Growing Enthusiasm
Alumni share inspiring careers at public garden
see page 16

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p. 4 Best Beach Books
p. 8 Alumnus Witnesses the Meaning of Victory
p. 10 A Tradition of “Nontraditional” Careers
Clockwork

The chimes returned at Trinity Episcopal Church in Williamsport after Jim Zerfing, the church clock’s longtime caretaker, and students from Pennsylvania College of Technology climbed 100 feet up the clock tower’s narrow stairs to replace parts that had fallen into disrepair. Under the direction of Zerfing and Keith H. English, instructor of machine tool technology/automated manufacturing, students enrolled in manufacturing-related majors remade the gear shafts that hold the minute hand on each of the 135-year-old clock’s four dials, made a duplicate bevel gear and helped to install a new motor.
Summer Reading Picks
What will you choose to read during your summer downtime? Pennsylvania College of Technology faculty and staff members offer some of their favorites.

Involved and Inspired
Lester Loner, '74, met celebrities and earned international honors during his 22 years of volunteer work with Special Olympics, but those experiences hold no candle to the inspiration that is ignited by the athletes.

Three Generations of Women in Technology
Women remain a minority in many tech-related careers, but they were present in “nontraditional” majors at the institution in its earliest days. Read about three who made an impact in the workplace.

SMART Start
Trying to reverse the trend of teen girls losing interest in math and science and opting for less challenging courses, which could ultimately close them out of rewarding technology careers, Penn College connects with SMART Girls.

Growing Enthusiasm
Three recent graduates pursue their passions to the delight of more than 850,000 who each year visit Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square.

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degrees that work.

On the Cover
At Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Dean Dietrich, '09, is one of three Pennsylvania College of Technology graduates cultivating a love of horticulture and innovation by carrying on the 100-year-old vision of the garden's founder.
New Milestones Set on Basketball Court

On Jan. 18, against PSU-Wilkes Barre, Joe Simon, of Renovo, became the college’s all-time leading scorer in men’s basketball.

Greg Solyak, of Lancaster, and Leroy Joiner, of Williamsport, became the fifth and sixth players to score 1,000 career points. Solyak reached the milestone when he scored 24 during a Feb. 1 game against Penn State Wilkes-Barre. Joiner, a sophomore, reached 1,000 during the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference championship game Feb. 28. The game, played against top-seeded Penn State Beaver, marked the first time the Wildcats reached the PSUAC men’s basketball championship.

Simon finished the season with 1,425 career points. Solyak totaled 1,146, and Joiner finished with 1,019.

T-Shirt Fundraiser Benefits Student-Athlete

A former member of the Wildcat cross-country team, diagnosed with a weak heart and awaiting a transplant, received a $1,000 check during a Penn College-Lycoming College basketball game. John R. Greenwood, a manufacturing engineering technology major from Harrisburg, was joined by his parents, Robert and Barbara, cross-country coach Mike Paulhamus, and members of the college’s “Blue Crew” when he received the money from Bradley T. Robinson, president of the college’s Student Athletic Advisory Council. The organization conducted a fundraiser to help with the family’s medical bills; the $1,000 represents proceeds from the sale of 200 “Blue Crew” T-shirts in only two weeks. Greenwood was an SAAC member from Fall 2007 to Spring 2009.
Aircraft-Restoration Project Delivered

A Bell UH-1H helicopter, owned by the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center in Chester, arrived at Penn College’s Lumley Aviation Center by truck for the start of a long-term restoration project. The museum asked Penn College to restore the aircraft to display status. William F. Stepp III, associate professor of aviation, arranged the project and said it will take approximately five years to complete. The helicopter can be used in several aviation courses, in particular, the aviation maintenance technology Bachelor of Science degree capstone. Founded in 1996, the museum boasts a display of more than 35 military and civilian helicopters, autogyros and convertiplanes, including the V-22 Osprey.

Student Volunteers Aid Rebuilding of Haiti

Five Penn College students on a spring break were among the volunteers to help earthquake-stricken Haitians in desperate need of housing. Benaiah K. Tucci, of Ligonier; Anthony P. Grubbs, of Irwin; Zachary D. Zukauckas, of Newville; Brian J. Applebaum, of Huntingdon Valley; and Matthew A. Miller, of Elliottsburg; traveled to Haiti to help longtime missionary friends of the Living Hope Church near Latrobe. Miller is a graphic design major; the other four are enrolled in majors in the School of Construction and Design Technologies.

Using skills attained during their college education, the students’ goal was to build as many shelters as they could in seven days.

The Multicultural Society conducted an on-campus collection of clothing, nonperishable food and personal hygiene items that were sent to the island nation.

College Offers Three New Degrees

Beginning with the Fall 2010 semester, Penn College will expand its degree offerings by three.

The School of Construction and Design Technologies will offer a two-year degree in renewable energy technologies. In a sequence of theory and laboratory courses over the four-semester curriculum, students can develop the skills to install, troubleshoot and maintain photovoltaic, wind-turbine and solar-thermal systems.

“Renewable energy will be a hot topic for years to come due to depletion of our natural resources and reliance on fossil fuels,” said Marc E. Bridgens, dean of construction and design technologies. “With all the national and local emphasis on our ‘carbon footprint,’ it’s only natural that we get involved in teaching these up-to-date technologies.”

The School of Business and Computer Technologies will add a web design and multimedia major, a “two-plus-two” offering for students who have completed associate-degree requirements in an art-related field and wish to further their education in an online baccalaureate program.

“In building this degree, we mainly looked at taking two-year graphic design students and giving them business and information technology skills,” Pat Coulter, associate professor of computer science, explained. “The result is that we will be graduating a very well-rounded person.”

The School of Integrated Studies will offer a degree in industrial and human factors design – the first bachelor’s degree of its kind in Pennsylvania. Industrial designers use practical skills and knowledge in aesthetics, culture and ergonomics to produce marketable designs for consumer products, as well as products for specific industries.

The interdisciplinary curriculum includes theory and hands-on study in aesthetics, anthropometry, business, engineering, ergonomics, kinesiology, manufacturing, material sciences and psychology.

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.

Students lift a photovoltaic panel that will help power the Victorian House and provide an ongoing lesson in converting solar energy into electrical power.
Journey Into the Warm Months With a Good Book

April’s Showers Have Passed, flowers are in bloom, and it’s time to pick the paperbacks that will join you on your summer adventures (in an exotic locale or while sipping lemonade on the patio). To help, Pennsylvania College of Technology faculty and staff members offer their summer-reading recommendations.

**West of Eden** by Harry Harrison
Humans are not the superior species in this book. It makes you think what would have happened if some things during the evolutionary process had turned out differently. This is the first book of a trilogy. Great series, great writing.
- Eric D. Pruden, instructor of automotive

**Paradise Lost** by John Milton
Milton asked his muse for guidance in explaining God’s ways to man. I have always felt his muse honored that request completely. What other book so reasonably explains all of those great quandaries about our humanity? Milton tells me why there is sorrow in the world; why I love my wife so much, yet can’t understand her; why my human passions jibe so well with my spiritual leanings when I strive to understand the seeming conflict; and how fortunate I am to have the great challenges that create a life worth living.
- Christopher M. Bower, part-time instructor of English

**Rabbit, Run** by John Updike
Set in southeastern Pennsylvania in 1959, the novel introduces the flawed and fleeing Harry “Rabbit” Angstrom, former high school basketball star, as he negotiates his way through – and often from – early adulthood. I love the book because Updike, who died in 2009, makes every word count. You won’t feel warm and fuzzy about the protagonist, but the description of his travels through American culture at the end of the 1950s is rich.
- Brad L. Nason, associate professor of broadcast communications

**Bringing Nature Home** by Douglas W. Tallamy
Tallamy provides scientific evidence in an easy-to-read style, showing how all of us can make our properties naturally more attractive to wildlife. His book abounds with color photographs and lots of suggestions.
- Jim Green, assistant director of financial aid

**The Name of the Rose** by Umberto Eco
It is a historical mystery set in a 14th century monastery. I love this book because of the rich detail and the author’s ability to make medieval controversies and heresies accessible to his audience. If you love language, this novel is a joy to read.
- Susan K. Clark-Teisher, director II, professional and community education
The Three Musketeers
by Alexandre Dumas
I first read this book when I was in high school, after falling in love with the Disney movie release. I was immediately taken in by the story because of its many elements – history, mystery, romance, action, etc. – all of which work together in a way that leaves the reader not only satisfied, but always wanting to read just one page more. More than 10 years later, “The Three Musketeers” continues to be one of my “comfort” reads.
- Nicole S. Staron, library circulation assistant

A Walk in the Woods
by Bill Bryson
A story of the author hiking the Appalachian Trail. Anyone who loves to hike or walk in the woods should read this book. This is laugh-out-loud funny, and hikers can relate to his story. I’ve read it more than once, and our family has even discussed buying the audio version so we can listen while we drive to our hiking destinations.
- Brenda A. Wiegand, secretary to the special assistant for student affairs and student development

The Book Thief
by Markus Zusak
Set in Nazi Germany, it follows the maturation of a young girl, Liesel, whose life is transformed by books and also by her foster parents, who bravely hide a young Jewish man. It’s a remarkable story of heroism and generosity under enormous pressure.
- William J. Astore, associate professor of history

Look Me in the Eye: My Life with Asperger’s
by John Elder Robison
Maybe not your typical lighthearted summer reading, but for those of us who have been touched by Asperger’s Syndrome, this book is an amazing look from inside. So many of the author’s experiences had me nodding my head in agreement and made me realize that the confusion I felt in watching my child’s “antics” was also felt by my child while watching me. If you don’t have any experience with Asperger’s Syndrome, it’s still a fascinating book.
- Deborah C. Books, secretary to the dean of natural resources management

The Lost Symbol: A Novel
by Dan Brown
Alex Cross’s Trial
by James Patterson
The Host: A Novel
by Stephenie Meyer
Last Song
by Nicholas Sparks
Change of Heart: A Novel
by Jodi Picoult
Dead and Gone
by Charlaine Harris
Heartstick
by Chelsea Cain
Black Hills
by Nora Roberts
Bloodfever
by Karen Marie Moning
Remember Me?
by Marianne J. Legato

The Art of Racing in the Rain
by Garth Stein
A great book for anyone who believes their dog has his/her own personality and outlook on the world! This hilarious, sad and ultimately uplifting book tells a story of family, love, loyalty and hope, as only a dog could tell it.
- Valerie L. Pessler, director of alumni relations

The Historian: A Novel
by Elizabeth Kostova
I like this book because it combines history, mystery and adventure. It confirmed something I’ve long suspected – vampires are fond of libraries and archives, where knowledge and secrets abound.
- Patricia A. Scott, librarian

The Shack
by William Paul Young
A well-written book that puts the reader right beside the characters as they experience the power of God.
- Raymond J. Fischer Jr., manager of document services
- Marty F. Mattocks, part-time instructor of computer science

Most Popular
Following are the most-borrowed popular-reading selections at Penn College’s Madigan Library (August to February).

The Art of Racing in the Rain
by Garth Stein
- Garth Stein

Alex Cross’s Trial
by James Patterson
- James Patterson

The Host: A Novel
by Stephenie Meyer
- Stephenie Meyer

Last Song
by Nicholas Sparks
- Nicholas Sparks

Change of Heart: A Novel
by Jodi Picoult
- Jodi Picoult

Dead and Gone
by Charlaine Harris
- Charlaine Harris

Heartstick
by Chelsea Cain
- Chelsea Cain

Black Hills
by Nora Roberts
- Nora Roberts

Bloodfever
by Karen Marie Moning
- Karen Marie Moning

Remember Me?
by Marianne J. Legato
- Marianne J. Legato
**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** by Betty Smith

This heartwarming book explores the life of an immigrant family and their daughter Francie. It captures turn-of-the-century Brooklyn. The book takes you through Francie’s growth from age 11 to 16 and allows you to see her emotion and the deprivation felt by her family. Truly, this book made me appreciate everything I have.

- Kathy Coppersmith, science laboratory technician

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**Yancey’s War** by William Hoffman

I read this war story years ago while I was working in New York and commuting on the subway. I remember laughing out loud in a packed subway car during rush hour and looking up at everyone around me just staring as if I were a crazy person. At times I had to close the book and catch myself before I laughed so much tears would well up.

- Judy Quinti, assistant professor of fitness and lifetime sports, physical fitness

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**Are You Kidding Me?** by Rocco Mediate and John Feinstein

This book is about a golf battle that took place at the 2008 U.S. Open, when not-so big-name golfer Rocco Mediate had an amazing showdown with the biggest name in golf today, Tiger Woods. This is the best sports book I have read to date. Mediate gives you a look inside his mind and what he was thinking during the amazing events of his life and during this on-course battle.

- Timothy R. Cotter, student video production assistant

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**Three Cups of Tea** by Greg Mortenson and David Relin

Greg Mortenson survives a failed attempt at mountain climbing in the Himalayas through the care of poor Pakistani villagers. His promise to return and build a school for that village turns into a mission to build schools, especially for girls, in the extremist areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The thrilling adventure he retells explains the importance of education to some of the poorest students in the world. This inspiring true story illustrates how one person with determination and zeal can make a difference in this world and in the war against terrorism.

- Nancy C. Bowers, associate professor of mathematics

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**The Master and Margarita** by Mikhail Bulgakov

A hilarious satire on the then-official atheism of Communist Russia. Woland (the devil) visits Russia with two sidekicks. Naturally, they raise bedlam. Woland chooses a “Margarita” for his Easter Ball. Margarita, a young woman, actually loves the “Master,” a poor writer who has written a life of Christ. The Master’s novel is interwoven with the “current” tale of the devil’s visit to Russia, and the parallels between the two stories raise numerous religious and philosophical questions. A combination of slapstick humor and deep religious questions, “The Master and Margarita” should entertain readers who like both the silly and the serious.

- Ed Varra, associate professor of rhetoric

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**Electronic Books:**

**The Second Generation**

In 1997, the library at Pennsylvania College of Technology purchased its first electronic books. At that time, the World Wide Web was gaining rapidly in popularity, but it was still in the “Web1.0” phase. E-books began as exact digitized copies of print books. But today, like the Web’s second phase, “Web2.0,” e-books have matured into a format of their own, with much more capacity for customization.

Many books are now only available electronically, and the number and type of electronic books encompass technical manuals and reference resources, as well as fiction and nonfiction books.

E-books are being incorporated into distance education through the online classroom. Our own Montage Yearbooks (Williamsport Area Community College) for the years 1968-83 have been turned into electronic books. They are available from the library’s Archives Web page. The library has even switched many resources in its reference collection to electronic versions in order to maintain the most current information.

If you’d like to visit the next generation of electronic books, the library features a new e-book every month on its Web page, www.pct.edu/library. Why not see what it has to offer?

- Tracey Amey, librarian
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay by Michael Chabon
This novel about comic book authors explores the intersection of popular culture and art, and the nature of desire, sexuality and spirituality. It examines how we escape from reality and how we confront it, and offers an epic and hopeful look at what it means to be a superhero.
- Eugene M. McAvoy, assistant dean of integrated studies-programs.

The Third Policeman by Flann O’Brien
An Irish comic novel that follows an IRA bomber through an “event horizon” into a strange, relativistic world patrolled by the mysterious Third Policeman. The novel was featured as one of the “clues” on the table in the bunker on the television series “Lost,” and for those who enjoy the outer limits of language (as well as want to gain some insight into the literary allusions in “Lost”), the book is a satiric classic.
- Charles F. Kemnitz, associate professor of English and technical communication

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver
The struggle for independence is one of the many themes in this memorable story of four sisters’ lives as a missionary’s daughters. I loved how Kingsolver was able to capture the unique voice of each sister and how differently they experienced and were shaped by their predicament. They face clashes of culture, nature, gender and family as each of them tries to find her own way in the world and reconcile her past. Kingsolver draws vivid pictures of the Congo set amid its struggle for independence.
- Genelle Gatsos, student support services specialist

The Greatest Generation by Tom Brokaw
This book contains true and truly amazing stories of soldiers who fought in World War II, told in their own words to Tom Brokaw. It’s an awe-inspiring and moving read, even if you aren’t a fan of history or war stories.
- Erin S. Shultz, coordinator of career development

10 MORE
Faculty and Staff Recommendations:

Stephanie Plum novels by Janet Evanovich
- Jenny M. Maurer, library technology services manager

How Full Is Your Bucket? Positive Strategies for Work and Life by Tom Rath and Donald O. Clifton
- Mindy L. Carr, clinical director, paramedic program

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch
- Debra A. Krah, part-time instructor of business administration

The Bourne trilogy by Robert Ludlum
- Judy A. Fink, manager of Web design

The Alienist by Caleb Carr
- Shanin L. Dougherty, international programs specialist

Have a Little Faith by Mitch Albom
- Jeanne L. Ott, accounts receivable assistant

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Marilyn L. Palmer, secretary to the vice president for institutional advancement

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv
- Dennis F. Ringling, professor of forestry

The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous, and Broke by Suze Orman
- Nancy C. Bowers, associate professor of mathematics

The Road by Cormac McCarthy
- Gaye R. Jenkins, instructor of sociology

Working by Studs Terkel
This is a nonfiction book about what people do for a living and how they feel about it. I first read it in 1978 when I started my first job, and I have reread it six times as my career paths have changed. The author spent three years interviewing people in a variety of occupations. I love the book because it is an honest account of how people really feel about their jobs – the pride and the excitement, and in some cases, the boredom and the disdain. It gives the reader a good insight into the sometimes-complicated facets of jobs that we are not aware of.
- Lynne H. Kookie, library acquisitions manager

Working
by Studs Terkel

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay
by Michael Chabon

Join the conversation. Comment and add your recommendations at www.pct.edu/oca
H is two decades as a Special Olympics volunteer put him in the presence of flashbulb notables from Jon Bon Jovi to Billy Graham, from Kristi Yamaguchi to founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

But Lester J. Loner is most star-struck by everyday heroes, the athletes whose daily determination has kept him coming back again and again.

“They try, no matter what, regardless of their skill level,” said Loner, whose 22 years with Special Olympics led to a 2007 Alumni Citizenship/Humanitarian Award at Pennsylvania College of Technology. “I remember one athlete who couldn’t jump across a line on the floor. Eight weeks, nine weeks, three months later, you should have seen the satisfaction at what he could accomplish, how hard they’re willing to work, how successful they can be and how good it makes them feel.”

A 1974 business-administration graduate of Williamsport Area Community College (Penn College’s predecessor), Loner received a bachelor’s degree in business administration/accounting from Bloomsburg University. During his “day job” he is office manager for the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority, although his passion flows far beyond the workplace.

Loner helped as a timer and in assorted other duties, but he officially became involved with Special Olympics in 1989. Responding to a newspaper article soliciting volunteers, he attended a public meeting and went home with the title of training coordinator. It was the first of many hats Loner would wear.

In 2007, during the World Summer Games opening ceremony, he was surprised to learn he had been chosen from more than 95,000 volunteers as North American Coach of the Year. Next summer, he will travel to the World Games in Greece as the sports manager for cycling.

Loner is no stranger to globetrotting. He fondly recalls accompanying athletes to Japan, where Special Olympians in 2005 competed at the same Nagano facilities that hosted the Winter Olympic Games. His athletes were championed by the 200 residents of a snow-shrouded village. Schoolchildren made signs of encouragement for their visitors, and despite a shortage of reliable electricity, home visits were an enlightening tradition.

“There’s a real sense of community in meeting people, trading pins, exchanging T-shirts, learning each other’s culture,” he said, noting the lasting friendships he formed on a 2007 trip to Shanghai, China. “In the time that it took me to get to the airport, I had 42 e-mails from people that I left only a couple of hours earlier.”

When he began, only two sports were offered in his jurisdiction: athletics (track and field events) and bowling. Today, there are 175 Lycoming County athletes in 15 team or individual sports.

The original list has been expanded to include bocce, basketball, floor hockey, equestrian, cross-country skiing and more. Cooperative ventures with the American Youth Soccer Organization and Little League Baseball’s Challenger Division also have broadened the menu.

Community support has grown, as well: The YMCA allows the use of its swimming
pool and training facilities. Other groups with which Loner is affiliated – the Lions Club and United Commercial Travelers of America, for instance – have been similarly generous with donations.

“Everyone in Lycoming County has been really wonderful throughout the years in supporting Special Olympics,” he said. “Their support gives the athletes the one thing they cherish most: the chance to try.”

But at the heart of the program – and at the very beating heart of Loner’s involvement – are the athletes. And as in any amateur sporting activity, participants’ skill levels are as varied as the opportunities.

“If you’re one of those gung-ho, win-at-all-costs go-getters, you probably don’t want to coach Special Olympics,” Loner cautioned. “We could have a swimmer with a fear of even going in the water, or you have one who swims all four legs of a medley relay himself. You could have a skier who can go 6.2 miles and one who can’t make it 50 meters. For some, it’s a victory just to run when the gun goes off and to stay between the lines of their lane.”

“You have to understand the athletes you’re working with,” he explained. “They might not be as fast or as strong as another, but they’re trying just as hard and they deserve the same attention.

As training coordinator, I stress to the volunteer coaches that it is our goal to get the athletes to try to do their best, so we have taken up our own motto of ‘One inch farther or one second faster.’ This helps guarantee that the athletes can be successful without worrying about winning gold medals.”

For volunteers willing to patiently provide their time and insight, the benefits are many.

With pride, Loner remembers two local skiers headed for the 2001 international competition in Alaska who trained six days a week for a year, seldom missing.

“I knew what the competition would be like at Worlds, so I asked them, ‘Do you want to just do what you can do, or do you want to work hard and see what happens?’ They were very competitive athletes and wanted to train, so we set up a full program – weights, running, the elliptical. Their dedication was obvious.”

The athletes were such a presence at the Williamsport YMCA that patrons befriended them, encouraged them and were inspired by them – some ultimately donating money toward their trip.

Loner has competed in triathlons, is a veteran of dozens of marathons and hundreds of other races and organizes the annual Frostbite 5K that has raised $26,000 for Special Olympics in the last six years. Advocacy helps him hone his own workout regimen, and amid the sweat and effort, he has found a new definition of success.

“It’s tempting to feel sorry for yourself or complain whenever something doesn’t seem to be going right, but just think of them,” he said. “They really give it their heart. I think, ‘If they’re willing to try, can my life really be that difficult?’”

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A February snow has begun falling more heavily in Williamsport’s Brandon Park, a jewel in any month but especially magnificent when clad in winter white.

Athlete Narcissa Ebner, who is blind, turns her smile skyward, big flakes kissing her cheeks, engaging her other senses in celebration of the season.

As storm after storm largely bypassed the area, it is one of the first outdoor practices that Lester J. Loner’s Special Olympics team has managed. And freed from their usual confines in the Williamsport YMCA on this Monday evening, the athletes couldn’t be happier.

With only three weeks to prepare for the Winter Games in Johnstown, Lycoming County skiers – including Erin Erdman and Kevin Boyles, the first Special Olympians in Pennsylvania to race in a 10-kilometer event – whiz tirelessly along looping trails near the park’s landmark bandshell. Snowshoer Ebner, guided by instinct and Loner’s shouted directions, slows to navigate a utility pole in her path, then sprints confidently toward her coach’s encouraging voice.

“We don’t care how fast we go,” he tells her in what should pass as advice for all of us. “We just don’t quit, right?”

—Tom Wilson

Kevin Boyles, who with teammate Erin Erdman was the first Special Olympian in the state to race in a 10-kilometer cross-country event, trains in Brandon Park in Williamsport.
Three Generations of Women in Technology

While women are still a minority in many technology-related careers – they made up 26 percent of mathematical and computer scientists and 11 percent of engineers in 2007 – they have always had a presence in the education programs at Pennsylvania College of Technology and its predecessors, Williamsport Technical Institute and Williamsport Area Community College, and their influence has been felt in the workforce. From filling assembly lines on the home front during World War II to making a mark in the energy industry, One College Avenue profiles three of the many alumnae who have successfully navigated less-traditional career paths.

“I ended up being one of the first women hired at Lycoming Engines.”

“Five years ago, I became a partner in the business.”

“It’s been great to be able to prove to the skeptics – and to myself – that I can do it.”

Left to right: Irma Logan, ’41, operates a milling machine at Lycoming Engines in 1943. Jeanette Lukens, ’80, pulls a publication off the press at Webb Communications. Sara Rust, ’06, turns a valve while monitoring equipment at the 10-story Brunner Island power plant.
‘Piston Packin’ Mama’
1941 Grad One of First Women Hired to Help Make Tanks for War Effort
by Jim Finkler, annual giving officer

Irma Deitrich Logan was already well on her way to becoming a machinist at Williamsport Technical Institute when America’s involvement in World War II began on Dec. 7, 1941.

“I graduated from Weatherly High School in 1939,” said Logan. “My brother was in a CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camp near Williamsport. He said I should move up there, that I could probably find a job.”

She did find work, at a silk mill in Montoursville. Then, near the end of 1940, she enrolled in the machining program at W.T.I. “I worked at the silk mill from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., and then I went to Williamsport Tech from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.,” said Logan.

She had several hundred hours of training completed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawai, drawing the country into war and drawing men with industrial trade skills into the military just as industries were gearing up for wartime production. “I was familiar with the machines and safety,” said Logan, “and I ended up being one of the first women hired at Lycoming Engines because of my hours at Tech.”

“‘Piston-packin’ Mamas,’ that’s what they called us,” she said of the 20 women who, along with 10 men, were on the line making pistons for tank engines.

Logan said one memory from her time at Lycoming Engines during World War II that stands out is the day of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s funeral in April 1945. “All of the machines were stopped, and we bowed our heads for a moment of silent prayer,” she said. “It was a very sad and moving experience.”

She worked at Lycoming Engines until the end of the war, when she married Randall Logan. She stayed at home to raise a family that has carried its legacy at the school through three generations. Irma’s son Gary C. Logan graduated from the machinist general major at Williamsport Area Community College in 1977 and is now a machinist at Lycoming Engines; her son Dennis C. Logan is a part-time reading instructor at Penn College and a full-time middle school teacher in Williamsport; her granddaughters Andrea and Larissa Logan both graduated from the practical nursing major at Penn College; and her granddaughter Erica Logan is assistant women’s basketball coach and was a top-ranked member of Penn College’s tennis team when she was a student, winning the Penn State University Athletic Conference Women’s Singles championship in Spring 2009.

Logan said all of those years away from the factory while she raised her family did not take away her skills as a machinist.

“My husband was about 12 years older than me, and when he retired, I got out my tools and went back to work at Lycoming Engines.”

She stepped right back onto the factory floor, working on the rod line and the crankshaft line, and was there for another 13 years before she also retired.

Logan is proud to say that she is still active at the age of 88, including volunteering three days a week at the Williamsport Hospital & Medical Center. She said she is proud of her education at W.T.I. and her opportunities to put that education to work, especially as part of the home-front efforts to win World War II.
Far-Sighted Graduate Journeys From Accounting Clerk to Partner/Owner
by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/editor-One College Avenue

In more than a quarter century at a Williamsport-based commercial printer, Jeanette Lukens saw a transformation in the industry – and in her career.

A 1980 graduate of Williamsport Area Community College who earned an associate degree in accounting, she parlayed her degree – by continually expanding her knowledge of the company – to become a partner/owner at Webb Communications, just a few steps from Penn College’s main campus.

Now director of operations, the Williamsport native credits the college with helping her find her place in the printing industry by advising her of an opening for an accounting clerk in the Grit Publishing Co.’s business office.

“W.A.C.C. was excellent with correspondence of job opportunities,” she said.

The company printed the Grit, the Williamsport-born national Sunday newspaper that, at its peak, sold 1.5 million copies each week. The publication is now owned by Ogden Newspapers and produced in Topeka, Kan.

The Grit’s mammoth three-story HOE offset web press – made in Germany, assembled in New York City and delivered to the Grit’s new printing facility on Maynard Street in 1962 – was one of the first in the nation to print a four-color newspaper photo. The press still whirs, producing 40,000 copies an hour.

From her position in Grit’s Third Street business office, Lukens was promoted to purchasing agent and later became office manager, performing all the financial functions for the printing plant, which later became Webb Communications.

“Getting more involved with customers and growing business, my title changed to operations manager, and five years ago, I became a partner in the business,” she said.

Lukens’ position as director of operations requires intimate knowledge of each step in the printing process as she interacts with customers. She takes their calls, plans the most cost-effective production method for their job – including which of the company’s presses and which type of stock to use, how to trim and stitch their “books,” and the most efficient mailing option – determines billing, and ensures they remain happy.

It means keeping up with new technology and processes in “prepress operations,” which evolved during Lukens career from an in-house typesetter keying each line of print on a Linotype machine, to desktop publishing software that allows Webb Communications to accept printing jobs from several states away just as easily as it could from a client down the street.

“We can do now on a 24-hour shift with three people what used to take a room full of people behind light tables,” Lukens said.

Taking charge of customer service for a printing company is demanding.

“Of course, everyone wants to give (their materials) to you tomorrow and get it back yesterday,” she said.

It frequently requires overtime and odd hours for Lukens to perform press checks and remain accountable to the company’s clients, but the vivacious working mom and her husband, Randy – also a business owner – make sure they take an active part in their two athletic children’s busy lives.

“My husband has been very encouraging for me and my career,” she said.

Lukens also remains involved in the Penn College campus, where she serves on the Graphic Communication Management Advisory Committee. Advisory committees are made up of industry representatives who meet annually with program faculty and deans to help ensure the college’s degrees meet industry demand. In addition to the yearly meetings, Lukens participates in mock interviews – giving students experience with meeting professionals in the graphics field – and she offers class tours of Webb Communications each year.

“Being able to visit printing facilities and talk with the managers of those companies provides tremendous insights for students,” said James P. Lentz, associate professor of printing and publishing technology.

Lukens is an owner/partner and director of operations at commercial printer Webb Communications, where she began working as an accounting clerk.
Sara Rust is the first – and thus far, the only – woman to graduate from Pennsylvania College of Technology’s electric power generation major.

A 2006 associate-degree graduate, she is one of six women in her 80-person department at PPL’s Brunner Island power plant in York Haven, where she is a plant equipment operator.

“When I started three years ago, I was the third woman in my department,” Rust said. “It’s definitely a growing area of interest for women as we realize that we are capable of keeping up with the demands of such a male-dominated work environment.”

The 10-story plant burns more than 3 million tons of coal each year and produces 1,483 megawatts of power. As a plant equipment operator, Rust monitors pumps, motors, temperatures and pressures and makes appropriate adjustments to keep the plant operating. It often requires swift, smart decisions to keep a unit running – and electricity flowing smoothly to homes and businesses – and Rust said someone without her education would need years of experience in the field to learn all the functions of her position.

Nonetheless, her education continues.

“The thing I enjoy the most is that there’s constantly something new to learn,” Rust said. “There’s never any time to get bored or get complacent, because the work environment changes so rapidly. It can change drastically just based on whether it’s cold or raining outside.

“There is also a lot of new equipment being added and upgrades being done to old equipment, so I’m often finding myself refamiliarizing myself with equipment that I’ve already learned. I love that my mind is constantly being stimulated and that there’s always something new to take in.”

Among the changes, Rust is training to operate a new scrubber system that, according to PPL, removes 97 percent of the plant’s sulfur dioxide emissions. The plant is also installing cooling towers designed to decrease thermal pollution in the nearby Susquehanna River.

“I am in the process of learning how to operate the scrubber controls, and the cooling towers will be tied in with that once they’re in service,” she said.

The wide need for such upgrades to the nation’s energy infrastructure, coupled with the deregulation of the power industry, promise plenty of work for technicians with Rust’s qualifications.

A plant equipment operator’s job can be physically demanding.

“You’re often working in extreme heat or cold, out in the rain or snow; you name it, we’re in it,” she said.

Twelve-hour shifts that provide the plant with round-the-clock coverage but often mean missing holidays and other family gatherings are another challenge. (“People don’t stop using electricity just because it’s Christmas, so we can’t stop making it,” Rust said.)

“Aside from all that, it has been very rewarding. It’s been great to be able to prove to the skeptics – and to myself – that I can do it,” she said. “It’s also been great to see myself grow in my knowledge and abilities and to in turn be able to help other new operators as they start through their training.”

Edward J. McCabe, lecturer of electrical technology/occupations, reviews power generation equipment with Rust during her final semester in 2006.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA RUST

Web Extra
Read about 2009 alumna Tiffany Madara’s work engineering heating and cooling systems, and listen to excerpts of a 1966 interview with women being trained in the college’s machining labs at www.pct.edu/oca
Pennsylvania College of Technology offers a program that gives girls the opportunity to get a firsthand look at technological careers. Recognizing the nationwide dearth of women in science, engineering and technology fields – the college’s own female population is 35.4 percent – and that girls begin to lose interest and confidence in math and science in middle school and high school, the college moved to change this trend by creating SMART Girls.

SMART Girls is a program for girls in grades seven to 11. SMART is an acronym for Science & Math Applications in Real-World Technologies, and this program introduces high school girls to careers that involve science, math and technology. Girls in grades seven and eight can attend Saturday workshops, one in the fall and another in the spring. When girls are ready to enter their freshman and sophomore high school years, they can attend a summer program during which they stay on campus and attend workshops and field trips for about five days. Not only does the summer camp give the girls a taste of life on campus, more importantly, the workshops and field trips offer a hands-on chance to explore various careers.

I began attending the SMART Girls workshops in seventh grade. Through the program I got to explore many careers, from heavy equipment operator to dental hygienist. I attended both the day programs and summer workshops. After my experiences, I decided that I wanted to become a dental hygienist. It has been about nine years since my first encounter with the SMART Girls program, and after graduating from Penn College with an associate degree in dental hygiene in May 2009, I am working as a dental hygienist. Without the influence of the SMART Girls program, I may not have discovered an interest in the dental field.

The intent of the SMART Girls program is to encourage girls to follow their interests in the math, science and technical fields, even if this interest is “nontraditional.” I believe that it is important to continue to allow girls to explore careers that are traditionally male dominated. Girls may find that they love a career that, otherwise, they may never have discovered due to common stereotypes. The program encourages girls to build a solid background in math and science during their high school years to help in their college experience, as well as in their future careers.

Along with this encouragement, the pure hands-on experience with various careers is, in my opinion, invaluable. Often, students have a hard time making a career decision. This is a difficult decision, but with the opportunity to experience various careers – many of which the participants may never have considered – the decision may just become a bit easier.

I believe these girls have a true advantage when it comes to finding a career that best suits their interests. Maybe the participants will discover their future career and set goals to allow them to end up back at Penn College as students!

Interested?
The next SMART Girls session is scheduled from **July 11–15** for girls entering ninth and 10th grades.

During the five-day program, girls take field trips, participate in hands-on workshops, and stay with other SMART Girls in Penn College residence halls, where they are chaperoned.

One-day sessions are scheduled in fall.

- **Oct. 2** for girls in seventh and eighth grades
- **Oct. 23** for girls in 10th and 11th grades

To learn more, visit [www.pct.edu/smartGirls](http://www.pct.edu/smartGirls).
Kelly Braun, ’09, was a two-time recipient of the Sarah M. Ellegood Dental Hygiene Scholarship. Kelly now works at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville and is pursuing her bachelor’s degree from Penn College.

The Sarah M. Ellegood Dental Hygiene Scholarship:  
Established by a private donor in 1997, this scholarship is awarded to students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program at Penn College. Since its inception, the Ellegood Scholarship Fund has provided more than $27,000 for 14 student-recipients.

“Receiving the Sarah Ellegood Scholarship was a huge help with college expenses. In addition to tuition, dental hygiene students must purchase their instruments and other supplies for the program. I was grateful for all the scholarships I received.”

Through generous donations to Penn College’s scholarship program, hundreds of students like Kelly receive the financial assistance they need to attend Penn College. You can help current and future students by establishing a new named scholarship, supporting an existing named scholarship, or by giving to the General Scholarship Fund through the Penn College Fund.

To make a gift or for more information, visit www.pct.edu/ia, e-mail giving@pct.edu, or call 1-866-GIVE-2-PC (866-448-3272).
Three recent Pennsylvania College of Technology graduates share a common refrain: They feel blessed. Their daily task is to showcase – for hundreds of thousands of visitors who travel each year to admire their handiwork – the beauty this earth can offer, all the while preserving a piece of history. Their days at the prestigious Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square begin early, hours before visitors begin arriving at the public gardens that were created by Pierre S. du Pont, whose great-grandfather founded the DuPont Chemical Co.

“Longwood is about displaying ordinary plants in extraordinary ways,” said Patricia Evans, communications manager at the gardens, where du Pont strived to offer an education in horticulture to the public.

Accordingly, Penn College has cultivated a strong relationship with the gardens. Students in landscape technology and ornamental horticulture visit the gardens regularly, four graduates have earned internships since 2005, and two have since joined the staff of just 23 full-time gardeners.

by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/editor-One College Avenue
photos by Cindy Davis Meixel
Dean Dietrich, who earned an associate degree in ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis in May 2009, earned an internship in the gardens’ Research and Production department. “It’s been amazing,” he said of his yearlong internship. Ornamental peppers (right) are among plants waiting to be transferred to the gardens for late-summer display. Plant production – where his work was concentrated – begins months in advance of a plant’s display in the 325 acres of the gardens that are open to the public. Part of Dietrich’s summer work was devoted to training giant chrysanthemums for display inside the conservatory during the gardens’ Fall Festival and growing poinsettias for Christmas displays.

Among Dietrich’s assignments, he took on a student project to combat a virus that has begun plaguing Longwood’s canna collections. In addition to the display stock, he also takes care of Longwood’s research canna lily stock. “Longwood has created a number of cultivars special to Longwood history,” he said.

“If I’m not working on a large seasonal display, I’m working among the flowers,” gardener Lauren Hoderny said. “I’m watering the grapefruit trees, spraying a shower over the historic Strelitzia or giving a haircut to the Bougainvillea, an original plant of the Conservatory from 1921. I’m splashing around in the Exhibition Hall floor (shown) beneath the tropical Cyathea from Australia, and I’m sharing all this excitement with the thousands of visitors who come to experience Longwood Gardens a year. Yes! This is the life!”
April Bevans, a gardener on Pierre du Pont’s first garden, the Flower Garden Walk, spent 20 years as a costume designer before seeking her second degree (her first was from the University of Delaware). A presidential scholar and student ambassador at Penn College, she earned an associate degree in landscape/nursery technology in 2005. “I always loved gardening,” she said. She spent a year interning at Longwood Gardens before taking on a full-time job at the public facility in 2006.

Bevans recalls watching a man enter the Flower Garden Walk without looking up until he turned the corner. There, he stopped in his tracks and uttered a simple “Wow.” “Those are the moments – when you’re out here sweating, planting Caryopteris – that it really makes it all worth it,” she said.

The color palette and the borders have not changed on the Flower Garden Walk since du Pont built it in 1907, just a year after he purchased the property. From time to time, when working alone, Bevans imagines she can feel his presence. “I wish I could look over my shoulder and see him,” she said. The 600-foot walk – which begins its annual explosion in early spring with 130,000 tulips – remains the most popular of Longwood’s outdoor gardens.

Working in the Main Conservatory, Lauren Hoderny, like Bevans, graduated from Penn College in 2005, completed a one-year internship immediately after, and became a full-time gardener in 2006. She doesn’t recall her first visit to Longwood Gardens: She was 3 years old and a guest of her grandmother. “My grandmother loves it (that I work here),” Hoderny said. “She says she planted the seed.”

“I have been incredibly blessed,” Hoderny said. “At the oh-so-young age of 24, I wake up every morning to go to work at one of the most prestigious and beautiful gardens in the United States, maybe even the world.” She heads up some of the most intensive garden displays, involving hundreds, sometimes thousands of plants each week. Her work has included a living wall of orchids, a floral carpet and an indoor cranberry bog.

The color palette and the borders have not changed on the Flower Garden Walk since du Pont built it in 1907, just a year after he purchased the property. From time to time, when working alone, Bevans imagines she can feel his presence. “I wish I could look over my shoulder and see him,” she said. The 600-foot walk – which begins its annual explosion in early spring with 130,000 tulips – remains the most popular of Longwood’s outdoor gardens.
I950s

Donald L. Neyhard, ’57, technical illustration, won first place at the 2009 Elizabethtown Fair Art Show for his pencil drawing of praying hands. He began drawing praying hands in class at Williamsport Technical Institute as an exercise in his technical illustration curriculum. He received first-place honors for similar drawings in 2000, 2002 and 2003 at the Silver and Gold Art Show in Camp Hill.

Neyhard retired in 1993 as a patent and trademark analyst for AMP Inc. (now Tyco), where he began working as a technical illustrator shortly after his W.T.I. graduation. He received a Bachelor of Technology degree from Elizabethtown College in 1975. He resides in Hershey.

I960s

Van Allen Johnson, ’72, liberal arts, resides in Curwensville. He is a retired elementary school teacher and guidance counselor from the West Branch Area School District.

I970s

Darren R. Moore, ’96, broadcast communications, is a loan processor/closer for Northwest Savings Bank in Warren, where he resides.

Gaye R. Jenkins, ’97, human services, received a master’s degree in education from The Pennsylvania State University in 2001 and is an education coordinator with Sullivan County Victim Services. Jenkins, who resides in Allenwood, was named to “Who’s Who of American Women” in 2008-09.

I980s

Carol A. (Francis) Muthler, ’81, radiography, resides in Jersey Shore and is a radiologic technician II at Jersey Shore Hospital. She performs routine diagnostic radiography in areas of mammography, bone densitometry, fluoroscopy and operating room. She is active in breast cancer and osteoporosis prevention.

Jeffrey L. Stainbrook, ’83, construction & building design, is director of admissions for Education Management Corp./Argosy University online programs and resides in Mercer.

I990s

John T. Malandro, ’07, automated manufacturing technology, resides in Malvern. Malandro credits the outstanding professors, the most up-to-date programs and hands-on experience for preparing him for his job as a CNC machinist for General Ecology Inc., Exton.

Melissa Vonada, ’07, nursing, is a registered nurse in the critical care unit at Mount Nittany Medical Center. Vonada resides in Aaronsburg. She was recognized by “Cambridge Who’s Who” for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in nursing.

I990s

Brian L. Paulhamus, ’01, business administration, is associate vice president/branch manager for FNB Bank in Williamsport. He lives in Muncy.

Saki D. Atkinson, ’05, computer information systems: programming and database processing, resides in Bloomsburg and is a system analyst at Geisinger Health System.

Sherry L. Heckman, ’05, applied human services, lives in Muncy and is pursuing a master’s degree in social work from Marywood University. Heckman credits her work experience and the education she received at Penn College as excellent preparation for furthering her education.

2000s

Dan Gongloff, ’09, plastics and polymer technology; ’08, computer-aided product design; and ’07, computer-aided drafting technology, is a technical designer for First Quality Products and resides in Jersey Shore.

Larry J. Morgan, ’09, computer-aided product design, resides in Farmingville, N.Y., and is an applications engineer for Control Technologies Inc.

James S. Wiand Jr., ’09, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis, is a foreman/designer for Twin Valley Property Management Inc. and resides in Reading.
Larry Basile’s connection with Penn College dates to the 1960s, when his father was a student in the architectural drafting program at Williamsport Technical Institute. While working for his father in high school, Basile developed an interest in the construction field, and his father suggested a visit to Penn College. Basile earned an associate degree in architectural technology from the college in 1991 and now is general sales manager at Construction Specialties, a global leader in architectural and engineering products. He manages a budget of $55 million and oversees 28 independent sales representatives along the East Coast. He is a member of the college’s Architectural Technology Advisory Committee, sharing his professional knowledge to improve the learning environment of current students.

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Business and Computer Technologies

Asesh K. Das, professor of computer science, presented a technical paper at a Cybersecurity and Intelligence Workshop conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. His paper, “Information Intelligence in Cloud Computing – How Can Vijjana, a Collaborative, Self-Organizing, Domain Centric Knowledge Network Model, Help?” was coauthored with Ramana Reddy, of West Virginia University, a pioneer knowledge-based simulation scientist, and two of his artificial-intelligence team members. The work was done when Das was on sabbatical during the Spring 2009 semester and worked with Reddy’s team, which developed the Vijjana model. Das works with the team as an adjunct faculty member in WVU’s Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Terry A. Girdon, professor of business administration/management, served as team leader for accreditation visits to the European University in Switzerland’s campuses in Geneva and Montreux on behalf of the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. It was his third international accreditation trip. One of three business-degree accrediting bodies for colleges and universities worldwide, the IACBE has grown to more than 200 members in the United States and throughout the world since its founding in 1997. All of Penn College’s business and accounting degree programs have been fully accredited by the IACBE since 1998.

Health Sciences

Barbie D. Hoover, instructor of nursing programs, earned a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Walden University. Through her capstone synthesis, she developed a distance education course called Transcultural Nursing in Health Care.

Regis C. Kohler, associate professor of radiography, was asked to review “Textbook of Radiographic Positioning and Related Anatomy, 7th Edition,” written by Kenneth L. Bontrager and John Lampignano and published by Mosby. The publisher asked for Kohler’s input on the book’s accuracy, content layout, online access, workbooks, diagrams and radiographs.

Rhonda J. Seebold, adjunct instructor of dental hygiene, joined 37 other dental hygiene colleagues from across the United States and Saudi Arabia during a People to People Citizen Ambassador Program trip to South Africa. The group exchanged ideas with professors from two South African universities and representatives from The Oral Hygienists’ Association of South Africa. Among its activities, the delegation delivered patient education and oral examinations/screenings at three early childhood development centers.

Industrial and Engineering Technologies

J.D. Mather, assistant professor of drafting and computer aided design, presented a session at Autodesk University, an annual gathering of more than 6,000 design professionals from around the world, plus more than 16,000 additional professionals who “attend” via recorded Internet sessions. Mather presented “Your Professor Should Be Able to Help You: Engineer’sRule.org.” He also served as a lab assistant for a class titled “Mechanical Simulation With Autodesk Inventor Professional.”

Katherine A. Walker, assistant professor of drafting and computer aided design, spoke at the graduation ceremony at the State Correctional Institution at Muncy. Walker is a longtime member of the institution’s academic advisory committee. Eighty-nine women earned GED diplomas or certifications in areas such as building trades, introductory CNC machine programming, cosmetology, computer aided design, custodial maintenance, fiber optics and computer skills.

Integrated Studies

Barbara J. Albert, program specialist for early childhood education, offered two sessions at the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit at State College. In both sessions, titled “Professional Behavior: How to Make Ethical Decisions” and “Meeting Ethical Challenges: Especially for Directors,” Albert reviewed the Code of Ethical Conduct from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and reviewed case studies to help early childhood educators and directors as they face dilemmas involving differing values among staff and families.

William J. Astore, associate professor of history, gave the keynote address at the 11th International Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum. The title of Astore’s address was “Civility: First Refuge of the Patriot?” which reinforced the conference’s theme of strengthening civil discourse in the United States. The conference was hosted by the Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum at Rochester Institute of Technology. Astore also offered the plenary address at the Annual International Conference on Academic Integrity at Washington University in St. Louis. The subject of Astore’s talk was “The Wider Dimensions of Academic Integrity.” The address was selected as the lead article for the December 2009 issue of the International Journal for Educational Integrity, published in Australia.
Early Age Advisory Board.

Accreditation Committee and its membership, through which Grausam was selected for a three-year term on the Middle States Association Elementary Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is an internationally recognized leader in accreditation and Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools.

The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools.

In Memory

John A. Savoy, honorary member of the Penn College Foundation Board, died Jan. 18.

In Memory

Nancy A. Grausam, assistant professor of education and early childhood education, was elected to serve a three-year term on the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Elementary Schools. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is an internationally recognized leader in accreditation of schools both in the Mid-Atlantic region and around the world. The Middle States Association Commission on Elementary Schools works with public and private schools that serve an elementary-age population. Grausam was selected for a three-year term on the commission, through which she serves on its Membership and Accreditation Committee and its Early Age Advisory Board.

Transportation Technology

Thomas D. Inman, associate professor of avionics, and Michael R. Robison, part-time instructor of aviation, were among presenters at an Inspection Authorization Renewal Seminar, held at the college’s Lumley Aviation Center. The seminar was sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration Safety Team and the FAA’s Harrisburg Flights Standards District Office. To maintain inspection authorization, technicians must complete eight hours of instruction each year. Inman discussed human factors and error reduction in aviation maintenance, and Robison offered a presentation on glider maintenance.

Library

Patricia A. Scott, librarian and archivist, was granted recertification by the Academy of Certified Archivists.

To maintain certification, archivists must reapply every five years by taking a written exam or submitting a portfolio of professional activities. Certification ensures that an archivist meets standards in selection, appraisal and acquisition; arrangement and description; reference services and access; preservation and protection; outreach, advocacy and promotion; managing archival programs; and professional, ethical and legal responsibilities.

Pennsylvania College of Technology reorganized Human Resources operations to address organizational growth and development and to allow the college to increase focus on professional development. R. David Kay became assistant vice president for human resources. His responsibilities include employee recruitment, hiring, compensation, benefits, wellness, policies, faculty-bargaining issues, salary systems, unemployment compensation and employee orientation. Linda M. Morris became assistant vice president for employee relations. She focuses on compliance, employee relations/advocacy, ombudsman, leaves of absence, background checks and collegewide professional development. She is also EEO/Title IX/Section 504 coordinator.

Richard Sahn, instructor of sociology/psychology, presented his paper, “The Greensboro Massacre: Thirty Years of Truth and Reconciliation,” at the annual meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology in New Orleans. The Association for Humanist Sociology is a community of sociologists, educators, scholars and activists who share a commitment to using sociology to promote peace, equality and social justice.

Children’s Learning Center

Leah R. Tressler, group leader, and Jennifer N. Bay, assistant group leader, presented a session titled: “Here’s What We Did Today” at the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit in State College. Tressler and Bay showed the many purposes served when they use digital photos and a few sentences to describe what children in their class do during the day and why those activities are important for the children’s development and learning. The brief newsletters are e-mailed to parents each afternoon, saved to document curriculum for accrediting bodies and used to document the progress of individual children.
Twittering

There is a great and giant beech tree in the woods near Allenwood. It holds a trail of names of those before us at Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center. The trail is unknown. Who were those who came before and felt the urge to tweet?

Arborglyphs are carvings on trees that record names, dates, images – even poetry and prose. Some consider arborglyphs to be a legitimate form of artistic expression and honor trees with these carvings. Others think it is just so much graffiti and another form of tree defacement. But these immense beech trees hold an interesting place in history: the information technology of the past, as it were. Arborglyphs record history as human dwellers document their place in time, carving their names and sacred messages deeply into the soft, steel-gray bark. As this beech is nearing the end of its place in woods history, perhaps its demise will find Penn College students tweeting: The tree has finally “bit the dust” and is being carved into beautiful sections to be preserved and displayed for the future, in the halls of the Earth Science building.

-Flora Eyster
part-time instructor of horticulture

Web Extra
Are you a part of the beech tree’s history? Tell your story – and read Flora Eyster’s full essay – www.pct.edu/oca
Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I just got finished reading from cover to cover the Pennsylvania College of Technology magazine, One College Avenue. I especially loved the article “Home-Field Advantage” about Cheryl Miller and the wonderful job she does for Little League.

As a team host and volunteer, I am lucky to spend some three weeks out of my year with some of the most hard-working and dedicated. Tom Wilson’s article gave some real insight to the reason why someone does this for a living and the pleasure we all get (whether you get paid or not) to see the face of a player who sees Lamade Stadium for the first time or when, after a hard rain, we are back in business because of the hard work of these employees and their volunteers.

I also enjoyed “Building Bonds” and “Capturing Critical Images.” It is always nice to hear when someone appreciates your work, and I think this copy represents the wide range of talent coming out of our community and Penn College.

Carol Zysset
Williamsport, Pa.

To submit a letter to the editor, contact:
One College Avenue
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Williamsport, PA 17701-5799
e-mail: onecollegeavenue@pct.edu
web: www.pct.edu/oca
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Do you recognize this photograph?
Do you have memories you would like to share?

To celebrate its rich, full history, Penn College launched a Countdown to the Centennial in 2009. The centennial will be celebrated in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the first adult-education class offered in the basement of the building that now serves as the Klump Academic Center. You can be part of the Countdown to the Centennial by sharing your stories and helping to identify photographs in the college archives.

Do you recognize the person or the location in this 1929 photograph? It shows drafting student Frederick C. Wagner, who became an architect and helped to plan the first renovation of the Klump Academic Center.

Can you share a story or describe a memory that the photo inspires for you?
Visit www.pct.edu/oca to submit a comment online, or call 1-877-PCT-ALUM (toll-free).