All eight of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s academic schools brought interactive programs to the 92nd Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg in January. Among the activities, School of Hospitality students Kimberly J. Caputzal and Amanda H. Slughart participated on stage in PA Preferred’s School Cooking Challenge. Also chatting with Farm Show visitors throughout the week were the Penn College Wildcat and representatives from the Alumni Relations and Admissions offices.
Hearing the Voice Within
December commencement speaker
Travis J. Clawson exemplifies a Penn College graduate with his tenacity, courage and leadership.

From Fast Food to Fuel Freedom
Alumnus Jared Comeau built his first “veggie-oil” vehicles while at Penn College and now is encouraging ingenuity among his own students.

U.S. Manufacturing Not at a Dead End
Are all the manufacturing jobs gone in the United States? No. But they require a new set of skills, and manufacturers are scrambling to find employees who have them.

Alumnus’ 75-Year Connection Continues
Sherman R. Reigle Jr.’s first connection to campus came in 1933, when he accompanied his father to a welding course.

Summer Checkup
Take a look at these reminders before heading out on the open road this summer.

Test of Love
Two couples who plan to earn their degrees together this month talk about living, working and studying together.

degrees that work.
On the cover
Travis Clawson, of Clarksburg, earned a bachelor of science degree in computer information technology: internetworking application development and served as student commencement speaker in December. Clawson, who is deaf, felt that the experience he gained on campus and in the workplace (as an intern with the U.S. Department of Agriculture) prepared him for success. "The professors and staff here at Penn College … have contacts with companies and agencies for internships and full-time employment. … I know I never would have gotten the internship at the USDA … without their help."

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Hearing the Voice Within

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday

When a photographer’s flash punctuated Travis J. Clawson’s address to his classmates, it illuminated more than a picture of December’s commencement speaker at Pennsylvania College of Technology. It documented a portrait of tenacity, courage and leadership – traits that, as cited in his introduction, embody “the ideal characteristics of a Penn College graduate.”

Chosen to represent the Class of 2007, the Clarksburg resident, a candidate for a bachelor’s degree in computer information technology, strode to the lectern, unfurled a copy of his speech and stood poised to begin. The audience quietly paused to hear his polished distillation of 4½ years – a hush that, for Clawson, at least, would know no end.

Deaf since birth, he never heard the applause that thundered through the Community Arts Center at the close of his well-crafted remarks, presented in American Sign Language and given voice by an offstage interpreter.

As he had throughout his time on campus, the ambassador for the deaf and those with partial hearing loss (and a role model for everyone else he met) communicated through gestures and an infectious spirit, accented by glinting eyes that one staff member later said “can charm anyone.”

“Rarely do I see a student who so values the importance of a college education that he courageously faces the day-to-day challenges, yet consistently applies extra effort to succeed,” said Karen A. Wilson Bodine, disability services specialist.

“As a freshman, despite adapting to a complex college environment where all communication is via speech or textual English – and only two or three people know sign language – he had to learn to navigate the hurdles of seeking accommodations.”

This, then, is a story of yet another Penn College alumnus impacting the world. A story of overcoming barriers without complaint, adaptation without compromise, ability transcending “disability.”

“When Travis came to take his placement test, I made his family aware that he would be the only student on campus who is deaf, and I had concerns about his ability to socialize and transition into college life,” Bodine recalled. “His father told me that he was raised in a hearing world and would need to work in a hearing world, so his family felt this was a necessary sacrifice in order for him to get a degree.”

With any student’s arrival on campus, adjustment seldom is smooth: friendships to form, roommates to tolerate and responsibilities to balance.

“It was not easy for me to make friends with the other students because I cannot hear or talk. I would talk to the other students in my classes through my interpreter and, after a while, they became more comfortable talking with me,” he
said. “I like helping other people, so when I was asked to tutor another student in Java (a computer programming language), I said ‘Yes.’ I had just taken two courses in Java and could understand what problems a deaf person would have in learning this course.”

The biggest challenge was adjusting from an all-deaf school to a “hearing” college, Clawson said.

“American Sign Language is my first language and is very different than the English language. I was used to having teachers that signed and understood the problems deaf people have with learning,” he explained. “At Penn College, I had many different interpreters signing what the professors and other students were saying in the classroom. If I didn’t understand homework assignments or what the professors were talking about in class, I would have my interpreter ask the professor to explain to me what I needed to know.

“I knew I had to get good grades in my classes if I wanted to get a good job after graduation, so I did whatever I needed to do to get the grades I wanted.”

His own story would be inspirational enough to enthral an audience, but rather than relate those unique circumstances, his graduation speech inclusively recounted the journey he and his classmates endured together. He likened their odyssey to that of the travelers in “The Wizard of Oz,” an obstacle-strewn path that wove through a variety of majors, extracurricular activities and work experiences, and ended at a common goal: an Emerald City in which they were granted their diplomas.

“We all were able to overcome the personal problems, sicknesses, hard professors and taking courses we really didn’t like that the Wicked Witch threw our way. Somehow, we managed to get back on the Yellow Brick Road and keep going,” he said. “Of course, it helped finding friends along the way. We never could have made it without our new friends, the assistance of the professors, the staff, our advisers and, in my case, my interpreters and note-takers. They encouraged and guided us when the going got tough, and we will always be grateful for that.”

Editor’s note: The following was written by Cindy Allen, Travis Clawson’s American Sign Language interpreter during his final three years at Pennsylvania College of Technology and vice president of the Pennsylvania Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.

When Karen Wilson Bodine initially contacted me about working at the college, I was not sure I wanted to make the drive to Williamsport on a regular basis. I live in Clarks Summit, and it is a long haul. Then she told me one of the students was taking computer-programming classes. Computers are a hobby for me, so I was quick to accept and asked to be assigned to his computer classes. Getting to work with Travis was a dream job because he had such a commitment to doing his best in every class he took.

Being Travis’ “voice” in the computer classes really kept me on my toes. Travis is not a shy, introverted young man. He likes to speak up in class, and when professors asked questions, he invariably participated in classroom discussions. He also has a quick sense of humor and would throw out zingers to make the instructors laugh. These classroom experiences were so rich with both complex vocabulary and lively banter that I genuinely looked forward to coming to work.

On the other hand, interpreters have a fine line to walk. We are present to facilitate communication between persons who do not share a common language. When deaf students succeed or fail, the interpreter doesn’t “own” the outcome. This is a common misconception of the general public, to pass the credit for a good (or bad) grade onto our shoulders.

In Travis’ situation, he is successful because of his own innate drive to succeed. But I must admit to having a lot of “feel-good” days over the past three years, culminating in interpreting for him during the award and graduation ceremonies and bursting with happiness for him and his family.

I am going to miss him immensely, but at the same time, it was extremely satisfying to see the transformation of a gawky college sophomore into a polished, well-spoken professional. Knowing Travis, the next “Yellow Brick Road” he chooses will lead to even higher accomplishments. I was thrilled to walk alongside him for his years at Penn College.
While “shocked and honored” to be chosen as commencement speaker, Clawson later said his theme – drawn from one of his favorite movies – matched how he felt about his experience at Penn College. And if his knees knocked like the Tin Man’s, he again faced his fears and persevered.

“Even though I had practiced my speech many times before I got on stage, I was very nervous waiting until it was time for me to stand up and start signing. My heart was racing sitting there looking at all the people that would be listening to what I had to say,” he said. “Once I started signing and thinking about what I wanted to say, I was no longer so nervous. I felt confident in my message and knew my interpreter, Cindy Allen, would do an excellent job of voicing what I was signing.”

Clawson exhibited the same sort of fearlessness when applying for a summer assignment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program, looking beyond his apprehension to the very real career benefit of an internship in Washington, D.C.

“Being deaf, I knew I needed more in my résumé than ‘hearing’ graduates. I felt it was a necessity for both the job experience and to list on my résumé,” he said. “With the help of my professors, Pat Coulter and Asesh Das, I was able to contact someone in the USDA. Once I was chosen to be one of the interns, the staff did everything to make the transition as easy as possible.”

Clawson’s main responsibility was to update the agency’s Web site, and he created promotional materials for a career fair and a leadership symposium. He also was invited by his executive director to attend October’s annual conference of Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in Chicago, helping staff a booth and attending meetings offered to students.

“Recently, I have been asked to join in the weekly telephone conferences for all of the staff in our office. From my home near Pittsburgh, I call the Sorenson relay service (a video aid for the deaf and partially deaf) to get an interpreter who signs to me what is being said on the telephone and voices what I sign in response. With the use of this relay service, I am able to take part in these almost-hourlong meetings, and it makes me feel more a part of the office.”

The internship, which ultimately continued past graduation and into February, was the basis for his capstone presentation.

“He showed utmost sincerity and commitment in the senior project,” said Das, professor of computer science and one of Clawson’s faculty supporters in the School of Business and Computer Technologies. “He was very regular in reporting all work – all done immaculately – and his portfolio became a great item to display and study.” His work already has been shared with students in Das’ junior classes.

“Now we have everything we need for our next adventure,” the soon-to-be-graduate told his peers in December, when he also received the President’s Award for leadership and service. “The choice is ours. All we have to do is click our heels, and off we will go down another Yellow Brick Road.”

Like his Oz-bound counterparts, Clawson has learned that he possessed all along what he sought: brains, a heart, courage … and a home, always a home, with his Penn College family.
As a college student on a cramped budget, using his vehicle to make deliveries for a deli near campus, Jared M. Comeau understood frugality long before gasoline topped $3 a gallon. The Carlisle resident did his homework, read voraciously about alternative fuels and – by the time he graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Fall 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in automotive technology management – literally was free-wheeling in a 1980 diesel Mercedes Benz 240D converted to burn fryer grease from area eateries.

“Running a car or truck on vegetable oil isn’t the solution to our petroleum problems, and not everyone in the world can do it,” he said. “But it’s good for the vehicle, it’s good for the environment and it’s a renewable resource. It’s a step in the right direction.”

That’s the message Comeau now shares with his automotive students at Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School: a teaching job that attracted him after a leisurely six-month trek in his clean-burning “veggie car” while he pondered what to do with postgraduate life.

“They’re the people who are going to be most affected,” said Comeau, who instructs second- and third-year students at the school. “We will run out of oil, and they, more importantly than anyone, need to be prepared for big changes. I want to open their minds, to make them more receptive to other things.”

That absorption of knowledge mirrors his own Penn College education, when, spurred by faculty members both in and out of the School of Transportation Technology (and the deli’s co-owner, whose brother was treading similar ground in Oregon), he was turned on to alternative-energy technology. He discovered and devoured Joshua Tickell’s “From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank,” started collecting parts and grease, and his personal “green” movement was born.

“I’m not an activist, but I am an environmentalist,” he said. And his homegrown interest in a global issue serves as an example to his vocational students that one person can make a difference.

“They’re amazed that a car can run on veggie oil,” Comeau said. “And I tell them, ‘See? If you put your mind to it, you can do something about it.’” A few of his students have carried that spark into other courses, further exploring alternative fuels in their science and economics classes. >>
Ronald A. Garner, a professor of automotive technology at Penn College, remembers when Comeau brought his converted Volkswagen Rabbit pickup truck to the Advanced Automotive Technology Center west of main campus for dynamometer testing.

“I recall a 5-gallon bottle of biodiesel sitting on top of an upside-down shop garbage can with a hose feeding over to the diesel-fuel system of his engine while we ran it on the dyno,” he said. “The shop smelled like french fries.”

The center is but one example of Penn College’s trademark superiority in technical education, an edge that ultimately lured Comeau from his initial college of choice. He and his family were instantly impressed with Garner, the facilities and the curriculum – and the job-placement doors that would open to a bachelor’s degree from the nation’s longest-running automotive program.

“After he graduated, he returned with the Mercedes that he outfitted to run old cooking oil,” Garner said. “As I recall, he did a nice job on the conversion and used a flatboat gas tank he bought very inexpensively on eBay, then had an A/C condenser under it that he connected to his

American Honda Motor Co. Inc. displayed a prototype of its FCX hydrogen-powered vehicle at an event on campus to kick off a partnership between the college and the Professional Automotive Career Training Program of American Honda Motor Co. in 2005.
heater hoses. The problem he was trying to overcome to improve emissions was to get the viscosity of the heating oil consistent so the engine would run at its best."

A consistent heating source is key to using vegetable oil as fuel, explained Comeau, as the grease thickens in cold weather and needs to be heat-thinned for optimum fuel flow. He noted that the dynamometer testing showed his vehicle had higher horsepower and lower emissions when using vegetable oil, not to mention the considerable mileage efficiency when taking the vehicle on the road.

“The technology is pretty simple, actually. You need another fuel tank and another fuel system. My first fuel tank was an aluminum one out of a diesel tugboat. It used aluminum because it conducted heat well.” On a cold day, Comeau would start his car on diesel fuel while the “veggie tank” heated up, then he’d flip a switch to run the vehicle on vegetable oil. Right before the car was shut off, he explained, he went back to diesel fuel to flush the injectors of any residual oil that would become cripplingly viscous when it cooled.

As Comeau’s adviser and work-study supervisor, Garner also helped expose his student to the other side of the classroom through a Teaching Automotive Seminars class at the college.

“For the past 10 years, we have made field trips each semester to Penn State and have been working with Dr. (Richard A.) Walter in the Workforce Education department.” He said Walter consistently has planted seeds with his students about how to become certified as secondary-school teachers.

“From my perspective, this has truly been a very successful initiative as I strive to get Penn College students to examine teaching as a profession so we can help Pennsylvania fill automotive-instructor positions,” Garner said. “To date, this exposure has resulted in our automotive technology management students gaining a number of teaching positions, including at Jersey Shore Area High School and Williamsport Area High School, the (Lycoming County Career) Consortium, as well as schools in Virginia and New Jersey.”

Comeau’s passionate legacy also has traveled well beyond his students, in the extended life of that hand-me-down 1981 VW pickup. He sold the vehicle, which was driven from Washington, D.C., to Guatemala in the “Greaseball Challenge” to raise awareness of alternatives. The vehicle and four others, with a documentary-film crew in tow, made the 4,700-mile trip solely on vegetable oil or biofuels. The truck since has been donated to a local village, where a coffee-grower uses it in his daily travels – a Penn College sticker firmly affixed to its rear bumper.

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internal-combustion engines – are a beneficial first step, and today, many major manufacturers offer one or more hybrid models for sale. Biodiesel and ethanol also may someday have a significant impact on tight global fuel supplies, stretching the fossil fuels further on vehicles with today’s technology. For many years, manufacturers have built cars designed to run on E-80, a blend of 80 percent ethanol and 20 percent gasoline. You may even be driving one of these without knowing it, but there are not many places in the country that you can find E-80. We will never be able to grow enough biomass to fulfill this country’s transportation requirements, but even a reduction of a few percentage points of our requirements for foreign oil could have a major impact on prices in the short run.

Hydrogen fuel cells appear to hold the most promise as the power plant of the future. Hydrogen is one of the most abundant elements in the world, and when used in a fuel-cell vehicle, produces only electricity, water and heat. There are no pollutants or greenhouse gases, and it is more efficient than an internal-combustion engine. A fuel-cell vehicle is an electric car, but unlike the expensive, heavy and limited-range electric cars of the past that got their electricity from a couple dozen conventional car batteries, fuel cells use hydrogen to create electricity. At least a couple manufacturers are planning to put small fleets of fuel-cell-powered vehicles on the road this year and anticipate them to be a significant part of their fleets within a decade. There are still many obstacles to overcome, such as production costs and infrastructure problems (where do you go to fill up your tank?). But with the price of gasoline, along with geopolitical concerns and global warming, the incentives to succeed are obviously worth the effort.

- Dale E. Jaenke, assistant professor of automotive technology
Business is buzzing with talk of labor shortages – for some manufacturers exacerbating a longtime issue – as demographics change and industry evolves in the United States. While this offers tremendous opportunities for young people who pursue the right skills, it’s making many manufacturers nervous.

Several factors play into a “skills gap” in the manufacturing workforce: the expected retirement of thousands of baby boomers, who could take decades of experience with them; the difficulty in recruiting young people into the field; and an increase in the skills needed for today’s manufacturing jobs.

Manufacturing is one of many economic sectors gearing up for the retirement of the baby boom generation – those born between 1946 and 1964. Edward Gordon, author of “The 2010 Meltdown: Solving the Impending Job Crisis,” says that between 2010 and 2025, up to 95 million baby boomers will leave the U.S. workforce, while only 40 million members of Generations X and Y will be available to replace them.

The Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corp. estimates that, in its nine-county Workforce Investment Area, there may be more retirees than entrants to the workforce by 2012.

At the same time, the availability of foreign products on retail shelves has led many to believe that manufacturing in the United States is disappearing. In reality, in 2005, the U.S. manufacturing sector produced $1.5 trillion in gross domestic product. If U.S. manufacturing were a country by itself, it would be the eighth-largest economy in the world. In Pennsylvania, according to the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Web site, advanced materials and diversified manufacturing provide nearly half a million jobs with wages 20 percent higher than the statewide average.

“Most students and parents think that manufacturing has moved to China, so there is no opportunity in the field of automated factories,” said Richard J. Calvert, assistant professor and department head of electronics and computer engineering technology. “We are working to change this perception. Pharmaceuticals, food packaging and building materials (to name a few industries) all rely on highly automated factories and need employees to design and maintain these systems.”

According to Donald O. Praster, acting dean of the School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies, the reality is that readily mass-produced products may have left this country, but, in light of quality issues (remember fall’s toy recalls?) even they are slowly finding their way back.

“The skilled jobs are still here in this country, and employers are screaming for the types of people who have those skills,” he said.

But couple the perception that there’s no future in U.S. manufacturing with outdated notions of manufacturing – the old vision of tedium on an assembly line – and it becomes difficult to encourage young people to consider manufacturing careers.

“The skilled jobs are still here in this country, and employers are screaming for the types of people who have those skills.”
“What it comes right down to, is there are too few young people looking to get into manufacturing,” said Timothy E. Weston, assistant professor and department head of plastics and polymer technology.

He said manufacturing does not seem “sexy” to young people – when, in reality, graduates are innovators, using both their expertise and their creativity in bringing new products to market.

One such graduate is Stephen Hollock, who cites the opportunity to be creative and experiment with new ideas as one of the many aspects he loves about his manufacturing job. Hollock earned a bachelor’s degree in electronics engineering technology in 2006 and now works in defense contractor AAI Corp.’s Unmanned Systems division, where he helps to develop the electrical devices that are placed in unmanned air vehicles.

Also among the best features of his job are the constant challenge, working with new technology daily, opportunities to travel, the chance for vertical movement, working with intelligent people, and the knowledge that the unmanned air vehicles he works on provide a safer environment for U.S. troops. “The list can go on and on,” Hollock says.

In plastics, where a tight labor force is nothing new, graduates are creating such products as new medical devices and improved manufacturing products for every major vehicle producer in the world.

Nathan M. Dwyer, a 2007 graduate of the manufacturing engineering technology major, works on a part design during a computer-integrated manufacturing course.

Good has seen the job opportunities for those with welding backgrounds increase, even since his graduation...
sporting equipment – lending their expertise to almost any product we touch.

But while plastics is the fourth-largest manufacturing industry in the world, and in Pennsylvania, there are roughly 750 plastics companies, there are only five accredited plastics programs in the nation. Combined, they produce about 100 graduates a year.

“The supply and demand (for labor) has been really, crazily out of balance for a long time now,” Weston said.

Although success stories abound, people still don’t realize how much knowledge, creativity and skill play into today’s manufacturing jobs.

“People assume (if you work in plastics) you’re standing at a machine, pushing a button,” Praster said. “There’s significantly more to it than that. You need to understand chemistry and math. Our graduates from plastics don’t do those jobs. They’re defining the types of plastics and polymers that are going to be used to make those products.”

Praster said a similar situation exists in welding; people don’t realize that welders – to be really successful – must understand mathematics, physics and chemistry. The welding industry represents $34.1 billion a year in gross revenue and provides an enabling process for $3.1 trillion of manufactured products, or about one-third of the U.S. gross domestic product.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average welder is in his or her mid-50s, and many will retire within the next 10 years, while there will continue to be nearly 450,000 welding jobs available.

Another challenge for manufacturers is that jobs require more training and education. They can pull fewer employees just out of high school.

On the bright side, for students who have a solid foundation in math and science, “the sky’s the limit,” Praster said. 

seven years ago. “I feel that the realization of the need for talented and skilled welding engineers is enjoying a momentum swing at the moment that wasn’t there for my opportunity immediately upon graduation,” he said.

“Welding engineers are now in demand more than ever – especially in robotics.”

He said robotic welding is branching into new areas. “A robot technician that knows how to weld and can set up a weld process control program is a rare commodity right now,” he said. He also cited opportunities for Certified Welding Inspectors, who can travel the country to inspect projects; in nondestructive testing, “which can be really interesting, working with X-rays and ultrasonic equipment;” and in the design phase of projects to lend expertise to design and manufacturing engineers.

Many of these opportunities don’t require welding daily.

“However, being able to weld as an engineer will help open more doors for you than if you are only textbook-trained,” Good said. “The hands-on experience gets you respect that you need on the plant level, while the book smarts help you get the respect of management.”

Such well-rounded expertise will only increase in importance as technology evolves.

“As automation and technology increase in manufacturing, new problems arise that haven’t been encountered before,” Good said. “It is also up to the welding engineer to identify these problems and build a bank of knowledge on how to troubleshoot the process to identify the shortcomings and help advance the technology. This helps the maturation of the technology and the industry as a whole.”

- Jennifer A. Cline

Ryan Good stands among robots that help manufacture frames for the Hummer H3 in Longview, Texas. Good is a Certified Welding Inspector and a Certified Welding Educator.
“There are more opportunities than ever for our graduates,” he said. “It had been a long time since you had been able to see machining and welding jobs advertised in the Williamsport area. Now you see them weekly. ... Is U.S. manufacturing ever going to go away? Absolutely not. We rely on too many things in our everyday lives to see it slip away.”

The School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies – as with all eight of the college’s academic schools – depends on expertise from the industry representatives who sit on advisory committees for each major. The advisory committees are key to helping develop curricula that keep pace with industry needs.

Even without accounting for every new technology that enters the marketplace, Praster said the college does exceptionally well at teaching the foundation skills, so that, not only can graduates begin contributing to their workplaces on day one, they also can adapt quickly as technology changes throughout their careers.

Employers have responded, evidenced by their increasing participation at the college’s semiannual Career Expo. Weston recounts the story of a recent plastics graduate who, after attending the Career Expo, was “hounded” by three employers – and was hired at his own asking price – without ever sending a resume.

To further help alleviate the labor crunch, the school hosts younger students on campus through two initiatives to help them become aware of these lesser-known career options.

Each spring, “Plastics for a Day,” provides school districts and students with an overview of what plastics is and how it affects every product we touch. This summer, the second “Summer Technology Camp,” a three-day event, will allow ninth- and 10th-grade students to participate in hands-on activities in all six of the school’s departments: automated manufacturing, civil engineering technology, drafting and computer aided design technology, electronics and computer engineering technology, plastics and polymer technology, and welding.

“That’s one thing I feel is needed,” Praster said. “We need to be going out to these younger students and getting them interested early so they can work toward those careers by taking the maths and the sciences they’ll need.”

Changing the Pattern

Pennsylvania College of Technology has joined many initiatives to develop a better-prepared and more informed workforce:

Penn College NOW dual enrollment:
An initiative through the Outreach for K-12 Office, students at participating high schools may take Penn College courses in electronics, information technology and plastics on their high school campuses, taught by their high school teachers. The courses are identical to those offered on campus. Credits are applied to their college transcript and may be transferred to other schools.

National Center of Excellence in Welding Education:
The college was named a project team member for this National Science Foundation program. In efforts to alleviate the shortage of qualified welders in the workforce, the center will focus on standardizing welding education. The college will administer a $24,500 portion of the $4.9 million in NSF funds.

“degrees that work.” public television series:
This Penn College-produced series, which debuted on public television station WVIa in November, is designed to help build awareness of careers that may be less familiar to the public but offer ample job opportunities. The first episodes highlight advanced materials and diversified manufacturing, including nanotechnology, welding, electronics and plastics. The college and WVIa will develop and distribute educational materials that may be used by K-12 teachers in conjunction with the series.

Career Education and Work Standards:
These standards were enacted for all public schools by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in 2006 in an attempt to teach K-12 students how to make good career decisions, as well as to help them develop skills for finding and retaining jobs (such as resume writing, punctuality and responsibility). The college’s Outreach for K-12 Office has become the state’s resource to help schools implement the standards, leading a team of experts on the subject, offering workshops both on campus and at individual school districts to help them implement the standards, and developing a Web site as a resource for the districts.

- Jennifer A. Cline
Three longtime programs have produced three Reigle graduates: welding, toolmaking and heavy equipment.

Sherman R. Reigle Jr., ’47, has a nearly lifelong connection with Pennsylvania College of Technology, and along the way, he played a role in the evolution of the institution.

“I first became associated with Williamsport Technical Institute when I accompanied my father as he attended and graduated from an eight-week course in welding technology in 1933,” said the 83-year-old Reigle. “With the knowledge he received, afterward he was able to be gainfully employed and raise a family of six children. I was impressed with the educational process of the school at that time.”

Reigle enrolled in W.T.I.’s high school program in 1939, completing the machining curriculum in 1942. After graduation, he worked at Lycoming Engines in Williamsport as a toolroom learner.

In May 1943, he was inducted into the Army and served in Europe for three years. Returning to Williamsport in 1946, Reigle enrolled in W.T.I.’s postsecondary toolmaking technology program, graduating in 1947.

Reigle went on to work for Hermance Machine Co. in Williamsport for eight years, operating a large metal-planing machine. In 1956, he took a job as a tool and die maker for Sylvania Electric-Litton Industries; in 1973, he returned to Hermance Machine Co. in the position of plant superintendent. He retired from Hermance in 1988.

“I praise and thank my Lord for the basic training I received from the institute that allowed me to follow that training into my life’s work, which I have enjoyed from day one,” Reigle said.

Reigle noted that his son, John P., graduated from Williamsport Area Community College’s heavy construction equipment major in 1975, making three generations of Reigle family alumni.

Sherman Reigle Jr. also played a role in the transition of the institution from W.T.I. to W.A.C.C. in the early- and mid-1960s.

“Without the institute’s training, I could never have been in an occupation and flourished in it.”

In recent years, Reigle has been a regular attendee of the W.T.I. alumni reunions, held every June on the Penn College campus. He has also supported the Alumni of W.T.I. Endowed Scholarship fund, and earlier this year, he joined the alumni e-news list to receive the Alumni Relations Office’s bimonthly newsletter by e-mail.

“I am very proud of the accomplishments of Penn College over the years in the process of educating our students and emerging citizens,” Reigle said. “I am also proud to know that all the people on the staff are continuing those traditions of excellent administration and excellent teaching programs. May God bless Penn College.”
Is Your Car Ready for Vacation?

by Dale E. Jaenke, assistant professor of automotive technology

Every summer, millions of Americans take to the roads for vacations, holiday weekends, even just a long day at the beach. Though you’re probably more than ready for a getaway, what about your car? Few things can ruin your vacation like an unexpected car problem. And while cars today are more reliable than any other time in the history of the automobile, they still do break down on occasion. What can you do to reduce the likelihood of car problems this summer? You may be able to do more than you think, even if you aren’t mechanically inclined.

Today’s vehicles have the ability to monitor many of their own functions and tell you if they detect a problem. So, let’s start by considering what the car can tell you. Do all of the warning lights on your dash go off and stay off while you are driving down the road? If one or more of them stays on or comes on while you are driving, the light is telling you that your car has detected something wrong with itself. You might not be able to fix it yourself, but ignoring it could change your vacation plans in unpleasant ways.

Next, turn off the radio and pay attention to your car as you are...
while checking your air pressure, also check the condition of your tires: Do they still have good tread that’s wearing evenly? Can you see bulges, cuts or dry rotting?

“Few things can ruin your vacation like an unexpected car problem.”

Simply checking such functions as your headlights and turn signals can save hassles while on the road away from home.
Two Husband-Wife Teams to Graduate Together

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

“The Ianaros” are used to being referred to collectively on campus.

The pattern started soon after the dental hygiene students’ first class at Pennsylvania College of Technology, when Curtis Ianaro’s introduction went something like: “Hi, my name is Curtis, and I’m married to her.” Sarah Ianaro offered a similar introduction.

“That set the tone for the next two years,” Curtis said, including the couple’s nomination to represent the Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association on Homecoming Court last fall. They plan to graduate together this month with associate degrees, adding to the young couple’s long list of shared milestones.

The two have practically grown up together. The Clearfield residents began dating in eighth grade, both joined the Army National Guard, and they continued dating while they headed to separate colleges, where Curtis followed his lifelong ambition by enrolling in pre-dentistry, and Sarah entered a pre-veterinary major.

But halfway through her first semester, Sarah’s National Guard unit was activated in preparation to head to Iraq. The Army later decided not to deploy her unit, but she had already withdrawn from classes. Meanwhile, Curtis’ unit was activated in December, and he was deployed to Iraq in February 2004.

Knowing their studies could be interrupted again at any time by military duty, both became reluctant to continue pursuing eight-year degrees, so Sarah took a job at a veterinary clinic while Curtis headed to Iraq.

Just before he left, Curtis proposed, and the two planned to marry as soon as he returned home on leave. Sarah didn’t know exactly when that would be, so her invitations read: “Time: To be announced. A call will be given when a date is set.” The two were married Oct. 23, 2004.

“When Curtis came home from Iraq, he didn’t have motivation,” Sarah said, “I said, ‘We have to do something.’”

A friend pointed them to dental hygiene, telling them they could get good jobs after just two years in college. They began classes in Fall 2006, and given the option, they asked to have the same schedule.

“This is definitely one of the more challenging schools. ... I say to everyone that we would rather go through basic
training again than go through this again,” Sarah said. “It’s an excellent program; it’s a lot of fun, but it’s challenging.”

And while spending all day together can have its stressors, the benefits are priceless, they say.

“We’re each other’s support system through this,” Sarah said.

One understands immediately when the other feels frustrated about a class, they always have a study partner, and their learning styles complement each other. Sarah takes copious notes, while Curtis focuses closely on the teacher. Combined, they miss very little.

While the two are a bit competitive, Curtis says readily that Sarah is the better student.

“Sometimes she gets a little more worried,” Curtis said, and she helps to motivate him when he’s, perhaps, not worried enough. At the same time, Sarah said Curtis “is good at dealing with my school frustration.”

“We’re each other’s best friends, hands down,” she said.

“I don’t think any of our friends know what it’s like to have just one of us around,” Curtis joked. “Most of the time, they don’t like us when the other one is not around.”

Now 22, the Ianaros have been married for 3 ½ years, and they have no regrets about marrying young.

“Sometimes I look back, and I wish I hadn’t gotten the call and we could’ve had more fun. But then, I look at others and say, we didn’t miss much,” Curtis said.

**The Owens**

Loretta and Joseph Owen got married July 8, 2001 – three years to the day after they met at Burger King in Sayre.

Loretta was 16, starting her first job, and Joe, 18, had just finished high school and was about to enroll at Elmira Business College. After working together for six months, in January, they began dating, and by the spring of 1999, they were engaged.

In 2000, Loretta graduated from high school and Joe earned an associate degree in accounting, and the two moved to State College.

“Joe wasn’t able to find a job in accounting, so we were both working at McDonald’s,” Loretta said. “We spent about a year going over some rocky ground, but we both did a lot of growing up.”

After their 2001 wedding, Loretta began feeling called to nursing, so she did some homework.

“I found out that, as a nurse, I could do anything and go anywhere,” she said.

She earned her Certified Nursing Assistant credential at a nearby vocational-technical school and began work as a home health aide. She loved it, and in Fall 2002, she enrolled at Penn College.

“While I was getting my CNA and during my first year of nursing school, Joe worked two jobs so that I could go to school and work less,” she said.

After Loretta’s first year at Penn College, Joe was feeling discouraged with his job prospects, and his heart was not in accounting, so the two decided that he would go to school for nursing, too. He began Penn College classes in Fall 2003.

“By this time, we were both working nearly full time and going to school full time,” Loretta said. “This was a challenge. We slept very little and helped each other a lot. Sometimes we worked opposite schedules and didn’t see each other much. Our families supported us however they could, but they were not able to help financially.”

The couple managed to take a few classes together while pursuing their associate degrees.

“Joe and I are very competitive for grades,” Loretta said. “I graduated in 2005 with my associate degree and a 4.0 (grade-point average), and Joe graduated with a 3.93 a year later. You can guess the good time that I have harassing him about that.”

After their first graduation, Loretta entered medical/surgical nursing, Joe began working in critical care, and they’ve both been working on their bachelor’s degrees in nursing through Penn College’s distance-learning program. They plan to graduate together this month.

“We have spent the majority of our relationship, the past six years, in school. It will be nice to be finished. Well, at least with one part of the journey,” Loretta said. The two next plan to pursue master’s degrees, Joe in nurse anesthesia. Loretta would like to become a nurse practitioner.

Since meeting, the two have traveled to Hawaii, Mexico, Bermuda, Bahamas, Nova Scotia, Maine, Florida, Washington and many places in between.

“In September, we decided to try combining our passion for nursing and our love for traveling,” Loretta said, so they took on travel-nursing, completing their first two traveling assignments in Dallas, Texas, and Yuba City, Calif.

“We have worked very hard, but it is really paying off, because we are doing something we love,” Loretta said. “We get to see the country and work in a great field. We plan to continue travel-nursing while we work on our master’s degrees.”
Allen H. Yearick, ‘46, machine shop, retired as director of distribution for Weis Markets Inc. Yearick received a bachelor’s degree in sociology and psychology from Lycoming College in 1953. He has the distinction of being the first Little League player in the world to play professional baseball and is a member of the West Branch Hall of Fame and Mount Airy, N.C., Hall of Fame. He lives in Shamokin Dam.

Michael W. Chernago, ‘66, office machine technology, continued his education at Elmira College and SUNY Empire. He is semiretired and resides in Cortland, N.Y.

Glenn Hunt, ‘70, technical illustration, received a degree in business administration from Ursinus College in 1983. He is a sales and marketing/project management manager for Peripheral Systems Inc. and resides in Boyertown.

Joseph L. Newell, ‘74, forest technology, lives in Noxen and is a forest technician with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry.

Ronald D. Yaple, ‘74, forest technology, is owner of Race Mountain Tree Services Inc. Yaple, who resides in Sheffield, Mass., is a certified and licensed arborist. He attended and passed the American Society of Consulting Arborists Academy in 2007, the first step toward becoming a registered consulting arborist.

David R. Mader, ‘80, tool design, received his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from The Pennsylvania State University in 1997. He is a maintenance program engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and resides in Ridgway.

Rev. John M. Kita, ‘85, accounting, received a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Christ the King Seminary in 1998. He is administrator/pastor for St. Thomas the Apostle Church and resides in Hughesville.

Thomas J. Wells, ‘97, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, is a fire system manager for United Fire Equipment of Southern Tier and resides in Elkland.

Christopher Muse, ‘00, heavy construction equipment technology: Caterpillar equipment emphasis, is pursuing an associate degree in welding at Catawba Valley Community College. He is a BMW master technician for Hendrick Motors and resides in Catawba, N.C.

Jill Hoffines-Erb, ‘00, found an avenue where her skills and interests merged while growing up on the family farm in Lancaster County. Of all the chores, landscape and yard work appealed to her, so she tested her interests in floral design competitions as a member of her local 4-H club. Finding success, she knew she should explore a profession in the field, and after taking floral classes in high school, she enrolled in Pennsylvania College of Technology’s floral design/interior plantscape major.

Today, Hoffines-Erb is owner and head designer of Floral Designs of Mount Joy, where she has used her creative approach and personal flair to find a niche in the market, and she is considering the purchase of a larger building and expansion to more locations.

While Hoffines-Erb says Penn College exposed her to a wide range of industry knowledge that she uses daily in her business, she credits the teaching of detail most, noting that it’s her attention to detail that helps set her apart.
Kristy Jo (Willson) Gato, ’01, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant at Kershaw County Medical Center and resides in Camden, S.C. Theodore “Teddy” White, ’01, welding technology, is a welder for Steamfitters Local 602 and resides in Frederick, Md. Matthew Campbell, ’02, printing and publishing technology, is the director of offline innovations at Neiman Group in Harrisburg. The Neiman Group is a marketing firm with clients such as Capital BlueCross, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Troegs Brewing Co. John Thomas Laurie, ’02, aviation technology, is a maintenance technician for Embraer Aircraft Maintenance Services in Nashville, Tenn. Laurie finished more specialized schooling and was awarded the Federal Aviation Administration’s Amber Safety Award. He lives in La Vergne, Tenn. Kristy Owens, ’03, physical fitness specialist, is the assistant director of parks and recreation in Silver Spring Township, near Mechanicsburg. She assists the recreation director in the preparation, organization, implementation and evaluation of recreation programs and their respective facilities. Thomas Bartholomew Jr., ’04, computer information technology: data communications & networking concentration, lives in Palmerton and is shop supervisor for Saylorsburg Metal Works. Daniel A. Atkins Jr., ’05, computer information technology: data communications & networking concentration, is a network administrator at RLW Inc. in State College and resides in Lewistown. Eric Charles Beaver, ’05, forest technology, resides in Locust Gap and is a field survey crewman for Brinkash and Associates Surveying & Engineering of Ashland. Elva Welch, ’05, advertising art, is a graphic designer/typesetter for Shop-Vac Corp. and lives in Williamsport. Katrina Marie Beaver, ’06, health information technology, resides in Selinsgrove and is a medical records technician at Lewisburg’s Evangelical Community Hospital. Amanda L. Orzolek, ’07, health information technology, is pursuing a master’s degree in health information management at the University of Cincinnati. She is an inpatient coder for Geisinger Medical Center and resides in Bloomsburg.

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Join the Alumni Online Community
Register with the Penn College Alumni Online Community to enjoy the benefits of staying connected to your alma mater. You’ll be able to network with fellow alumni, stay up-to-date with alumni news, post notes to your class, maintain a personal page, upload photos to share and more. For more information, visit www.pct.edu/alumni.

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 four of its annual awards:

1. Outstanding Varsity Athletic Alumni Award
Presented during Homecoming, this award recognizes the accomplishments of Penn College varsity athletic alumni and contributions they have made to their communities. Nomination deadline is July 1.

2. Alumni Citizenship/Humanitarian Award
Presented to two alumni at December commencement, this award recognizes distinguished community or volunteer service. Nomination deadline is Oct. 1.

3. Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Award
Presented at May commencement, this award recognizes significant contributions in the field, as well as a leadership role in the community and commitment to college and community relations. Nomination deadline is March 1.

4. Alumna/Alumnus Achievement Award
Presented to a recent graduate at May commencement, this award recognizes noteworthy professional or career accomplishment or dedicated volunteer service to the college or 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/alumniawards.htm

Alumni Citizenship/Humanitarian Award winners for 2007, Diane L. Dorner (left) and Lester J. Loner, with college President Davie Jane Gilmour.
School of Business and Computer Technologies


Aseh K. Das, professor of information technology, presented a paper at the 10th Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers High Assurance Systems Engineering Symposium at the University of Texas in Dallas. In his paper, “Information Assurance Architecture with Storyboarding Models,” Das discussed how storyboarding helps in understanding confidentiality, integrity and availability (the C-I-A triad) in information technology services.

School of Health Sciences

Tina M. Evans-Simington, assistant professor of dental hygiene/applied health studies, and Jeremiah C. Gee, assessment coordinator (School of Integrated Studies), offered a presentation at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education annual conference in Philadelphia in December. The two presented examples of a customizable matrix for organizing assessment processes and plans at the institutional, programmatic and course levels.

Edgar A. Hollingsworth, associate professor of machine tool technology and automated manufacturing, was recently nominated by a former student for inclusion in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and Educators.” His biography will appear in the 11th edition of the book, which honors about 5 percent of the nation’s teachers.

School of Industrial and Engineering Technologies

Jeffrey D. Mather, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, presented three lectures, “Using AutoCAD for Sophisticated Solid Model Design,” “Using 3D AutoCAD Surfaces to Create Composite Solids” and “Functional Design Tools for Educators in Autodesk Inventor Professional.” He also presented a hands-on lab, titled “Becoming an Autodesk Inventor Professor in 90 Minutes,” with assistance from Katherine A. Walker, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, and Craig A. Miller, CAD technology specialist for Workforce Development & Continuing Education. Dave A. Probst, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, and Dorothy J. Gerring, associate professor of architecture technology (School of Construction and Design Technologies), also attended, and a model of an arbor press – completed by student Austin M. Upright during his freshman year, was used in several classes and by vendors on the exhibit floor.

School of Health Sciences

Five Penn College faculty and staff members participated at Autodesk University 2007, held Nov. 27-30 in Las Vegas. Jeffrey D. Mather, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, presented a hands-on lab, titled “Becoming an Autodesk Inventor Professor in 90 Minutes,” with assistance from Katherine A. Walker, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, and Craig A. Miller, CAD technology specialist for Workforce Development & Continuing Education. Dave A. Probst, assistant professor of drafting and computer-aided design, and Dorothy J. Gerring, associate professor of architecture technology (School of Construction and Design Technologies), also attended, and a model of an arbor press – completed by student Austin M. Upright during his freshman year, was used in several classes and by vendors on the exhibit floor.

School of Integrated Studies

Jeremiah C. Gee, assessment coordinator, presented a 75-minute session at the 2007 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis. His presentation, titled “The Matrix: A Customizable, Practical Tool for Assessment at All Levels,” defined how matrices can be used in collaborative efforts by faculty, staff and administration to establish the continuity and congruency needed for a continuous assessment process. Also, Gee’s research article, “Past, Present, and Future Programming in Rural Jails: A Snapshot of Pennsylvania,” was published in the September/October 2007 issue of American Jails magazine, the official publication of the American Jail Association. The article is the first known attempt at painting a comprehensive picture of correctional education in rural county jails across Pennsylvania.

Abdul B. Pathan, professor of economics, presented a paper at the 30th annual meeting of the Northeastern Association of Business, Economics and Technology. The paper, “Use of Real World Events to Teach Principles of Economics,” will be published in the conference proceedings. The event was held Oct. 25-26 in State College.

School of Natural Resources Management

An article by Carl J. Bower Jr., horticulture lecturer, was featured in the winter issue of Conifer Quarterly. The article, titled “The Creation of a Garden,” relates the process from initial grant funding to the completion of a defined area of dwarf and slow-growing conifers at the college’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center near Allenwood. The conifer garden is part of the facility’s 5-acre arboretum. Conifer Quarterly is the national publication for the American Conifer Society, which helped to fund the garden.

School of Transportation Technology

Colin W. Williamson, dean, was elected to a five-year term on the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation Board of Trustees. NATEF is an independent, nonprofit organization that evaluates the structure and resources of technician-training programs using nationally accepted standards developed by the automotive industry. Additionally, Williamson was recently certified by the Society for College and University Planning. He joins about 100 colleagues nationwide – and is one of very few in Pennsylvania – who have completed the three-level SCUP Planning Institute.

Children’s Learning Center


Library

Georgia R. Laudenslager and Tracey Amey, librarians, delivered a “poster session” about an audio tour of the Madigan Library, which is available via podcast, during the Pennsylvania Library Association’s annual conference, held Oct. 14-17 at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College.

Outreach for K-12

Jeannette F. Carter, director, and Beverly A. Hunsberger, college transition specialist, offered a presentation at the 2007 national conference of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Programs, held Oct. 27-29 in Salt Lake City. They presented “Ensuring Alignment and Rigor in Concurrent Enrollment Technical Courses,” highlighting the use of Penn College’s faculty in assessing courses that are offered at area high schools through a dual-enrollment program called “Penn College NOW.”

Carolyn Strickland, assistant vice president for academic affairs, was promoted from director of student life. Strickland joined the Penn College staff as director of student life in 2003. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh. She then earned a Master of Education in student personnel services and a graduate certificate in women’s studies at the University of South Carolina. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at The Pennsylvania State University.
Scholarship Application Process Simplified

The Financial Aid Office at Pennsylvania College of Technology announces a new scholarship-application process that students will find easier and faster to complete each year.

The college has teamed with Nelnet, a diversified educational-services company, to produce an online scholarship application for current and incoming students.

“Our previous scholarship process of students making application for each one separately was cumbersome, and it was difficult for students to know exactly for which scholarships they were eligible to apply,” said Dennis L. Correll, director of financial aid at Penn College.

The few questions that students need to answer take less than five minutes, he said. While streamlining the application process, the revised procedure also adds a refinement to help the Financial Aid Office better choose among students competing for scholarships: a short essay.

A link to the new application can be found on the college’s Financial Aid Web site: www.pct.edu/finaid.

Find Complete Articles on PCToday

To find more comprehensive versions of the articles in Campus News – 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.
An estimated 750 students turned out for a meeting to discuss safety on campus in early January. Penn College Police Chief Chris Miller offered an overview of crimes that had occurred in the city while students were on break between semesters, including apartment burglaries at 18 addresses near campus and a string of shootings that occurred across the city on Jan. 4.

While none of the incidents occurred on campus, the chief and college President Davie Jane Gilmour urged students to know their neighborhoods and their neighbors, and to be constantly aware of their surroundings and those with whom they come in contact.

The president and police chief outlined a number of the college’s safeguards and responses in the aftermath of the crimes: doubling off-campus patrols and increasing police visibility on campus, full disclosure to students’ parents, heightened cooperation with local landlords and the Williamsport Bureau of Police, and a planned increase in emergency telephones in student neighborhoods.

They also reminded students of the phone number for campus police – (570) 321-5555 – and the availability of the confidential “Silent Witness” tip line on the police Web site.
Penn College Athletic Teams to Join USCAA

Most athletic teams at Pennsylvania College of Technology – along with other members of the Penn State University Athletic Conference – will join the ranks of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association beginning with the 2008-09 academic year, allowing them to compete for national championships.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our student athletes to receive the recognition and gain the opportunities they deserve,” said Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour. “Athletics enrich the overall college experience, and we welcome the spirit of competition that will be fostered through membership in the USCAA.”

“We look forward to having our entire Penn State University Athletic Conference join the USCAA,” said PSUAC Director John Fritz. “The fact that five of our Penn State campuses are current members, and the positive experiences they have enjoyed, made it an easy decision for us to join as a conference beginning with the 2008-09 academic year. We especially look forward to our teams having the opportunity to compete for national championships and for our student athletes to receive the national academic and athletic recognition that the USCAA provides.”

The 15 PSUAC colleges have been recognized by the USCAA as a conference. The PSUAC conference champion for each sport will be awarded an automatic bid to each USCAA Championship event.

Penn College Athletics offers 15 intercollegiate varsity teams with open tryouts and four-year eligibility for athletes. Wildcat teams won five conference championships and took two seconds in 2006-07. Overall, they posted 181 wins, 81 losses and two ties for a .686 winning percentage.

“This is the next step in the evolution of intercollegiate athletics at Penn College,” said Mike J. Stanzione, the college’s director of athletics.

Alumni Share Experiences at Student Leadership Conference

Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Student Government Association hosted its fifth annual Student Leadership Conference Nov. 10, promoting student involvement and leadership to more than 100 on-campus participants.

Through various keynote addresses and breakout sessions with faculty, staff and returning alumni, SGA offered 120 students a variety of opportunities to develop their leadership skills and enhance their understanding of who they are and what they want in life.

During the morning session, James Asbury (2002, business management) discussed the importance of getting involved on campus and taking advantage of the opportunities presented. Asbury runs his own business, Mountaineer Stone, in Tioga County. Matthew J. Strine, a 2004 graduate in electrical power generation technology, offered the afternoon keynote address. Through his employment with Raytheon Polar Services Co., Strine spent nearly six months “on the ice” in Antarctica as a power-plant mechanic.

Other alumni presenters were Carl J. Bower (who holds a bachelor’s degree and two associate degrees from Penn College); Daniel R. Little (who holds two bachelor’s degrees and two associate degrees); Angela S. Lutz (1993, dental hygiene); Becky J. Shaner (2003, business administration); and Elizabeth A. Webster (2003, plastics and polymer engineering technology).
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.

ONE COLLEGE AVENUE will launch an online edition with the mailing of the Summer 2008 issue in August. The new Web site will feature articles from the print edition, as well as extras, including additional photos, interactive content, and more alumni and student news. Sign up for e-mail announcements regarding the online edition by sending your e-mail address to onecollegeavenue@pct.edu.

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