Construction of the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library at the main entrance to Pennsylvania College of Technology began in January 2005 and was completed on schedule for the official opening Aug. 14. The three-story, 104,000-square-foot facility is situated on the southwest corner of the entrance, adjacent to the Bush Campus Center and the Student and Administrative Services Center. Murray Associates Architects, P.C., Harrisburg, designed the building, and Lobar Inc., Dillsburg, was general contractor for the $17 million project. The facility was constructed with the help of $7 million in state funds.
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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When entering an impressive building for the first time, state Sen. Roger A. Madigan usually scans the signage and wonders about the identity of the individual whose name adorns the facility. When walking into the new library at Pennsylvania College of Technology, the legislator can skip that step.

The August opening of the $17 million Roger and Peggy Madigan Library not only ushered in a new era at Penn College, it also cemented the legacies of Madigan and his late wife, Peggy. Their names will be eternally connected to a resource center that will enrich generations of students and residents of their beloved northcentral Pennsylvania.

“It’s kind of mind-boggling when you stop and think how far in the future the library will be here,” said Madigan, 76. “How often we see names on buildings and wonder, ‘What’s the connection?’ or ‘Who was this individual?’ It’s truly an honor.”

And it’s a prominent recognition, thanks to the Madigan name mounted above the library’s two entrances and other visual acknowledgments throughout the stunning, three-story building.

“I think there’s no doubt that, when the Madigan family walks in the library’s front door and sees that beautiful portrait of Roger and Peggy, they will forever know that we have found a way to immortalize both of their contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our county and to Penn College,” said college President Davie Jane Gilmour.

After serving in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1977-84, Madigan, of Bradford County, was elected to the Senate in 1985. He serves as chairman of the Transportation Committee, vice chairman of the Game and Fisheries Committee, and is a member of the Appropriations, Labor and Industry, and Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees. In addition to his committee appointments, Madigan has been a longtime backer of the college and its immediate predecessor, Williamsport Area Community College.

“There’s a need out there in a lot of areas, and some of the great jobs are for graduates of colleges like Penn College, where students get hands-on experience in various trades,” explained Madigan, who has served on the college’s board of directors since 1991. “As I talk to companies who hire young people, they really look for those who come out of Penn College, because they have the hands-on experience. That’s why I’ve always been very supportive of the college. We’re truly unique in what we offer.”

Madigan, whose 23rd Senatorial District includes all of Bradford, Lycoming and Sullivan counties and parts of Susquehanna and Union counties, also has been a booster for libraries. Past recipient of the Legislators of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries, Madigan served on the governor’s library commission and attended White House sessions on libraries. For many years, he served on the board of directors for what is today the Bradford County Library.

“I’ve always had a real interest in libraries and a soft spot for them,” he said.

That interest developed in elementary school, when sickness led Madigan to discover the vast treasures offered by libraries.

“I had swollen glands, and I was out of school,” he recalled. “I think I went through every book in the county library for my age group! That really got me interested.”

Peggy Madigan, who died in January 2002 after a brief illness, shared her husband’s passion for libraries. A champion for children’s literacy, Peggy served as a special reading aide in the Troy School District. She possessed a volunteer literacy-tutor certificate and was active in the Friends of the Library and other organizations.
“Peggy really enjoyed helping young people,” Madigan said. “Knowing her interest in young people and education and the need for libraries and reading, it is a tremendous tribute to her.”

Gilmour agreed.

“Peggy Madigan was a wonderful woman, and to lose her so early in life was unfortunate,” she said. “This is a way that we can say, ‘Thank you,’ to Sen. Madigan and remember Peggy and her commitment to education. It just couldn’t come together in a better way.”

The decision to honor the Madigans played a pivotal role in turning the longtime dream of a new college library into a cherished reality, according to former state Rep. Brett O. Feese, who spearheaded the effort to acquire state funds for the facility.

“The motivating factor, why we gathered so much momentum, was clearly a desire in Harrisburg to honor Roger and Peggy,” said Feese, who also served on the college’s board of directors.

“There was no question we needed the new library, and then there was an opportunity to honor two wonderful people, so that’s when I married those two concepts.”

Thanks to excellent fiscal stewardship and planning, the college was poised to pay the balance of the proposed cost of the library if Feese could secure $7 million from the state’s capital budget. After a year-plus of deft political maneuvering, Feese got the Madigan project added to the budget and the funds released, all the while keeping the senator in the dark.

“I think we were just lucky,” smiled Feese. “There aren’t many secrets in Harrisburg. Roger is attuned to everything. Somehow, with divine intervention, it remained a secret.”

The secret was revealed in December 2002, when Feese announced the commonwealth’s fiscal commitment to the project and the name for the future library during an emotional college board of directors meeting.

“I will never forget that moment for as long as I live, when we saw Sen. Madigan’s face, when we heard the cheers from the crowd and from the library staff because it was a dream come true,” Gilmour said.

“I was totally overwhelmed,” recalled Madigan. “I had no idea. They really got me in a couple of ways, but it was certainly wonderful. I owe Rep. Feese a debt of gratitude, and I know Peggy would give him a kiss if she were here today, or several.”

Madigan’s pride isn’t centered solely on the library’s name. As an avid supporter of the institution, he’s excited by the new facility’s potential for the college and all its users.

“I think it can only enhance the reputation of Pennsylvania College of Technology,” he said. “I think it will have a very positive impact. This is the type of library that is going to impress our young people. This can be a major part of their future.”

And Madigan, whose name adorns the sign above the front door of the new building, believes the library will be part of his future, as well.

“I plan on using it, yes, the good Lord willing,” he said.

“This is a way that we can say, ‘Thank you,’ to Sen. Madigan and remember Peggy and her commitment to education.”
During its early existence, the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library has proven to be an awe-inspiring resource, enriching thousands of students and daily visitors. But the roots for Pennsylvania College of Technology’s new campus jewel are a bit less conspicuous: an index card.

The crowning success of the 104,000-square-foot library can be traced to a 3-by-5-inch card in the hands of architect Benedict H. Dubbs Jr. Relying on invaluable input from college officials and library staff, Dubbs began a three-year odyssey with the simple stroke of a fountain pen on the plain paper.

“It’s an amazing process,” said Dubbs, executive vice president and the principal responsible for architecture and interior design at Harrisburg-based Murray Associates Architects, P.C. “It’s one that you never tire of, the joy you get when you walk into something that initially started out just in your mind and on a small piece of paper, and now it’s a three-dimensional living, breathing entity.”

The Madigan Library was the 11th construction or renovation project at the college undertaken by Murray Associates, whose principals include D. Michael Frye, a graduate of Penn College’s immediate predecessor, Williamsport Area Community College.

“Murray Associates is an incredible architect,” said Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour. “They’ve done great work on campus. It was important that we stayed connected to them because they understand us, and they deliver a building within the financial parameters that we give them. Too many times, architects want to make a monument to their firm. Benedict and Mike Frye always respected the fact that we needed a world-class building within our budget.”
Charged with the responsibility of designing a highly anticipated entity on a campus already rich in beauty – while accounting for myriad facility requirements and resources – could be intimidating. For Dubbs, grabbing that initial index card was exciting. “It was really a wonderful opportunity because the library is one of those buildings that transforms a campus or has the ability to transform a campus,” he said. “We were really happy to be awarded the commission and the challenge of designing a library that wasn’t going to be a typical library.”

The needs of students devoted to more than 100 technology-driven majors were paramount in the design of the facility, which, in meeting the standards for the Association of College and Research Libraries, is roughly four times the size of the college’s previous library. “It had to be 100-percent user-friendly,” Gilmour emphasized. “It had to be a place, as I have said from the very beginning, that students want to come and spend a whole day.”

With a capacity for 17,000 linear feet of collections, seating for 1,000 patrons, 14 study rooms, nearly 250 computers, wireless Internet access and expanded archives, along with a café and art gallery, all earmarked for the new library, Dubbs knew the facility would be enticing to students. It was his job to create an inviting design, so the library would become an integral part of campus rather than a passing curiosity. “This institution does a phenomenal education ‘spec,’ which serves as the guidelines for the building,” Dubbs explained. “Having read that multiple times, I thought of the relationship among the library, the (Bush) Campus Center, the Student and Administrative Services Center and the main entrance. What should be solid? What should be void? You start thinking about those basic design concepts.

“You really start to think of what it feels like to actually walk through the spaces as you’re developing the sketch. You’re thinking three-dimensionally, even though you’re limited to doing it two-dimensionally on a piece of paper with a fountain pen.”

Hundreds of Dubbs’ individual sketches led to encompassing schematic drawings, illustrating each area of the library and the flow for the entire facility. The schematic phase eventually generated final construction documents, the contractors’ bible for building the Madigan Library.

The result, both externally and internally, met the high expectations of the college. “I think the building, in and of itself, is an inspired design,” said Senior Vice President William J. Martin, who oversaw construction for the college administration. “I believe there are certain features that will be touchstones for folks coming into campus.”

Such touchstones include arresting angles and a façade consisting of oversized, cast-stone metal panels and a glass-curtain wall complementing the neighboring Student and Administrative Services Center. Towering red panels give the building its own flair while connecting the structure to red splashes visible on the Campus Center and the pillars dotting the college’s main entrance. A galvanized-steel icon housing a campus clock, highlights the distinctive nature of the facility.

“We’re an institution that is based in technology, and, therefore, it would be inappropriate for us to build a sort of an ivy-covered-wall building that would be red brick and say something other than technology,” Gilmour said. “That’s not what we are about.”

While the Madigan Library clearly conveys the institution’s commitment to technology, it does so in a warm, inviting manner. “The building has a personality,” Gilmour said. “I think it has a personality that says, ‘Come on in and get comfortable.’”

Once inside, patrons are bathed in natural light, courtesy of a 90-foot-long skylight. The sunshine pours onto the second floor and the first floor’s polished tile walkway, inviting users deeper into the three-floor structure. “Even though many people think tile is cold, when the natural sunlight hits the tile, it’s a very warm feeling,” said Dubbs. “The way the natural light moves, it almost pulls you into the space.”

The allocation of space is one of the unique features of the library. “There are not a lot of partitions within the library,” Dubbs said. “There’s a sense of space made by furnishings, materiality and scale.

continued next page
The library provides a wonderful opportunity to go from a large, open space to where there might be a lot of people to a very small, intimate space."

The three-story atrium, two-story reading room, law alcove and other areas all offer unforgettable views of the region’s inherent beauty.

“Anywhere you go, you get a wonderful view of the campus or mountains – or the sky; if you look up, you see the sky,” said Lisette N. Ormsbee, director of the library.

When Dubbs looks up at the library, he sees the culmination of a labor of love.

“It’s a very emotional feeling to know that it started out as a small, little sketch,” he said. “Then, to walk in and actually see the built environment as a finished product is extremely gratifying.”

Users of the Roger and Peggy Madigan Library marvel at the facility’s beauty and amenities. For alumni Michael H. Miller and Andrea L. Mull, the library offers a different type of focus: rocks.

Miller, horticulture/grounds and motor pool supervisor, and Mull, horticulture/motor pool lead person, designed and constructed a 32-by-47-foot water feature, which, courtesy of thousands of rocks and a couple of soothing falls, adds a lasting touch of woodland beauty to the library’s Hagan Way entrance.

“We call it the ‘Falls at Madigan,’” said Mull, a 1987 forest technology graduate. “It was a major undertaking.”

Miller envisioned the ambitious project shortly after the college’s board of directors committed to the new library.

“I wanted to do something different that could not be done with plant material alone,” he said. “It was a way to give back to the college.”

Miller and Mull selected most of the rocks and boulders from the property of Jim and Joe Ertel in South Williamsport, who donated the stone to the college. Eight dump-truck loads a day (for three days a week in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006) brought a seemingly endless pile of rocks to campus.

The final destination for many of the smaller rocks was the bottom of a gaping hole dug for the pond. After HVAC and plumbing support was applied, the six-person college grounds crew installed a massive rubber liner and began the painstaking process of strapping individual rocks and using an extendable forklift to artfully arrange the boulders around the pond.

“I had many sleepless nights,” Miller said about the 35-day process. “I was worried about someone getting hurt. Sometimes, when a rock was extended over the pond, you could hear the strap creaking.”

By mid-June, nobody was hurt, and nature’s invitation to the Madigan Library was complete.

“The water feature is relaxing and very inviting,” Mull said. “It connects our surrounding mountains to campus, and it provides a little oasis.”

For Miller, the eye-catching result meets his goal and showcases the talents of his crew.

“My crew went above and beyond what they were expected to do,” he said. “We take great pride in our work. Whatever it takes to get it done, we do. I thank Dr. Gilmour (Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour) for having the confidence in us and giving us the opportunity.”

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- Tom Speicher
Not Your Father’s Library

Powerful Technologies Move Information Quickly, Efficiently

by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/editor

With 110,000 print and media volumes, the Madigan Library remains a rich source for traditional information resources, but it also provides cutting-edge education and research tools, offering many “firsts” on Penn College’s technology-rich campus.

“The Madigan Library was built to grow with evolving information technologies,” explained Lisette N. Ormsbee, director of the Madigan Library. “Today’s library collections are a moveable feast – crossing boundaries between the print and online worlds.”

According to Ronald Z. Miller, director of desktop computing, the college’s Information Technology Services invested about $500,000 into technology in the library to help keep the two worlds in accord.

“That’s just computers, printers, digital signage, tables, chairs – the technology people touch,” he said. It does not include the network infrastructure that supports the tactile technology.

The library is equipped with 250 computers. Thirty are laptops that may be signed out for use within the library. Forty are stationed near the reference desk to allow students to perform research using the library’s online database. Eight are look-up stations spaced among the bookshelves to browse the library’s collection using its online catalog. One hundred are in an open-lab complex for student use, and 60 are in two information-literacy classrooms.

“Considering what the library used to look like, there’s a huge, huge difference,” said Mark Capellazzi, a sophomore from Rochester, N.Y., pursuing a bachelor’s degree in culinary arts and systems, who had plugged his laptop into a power outlet on one of the desks. “There are more computers. You can come here and not have to worry about cords or anything. Some of this was available in the old library, but it wasn’t as dependable.”

Incorporating new and changing technologies helps the library serve its basic function to provide resources that aid learning and teaching.

“As we watch the publishing landscape change in response to market forces, we endeavor to remain in sync with the real information needs of our students.”

Photos clockwise from top:
Physical connections throughout the building – like these pop-up desk outlets – provide access to electrical power and the college network.
Eight look-up stations permit patrons to browse the library’s collection using the online catalog.
A 40-inch LCD panel display in the lobby provides visitors with the time, weather, a scrolling news feed from The Associated Press and information about upcoming college events.
The open computer lab complex in the Madigan Library offers 100 computers for student use.

continued next page
High-Tech Support for Those With Disabilities

The Madigan Library’s technology includes four workstations that are Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant and offer assistive software. They are in classrooms, as well as in the reading and research areas.

“The idea is to give a sense of inclusivity,” said Lisette N. Ormsbee, director of the Madigan Library, as opposed to having such accommodations set off separately.

The workstations are placed on adjustable-height desks for users who need to have the keyboard or monitor adjusted to optimal viewing level. With the push of a button, the height is adjustable from 30 inches to 48 inches.

They are equipped with a trackball instead of a traditional mouse, which allows people with limited arm or hand movement to move the cursor by moving only their fingers.

The computer stations also include larger monitors and scanners that scan text and turn it into an electronic file that can be used with a variety of word-processing, page-layout and spreadsheet applications, as well as refreshable Braille displays. Users can also use software that magnifies the text or reads it using a synthetic voice. Another program converts spoken words into text, when dictation is needed to replace typing.

The library’s circulation desk offers two laptops with assistive software programs, as well as a headphone and speaker system to aid users with limited hearing and the visually impaired who use devices to read material.

— Jennifer A. Cline

students in their chosen fields of study,” Ormsbee said. “Those needs compel us toward excellence in all services.”

High-tech, inside and out

Some of the library’s technology can be enjoyed without entering the building. Four speakers on the library’s roof project the clock’s “chimes” across campus.

Inside, a closet holds the clockworks – a personal digital assistant (or handheld computer). The PDA’s memory card holds the clock’s program and hundreds of melodies that can play as a chime – including the college’s alma mater.

Joining the speakers on the library’s roof are antennas at each corner of the building that allow wireless access to the college’s network from each of the outside seating areas.

What’s going on?

Just inside the library is an industrial-strength 40-inch Sony LCD panel that keeps visitors informed. Separate sections of the screen display the time and weather, a scrolling news feed from The Associated Press, and a message area that can display text or video – usually announcing college events.

“It’s the institution’s first foray into digital signage,” Miller said. “It’s very similar to an airport’s digital signing system.”

Hardwired

While every corner of the library provides wireless network access, physical connections have been installed throughout the building to give users access to power or to the network.

“At times, students elect to bring their personal laptop to the library. We have provided power outlets near selected seating areas to assist students who find their laptop battery needing a charge,” Miller said.

Outlets are provided in walls, where available, and several desks are equipped with pop-up outlets in the center.

Classrooms

Technology permeates two information-literacy classrooms in the library. Each of the classrooms contains 30 student computers. By comparison, the previous library had one information-literacy classroom with 21 computers.

Because the rooms are wide, they are equipped with two ceiling-mounted projectors and screens. A digitizer uses state-of-the-art technology to project opaque items – such as textbooks and three-dimensional objects – onto the screens.

For the first time, each classroom’s podium is equipped with a control panel that allows teachers to control the room’s projector, VCR, DVD player and digitizer. It reduces the need for remote controls and problems with low batteries. The podium controls are networkable.

“What this means to the campus is that it can be controlled remotely,” Miller said.

So, if a teacher has difficulties with equipment while making a presentation, a member of the audiovisual team can remotely troubleshoot the problem, eliminating the time waiting for a technician. In addition, a program has been set to turn off all networked projectors at the end of each night.

“It’s not unlikely for projectors to be left on at the end of class. … We spend a lot of money on data projector bulb replacement. … Prior to this, they may have been left on all night,” Miller said.

A second control panel is installed on the side of each podium to make it easier to reach from a wheelchair.
Although conducting research for a paper or project once meant students trekking to the library and searching in a large cabinet filled with thousands of alphabetized cards for a book that matched their query, today’s Pennsylvania College of Technology students can find the same information by turning on a computer and clicking to the library’s Web site.

There, they can search the Madigan Library’s collection using its online catalog. If they want a book that is not in the library, they can search through “EZBorrow,” immediately finding out whether the book is available from any of 60 participating libraries in Pennsylvania. In three to five days, the book is delivered to the Madigan Library’s circulation desk.

In addition, librarians and Penn College faculty work together to develop “course guides,” accessible through the library’s Web site. They point collision-repair students to such online resources as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and link students in an international marketing course to market reports. Also available are databases and quick-reference links to tools that include dictionaries and specialized calculators.

“In 1998, we had one online database,” said Lisette N. Ormsbee, director of the Madigan Library. “Now we have close to 90 online databases – each with its own structure, its own different way of searching – so that has created more of a need for mediation, and that’s where students get help from a librarian.”

Questions can always be addressed in person, but if a patron is researching from home, and coming to the library is not convenient (or he or she simply doesn’t want to leave one of the library’s cozy study corners), the patron may send a question to the reference desk in the form of an instant message through AOL Instant Messenger software. Those with computer problems may also send an instant message to a computer technician for immediate assistance.

“Today’s library collections are a moveable feast – crossing boundaries between the print and online worlds.”

“Teachers are students, too

Library staff requested a place in the Madigan Library for faculty to collaborate and learn about trends in teaching and learning, as well as subjects they want to teach in class, such as new technologies or research findings.

A comfortable room was set aside for that purpose and equipped with two computers, a printer and a DVD/VHS combination television. It also contains a library of books and journals of interest to teachers.

“Students helping students

A student help desk – for which students are hired to help other students resolve software-related computer problems – was relocated here from another building. It averages 50 calls a week, with most problems related to spyware and viruses.

“In design of ‘The Madigan,’ we thought it would be beneficial to have everything in a central location for students, so we added the student help desk,” Miller said.
Reynolds Iron Works, where alumnus Joseph H. Reynolds serves as vice president, is responsible for the 400 tons of structural steel – and many custom-steel elements – in the new library.
Bill Sober, a 1971 graduate of Williamsport Area Community College, a forerunner of Pennsylvania College of Technology, says the Madigan Library’s reference and circulation desks are unique – in fact, they’ve never been done before.

“You won’t see anything like this anywhere else in the world,” he said.

Sober has firsthand knowledge. Working in research and development for Brodart Co.’s Library Furniture Division, he helped to build the desks, making sure all the pieces fit properly. That was no easy task, he noted, because the desks’ components combine curves and angles in various directions on one piece of wood.

A carpentry and building construction major, Sober said he never did go into the carpentry field, though he’s been around it all his life.

“It happened that I got a job in the kitchen-cabinet industry,” he said. He has remained in cabinetry since, but said he continues to use the skills he learned at W.A.C.C. every day.

At Brodart, Sober has built furniture for many libraries that he’ll likely never see.

“It was an interesting change. I’ve done libraries all over the country – all over the world,” he said. “Then, to do one in your own hometown, and right here at your alma mater – even though it’s been 30-some years, still, it’s my alma mater.”

Also among alumni who have a connection with the building is John Diggan, a market/product manager for Koroseal Wall Protection in Muncy.

A 1980 business administration graduate of W.A.C.C., Diggan’s company produces Wall Talkers, a paint-on wall covering that can be used as an alternative to pull-down screens to project images. The product is used in some of the library’s data-projector-equipped group-study rooms.

Diggan is accustomed to connecting with his alma mater. His company has been working with the college’s Plastics Manufacturing Center to help develop a new compound and has twice used the college’s facilities for training meetings.

In 2005, the company donated a plastics processing machine for use in the plastics and polymer technology labs and the PMC.

Alumnus Joseph H. Reynolds, vice president of Reynolds Iron Works in Williamsport (and father of two current Penn College students), played a large part in the Madigan Library construction – as the company has in many Penn College building projects.

The company not only was responsible for the 400 tons of structural steel that frame the library, but also for many of the custom steel elements that add to its character – and that visitors see and touch.

Most immediately visible is the clock tower that stands at the library’s entrance. Reynolds Iron Works fabricated and erected the structure, which serves as an icon throughout the building.

Other custom elements include steel-and-glass handrails on the second-floor atrium and the open stairway that leads from the first floor to the second.

The company also produced steel for all the conventional stairways and framing for elevator shafts, the roof mechanical screen, and the structural steel that frames the skylights. Reynolds Iron Works also made grates, stairways and handrails at the open areas on the sides of the building for air intake and exhaust from basement mechanical rooms.

According to Andrew M. Richardson, Penn College’s clerk of the works/construction manager, Reynolds Iron Works fabricated – and in most cases erected – the steel for most of the college’s building and renovation projects in recent years, including those at the Student and Administrative Services Center, the Schneebeli Earth Science Center, the Klump Academic Center, the Community Arts Center, College Avenue Labs, the Bush Campus Center, the Lumley Aviation Center, Rose Street Apartments and the Breuder Advanced Technology and Health Sciences Center.
Creating a Space for Art: The Gallery at Penn College Moves to ‘The Madigan’

An art gallery is much more than a designated space. Though one can assign a room – or a portion of a building – as a gallery space, ideally, more planning is involved.

The planning for a gallery within the Madigan Library on the campus of Pennsylvania College of Technology began in 2004. Keith A. Vanderlin, instructor of graphic design, was given the task of providing the educational specifications. This involved researching gallery spaces to identify the elements that must be included in such a facility.

Vanderlin took the job to heart and traveled to art galleries and museums across Pennsylvania. Through these visits, he was able to explore gallery features that seemed to work well, as well as features that did not work. Factors included walls, portable walls, floors, lights, pedestals, hanging systems, workrooms, offices, storage and more.

Many galleries (the term “gallery,” as used here, is inclusive of museums) used carpet on the permanent walls. These special-order wall coverings allow nails to be driven in and then removed without showing the nail holes. This would seem to provide a benefit. No plaster fill or paint would be necessary, resulting in uniform walls with fewer labor hours. Several color choices were available.

But, along with each choice came many more questions. What sort of look would the carpet wall covering provide? Would it be consistent with the overall look of the building? Were there any disadvantages to the carpet? How many years would the carpet last?

To answer some of these questions, Vanderlin had to survey others. Gallery managers, museum directors and artists were helpful in exploring the advantages and disadvantages of the carpet wall covering. If the carpet was too dark, the space would appear small. It would be hard to light artwork with the carpet absorbing the light. If the carpet was light in color, it promptly showed dirt.

The final decision was to recommend in the specifications that white walls be installed – specifically, plywood faced with drywall for a clean, strong, professional look.

Related to the walls, another central feature of the gallery could be its ability to change appearance. This could be achieved through the use of modular wall units. Again, much research into portable walls led Vanderlin to suggest that 8-foot-high, free-standing walls be constructed. The layout and use of the walls would be adjusted and changed for each new exhibit. A similar process was followed for decisions on lighting, flooring and all other essential components of the gallery.

When the educational specifications were complete, they were passed on to the college administration and the project’s architect. The specifications were a vital part of the design process of the gallery space.

Much planning went into the design and layout of The Gallery at Penn College. But in the end, this beautiful space becomes the backdrop for exhibitions of paintings, sculptures, prints, photographs, drawings and other media. These are the point and the purpose of the gallery: to exhibit high-quality works in a space that gives them room to breathe and stand out and allows them to speak to a viewer, inspire creativity or cause a response of any kind.

Showcasing contemporary art is an endeavor in itself. There is no one stylistic term to describe contemporary art; the variety found can be considered a reflection of contemporary society. Certainly, this applies whether the artist intends to make a social statement or not. It is the process – and, ultimately, the environment in which the work was created – that will permeate the work and reflect the current social landscape.
The gallery receives entries from artists working in paint, ceramic, fiber, paper, wood, metal, photography and mixed media. Within these categories, the works run from traditional to experimental to conceptual, encompassing everything in between. It is here that the gallery is guided by its mission statement:

The Gallery at Penn College provides a cultural asset to Pennsylvania College of Technology and local communities. The gallery is dedicated to promoting art appreciation and understanding through its exhibitions of traditional, experimental and contemporary art. The gallery strives to be an important instructional resource for students, and provides a venue for showcasing student excellence.

Upon reading the statement, “cultural asset,” “art appreciation and understanding,” and “instructional resource” seem to be of utmost importance. Therefore, the selection of work to exhibit is imperative to the success of the gallery in upholding the mission statement. The work must have meaning and depth in order to fulfill the tasks laid out.

Providing this strong and solid basis through a well-planned exhibition schedule, Penn College instructors, as well as instructors from other educational institutions, are encouraged to bring students to the gallery. Classes can view exhibits, discuss or debate meaning, sketch from the artwork, listen to an artist talk or simply sit and relax among intriguing works of art.

The presence of a gallery within a growing, technology-based environment is vital to the college experience. Expanding The Gallery at Penn College supports a well-rounded college campus. In a time of budget cuts within the arts, many students have not been exposed to art, much less visited a gallery or museum. This may seem incomprehensible to those who have attended schools with well-funded art departments, but it is a reality in our society today.

We may or may not support art-funding cuts, we may or may not place value on art, but art is an essential part of life. Penn College has set a standard for the promotion and exhibition of art for the Greater Williamsport area.

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African Artwork Gifted to Gallery

A gift from a Pittsburgh couple has created The Gallery at Penn College’s first permanent collection.

Since 1955, Michael Stuhldreher and Carol Totten have collected approximately 500 art pieces that represent a wide spectrum of time and almost every region of the world, as well as 700 art books that relate to the works. They have donated to the gallery their 20-piece African art collection, which includes such functional pieces as masks, baskets and a Kenyan headrest used to avoid ground-borne creatures while sleeping.

The collection consists of useful, three-dimensional pieces, Stuhldreher explained, because most tribes are nomadic and do not hang art from walls. The same is largely true – except for weavings – of a collection of Latin American art the couple decided to lend to the gallery.

“What makes the collection so valuable to our students is that it is a broad cross section of the type of art that’s crafted in a region,” said Lenore G. Penfield, gallery director. “And, because of the art books, the students can get a good feel for that particular genre of the art.”

Stuhldreher and Totten have gathered their collections based on aesthetics – buying what appeals to them. They have purchased artwork both directly from craftspeople during their travels and from galleries. Some pieces were given to Stuhldreher as gifts in exchange for architectural services, including a pair of figures from Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa, the Catholic Church’s first African cardinal.

“Behind every piece is a story of where it was seen, where we bought it,” Stuhldreher explained.

Totten and Stuhldreher have promised the rest of their collection – both artwork and books – as a bequest. A friend had suggested they donate the collection to a college or library. Because Stuhldreher’s son, Tim, lives in Williamsport, he knew Penn College was building a new library that included a gallery.

“We feel very good about it going there,” he said.

— Jennifer A. Cline, writer/editor

Above, left to right:
A popular piece in Africa, this headrest from the Turkana Pokot Tribe in Kenya is used while sleeping to keep the head elevated and avoid bugs and ground-borne animal life.

This figure, made from ebony wood, was a gift from Cardinal Laurean Rugambwa to Michael Stuhldreher, who believes it was probably made by the Masai Tribe.

This mask from Mali includes gilt, yarn, brass and wood. It may have been featured in agricultural ceremonies.
Did you hear the one about the college administrator on a secret mission to South Philadelphia, accompanied by undercover state troopers to stem the proliferation of unscrupulous trade schools catering to World War II veterans? Probably not … yet.

But thanks to an ongoing archival project that applies latter-day technology – digital video – to the ancient tradition of storytelling, that remembrance by William Homisak, dean of continuing education at Williamsport Area Community College, was among the anecdotes unearthed in interviews conducted at its successor, Pennsylvania College of Technology.

The Oral History Project fittingly was undertaken by Lisette N. Ormsbee, director of the Madigan Library, who interviewed Dr. Donald B. Bergerstock on audiotape for the college’s “Diamond 10” anniversary in 1999. Born to the task, he began his employment at Williamsport Technical Institute in 1961, watched the school evolve to W.A.C.C. four years later and retired from Penn College in the late 1990s.

Before leaving campus as dean of business and computer technologies, he spent six months organizing the college archives, which, until recently, occupied a tiny back room at the former library in the Learning Resources Center.

That initial interview has been supplemented by Patricia A. Scott, collection development librarian and archivist, and Daniel J. Doyle, a retired professor of history and 1984 recipient of the college’s Master Teacher Award.

During the 2005 W.T.I. alumni reunion, Scott recorded interviews with six graduates: Gladys Knauss (1945, radio communications); Joann Rishel (1953, secretarial), Mary Ellen Bowen (1963, nursing), Donald Osman (1957, patternmaking), and two secretarial graduates who went on to longtime careers at the college – Judy Winder (1963) and Arlene Deppen (1964).

Doyle sat down with Homisak; Kenneth E. Carl, W.A.C.C.’s first president; James P. Bressler, former dean of applied arts; and Joseph G. Sick, a longtime faculty member at both of Penn College’s predecessors and first director of the Earth Science Center, whose insights and reminiscences from those earlier days provide a keen and unique commentary.

They talk glowingly of former students, colorfully of their experiences and flatteringly of their colleagues – especially of the visionary who started it all, George H. Parkes, W.T.I.’s founder.

Why bother? What’s so important about institutional memory, anyway?

“I would visit any plant, not only in a 10-county area, but all over, so, when they asked for training, I’d know what they needed.”

William Homisak, on his legacy

“We wanted to learn how to do things.”

The mission might well be summed up by a comment from Doyle at the close of his talk with Bressler, a highly regarded archaeologist with an infectious respect for yesterday: “It’s important to understand the history that has preceded this point … and that you and others established a crucial foundation that allowed Williamsport Area Community College and Pennsylvania College of Technology to evolve into the institutions that they became.”

Scott adds that the interviews supplement the documentary record, breathing life into papers and photographs filed away in the archives and vividly recreating the appearance of campus long after certain buildings and their uses have fallen to dust.

“I’m most proud of (the bringing together of the vocational and the academic departments, melding them into one school. I think we’re seeing the success of that now with the enrollment picking up all the time.”

Kenneth E. Carl, on his legacy
to the brave women who confidently strode onto the comparable man’s turf of higher education.

“The interesting thing about the women is that they never think what they did was important,” Scott notes. “They don’t see it as any big deal, when, in fact, it’s a huge deal.”

By themselves, their accounts provide disparate threads of memory; woven together, they form a portrait of the pioneering spirit that brought a technical school out of a basement and into national pre-eminence. Some strands are constant throughout, not the least of which is the institutional accent on applied education.

“We wanted to learn how to do things,” says Bowen, who donated a nurse’s uniform and other memorabilia to the archives. “You know, you can read so many textbooks, but, when you get into a situation, you can learn from experience – from someone who has done that.”

Part of a tight-knit class that ranged from 55-year-old women to “young girls right out of (high) school,” she says her experience with cooperative education at Divine Providence Hospital quickly emphasized the importance of hands-on activity – the hallmark of vocational education throughout the college’s history.

“It was the happiest part of my life because it was something I wanted to do,” she recalls. “I feel very proud – of course, their education is far more advanced than what we got – when I see all the (licensed practical nurses) at Williamsport (Hospital and Medical Center) now, it makes me feel good to know that we helped open the door.”

Bowen’s demeanor is typical of participants: appreciative of being asked, but humble about one’s own contribution.

“What is evident is how important this process has been to those who have been interviewed,” Doyle said. “They clearly recognize the importance of preserving the past and are acutely aware of the connection of past, present and future. They have been very pleased with the overall state of the college at present and are optimistic about its future. However, I think they want to preserve the contributions of many from the past.”

Among the stories that have surfaced under gentle, yet probative questioning:

• A number of vocational innovations designed to get people to work (and keep them working), including disabled United Mine Workers employees, returning veterans – even a group of minimum-security inmates, brought to campus under armed guard for welding instruction and locked in the shop until class ended

• The struggles to operate the Brock Farm near Muncy – complete with chickens, pigs and cattle – a challenging forerunner to the forestry, horticulture and other programs that were reborn at the Earth Science Center

• Delivery of the college’s first computer in the early 1960s, so heavy that the floor beneath it was braced with springs

Such wide-ranging tales are emblematic of gathering oral histories, Scott noted, as interviewees “offer a different perspective on the same events, helping to flesh it out.” There is one thing on which all the subjects agree – what Bressler calls the “persistence” of the W.T.I founder.

“He took us over to what were then the shops on Susquehanna Street,” Bressler says of Parkes. “We went down to the basement. Next to the welding shops was this huge space just full of junk, dirt, grime and grease. And he said, ‘If you’re the man I think you are, you’re gonna take this and make a department out of it.’”

“Behind every great institution stands the shadow of one man – that was Dr. George Parkes,” he adds. “As beautiful a place as you now have, as functional, as nice a job as you’re doing here, it wasn’t always so. It had to have its growing pains; it had to evolve from something small. I think every student that comes here should at least be cognizant of the fact that you grew out of something before this.”
“IT’S AMAZING what you can accomplish when you have the room to accomplish it,” says Patricia A. Scott, celebrating the vastly larger home of the Pennsylvania College of Technology archives in the Madigan Library.

Once closeted within the old college library, the archives now occupy adjoining rooms on the third floor of the magnificent facility – showcasing the history of an institution that’s awash in it. Where once mementos “were just pretty much anywhere we could keep them,” the archives now offer public display areas and space for proper cataloging and storage.

Drawers full of items have accumulated over the years, and some material recently was donated as an offshoot of video interviews of graduates and former administrators.

“Usually, with an oral history, it will remind them that they have things,” Scott explains. “Sometimes, it’s drawings; sometimes, it’s papers that help us fill in the blanks.” One former administrator donated two architectural designs – one for a 1970s-era Applied Arts and Sciences Building that never was constructed.

Eclectic relics reside in the archives: a bright-green jacket owned by “Bill,” a one-time carpentry student; a ponderous glass brick from a window of the former aviation center; such reminders of a vanished past as a photo of the Williamsport Area Community College band and a Cinema Club T-shirt; and a portrait of Frederick C. Wagner, a late Williamsport Technical Institute alumnus and architect for a renovation project at the Klump Academic Center.

Some of the material points to long-gone days – a scrapbook from a student-run farm near Muncy, for one. Many presage the continuing vitality of hands-on majors such as aviation, welding and printing.

“The important thing for me, personally, is that we’ve changed so much in the past 15 years,” Scott says. “Moving ahead by leaps and bounds, it’s easy to forget where we began.” Two display cases of nursing memorabilia may retrace those deep, vocational roots, but they also remind that “we’re still teaching many of those same skills.”

“They haven’t gone away,” she said.

– Tom Wilson
MADIGAN LIBRARY VIDEO Available Online

“One for the Books: the Madigan Library,” a Pennsylvania College of Technology video examining how the $17 million facility was conceived and constructed – as well as its impact on the college and local communities – can be accessed online at www.pct.edu/madiganlibrary/videos.htm.

The video may be viewed in six segments – “The Dream,” “History,” “Opportunity,” “Design,” “Realization” and “Impact” – ranging from 2 minutes, 22 seconds to 4 minutes, 51 seconds.

ONLINE AUCTION MARCH 5 – 16 to Benefit Library

All work and no play? No way!
Reward yourself for your hard work and generous spirit!

Join the fun and participate in Pennsylvania College of Technology’s first Online Auction March 5-16.

Support a great cause by bidding on these items that can help you relax and enjoy your free time with family and friends:

• **Luxurious, four-person whirlpool spa** from PDC Spas

• **Weekend Escape Package** for two, featuring dinner in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant, tickets to Three Men and a Tenor at the Community Arts Center, and overnight accommodations in the Victorian House at Penn College

• **Exclusive dinner for 10** in the grand dining room of the Victorian House at Penn College

• **Machined aluminum and brass chess set** in a hand-crafted wooden case

• **Collector’s package** of Penn College memorabilia

All proceeds benefit the new Roger and Peggy Madigan Library.

Visit www.pct.edu/auction for detailed descriptions, rules, and instructions for submitting bids.
More than 50 students enrolled in Pennsylvania College of Technology’s paramedic and physician assistant majors helped with medical coverage at the 2006 Little League Baseball World Series. The students stood ready to offer medical services for the thousands who attend and participate in the 10-day international event in South Williamsport.

Paramedic students volunteered their time during games to help with emergency medical services, acting as support staff to Susquehanna Health System paramedics, who supervised them. The paramedic students are certified emergency medical technicians and expect to earn associate degrees in the paramedic major in August.

Each student received disaster EMS training – a requirement to participate. They volunteered for seven- to 10-hour periods, with several students signing up for multiple shifts.

Forty-five physician assistant students – all juniors and seniors – staffed the infirmary in International Grove, the residential area set aside for the baseball teams. Under supervision of Penn College physician assistant faculty members, and working in 12-hour shifts, they ran the infirmary 24 hours a day from the arrival of the first competing team to the end of the series.

For the past three years, Penn College students and faculty have had sole responsibility for staffing the infirmary, where they provide urgent care for players, coaches and their hosts (known as “uncles”). Participation has become a requirement of the course.

Off-Campus Landlords Participate in College Workshop

Pennsylvania College of Technology held its third annual Off-Campus Housing Landlord Luncheon and Workshop on Oct. 5, providing an opportunity for a wide-ranging discussion of health-and-safety and outreach issues and other matters of mutual interest.

The daylong program brought together off-campus landlords (who are on the college’s approved off-campus housing list), college staff and special guests to address a variety of topics related to students living off campus while attending Penn College.

“We are appreciative (the college) has the insight to continue an ongoing dialogue with area landlords,” said Edward Lyon Jr., of Penn Square Apartments and Lyon Associates. “Without a doubt, we learn something new each and every time we attend.”

Similar comments were offered by others among the 27 landlords attending the event, which was coordinated by Elliott Strickland, special assistant to the vice president for student affairs, and sponsored by the Student Affairs Office and the Off-Campus Housing Office at Penn College. Additional financial support was provided by an alcohol initiative grant through the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.

The workshop included presentations by Gerri F. Luke, assistant professor of business administration/marketing, on marketing strategies; Lisa Fogleman, Valley Prevention Services, on indicators of illegal drug use and the increase of binge drinking by college women; and Carl L. Shaner, director of student health services, and James E. Bies, assistant Penn College police chief, on the college’s Impaired Student Recovery Area – a health-and-safety initiative for students who pose a potential danger to themselves or others due to overconsumption of alcohol.

Carolyn Strickland, director of student life, along with Elliott Strickland, outlined the college’s new summer orientation program, “Connections,” and its impact on first-year students living off campus. Danielle M. Coakley, a senior from Howard majoring in graphic communications management, explained her role as a community assistant for off-campus students on Vine Avenue.

Chris E. Miller, Penn College Police chief, and Jill S. Landesberg-Boyle, vice president for student affairs, also were present to answer questions.
Helicopter Delivers Contribution as H&K Group Establishes Scholarship

A major construction and construction materials firm has established a scholarship fund at Pennsylvania College of Technology. The Haines and Kibblehouse Family of Companies, also known as The H&K Group, will provide an annual award of $1,000 beginning in the current academic year. The company plans to endow the scholarship, making it a permanent source of awards for students.

Company officials delivered their first contribution via helicopter, landing near the Student and Administrative Services Center before going inside to formally present the check to President Davie Jane Gilmour and other Penn College representatives. The Sept. 27 landing attracted the attention of curious campus onlookers, including a group of youngsters from the Children’s Learning Center at Penn College, who met the pilot and viewed the aircraft.

The H&K Group, Haines and Kibblehouse Family of Companies Scholarship targets students in the diesel technology or heavy equipment technology associate-degree majors and the construction management bachelor-degree major. The scholarship presentation coincided with on-campus job interviews conducted by H&K for students in those fields.

Preference will be given to applicants who are full-time students with a grade-point average of at least 2.5 and who are residents of Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Wayne, Wyoming or York counties.

The Skippack-based H&K Group is a family of companies with more than 70 locations throughout central and eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The firm provides construction aggregates and materials, asphalt materials, asphalt paving, ready-mix concrete, manufactured block and pavers, segmental retaining wall design and installation, site construction, demolition services and more.

The H&K Group employs approximately 2,000 employees, including many Penn College alumni. Tony Jeremias, director of external affairs, said The H&K Group has been extremely pleased with the talent it has drawn from Penn College.

New Academic Vice President/Provost Begins Work

When Lizabeth S. Mullens began her duties in Summer 2006 as Pennsylvania College of Technology’s new vice president for academic affairs/provost (the college’s chief academic officer), she characterized it as “coming home.”

Mullens’ impressive resume includes more than 25 years in higher-education administration and teaching at a variety of institutions, but the move to Penn College brought to mind the place where her professional career began: Tennessee Technological University. Over a nine-year period, Mullens served as Tennessee Tech’s associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, as well as director (and a faculty member) in the School of Home Economics.

“I believe that any move to a new environment requires observation, learning, exploring and adapting,” Mullens said. “However, I feel like I am ‘coming home’ here at Pennsylvania College of Technology, as this college fits so well with my values and goals and my wonderful experience at Tennessee Tech earlier in my life.”

Mullens came to Penn College directly from The Pennsylvania State University, where she served as director of the Women’s Leadership Initiative in the College of Health and Human Development since 2003, overseeing a program for undergraduate women students and alumnae mentors.

Mullens holds a Ph.D. in human ecology-interdisciplinary from the University of Tennessee. She earned a master’s degree in textiles and apparel from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor’s degree in home economics education from Miami (Ohio) University.

Though Mullens has worked in a variety of high-level administrative positions over the years, she considers it vital to remain in close contact with students in order to understand their needs.

“I entered academic administration early in my career while continuing to teach at least one class with every leadership position,” she said. “Staying connected to students is very important to me.”

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organizational memory has a strong, positive impact on performance.

Nick A. Vonada, associate professor of computer science, attended the Global Chair Leadership Academy at Koning Willem I College in ’s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, in June. The academy, based at Maricopa County Community College, Mesa, Ariz., is an international, limited-enrollment program for department chairs and other postsecondary administrators. The grant-funded visit was the culmination of Vonada’s yearlong training, during which he was mentored by Irwin H. Siegel, professor of business administration/business law.

In his presentation, “Coping with Globalization in Education Leadership,” a paper about the effects of globalization on distance learning, during the academy’s 15th Annual International Conference in April in Tucson, Ariz.

SCHOOL OF CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

Dennis R. Dorward, associate professor of building construction management, earned a doctorate from Indiana State University. Dorward, whose research was in construction project scheduling, was awarded a Ph.D. in technology management with a construction management specialization.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Regis C. Kohler, associate professor of radiography, was honored in the 10th edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” This is the second time Kohler has earned the recognition. Teachers who are honored in the book have been nominated by a former student. Students listed in “Who’s Who Among American High School Students,” “Who’s Who Among American High School Students-Sports Edition” and “The National Dean’s List” are invited to nominate a former teacher who has contributed significantly to their success and growth.

SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

Max E. Ameigh, part-time instructor of advertising art/ceramics, was honored for the second consecutive year in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” Ameigh’s biography appeared in the 10th edition of the book, and he was honored in the ninth edition, published in 2005.
Vinay Bahl, associate professor of sociology, had an article published in Dialectical Anthropology. Bahl’s article, “Shifting Boundaries of ‘Nativity’ and ‘Modernity’ in South Asian Women’s Clothes,” appeared in Volume 29, Issue 1. Published by Springer, Dialectical Anthropology is an independent, international interdisciplinary journal for critical minds in anthropology, the arts and humanities, and social and political sciences.

Nancy C. Bowers, associate professor of mathematics, was honored for the second consecutive year in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” Bowers’ biography was published in the 10th edition of the book and also appeared in the ninth edition.

William Ma, professor of mathematics, had a research paper, “Euclidean Properties of Hyperbolic Polar Coordinates,” published in the international, peer-reviewed journal Computational Methods and Function Theory, Volume 6, 2006. The journal, which publishes original research papers in complex analysis, is issued annually. An article by Ma also appeared in the 2005 volume.

Mark D. Noe, professor of English and composition, published an essay titled “Cather’s ‘O Pioneers!’” in the Spring 2006 issue of The Explicator, a quarterly journal publishing scholarly analyses of literary poetry and prose. In April, Noe read a paper, “By Fits and Starts: The Genesis of a Series Detective,” at the joint meeting of the Popular Culture Association and the American Culture Association in Atlanta. In June, he read a paper titled “Drifting, Hopeless, Obviously Incompetent ... Successes: Bill Barrett’s Pulp Pugilists” at the annual meeting of the Sport Literature Association at Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif.

Abdul B. Pathan, professor of economics, presented a paper titled “Using Current Events to Teach Principles of Economics” at the Pennsylvania Economic Association’s annual conference. The paper was published in the proceedings of the conference, which was held in June at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The association will hold its 2007 conference May 31 to June 2 at Penn College.

Laurie R. Reese, assistant professor of human services/social sciences, received a Daily Point of Light Award, presented during National Volunteer Week, in April. The award is given each weekday in honor of recipients who exemplify the best of volunteerism, a sense of caring, and responsibility for others that connects citizens and solves community problems. The award program is co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Knights of Columbus. Reese was nominated by staff at the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah, where he has volunteered. The center offers recreational experiences for disabled clients, their families and friends.

Debra A. Buckman, assistant professor of environmental technology, was included in the latest edition of two “Who’s Who” publications. Buckman was selected for the 2006-07 “Empire Who’s Who Registry for Executives and Professionals” and the 2007 edition of “Who’s Who of American Women.”

Steven R. Parker, instructor of environmental technology, was asked by a prime contractor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help American Indian tribes fight agroterrorism, the intentional attempt to compromise the country’s food supply. Parker was one of 100 people schooled through the AgTerror Preparedness Center at Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He was designated a “master trainer” during the three-day course. Parker trains tribal representatives to instruct tribal police officers, fire departments and others how to respond to an agroterror event.

Henryk R. Marcinkiewicz, associate vice president for academic affairs, conducted a seminar at the Educause annual conference in Texas on Oct. 9-12. The topic of the seminar was institutional planning for using technology in instruction. Educause is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.

Mark A. Paternostro, associate vice president for academic services, was honored for the third consecutive year in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” Paternostro’s biography appeared most recently in the 10th edition of the book.

Sharon Waters, director, and Patrice M. Friant, assistant director, presented the topic “The Not So Technical Steps to Developing a Technical Resume That Gets Results” at the annual conference of the Cooperative Education & Internship Association. The conference, which was billed as the CEIA 2006 Annual Conference and Cooperative Education Centennial Celebration, was held April 23-25 in Cincinnati. CEIA is a nonprofit organization providing professional services to members in cooperative education and internship programs in colleges, universities, government and business.

Jennifer McLean, director, received “best paper” honors at the Distance Learning Administration 2006 Conference, held June 4-7 at Jekyll Island, Ga. McLean presented a paper and session titled “Forgotten Faculty: Stress and Job Satisfaction Among Distance Educators,” a synopsis of her research into the affective experience of faculty teaching exclusively at a distance. The paper appears in the DLA 2006 Conference Proceedings and was published in the summer issue of the Online Journal of Distance Learning Administration.
'62
David C. Hafer, tool design technology, earned an associate degree in mechanical technology from Elmira College in 1974. Hafer is retired and resides in Sayre.

'65
Lee A. Dolin, mechanical drafting, is president of Shoestring Motorsports, a business geared to design and development of products and promotions for the racing industry. Dolin, who resides in Seagrove, N.C., holds six U.S. patents.

'67
Lynn Wilmer Gilbert, toolmaking technology, is a plating line operator for Tyco Electronics and resides in Sacramento, Calif.

Robert T. McCaffrey, electrical, served a four-year apprenticeship with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 139 after graduation and continued working for the organization as a job foreman at the Five Mile Plant in Oswego, N.Y. Retired in 2005, he resides in Oswego.

'68
Byron Harold Hassinger, diesel mechanics, owner of Hassinger Diesel Service LLC, resides in Middleburg.

John H. Kriel, business administration and accounting, received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Marywood College in 1976. He is a supervisor for Big Lots Inc. and resides in White Haven.

Stephen J. Dagle, business administration, is owner of Dagle Jewelers and resides in Selinsgrove.

Richard Eugene Hughes, office machine repair, spent 22 years in military service. He is the owner of Hughes Clockworks and resides in Selinsgrove.

'70
Kinnith G. Bowman, diesel mechanics, who retired as program manager from the U.S. Department of Defense, lives in Mount Holly Springs.

Glenn Elwood Newcomer, carpentry and building technology, owns Newcomer Remodeling Inc., which recently celebrated its 20th year in business. He lives in Pine City, N.Y.

Daniel B. Alberts, electrical construction, is a geographic information systems specialist for the U.S. Department of Interior/Bureau of Land Management. Alberts, who resides in Escalon, Vt., placed third in the 1973 National Collegiate Weightlifting Championship (flyweight class) when he attended Williamsport Area Community College.

Mary A. (Jones) Miller, nursing, a licensed practical nurse/school nurse for the Jersey Shore Area School District, lives in Williamsport.

'71
Stephanie M. Catherine-Hoffman, individual studies, has earned three additional degrees since graduating from Williamsport Area Community College. Her most recent degree was a Ph.D. in education from the University of Idaho. She resides in Boise, Idaho.

Jae E. Gettig, aviation maintenance, is an aircraft mechanic for the U.S. Department of Defense and resides in Salona.

Allen Dexter Kunkel, communications, is a drug and alcohol treatment specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill. He resides in Port Trevorton.

'72
Ronald A. Burger, nursery management, is co-owner of George Burger & Sons Garden Center. Burger, who resides in Drums, is producer and host of “The Garden Spot” on WYLN-TV 35 in Hazleton and has created “The Garden of Feedin,” which supplies fresh vegetables to a local food pantry.

Benjamin A. Gair III, general studies, is executive director of Meals on Wheels and resides in Orchard Park, N.Y.

'73
Philip D. Merli, engineering drafting technology, received a master’s degree in occupational safety from East Carolina University in 1999. He lives in Greenville, N.C., and is safety manager for C.A. Lewis Construction Inc. He served as safety officer on the Incident Command Team for the North Carolina Special Medical Assistant Team in Waveland, Miss., after Hurricane Katrina.

Milton G. Packard, electrical technology, is a senior technician for Corning Inc. and resides in Hampstead, N.C.

'74
Johna Kay Urban Nickerson, practical nursing, is employed by the Southern Tioga School District as a nurse’s assistant at Liberty Junior-Senior High School. She lives in Liberty.

Timothy S. Young, machinist general, lives in Milton and is trade assistant at Evangelical Community Hospital.

'75
Jack E. Felix, business management, resides in Selinsgrove and is enjoying traveling since retiring as a controller in February 2005.

Kori Mae Kemmerling, dietetic technology, is a registered dietetic technician for County of Berks-Berks Heim Nursing Home and resides in Pine Grove.

'76
David M. Lanzer, electrical technology, is a manufacturing engineer for West Pharmaceutical Services and resides in South Williamsport.

Kenneth D. Kerrick, nursing, resides in Harrisburg and is a pre-authorization nurse for Capital Blue Cross.

Robert C. Beals, building construction technology, is self-employed as a home remodeling contractor and resides in Feasterville.

James C. Haner, individual studies and ’71, graphic arts, resides in Williamsport and is a self-employed entertainer, performing at Kutztown’s German Festival and 1890s Days at Mansfield, among others events.

Tony Rife, graphic arts, is vice president of sales and marketing at Caskey Printing and lives in York.

'77
John Smink, toolmaking technology, lives in Cedar Park, Texas, and is account manager for Trinity Stairs.

Susan (Lyon) Beam, early childhood education, is site supervisor for school-aged child care for the Lock Haven Area YMCA and lives in Mill Hall.

Emil Mikle, automotive technology, received a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering technology from The Pennsylvania State University in 1994. He is project manager for mechanical engineering at Bloomsburg University.

'78
Gregory A. Long, computer information systems, received a bachelor’s degree in digital communications in 2004 from Franklin University. Before starting his own online business, he worked for Cardinal Health Corp. He lives in Columbus, Ohio.
Alumnus Credits Success to
Penn College Education

Troy Miller knew the manufacturing field was made for him. Always interested in wood and metal fabrication, Miller began exploring his options while a student at North Schuylkill High School.

After earning an associate degree in toolmaking technology and a bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering technology from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2004 and 2005, Miller went to work as a junior process engineer for Ti Wire, Frackville, a producer and worldwide supplier of titanium bar and wire.

He credits his ability to problem-solve, and to communicate effectively, to his Penn College education. And, he hasn’t stopped learning. He plans to pursue a master’s degree and eventually become involved with selling and marketing manufacturing equipment and products.

To learn more about Miller and other alumni, or to find out the latest news about alumni activities and events, visit www.pct.edu/alumni/ or contact the Alumni Relations Office at (877) PCT-ALUM (toll-free) or alumni@pct.edu
Randall Charles Morton, plumbing, is maintenance supervisor for Ross Library, Lock Haven, and resides in Renovo.

Jason Weber, information technology-data communications and networking concentration, is a field engineer II for Fulton Financial Corp. and resides in Denver.

Nicole S. Collister, applied human services, resides in Williamsport and is home and community services coordinator for the Center for Independent Living of North Central Pennsylvania. She is a professional member of the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed organization.

Susanna M. Thomas, physician assistant, earned a master’s degree in physician assistant studies in 2005 from the University of Nebraska. She is a physician assistant/rural health manager for Chetopa Medical Center in Chetopa, Kan., where she resides.

Nicole S. Collister, applied human services, resides in Williamsport and is home and community services coordinator for the Center for Independent Living of North Central Pennsylvania. She is a professional member of the National Association of the Dually Diagnosed organization.

Susanna M. Thomas, physician assistant, earned a master’s degree in physician assistant studies in 2005 from the University of Nebraska. She is a physician assistant/rural health manager for Chetopa Medical Center in Chetopa, Kan., where she resides.

Jason Drusak, business administration-managementinformation systems, is pursuing his master’s degree in business administration at Waynesburg College. He is a systems analyst II at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and lives in Monroeville.

Joshua Weber, graphic communications management, is a flexo press operator at Chaucer Press Inc. He and his wife, Rebecca Lynne (Rinella) (’04) reside in Lake Ariel.

Joshua Aaron Hayden, graphic communications management, is a flexo press operator at Chaucer Press Inc. He and his wife, Rebecca Lynne (Rinella) (’04) reside in Lake Ariel.

Chris John Mills, heavy construction equipment technology, is an equipment operator for Allan A. Myers and resides in Everett.

Timothy J. Schanken, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for John Deere and resides in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Jason A. Drusak, business administration-managementinformation systems, is pursuing his master’s degree in business administration at Waynesburg College. He is a systems analyst II at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and lives in Monroeville.

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Karina Suzanne (Thomas) Guerrero, business administration-banking and finance, resides in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and is a credit manager for Wells Fargo Financial.

Amy Marie Richardson, accounting, is an accountant at Heckman & Laudeman and resides in New Ringgold.

Karina Suzanne (Thomas) Guerrero, business administration-banking and finance, resides in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and is a credit manager for Wells Fargo Financial.

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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 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)
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Activity at the Madigan Library doesn’t diminish after dark. A wall of windows on the northeast portion of the building permits a nighttime peek at the Library’s open stacks and expansive study areas.