modular

housing allowing more flexibility to accommodate both graduate students

and visiting scientists. We feel these living arrangements will give Penn State

a competitive edge in attracting top talent to our center.

In January the SHAP Endowment Committee agreed to partner with FREC by

approving the purchase of this new modular unit in the amount of $252,000.

At the same time, SHAP launched a capital campaign to restore those funds

extended by the Endowment Committee. The campaign has been met with

great enthusiasm by the fruit industry and its business partners, and over

$210,000 has been raised in just the first six months.

The permitting process is now completed and construction of the building

has begun. The general contractor estimates that it will be about 6 weeks

until the house is delivered and placed on its foundation. We are thrilled to

be nearing the completion of the project at the same time as the goal for the

capital campaign comes into view.

To everyone who has already pledged, thank you! If you haven’t yet made a

pledge, please consider making a generous tax-deductible donation to help

us reach our goal during the final steps of the campaign. Graduate education

is clearly a primary mission of the PSU Fruit Research and Extension Center

and without adequate housing, it is very difficult to attract the best candidates

to this facility. A letter from the SHAP Capital Campaign Committee and a

pledge card are printed on page 15 in this issue of the Fruit News.

As Dr. Rick Roush, Dean of Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences

recently wrote, these students and scientists “have been powerful engines

driving our research efforts”. This project will provide FREC with safe, practical

and affordable housing for a new generation of students and scientists for

many years to come, and will help us to train the scientists that will serve this

industry in the future.

We sincerely thank the State Horticultural Association of

Pennsylvania for their leadership in bringing this project

to the forefront. The faculty and staff at FREC are very

excited to see this project in the final stage.

***Dr. Jim Schupp***

Director, Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center