

# REPAINT

REPORTER

## BOBBY ALLOWAY

AND HIS MASTERFUL WORKS







## PENN COLLEGE AND PPG TEAM UP TO GIVE COLLISION REPAIR STUDENTS THE EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE

### A TIP OF THE HAT GOES TO ALL THE PPG PEOPLE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS STUDENT TRIP POSSIBLE

GREG BENCKART  
BRETT CANDLER  
MATTEO CARRARO  
JOHN OUTCALT  
JOE PANICHELLA  
MATILDE PENNACCHIONI  
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TODD WARREN  
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A trip to Italy—complete with espresso and cannolis—became part of the Pennsylvania College of Technology’s curriculum for aspiring automotive refinish paint technicians this spring, thanks to PPG’s support spearheaded by Todd Warren, PPG territory manager.

The school’s Collision Repair Technology department has been a PPG customer for almost three decades—with Warren its PPG contact for 15 years—and is part of PPG’s *Partners in Education* program that supports the development of technicians for collision repair centers. In 2009, the school began using PPG’s *Envirobase® High Performance* waterborne system, and Warren got the idea that giving exposure to the European collision industry and its use of waterborne paint technology would be an enlightening experience for the students.

“Several years ago, I went to England to spray race cars,” he said. “Experiencing another culture was so enriching, I wanted these students to have the same opportunity to travel and discover cultural and industrial diversity.”

Warren presented the idea of a study trip abroad to department head Roy Klinger. He liked it, and together they developed a course to take students to the center of Italy’s automotive industry—and tapped into the PPG network to plan it.

“I thought this would be a life-changing experience for the kids,” added Warren. “Many had never even been out of Pennsylvania before.”



Thirteen students qualified for the trip. On May 15 this year, Warren, Klinger and the group left for a 10-day adventure in the land of Lamborghini and Ferrari.

The immersion into Italian and PPG culture began with a visit to PPG's Milan plant that manufactures waterborne basecoat. The group saw paint being made and learned about the evolution of color matching—the plant formulates 7,000+ colors annually. At the PPG Refinish training facility, they met PPG's Matilde Pennacchioni, who coordinated the trip, and enjoyed coffee and pastries together—a ritual that was to be repeated often.

At collision centers across Italy, the students talked with technicians and managers and learned Europe has the same industry issues as the U.S.: a shortage of qualified technicians, demand for quick turnaround and high quality, and rising expenses. They also witnessed how well *Envirobase HP* has been working since it was introduced there in 2001.

The group also toured the Lamborghini plant and museum, visited the facility of supercar manufacturer Pagani/Zonda, and test drove Ferraris. In Rome, they took in the sights and visited a new vocational arts school.

"This was a valuable trip," said Klinger. "It's a definite mark in a lifetime of events. What they learned and saw will stay with them and provide a better understanding of the industry."

The course is now part of the Penn College's Associate Degree program.



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