The Company We Keep

Pennsylvania College of Technology

SUMMER 2006
A plastics and polymer engineering technology student at Pennsylvania College of Technology was among the winners in the first Quad College & University Business Plan Challenge that culminated in April at the Community Theatre League in downtown Williamsport.

William J. Davis, of Morris, founder of the Bill Davis Corp., who presented a design for magnetic mold-clamping technology, was awarded $5,000 as the third-place winner in the competition. Eight student teams from Penn College, Lycoming College, Mansfield University and Lock Haven University vied for the total of $22,500 in prize money, which was provided by the Ben Franklin Venture Investment Forum and the Williamsport/Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone.

Fourteen student teams submitted concept papers for their business ideas in December; 11 of the 14 teams were selected to submit 10-page written business plans. Each of the eight finalists made a 10-minute oral presentation to a panel of judges from the business community.

Davis was accompanied to his presentation by Eric K. Albert, an associate professor of machine tool technology and automated manufacturing in Penn College’s School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies.
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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REVERSING the ‘BRAIN DRAIN’

College Produces Community-Minded Workers With Staying Power

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor
It has been called “The Boonies,” “The Sticks” and “Vacuum Valley.” Derided for having more deer than people, and less culture than either. Unfairly blamed for sending its talented young people elsewhere looking for work.

But to several Pennsylvania College of Technology students, consulted just weeks prior to their graduation, the comparably rural area surrounding the campus represents a welcoming future.

While some of their colleagues follow the allure of cities that never sleep, these former “Students of the Month” and members of the “College Town” initiative to unite Williamsport with its postsecondary population intend to stay in northcentral Pennsylvania and show local business and industry what they’ve learned.

Angela D. Rymer formerly thought nothing of pulling up stakes for some mystic greener pastures beyond her Jersey Shore hometown. A once-disinterested nonresident student later immersed in student government and campus organizations, she made a rewarding effort to get acquainted.

“Go downtown and communicate with the small-business owners. They’re not stagnant, knowledge-wise,” the business administration-marketing student advises. “Besides, I love the scenery here.”

Julie M. Reppert, a mass media communication major, also is sold on her adopted home.

“‘I’m a Pennsylvania girl,’” the Lebanon-area resident boasts. “‘I’m not really a summer person; I need to have a variety. And I fell in love with Penn College.’”

Rymer and Reppert sat on a panel sponsored by the School of Business and Computer Technologies, contributing to a dissection of a recent Pennsylvania Heartland Partnership Study on retaining and attracting youths to central Pennsylvania. The event – part of a presentation to the school’s corporate advisers – was moderated by Michele M. Budnovitch, instructor of computer information technology, and Irwin H. Siegel, professor of business administration/business law.

The students’ desire to make Greater Williamsport their home runs contrary to data, which note that 88 percent of college students surveyed plan to leave central Pennsylvania after graduation. As the far-reaching conversation indicated, however, their alma mater is itself an exception to the rule.

James K. Shillenn, chief executive officer of the Industrial Modernization Center, summarized the findings of the study, which looked at outmigration trends – and suggested how to stem them – in the partnership’s 12-county area. Among the concerns are the “double whammy” of more young people leaving the area amid lower numbers of high-school graduates.

“In many ways, we’ve done our job too well,” he told an audience of faculty/staff, students and representatives of area business and industry. “We’ve told our kids, ‘You can go anywhere. You can do anything.’ And they’ve taken us seriously.

“People don’t leave because they hate the place; they’re leaving because of the attractiveness of another area – their quest for an ideal job in an ideal location,” he added. “When they get out of high school or college, they want to ‘go for it’ where they perceive the biggest opportunity.”

Which begs the question: What does central Pennsylvania offer to keep its graduates here? One answer – cited time and time again during the discussion of job preparedness and workforce development – is a Penn College education.

“We recruit heavily from the college,” said Karen Armstrong, chief information officer at Susquehanna Health System, which has offered loan-forgiveness and other incentives to become a true friend to the School of Health Sciences. “We have a 12-percent turnover rate among our nurses, much lower than the national average.” The average age of Susquehanna Health’s nurses is 44, which speaks well of job satisfaction and the staying power of Penn College graduates.

Armstrong said the familiarity that graduates find in local employment is among the added attractions. The clinical sites at which Penn College students have been educated – in paramedic internships, for instance – offer a “true working experience” that carries over to their full-time positions, she said.

“They feel somewhat comfortable; this is not foreign to them.”

She also cited some of Susquehanna Health’s recruitment and retention activities geared directly to younger employees: flexible scheduling, fitness-center access, tuition reimbursement, efforts to balance work and home life, and continuing education, for instance.

Another plus to local industry is the way the college is helping to change public perceptions of manufacturing, revealing the attractive work environment behind the grease-fingered stereotype.

As Shillen noted, the area’s main clusters of industry are health care, education, manufacturing and lumber.

“I do love Williamsport and the opportunities that are here.”

A typical college-bound high-schooler is familiar with the first two, but shows little understanding or appreciation for the others. He said the study found a much more realistic view of manufacturing among students enrolled in technical education, who realize the cleanliness of jobs in fields such as plastics.

That acknowledgement of industry, the bread-and-butter of an applied-technology institution such as Penn College and its trade-based predecessors, is among the tools to reverse the “brain drain” from this region. Coupled, of course, with graduates willing to put down roots.

“I used to want to live out West, maybe move to Utah,” said Robert M. “Spyke” Krepselow, an information technology-web and applications development major, originally from Elysburg. “But I’ve gotten more mature, and I do love Williamsport and the opportunities that are here.

“Even if they’re not here, you’ve just got to make your own.”
Its doodle-like design is deceptively simple – what you’d see on a miniature-golf course or at an amusement park, sending a colored ball or a screaming train along a speedy loop-the-loop. But its execution requires such precision, such a whisker-thin margin for error, that it literally is the only one of its kind in the world.

And at its center, perhaps most fittingly, is a circle – symbolic of the award-winning alumnus who returned to leave a mark where his career began.

James A. Asbury’s dry-stone wall impressively stands at the entrance to the Schneebeli Earth Science Center, Pennsylvania College of Technology’s rustic “living laboratory” a dozen miles south of Williamsport, representing a collaborative effort that began with a Canadian artist’s insomniac reverie.

Asbury is the owner/operator of Mountaineer Stone, a Tioga County natural-stone supply company that he formed while still a student at the college. In the years between his 2002 graduation with an associate degree in management and his return in May 2006 to receive an Alumnus Achievement Award at commencement, Asbury has combined a head for business with the hands of a craftsman.

As Penn College’s first and only certified dry-stone waller, his skills can be seen in a variety of places, from private residences to Civil War battlefields. But even he couldn’t envision what lay in store when he stopped on campus in January to show off a sketch of what ultimately would be his most challenging project to date.

Melding a passion for his craft and enthusiasm for his alma mater, Asbury worked with Penn College masonry and landscaping students to construct a self-supporting, dry-stone loop – what he calls “The Tribute to Knowledge” – at the entrance to the School of Natural Resources Management. The structure stands more than 7 feet tall, is over 15 feet long and holds more than 20 tons of dry stone.

The design was the brainchild of a master craftsman from Canada “who was doing his best to fall asleep one night by building a stone creation in his own mind,” Asbury explained. “Suddenly, it hit him that he had an idea never before built. The structure is very difficult until a trained waller … breaks it down to its basic principles, the four basic rules that hold a wall together properly.”

Distilling the complicated structure to its most rudimentary components, he said, was not unlike the advice once given him by a college professor. “Everything is like eating an elephant,” the instructor told him. “One bite at a time.”

The original was taken down by the class that built it, as it was constructed by workshop participants in a donated greenhouse, making the Earth Science Center project the only one of its kind in the world. In addition to that distinction, students were part of a once-in-a-lifetime endeavor that should long stand as a monument to their Penn College education.

“This was an exciting project because it brought so many people together to make it happen: the administration, the
faculty, staff, the landscape construction students and the building construction students,” said Carl J. Bower, an adjunct horticulture instructor and Asbury’s original sounding board for the unique student venture.

“I think it means even more when you can pull different majors together on a project. The students get to learn from each other because each major brings its own strengths that helped bring this together.”

The job also attracted generous support from business and industry: the stone was donated by the H&K Group in Skippack, and Woolrich Inc. contributed the tube for support of the loop during construction.

Despite finger-numbing temperatures and snowy interruptions, Asbury and his faculty/student co-workers accomplished their feat in a handful of class periods over just three weeks. From digging out plants, to picking the rocks, to staying late to finish the loop, to landscaping the site, their hard work under hands-on tutelage has paid off in breathtaking fashion.

“The integration of workforce professionals into the learning environment, in my experience, has always been a positive one,” said Michael A. Dincher, assistant professor of horticulture, and one of the faculty members behind the project.

“Another facet of this type of situation is that permanent projects, other than those we tear down or use for practice, engage students more completely. Ownership in these kinds of … structures increases involvement and the level of pride students gain from employing the skills they’ve learned in an actual work-type setting.”

continued next page

“I’m a stone-wall builder. I get filthy each and every day. My hands are smooth as glass from the rock and grit I hold.”

So begins James A. Asbury’s latest work in progress: “Introduction to a Waller,” a memoir, a life story, a love story – carved, if you will, in stone.

“The clothing I don each day is holed and chewed by sharp and jagged edges that cut the threads like snips. The workday calls early. It calls in drowning rain, bitter snow and blistering sun. Stone is a stubborn client. Each deal is made in the realm of the snake, spider and mouse. If I’m very lucky, the wasp and the hornet will not show up for today’s meeting.”

What would possess a business management graduate to abandon the seasonal comforts and regular hours of an office for a path decidedly less-traveled? For Asbury, the seed was planted during a summer job in his 20s, on a crew carting fieldstone from his grandfather’s farm.

“The birds and trees around me, the sunshine after the dawn was something I’d never feel if I were inside at task. The beginning of a love had grown. I was courting stone at that time,” he writes in his yet-unfinished manuscript. “The pallets of stone that I stacked would go off and become something somewhere in the city. No more this rock would be a chunk of unsightly rubble in a farm field, but a stroke of artwork in a garden wall or on a fine home, and that stone would have been reborn.”

That, then, is how it happens. You chart your life and get knocked off-track by an enticing opportunity in an area never before considered, an area – like a newly found stone – full of possibility.

“To me, life is a stone wall; stones pop up unexpectedly from the earth and you make what you may from them. Done right, it’s a useful thing,” Asbury continues. “You may have a very good plan; however, the product may not come out like you first pictured in your mind.”

– Tom Wilson
That pride clearly comes through when talking with students involved. Even when posing for a group photo by their creation, most approached cautiously … reverentially … as if treading on sacred ground.

“The loop was awesome, and it was a great feeling when we pulled the support tube out and the arch stood,” said Jennifer L. Grenoble, a landscape/nursery student from Pine Grove Mills who graduated in May. “We all whooped and hollered; there were smiles on everyone’s faces. It’s really hard to put into words how exhilarating the project was.

“We all left a mark on the college and it will be a great story to pass on.”

That story already is being told, the reputation spreading further. The loop was featured in Period Homes magazine, and Asbury said he got several on-the-spot job offers during the college’s Visitation Day in April.

He even had a chance to “talk stones” with John Shaw-Rimmington, creator of the original loop, when the pair recently found themselves on separate projects in the Flint Hills of Virginia.

“He was flattered that I’d try to mimic his work,” Asbury said. “When you take someone else’s theory and do it yourself, and come up with the same conclusions,’ he told me, ‘that’s science.’”

Whether art or science, or a remarkable combination of the two, Asbury got rave reviews for rolling up his flannel sleeves and enlisting two crews of neophytes to realize his goal.

“The students really gained enthusiasm as the project drew to a close,” Bower said. “The more the loop developed, the more interested they got. I think they got an experience that they will always remember. As someone who helped bring this together from the start, my only regret on this project is that I didn’t have any time actually handling the stones. I am jealous that the students got to do the work. I would have loved to say that I helped lay up the stone myself!

“James is passionate about what he does and it’s a pleasure to work with someone who loves what he does; I think that is a rarity in today’s world.”

Hardly a rarity in Asbury’s work ethic, though. Addicted to early rising and enamored of his outdoor canvas – and scarcely envious of his office-bound counterparts – this stone-gatherer treats it like play.

“If you don’t wake up every morning and say to yourself, ‘I can’t believe I’m getting paid to do this,’ you’re wasting one-third of your life,” Asbury said.

*THE INTEGRATION OF WORKFORCE PROFESSIONALS INTO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, IN MY EXPERIENCE, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A POSITIVE ONE.*
Editor’s Note: The following was written by Andrew R. Moyer, of Macungie, a May graduate in landscape/nursery technology, who was among the students involved throughout the painstaking construction of the stone loop at Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center during the Spring 2006 semester.

This project gave me a better insight as to how dry-stacked stone walls actually are built properly to last. While the walls themselves were hard to pull together, the challenge still was staring us in the face. That challenge was the loop in the stone, which would surround the tube.

To prepare for the loop, the walls were built first. After that, we constructed scaffolding on either side of the walls and, then – by using 4-by-4 timbers laid on the scaffolding and by inserting a 4-by-4 timber through the tube and raising the timber by using wedges – we were able to get the tube to the right height as to where the top of the loop would be.

Once the form was in place, we were then able to begin the construction on the loop section, which consisted of building the coping on the wall that would run to the beginning of the loop. These rocks were placed vertically on top of the walls and ran to the end of the wall, where a buttress was formed. This buttress would be the support of the loop as the rocks were placed on angles to form around the tube.

When the loop itself was started, we had to check very carefully with a string line to be sure that each rock being placed was centered so that weight would be distributed evenly. The construction of the loop was synchronized so that, as one side placed a rock, the other would do the same. After the rock was placed, it would then be packed very carefully to give maximum support to the rocks that were to be placed on top of it. Each rock was carefully packed all the way to the top of the loop. Once we reached the 12 o’clock stage of the tube, we had to set the keystone in place. The keystone is the most important rock of the entire project, because it is what holds the entire loop in place.

The keystone wants to do nothing but fall to the ground, but, because each rock before the keystone was angled and the space was getting smaller, the keystone was able to lock the loop into place.

Once we found the right keystone, we were able to set it in place. At this point, the tension was high, and nothing was a laughing matter anymore. With the loop in place and nothing else left to do, we were able to release the tube from the loop. With all of the students informed by Jim Asbury as to how the tube would be released, we carefully knocked the wedges out from under the 4x4 holding the tube in place. We had to synchronize with the other side of the wall so that the tube would release at the same time (and) the keystone would lock in place properly. With the wedges out, the tube was released and the keystone locked into place.

At that point, it was a great moment. Everyone around us was cheering – especially Jim. This stone loop is the first one to be standing in a landscape situation not only in the United States, but in the world. This was a great achievement in history and for the Penn College community, as well as all of the students.

My personal experience on this wall was great and will be very memorable for many years to come. I have had the chance to extend my knowledge … and used it to help accomplish what may have seemed the unthinkable.
They are as selfless with resources as they are with time, serving as advisers to Pennsylvania College of Technology’s eight academic schools. They open their checkbooks to the unending benefit of scholarship funds, hire from a corps of qualified alumni and deliver leading-edge equipment to help students move seamlessly from laboratories to workplaces.

“They” are generous business/industry partners who contribute in untold ways to institutional health and student success. They include automakers at Ford, Honda and Toyota; Fortune 500 perennials like PPG Industries, Caterpillar and DuPont; and homegrown companies looking to attract proficient graduates of Pennsylvania’s premier technical college. Enshrined in school hallways, they are a faithful presence at career events – meeting one-on-one with job-seeking seniors and conducting on-campus interviews across the college’s broad curricula.

In just the first half of 2006, six scholarships were established by businesses, and other contributions were noted in such headlines as “Industry Partner Allows Student Access to Brand-New Corporate Jet” and “Insurance Reps Donate Vehicle Parts to Collision Repair Department.”

Simply stated by Debra Mader Miller, director of corporate relations, “Our partners play a very important role at Penn College.

“Their participation on program advisory committees helps us stay in tune with what is happening in industry so we can provide the education to meet their needs,” she explained. “Scholarship support is very important to help our students meet the costs of education, while providing an excellent way for businesses to connect with students. Donations of equipment, software and supplies help provide the level of hands-on education of which we are so proud.

“Quite frankly, without the support of business and industry, we would be hard-pressed to stay current with technology and keep our tuition at a reasonable level. All of these are integral to what we do.”

Among the many companies in that reciprocal arrangement is Centex Homes, which endows an annual scholarship and offers internships.

“We’ve hired managers, superintendents, architectural technology graduates,” said Steve Nellis, vice president of recruiting. “We’ve placed a lot of students all along the Eastern Seaboard, from New Jersey to the Carolinas.” He has visited campus several times during Centex’s seven-year relationship with Penn College, and believes the carpentry lab is among the “tops in the nation” in preparing employees of tomorrow.

“Those hands-on skills are very important,” Nellis said. “Even for a manager, it’s helpful to be able to say, ‘I’ve done that.’”

Other industry heavyweights like Siemens and American Infrastructure, as well as diverse independents – contractors with fewer than 25 employees, who nonetheless do millions of dollars in projects each year – enjoy a similarly beneficial bond. Employers clearly are drawn to the college’s time-tested blend of hands-on instruction and the classroom fundamentals on which those talents take hold.
“They find Penn College to be fertile ground,” said Tom F. Gregory, dean of construction and design technologies. “They all recruit here.”

He cited a high demand for skilled masons and electrical technicians, among others. And, in an observation that echoes throughout the college, Gregory noted employers’ constant call for self-starting students with the analytical and mathematical skills required to measure and calculate – “not just ‘rule of thumb’ – that's a real winner as far as job opportunities.”

Another steadfast employer is Susquehanna Health System, and the college’s radiography program points proudly to its relationship with Thomas Schnars, administrative director of imaging.

“He has supported us with letters for equipment purchases and donated equipment for use in our lab (the value of which is inestimable, since medical equipment can run into the … hundreds of thousands of dollars),” said Cletus G. Waldman, clinical director of the college’s radiography major. “Most important is his willingness and dedication to hire our graduates. Every year, (as many as) three students have been hired, first as interns while in the program, then as full-time employees. The majority of the staff at SHS graduated over the years from our program, some as long as 20-plus years ago.”

In the opposite wing of the Breuder Advanced Technology and Health Sciences Center, the School of Business and Computer Technologies also is grateful for its community contacts.

“We have had the benefit of several very long-term and involved members on our Paralegal Advisory Committee,” noted Kevin R. Derr, professor of legal assistant. “Several were involved with the program formation over 15 years ago.”

One is Kevin H. Way, Lycoming County’s court administrator and an adjunct faculty member in civil litigation. “This is a very successful program, a good practical service that has grown more quickly and widely than we imagined when we drafted the curriculum,” he said. The Lycoming Law Association (the county bar’s official organization) has been a consistent supporter – and beneficiary – of the major, Way said: About 20 Penn College graduates are employed in the local legal community, and a few go on to law school each year.

Another enthusiastic supporter is McClarin Plastics, Hanover, among eight companies helping to promote the industry among high-school students via a mobile plastics lab. Todd R. Kennedy Sr., company president and member of the Plastics and Polymer Technology Advisory Committee, said McClarin’s investment "Quite frankly, without the support of business and industry, we would be hard-pressed to stay current with technology and keep our tuition at a reasonable level."
reflects respect for the School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies’ dean and faculty.

“Penn College is a tremendous resource for companies like (ours). Students are well-prepared. It’s obvious they are motivated,” he said, noting graduates of the two-year program are capable of producing almost immediately.

“They have been taught to think; they find the hands-on learning experience motivating; they want to add value and realize each company has a unique culture and it is up to them – not their employer – to find ways to make their presence worthwhile,” Kennedy said. “This is a mind-set and it comes from the efforts of the educators.”

“We believe in an education that is interactive,” he said, summing up employers’ prevailing opinion of the institution’s responsiveness. “Penn College fits our needs and we will support the program because it works.”

A benefactor so loyal to students that it received an alumni Mentorship Award in 2003 is Machining Technologies Inc., Hebron, Md., which has more than doubled its workforce in the past five years – thanks, in part, to the driven employees it finds in Williamsport.

“Our Penn College engineers – 11 currently – have been a significant part of that growth and will be looked upon to help us continue that trend,” said Dan Seman, MaTech vice president and father of a 2002 alumnus. “We have engineers from manufacturing, electronics, CAD and welding, and we will be looking to recruit from those and other disciplines as we continue to grow.

“This is all based on the confidence that we have in the quality of education that Penn College provides to its students. We need capable ‘hands-on’ engineers, and I do not believe that any other institution provides a better foundation for its students to enter industry and be important contributors early on in their career.”

The Ford ASSET program offers students hands-on training and cooperative employment with a dealership.

A ‘Working’ Partnership

by Russell G. Kimura, vice president/controller at Woodlands Bank and a member of the college’s Accounting Advisory Committee

Software that requires no changes for even a year: An accounting or tax rule book that doesn’t have the annual version in large print on its cover. Computer hardware that gathers more than a year of dust. These animals are not endangered…they are extinct in most of the business world. So what do we do?

Adapting to a rapidly changing working world creates challenges for students and Penn College alike. Refusing to live in the proverbial ivory tower, (the college) has maintained a communication channel to local employers, allowing us to advise about the kinds of knowledge and skills that we look for in new employees. This creates a feedback loop that benefits the students, employers and the college by encouraging constant evaluation and positive change for all parties.

This dialogue helps from a couple of perspectives. We know there is always debate on the teaching of theory vs. practice. Both are necessary, and the crafting of an optimum balance is helped by knowing what is happening out in the working world. The ability to adapt to change argues for the study of underlying principles, while bringing immediate value to employers argues for learning specific skills.

Then there is always the choice of courses to offer: Which ones create most value for students and future employers? And, what other courses enrich a student’s life outside of the major course concentration?

The faculty and advisory board members engage in discussions about these and other topics, and the faculty uses the input as a real-world check in its ongoing planning. From the employer’s standpoint, knowing what kind of background we can expect from graduates gives us confidence that we can locate the workforce to implement our plans for change.

Ultimately, have we hired Penn College graduates? Yes, and we have enrolled other employees in additional courses to improve their abilities. A good partnership benefits both parties. This one does.
Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Workforce Development & Continuing Education Office recently assumed overall management responsibilities for the Workforce & Economic Development Network of Pennsylvania, which administers the commonwealth’s largest incumbent worker training initiative.

State Department of Community and Economic Development funding for the Guaranteed Free Training Program is delivered through the WEDnetPA partnership, which consists of 33 higher-education workforce-development organizations across the commonwealth and administers a budget of approximately $18 million annually to more than 1,800 companies and 100,000 employees.

“We have a great working relationship with Penn College, and WEDnet has been the catalyst,” said Paul Hitesman, training manager at Wood-Mode Inc. in Kreamer. “Funding has helped us cut the costs of these essential training efforts to keep us competitive in the custom cabinet industry.” Wood-Mode was among the first to use the college’s portable computer lab for staff development, with more than 100 employees trained in a variety of applications. It also has used program grants to offset consultant fees for leadership training, Hitesman said.

“Over the years, we have used WEDnet funding for computers, maintenance – virtually anything,” he added. “This has given leadership more flexibility in requesting training that they might not have in the past.”

A fixture on the local industrial scene also has been helped by the program: Lycoming Engines, where Vicki Dalrymple found an understanding ally in WEDnetPA in her first months as training and development manager.

“One of the biggest advantages of the grant is that we don’t have to select a certain handful of people who get to go to training,” she said, noting that Lycoming workers have received intensive instruction in “Lean Manufacturing 101” and a variety of other quality-improvement courses. “We’ve been able to send pretty much all of our employees.”

The college hosted a conference in late April at the Williamsport Holiday Inn. Representatives from the schools that constitute the commonwealth’s community college system and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education attended. Sandi Vito, deputy secretary for workforce development for the state Department of Labor and Industry, provided the keynote address and reviewed Gov. Ed Rendell’s workforce-development strategies.

“Penn College has assumed an ever-increasing role in delivering workforce-development services throughout the commonwealth, and we are pleased to have been selected to provide administrative oversight and overall management for this nationally recognized program,” said Larry L. Michael, executive director for workforce and economic development for the college. “This program is a major component of Gov. Rendell’s overall workforce-development commitment and provides Penn College the opportunity to assist with coordination of training services to businesses in each of the 67 counties.”

“Penn College is proud to have been selected to administer the largest incumbent worker training program in the commonwealth,” said Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour. “We are pleased to provide the management and coordination services for WEDnetPA and to work with the 33 colleges and universities in the network to administer this important program. The training provided through this initiative helps keep Pennsylvania’s businesses competitive in today’s global economy.”

To oversee the program, Penn College opened a Harrisburg location.

“Administering this program requires close coordination with the commonwealth’s Department of Community and Economic Development and with the Department of Labor and Industry,” said Tom J. Venditti, the college’s WEDnetPA statewide director. “The Harrisburg location greatly enhances the coordination and communication with these agencies and will provide additional opportunities for Penn College in the future.”

For more information about the Guaranteed Free Training Program or WEDnetPA, call toll-free (877) 933-6387 or visit www.wednetpa.com.
The Job Location & Development program, designed to locate job opportunities both on and off campus for students – regardless of their financial-aid eligibility – was unveiled in the Fall 2004 semester by the Counseling, Career and Disability Services Office at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

JLD is part of the Federal Work-Study program, which is administered by Penn College. Work-Study awards allow eligible students \textit{(based on financial need)} to work on campus. However, because of the financial-aid eligibility guidelines and funding limitations, the number of students employed on campus was limited.

With most students needing to work to cover college costs, and with so many students unable to participate in work-study positions on campus, it became necessary for the college to find ways to assist students in locating off-campus employment.

Federal regulations allow colleges to use a portion of their FWS allocation to locate and develop off-campus employment opportunities, so the college made the decision to move in that direction. As a result, there is a coordinated and effective procedure for helping students and area employers meet their employment needs.

Under the JLD program, the jobs located and developed should be suitable to the scheduling and other needs of the student and, to the extent possible, complement and reinforce his or her educational program and vocational goals.

It benefits students by connecting them with local employers, allowing them to work an unlimited number of hours and earn more money by doing so. It also helps the students improve their résumé and gain experience in a “real-world” work environment, and it provides a solid foundation for securing career options beyond graduation.

The feedback from students and employers help to make the program a success. I describe it as an opportunity for business and education to work together to strengthen our community.

“Offering our position through the Job Location & Development office, we were able to reach an interested audience to find the perfect candidates,” said Daniel Clarke, assistant marketing manager at Fanelli Window Pros. “Without the JLD program, our company would have been at a loss for qualified employees. However, thanks to the screening process, I saved our company valuable time and money searching and qualifying candidates.”

“The JLD program took my past experience, personality and everything I mentioned in the interview and molded me a perfect opportunity,” said Andrew T. Van Kuren, a general studies major employed by Fanelli. “This chance landed me the job, where I have been working for the past two semesters demonstrating home-improvement projects. More importantly, I am working \textit{(at) a job I am happy with, and I owe that happiness to this program.”
“The turnaround time was very fast from the time the job was posted and I received the information on whom to contact, and I am now working at the (Williamsport) YWCA,” said Debora J. Applegate, a surgical technology student from Montgomery.

Employers benefit from the JLD program by employing Penn College students to meet their workforce needs. It helps them connect with future graduates and provides an opportunity to bring together business and education. Any for-profit or nonprofit employer is eligible to participate.

“When I was opening this business, one thing I was nervous about was finding a great team,” said Brandi Palmer, director of operations at Quiznos on Maynard Street, near the college’s main entrance. “With the help of the JLD program, over one-third of my staff are Penn College students, and all, individually, have turned out to be great employees.”

Other employer benefits are available. Through two statewide programs – the State Work-Study Program and the Community Service Program – the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency provides employers the opportunity to hire Pennsylvania residents who are enrolled in a PHEAA-approved postsecondary program.

The State Work-Study Program allows hiring by both nonprofit and for-profit employers. Many jobs – from “high-tech” to community services – qualify for SWSP. The employers pay the students, and PHEAA then reimburses the employers for a portion of the actual, approved student earnings. Nonprofit organizations receive a 40-percent reimbursement; for-profit businesses receive a 30-percent reimbursement from PHEAA. The Community Service Program provides opportunities for hiring by government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

“The JLD office made it simple for us to hire the staff we needed,” said Deb Dominick, director of health and prevention at the Williamsport YWCA. “The college will even do the preliminary work for your business. Just let them know the type of student your organization is in need of, and they will send you applicants that fit your need. You do not spend endless hours going through applications of persons that are not suitable for the position.”

The college’s first-year goal for the program was for students to earn approximately $50,000 in wages. For the 2004-05 academic year, 67 students were employed by the JLD program, earning a total of $141,402 in wages. (Successes were reported in 2005-06, as well, but year-end figures were not available at press time.)

I am really pleased with the success we have had. In addition to having students contact our office directly, we have received a number of referrals from the Financial Aid Office. We often are able to help in those situations in which the student does not meet FWS eligibility guidelines, or all funding has been committed to other students.

By working collaboratively, we help more students secure employment. It’s a win-win situation, and it goes to show how we all can work together to build a better community.

For more information about the JLD program, call (570) 327-4765, ext. 7371, send e-mail to JLD@pct.edu or visit www.pct.edu/career/careerServices/jld.htm.
A group of 18 Pennsylvania College of Technology students had a different sort of Spring Break experience, joining with 200 other volunteers in Mississippi to rebuild homes and communities devastated by two powerful hurricanes.

After hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged the Gulf Coast in August and September, the Student Government Association at Penn College sought help from the college’s Student Activities Office to provide a way for students to aid those whose homes were lost or damaged. A March 5-12 trip to Camp Coast Care in Long Beach, Miss., was arranged.

Camp Coast Care operates a distribution center for food, cleaning supplies, personal-hygiene products and clothing, as well as a free medical clinic. It also enlists workers to help repair and rebuild homes and communities in the hard-hit region. The Penn College students – along with two college staff members – arrived in Long Beach on March 5. Staying in a gymnasium on cots, they worked in the communities each day of their trip.

Though the students were witnessing the storms’ impact six months afterward, the trail of destruction still was evident everywhere.

“The experience was not what I expected,” said Melissa A. Sitlinger, a technology management major from Herndon. “I didn’t expect to help so many people. Even though we didn’t work one-on-one with many families, we touched them in their hearts by being there and helping rebuild the community. I thought that the area would have been cleaned up more than what it was, but it hasn’t been.

“With all of our help during that week, we made a difference.”

The Community Arts Center’s “Director’s Chair” Award for 2006 was presented in March to Jean R. and Marvin H. Staiman for their extensive civic/community involvement and longtime support of the downtown facility.

“The Community Arts Center is only one of a score of organizations that has benefited from the Staimans’ singular dedication to improving the lives of others in our community,” said Rob Steele, executive director.

A Williamsport native, Marvin Staiman was owner, president and chairman of the board of Staiman Brothers Inc., a scrap-processing and recycling company founded by his grandfather in 1900. Jean Staiman is a summa cum laude graduate of Williamsport Dickinson Junior College (now Lycoming College) and was employed with Staiman Brothers Inc. for 22 years.

Both have been phenomenally active in their community, long serving on the boards of numerous civic organizations and honored with a variety of awards for their volunteer involvement.

What would you talk about if you knew you had only one more chance in your lifetime to speak to a group of students? In a program begun this year by the Student Activities Office, Pennsylvania College of Technology professors were challenged to answer that question. Three faculty members kicked off the innovative series during Spring 2006, with two more to be scheduled for fall.

Nominated by students for the inaugural semester were Edward A. Vavra, associate professor of rhetoric, who presented “I Died, but I Tried – I Had a Dream”; David L. Evans, biology professor, who described “The Most Dangerous Places” he has visited; and Michael J. Ditchfield, hospitality management/culinary arts instructor, who reminded his audience that “One Person Can Make a Difference.”
Public-service announcements created for area nonprofit clients by students in the mass media communication major at Pennsylvania College of Technology are airing through September on cable television stations.

“Many local nonprofit organizations … have great programs to promote to the community, but they generally do not have the finances or personnel to create their own 30-second commercials,” said SusCom Sales Manager Mike Loeh. The regional cable-service provider donated airtime to run the PSAs on its stations, delivering the agencies’ messages – from drunken driving and arts education to blood donations and fire safety – to more than 37,000 homes in Greater Williamsport.

Each team identified a nonprofit client and presented the team’s initial concept, seeking additional input on the announcement’s content and message. Following those meetings, students formulated messages, created storyboards and shot lists, and identified locations and actors. Once preproduction was finalized, the students began the production phase, shooting footage on location using college-owned video equipment. Once all footage was shot, the teams edited a “rough cut” to present to the client. After making any necessary changes and tweaking the final version, teams received approval from their clients to have the spots aired on SusCom.

Anne Keely, director of Saint John’s School of the Arts and one of the clients in the seven-week project, said: “The students were wonderful to work with. They were full of creative ideas, and the finished product was very professional. They did a fine job interpreting the philosophy and purpose of the Saint John’s School of the Arts, as well as highlighting local music and fine-arts opportunities. I applaud the work of the Penn College students, as well as SusCom’s support of arts education in our community.”
An international mathematics journal included a paper by William Ma, associate professor of mathematics. “Estimates for Conformal Metric Ratios” was published in Computational Methods and Function Theory, Volume 5, a peer-reviewed annual journal of original research papers in complex analysis.

Douglas M. Sherry, part-time instructor of sociology, presented “’Abiseeniah Henry’: Television’s ‘M*A*S*H and the End of the Vietnam War,” at the annual conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association in New Brunswick, N.J. He also presented “Framing Dissent: The Image of Political Militants in Films of the 1970s” at the Mid-Atlantic American Studies Association/Political Science Association Joint Conference in Harrisburg. Both papers are part of a book manuscript Sherry is preparing on American culture in the 1970s.

**SCHOOL OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY**

Brett A. Reasner and William F. Stepp III, associate professors of aviation, were presenters during the Association for Avionics Education annual conference, held in October at Penn College. Reasner detailed the unique features and educational goals of “Aviation Internships at Penn College,” and Stepp outlined “Instructions for Continued Airworthiness,” procedures for development of the Federal Aviation Administration documents required for aircraft alterations. At the Aviation Technical Education Council’s annual conference in Las Vegas in April, Reasner became a certified aircraft tire expert through Michelin’s Level One program. During the Helicopter Association International Expo, held in Dallas in February, Stepp attended 12 hours of helicopter and engine-service briefings.

“Getting Paid for What You Do,” by Alfred M. Thomas, associate professor of collision repair, was published in the February issue of Automotive Body Repair News. The article marks the fourth time he has been published in the past six years. As a contributing editor at ABRN, Thomas will write a series of technical articles over the next year. His latest piece offers body-shop employees some practical pointers on ways to control costs, from the initial estimate to the final restoration of a vehicle to its pre-accident condition.

Robert M. Werkmeister, assistant professor of aviation, accepted the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award during a Federal Aviation Administration safety seminar in Mechanicsburg earlier this year. Since graduating in 1959 from the aviation program at Williamsport Technical Institute – the college’s earliest predecessor – he has worked as an aircraft mechanic, supervisor, inspector, director of maintenance, director of operations, corporate pilot and maintenance instructor, all at the Williamsport Regional Airport in Montoursville.
CHILDREN’S LEARNING CENTER

Kathryn P. “Kay” Jerald, group leader, received the Terri Lynn Lokoff Child Care Foundation National Child Care Teacher Award during an April ceremony in King of Prussia. Her winning project, “Using Video to Promote Social and Cognitive Development in Toddlers,” uses a digital video camera, purchased with part of the award money, to allow the children to see themselves at work and at play.

COLLEGE LIBRARY

Marilyn G. Bodnar, instruction librarian; James R. Carpenter, a computer information technology-internetworking application development major and part-time library employee; and Joshua D. Young, the library’s virtual resources specialist and a part-time student in computer information technology-data communications and networking, presented at the NorthEast Regional Computing Program annual conference in Worcester, Mass., the theme of which was “Innovation and Reliability – Finding the Balance.” Their March presentation, “The Road to Creating an Interactive Library Tutorial for 1,300 Students,” attracted attendees from both the information-technology and library professions, and focused on the collaborative efforts of Penn College’s English faculty, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning, and library staff and librarians to conceptualize, design and implement an interactive library tutorial using Macromedia Flash.

COLLEGE STORE

Matthew P. Branca, director, presented a workshop, “Teamwork Makes Big Money,” at the annual Super Regional Meeting and Buying Show, held in April in Ledyard, Conn. The show is a regional industry conference attended by more than 300 college-bookstore personnel and 350 vendors from the College Stores Association of New England, the College Stores Association of New York State and the Middle Atlantic College Store Association. Branca, who ended his three-year tenure as treasurer for the conference, also co-chaired an auction that raised more than $9,500 for a fund at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, N.Y.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Kevin M. Mix, media specialist, and Joseph S. Miller, instructional media specialist, completed training in IP (Internet Protocol) Link technologies conducted by Extron Electronics. The one-day session, held in Harrisburg in March, involved hands-on instruction with developing remote monitoring and diagnostic systems for audiovisual equipment via a subnet or Virtual Local Area Network. Nineteen delegates from 11 institutions across the northeastern United States participated. The wider use of classroom technology, combined with the expansion of the college campus, has prompted ITS to investigate ways to streamline various maintenance and monitoring functions. This session is part of the Extron Institute School of Instructional Audio Visual Technologies held at various sites across North America, Europe and Asia.

STRAIGHT PLANNING AND RESEARCH

John J. Kehoe, director, is a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s college evaluation team, which performs independent on-site review and analysis of an institution’s application to obtain collegiate status within the commonwealth. The team also performs independent on-site visits evaluating out-of-state postsecondary entities’ applications to open branches within Pennsylvania.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Frederick G. “Rick” Terry, director of the Factory Built Housing Center, presented “Who’s Setting Your Commercial Project?” to a group of commercial modular builders, manufacturers and other industry attendees at the 23rd Annual Modular Building Institute Convention and Trade Show. The most important annual event for the commercial modular-building industry, the convention was held in mid-March in Ponte Vedra, Fla., attracting participants from around the world.
Joseph H. Byerly, liberal studies, received a bachelor’s degree in social science from The Pennsylvania State University in 1972. He lives in Hughesville and is a retired narcotics agent from the state Office of the Attorney General.

Judith A. (Strausser) Torrens, food services, received a bachelor’s degree in home economics education from Mansfield University in 1976. Torrens, who resides in Pine Grove, is a food sanitarian for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Region 7.

Stephanie M. Catherine-Hoffman, individual studies, received a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1978; a master’s degree in special education from Mansfield University in 1983; and her Ph.D. in education from the University of Idaho in 2005. Catherine-Hoffman, who resides in Boise, says she learned more about life and success from her professors at Williamsport Area Community College than anywhere else she’s been.

Richard W. Hoover Jr., electronics technology, lives in West Milton and is a maintenance technician at Riverwoods.

David A. Morris, welding, is a machine operator at Alcan Cable, where he has won safety and quality awards. He resides in Williamsport.

Martha Lou Haner, nursery management, resides in Sugar Grove and is plant manager at Silo View Gardens, a nursery offering herbs, perennials, bulbs, wildflowers and ground coverings.

Kevin Paul Heberle, carpentry and building construction technology, received a bachelor’s degree in structural design and civil engineering from Penn State’s former Capitol Campus in 1979. After 25 years of living in various states in the western United States, Heberle has returned to Pennsylvania. He is a civil/municipal engineering manager for Spotts, Stevens and Williams, who resides in Cameron.

Amy (Johnson) Keck, legal assistant, is a paralegal for Ginn & Vickery, P.C., and resides in Wellsboro.

Benjamin A. Harvey, forest technology, is a forester for the Shetler Lumber Co. Inc. and resides in Cambridge Springs.

Rebecca Hoover, interior plantscape/floral design, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Penn State. She is a data-entry clerk for Hyatile Solutions Document Imaging and resides in Scranton.

Kathi L. (Geer) Davis, accounting, received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Lycoming College in 1983. She lives in Sterling Heights, Mich., and is staff accountant at Galaxy Plus.

David M. Jepko, electrical construction, is a broadband specialist for Service Electric Cablevision and lives in Mount Carmel.

Tammy M. Stine, business management, resides in Danville and is branch office administrator for Edward Jones Investments.

Richard Clayton Yingling, aviation maintenance technology, is pursuing a teaching certificate from Penn State and a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology from the Cleveland Institute of Electronics. He is an electronics instructor at the Mifflin-Juniata Career & Technology Center. Yingling, who lives in Yeagertown, serves as a member of Penn College’s Aviation Technology Advisory Committee.

David L. Danneker, computer information systems, is president of AM Metal Specialties and lives in Linden.

Heather J. (Hildebrand) Fink, architectural technology, resides in State College.

Laurie (Mansell) Mounts, dental hygiene, is a busy mother of three and fills in, when needed, for a corps of dentists. She lives in Rose Hill, Kan.

Deanna Lynn Cooper Sherman, business management, is a residence life assistant at Penn College and resides in Elkland.

David M. Heckert, architectural technology, received a bachelor’s degree in structural design and construction engineering technology from Penn State in 1993. Heckert is a project engineer for Kawneer Co. Inc. and resides in Weyers Cave, Va.
Blueprint for a Successful Career

Amanda McGinniss

Amanda McGinniss (architectural technology, Class of 2000) took her first architecture class in her junior year at Lock Haven High School, with a dream to someday drive past a building and proudly say, “I designed that.” Employed by a variety of architectural concerns while furthering her education, she ultimately earned a bachelor’s degree from Catholic University of America. McGinniss is a project manager for Donnally Vujicic Associates Architects in Gaithersburg, Md., hoping to design an entire building from concept through construction.

To learn more about her and other alumni, or to find out the latest news about alumni activities and events, visit www.pct.edu/alumni/, call 1-877-PCT-ALUM (toll free) or e-mail the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@pct.edu.

Amanda McGinniss attends Penn College’s May 2005 commencement exercises with her fiancé, Michael A. Gibble (architectural technology, Class of 2000), recipient of the 2005 Alumnus Achievement Award.

‘98

Paul Calice, culinary arts, is executive chef at the Ledgemont Country Club, a 300-person private country club. He resides in Ayer, Mass.

Brian Damweder, physician assistant, earned his master’s degree in physician assistant studies (internal medicine) from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He is a physician assistant with Lehigh Area Medical Associates and lives in New Tripoli.

David N. Fluck, computer-aided drafting technology, is a drafting engineer for Comtec Industries. He resides in DuPont and retired from the Pennsylvania National Guard with 20 years of service.

Mindy B. Foresman, civil engineering technology, is a transportation construction inspection supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. Foresman, who resides in Watsontown, is the current (and first female) president of the Williamsport chapter of the American Society of Highway Engineers.

Mitchell D. Fuhrman, toolmaking technology, is a toolmaker for Form Tool Technology and resides in Seven Springs with his wife, Wendy (Floyd) Fuhrman (human services, class of 1998).

Robert C. Hetzel, heating, ventilation and air conditioning/plumbing, is a maintenance technician for the North Allegheny School District. Hetzel resides in Gibsonia and has been a volunteer firefighter for six years.

Jessica L. (Brouse) Johnson, medical office assistant, earned her state license for licensed practical nurse from the Central Susquehanna LRN Career Center in 2005. She resides in Lewisburg and is employed by Lewisburg GYN/OB, through Evangelical Community Hospital.

Jeffrey Kasaczun, construction management, is project manager for HSC Builders and Construction Managers. Kasaczun, who resides in Philadelphia, is responsible for overseeing and managing projects in the hospital, biotech, and higher-education markets from start to finish.

Todd Mason, landscape/nursery technology, is regional sales manager for LESCO Inc. and is responsible for eight service centers and three stores on Wheels in the Philadelphia area and Eastern Shore of Maryland. He lives in Easton, Md.

Anthony Joseph Nickley, business management, is assistant manager for RentWay Inc. and resides in Northumberland.

Jeffrey Lee Paige, toolmaking technology, is a journeyman CNC technician for Northrop Grumman Information Technology Inc. He resides in Salisbury, Md.

‘99

David Marshall McRae, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, is an HVAC mechanic for the Flemington-Raritan Board of Education, where he oversees and performs HVAC maintenance for all of the district’s six schools. He lives in Frenchtown, N.J.

Leo Genimo, food and hospitality management, is regional manager for Blue Mountain Vineyards and resides in Harrisburg.

Joseph Kocevar, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a process engineer for Colortech Inc. and resides in Dandridge, Tenn.

Rebecca S. Miller, dietary management technology, resides in Palmyra and is a dietician technician for the Masonic Villages Healthcare Center.

Matthew D. Smaich, accounting, received a bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 2004. He is a bookkeeper/accountant for Cambria Systems Inc. and lives in Saint Michael.

‘00

Nicole S. Collister, applied human services, is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for SUNCOM Industries Inc. in Northumberland. Collister, who resides in Williamsport, has participated in and is a member of the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed as a professional in the field.

Angela R. (Myers) Hoffman, dental hygiene-health administration, is a registered dental hygienist for Elizabethtown Dental Associates and resides in Mount Joy.

Matthew M. Light, printing and publishing production, resides in Sinking Spring and is a prepress technician/Mac operator for Offset Impressions.

‘01

Nicole S. Collister, applied human services, is a vocational rehabilitation counselor for SUNCOM Industries Inc. in Northumberland. Collister, who resides in Williamsport, has participated in and is a member of the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed as a professional in the field.

Angela R. (Myers) Hoffman, dental hygiene-health administration, is a registered dental hygienist for Elizabethtown Dental Associates and resides in Mount Joy.

Matthew M. Light, printing and publishing production, resides in Sinking Spring and is a prepress technician/Mac operator for Offset Impressions.

continued next page
'03

Jason Beatty, toolmaking technology, is an engineer for Thompson Inc., and lives in Baltimore.

Brock Cahoon, culinary arts, is a sous chef at The Inn at Turkey Hill. He lives in Millville and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in English at Bloomsburg University.

Jennifer Dennis, paralegal studies, is officer manager for Michael Baxter & Associates, Commercial Real Estate. Dennis, who resides in Pocono Pines, says the instructors at Penn College are top-notch and enlighten students by giving them real-life experience so they are prepared when they leave the classroom to enter the "real world."

Tracy Lyn Gray, radiography and applied health studies, is a registered technologist at the Mount Nittany Medical Center. She and her husband, Ronald E. Jr. (electronics engineering technology, class of 2003), reside in State College.

Nina M. Jordan-Hummel, broadcast and mass communications, received a bachelor's degree in communications from Madison University in 2005. She is a customer-service representative for Risk Management Council Inc. Jordan-Hummel and her husband, William H. Hummel Jr. (computer information systems-networking and technical support, class of 2003), reside in Edgewood, Md. William Hummel earned a bachelor's degree in software engineering from Colorado Technical University in 2005. He is a senior computer operator for New Technology Management Inc.

Joseph Laudermilch, manufacturing engineering technology, resides in Emmaus.

Jonathan C. McKee, computer-aided product design, is drafting/designer at Solar Innovations Inc. McKee, who resides in Auburn, helped design and construct two new products that he hopes to display at Penn College's March Career Expo.

Ashley L. Miller, architectural technology, lives in South Williamsport and is a draftsperson for Carriage Manor Builders Inc.

Ryan L. Smith, electric power generation (and mass communications in 2003), is a field service technician for Whayne Supply, a Caterpillar dealership. He lives in Richmond, Ky.

Anna Rose Temple, surveying and civil engineering, lives in Turbotville and is a survey technician for Orangeville Surveying Consultants Inc.

'04

Samuel Bressi, computer information technology-data communications and networking, lives in Harrisburg and is an information technology specialist for the state House of Representatives.

John Connelly, building automation technology, is a firefighter/emergency medical technician for the District of Columbia Fire Department and lives in Welcome, Md.

Kimberly Parker Eaton, physician assistant, is pursuing a master's degree in medical science from Nova Southeastern University. She is a physician assistant in pediatric surgery at the Geisinger Medical Center and resides in Middletown.

Adam Eugene George, landscape/nursery technology, is employed by Shemin Nurseries Inc., and won its "Elite" award for sales and service achievement. He resides in Lansdale.

'05

Sarah Elizabeth Hrapowicki, architectural technology, is a draftsperson for Kuhns Brothers Log Homes and lives in McEwensville.

Brian S. Smith, business management, lives in Turbotville and is an associate manager at A.C. Moore.

Saki Atkinson, computer information systems-programming and database processing, resides in Nescopeck.

Isaac Bragunier, civil engineering, is employed by the state Department of Transportation as a civil engineer trainee and resides in Oil City.

Ellen Sue Heintzelman, general studies, is a student at Lycoming College, pursuing a degree in English/education. She lives in Mount Pleasant Mills.

Mary Katherine Keiffer, business administration, is an inpatient access associate at the Hershey Medical Center. She lives in Granville.

Joseph Clifton Kern, business administration-management information systems, is employed at the Research Triangle Institute as an assistant deputy program director to strategic initiatives. Kern, who resides in Evans, Ga., is thankful that his Penn College educational career placed so much importance on communication skills. He attributes his success in dealing with military personnel to the business, management and communication courses he took at the college.

Alan Donald Lehman, aviation technology, lives in Shady Grove and is a Federal Aviation Administration-certified mechanic for Hagerstown Aircraft Services. He is continuing his education in general studies at Hagerstown Community College.

Alexander V. Mros, collision repair technology, is a painter for Built-Rite Restorations, a company best-known for recreating/restoring muscle cars and cars used in television shows and movies. He resides in Stroasburg.

Brian Thomas Phillips, heavy equipment technician-Caterpillar, lives in Torrington, Conn., and is a Caterpillar mechanic for the H.O. Penn Machinery Co. in Newtown, Conn.

Karina (Thomas) Guerro, business administration-banking and finance, resides in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

HELP THE ALUMNI RELATIONS OFFICE HONOR WORTHY GRADUATES

Three of our annual awards recognize the outstanding professional and community contributions of our alumni:

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 is 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 is March 1.

3. **Alumni Citizenship/Humanitarian Award**
   - presented in December to two alumni who demonstrate distinguished community or volunteer service.
   - Nomination deadline is 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_awards.htm](http://www.pct.edu/alumni/alumni_awards.htm)
Students Create Web Pages for Area Nonprofits

Six groups of students recently completed an exercise in merging business with technology, designing Web sites to various nonprofit clients’ specifications – some of which will go online in the coming days.

As Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Spring 2006 semester drew to a close, the teams presented their final projects in Patricia Coulter’s Multimedia Fundamentals class while an informal Bush Campus Center audience judged the sites for appearance, functionality and information.

The overall winner was “Team Bulldog,” which designed an interactive children’s site for the Lycoming SPCA (www.lycoming.org/spca/kids). The playful Web pages include video of a puppy on “adoption day,” an online coloring book, practical tips on pet ownership and a directory of local veterinarians.

Members of the team were Sarah J. Shaffer, a technology management major from Shermans Dale; Benjamin L. Bryan, Spring City, information technology-web and applications development; Christopher A. Davis, McSherrystown, information technology-web and applications development; and Joshua D. Miller, Lock Haven, information technology-network specialist.

“The students I worked with did an excellent job for my Web site. I gave them the challenge to create a kids’ page and they ran with it,” said Victoria Stryker, SPCA executive director. “With the addition of the kids’ page, I believe we will receive even more exposure for our animals. Plus, the page will have the added benefit of teaching children about the proper care of animals.”

Other student-designed Web sites promoted “Victorian Homes in Williamsport”; the Community Alliance for Progressive Positive Action; the Sones Farm and Home Museum in Muncy; the South Williamsport Little League Challenger Division; and “Road Radio USA,” aimed at curtailing underage drinking and other destructive drug use.

The project was funded by a grant from the SEDA-Council of Governments. The presentations were followed by a small “film festival” of student-produced movies submitted for extra credit.

A tabletop display mirrors the colorful, playful aspects of the “SPCA for Kids” Web site designed by “Team Bulldog.”

Sarah J. Shaffer explains her group’s winning SPCA project in Penn’s Inn.

Like all of the multimedia projects, the Challenger Division display integrates visual and technological tools.
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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Soon-to-be graduates cross West Fourth Street in downtown Williamsport on their way to Spring 2006 commencement exercises in the Community Arts Center.