The 2007 Homecoming celebration (Oct. 11-14) featured a range of activities including donkey basketball, a car show, men’s and women’s soccer matches, the presentation of Outstanding Varsity Athletic Alumni Awards and the traditional crowning of the Homecoming king and queen. Proceeds from donkey basketball (sponsored by the Student Government Association) and the car show (sponsored by the Penn College Motorsports Association, the Residence Hall Association and SGA) raised nearly $1,200 for the Student Leader Legacy Scholarship Fund. The Homecoming king-queen contest raised $2,950 for the American Red Cross. For more 2007 Homecoming photos, turn to page 19.
Residence Life Revisited
Stark, dormitory-style student housing, known to those attending college decades ago, has been replaced by apartment-style accommodations with all the amenities of home.

Job Outlook Brightens With a B.S.
Returning to Penn College for a four-year degree improves career mobility for an engineering alumnus.

Enriching the College Experience
The fledgling Honors Program blends academic, cultural and social opportunities, providing a valuable learning experience for high achievers.

Study Abroad: A World of Opportunity
Short-term and semester-long study programs enable students to learn, experience other cultures firsthand and gain global perspectives.

‘My Last Words’
Faculty members reveal what they would say if given one last chance to speak with students.

Artwork Familiar to ‘Millionaires’ Returns
An alumnus donates to the college his original pencil sketch and screen-printed rendering of an iconic image.

deepes that work.
On the cover
Malika Rice, of Lexington Park, Md., earned a bachelor of science degree in graphic design from Penn College in May 2007 and is putting her degree to work as a graphic designer for Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., a global strategy and technology consulting firm headquartered in McLean, Va. Of her hands-on education, Rice said, "In every school, you will learn something, but at Penn College, you live what you learn."
Residence halls have changed dramatically since the early '70s and '80s, when many of our parents walked onto college campuses as students. The rapid growth of college and university housing brought on by the GI Bill after World War II resulted in large-scale dormitories built to house the thousands of veterans taking advantage of federally funded education. Single-sex residence halls, locker-room-style bathrooms and shower facilities, strict visitation policies, cramped quarters, no elevators, and certainly no air conditioning represent the stock image of living on campus in the '70s and '80s.

Students, and their parents, now come onto campus with an entirely different set of expectations. Reflective of the larger MySpace, My Yahoo, myAOL, iPhone, iPod culture, personal space and increased amenities targeted toward the individual are becoming the norm rather than the exception.

Today, as young adults begin their college search, the environment in which a student will be living is one of the central topics parents raise at admission interviews and college open houses. A typical student coming to college today has not had to share a bedroom. He or she is accustomed to having a personal phone, Internet and cable TV access, air conditioning, and a designated bathroom. Weaved within all of these is a sense of privacy that the student brings to the college experience. Parents of first-year students consistently ask about the availability of single rooms, inquire about the factors the college uses to pair roommates and, with growing frequency, bring with them the expectation that their son or daughter will be living on campus the first year.

Colleges and universities have responded by creating residence halls with most, if not all, the amenities listed above and even include kitchen space. While Penn College does not house all first-year students on campus, reflecting the long history the college has in off-campus student neighborhoods, the majority of on-campus housing (60 percent) is dedicated to first-year students each year.

Another change in Residence Life since the 1970s is the acknowledgment of the opportunities available to colleges to address the mission and goals of the educational institution in areas outside of the classroom and lecture hall. An
underlying strength of contemporary residence life programs nationally, and certainly present at Penn College, is the increased student engagement with the college that comes with living on or near campus.

Residence Life and the other areas represented by Student Affairs function best when working in collaboration with Academic Affairs. Student Affairs supports and encourages the academic environment within the classrooms and labs and extends the educational setting to residence-hall lounges, student-organization meetings, leadership training, and community-service projects, providing myriad, academically rich settings in which to interact with other students, faculty and staff.

As we look to the future of Residence Life at Penn College, the collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will encourage bringing educational opportunities and initiatives even deeper into the residential complexes.
The conceptual plans for new student housing on campus address this by capitalizing on the trends noted previously and by creating a three-zone approach to living on campus.

A private zone will be created with the incorporation of single and double rooms, where the facilities will maintain the sense of privacy students bring with them from home. Semiprivate common spaces throughout the building will encourage social connections with close friends and provide small programming spaces for student organizations and resident assistants.

On the main floor of the building, collaboration between Residence Life and Food Services will provide a public space, akin to a community center, where the new residential and dining areas will draw energy from life within the building. The community-center space will encourage continuous foot traffic throughout the day and night, consolidating dining options *(board plan and convenience-store venues)*, programming and community-development space, staff offices, mailboxes, and a small fitness center.

Encouraging faculty and staff interaction with students in these public spaces, the building will be a “living” structure that meets the needs and expectations of the student body, addresses the education mission and goals of the college, and reflects the Penn College culture now and into the future.
Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate Richard L. Ernst was doing well with the associate degree he earned in electronics technology in 1995. Now, having earned a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology at the college in May 2007, his career path looks even sweeter.

Ernst is maintenance manager for H.C. Brill Co., the largest wholesale manufacturer of icing and glazes in the world. The company, based in Tucker, Ga., is part of CSM, an international, $8 billion company that is the world’s leading supplier in the baking industry.

“And you’ve never heard of us,” Ernst said. “A lot of the product we supply doesn’t carry our name, because we sell it as an unfinished good, and it gets renamed by the end user.” End users include Jason’s Deli, Sam’s Club and Wegmans.

In addition to icing and glazes, Brill makes both frozen cake layers and ready-to-sell cakes, frozen cookie dough, batters, and ready-to-use fillings.

A workday surrounded by such sweets would be a dream for many. For Ernst, his job in Brill’s “very-well-automated” plant also incorporates the electronics problem-solving skills he has honed. Ernst said the plant’s processes are about 97 percent automated. As maintenance manager, he leads a group of 25 other employees who maintain all of the plant’s utilities and bakery equipment. Along with that, as manager, he creates and maintains the department’s annual budget.

It’s a return to the food industry for Ernst, who was hired by International Home Foods (later purchased by ConAgra Foods) in Milton after graduating with his associate degree. He worked with the company as a controls engineer until his return to Penn College to complete his bachelor’s degree.

“I had a lot of success with my associate degree,” Ernst said. “I actually feel like I went way beyond the expectations.”

But, he said, the associate degree allowed him limited upward mobility. “I saw that the availability of the same job was no longer there without having a bachelor’s degree. Even if I wanted to move laterally to a different company, more and more companies were requiring the bachelor’s degree.”

The trend was begun by the big players of the industry – ConAgra among them – and other companies followed suit. Part of the reason for that trend, Ernst says, is that more knowledge is required for job openings in industrial process control – one facet of the electronics field – than just a few years ago.

“They’re looking for people with good troubleshooting and problem-solving skills.”

“The level of technology has definitely changed,” he said, noting that more plant processes are automated by PLC (programmable logic control).

He added: “Part of the reason they’re requiring degrees – particularly the engineering degrees – is that they’re looking for people that can understand technical problems and convey them intelligently to upper management. Plus, I think, a certain level of problem-solving comes with the (four-year) degree. They’re looking for people with good troubleshooting and problem-solving skills.”

In light of the trend he saw, in Spring 2006, Ernst returned as a full-time student in the college’s electronics engineering technology bachelor-degree major. (The major was recently revised and is now called electronics and computer engineering technology.) It was also in light of that trend that the college began offering a four-year degree in Fall 1995.

“I felt proud to be a student there,” Ernst said. “From when I went there for my two-year degree, the level of the classes – the level of education – I felt, had really significantly improved. I was really impressed with what I saw other students doing for projects.”

His own senior project – programming a Cognex vision system that used a camera to inspect iced-tea bottles – to visitors during the college’s Open House in March 2007.

Richard L. Ernst demonstrates his senior project – a Congex vision system that uses a camera to inspect iced-tea bottles – to visitors during the college’s Open House in March 2007.
Study abroad…compels students to act as a group and to deal with the challenges of being far from family and familiar surroundings.

“Study abroad…compels students to act as a group and to deal with the challenges of being far from family and familiar surroundings.”

Enriching the college experience

by Thomas F. Ask, associate professor, HVAC technology/mechanical refrigeration and design/honors program coordinator and Mark A. Paternostro, associate vice president for academic services

The Pennsylvania College of Technology Honors Program brings together highly motivated students from different academic majors and immerses them in a program that is designed to enrich a student’s college experience by integrating academic, cultural and social opportunities into an interdisciplinary learning experience.

Honors students share a class, a study abroad program and a symposium. They also perform service work and conduct independent research under the tutelage of a faculty member.

Program Structure

The interdisciplinary nature of the program is expressed in the colloquia series, which presents various topics related to the Honors Program theme. The program theme adds continuity to the two-year program, and it changes every year.

In the first year, for which the theme was the “Maritime World,” an admiralty attorney explained the fate of a drunken sailor in Italy, while an art historian discussed the background of various maritime-themed paintings. Students produced charcoal drawings of boats, wrote poetry and learned about ship technology.


The current study theme is “Great Cities of the Western World,” with Thomas A. Zimmerman, associate professor of psychology at Penn College, directing this sequence of programs, the students travel abroad to study a program related to the Honors Program theme.

Study Abroad

Study abroad is a particularly attractive element of the Honors Program. This segment compels students to act as a group and to deal with the challenges of being far from family and familiar surroundings. In the program’s first year, the students toured the Baltic nations of Sweden and Latvia, both of which have long maritime traditions.

Highlights of the study abroad experience included visiting a boat-building folk high school, touring an incredibly preserved 17th century ship and visiting working harbors in Sweden and Latvia. The students visited Skeppsholmen Folk High School, nestled in Sweden’s Stockholm archipelago.

Folk high schools are uniquely Scandinavian institutions where various aspects of national culture are preserved. The two-year program at Skeppsholmen Folk High School starts with boat-building theory, after which the students build traditional boats from the pine, spruce and oak harvested from the nearby boreal forests.

The students also visited the “Vasa,” which is the best-preserved 17th century
The concept of an Honors Program at Pennsylvania College of Technology originated with the Quality Commission (a group of recipients of the college’s Master Teacher Award, the highest honor presented to faculty). The commission noted the college does an excellent job of serving the needs of underprepared students, but had not considered how to energize academically gifted students.

That need was brought to the Council of Deans to determine how best to proceed. The deans developed a proposal that was approved by President Davie Jane Gilmour in 2003.

Because most Penn College students are in associate-degree programs, the Honors Program had to be structured so that it is suitable for a two-year sequence. The program was fleshed out by an Honors Committee and evolved into a format consisting of a colloquia series, special coursework that culminates in a symposium presentation, a service project and a study abroad component.

After the outline was developed, the committee wrote an Honors Program Handbook that set down the structure and rules that govern the program. The International Programs Office was already equipped to handle study abroad, so the program quickly had all the administrative underpinnings to run.

By Spring 2005, qualified applicants were contacted and informed of the program. The students who applied were interviewed that spring and joined the program in Fall 2005.

The first group of students has completed the program requirements. Those students now sit on an advisory panel that helps guide the Honors Program.

- Thomas F. Ask
with Veronica M. Muzic,
special assistant to the president
for academic affairs

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warship in the world and a marvel of the Swedish empire until she sunk on her maiden voyage in 1628 due to poor stability. The cold Baltic waters preserved not only the ship but also many of the sailors’ artifacts, leaving stunning insights into Swedish maritime history.

The students also visited Latvia’s capital, Riga, which was a principal harbor in the Hanseatic League that controlled trade in northern Europe in the 14th and 15th centuries. Riga is also a unique repository of Art Nouveau architecture and shows scars from its war-torn history.

Zimmerman will take the next group of Honors Program students to London, Paris, New York City and Washington, D.C. The students will study the arts, economics, literature and cultural diversity of each city, as well as the infrastructure, mass transit, employment opportunities and daily living routines.

After completing the study abroad segment, students are asked to serve as advisers to the Honors Committee and are given the opportunity to attend, at the college’s expense, approved symposiums or conferences connected with their disciplines.

**INTERESTED?**

Students are invited into the Honors Program during the second semester of their freshman year, based on the following criteria:

- First-time college student
- Full-time status
- Commencing studies in August
- Enrollment in any associate- or bachelor-degree major
- High school grade-point average of 3.5 or higher
- High school class rank within the top 10 percent
- An SAT score of 1,800 or an ACT score of 27
- A 3.5 graduation GPA during the first (fall) semester of study at Penn College

For more information about the Honors Program at Penn College, visit www.pct.edu/honors/ or e-mail honors@pct.edu.

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Photos Courtesy of Thomas F. Ask

Honors Program students board a ship that will transport them from Stockholm, Sweden, to Riga, Latvia.

The first group of Honors Program students visits the Folk Museum in Stockholm, Sweden.

A ship docks in Riga, Latvia, which has a large, natural port in the Baltic Sea.
When Steven J. Moff was in high school, German teacher Burrows Boston opened his eyes to the wonderment of other cultures. So, when he joined the Pennsylvania College of Technology faculty in 1999, backed by a résumé that included study of international and maritime law at Cambridge University and four summers at Germany’s Goethe Institute language school, the self-described “travelholic” resolved to pass that gift to his classes.

“I benefited greatly from spending time abroad,” the associate professor of business administration/marketing said. “I learned a lot about the United States – and how other countries view the United States – so my main goal was to do the same thing for our students.”

Many Penn College students have never been more than a few hours from home, with English-speaking areas of Canada comprising their sole “international” experience, Moff explained. So he worked with the college’s International Programs Office to find just the right location to launch the institution’s first-ever, full-semester foreign exchange.

His criteria were simple: Find a cooperative university similar to Penn College in a centrally located country whose inhabitants speak a foreign tongue. Granted official permission to explore a host of options, Moff landed on Bavaria, a section of Germany where, he said, the “culture is fascinating, the countryside beautiful and the people wonderful.”

His passion begat an exchange program in which Penn College students earn 15 credits at the Fachhochschule Würzburg (commonly referred to as FH Würzburg) in Würzburg, Germany. And, what began with just a handful of student travelers has blossomed into a smorgasbord of opportunities across a variety of the college’s academic majors.

The International Programs Office, headquartered in the college’s Klump Academic Center, today offers study abroad programs to dozens of students each year in Australia, Germany, Italy, Japan, Austria and Mexico … and more are in the works. (See related story.)
Along those now-well-traveled airways and highways, Moff found kindred spirits in Joseph E. LeBlanc, a physics instructor, and Lawrence J. Fryda, the former dean of Industrial and Engineering Technologies. LeBlanc formerly taught in Japan and has helped build a short-term exchange program with that country; Fryda, who also aided the Japanese initiative, was instrumental in the college’s reciprocal agreement with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey campus in Toluca, Mexico.

The audience for Penn College’s international programs varies: There are business prerequisites for the German and Austrian exchanges, automotive and engineering students are the intended beneficiaries of the week in Mexico, and newer options similarly are designed with specific curricula in mind. All are welcome, however, and Moff said his students from the School of Business and Computer Technologies have been accompanied by those enrolled in culinary, automotive, construction and aviation majors.

“It doesn’t really matter what courses you take. It’s not relevant what you study; it’s secondary to the cultural experience, understanding another culture even if it’s different from ours,” he pointed out.

“You go, you live with students from around the world, you read different newspapers, you see the world through different eyes. I’ve even had students tell me that studying a foreign language improved their English!”

Moff is such a cheerleader for international travel that, two years ago, he convinced Würzburg officials to invite Penn College administrators – college President Davie Jane Gilmour and Veronica M. Muzic, then-provost/vice president for academic affairs – for a firsthand look.

“They had a wonderful time and met all the key people involved in the exchange program,” he said. “In European culture, particularly, it’s critical to build trust and personal relationships, and it was a very successful trip from that standpoint. It’s not always easy to do business over the phone or by e-mail, so it was very meaningful for them to go over there to see.”

Over several whirlwind days, members of the group frequently met with their German colleagues to discuss common ground and learn from their differences. They also toured campus laboratories with faculty, stood in the same lecture hall as X-ray pioneer Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen – who chaired Würzburg’s physics department in the 19th century – feasted on the visual appeal of the towering Alps, and dined on local favorites such as sauerbraten and dumplings.

Two exchange students from Penn College arrived the same day, so the local contingent visited them in their dormitories. Before heading back to Williamsport, Moff said, Gilmour and Muzic left them with a further touch of home: buying them “two big bags of supplies – toothpaste, shaving cream, bottled water – just like Mom would do.”

One of the selling points of travel abroad is that, for students, the costs are reasonable – perhaps even less expensive than living on their home campus, Moff said. Subsidized housing in Würzburg runs less than $200 a month for an efficiency apartment (all utilities included), students do not need to buy textbooks, and mass transit is free and convenient.
Best of all, he said, the Bavarian “college town” (there are 30,000 students in a city of 130,000 people) offers ready access to a host of European attractions. “Students can go from there to Paris, Berlin, Italy, Munich,” he said. “They can travel by train to Paris in five hours, or fly to London for $29 each way.”

One of the German students who spent a recent semester at Penn College had similar comments about proximity to major metropolitan areas. Würzburg’s Matthias Back said many people would be surprised that Williamsport is so relatively close to New York City, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. And, while he enjoyed the access to larger cities, he liked the intimacy of the college community.

“It’s like one big campus with 7,000 students. When you’re at the college for, like, one month, you probably know most of the people, at least to see them,” Back said. “The other students are very nice to you; they offer you help. The teachers, the instructors make sure that you are satisfied, that you get everything you want and every help you need. I learned a lot about a different culture, (about) how to get along.”

Not that he had any trouble forging friendships and assimilating into campus life: Back was a member of the 2006-07 Wildcat tennis team and was among the on-air talent at WPTC-FM, “the best in college radio.”

“I really enjoyed the time over here,” he said. “I will miss Penn College.”

Moff can share a number of such success stories from his years of watching students come and go: Like the management major chosen for a prestigious Gilman Scholarship to pay for his travel, or the student who returned for a bicycle trip across Europe, or the one who married a Hungarian man she met in her travels.

No matter the destination, no matter the experience, he said, the interactions are valuable, indeed.

“This is a positive change for the rest of their lives,” he said. “And it comes at a time of life – before marriage, before kids, before an end to student discounts – when they might not ever get this opportunity again.”
With the Castle Marienburg towering beyond, tourist boats travel the Main River in Würzburg, Germany, a destination for a Pennsylvania College of Technology semester exchange program with Fachhochschule Würzburg.

Visiting students from the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey prepare in an automotive lab for the annual Susquehanna 500 “Mini-Indy” race in Williamsport.

A “Mini-Indy” driver from ITESM circles the makeshift track during the 2007 competition.

Physics instructor Joseph E. LeBlanc, center, joins a tour guide and Penn College students for a short-term (14-day), study abroad trip to Tsuyama and Osaka, Japan.

Taking a Global View

Just as Pennsylvania College of Technology works with regional industry to forge mutually beneficial alliances, the institution’s International Programs Office consistently entertains suggestions for enriching student life through educational travel opportunities.

“One of our missions is to increase awareness by encouraging academic departments to develop relevant and appropriate study abroad programs,” said Shanin L. Dougherty, international program specialist. Current programs range from an open art elective in Italy and short-term “Spring Break” visits designed to foster cultural diversity to full-blown student exchanges.

That roster soon will expand by at least two more, including Penn College’s “first official foray into the Third World.”

Beginning in the Spring 2009 semester, Dougherty said, dental hygiene faculty members Mary Jo Saxe and Rhonda J. Seebold will take students to Nicaragua.

“This is an excellent proposal,” she said of the Central American visit, which required the involvement of a social-service agency in concert with the Nicaraguan ministry of health. “Six students in the bachelor-degree major will work with a licensed dentist to teach dental care and show residents how diet affects their health.”

Starting in Summer 2008, students in the plastics and polymer engineering technology major will continue their rotational-molding education at Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland, rather than in the well-tended labs of the Breuder Advanced Technology and Health Sciences Center. The trip was advanced by Hank H. White, director of the Plastics Manufacturing Center at Penn College, and is representative of the initiatives that can grow from cooperation with deans and faculty members.

“Both of these programs will be real eye-openers,” Dougherty predicted. “Through exposure to another culture, what our students thought was the be-all is just the beginning.”

There also are early-stage discussions for a 2009 collision-repair trip to Milan, Italy, home to the Ferrari and Lamborghini factories.

– Tom Wilson
by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/editor-One College Avenue

David L. Evans, professor of biology at Pennsylvania College of Technology, has spent time in some of “the most dangerous places,” witnessing the struggles of people in other parts of the world and their perseverance despite difficulties.

“The most lasting impression I had of teaching in Beirut, Lebanon, was a student whose section of the city had gone through a night of violent fighting, but he showed up for class the next morning,” he said.

When Evans asked the student, who was enrolled in a class Evans taught at the American University of Beirut during the nation’s civil war, about the events in his neighborhood the night before, the student replied, “It was terrible, sir.”

“But he showed up,” Evans said, marveling at the student’s ability to go through such an event but still prevail, “triumphing against adversity.”

He left his post at the university in 1986, after 5½ years of teaching during the spring: “Education has to be a fire that you just keep going, and get what education they could.”

“I despise. But with an education, I don’t have to stay in that place, do I?”

Evans told Penn College students last spring: “Education is portable,” Evans emphasized. “... The topic of (my lecture) was ‘The Most Dangerous Places.’ For me, the most dangerous place would be a tiny little job that I hated. … I would rather live in Lebanon than be in a situation like that. I might even choose Africa than be in a job I despise. But with an education, I don’t ever have to stay in that place, do I?”

Evans was among the first faculty members to speak as part of the lecture series, which began in the Spring 2006 semester. It was brought to Penn College by Michael J. Hersh, assistant director for programming for the Student Activities Office.

The speakers are faculty members who have been nominated to participate by students.

‘My Last Words’

Given Final Chance to Address Students, What Would Faculty Say?

David L. Evans, professor of biology, engages students during his “My Last Words” presentation, “The Most Dangerous Places.”
‘Community: A Place to Live or a Living Place? You Decide’
Larue R. Reese, assistant professor of human services/social sciences, presented the eighth installment of the series on Oct. 23. His talk focused on the importance of being involved in a community and taking part in volunteerism.

“Communities thrive and move forward only when the people who live in them take part in their community and their community’s activities,” Reese said.

He said often when students leave college, they go off and look for communities to live in, forgetting to consider what they can do to help the community live.

Reese leads classes on the topics of community and organizational change and service learning, and he was honored with a Daily Point of Light Award in 2006 for his volunteerism at the National Ability Center in Park City, Utah.

The Daily Point of Light Award honors individuals and volunteer groups that have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities. Each weekday, one volunteer or volunteer effort in the country receives a Daily Point of Light Award.

‘Little Earthquakes’
Eugene M. McAvoy, assistant professor of English-composition, shared with students the lessons he has learned from the tremors that have shaken his life.

“The message was: Don’t give up five minutes before a miracle – whatever the miracle may be,” McAvoy said.

The statement comes from a 12-step recovery program, and McAvoy’s message, taken from his memoirs, detailed issues in his life that contributed to alcoholism and “a significant lack of self-esteem.”

“I don’t want to say I was suicidal, but I sure was sick of living,” he said.

“The bottom line was … just hang on – white-knuckle it if you have to – because it does get better, if you take action.”

McAvoy thought the message was important, both because of the evident alcohol abuse among college students, and because suicide is the third-leading cause of death among college-age students – with men four times more likely to die by suicide than women, according to the National Institute for Mental Health.

Given the demographics at Penn College, where almost two-thirds of students are men, McAvoy said, “That sounds to me like our student population would benefit from hearing that message.”

‘Surely, You Aren’t Going to Eat All That’
Daniel L. Brooks, instructor of architecture technology, discussed the importance of resisting the temptation to pile too many things on life’s plate, and instead making good decisions based on goals.

“Because we can spend a lot of time shooting for things that aren’t going to help us reach the goals that we have,” he said.

“We all come from different economic backgrounds and have different backgrounds culturally and intellectually, but when it comes to time, it’s sort of an equalizer,” Brooks said. “Regardless of our station in life, we all get the same 24 hours, and what we do with it defines us.”

“Education has to be a fire that burns inside of you, and you can’t ever let anything put it out.”
'One Person Can Make a Difference'

“I wanted to get students motivated and just simply be someone telling them they could be whoever and whatever they wanted to be, and that they could help others in the process,” Michael J. Ditchfield, instructor of hospitality management/culinary arts, said of his lecture.

He told the students that he has found the most reward in incorporating his interests and values – as well as his friends – into both his professional and personal activities.

“If not on a grand scale, I wanted to let the students know that their actions – and just the way they live life – could make a difference not only in their own lives but in the lives of others,” he said. “Even if it’s just helping somebody else get through a bad day or a tough time, it’s making a difference in that person’s life, and it may inspire them to help somebody else out.”

Ditchfield said he would like to see students get involved to make an impact in a way that is important to them.

“We are all in this together. This country runs on volunteers and people’s generosity,” he said. “It’s important to be a part of something. I think the only place your voice can be heard, and the only place your vote counts, is at the local level. ... By showing up and participating in life, they (students) can influence change.”

'Surely, Joy Is the Condition of Life'

Bruce A. Wehler, part-time English-speech communication instructor, drew his message from Henry David Thoreau’s oft-quoted statement: “Surely, joy is the condition of life.”

“To me, joy is more than being happy about how a particular event or series of events have turned out,” he said. “Joy is a way of life that affirms the value of life and the importance of human relationships.”

He said that throughout life, he has learned a wealth about embracing joy in both good times and bad.

“As human beings, we have the greatest freedom within us – the freedom to choose our attitude in any given situation. Why not choose joy?”

Other speakers in the series included Edward A. Vavra, associate professor of rhetoric, who presented the first “My Last Words” lecture with the message: “I Died, but I Tried – I Had a Dream,” and Gerri F. Luke, assistant professor of business administration/marketing. Luke’s message was titled “A Changed Life: The Power of Education,” and she discussed her belief that education has the power to change lives and her passion about the opportunities provided through a quality education.

The program continues to grow in attendance and offers students the opportunity to learn more from their teachers’ life experiences than they may have the opportunity for in the classroom.

Faculty members have been impressed by students’ willingness to attend such an event on their own time.

“I would do this again in a minute,” Ditchfield said.
A small work of art that is familiar to all who have called themselves “Williamsport Millionaires” has returned to Williamsport after more than 40 years.

Thomas B. Mikan was a student in the sign painting program at Williamsport Technical Institute, a predecessor of Pennsylvania College of Technology, in the early 1960s when he designed the top-hat, cane-and-gloves logo that has been used ever since by Williamsport Area High School, which uses the “Millionaires” nickname to honor local history. It was said that, near the turn of the 19th century, there were more millionaires per capita in Williamsport than anywhere else in the nation.

Mikan, who graduated from W.T.I. in October 1963, recently donated to Penn College his original pencil sketch of the logo, along with the original screen-printed rendering of the image and the film positives used to create the print.

“These have been in this scrapbook all of these years,” Mikan told a representative of Penn College’s Institutional Advancement Office at his home in Trafford, near Pittsburgh. “I think maybe someone back there might enjoy seeing these.”

Mikan expressed surprise that the logo he designed was still being used by the Williamsport Millionaires, saying, “It’s a good feeling knowing that I contributed a small part.”

The origins of the logo had been somewhat of a mystery until Mikan was contacted in 2005 as part of Penn College’s ongoing search for “lost” alumni of W.T.I.

Mikan, 75, noted he and his wife, Patricia, have not visited Williamsport since he finished his studies at W.T.I. Both said they have very fond memories of their time in Williamsport, and both expressed great admiration for, and a close bond with, former W.T.I. and Williamsport Area Community College President Kenneth E. Carl.

The Williamsport Millionaires logo is one of several notable pieces of art created by Mikan. While he was a student at W.T.I., he also designed a billboard, later erected along West Third Street near the former Williamsport High School, that read, “GO All the Way With Technical Education,” with an image of a rocket leaving Earth’s orbit and traveling through the “O” in “GO.”

Mikan is also a highly skilled woodcarver who began that hobby with no formal training at age 11. In 1967, two of his pieces were chosen to be included in a yearlong display at the Smithsonian Institution. President Lyndon B. Johnson and television personality Art Linkletter were among those who viewed the exhibit.

Mikan retired in 1993 after a long career working on radar and guidance systems at an electronics firm in the Pittsburgh area. He and his wife have six adult children and reside in the home in Trafford where he was born. ■
Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Board of Directors on Oct. 11 approved the Stage X Building Program, which calls for construction of additional student housing and extensive renovations at several facilities on the college’s main campus.

The student-housing construction and the major renovation projects will be financed by a 30-year bond issue that was also approved by the board. The Stage X program also includes a category of smaller renovation projects that will be financed through the college’s operating budget and/or bond proceeds. The bond issue earmarks $53.26 million for the impending construction and renovations and $71.73 million to refinance some of the college’s existing bonds.

The three major renovation projects to be financed by the bond issue involve the Hager Lifelong Education Center, the Parkes Automotive Technology Center and the Avco-Lycoming Metal Trades Center/Machining Technologies Center on the main campus.

Work could begin as early as January 2009. The exact schedules will be determined with the architect (Murray Associates Architects, P.C., Harrisburg) during the one-year design phase.

The new student housing will offer approximately 260 more beds and merge the College West and Rose Street Apartments complexes into a single student-housing area at the west end of campus. New Food Services facilities, Residence Life offices and student recreational spaces will be part of the project. The college currently offers approximately 1,500 beds in four student-housing complexes.

The Center for Business & Workforce Development was dedicated Aug. 9 on the Pennsylvania College of Technology campus, continuing the college’s tradition of responding to employers’ needs and preparing students to seek the jobs of tomorrow.

The 31,800-square-foot building at 1127 W. Fourth St., the site of the former BiLo market, is the new home to Penn College’s noncredit Workforce Development & Continuing Education operation, as well as laboratories that support education in the college’s bachelor- and associate-degree electronics and computer engineering technology majors.

The facility also houses several other organizations that serve workforce needs: the Industrial Modernization Center, the Williamsport/Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone and Penn State Continuing Education at Williamsport.
Pennsylvania College of Technology was the highest-rated school in the North and second in the nation in the National Research Center for College & University Admissions' annual rankings of admissions Web sites.

A research-based analysis of 3,087 postsecondary institutions, NRCCUA's Enrollment Power Index rates the functionality and design of college and university Web sites to determine how well the sites provide information to potential students. The ratings are not specific to geography, institution size or funding source; all college and university sites are rated on the same scale.

Among the criteria that are evaluated on each site are prominence of an admissions link on the institution's home page, Web-page design and ease of navigation, online access to admissions materials and information, and ability to contact admissions.

Also rated as important were interactive functions of the site, presence of information about the local community, and the ability to apply online and track the status of the application through the review/acceptance process.

In addition to information about programs, cost, financial aid and other admissions-related information, the Penn College Web site includes special features for future students. These include online video clips featuring students who describe their college experience, a virtual tour of campus, photographic features of student projects, checklists to assist in the application process, and links to college news and community information.

Penn College's Admissions Web development and design work is done exclusively in-house by staff in College Information and Community Relations, supported by the Admissions Office and Information Technology Services.

The WDCE offices, previously headquartered on Reach Road in Williamsport's West End, occupy much of the building's northern and eastern sides.

In addition to providing a variety of noncredit courses, WDCE administers WEDnetPA, the state's largest training program for business and industry. WDCE also oversees other vital initiatives that impact residents across Pennsylvania and around the world, including the Plastics Manufacturing Center, the Weatherization Training Center, the Factory Built Housing Center, the AutoCAD Premier Training Center and the college’s North Campus.

The IMC, the KIZ and Penn State Continuing Education – all of which partner with Penn College to offer education and services in the local community – line the west side of the building. On the south side of the building are electronics and computer engineering technology classrooms.
Scholarship Dinner Honors Retiring Le Jeune Chef Manager

Pennsylvania College of Technology’s School of Hospitality hosted “A Farewell Tribute to Peter Hellermann,” longtime general manager of Le Jeune Chef Restaurant, on Sept. 10.

Frederick Frank, president of the award-winning Dr. Konstantin Frank Vinifera Wine Cellars, Hammondsport, N.Y., was the guest vintner for the event. Students, faculty and the restaurant’s professional staff joined forces to prepare a dinner honoring the vast industry knowledge and gracious hospitality that Hellermann has shared with the restaurant, the campus and the community for the past 10 years.

In honor of Hellermann’s service to the college, proceeds from the dinner will be used to award annual scholarships in his name to School of Hospitality students.

Hellermann grew up in the hospitality industry, first working in his family’s Hotel Hellermann in Bigge, Germany. His career has spanned five decades and two continents.

Before joining the Penn College staff in January 1998, Hellermann spent 30 years in Denver, where he managed country club restaurants and owned and operated two continental restaurants.

Those who would like to make a gift in honor of Hellermann to support School of Hospitality students may do so by mail to the Penn College Special Events Office, One College Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701-5799 or online at www.pct.edu/ia/.

Camaraderie and sportsmanship are key in Penn College’s varsity athletics program, and Wildcat teams continue to enjoy enviable success. Recent conference championships include golf, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, men’s cross country and softball.

Find Complete Articles on PCToday

To find more comprehensive versions of the articles in Campus Collage – and to read other news stories about Penn College – visit PCToday, the college’s news-and-information Web site, at www.pct.edu/pctoday. Click on “Search PCToday” in the upper-right corner of the Front Page, enter a keyword and click on the “Go” button.
Members of the Homecoming Court assemble on the athletic field during the soccer doubleheader.
Business and Computer Technologies

Asesh K. Das, professor of information technology, was nominated by former students to be included in the 11th edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers,” which honors teachers who have been nominated by former students. Das is a multiple-year nominee, having been honored annually since 2004.

Construction and Design Technologies

Dorothy J. Gerringer, associate professor of architecture technology, gave a presentation on “Defining Sustainable Practices” on July 18 during the Bucknell University Summer Institute on Sustainability in Building Design, Construction and Operation.

Health Sciences

Jane J. Benedict, Linda L. Crayton and Pam B. Schappert, associate professors of nursing, earned the certification Certified Nurse Educator after successfully completing a rigorous certification examination developed and administered by the New York City-based National League for Nursing. The league unveiled the program in 2005, with 174 nurses passing the examination the first year. It establishes nursing education as a specialty area of practice and creates a means for faculty to demonstrate their expertise in the role.

Industrial and Engineering Technologies

Kirk M. Cantor, professor of plastics technology, was invited to teach seminars in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur in September, as well as to visit the National Materials Center in Thailand.

Integrated Studies

Regis C. Kohler, associate professor of radiography, will be listed in “Who’s Who in American Education 2007-2008.” The book, published by Marquis Who’s Who, provides biographical information on approximately 35,000 American educators. Kohler also was nominated by former students for inclusion in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers,” released by a separate publisher.

Vinay Bahl, associate professor of sociology, contributed a chapter in the recently published book “The Cultures of Economic Migration: International Perspectives.” The book, which was published in September by Ashgate Publishing, London, was edited by Suman Gupta and Tope Omoniyi. It explores the processes of economic migration, the social conditions that follow it and the discourses that underlie research into it. Bahl’s chapter is titled “Negotiating the Shifting Boundaries of Nativeness and Modernity in Immigrant South Asian Women’s Clothes.”

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William Ma, professor of mathematics, was nominated by a former student for inclusion in "Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers." His biography will appear in the 11th edition of the book, which honors about 5 percent of the nation’s teachers.

David S. Richards, associate professor of physics, gave a talk at the spring conference of the American Association of Physics Teachers (Central Pennsylvania Section). His presentation was titled “Tablet PC Technology Within a Traditional Classroom Environment.” The conference was held at Penn State York.


Natural Resources Management

Carl J. Bower, instructor of ornamental horticulture, discussed “How to Make Hypertufa Troughs” during the fifth annual Pennsylvania Garden Expo in Harrisburg. Hypertufa is a concrete material that gardeners invented to create lightweight, strong, frost-resistant planters that have the look of stone. His March presentation supplemented promotion of the revised associate degree in ornamental horticulture with separate emphases in landscape technology, plant production and horticulture retail management.

Debra A. Buckman, assistant professor of environmental technology, was nominated for the 26th edition of “Who’s Who in American Women” (her second consecutive selection) and for inclusion in “Who’s Who in America” for 2007-08.

Transportation Technology


Academic Affairs

Mark A. Paternostro, associate vice president for academic services, was nominated for inclusion in "Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers" for the fourth consecutive year. His biography will appear in the 11th edition of the book.

Steven R. Parker, instructor of environmental technology, addressed the winter meeting of the Tribal Pesticide Program Council, a national advisory group to the Environmental Protection Agency, in Park, Ariz., in mid-October. Parker was an environmental manager for tribes before joining the Penn College faculty, and he continues to help them identify and resolve environmental problems.

Counseling, Career & Disability Services

Lawrence W. Emery Jr., counselor, received special recognition from the National Board for Certified Counselors. Emery received Special Recognition for Outstanding Merit in the Area of Continuing Education for remaining current in the field of counseling. His continuing education exceeded 130 hours from approved providers; renewal requires only 100 hours. Emery has been certified by the NBCC as a National Certified Counselor since 1984. In 2002, he was awarded a Licensed Professional Counselor credential by the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs.

Penn College Police

Chris E. Miller, chief, was one of the featured presenters at a July 28 workshop in Hartford, Conn., promoting safe, secure, and responsible living and learning environments at colleges and universities. The workshop, titled “Creating Safe and Responsible Living and Learning Environments: Critical Knowledge for Residential Life and Housing Professionals,” was sponsored by NASPA, student affairs administrators in higher education, and Stetson University College of Law.

Ward W. Caldwell, special assistant to the president for student affairs, was promoted from director of residence life to his current position. He will become vice president for student affairs when he completes his doctorate at The Pennsylvania State University.
David Valentine Hayes, ’71, electronics technology, is a retired electrical technician for Corning Inc. Hayes, who lives in Corning, N.Y., had two patents issued when he worked for the company. He now enjoys playing guitar and building his own amplifiers.

John Steven Musser, ’72, aviation technology, is an automobile technician for Leidy Ford and lives in Chambersburg.

Ernest “Jim” Irvin, ’76, business management, resides in New Berlin and is retired from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

John Philip Morris, ’76, electronics technology, earned his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering technology in 1982 from the University of Central Florida and a master’s degree in technology from Arizona State University in 1986. He is director of operations for Jabil Inc. and resides in San Diego. He also teaches electronics technology classes in the evening for a local technical community college.

Trent A. Best, ’77, diesel mechanics, is an engineering test technician at Volvo Powertrain North America and resides in Owings Mills, Md.

David Wayne Ploss, ’78, construction carpentry, is a self-employed sub-contractor and resides in Corry.

John W. Kreighbaum, ’80, business management, is part owner of Kreighbaum Insurance Inc. and resides in Mifflinburg.

Michele Louise Gennarelli, ’82, practical nursing, earned a nursing degree from Anderson College in 1987. She is a nurse manager at Good Samaritan Hospital and is working on her master of science in nursing. Gennarelli, who resides in Elizabethtown, received an employee of the month quality care award in 1992 out of 600,000 employees.

Bob Davies, ’84, machine tool technology, earned his bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology in 1987. He is vice president of operations in the Silicon Systems Group at Applied Materials and resides in San Jose, Calif.

Jeff Walizer, ’93, landscape/nursery technology, is the in-house designer and project manager for Creative Plantscapes Inc., Lewisburg.

Daniel J. Wevodau, ’00, construction management, is responsible for keeping jobs running smoothly at Pavek. Wevodau, who resides in Summerdale, is a sergeant in the National Guard and has served in Bosnia and Iraq. In late 2007, he was deployed to Egypt.

Stephany Miller-Orso, ’01, office information systems, lives in Montoursville and is a secretary for Price Optical Co. Inc.

John Matthew Barnickel, ’03, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer for J. E. Pistons and resides in Huntington Beach, Calif.

Paul E. Pompilio, ’03, computer-aided product design, is a mechanical designer for HDR/LMS and resides in Cornwall, N.Y.

Mary K. Vido, ’03, baking and pastry arts, is attending Towson University, majoring in mass communications. She lives in Owings Mills, Md.
Forest Technology Alumnus Is Sawmill Manager

Dale Shughart, ’99, forest technology, is the sawmill manager at Pine Creek Lumber Co., Mill Hall. The hands-on classwork at Penn College gave Shughart a solid foundation of skills, enabling him to be successful in the position, which includes a variety of responsibilities. Shughart is accountable for the day-to-day operations of the sawmill, ensuring that maximum efficiency and effectiveness are achieved in order to produce a quality product. To learn more about Shughart and other alumni, or to find out the latest news about alumni activities and events, visit www.pct.edu/alumni/ or call toll-free 1-877-PCT-ALUM.

Give Us Your Nominations

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

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

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

2. 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.

3. 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.

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

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Penn College students were treated to a tour of downtown Williamsport for September’s “First Friday” festivities, visiting shops, restaurants and other places of interest while picking up a few discounts and free samples along the way. Above, School of Hospitality students serve food for the festivities in front of Michael Pilato’s renowned mural on West Fourth Street. Below, from left, Fred W. Becker, dean of hospitality, is joined by then-Mayor Mary B. Wolf; Jason Fink, executive vice president of the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, greets students near the Lycoming County Courthouse; and students congregate in the mural area.
Youngsters from the Children’s Learning Center toured the Gallery at Penn College on Oct. 29 to view an exhibit by artist Florence Putterman … and to express some personal creativity.

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.

In Fall 2006, the college established a One College Avenue Advisory Committee to gather input from alumni media and printing/publishing professionals. The committee meets biannually with college staff to provide advice and direction on magazine content and related issues. If you would like to be considered for membership on the committee, please e-mail onecollegeavenue@pct.edu.

UPCOMING EXHIBITS AT THE GALLERY AT PENN COLLEGE

Gary Mesa-Gaido – “Public Spaces of Europe”  
FEB. 19 – MARCH 14

Brian D. Cohen – “The Fool’s Journey”  
MARCH 30 – APRIL 25

Fred T. Gilmour – “Searching for Creativity”  
MAY 16 – JUNE 22

For more about The Gallery at Penn College, visit www.pct.edu/gallery/

An affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University
Pennsylvania College of Technology does not discriminate in admission by race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran, or any characteristic against which discrimination is prohibited by applicable law, and operates on a nondiscriminatory basis throughout the institution.
Rose Street Apartments offers modern, apartment-style accommodations for 435 students at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

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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