WORK-BASED LEARNING

Pennsylvania College of Technology
CAREER EXPOS, held each spring and fall in the Field House at Pennsylvania College of Technology, provide an opportunity for company representatives and members of the Penn College community to interact in an informal setting.

All Penn College students and alumni, as well as The Pennsylvania State University and its Commonwealth Campuses, are welcome to attend the Career Expo events.

The Fall 2005 Career Expo attracted more than 100 employers and 700 students.

Students enrolled in the academic majors offered by the School of Natural Resources Management meet potential employers at the Schneebeli Earth Science Center on Career Expo day.

The next Career Expo will be offered on March 21.
One College Avenue, a quarterly publication of Pennsylvania College of Technology, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals and achievements of Penn College students, alumni, faculty and staff with one another and with the greater community.

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Pennsylvania College of Technology became an affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University in 1989. Prior to the affiliation, it was known as Williamsport Area Community College (1965-89) and Williamsport Technical Institute (1941-65). Programming was first offered on the campus site in 1914, under the auspices of the local school district.

Today, Penn College is a special mission affiliate of Penn State, committed to applied technology education. More than 6,500 students are enrolled in bachelor-degree, associate-degree and certificate majors, relating to more than 100 different career fields.

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How we feel about our work plays an important role in how we view ourselves, how the world views us and how we think we contribute to the world around us. A simple test of this “theory” is to monitor one of the first questions that someone asks you when you first meet. Chances are “What do you do for a living?” is among those first few questions that a new acquaintance is likely to ask.

As the director of counseling, career and disability services at Pennsylvania College of Technology, I have the responsibility, as well as the pleasure, of assisting individuals with career decision-making.

When you think about how many hours of our daily lives we spend at work, you realize the importance of career decision-making. If you don’t like getting up in the morning and going to your workplace, it is likely that other parts of your life will be impacted.

Though work doesn’t define who we are as individuals, it does define part of who we are. If we have actively, passionately and carefully planned for our careers, we should have ended up in professions that are rewarding at some, if not many, levels. Everyone chooses a different path by which he or she arrives at a career choice. Many of our current Penn College students and alumni chose a similar path – that being a focused, vocationally oriented degree program.

Each fall and spring, when Career Services hosts a Career Expo on campus, I am pleasantly reminded of the important and unique niche that our students fill for employers seeking talented and vocationally prepared employees. We don’t go seeking this positive feedback from the employers; they are eager to share it with us.

As I reflect on my contact with students and employers over the years, a common theme surfaces. Employers are looking for students who can demonstrate specific skills and, ideally, some level of experience within their career fields. So, how does a traditionally aged college graduate entering his or her degree program prepare to demonstrate this experience on a resume? Cooperative education and work-based learning is one answer.

Students who participate in a work-based learning experience learn many things. They learn how to be part of a team, how to communicate effectively, how to problem-solve and so much more.

Co-op students get an excellent opportunity to see their chosen professions within a real learning lab. They gain a sense of what they like and don’t like before they begin the job-search process. They gain valuable experience, which greatly enhances the resume.

Many of us have heard, “You seem like a good candidate, but we are looking for someone with experience.” Participating in co-op and work-based learning can help students jump this hurdle. What better way to show real-world work experience than to co-op in a work setting related to your college major? And, it is not uncommon for an employer to hire a student who has successfully completed a co-op in his or her workplace. It is a great opportunity for the employer to check out how the student “fits” with the team.

Even if a job can’t be offered, the student receives the benefit of adding the co-op employer’s name as a reference on the resume, resulting in the expansion of his or her network. Networking remains one of the top ways that people find jobs.
There are important reasons for students (and employers) to participate in work-based learning. Career Services provides the mechanism to connect students and co-ops. And we “practice what we preach.”

Career Services provides work-based learning opportunities for students. We recently provided an internship site for a human services, bachelor-degree student, Colleen M. McDevitt. She worked full time with us in Summer 2005.

We provided McDevitt with an eclectic learning experience that supported her learning objectives as defined in the guidelines for her human services internship. She was exposed to a variety of individual contacts with students in the area of career decision-making, as well as to a variety of group-facilitation opportunities.

McDevitt was asked to develop and facilitate a session for our summer SMART Girls program. Fifty adolescent girls from the region – in grades 9 to 11 – participated in this residential program designed to encourage them to focus on professions in math, science and real-world technologies. Up until this point, McDevitt had not had a great deal of exposure to this particular population. She worked hard to come up with a program centered on careers that would be of interest to this age group.

Her presentation covered general career decision-making information, which was supplemented by a career-interest inventory that each girl completed. In order to keep it interactive, McDevitt came up with a hands-on exercise. This required the girls to break into groups and use nothing more than newspapers and masking tape to craft some props to demonstrate their chosen professions. Each group then presented its profession to the full group, which had the job of identifying what the profession was. The girls were creative with this exercise and very enthusiastic!

McDevitt also facilitated a student panel for Students Transitioning Into College, a program that focuses on our disability services population. She worked very well with the students to organize the panel and to act as the moderator during the presentation. She was exposed to a variety of career-interest inventories and had the chance to interpret an inventory with an incoming student under the supervision of one of our counselors.

In addition, McDevitt edited and organized information on alcohol and drug use by college students that will appear on the Counseling and Career Services Web site.

In reality, she did much more than this article can detail, but this gives a sense of the many different facets of her internship experience. Of personal reward to me was the opportunity to watch her flourish and demonstrate confidence in her ability to plan a program and see it through to delivery.

McDevitt shared with me that this internship experience opened her eyes to some new possibilities for her own career. Had she not done the internship, this may not have happened.

As a career-development practitioner, I don’t always have the opportunity to have live learning take place in my workplace setting. When I do, it is clear to me that co-ops and internships do make a difference in helping our students develop self-confidence, career focus and readiness skills for the real-world workplace. It is also clear to me that the co-op/internship supervisor clearly benefits from the opportunity to mentor the student, who can open our eyes to new ideas and creative approaches.

**Here’s what McDevitt had to say about her experience:**

“Working with teenagers and young adults was a great experience for me. I proved something very important to myself during this internship; maybe I am cut out to be a counselor.”
Pennsylvania College of Technology student Mark A. Atwater can seize big opportunities in a field devoted to all things small.

After completing a demanding capstone semester at The Pennsylvania State University, Atwater, of Warren, is poised to join the nation’s largest publicly financed science initiative since the space race: nanotechnology.

“This course sets you right up to go straight into the workforce, because it gives you the experience and the knowledge, and that’s what the industry is looking for,” notes the manufacturing engineering technology major.

“I can say that ‘I’ve done this,’ and that puts me in a certain percentage, a small percentage, that knows what it is to be in nanotechnology.”

Broadly defined as the manipulation of individual atoms and molecules to form or enhance functional technology, nanotechnology focuses on a world about 80,000 times smaller than a strand of hair but large enough to potentially dwarf the advancements of the 20th century.
“It’s just permeating everything, and it’s a way for American industry to try to stay at the cutting edge, which it has to constantly do today, and companies realize that and more and more are incorporating nanotechnology into their products,” said Dr. Stephen J. Fonash, director of the Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization, the home for capstone-semester students on Penn State’s University Park campus.

According to Lux Research, which brands itself as the world’s leading nanotechnology research and advisory firm, by 2014, products incorporating nanotechnology will account for $2.6 trillion, or 15 percent, of the world’s manufacturing output.

Today, examples of nanotechnology’s influence are evident in fields ranging from agriculture to automotive. As the Web site nanotechwire.com points out, super-small materials and devices facilitated by nanotechnology can result in ultra-compact data storage and faster computing, more effective drug delivery, more efficient solar-energy conversion, and stronger and tougher manufacturing materials.

“It (nanotechnology) hasn’t even hit its prime yet, and it is where our society is going,” Atwater emphasized. “We’re going to need people who are highly educated in nano, because everything is getting smaller.”

In fact, the National Science Foundation estimates that 2 million workers will be needed to support nanotechnology industries worldwide within the next 15 years.

Thanks to the nanotechnology capstone semester at the CNEU, many professionals are already working in the field. More than 45 nanotech companies have hired capstone graduates. Recent salary offers ranged between $35,000 and $50,000 per year.

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“I’m fully capable of going and getting a job,” Atwater said. “All of the equipment and the techniques we learned this semester were made so that they would cover pretty much everything in nanotechnology. They weren’t specific to just one area, so that when we leave here, we’re prepared to go into any field.”

More than $32 million worth of cutting-edge equipment and personal, hands-on instruction are hallmarks of the 18-credit capstone. Students navigate three-hour daily lectures, numerous practical projects and extensive hands-on study in Penn State’s cleanrooms.

“It’s really mind-blowing. … what they really accomplish in there is amazing,” Atwater says of the facility, one of 13 sites of the NSF’s National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network.

Through the Pennsylvania Nanofabrication Manufacturing Technology Partnership, more than 350 commonwealth students have earned an innovative competency credential or fulfilled a degree requirement in the Penn State program. About 17 percent of those students were from Penn College, which collaborated with Penn State in the late 1990s to develop the statewide student pipeline to nano careers.

Atwater believes that the 10- to 12-hour days he put into the experience will pay off when he meets potential employers.

“They’re looking for someone who knows why it works, how it works and knows how to work it, too,” he said.

Atwater served as a group leader for his major capstone semester project, which involved devising the steps to manufacture a replacement for the temporomandibular joint in the jaw and identifying useful material coatings to make the joint durable.

“The structure of the material has to be down to the nano scale. … being able to get down and really see the molecular structure of it can make it a better material, so that it will last longer and there will be no (second) replacement necessary,” he explained.

The 132-page written report and hour-long PowerPoint presentation from Atwater’s five-student group received high marks, which helped him secure an overall “A” grade for the capstone.

“It’s a qualification process that really shows people in industry that you know what you’re doing,” he said.

When he graduates in 2007, Atwater hopes his experience will lead to a medical career focusing on material research.

“The medical industry is a lot of nanotechnology,” he says. “They need everything to be very precise, and they need it to be very controlled. And that’s a lot of what nanotechnology gives you ... control over these materials, designs and processes.”

And, in Atwater’s case, a sense of control over his future.
WHAT BEGAN WITH A FEW ELECTRONICS STUDENTS from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 1999 has blossomed into a statewide initiative open to diverse majors from all Pennsylvania community colleges and public universities.

The Nanofabrication Manufacturing Technology Partnership enables students to train for cutting-edge nanotechnology careers through an 18-credit capstone semester at Penn State’s Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization.

“We have a skill set that we require, and then it’s up to the individual partner institutions to decide whether a student ... meets that skill set, and then the student is sent here,” said Stephen J. Fonash, CNEU director.

Eric K. Albert, associate professor of machine tool technologies and automated manufacturing, who helped Penn College establish the NMT Partnership with Penn State, said the skill set is fairly straightforward.

“Good academics, strong character in completing assignments, those are the general characteristics we look for,” he explained. “But students also need a background in chemistry, statistics and in mathematics, and they need to have good oral-communication skills and good writing skills.”

The NanoTrek program allows Pennsylvania secondary-school students to get a head start in nanotechnology by taking college courses (in electronics or information technology) while still in high school. Eventually, those students have the opportunity to complete the capstone semester to finish a bachelor’s degree.

Students who complete the capstone earn a competency credential in nanotechnology or fulfill an associate- or bachelor-degree requirement related to their school major.

Besides working in a state-of-the-art nanofabrication lab during the 18-credit capstone semester, all students take six courses, taught in sequential fashion.

“The student takes two courses in the first five weeks, then another two courses during the next five weeks and the final two courses of the six-course suite in the last five weeks,” Fonash explained.

Mark A. Atwater, a Penn College student who completed the capstone, said: “The schedule ... helps you pay enough attention to each topic that, with the hands-on you receive in the laboratory, you feel 100 percent about it whenever you’re finished.”

Albert cited some typical comments heard from students who have completed the program: “I never knew this existed.” “My brain is full.” “I’m glad it’s over, but I really loved it.” “It’s been an incredible experience.”

Atwater hopes many more students experience the capstone semester.

“For anyone in high school or in lower grades, or even if you’re in college, or even if you’re not in college – anybody – this is a program and a technology that is the future,” he said.

For more information about the NMT Partnership, visit www.nano4me.org or call (866) NANO-4-ME. For more information about NanoTrek, visit www.pct.edu/k12/nanotrek.

- Tom Speicher
Cooperative experience at Pennsylvania College of Technology, better known as co-op, is an opportunity for students to earn college credit for work done in their fields of study. Generally, co-ops are paid and run the length of one semester.

One of the obvious benefits of cooperative experience is that it gives the student an opportunity to “try out” a career before making a full-time commitment. It also gives an employer an opportunity to “try out” a future employee, a win-win situation for both parties.

Along with the obvious benefits are some hidden ones. Students learn interpersonal skills, such as teamwork, customer service, employee dynamics and corporate hierarchy.

During midterm and final evaluations, students receive feedback about their work performance, including attendance, punctuality, appearance, attitude and sense of responsibility.

Students also have the opportunity to give feedback regarding their employers, to assist in placing future co-op students.

Most Penn College students find opportunities on eRecruiting, an online service that provides a high-tech link between employers and students and alumni. eRecruiting allows students and alumni easy access to job opportunities/postings, internships and cooperative experiences, resumes, referrals, and on-campus recruiting activities, such as interviews and information sessions.

Other students find their co-op opportunities while attending the fall and spring Penn College Career Expos where, typically, more than 90 employers offer a variety of opportunities. Some students find opportunities on their own or through referrals from friends or faculty, while other students come to the Career Services Office with an employer in mind and ask for assistance in making the initial contact with that employer.

Photo courtesy of Brett A. Reasner
When a student is ready to make that initial contact with an employer, Career Services can assist with resume- and cover-letter writing skills, interview skills, salary negotiations, and post-interview thank-you letters. Career Services also oversees most co-ops and monitors the student’s activities through student logs and midterm and final evaluations. An Introduction to Co-op session also is offered as part of Career Services’ “World of Work” series. The session helps students learn about their co-op responsibilities and what the employer might expect of a good employee.

A great example of how co-ops can benefit students is the relationship between the Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. (BMS) flight department and Penn College’s Lumley Aviation Center. The experiences of three former co-op students, Joshua L. Vilches (‘02), Kirk T. Beres (’04) and current senior Aaron L. Phillips, illustrate the value of a co-op experience.

Six years ago, we started placing juniors from the bachelor of science major in aviation maintenance technology with BMS. Chris Burns, director of maintenance, and his team support two Gulfstream GVs and a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter. The GVs are 12- to 13-passenger, ultra-long-range aircraft that frequently fly to Paris, Tokyo, Botswana and many other destinations in support of the company’s business. The S-76 helicopter has room for six passengers and provides transportation from New York City helipads to the company’s Trenton, N.J., site.

Our students get experience on modern business jets and get to see firsthand how a quality maintenance department functions.

The students work side by side with BMS technicians performing routine and nonroutine inspections and maintenance to keep the fleet operating efficiently and safely.

“Theyir technical skills and their ability to grasp and understand the knowledge needed to maintain these sophisticated aircraft is awesome,” Burns said. “We must not forget our future; they are the next generation of aircraft technicians.”

The co-op experience often leads to jobs, and our relationship with BMS is a good example. Several years ago, Vilches earned the BMS co-op slot for the summer, then worked for a short time after graduation as a temporary worker.

“We must not forget our future; they are the next generation of aircraft technicians.”
“I was able to work with today’s advanced business aircraft and cutting-edge technology,” he noted. “I developed the knowledge and abilities needed in a professional work environment that really can’t be taught in the classroom.”

When the temporary position at BMS expired, his experience helped Vilches land his first permanent job at Bombardier Aerospace.

“The director of maintenance who hired me knew of BMS’ flight department and knew some of the employees who I worked with,” he said. “That alone provided credibility and showed that I was exposed to good work practices, a safe environment and a positive attitude early in my career as an aircraft technician.”

Another former co-op student, Beres, had the opportunity to co-op with Atlantic Coast Airlines when he was a sophomore at Penn College. His experience at ACA gave him the confidence to go after a position with BMS when he was a junior.

“Participating in both internships gave me insight on what the real world in aviation was like,” he said. Upon graduation, Beres earned a full-time position with ACA.

Last year, when BMS moved its operation from White Plains, N.Y., to Trenton, N.J., a unique opportunity arose. Not only did the company need another quality student to fill the co-op slot, it also had a few full-time positions to fill.

Vilches and Beres both used their co-op experiences with BMS to land full-time positions.

“I would definitely recommend the co-op. Not only does it give valuable hands-on experience to an individual, but also puts your abilities and name out in the industry, which is vital to being a successful aircraft maintenance technician,” Beres said.

Now, both former students had the unique opportunity to teach a new co-op student, Phillips, the ropes at BMS.

“Having alumni from Penn College mentor my co-op was a big advantage,” Phillips said. “We shared common experiences, and they eased my anxiety about working in such a modern flight department.”

The cooperative experience provides insight into students’ chosen career fields beyond the academic classroom. Often, that experience and the relationships that are fostered make the difference in a job interview for that perfect career opportunity.
When three Pennsylvania College of Technology School of Hospitality students took on their summer jobs, they entered a new, high-volume world.

On the heels of an academic year that included learning and working in the dining room and kitchen at the college’s Le Jeune Chef Restaurant, where 40 meals are served on a typical evening, they traveled to Tennessee to take on a luxury hotel with more than 3,000 guest rooms and suites and restaurants that serve between 300 and 600 meals each evening.

Despite the change in volume, the students (one enrolled in hospitality management and two in culinary arts) felt well-prepared when they began working at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, next door to the legendary Grand Ole Opry concert hall.

“It was what my classes had prepared me for,” said Rachel S. Hall, of Altoona, a senior in the culinary arts technology, bachelor-degree major.

Irene M. Grupp, a sophomore in the hospitality management, associate-degree major, now has two work experiences to compare.

“From doing my internship last year (at a hotel in State College), I learned that things are done pretty much the same way everywhere,” she said. “It was good to see that what we were taught in classes is the way they really do it; even in a big hotel (like Opryland), they do it the same.”

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While the work processes were similar at the huge luxury resort, much was different.

The students went to work each day knowing the temperature just outside their restaurant or office would be between 68 and 72 degrees, with about 35-percent humidity and no rain. The entire facility is under roof; it includes three lush garden atria that feature more than 50,000 plants, including two 40-foot-tall mahogany trees.

While the tropical plants take guests’ breath away, waterfalls gush, and passenger-laden flatboats wander the indoor river. Hotel rooms line the perimeter, overlooking the atria.

Also inside the Opryland Resort & Convention Center are many shops and 20 dining facilities, ranging from a food court, with such favorites as Pizza Hut and Chick-fil-A, to the fine-dining Old Hickory Traditional Steakhouse.

Penn College student Andrea E. Sites, of Myerstown, interned at the steakhouse this summer. Sites is a sophomore in the culinary arts technology, associate-degree major.

Hall worked in the casual fine-dining Ristorante Volare. Grupp, of State College, worked in various areas of the resort, including coffee shops, the gelato shop, some of the restaurants and in taking restaurant reservations. Both Hall and Grupp had already fulfilled the internship requirements for their majors, so they received experience, but no academic credit, for their work at the resort.

“This was definitely my first real cooking job,” Hall said.

While students practice creativity while training in the kitchens of Le Jeune Chef, where menus change daily, “it’s very different at Ristorante Volare, because it’s mass production,” Hall said.

She said Ristorante Volare kitchen staff follow recipe standards to produce consistent results for the thousands of guests they serve each week.

Supervising chefs found time to take an interest in the students, and the trio learned much more than kitchen skills.

“It’s a very diverse working environment,” Sites said. “We worked with interns and chefs from around the world.”

On a slow day, Hall’s supervising chef, a native of Italy, taught her and her co-workers how to make pasta.

The three talked with the other students about how hospitality programs are taught at their schools, comparing notes on class schedules and liberal-arts requirements. The other interns included a group from Mexico, who complete an 18-month program in the resort’s kitchens. Sites said she enjoyed working with foreign students, who shared their culture with her.

“I had a Honduran co-worker who gave me a Spanish lesson every day,” she said.

Hall trained one of the Mexican interns to work at a station she had been manning in Ristorante Volare’s kitchen, and found not only that she had little trouble working through a language barrier, but also took interest in her realization that many cooking terms are used universally – from Williamsport to Mexico City.

Getting to work was different, as well. When reporting for their shifts, employees must use a separate entrance and travel through a tunnel system to get to their workplaces. Guests will not find staff members strolling through the resort in uniform.

The students also learned how far a luxury resort will go to please its guests. While her workplace was considered “fine dining,” Sites said servers in Old Hickory would dash to the food court to get a child a slice of pizza or to one of the resort’s other restaurants to fetch a dessert not offered on the steakhouse’s menu. “Whatever they want, they’ll go get,” she said.
On the last day of her internship, Sites helped to prepare food for a $1.5 million party the resort threw for an association that spent millions on its convention in the hotel. She said free food was offered at various stations in the hotel’s Delta atrium – she served seafood, crab cakes and gazpacho – and a water fountain was built in front of Old Hickory Traditional Steakhouse exclusively for the two-day affair.

Grupp said the display of appreciation doesn’t end with customers. The resort not only provides, but cleans employees’ uniforms every day and gives each employee a daily meal allowance at its staff cafeteria, as well as discounts at all of its properties.

“They really work on satisfying their employees. If the employees are satisfied, they will work hard to satisfy the guests,” she explained. “Not many employers would pay to feed 3,500 employees.”

“I would love to go back,” Sites said. It is an experience she couldn’t have found without stepping into a new territory. “I always tell people – get out of your hometown for a little while.”

“What they’ve added to their portfolio will definitely turn some heads,” said Craig A. Cian, associate professor of food and hospitality management/culinary arts. Cian coordinates internships for the School of Hospitality; he spent a week working at the resort during a recent spring break to reconnect with the industry and build an affiliation for student internships.

Hall said she now feels ready to take on any hotel or restaurant. She said the experience of working in the biggest hotel and convention center under one roof – with an exhibit hall that on its own can hold 650 tractor-trailer trucks – was second to none.

“It’s a place unlike any other restaurant I will ever be in,” she said.
National Publication Showcases Campus Building

The Student and Administrative Services Center, consolidating Pennsylvania College of Technology’s student- and public-outreach offerings into one-stop convenience at the institution’s front door, has been honored by a national publication.

The facility was named a “Project of Distinction” by College Planning and Management magazine, which featured it as part of the annual Education Design Showcase in its June and July 2005 issues.

“The building, designed by Murray Associates Architects of Harrisburg, is open and inviting, and visitors will immediately notice the prevalence of natural light through the corridors and public space,” notes the narrative that accompanies several photos of the building’s attractive and functional environment. “The lobby and three-story atrium are bathed in natural light, and the extensive use of interior glazing provides a sense of warmth and comfort even to the interior spaces.”

Benedict H. Dubbs, Murray Associates’ chief architect for the Student and Administrative Services Center, termed the project a “wonderful opportunity for us to design such an important building” for Penn College.

“As I look back on the design of the building and the goals set by the staff of the college, I feel the building does exactly what was asked,” he said. “The building is inviting to visitors, while supporting the ongoing needs of existing students and faculty. The lobby welcomes potential students and their parents. I have witnessed the staff pointing to the various offices as they help first-time visitors navigate through the building; this was one of our goals. It is very upsetting to visitors if they cannot find their destination with ease. ... From my observations, the building seems to allow a wonderful flow of students, visitors and staff.”

School of Hospitality Raises $1,500 for Hurricane Victims

The School of Hospitality at Pennsylvania College of Technology raised $1,500 last fall through a “Gumbo for a Cause” sale to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Mary G. Trometter, assistant professor of food and hospitality management/culinary arts, led volunteer faculty and students in making Louisiana-style chicken, sausage, shrimp and oyster gumbo, which was sold in one-quart containers along with rice and rolls.

The school sold 150 quarts, funds from which were donated to the American Red Cross’ response to Hurricane Katrina.

About a dozen students and faculty gave of their time to make the gumbo, putting in two hours of chopping and dicing on a Saturday in September and more than 11 hours in cooking and portioning the gumbo and rice the next day. Baking and pastry arts students made the rolls.

On Trometter’s mind when organizing the fund-raiser were two renowned Louisiana restaurateurs who have visited the college to share their expertise with students and work with them to prepare a meal to benefit scholarship funds.

John Folse, who is known as “Louisiana’s ambassador to the world” and owns several businesses in the New Orleans area, has visited the college as part of the School of Hospitality’s Visiting Chef Series five times, most recently in April 2005. Leah Chase, the 82-year-old owner of the New Orleans restaurant, Dookie Chase’s, has visited the college twice as part of the series.

That accessibility – and the opportunity for helpfulness that it offers – also was noted by the magazine’s editors.

“Visiting parents and prospective students find ample waiting areas and gathering spaces and are directed to the various offices by staff, who can easily point to the office destinations through the open lobbies and atrium,” the article continued. “For prospective students and their parents, the centralized ‘student services’ model provides easy access to offices.”

“I thought about what would Miss Leah Chase be doing, and I thought she would be cooking, because that’s the best that we (in the culinary business) can do, and that’s all that I can do sometimes,” Trometter said.

When the School of Hospitality found out she was safe through a newspaper article in the Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald, they learned that cooking is exactly what she was doing, as the paper described Chase cooking jambalaya and other delicacies for the two dozen family members she joined in the home of relatives in Birmingham. Folse was also cooking, on a larger scale, using his manufacturing facility to feed those in need.

Hospitality faculty member Mary G. Trometter stirs ingredients for a gumbo that was sold to raise funds for Hurricane Katrina victims.
Inspirational Student Highlights Library ‘Countdown’

A model of persistence – and a shining example of a library’s vital importance to a community of lifelong learners – helped Pennsylvania College of Technology launch a 365-day countdown toward dedication of the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library on its main campus in Williamsport.

John Wardlow Jr. of Williamsport, an accounting major in the School of Business and Computer Technologies, told fellow students, faculty, staff and supporters of the college – all gathered for a countdown celebration on Sept. 12 – that the adult literacy program at the local public library marked the beginning of his quest for a college degree.

“I am realizing my dream of attending college and enjoying the opportunity to network and meet new people and learn new things,” the 47-year-old Wardlow said.

Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour said of Wardlow: “You prove to us how important it is that our two libraries – the one on this campus and the one in downtown Williamsport – work together for the good of our community. We will do so, and you will be an inspiration to us, as we work together now and in the future.”

The library countdown celebration, held on the lawn of the Student and Administrative Services Center, included a picnic, balloon launch and live entertainment. For those who attended, the price of admission was the donation of a new children’s book. The college donated all of the books to local nonprofit agencies.

Gilmour said she felt it was very appropriate to use the occasion to celebrate literacy and the connections between Williamsport’s James V. Brown Library and Penn College, as well as the college’s anticipation of the opening of its new library.

“We feel very fortunate as we watch our dream of a new college library come true,” she said. “Roger and Peggy Madigan – for whom our library is named – committed their lives to public service. We want to ensure that the Madigan Library is committed to service, as well.”

Former Forest Service Aircraft Aids Instruction

A 1981 Beech BE-58P Baron – fully flyable, but grounded by the U.S. Forest Service after reaching its 5,000-hour maximum flight time – has been acquired for the college’s fleet of instructional aircraft.

The school has only one other twin-engine reciprocating plane: a 1950s-vintage Beech U8-D.

“This is much more representational of what our students will find in general aviation,” said Colin W. Williamson, dean of transportation technology.

Typically used by small-business executives, the Beech Baron is about the largest and most sophisticated piston-powered aircraft that a graduate would encounter when working for an independent owner or in servicing a small corporate air fleet.

Acquisition of the plane, the value of which is conservatively estimated at $250,000, will bring to nine the number of fixed-wing planes to which Penn College aviation students have access. Two helicopters also are on hand at the Lumley Aviation Center facility, which is adjacent to the Williamsport Regional Airport in Montoursville.

“The plane is capable of flying at up to 25,000 feet, so it fills our need for more pressurized-cabin work,” Williamson said, explaining that the plane is capable of flying at higher altitudes and on cross-country trips.

It also has a flight-director system, full de-icing and heated windshield, detailed maintenance records, and a full avionics suite. The latter makes it of particular value to baccalaureate students, who delve heavily into integrated electronics during their fourth year in the aviation maintenance technology major.

Find Complete Articles on PCToday

To find more comprehensive versions of the articles in Campus Collage – and to read other news stories about Penn College – visit PCToday, the college’s news-and-information Web site, at www.pct.edu/pctoday. To read past articles, click on “Search Archives” in the upper-right corner of the Front Page, pick a keyword and then select a category and year before clicking on the “Search” button.
School of Business & Computer Technologies

Gerald D. “Chip” Baumgardner, associate professor of business administration, presented a paper titled “Sports Economics: How the Internet Impacts Secondary Ticket Prices” during the Pennsylvania Economic Association conference at Millersville University last summer. He was also elected to the PEAA’s Board of Directors.

Asesh K. Das, professor of computer science, participated in the Ninth World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics in Orlando, Fla., last summer, presenting a paper titled “Unstructured Document Management with a Possibility Theory of Ontology Capture.” He also presented a research paper at the 10th International Conference on Information Systems Analysis and Synthesis in Orlando.

Gerri F. Luke, assistant professor of business administration/marketing, presented a paper, “Leveraging Faculty Talent and Enthusiasm: Working Within the College Environment,” at the 66th annual meeting of the Association for Continuing Higher Education.

School of Health Sciences

Jane J. Benedict, associate professor of nursing, was appointed to a three-year term on the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission’s associate-degree evaluation review panel. As part of the panel, she will receive reports from site visitors and help perform the second level of review for nursing-education programs.

Mindy L. Carr, clinical director of the paramedic program, was a volunteer judge for the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute workplace-readiness testing at Columbia Montour Area Vocational Technical School. She judged the competition for 10 senior health science occupations students in the nurse’s aide training certification testing, which students are required to pass in order to receive the SkillsUSA Workplace Readiness Certificate.

Regis C. Kohler, associate professor of radiography, will be included in the 2006-07 edition of “Who’s Who in American Education.” The publication provides in-depth biographical information for 20,000 American educators at the top of their profession.

Janet McMahon, associate professor of nursing, received the 2005 Emerging Professional-Graduate Degree Award from The Pennsylvania State University. The award honors graduates within the past 10 years who have demonstrated professional excellence and exemplary volunteer community involvement in a health-and-human-development field. In addition, McMahon wrote Chapter 36 for “Nursing Care” by Roberta Ramon, Dee Niedringerha and Mary Ann Towle, published by Prentice Hall Health, and two review chapters for the National Council Licensure Examination questions for the CD-ROM that accompanies the textbook. She also presented “Nursing Diagnosis: Clinically Deficient/At Risk for Failure,” and “Treatment of the Nursing Diagnosis: Clinically Deficient/At Risk for Failure” at the Drexel University National Education Institute in Atlantic City, N.J.

Patricia J. Martin, clinical director of occupational therapy assistant, continues her board membership with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education and was a co-presenter for the ACOTE workshop “Standard for an Accredited Educational Program for the Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapy Assistant” to the Chesapeake Bay Fieldwork Council in 2005.

Dorothy M. Mathers, associate professor of medical/surgical nursing, was a member of the five-member panel on transgenerational issues in nursing at the Nursing Issues for the 21st Century Lectureship sponsored by Lewisburg’s Evangelical Community Hospital and Penn College. Mathers was a member of the committee that planned and initiated a $5 run in memory of Allyson Wilgar-Jones, a nursing instructor who died in 2004. She also authored three publications for 2005: Virtual Clinical Excursion Workbook to accompany Ignatavicius and Workman’s medical-surgical nursing textbook; Virtual Clinical Excursion Workbook to accompany Lewis, Heitkemper and Dirksen’s medical-surgical nursing textbook; and Virtual Clinical Excursion Workbook to accompany Black and Hawke’s medical-surgical nursing textbook.


Mark A. Trueman, director of the paramedic program, was named “Instructor of the Year” for Lycoming County by the Lycoming County Department of Public Safety.

School of Hospitality

Monica J. Lanzack, instructor of food and hospitality management/culinary arts, was honored in the ninth edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers,” published in October. She also appeared in the 2002 and 2004 editions.

School of Industrial & Engineering Technologies

Stanley G. Boler, associate professor of electronics, and Jeffrey B. Weaver, assistant professor of electronics, participated in a conference at Richmond, Va., for instructors of the Cisco Networking Academy Program.

David R. Cotner, instructor of welding, was appointed to the American Welding Society’s Higher Education Committee and was named one of the vice presidents of The Pennsylvania Welding Educators Committee for the Central Pennsylvania Section.

James W. Fox, assistant professor of welding, is the District 3 chairman for the American Welding Society.

Edgar A. Hollingsworth, associate professor of machine tool technology/automated manufacturing, participated in a training conference sponsored by the Material Handling Industry of America at the University of Laval in Quebec, Canada.
Jeffrey L. Rankinen, associate professor of electronics, earned his doctorate in materials in August from Penn State. His thesis was “Microwave Characterization of Thin-Film Titania.”

Robert M. Vaughn, assistant professor of welding, continues as chairman of the American Welding Society’s Higher Education Committee.

Timothy Weston, assistant professor of plastics technology, was selected chairman of the Society of Plastics Engineers’ National Student Affairs Committee.

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES


David L. Evans, professor of biology, writes a weekly column for Dushkin Publishers about homeland security. The articles are distributed on Dushkin Online and are available to students who buy related McGraw Hill-Dushkin textbooks. He also wrote three chapters in Dee Silverthorn’s “Laboratory Manual for Physiology.” The chapters are: “Buffers and homeostasis;” “Hematology using fresh blood from nonprimate mammals,” co-written with his wife, Henriette K. Evans, academic career specialist; and “Membrane transport in yeast,” co-written with Henriette Evans and Janet A. Sherman, associate professor of biology. The book is available through Benjamin Cummings Publishing Co. Evans was also accepted into the 2006-07 edition of National Register’s “Who’s Who in Executives and Professionals.”

Charles F. Kennitz, associate professor of English/technical communication, was named consulting editor for MOSAIC: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature, published at the University of Manitoba.

Joseph E. LeBlanc, instructor of physics, was elected to the Lycoming County Historical Society and Museum’s Board of Governors. He also attended the Fifth International Student Leadership Conference at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Va., and presented a workshop titled “Active Listening to Win Friends.”

David M. Moyer, instructor of graphic design, held the following art exhibitions: Society of Wood Engravers, 67th Annual Exhibition, juried, Oxford, England; Vilnius Artist Book Triennial, V.A.B.T in Frankfurt, juried, Frankfurt, Germany; Vilnius Artist Book Triennial, V.A.B.T in Lille, juried, Lille, France; Art of the State, juried exhibition, Harrisburg; and Currier Center for the Arts, Word & Image, the Putney School, Putney, Vt.

Bradley L. Nason, assistant professor of mass communications, wrote several articles for the Journal of Radio Studies and produced two local radio programs that aired on WVIA/WVYA-FM.

David S. Richards, associate professor of physics, is vice president of the Central Pennsylvania Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers and serves on the association’s Committee on Research in Physics Education. Additionally, he presented a talk, “Integrating Computer-Based Tools With Traditional Classroom Environments,” at the association’s national conference in Miami.

Richard Sahn, instructor of sociology, presented a paper at the annual conference of the Association for Humanist Sociology in Tampa, Fla., on Oct 26-30. The paper was titled “Dealing with Accusations of Liberal/left-wing Bias in the Classroom: The Effect of Student Watchdog Organizations.”

Janet A. Sherman, associate professor of biology, is a member of the editorial committee for HAPS-Educator, the official quarterly publication of the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society.

Susan Slampka, assistant professor of human services/psychology, serves as a trustee on the board of the nonprofit Special Kids Training Resources Ltd., whose goal is to encourage training in the community through conferences on medical conditions, various disorders and other issues experienced by children. She also participates in the Lycoming Interagency Coordinating Council, an array of families, community members and agency staff whose primary focus is the health and well-being of infants, toddlers and small children.

William B. Urosevich, associate professor of anatomy/physiology, was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame as adviser to the Penn College Wildcat Power Team. Additionally, he was promoted to colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Department and inducted into the Army Infantry Center Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Ga.

SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Richard J. Weilminster, lead horticulture professor, serves on the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association Board of Directors.

SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY


Alfred M. Thomas, associate professor of collision repair, earned the professional designation of Certified Collision Repair Manager from the Masters School of Autobody Management in Santa Barbara, Calif. He also participated in “Bodyshop Management Essentials” in Santa Barbara, an intensive course on the fundamentals of management for collision repair owners, managers and support staff.
ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES
Henriette K. Evans, Act 101 academic and career specialist, presented at the Pennsylvania Association of Developmental Educators’ annual workshop in 2005 and has been elected Northeast Regional Representative to PADE’s board of directors for 2005-07.

CHILDREN’S LEARNING CENTER
Barbara J. Albert, group leader, earned her Trainer Quality Assurance System certification through PA Pathways, the training organization for early-education teachers and caregivers in Pennsylvania.

Karen Woland Payne, director, is president of the Central Susquehanna Association for the Education of Young Children, a local affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, with about 100 members from a 10-county area of central Pennsylvania. Payne joined Kathryn P. Jerald and Gail B. Landers, group leaders; and Regina G. Andes, assistant group leader, in presenting workshops at the annual CSEAYC conference.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND DISTANCE LEARNING
Jennifer McLean, director, completed her Ph.D. in education, with a specialization in teaching and learning, at Capella University. The title of her dissertation is “Forgotten Faculty: Stress and Job Satisfaction Among Distance Educators.”

OUTREACH FOR K-12
Jeanette L. Fraser, director, was named director of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee for the National Association for Tech Prep Leadership. Established in 1997, the organization includes professionals in Tech Prep leadership positions in all levels of education, business and industry, community organizations, and government.

STUDENT AFFAIRS
Jill S. Landesberg-Boyle, vice president for student affairs, served as a program reviewer for the 2005 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators annual conference. J. Elliott Strickland, special assistant to the vice president for student affairs, was a program reviewer for the 2005 National Association for Campus Activities national convention.

Robert C. Buck, mechanical drafting, received a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and physics from Lycoming College in 1950. He is retired and resides in South Williamsport.

Al Cornish, radio and TV repair, did mobile radio repair while in the Army and received a bachelor’s degree from Lycoming College and a master’s degree from Bucknell University. He was a career counselor and is an Upper Merion School District “Hall of Famer.” Cornish resides in King of Prussia.

Robert Gene Entz, aviation mechanics, received a degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas in 1961. He retired after 36 years of employment at Boeing Commercial Airplane Group as director of service engineering. Entz resides in Graham, Wash.

Michael Edwin Caron, radio-TV electronics, worked for more than 25 years for RCA Corp. After the plant was sold in 1987, he worked for Magnavox for seven years. Now retired, Caron resides in Pottstown.

Paul Martin Burkhart, electronics draftsman, is retired and raises Hereford beef on his mini-farm in Muncy.

Richard I. House, electrical construction technologies, retired from Standard Steel as an area maintenance engineer. House, who resides in Muncasterville, has the distinction of having his daughter, Wendy Lynn (House) Hackenberger, graduate from Williamsport Area Community College in 1976, and a grandson, Adam L. Hackenberger, graduate from Penn College in May 2005. Another grandson, Wesley S. Hackenberger, currently attends Penn College.

James W. Douty, technical illustration, is senior technical writer at Tyco Electronics. A 33-year employee of Tyco, Douty helped develop a worldwide, cross-reference database for the company. He resides in Camp Hill.

Robert Larry Corman, toolmaking technology, is a construction and contract specialist with The Pennsylvania State University and resides in Centre Hall.

Bruce Howard Beason, offset printing, is retired and resides in Rochester, N.Y.

Donald E. Houser, sheet metal/industrial technology, is a partner of Davis and Houser Financial Services. He resides in Lock Haven and is a trustee of Lock Haven University. Houser is past president of the West Branch Life Underwriters and achieved top sales with Equitable of Iowa, where he is a Hall of Honor Agent and a life member of the Million Dollar Round Table.

Ray Eugene Adelsberger, technical illustration, is an engineering manager/new product coordinator for Hanover Lantern. He resides in Littlestown and has received certificates from Dale Carnegie Saddle Island Institute, Cast Metals Institute and General Electric Lighting Institute.

Frederick A. Simon Jr., electronics technology, resides in Milton and is chief lab technician at the Lewisburg Area Joint Sewer Authority.

Fred W. Hoffman Jr., printing, is owner of Hoffman Advertising. He has served on the Union County Red Cross Board of Directors for the past seven years and, in 1994, was presented with an award for volunteer leadership. He resides in Millinburg.

Richard Leroy Foster, mechanical drafting, received a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science from Regis University in 1996. Foster, who resides in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, traveled the world while serving in the Navy and retired as a chief petty officer. He now works as a case manager and community psychiatric support team member at Nova Behavioral Health.

Darryl W. Kehrer, liberal studies, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1981 with a degree in public administration and from The American University in 1985 with a master’s degree in public administration. Kehrer retired in February 2005 as staff director, subcommittee on Veterans Benefits, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives. His 37 years of public service included 33 in veterans’ and military affairs. He also served as executive director and staff director, respectively, on two bipartisan U.S. Commissions: the Veterans’
Claims Adjudication Commission and the Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance. In 1993, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation named him a Woodrow Wilson Public Service Fellow. Besides guest lecturing in lawmaking a few times a year at West Point, Kehrer also wrote a book titled “One Team, Many Dreams: The 7-Year Legislative Journey of the Montgomery GI Bill.” It’s a case study and photo essay in lawmaking and a supplement test for classroom use in government, political science and public administration/public policy courses. He resides in Springfield, Va.

1973

Albert L. Puhalla, mechanical drafting, is owner/president of A&A Construction Co. Inc. Puhalla, who resides in Clarence, has been a Bald Eagle Area School Board member for the past 13 years.

Carol Ann Laielli Rogus, liberal arts, received a bachelor’s degree in advertising from the University of Texas in 1981 and a master’s degree in marketing from St. Edwards University in 2004. She resides in Austin, Texas, and is self-employed as a marketing consultant.

LaRae R. (Starr) Smith, computer science, is business office manager for ManorCare Health Services-South and resides in Linden.

1974

Tom Blanchard, electrical construction, is quality coordinator for BAE Systems and resides in Park Hall, Md. Blanchard has been recognized by the Navy for providing superior quality and customer service to shipboard installation of landing systems.

Roger K. Swinehart, electrical construction, resides in Middleburg and supervises 24 employees who inspect and repair cabinets and components at Wood-Mode Inc.

1975

William L. Lehman, civil technology, is a land-development planner for Somerset County, where he resides.

1976

Stephen Curran, plumbing and heating, is an HVAC technician for the Pennsylvania Air National Guard 193rd Special Operations Wing and resides in Harrisburg.

J. Joseph Pearl, landscape architecture and ornamental horticulture, received a degree in anthropology and a degree in elementary education. He teaches horticulture science at a school in Phoenix. Pearl, who resides in Mesa, Ariz., also writes for numerous trade magazines on horticulture-related topics and operates a horticulture consulting business.

1977

Larry Charles Frace, electrical construction, is a nuclear electrical maintenance supervisor at PPL’s Susquehanna Steam Electric Station. He resides in Bloomsburg.

1978

Virginia Elizabeth Barger, nursing, retired in 1998 after 20 years of service as a nurse at Divine Providence Hospital. Barger was voted “Nurse of the Year” at Divine Providence in 1982. She resides in Trout Run.

Bret Hoover, forest technology, received his bachelor of science degree in business administration from Delaware Valley College in 1990. Hoover is a supervisor of integrated systems at Lutron Electronics Co. Inc. He resides in Emmaus.

1979

Darryl Francis Dieffenderfer, diesel mechanics, is a vehicle maintenance supervisor at Johnson Bible College and resides in Knoxville, Tenn.

Gary Ferber, electrical construction, received a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology from Grantham University in 2005. He is a controls engineer for Corning Display Technologies and resides in Binghamton, N.Y.

Mary Swain Oliver, practical nursing, is a charge nurse at Laurel Health System. Among her achievements are raising six children and working full time while pursuing her degree, and taking care of her critically injured son for four months after a farm accident. She resides in Towanda.

Gary L. Spangenburg, graphic arts, is president/owner of Strategic Business & Commercial Brokers, LLC. He oversees all processes relative to acquisitions and mergers of businesses. Spangenburg resides in East Petersburg, where he served as mayor for eight years. He is a licensed real estate agent and was named “Marketer of the Year” by Sales Ad Marketing Executives International.

1980

Michael R. Herron, aviation, is a line maintenance supervisor at US Airways. He resides in Glen Allen, Va.

1981

Michael L. Swartz, electronics, received a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology in 1983 from The College of New Jersey and a master’s degree in business administration from Sacred Heart University in 2000. He is a senior system test engineer for Pitney Bowes and resides in Southington, Conn.

1982

Donna Mary (Bailey) Colley, computer science technology, is an administrative assistant for Larson Design Group Inc. and resides in Montoursville.

1983

Christos Z. Raptis, construction carpentry, is owner of C.Z. Raptis Construction Inc. and resides in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.

1984

Mary Louise Koch, dietetic technician, is retired and resides in Monticello, Ill.

1985

Gregory H. Burgett, radiography, is lead technologist at Carlisle Regional Medical Center and resides in Elliottsburg.

Todd Wivell, aviation maintenance, is service manager for Maple Mountain Equipment and resides in Covington.

1986

Ronald L. Bair, retail management, received a law-enforcement certification from the Law Enforcement Academy at Indian River Community College, Fort Pierce, Fla. He resides in Vero Beach, Fla., and is a deputy sheriff/law enforcement officer for the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office. He has received numerous awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and honorable mentions from the Sheriff’s Office for his service.

1987

Melissa Crouse Hofstetter, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Dr. Charles W. McGahee and resides in Aiken, S.C.

Bryon May, mass communications/electronic media, is radio services coordinator and information specialist for AccuWeather. May, who resides in State College, has received numerous annual awards from AccuWeather and volunteers for the AIDS Project of Centre and Clinton Counties.

Donna Barlet Ritchey, business management, resides in Linden and is an insurance agent for The Baltimore Life Companies.

1988

Mary E. (Hubbard) Dodge, nursing, is a registered nurse for Guardian Nursing Services in Lewisburg and resides in Williamsport.

Donald R. Osman, plastics and polymer technology, is retired and resides in Muncy.

Jill Ransdorf Woodhead, business management, received a bachelor’s degree in business and sociology from Lycoming College in 1995. She is a territory manager for KOS Pharmaceuticals in Lewisburg and resides in Williamsport.

1989

Christofo I. Raptis, construction carpentry, is owner of C.Z. Raptis Construction Inc. and resides in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.
Denise M. Lorson, hospitality management, is director of operations for Ruby Tuesday Inc. and resides in Harrisburg.

Jerome David Roeder, machinist general, is setup man for Bracalente Manufacturing Inc. and resides in Virginville.

Barbara A. (Lucas) Yost, business management, is a 2005 graduate of the Floral Design Institute. She is owner of Barb’s Bouquet & Gift Basket and is the current president of the Greater Mifflinburg Business Association. She resides in Lewisburg.

‘93

Crystal Hartman-Jacott, business computer programming, continued her studies at Mansfield University. She resides in Las Vegas and is enrolled in the master’s program at the University of North Las Vegas.

Amy (Rebar) Mangiaruga, radiography, resides in Paxinos and is an x-ray technician at Shamokin Area Community Hospital.

Jennifer Lyn (Wachter) Heckley, early childhood education, is a preschool teacher at Paddington Station Preschool and resides in Muncy.

‘94

Brian Keth, automated manufacturing and ’93, toolmaking technology, is a senior machine technician for Tyco Electronics and resides in York.

Laura (Hartley) Strobel, dental hygiene, resides in Thomasville and is a dental hygienist for Dental Associates in York.

Betty Lou Wheeland, nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Bayada Nurses Home Care Specialists and resides in Williamsport.

‘95

Cheryl L. (Fuhrer) James, office technology-executive assistant, is administrative coordinator for the Potter County Education Council and resides in Galeton.

‘97

The Rev. Murrell A. Heinemann Jr., industrial maintenance technician, is an interfaith minister and serves as a volunteer firefighter and fire policeman in New Ringgold, where he resides.

Sarah E. Hoffman, business administration, recently completed the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership Program, a two-year leadership-development course based at Penn State. The program develops community leaders from all walks of life who have the skills and resources to meet the challenges of the changing rural communities of Pennsylvania. She resides in Sunbury.

‘98

Vikki (Dunkleberger) Alex, physician assistant, resides in Taylorsville, N.C., and is employed at Family Care Center in Taylorsville.

‘99

Jeffrey W. Bickell, electrical, is owner of Bickell Electric and resides in Bala Cynwyd.

Debera E. (Mazza-Trump) Boyer, office information systems, is an administrative assistant for the Lewisburg Area Recreation Authority and resides in Milton.

Tammie L. Burns, physician assistant, and ’86, biology, is a physician assistant at Family Practice Center in Herndon. She resides in Winchester.

Todd Michael Fetzer, broadcast communications, resides in Palmrya and is store manager for Schuykill Valley Sports.

‘00

Heidi A. Beres, dental hygiene, resides in Phillipsburg and is a registered dental hygienist for Dr. Ben G. Williams, State College.

Brian Gustas, heavy construction equipment technology, is a crane operator for International Union of Operating Engineers Local 542. He resides in Middleport.

James Lee Kichler Jr., electrical occupations, is an electrician for Bicko Electric and resides in Johnstown.

Bryan M. Noll, building construction technology, resides in Temple and is foreman for R.G. Bortz Construction Co.

‘01

Heather Perchinski Higgins, mass communications, received her bachelor’s degree in organizational management from Eastern University in 2005. She is employed as a community relations assistant at Dauphin County Library Services and is pursuing her master’s degree in library science at Clarion University. She resides in Dauphin.

Rocco Laudadio Jr., physician assistant, earned his master’s degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska. He is a certified physician assistant for Cardiovascular Diseases Inc. and resides in Honolulu.

‘02

Raymond A. DeWispelaere, computer science, is a field support analyst for Seneca Meadows Inc. and resides in Clyde, NY.

‘03

Stacy A. (Tittle) Campisi, computer-aided drafting, is department and customer-service manager for Lowe’s Hardware. She and her husband, Matthew A., ’03, diesel technology-CAT emphasis, became engaged on graduation day and were married in March 2005. Matthew is employed at Foley Caterpillar Inc. The couple resides in Pittstown, N.J.

Kimberly Michele Schloneger, hospitality management, is a guest services representative at Penn Wells Hotel and resides in Wellsboro.

‘04

Heather Brooks, advertising art, is graphic designer/art director for Clipper Magazine. She resides in Ephrata.

Matthew Daniel Brown, computer-aided drafting technology, is an electronics technician for Letterkenny Army Depot and resides in Mount Union.

Jason Andrew Drusak, business administration-management information systems, is pursuing his master’s degree in business administration from Wilkes University and is an IT electronics health-records system analyst at Geisinger Medical Center. He resides in Danville.

Brandon S. Roush, forestry, is a forest technician for Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and resides in Mount Pleasant Mills.

Steven Russell Skelton, forestry, completed a 1-year program in lumber grading sponsored by the National Hardwood Lumber Association. He resides in Buckhannon, W.Va., and is a forest technician for Columbia Forest Products.

‘05

Christopher B. Israel, computer-aided product design, designs wastewater-treatment plants and pipelines for Gannett Fleming Inc. He resides in New Bloomfield.

Jigisha Patel, computer information technology-data communications and networking, is a tier 3 support engineer at Vonage and resides in Kearny, N.J.

ALUMNUS FINDS SUCCESS WITH UNIQUE BUSINESS

Like many people, James Asbury, (business management, Class of 2002) found his dream by accident. Asbury began stacking stone with a group of men who worked around his family farm, an experience that would eventually lead him to establish Mountaineer Stone – a natural stone supply and contracting firm – while still in school. To learn more about Asbury and other alumni, or to find out the latest news about alumni activities and events (like the 2006 Williamsport Technical Institute Reunion, which will be held June 16), visit www.pct.edu/alumni/ or contact the Alumni Relations Office at (877) PCTALUM (toll-free) or alumni@pct.edu.
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Help the Alumni Relations Office honor worthy graduates from Pennsylvania College of Technology and its predecessor institutions (Williamsport Area Community College and Williamsport Technical Institute) by nominating someone for an alumni award.

The College accepts public nominations for three of its annual awards:

1. **Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award**
   presented each May for significant contributions in one’s chosen field, as well as for leadership roles within the community and a commitment to college and community relations. **Nomination deadline, March 1**

2. **Alumna/Alumnus Achievement Award**
   presented each May to a fairly recent graduate for noteworthy professional or career accomplishment or dedicated volunteer service to the college or one’s community. **Nomination deadline, March 1**

3. **Alumni Citizenship/Humanitarian Award**
   presented in December to two alumni who demonstrate distinguished community or volunteer service. **Nomination deadline, Oct. 1**

A nomination form and the full criteria for each award are published on the Alumni Relations Web site: www.pct.edu/alumni/Alumni_Nomination_Form.pdf

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C. Volney Leibensperger (Class of ’45), left, and his son Keith (Class of ’74) were among 29 alumni and guests visiting the Lumley Aviation Center on Oct. 8-9 for an aviation reunion event in conjunction with a hot-air balloon festival at the Williamsport Regional Airport.

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A group of alumni business leaders returned to campus Oct. 20. On a tour (from left) are Steven K. McCoy, coordinator of matriculation/retenion for the School of Construction & Design Technologies; Joann Kay, executive director of the Penn College Foundation; Keith Leidhecker (Class of ’72); Gregory Werstil (Class of ’99); Janine Werstil; Tim Collins (Class of ’70); and Robin Leidhecker.

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Alumni Relations partnered with four other Pennsylvania colleges and universities to host an alumni dinner cruise in New York City on Oct. 7. At right, Randy Baldwin (Class of ’04) and his wife, Barbara Emer-Baldwin (Class of ’98, and a dental hygiene instructor at Penn College), dine with their guests, Rob Emer and Jill Mandresh.
A Note to Parents

If this issue of One College Avenue is addressed to a daughter or son who has established a separate permanent residence, please notify us of that new address by sending an e-mail to onecollegeavenue@pct.edu.

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