Regular readers of this quarterly publication are accustomed to seeing a President’s Message and Editor’s Note as a lead-in to every issue. We’ve enjoyed the enviable opportunity to greet you as you open each edition throughout the year, and we hope our comments have helped crystallize the themes and ideas presented in these pages.

With fewer than two dozen pages in each magazine, however, we realize that the opening pages of our magazine could be used instead to show and tell more about Pennsylvania College of Technology students, alumni, faculty and staff. In the future, we will forgo our messages in favor of more photos and articles that feature Penn College people, programs and events.

We strive to keep One College Avenue interesting and informative, as we share with you the wonderful and interesting things happening around the campus. We also frequently review publications from other colleges and universities, as well as general interest magazines, to keep pace with publishing trends. We have found that many other publications also are downsizing columns such as ours in favor of increasing coverage of relevant news and information to meet readers’ needs and interests.

It is fitting that this note of “departure” from our messages of the past prefaces an edition devoted to “Historical Preservation.” By chronicling events large and small that positively reflect on the Penn College community, One College Avenue serves as an important tool for safeguarding our institutional story. What better way to further that enterprise than by expanding the amount of space available in each issue to share Penn College news with our readers!

If you would like to share your thoughts on One College Avenue, or if you have suggestions for articles you would like to see published in future issues, please e-mail us at onecollegeavenue@pct.edu.

Thanks for reading!

Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D.
President

Tom Wilson, Editor
Architecture Alum Helps a Nation Redefine Itself
A 2000 graduate splits his time between “capital” projects, painstakingly cataloging portions of the White House while designing a new embassy for a fledgling democracy . . . all with a diplomat’s-eye view of the Washington scene.

Plying His Trade Near History’s Hotbed
Bridging the generations in an area that holds a fanatical reverence for the past, a construction graduate practices a unique blend of restoration and renovation – even finding the historical merit in faddish furnishings.

Architectural Preservation in Williamsport
A College professor had a street-side seat for much of the preservation work in Penn College’s back yard, chairing a municipal entity that helps retain the city’s treasures.

A Fresh Face for a Timeless Beauty
A major overhaul is providing new luster to the main campus’ oldest building, while maintaining the beauty of this perpetually useful College landmark. A photo essay documents the work so far, from forgotten murals to subterranean discoveries.

Genealogy Research: It’s (Almost) All Relative
If you think honoring history is all about buildings, climb your family tree and explore its far-reaching branches. A Penn College employee hits the highlights of putting down roots – and some of the inherent challenges of a virtual reunion.

Regular Features
17 In Touch With Alumni
18 Campus Collage
20 Faculty/Staff Focus
Deftly bridging projects that take him from the world’s leading democracy to one of its newest, Michael A. Gibble might be mistaken for just another 25-year-old professional in the nation’s capital. His is a pace typical of many buffeted by the Washington, D.C., whirlwind, leaving barely enough time for hockey and the gym and a social life.

His travels have taken him atop St. Peter’s Cathedral and within a whisper of the pope; his “homework” allows him near-unprecedented access to the Oval Office and Lincoln Bedroom. And on a recent Friday – a most fortunate Friday the 13th, in fact – Gibble had one of those moments that add something “extra” to one’s “ordinary” life.

After graduating from Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Architectural Technology program in 2000, Gibble enrolled in Catholic University of America, where he earned a bachelor of science and dual master’s degrees. His thesis analyzed and developed a design of an embassy building for the 12-year-old Republic of Slovenia, and, on Feb. 13, he presented his proposal to an appreciative audience from the breakaway Yugoslavian nation.

“The buzz it created throughout the embassy was something that I was not expecting,” the Allentown-area native said. “Now, the process begins.” That “process” includes changes requested by Slovenian diplomats, such as an ambassador’s residence within the complex, as well as site analysis and overall cost estimates that ultimately will be converted into a comprehensive report (or book) for review by the Slovene national government.

Speaking in modesty inconsistent with his acclaimed accomplishment, he said the project just “fell in my lap.” A professor with whom he worked as a research assistant arranged a trip to Europe, where Gibble took part in work with the European Union and specifically studied Slovenian culture and background, focusing on architects and regional architectural tendencies – primarily Joze Plecnik, whose work is prominent in the capital of Ljubljana – and the rest is history. Honoring history, that is.

The 86-page thesis quotes a biographer’s characterization of Thomas Jefferson’s philosophies of architecture and construction: that buildings truly are emblematic of a nation’s identity. As a proud, new nation encumbered with communist baggage, Slovenia wishes to borrow from its past while blazing a trail that is distinctly its own.

The Slovene government joined the EU in January and became part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in April, Gibble noted, and is searching for a design that reflects its “progressive, democratic (and) prosperous country.”

“The philosophy of the newly redesigned embassy is not only to fit the needs of the diplomats and civilians, but to also establish what the Slovenes consider the ‘national architecture’ and bring knowledge and credibility to the new republic,” he wrote. “This can be done by drawing upon its history,
portraying where it wants to be in the future and what the new republic can offer in assistance in bettering the world.”

Faced with that challenge, Gibble struck a compromise: Raze the existing structure (the old Yugoslavian embassy) and incorporate a more-pleasing adjacent residence into the total design. Inclusion of the adjoining home, which is deemed more historically significant than the 1940s-era embassy itself, allows a bridge between the past and present... and helps tie together the whole package into a veritable “representation of a country through bricks and mortar.”

While helping to create a new symbol for Slovenia along “Embassy Row,” Gibble also is in the midst of preserving one of America’s own most-recognizable buildings. Working with the Historic American Buildings Survey, begun in the 1930s to catalog this country’s varied architectural treasures, Gibble is helping to definitively “capture” the White House.

Working from field notes and ink-on-Mylar drawings from the 1980s, Gibble and his team are working to create a thorough architectural record of the Executive Mansion. Since the building obviously has been scoured and photographed throughout its history, much documentation already is on file. But the latest work employs sophisticated computer-aided design software — and the still-useful benefits of hand-measuring — to archive its design down to eighth-inch precision for the archives of the Library of Congress and use in future renovations.

Gibble’s friends and family regularly beckon, and his ultimate goal is to move back to Pennsylvania to further his career aspirations. His departure might be delayed.

The painstaking nature of the White House project makes that a protracted assignment, indeed. There’s the embassy follow-up: the shuffling of considerable paperwork and close contact with the ambassador’s communication director, the Slovene economic adviser to the United States, and other diplomats, including the ambassador himself. (Many attended the presentation, Gibble said, making it “an excellent experience and one that has a distinct possibility of becoming reality” when it’s time to select and bankroll a design.)

And his Catholic University colleagues are discussing recognition for Gibble, perhaps nomination for regional and national awards reflective of the unique spotlight attracted to him and his work.

When his “capital projects” are concluded, however, chances are this 25-year-old can write his own ticket for the return trip.
PRACTICING his craft in an “office” that spans four generations, it’s obvious that William M. Jacobs has a reverence for the past.

As a 12-year-old boy, he learned woodworking in his great-grandfather’s cabinet shop; as a father, he passes along the trade to his son, Adam M., a 2003 graduate of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s construction carpentry program. And as a businessman, he plies his talents in a cradle of history: the rolling farmland surrounding Gettysburg.

Jacobs – who earned his certificate in construction carpentry from Williamsport Area Community College in 1975 – is the owner of William M. Jacobs Remodeling and Restoration in the Fairfield area of Adams County.

His “historical renovation” is a special brand of craftsmanship, a blend of repair and restoration that pays homage to yesterday while honoring the preferences of today’s homeowners.

He works from old photos, property records, that spare piece of wooden trim found in an attic – all tools in the service of keeping the customer happy and remaining true to the building’s heritage.

Purists might carp, but Jacobs knows there is room for compromise between historical accuracy and an owner’s latter-day wishes.

“There are all kinds of variations on what people want to do with historic homes,” he explains. If the homeowner opts for modern insulation but likes the exterior look of the original, Jacobs uses energy-efficient replacement windows that replicate the grid style of their precursors.

“History is very important to me, and I try to keep the flavor in whatever I do,” he said. “History is a big part of my life.”

Jacobs’ surroundings make that abundantly clear.

His workshop is an offshoot of a family business started by his great-grandfather in 1927, and he maintains a lot of original equipment (a surface planer and circular saw, among the items) still powered by a “Model A” Ford engine.

Talking with Jacobs, it’s apparent that his knowledge of history is extensive. He discusses tools and technique with a scholar’s sensibility, and he finds charm in the most outrageous remnants of decades past.

He believes that even the fads of a particular period – the suspended ceilings and “avocado and orange shag carpet” of the 1970s, for instance – define an era every bit as much as Victorian architecture.

“It’s all in the people’s likes and dislikes,” said Jacobs. “All of this is
changing as the people’s tastes change. I’ve worked on houses where there have been three or four ‘remodels’ since the original.”

He also draws cues from building materials and construction styles, and notes some interesting tidbits from the historical record.

Log cabins, for instance, are popular with property owners looking to recapture the rustic look of the past. But “homeowners back then wouldn’t dare expose the logs, because that denoted a ‘poor person’s’ home.”

“The same with wide-plank floors,” he relates. “In that era, the person with the more narrow floor was more affluent.”

Jacobs recently completed a two-year renovation project at a stone house from the early 19th century, the rear of which – in typical fashion for its day – had been altered.

“Back then, people would stucco a stone home and try to make it look like marble or some other more-expensive material,” he says. “They started with stone, but, as soon as they got enough money, they covered it!”

Jacobs’ busy schedule speaks to his success: a gradually cultivated client base, built solely on word-of-mouth and an appreciation for his painstaking attention to detail.

He worked on one house, for instance, that the owner believed was from the 1890s. (“He was a lawyer, so I thought he had done his homework,” Jacobs explained.)

The carpenter noticed the telltale signs of vertical saw marks, however, a throwback to the days before steam-powered circular saws were used at Appalachian lumber mills. That clue, combined with the types of nails and molding used, more closely dated the home in the 1820-50 period.

His schooling in 20th-century technique allows him to improve upon the construction of yesteryear, but doesn’t blind his complimentary eye for those builders of the past. In his work, he has seen the beauty of a 1700-style door frame and a 600-700 pound cornerstone.

“You can’t help but wonder, How in thunder did they ever get that accomplished?”

The respect that Jacobs holds for history is echoed in how others perceive his talents – including a former employer, now an assistant professor of building construction technology at Penn College.

Ronald L. Hartzell, who later would join the School of Construction and Design Technologies as a faculty member, hired him at his carpentry business soon after Jacobs received a certificate from W.A.C.C.

“I am very proud of Bill as a friend, former employee and alumnus. When he applied for the position, I had no idea where this institution was . . . let alone what kind of quality person it places in the workforce,” he recalls. “The day we hired Bill, we made a great decision. He, without question, became a valuable asset to our business operation.

“When Bill came to work for us, I never would have guessed that I would be a faculty member at this great institution,” Hartzell adds. “There probably is not one semester that goes by without my making reference to the value of Bill’s experience as a student here. He came to us better prepared and more knowledgeable than the employment candidates we usually encountered in our searches.

“Bill is an example of what benefit can be gained from an education at this technological masterpiece, as he has become a master of the trade himself!”
Harrar House (915 W. Fourth St.)
This Italian Villa mansion was built in the early 1870s as a wedding gift for Lucy J.R. Eutermarks. It is believed to have been designed by Eber Culver. It originally had the street address of 913, but the family changed it because of the "unlucky" number. The house features 13-foot-high ceilings on the first-floor interiors, with many rooms containing ornamental plaster work. Originally, a cupola crowned the building and the porch ran the full length of the structure.
In the 1970s, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed legislation enabling municipalities to create historic districts within their geographic bounds. These districts were to preserve the rich variety of structures and neighborhoods that have historical or architectural significance. This legislation created the opportunity for cities to save irreplaceable, priceless architectural treasures from the past.

This interest in saving the past was fostered by a realization that the federal policies of urban renewal of the 1960s had ruined the fabric of American cities. A major loss was that of Pennsylvania Station in New York City. This event spurred preservationists and legislators alike to realize that something must

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**Trinity Episcopal Church (844 W. Fourth St.)**

The planning for Trinity Episcopal Church began in December 1865. The cornerstone of the building was laid in 1871. Peter Herdic donated the land, an organ and the tower clock. Judge John Maynard and his wife donated the bells for the bell tower, the first Cambridge bells in the country. The tune, based on an air by Handel, chimes every quarter-hour, adding a part of the melody each time, so that the full tune is played at the top of the hour. The mountain stone used in the church was quarried near Muncy from Bald Eagle Mountain. The brownstone came from Hummelstown. The interior has beautiful wooden trusses and stained glass. The church has had several additions and renovations since it was built, and remains a wonderful example of the Gothic Revival style. The use of tall pointed arches is evident throughout.

Here is a special detail – a window right over your mantel! This unusual window requires the venting for the fireplace to be routed around it on both sides. This chimney features rusticated stone and an oversized keystone (the triangular piece at the top of the arch that gives the arch its stability).
be done to preserve and protect our country’s national architectural treasures before they fell to the wrecking ball.

In Williamsport, The Architectural Committee of the Greater Williamsport Community Arts Council crafted legislation and presented it to City Council. The legislation was passed, and it created the Williamsport Millionaire’s Row Historic District and a governing board of appointed members. The board was to include an architect, a Realtor, the city codes officer and others that were owners of property in the district. The district borders on and includes property owned and used by Pennsylvania College of Technology. It was in the spirit of compatibility with the Historic District neighborhood that Penn College created The Village student-housing complex to be a seamless integration with the scale and texture of the structures nearby.

The district was the major housing area of lumber barons in Williamsport, where, at the beginning of the 1900s, one could count more millionaires than in New York City. This was the period in which Williamsport was the lumbering center of the world. Architects from Philadelphia and New York, as well as locally, competed to create the finest houses that money could buy. Workmen were imported to craft them, and studios were contracted to produce their furnishings and frills. These included such businesses and craftsmen as Louis Comfort Tiffany Glass Studios and Aeolian Skinner Organ Works.

The district always has had a mixture of uses and included worker housing, as well as commercial buildings. Some fine structures have been lost to fire, others have been expanded with both success and less-than-worthy additions, while others have been restored and refurbished with care and attention.

Preservation is important not only because of the events that may have occurred there, but also because the buildings are a living testament to the now-irreplaceable creativity and craftsmanship of the past. Preservation provides visual comfort to residents and allows for continuity and a sense of place within a community.

How often have you driven around Williamsport and really looked at the buildings? I mean really looked at them—especially the “old” part of the downtown neighborhoods? If you grew up in the area, you might not have realized the importance and extent of Williamsport’s rich architectural heritage.

Many of the original houses in the area dubbed “Millionaire’s Row” have been lost to fire and demolition. As the fabric of the city changes, and the buildings need maintenance, repair and upgrading to support new technologies, these buildings that record the town’s history might be lost if their importance isn’t recognized and preserved.

The question of preservation in this country is relatively new. In the 1970s and ’80s, architects, planners and communities began to realize the need to take action to keep historical buildings from being wantonly destroyed. Many states and communities enacted laws to preserve historical places.

Today, historical preservation is a recognized field, and there are many architectural schools that offer it as a special area of emphasis. Architecture students at Penn College often visit the historical neighborhoods around the school, where they observe the variety of building materials and sketch the different Victorian styles.

The changing modes of urban transportation are shown in this D. Vincent Smith photograph of Williamsport’s Market Square, looking west on Third Street, circa 1909. Horse-drawn carriages travel alongside trolley cars, joined by the blur of the newest innovation—the automobile.
"...buildings are a living testament to the now-irreplaceable creativity and craftsmanship of the past."

It is a chartable link to the past and a reference to the greatness of the people that created it.

Williamsport’s historical buildings were created by masters and used resources that, for the most part, are permanent and of greater quality than new structures. Masonry structures with slate roofs require less annual maintenance than other material choices. In many cases, internal mechanical equipment and electrical systems need to be upgraded to meet people’s needs and present codes, but these costs still are usually less than those required for a new building. The economics of preservation have been examined and are viable. As the district is preserved and refurbished, the value of properties increase, which, in turn, creates a demand for the structures within the district.

It is important that the new owners of buildings within the district obtain competent advice in the use and care of their structures. In Williamsport’s Historic District, no change to any exterior may be made without the approval of the board, but, even then, irreplaceable damage may be made to the interior, since that is not under the purview of the board.

Park Home (800 W. Fourth St.)
Opened with great fanfare in 1865, this was a four-story hotel that could accommodate 700 guests. One of its features was the deer park in the fenced area in front of the hotel. At the time, it was considered to be one of the finest hotels in the East. It is said that Peter Herdic paved the roads in Williamsport in exchange for having the train stop at the hotel. Certainly, the train stops were timed so that meals were available and all passengers were invited in! The railroad station was located at the rear of the building and the streetcar, called a Herdic (a trolley car pulled by two horses) stopped in front. The top two floors were removed in the late 1930s when the building was converted to the Park Home. Today, it has been handsomely remodeled as an office building, renamed “Park Place.”

One of the many ways to decorate entrances was to add handmade iron hinges. These typically extend almost the full width of the door, and the bolts become part of the texture and design. These hinges often have vine, leaf and flower motifs.
It is quite possible, with effort, patience and the retention of a preservationist architect, to completely restore the interiors and exteriors of these structures. It is not necessarily inexpensive, but neither was the original creation in the 19th century.

Besides creating a home of which one may be proud, these structures provide a magnet for tourism, an economic benefit that should not be dismissed lightly. Further, Williamsport’s District is singularly unique in that the structures were created so close to one another. In other cities in this country, each of them would have been centered on a five-acre lot. The district includes a wonderful selection of building styles of the 19th century, from Norman Revival to Queen Anne. Students in the architectural program at the College have long sketched the varied facades. These students even designed the Victorian House built on the College campus, based on the features of homes within the district.

Since the inception and creation of the district by the City of Williamsport, most of the change that has occurred has been positive. Many properties have changed ownership, and the new owners have repaired their structures, repainted and reroofed them, and restored the landscaping. The city has installed new lighting on Fourth Street that reflects the older era, although it has yet to relight the entire district. In the summer months, hanging from the fixtures are baskets of flowers that add the ambience of the past to the streetscape.

Each year, the City of Williamsport cites owners that have done an excellent job of renewing their buildings within the last calendar year and rewards them with a plaque. Tours of the district are held at various times of the year, and every spring there is a Victorian Sunday. Often at these events, in addition to exhibits, vendors and house tours, people will dress in Victorian style. It serves as a celebration of the times and manner in which Williamsport was created by our forebears.

835 W. Fourth St.

This mansion, constructed by William Emery as a wedding present in 1889, was built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. This style features the use of rough masonry, rounded arches, asymmetrical massing, a tower and Romanesque-style crenellations under the eaves and parapet walls. This style was the rage at the time and there are many other examples of it along Fourth Street in Williamsport. The interior has beautiful woodwork in cherry and oak. Examples include the large double doors opening into the house, a winding oak staircase, hand-carved fireplace mantels, oak blinds that fold over the windows, and elaborate wainscoting and moldings on the walls throughout the house. This home, renovated in 1956, now houses the McCormick Law Firm.

The mansard roof is a common sight. It was developed in Paris to get around the height limitations of buildings established by Napoleon. By having a steep roof with dormer windows, builders could claim it was attic space – while actually adding another floor to the building. Typically, the roof above the vertical roof is almost flat.
The oldest building on Pennsylvania College of Technology's main campus is in the midst of an extensive renovation project that will expand instructional space and preserve a piece of our history by making it a viable part of our future.

Built in 1913 as Williamsport High School, Klump Academic Center housed the area’s first adult vocational-training programs, the bedrock of Williamsport Technical Institute and Williamsport Area Community College - forerunners of Penn College. When a newly constructed high school was opened in 1970, the building became a cornerstone of the College campus.

Characterized by Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, College president, as “our oldest – and, for many, most loved – building on campus,” the Academic Center will join the downtown Community Arts Center as an example of a timeworn jewel given a sparkling new look for years to come.

continued next page
The building’s stately and quiet exterior, not yet “retouched” when this photo was taken in July, gives little hint of the whirlwind of work that would follow. By spring, the considerable work inside — through which the building remained operational — was mirrored on the outside.

**MAJESTIC MIX OF NEW (and Not-So-New)**

Colorful bundles of wires mark the building’s communication network, while a newly refurbished classroom in the east wing — equipped with a ceiling-mounted television and projection unit — stands ready for students. When rededicated next year, the building will be a truly modern educational facility housed within a structure that has played a significant role in the community’s history.
WHAT LIES BENEATH

Like archaeologists sifting through ancient ruins, work crews make interesting finds as they renovate a campus landmark: a “boys” entrance sign uncovered on the east side, for instance, and a mural revealed on a basement wall. Also unearthed during the work was the former gymnasium (housed in the building until Bardo Gym was constructed across West Third Street) and an upper-level running track overlooking the basketball court.

FUNCTIONAL FACELIFT

The building and grounds are getting a clean, new look outside, and the interior is undergoing an extensive update – in areas both seen and unseen. At left, crews “airlift” supplies to the interior courtyard with hand-rigged ease; above, brickwork gleams after a rejuvenating scrubbing.
seed planted in fifth-grade as an end-of-the-year alternative to a run-of-the-mill book report has sprouted into a full-grown family tree for Joseph S. Miller.

An instructional media specialist at Pennsylvania College of Technology, Miller looked to his roots during that long-ago Social Studies class – and, in the process, began a healthy obsession with his lineage.

“I went to my Dad's mother, who kept quite a number of early family records,” he recounts. “That started me down the path of ‘getting hooked’ on genealogy.”

Those initial conversations fed Miller's appetite, and a one-time assignment led him to where he is today: with 1,200 names in a computer database, an encyclopedic recall of minute details and a much-keener awareness of whence he came.

Heirloom photographs are among the invaluable tools at a genealogist's disposal. Tenacity and resilience mark the faces in this image taken around 1925 and among the documentary treasures provided by the Joseph S. Miller family.
“When you get back far enough, you find points of intersection – fifth cousins who, simultaneously, might be working on the same thing.”

For instance, Miller has painstakingly identified and researched almost all of his great-great-great-grandparents on both sides of his family – the Schuylers on his father’s side, the Raups on his mother’s – and “is closing in very fast” on the remaining few.

His recipe for success includes time-tested ingredients such as hand-scrawled church ledgers, passenger-ship manifests, eroding epitaphs on toppling tombstones and the most essential of all: as much human contact as possible. Miller’s searches have taken him to family reunions with 90-year-olds, to historical sites throughout Pennsylvania, to libraries and museums. He has combed through railroad employment certificates and church-attendance records – even one of his great uncle’s fishing licenses.

All avenues are explored, as when Miller and his family hosted an exchange student in Fall 2001.

“She was a big help in identifying towns and villages and in translating old German church records,” he says. “I learned a lot through her.”

His research has, at times, veered into unproductive spin-offs (Miller, after all, is the sixth or seventh most-prevalent surname in genealogical searches). But it also has introduced him to lost relatives and showered him with cherished family photographs and heirlooms – including a rocking chair that belonged to his great-great-grandfather.

While his search has taken him to printed histories from the 1300s, it also includes a decidedly latter-day element.

“In fact, the Internet is the key that brought me back into it,” Miller relates. “I had several file cabinets full of loose papers and decided it was time to start organizing things.” That coincided with the phenomenal growth of the World Wide Web, both a researcher’s dream and a genealogist’s nightmare.

The ready household access to the Internet, along with computer resources such as e-mail listservs and online forums, has been a boon to those tracing their heritage. Miller provides some insight into proper use of those tools, and the pitfalls of improper use, in noncredit classes through Penn College’s Workforce Development & Continuing Education office.

“The majority of researchers are well-guided and trustworthy,” he said, “but there are a lot of amateurs out there.” For his part, Miller is a member of the National Genealogical Society, which espouses research standards and adheres to a prescribed code of conduct.

Someone less than vigilant in double-checking source material, however, might inadvertently end up with a name that matches – but nothing else.

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Given the snowball effect of online communication (and miscommunication), it doesn’t take long to compound an error . . . or for a mistake to corrupt family records.

He also cautions about the perils of publishing too much data online.

“I found personal family information on a Web site in California, which is troublesome. An identity thief could use someone’s maiden name, for instance, so I’m careful about the information I share,” Miller explains.

To be safe, he keeps two identical sets of records: “Family-only” files (with more identifiable details) and “public” files (that offer the names of relatives, but little else).

“Not too many people are that diligent. In their zeal, they ignore the potential legal liability,” Miller says. “But I’m not so sure I’d want to meet a relative under those circumstances.”

With careful attention to detail, however, Miller says ancestral sleuths will find reward in poking through the cobwebs and rifling through their personal histories. Not everyone will learn that a far-distant relative rode with Buffalo Bill or served in Abraham Lincoln’s cabinet, though a straight-faced Miller relates that his search has turned up a connection of Biblical proportion.

“It’s somewhat of a joke throughout the family, but I can trace my ancestry to ‘Adam’ and ‘Eve,’” he laughingly boasts – Great-great-great Grandfather Adam Schuyler and Great-great-great-Grandmother Eve Sanders, that is. “A lot of people claim it, but I can prove it!”

He also has found two relatives on his mother’s side, brothers who built ships for Gen. George Washington’s crossing of the Delaware River. The remnants of those ships were traced to a barn in Southeastern Pennsylvania in the 1920s, but the trail grew cold from there.

Miller says genealogical research is full of such goose chases and dead ends. But every now and then, something comes together.

“When you get back far enough, you find points of intersection – fifth cousins who, simultaneously, might be working on the same thing,” he notes. Each is eyeing a slightly different component, and, while they might not actually meet, their common ground is fertile for a family connection.

Among the joys of his research is that the findings often go beyond one’s own family, says Miller, who imbues his work with a broader history of frontier settlement. His related Web page is dedicated to “all those pioneers who suffered untold trials and hardships in order to bring us the lives that we enjoy today,” and his findings, a family quilt of names and dates and missing pieces, chronicle the travels of his hearty predecessors.

“Most of my ancestors were from Germany and The Palatine. What motivated them to pack up their worldly lives and persevere through raids and persecution? To start out on their own, hundreds of miles on foot and through all the canal stops on the way, in order to reunite with friends and family members?”

Deeds, wills and other documents, too, fuel Miller’s wider curiosity: “You can get a real insight into a person’s mind, what things were important to them, what family members they cherished.”

Some researchers supplement their work with oral histories, tape-recording relatives before their recall fades. Still others look to the promise of 21st-century enhancements, such as the possibilities inherent in DNA sampling. Whatever the tools, Miller hopes people never stop looking to their past – if only to better understand the present.

He knows that the “return ratio” eventually will diminish, and he will have to be content with those names and events that he can definitively document. But, for now, the unearthed gems are sufficient enough to warrant his continued digging.

“It’s a lot of fun, and there’s a little bit of self-discovery to it,” he adds. “A little bit of trying to connect with your past.”
William Bello, aviation (airframe & powerplant), is retired and lives in Phillipsburg. Bello retired from Beckwith Machinery Inc., where he was a journeyman mechanic for 32 years. Although working in a different field than his major, he said his Williamsport Area Community College education was very beneficial and the skills he learned were easily adaptable to heavy equipment.

Gary L. Gates, business management, resides in Howard and is employed in the Admissions Office at The Pennsylvania State University.

Michael Geyer, machinist general, is a senior engineering aide for Applied Research Lab at The Pennsylvania State University. He resides in Loganton.

Vincent J. Urick, service and operation of heavy equipment, is a warranty manager and service writer for Ashland Diesel Engines Inc., the largest Cummins dealership in Pennsylvania. Urick resides in Paxinos.

George F. Miller, journalism/individual studies, received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. A drug enforcement administrator for the Department of Justice, Miller has served 20-plus years in federal narcotics enforcement in such places as Denver, Detroit, Miami, Wyoming and Bolivia.

Anthony J. Valecce, Jr., building technology, is employed at CMI Contractors Inc., and resides in Philadelphia.

Amy Kay Yost, dental hygiene, received her bachelor's degree at West Chester University in 1999. She is a registered dental hygienist for Braverman Dentistry and lives in Stowe.

Denise L. (Waldman) Frey, surgical technology, is a surgical technician at Jersey Shore Hospital and a doctor's assistant at Williamsport Orthopedics Association. She resides in Montoursville.

Keith Adam McCracken, toolmaking technology, received a bachelor's degree in vocational education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2001. A resident of Homer City, he is a machining technology instructor at Indiana County Technology Center. One of his students took first place in precision machining at the 2002 VICA State Championship, which qualified him to compete in the national competition at Kansas City, Mo.

Robert K. Schoppe, broadcasting, is an independent trucking contractor for H. F. Campbell & Sons Inc., and resides in Millerstown.

Steven Ishler, industrial drafting technology, is a tech leader for the engineering department at Kuhns Brothers Log Homes and lives in New Columbia. Ishler is an active member of Susquehanna Critical Incident Stress Management Team and volunteered time at the World Trade Center with Port Authority Police. He also is an active emergency medical technician for the White Deer Township Fire Department.

Frank J. Dyer, HVAC technology, is a service technician for PG Energy and resides in Montoursville.

Terri (Knoehr) Pollard, radiography, is a staff mammographer at Evangelical Community Hospital, Lewisburg. She and her husband, James, (radiography, class of 1991) reside in Catawissa.

Richard F. Surfield, general studies, received a bachelor of science degree in marine biology and a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from the University of North Carolina (Wilmington campus). He is an officer with the U.S. Secret Service. Surfield and his wife, Bonnie Zondory-Surfield (forestry technology, class of 1996) reside in Waldorf, Md.

Jimmy D. Mellott, architectural technology, is a computer-aided draftsman for Charles Grieb Architects and resides in Jersey Shore.

Kevin C. Reid, welding technology, is a heat-treat technician for Mack Trucks Inc. and resides in Greencastle.
Architectural Firm Chosen for New Penn College Library Project

The architect has been selected for a new library at Pennsylvania College of Technology that will be constructed with the aid of $7 million in state funding.

Murray Associates Architects of Harrisburg will design the facility, to be named the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library and Learning Resources Center in honor of the state senator – who serves on the Penn College Board of Directors – and his late wife. It will be built with $7 million in state capital budget redevelopment assistance, with the College providing the remaining funding.

Murray Associates has served as the architect for 10 College construction or renovation projects since 1994, including College Avenue Labs, the Rose Street Apartments student-housing complex and the Student and Administrative Services Center, all of which opened last year, as well as the Klump Academic Center, where renovations are under way. (See Pages 11-13)

“We are delighted to be working again with Murray Associates on a project of vital importance to the College’s educational mission,” said Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, president. “They will help us achieve a flexible, functional design that will incorporate the latest information-gathering technologies to ensure students have the learning and research tools they need to succeed in their studies today and in the work force tomorrow.”

The library will be constructed on the southwest corner of the College’s main entrance off Maynard Street, adjacent to the Bush Campus Center and the SASC and bounded by College Avenue and Hagan Way. The facility, which will have seating for approximately 1,000 students, is expected to exceed 80,000 square feet.

The current Penn College Library is housed in the Learning Resources Center on the main campus and has seating for 288 students in 28,155 square feet.

The design phase of the project is expected to last up to a year, said Senior Vice President Dr. William J. Martin, who will oversee construction for the College administration. Once bids are awarded, construction will take approximately 18 months, with a completion date anticipated sometime in 2006.

Some Student-Athletes to Gain Four-Year Eligibility in New Conference

A new league and new opportunities in athletics are creating excitement at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

This fall, Penn College, a special mission affiliate of Penn State, will join Penn State’s Commonwealth Campus Athletic Conference and athletes competing on Wildcat men’s basketball and women’s volleyball teams will gain four-year eligibility.

Michael J. Stanzone, coordinator of athletics, said the four-year eligibility was a major factor in joining the new league. Approximately one-third of all Penn College students are enrolled in one of the College’s 26 bachelor’s degree majors.

“We want to go with four-year options when they are available and to give our students a chance to participate in a Penn State league,” he explained. “We’re getting in on the ground floor. This will be the first year that it is happening in the conference.”

In the future, he said, other sports in the conference also may move from two-year to four-year eligibility. He added that championship games for all sports will be played on the University Park campus, with men’s basketball finals taking place at the Bryce Jordan Center.

“To be accepted into it right when things are getting exciting in the CCAC is fantastic for us, fantastic for the students and fantastic for the College,” Stanzone said.

For the Fall 2004 and Spring 2005 seasons, men’s basketball and women’s volleyball teams will compete in the CCAC’s West Division, while baseball, softball, cross country, golf, soccer and tennis teams will compete in the East Division. The archery team, which competes in the National Archery Association Division I, is not affected.

The Wildcat men’s basketball and women’s volleyball teams will compete only in the CCAC, while Penn College will continue its affiliation in the Eastern Pennsylvania College Conference and Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association for all other sports.

Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, Penn College president, joined in the enthusiasm. “As a true Wildcat fan, I look forward to seeing our teams compete in the new league. Our student-athletes are a special breed. They are not in it for scholarships, because we have no athletic scholarships. They play because they love it. Their reward is the joy of competition and the chance to have a very well-rounded college experience that includes the pursuit of excellence in and out of the classroom.”
College to Protect Identity, Replace Social Security Numbers

Addressing mounting concerns about identity theft, and recognizing that Social Security numbers are linked to a significant amount of personal information, Pennsylvania College of Technology plans to replace the numbers as the primary identifier of students and employees.

In place of Social Security numbers, the College will assign a unique, nine-digit Penn College ID number that will be the primary identifier used for all College business. The College hopes to complete the conversion to the new system by January.

The multi-phase project will affect academic and administrative procedures College-wide. The College will continue to collect Social Security numbers for reporting and taxation purposes, but their use will be strictly limited.

Information Technology Services at Penn College will act as the central coordination point for the conversion project. A Social Security number project team with representatives from around the College has been established to address issues associated with the conversion. ITS will work with selected software vendors to coordinate all required database changes.

Converting the College’s computer systems is just one aspect of the initiative. Every College office will review processes and forms, ID-card applications and departmental systems to determine the impact of the conversion project.

All processes, forms and systems that use Social Security numbers as a primary identifier must change to reflect the new Penn College ID.

The Federal Trade Commission reports that 42 percent of all consumer complaints it received in 2003 were related to identity theft — up from 40 percent in 2002 and 39 percent in 2001.

College’s Noncredit-Education/Training Arm Gets New Name

The noncredit-education/workforce-training arm of Pennsylvania College of Technology — the Technology Transfer Center — has changed its name to better reflect its mission: “Workforce Development & Continuing Education.”

The new name was effective Dec. 1, but there are no major changes in the noncredit programming and services provided.

“The name change reflects the focus of today’s marketplace on workplace learning and improving human performance,” explained Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour, College president. “It replaces ‘technology transfer’ — a term that was popular at the time the center was established — with a title more appropriate for today’s environment.”

Over the past 15 years, Penn College has provided noncredit education to more than 60,000 clients, as well as services to hundreds of companies throughout Pennsylvania.

Through WDCE, the College will continue to provide continuing education for the public, customized courses for industry, needs assessments, certifications and testing, technology assessments and recommendations, product and process development, prototyping, and strategic partnerships with local and national government and organizations.

“As workforce development is increasingly recognized as a key component in keeping organizations competitive in today’s environment, our focus is to become more of a strategic partner to our clients,” said Larry L. Michael, associate dean for workforce development and continuing education at Penn College. “We will help organizations use learning-organization theory, establish ‘corporate universities’ and target training plans and initiatives to achieve their organizational missions.”

Human Services Students Think Globally, Act Locally

Students in LaRue R. Reese’s Community and Organizational Change course continue their longtime relationship with Ten Thousand Villages, a fair-trade organization that benefits native craftspeople in various countries. For the seventh year, students traveled to Akron, Pa., to volunteer at the organization’s warehouse. There, they unpack, price and repackage goods to ship out for sale across the United States and Canada, with a large part of the proceeds returning to the craftspeople (as opposed to traditional retail sales, where a very small percentage is returned to the producer). Over the past two years, students in the class also have sponsored a Ten Thousand Villages sale in the Campus Center, raising $2,659.50 last winter alone.
A chapter by Dr. Philip H. Henning, associate professor, electrical technology, entitled “Everyday Cognition and Situated Learning” was published in November as Chapter 6 in the “Handbook of Research on Educational Communications and Technology” (second edition, 2004), edited by David H. Jonassen and published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, N.J.

J.D. Mather, assistant professor, drafting and CAD technology, was awarded his doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis at East Tennessee State University in December. His dissertation was titled “Factors Forecasting the Effect of Rapid Prototyping Technologies on Engineering Design Education: A Delphi Survey.”

Dr. William Ma, associate professor, mathematics, presented an invited talk, “Convexity Properties of the Hyperbolic Density,” in the special session Modern Function Theory at the Annual Joint Meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, which he attended in Phoenix on January 6-11.

Patricia A. Scott, collection development librarian, was admitted to the Academy of Certified Archivists, the body that sets standards for the education of archivists and administers the certification examination. Certification lasts for five years, after which an archivist must either renew certification by taking a written examination or provide the academy with proof of professional development. The Penn College archives—the papers, documents, photographs and memorabilia that comprise our institutional memory—are currently housed in the library.

Carolyn R. Strickland, director of student activities, was awarded the Outstanding Service Citation by the National Association for Campus Activities at its recent national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Carolyn has served in a number of volunteer positions within NACA, most recently as the Regional Conference Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region (Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and Washington, D.C) in 2003 and 2004. In 2002, she won the C. Shaw Smith New Professional Award, designed to recognize an individual who demonstrates the potential and commitment for excellence in service to students as the most outstanding new professional in student activities in the nation.

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Marketing Efforts Honored in National Competitions
One College Avenue’s “Green is Not Just a Color” issue recently was presented a merit award in the 19th Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report: The National Newspaper of Admissions Marketing. Also honored in the competition were a College poster, which earned a bronze award, and the College’s television series (Penn College and You and You’re the Chef), which earned the highest honor, a gold award in the television advertising/series category.
A Note to Parents

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