Building Bonds
Brothers Forge Construction Careers, Family Ties
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One College Avenue, published online and as a quarterly magazine, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals, and achievements of Pennsylvania College of Technology students, alumni, faculty and staff with one another and with the greater community.

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ISSUE EDITOR
Joseph S. Yoder
ONE COLLEGE AVENUE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
L. Lee Janssen
news editor
Williamsport Sun-Gazette

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Jennifer A. Clune
Lana K. Muthler
news editor
The Express, Lock Haven

Elaine J. Lambert
Tom Wilson
Robert O. Rolley
publisher
The Express, Lock Haven

Tina M. Miller

ISSUE DESIGNER
Deborah K. Peters
JPT Productions, Harrisburg

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jennifer A. Clune
Michael S. Fischer
Larry D. Kauffman
Cindy D. Meixel
Jessica L. Tobias
Tom Wilson
Joseph S. Yoder
Other photos as credited

WEB DESIGN
Judy A. Fink
Phillip C. Warner
JPL Productions, Harrisburg

ALUMNI NOTES
Connie Funk
Eugene M. McAvoy
assistant dean
School of Integrated Studies

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jennifer A. Clune
Brad L. Nason
assistant professor
mass communications

Michael S. Fischer

Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT
PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Larry D. Kauffman

Other photos as credited

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To submit items for consideration, or to subscribe, contact:

One College Avenue
DIF 30
Pennsylvania College of Technology
One College Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701-5799
FAX 570.321.5537
E-MAIL oncologueavenue@pct.edu
WEB www.pct.edu/oca

The steel frame of Dauphin Hall, a new residence-hall unit within a student-housing complex that will be known as Rose Street Commons, rises at the west end of campus in this image from Fall 2009. The residence-hall construction, part of the $45.27 million Stage X Building Program, is expected to be finished for the fall semester. Other Stage X projects include expansion and renovations at the Hager Lifelong Education Center, the Parkes Automotive Technology Center and the Avco-Lycoming Metal Trades Center/Machining Technologies Center.
Building Bonds
A trio of brothers, all graduates of Penn College construction programs, recount how early home-improvement projects, and strong family ties, sparked comparable career paths.

Capturing Critical Images
Working in a groundbreaking pediatric lab that combines cardiac catheterization with MRI services, a radiography alumnus ensures physicians get the “pictures” they need.

Teaching Technology and Society
A faculty member examines academic offerings that prompt today’s tech-savvy students to think critically as they explore technology’s broader dimensions.

And One to Grow On
After 25 years, Dining Services continues to expand, grow “greener” and offer a dizzying array of healthy menu options for discerning diners.

Home-Field Advantage
A behind-the-scenes role helping the young stars of the Little League World Series shine on an international stage suits this alumna fine.

degrees that work.

On the Cover
Corey Sarver, ’97, senior project manager with Gilbane Building Co., stands outside the new bio-safety laboratory that his company helped construct for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md. Read more about the successful construction careers of Sarver and his brothers Jamie and Matt, who are also Penn College alumni and employees of Gilbane, beginning on page 4.
Fred Dedrick, deputy secretary for workforce development for the state Department of Labor & Industry, listens as Dawn Moody, of the Energy Coordinating Agency, explains a procedure to monitor heat loss within one of the Weatherization Training Center’s diagnostic labs. Moody received her training from the WTC.

Weatherization Training Center Expands to Meet Demand

Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Weatherization Training Center held a “Grand Opening” in November, showcasing the enhanced facility for invited federal, state and local officials and training partners, who toured the 16,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art instructional space on Reach Road in Williamsport.

For nearly 25 years, the WTC has provided technical education and training to the professionals who implement programs helping low-income households reduce their energy consumption and costs.

With an infusion of federal stimulus funds bolstering those efforts in Pennsylvania, the WTC is one of the first such training facilities nationwide to expand its operations in response to the growing demand fueled by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act support.

Since 1985, the WTC, part of Workforce Development & Continuing Education at Penn College, has been the primary resource for training under Pennsylvania’s Weatherization Assistance Program, as well as a technical resource for participating state agencies. The total number of people trained by the WTC is expected to surpass 1,000 annually.

The ARRA provides $252.8 million to Pennsylvania for the Weatherization Assistance Program. Due to the funding boost, Pennsylvania, which is allocating the funds over three fiscal years, is expected to reduce energy usage by the equivalent of 155,000 barrels of oil a year, weatherize at least 29,700 more housing units and provide 940 jobs statewide.

Trustees, Corporation for Penn State Visit Campus

Members of The Pennsylvania State University Board of Trustees and the Corporation for Penn State, along with their spouses, visited the Penn College main campus in September.

In addition to holding a business meeting in the Thompson Professional Development Center, the group enjoyed breakfast at Le Jeune Chef Restaurant and traveled by trolley across campus, making stops at the expanded Parkes Automotive Technology Center, where they visited the new Honda Lab; College Avenue Labs; and the Madigan Library.

At the October meeting of the Penn College Board of Directors, Chairman Robert E. Dunham and Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour both reported receiving many positive comments from the 57 Penn State representatives who participated.
Penn College Deemed ‘Military Friendly School’

The publication G.I. Jobs has named Pennsylvania College of Technology to its 2010 list of Military Friendly Schools.

The designation is reserved for the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that do the most to “embrace America’s veterans as students.” Among the criteria for listing as a Military Friendly School are: efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students, and academic accreditations.

Institutions on the Military Friendly Schools list also offer benefits to student veterans such as on-campus veterans programs, credit for service, military-spouse programs and more. G.I. Jobs polled more than 7,000 schools nationwide to compile the list.

Penn College certified 237 veterans to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the Fall 2009 semester.

G.I. Jobs is published by Victory Media, a veteran-owned business headquartered in Pittsburgh.

Homecoming Court’s Efforts Benefit Scholarships

Nearly $900 was raised for student scholarships by the Homecoming Court participating in Homecoming 2009, a campuswide celebration for the Penn College community.

The top three fundraisers in the king and queen balloting, which collected a total of $881.33 for the Student Leader Legacy Scholarship Fund, were the Penn College Construction Association, the Architecture Club and the Early Educators Club.

Among the many Homecoming activities offered were the crowning, between women’s and men’s soccer matches, of the king and queen (Stephanie N. Woite and Brian D. West, both representing the Penn College Construction Association); the awarding of Outstanding Varsity Athletic Alumni Awards (to Bobby String and Becky J. Shaner); a “Stand Still” Float-Decorating Contest (won by the Chi Phi fraternity); and a car show, co-sponsored by Sigma Nu and the Student Government Association.

Also featured were a Williamsport Technical Institute reunion, a reunion of Student Ambassadors, a celebration commemorating 30 years of paramedic education, and the opening of a historical photo exhibit in The Gallery at Penn College titled “Were You There? The Evolution of a College Campus.”

From left, Rudolph J. Downie, an August 2009 emergency medical services graduate; Chuck Stutzman, a graduate of the paramedic program’s first class in 1979; Steven P. Johnson, president and CEO of Susquehanna Health; and Gilmour cut the paramedic 30th anniversary cake.
Corey Sarver, ’97, the oldest of three brothers (all Pennsylvania College of Technology alumni) working for Gilbane Building Co., stands in the atrium of the Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick, Md., where, starting this spring, government scientists will study lethal infectious diseases.
Corey Sarver’s first job after graduating from Pennsylvania College of Technology was building a prison on top of a mountain in Virginia.

Later, he found himself four blocks from the White House, constructing the George Washington University School of Business. Today, he is finishing four years as senior project manager, overseeing the construction of the Integrated Research Facility at Fort Detrick, Md. The multimillion-dollar bio-safety laboratory is being built for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Once Sarver’s crew from Gilbane Building Co. and other specialists move out and the labs are certified this winter, the four-story structure is expected to “go hot” in the spring, and scientists outfitted in biohazard suits will move in, along with lethal infectious diseases like bubonic plague, Ebola and Marburg. There are few laboratories in the world capable of experimenting with such highly communicable pathogens.

“This has certainly been one of my most challenging projects,” Sarver admitted. “Getting it done will be a relief.”

What’s next for this ’97 construction management graduate? He gets to go “play” at Maryland’s Towson University, where he’ll oversee the construction of a basketball arena.

“That’ll be more interesting to me, since it’s sports-related, but it will bring its own challenges, and it will have its own complexities,” he said.

This will be the second facility at Towson on which Sarver has worked – the first was a performing arts center. Sarver has returned to the center to see it in operation and said, “It’s always very powerful to return to a job site and see all the hard work that we put into it and see it being used and enjoyed by many people.”

All of this notable construction feels like a far cry from the day in 1993 when Sarver set off for Penn College – a few hours after gutting his mother’s kitchen in their Somerset family home.

“The day he went to college, he ripped out the kitchen before he left and took off for school,” laughed his mother, Darlene Sarver. “It became a weekend project until he got home for Christmas break and finished it.”

Besides leaving his mother behind to, as she says, “do dishes in the tub for three months,” he left behind two highly impressed younger brothers – Jamie and Matt – who eventually enrolled in Penn College construction programming and who also now work at Gilbane, a national construction-management firm headquartered in Providence, R.I.

“Corey has inspired Matt and me to do just about everything we’ve done,” said Jamie. “We’ve always followed in his footsteps.”

In younger days, the Sarver brothers build, appropriately enough, a sand castle during a family vacation. From left: Matt, Jamie and Corey.
Matt added, “I thought I was on the right path to begin with (pursuing a career in construction), but I was able to see the end result in Corey.”

Jamie arrived at Penn College in Spring 2001 and graduated with an associate degree in building construction technology two years later. Matt started in Fall 2001 and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in construction management in 2004.

Both have fond memories of their Penn College years. For Jamie, now-retired faculty member James A. Potter stands out in his mind as “a guy who propelled me to do better every day.” Jamie added, “He helped me believe I had the potential to be what I wanted to be in the construction field.”

Jamie also holds Robert P. Gresko, instructor of building construction technology, in high regard and recalled “his willingness to mentor you one-on-one.”

“He took the time to teach you, not instruct you,” he said. “He spent time with you after class to make sure you understood the material.”

Matt recalls his first tough class – taught by Wayne R. Sheppard, assistant professor of construction management: “It was a four-hour lab, twice-a-week. It was one of my most intriguing classes, and I was not good at it. Mr. Sheppard had this red pen, and when I would get my papers back, there would be nothing but red marks all over them,” Matt laughed. “It required a lot of time, and I had to work hard. But, despite all those red-pen marks, I was confident that, if I put my time in, I’d get an ‘A,’ and I did.”

After graduating from Penn College, Jamie worked for five years in the residential-construction field before electing to focus on commercial construction with Gilbane. A superintendent with Gilbane, he is currently working on renovations to the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Md. His duties focus on safety checks, scheduling and daily reports. He said he opted for the associate degree because he prefers “being more hands-on in the field.” He added, “I like being out with what I like to call the ‘roughnecks’ – the guys who actually do the physical work.”

Matt, a senior project engineer, has spent the past year and a half in Hagerstown, Md., working on the construction site of the new Washington County Hospital, a project that will take him another year and a half to complete. The new regional health care center will comprise 550,000 square feet.
“We’ve still got a long way to go, but we’ve made great progress. I’m ecstatic,” Matt said, noting that he’s unsure what his next assignment will be. “That’s the great thing about what we do – we never know what’s next.”

The Sarver brothers are impressed with the family focus that is a strong component of their company’s culture. Founded in 1873, Gilbane Inc. is one of few family-owned, privately held, large construction companies in the nation.

“We’re encouraged to have a life-work balance, not a work-life balance,” explained Matt. “Being family-oriented bleeds down through the entire structure of the company and into the lives of even those who aren’t brothers and sisters. We’re all very close. We’re one big family.”

Jamie added: “Every day, it’s ‘How’s your family, your wife, your kids?’ Our supervisors get to know us on a level that’s personal. It’s not about profit; it’s about you, your family, your career and what path you want to take. And, the sky’s the limit for where you want to go and how far you want to take it.”

Corey concurred, “It’s definitely all about family. Gilbane realizes what makes the company successful and that is the people who work for them. I certainly didn’t realize this when I interviewed for an entry-level position some 12 years ago, but I quickly realized that Gilbane fosters the same values that our parents ingrained in us throughout our childhood.”

The Sarver brothers return regularly to that childhood home – the family farm where they enjoy hanging out and hunting with their father and grandfather. They continue to build bonds in the same woods where they played as boys, building treestands and treehouses.

Erin Shultz, coordinator of career development, said construction and design students are encouraged to be prepared for the career fairs as another proactive step toward a successful career.

“One of the most pivotal things the construction and design faculty do to ensure continued success at the career fairs is prepare their students,” she said. “They emphasize the importance of having resumes ready, dressing professionally and attending the career fairs, from the time students are freshmen, to network with employers for internships and jobs.”

- Cindy D. Meixel
"They were always building something," said Darlene. "I think half of my husband’s tools are still out there in the woods!"

When they return home, they still resort to construction of some sort, like continuing to renovate their parents’ home. On Labor Day weekend, the brothers tended to siding and drainage issues.

"Working on projects like that together really brings us close," Jamie offered. "It’s a real bond for us – just like enjoying the outdoors brings us together. It’s the time we get to spend together that’s important."

In addition to focusing on present projects, there is also a focus on past projects, especially that notorious kitchen overhaul 16 years ago.

"The kitchen was the fun one," Jamie admitted. "I can still remember Corey getting up in the morning and saying, ‘Let’s tear out Mom’s kitchen.’ Mom was gone and I told him, ‘Mom’s gonna kill you,’ but Corey turned to Matt and me and said, ‘Here are two sledge hammers.’"

Another family-home-renovation project that stands out for the brothers is finishing their parents’ basement. "Mom and Dad had wanted that done for years," Jamie said, "so, to actually see it completed and know that’s what they always wanted, it really struck home for all of us."

Whether they are constructing multimillion-dollar structures, or tending to home renovations, the Sarver brothers are all about building bonds.
Behind the glow of computer monitors, a group of medical professionals gathers in a control room. A cardiologist and technologist work in tandem as, in the adjoining room, a highly advanced piece of medical equipment scans a patient’s heart, sending detailed photos to the control room’s monitors.

The images show the structure of a patient’s heart and blood vessels, so doctors may pinpoint abnormalities and measure how well the heart is pumping blood.

Sitting next to the cardiologist to capture the images he or she needs to see is Eric Danz, a 1995 radiography graduate and one of three highly trained technicians in the combined Catheterization Lab and MRI Suite – called XMR – at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The suite, which opened in May 2008, is one of only eight in the world and one of the first of its kind at a U.S. pediatric hospital.

“There is a big responsibility. I’m being handed someone’s child.”

Eric Danz, ’95, is one of three cardiovascular MRI technologists in the XMR Suite at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The suite is one of the first of its kind in a pediatric hospital and is a precedent-setter in the field of pediatric cardiac MRI.
Prior to this innovation, Danz says, patients were anesthetized to undergo the initial MRI, recovered in a recovery room, and sent back to their hospital room.

“After the MRI and depending on the severity, the patient might need cardiac catheterization, which would involve the same process of anesthesia, cardiac catheterization and recovery,” Danz explained. “In some cases, the cardiologist may want to quantify the results with another cardiac MRI.”

For the patient, that would mean another round of anesthesia and recovery.

“So when all is said and done, this very sick child might have to undergo anesthesia three times, thus increasing the risk vastly,” Danz said.

The three-day process also increased treatment time, the patient’s stay and the bill.

“By integrating the MRI with the cath table, the anesthesia risk goes down threefold, since the child will only be anesthetized once, and the entire procedure is done in one day,” Danz said. “The stress to the patient and family is significantly reduced.”

Danz left his job as director of operations at Upright MRI in Cherry Hill, N.J., to take a staff MR technician job at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. It was a step down, but he saw an opportunity to learn more at CHOP.

“I knew I missed caring for patients, and I couldn’t shake the feeling I had more to learn about MRI, and the business side could wait and … would be benefitted if I had, in fact, mastered the field.”

Not long after, his philosophy proved true when the new XMR Suite – and with it a position for a cardiovascular MRI technician – opened.

Because it is the most safe, least invasive method for imaging the heart and can produce both still and moving pictures of the heart while it is beating, MRI has become the standard of care for cardiac patients, and its benefits are still being uncovered.

“It’s still in its infancy, even though (MRI is) 20 years old,” Danz said. “We’re just discovering what we can do with it.”

He attends conferences for the Society of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, where he learns what is on the horizon in the field, and when it comes to pediatric cardiovascular MRI, many of those advancements are being made at CHOP.

“This technology … is very new, and it’s very exciting to be right there as it develops at the best children’s hospital in the nation,” he said. “All which would not have been possible without the education I received at Pennsylvania College of Technology.”

Danz chose to enroll at Penn College because it’s the school his father, Jere, wanted him to attend. Jere Danz is a 1960 graduate of the printing major at Williamsport Technical Institute, a predecessor of Penn College, and went on to work for many years as a printer for NCR Corp. (which was subsequently purchased by AT&T) in the Lancaster area.
Unsure what he wanted to do, Eric studied the college catalog, and the radiography program caught his interest. He worked in radiography for two years after graduation, then decided to “seek a bit of adventure before settling down, always knowing that I did, in fact, have a trade to return to when I was satisfied.”

An outdoor enthusiast, he spent time as a ski instructor at Smugglers’ Notch in Vermont and briefly tried his hand as an apprentice cabinetmaker before returning to work in the medical imaging field in Philadelphia.

“After my return, something inside of me turned on,” he said. “I just wanted to learn more and more and achieve. That’s the wonderful thing about medicine. There is always more to learn.”

The great outdoors – in the form of ocean waves in neighboring New Jersey – beckoned Danz.

“We found we were at the beach more than we were in the city, so we decided to move to the beach,” he said.

He now enjoys the best of both worlds – a meaningful career and a fulfilling home life – separated by a two-hour commute from Somers Point, N.J., to the Children’s Hospital. Home is not just sand and surf, but also his wife, Thao, and a growing 1-year-old daughter.

Each day he goes to work knowing he will be helping another parent’s most precious treasure.

“Having a child has certainly increased the compassion I feel for my patients,” he said. “To be honest, it is harder than it (had been) to see patients about the same age as my daughter, but I’m actually glad for that, because I feel it helps me go the extra mile to help that child and family. (And) working at CHOP has given me an appreciation for what a wonderful gift from God a healthy child actually is.”

About one in 100 children is born with heart disease, and four to five undergo cardiac MRI at Children’s Hospital each day.

“There is a big responsibility,” Danz said. “I’m being handed someone’s child.” He knows that the treatment and care they receive in CHOP’s Cardiac Center is sometimes their only chance at life.

“Even though I’m just a small part of that … I feel obligated, I feel very honored, and I guess I feel hopeful,” he said. “I’m very glad they’re here. We get patients from around the world, and when they come here, I know they’re going to be OK.”

In a control room adjacent to the MRI Suite, Danz works in tandem with cardiologist Kevin Whitehead M.D., Ph.D., who outlines the images he needs to see while Danz prescribes the different series needed to acquire them. Such a team approach is used for many scans, because the children who come to the lab are typically very sick and cannot tolerate being re-sedated and re-scanned.
Do we control technology, or does technology control us?

Put differently, is technology simply a tool that humans invent to perform a certain task, or do our tools constrain or even determine our responses in ways we cannot fully predict? Is new technology always better, a sign of inevitable progress? If so, are people who resist new technology irrational, even “Luddites,” who mindlessly rage against the machine? Or are they rational and mindful seekers, working to protect time-honored values and a way of life against the perils of modernization, such as the Amish people in Pennsylvania?

Pennsylvania College of Technology students debate and discuss such issues in History 262, “Technology and Society.” Immediately after becoming a four-year college in 1989, Penn College recognized the need for courses that tackled the complex dynamic that exists between technology and the many human societies that technology helps to create, sustain, and sometimes to disrupt and even to destroy. Led by Daniel J. Doyle, now an emeritus professor at Penn College, History 262 sought to introduce students to the potentially unsettling idea that technology has been, and continues to be, a powerful force that we as humans do not always fully understand, let alone fully control.

STS Courses at Penn College

As we mark the 20th anniversary of Penn College, we also mark the anniversary of the creation of STS courses, or Science, Technology and Society. Today, Penn College offers two dozen STS courses that plumb the depths of the science, technology and society dynamic in subject areas as diverse as aviation, biology, construction, and health and human services. Such courses recognize that the ultimate “success” or “failure” of technologies is often not determined solely by technical factors; other concerns, such as aesthetics or cultural values or perceptions of risk and safety, intervene to vex the most skilled scientists and engineers. Such nontechnical circumstances serve to remind us that technology is a thoroughly human endeavor – and thus often a thoroughly unpredictable one.

Technology, in a way, is a mirror in which we see ourselves reflected.
Is New Technology Always Better?

When History 262 was created in 1990-91, many Penn College students, recalls Doyle, arrived in class with the notion that technology is inevitably developmental and progressive, a wondrous force for good in the world. Doyle wryly recalls how he sought to encourage students to interrogate their unexamined assumptions: “I developed a mantra: ‘By what criteria and from whose perspective,’ as I challenged them and encouraged them to step back from their culturally embedded way of seeing the world.”

American culture (and American students) tends to value whatever is newest, fastest, more powerful and most profitable. American attitudes are products, if you will, of the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century. Yet, as America shifted from the skill and creativity of individual workers to repetitive mechanical processes in the drive to mass production and greater efficiency, was there not something lost? In raising this question in class, Doyle recounts that it was his “personal mission” to counter the prevailing view that those who resisted industrialization were reactionaries: history’s misguided and inevitable losers. Instead, Doyle notes, he sought “to reframe how they (technology’s critics) should be regarded – as seeking to preserve their skills, status in society and overall way of life.”

Thinking Critically About Technology

Since 2005, I have sought to maintain Doyle’s probing and critical approach to examining the technology-society dynamic. On the first day of class, I introduce students to Melvin Kranzberg’s First Law: “Technology is neither good nor bad. Nor is it neutral.” They learn that new technologies often produce both “winners” and “losers.” For example, robotic technology used in manufacturing automobiles leads to the elimination of manufacturing jobs, while producing new jobs in computer automation. The goal here is not to get students to think negatively about technology, but rather to get them to think critically, as well as to see technology’s broader dimensions and wider impacts.

Such broader dimensions include ethical and moral issues. Each student is required to debate the ethics and morality of a contemporary technology. Examples include surveillance technology and the protection of privacy, nuclear energy and the problem of waste storage, genetic advances and their application to the foods we eat as well as to medicine, and nanotechnology and the possible hazards of manipulating nature at the atomic level. Students also discuss the Manhattan Project (a precedent-setting collaboration among the government, military, private industry, and academia), as well as the U.S. decision to use the atomic bomb against Japan. In addressing such complex issues, students come face-to-face with the fact that technical information alone rarely compels assent, and that ethical and moral issues rarely produce binary, yes/no, good/bad answers.

Other contemporary technologies of note include medical advances, such as cochlear implants for the profoundly hearing impaired, the future of alternative-fuel cars, and the growing importance of ‘green’ technology in the context of diminishing natural resources and rising global temperatures.

With respect to cochlear implants, students watch and critique “Sound and Fury,” a provocative documentary that introduces students to deaf culture.

Reactions of the deaf community to cochlear implants ranged from eager acceptance to bitter rejection, a fact that comes as a great surprise to many hearing students. (In one class, Travis Clawson, a deaf student who later served as the commencement speaker at graduation in December 2007, explained to his fellow students why cochlear implants were not the right fit for him; for more on Travis, see the Spring 2008 issue of One College Avenue.)

Our Technologies, Ourselves

Most of all, I remind students that they are the technological makers (and decision-makers) of tomorrow. Precisely because of their technical literacy, they will be called on to make vitally important decisions, yet in doing so they need to be cognizant of wider societal and humanistic perspectives. In education as well as in our lives, we often separate the scientific and technical from the societal and humanistic. Such separation may seem convenient, even supremely rational, but is it wise? Is not technology part of what makes us human? Are we not only Homo sapiens (thinking humans) but also Homo faber (fabricating humans)?

Like a sonnet or a sculpture, technology is a human creation: the product of our hands and our minds and our souls. Technology, in a way, is a mirror in which we see ourselves reflected. The images may be dazzling or dim, dreamy or disturbing, yet they are always telling. The great Greek philosopher, Socrates, told us “to know ourselves.” A powerful and telling way to gain self-knowledge is to look closely at our creations — our technologies. For embedded within them are our values and our priorities: our hopes and our dreams.
As revolutions go, it couldn’t have begun more quietly:
A two-column article in the Aug. 27, 1984, edition of the
Spotlight campus newspaper, unassumingly headlined “Food
Plan” being offered this year in College’s new dining facility.

Yet the opening of the Susquehanna Room in Williamsport
Area Community College’s then-new Hager Lifelong Education
Center – a decided and welcome change from the cafeteria and
vending machines in Klump Academic Center – was the first
step in a quarter-century journey to provide nutritious and
affordable dining options on campus.

The genesis of Dining Services’ professionalism and purpose
was evident even in those long-ago school days. The aiming-to-
please Susquehanna Room featured entrées, sandwiches, a salad
bar, beverages and soft ice cream – with meal prices that were
equally palatable. Hours were adjusted to accommodate early-morning and
evening classes, and students were encouraged to purchase one of three meal
plans conveniently encoded on photo identification cards.

The trip hasn’t been without stumbles and detours, the occasional
experiment that fell short of promise. As W.A.C.C. evolved into
Pennsylvania College of Technology and enrollment nearly
doubled, however, one dining unit grew into nine, and students
and staff alike continue to enjoy an unprecedented variety of
places to eat.

Want pizza? Try Penn Central adjacent to the Susquehanna
Room or Fresh in the Breuder Advanced Technology and
Health Sciences Center (a particular godsend to Health Sciences
students on a daylong tether to labs in the west wing of the building).
Hungry for a unique lunch? Grab a panini from Wrapture in the
Academic Center. Need an eye-opening jolt of caffeine and a
bagel to start your day? Look no farther than Bookmarks Café in
the Madigan Library.

There also are convenience stores in the Bush Campus
Center and in College West Apartments, occasional special
dinners – steak and crab legs among the most popular – and hot
meals in off-site locations such as the Schneebeli Earth Science
Center and the Lumley Aviation Center.

A recent lunchtime conversation with Crissy L. McGinness,
director of dining services, and Amy S. Lingg, marketing
assistant, provided impressive insight into a busy “couple” of
years for Dining Services and made it clear that the campus’s

CC Commons, which opened in 2005 on the ground
floor of the Bush Campus Center, offers several hot
entrees and more as an all-you-can-eat facility geared
toward students with board-meal plans.

Enjoying its silver anniversary as the college’s first official
foray into campus dining, the Susquehanna Room – still
the largest unit – offers full daily service with a marketplace
of options within the Hager Lifelong Education Center.
expansion offers no time to rest on one’s accomplishments.

The imminent addition of nearly 270 on-campus students and new dining venues through the soon-to-open Dauphin Hall residential unit (within Rose Street Commons student-housing complex) on the far-western reaches of main campus, part of the $45.27 million Stage X construction and renovation program at Penn College, has made “configuration,” “consideration” and “cooperation” bywords for the department.

“We’re working with Residence Life, coming up with hours and programming that will support the needs of those students,” McGinness said of the planned 334-seat area. “There will be a larger convenience store, two private dining rooms for quiet study hours, a more upscale feel, more healthy menu selections.”

Alongside expansion of units and a broader menu of food options, the department has benefited from an infusion of knowledgeable staff from hotels, national-chain restaurants, the hospitality industry and military “mess halls.” A far cry from the ladle-wielding “lunch ladies” of cafeterias past, today’s professionals have to navigate the ever-shifting tastes of patrons – “It’s different each year what the students like and don’t like,” Lingg notes – while encouraging healthy eating and accommodating those with food allergies. No small responsibility, given that the department also prepares meals for the youngsters in the college’s Children’s Learning Center.

“We have trained and tried to prepare for both food safety and for worst-case scenarios like pandemic planning,” said Vicki K. Killian, dining services manager. “We have visited other campuses to see what other colleges are doing. There are more special events and promotions (such as Turkey Bowling and the food-sampling parties) held in the Susquehanna Room each year. The retail areas have grown tremendously, especially the Wildcat and West Side stores. When I first started, ‘the C-Store’ was in the CC Commons area and we had one cooler, one freezer and a couple of small shelving units. We maybe had between 125 and 175 items; now, we offer over 800.”

If growth has been Dining Services’ constant, “green” has become its commitment.

During the 2008-09 school year, Pennsylvania College of Technology Dining Services sold more than 126,800 slices of pizza in Penn Central and 54,240 burgers in the Susquehanna Room.
Sustainability is evident in its patronage of local farmers – who supply garden-fresh produce, grass-fed beef and hormone-free milk – and in the bottling of Penn College Water from regional springs.

“You can’t get much fresher than that!” said Sarah R. Shott, an information technology: Web and applications development major from Tresckow, and a Student Government Association liaison with Dining Services.

The Susquehanna Room’s food scraps are transported 10 miles south for composting at the Earth Science Center, which Shott noted has reduced that unit’s waste by 595 pounds over last year. The introduction of washable plastic tumblers has removed thousands of disposable beverage cups and lids from the refuse stream, CC Commons has eliminated trays (and lessened its dishwashing costs), and “greenware” made from recycled materials is used at larger catering venues.

Dining Services added an executive chef and has a registered dietician on staff, and it posts an online ingredient guide for all of its items. And just for good measure, it regularly engages students to help plan menus and increase mutual understanding.

“That helps us to get hard, true facts,” McGinness said, “and those survey results from our dining units help to build a rapport.” The requirement that resident students purchase a board-meal plan, for instance, initially met with resistance. Helped by creation of the liaison position and an outreach effort to credibly show students that meal plans are more practical and economical (and less ominous than “Big Brother” or a second mother), the initial furor gave way.

“I get to interact with students one on one and listen to their comments and concerns about Dining Services,” Shott said. “I believe students like to talk to me about concerns they have because they feel comfortable, as well as relate to me as a student.” She also is involved in SGA, which established a Dining Services Committee to encourage input – a “great opportunity to be heard,” she said.

Moms and Dads also were invited to participate through a contest called “Recipes From Home.”

“Parents got to send in their student’s favorite recipe, and the winner would have their dish featured in one of the dining units,” Shott explained. “Once they all were collected, they were narrowed down to five. Then, the five choices were made and sampled by students that attended an SGA meeting.”

The finalists were Lemon Cheesecake, Ranch Chicken, Country-Style Potatoes, Beef and Fries Casserole, and Orange-Rosemary Chicken. In a close competition, the cheesecake won; Mom received a Dining Services apron and a certificate, and Lingg said the dessert will be added to one of next year’s menus – a little touch of home in this ever-growing campus community.
Cheryl L. Miller has a baseline seat for one of the most-watched – and certainly one of the best-loved – sporting events of each year.

But the maintenance/turf manager for the Little League World Series seldom sees the soaring homers and defensive gems that are the stuff of ESPN highlights.

“Whether I’m watching baseball, football, the Kentucky Derby … I’m looking at the grass,” says Miller, whose roundabout journey to Little League includes a 2004 landscape/nursery technology degree from Pennsylvania College of Technology. “ Someone will tell me, ‘Hey, the fields looked great on TV!’ and I’ll say, ‘Are you looking at the same fields I’m looking at?’”

Miller tends to Howard J. Lamade Stadium and its newer sister venue, Volunteer Stadium, with a parent’s instinct, vigilance, critical eye and tough love. In fact, she describes her annual routine in decidedly maternal terms: dotingly “waking up” the fields every spring and “putting them to bed” after the boys and girls of summer head back to the reality of home and school.

“She is one of the unsung heroes of the Little League employee family and gets very little public acknowledgment for the important responsibilities she has,” says Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball. “I certainly appreciate her good work and knowing that the annual Little League World Series participants will be playing on well-manicured and safe fields.”

Under Scrutiny

With a global following and start-to-finish television coverage, the series brings 16 teams to South Williamsport each August in a 32-game tournament that narrows to a one-game final between the U.S. and international champions. As the competition heats up and the bracket is winnowed toward a Sunday showdown live on ABC-TV, Miller can’t help but feel the pressure.

“I think about it a lot,” she admits. “Everyone is watching, major-league athletes are watching, my peers are watching. The world’s going to see these fields, and they need to be perfect.”

For Miller, however, the series already has begun long before the first pitch is thrown. In April, she starts to fertilize the fields – not just the two stadiums, but also subsidiary areas used by summer visitors, the Penn College baseball team and others. Insecticides are applied, surfaces raked, top dressing applied to the infield, bases installed, and home plate and the pitcher’s mound rebuilt.

“Basically, we’re getting things aired out and dried out and ready to play. It’s a lot of TLC,” she says of her summer-long regimen of thrice-weekly mowing, regular fertilization and fungus control – all at the
whim of an often inhospitable and wholly unpredictable Mother Nature.

Summer brings the Urban Initiative Jamboree, which allows inner-city youngsters to experience Little League Baseball over a bucolic Memorial Day weekend, and five weeks of baseball camps.

"Those fields get used all day, every single day – Friday, Saturday and Sunday – and we need to keep them looking their best," Miller says. "If it rains, we'll come in at 7 a.m. to clean up the puddles. Those kids are there to play baseball, to play games in front of their parents, and we'll even do night work to make that happen."

The Cavalry Arrives

For most of the year, she does it all with only a handful of employees (and workers referred by Lycoming County judges to fulfill community-service obligations). But when the series arrives in mid-August, she welcomes an all-star lineup of industry heavy-hitters from the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Association. Led by Jeffrey T. Fowler, a Penn State Cooperative Extension turfgrass educator from western Pennsylvania who has traveled to the series for a dozen or so years, the group comprises the state chapter of the National Sports Turf Managers Association. Led by Jeffrey T. Fowler, a Penn State Cooperative Extension turfgrass educator from western Pennsylvania who has traveled to the series for a dozen or so years, the group comprises the state chapter of the National Sports Turf Managers Association. Fowler said both organizations are very proud of Miller’s dedicated maintenance work at the Little League complex. He also applauded her continuing education in the field, enrolling in Penn State’s World Campus toward a bachelor’s degree in turfgrass science.

"Whenever someone compliments our volunteers, I say, ‘Thanks, but we’re only here for 17 days a year, Fowler said. “We come and help where we can to do those little things that make all the difference in the world when it comes to TV time. But I give kudos to Cheryl Miller, who does a fabulous job of spraying, fertilizing and mowing the rest of the year – when the cameras aren’t on.”

The 10 days of the series are a maelstrom of mowing, watering, fertilizing, edging and treatment by groundskeepers, who need to compromise with network crews setting up for their packed broadcast schedule and to accommodate each team’s batting practice on the unfamiliar fields of northcentral Pennsylvania.

"Since Little League moved the fences back from 200 to 225 feet, it’s so much different than what these kids are used to," Miller said. "So every team is allowed one practice in each of the two stadiums so they can get accustomed to the field. The grass really starts flying; the series hasn’t even started yet, and those fields are getting so beat up already!"

Once play begins, the pace only quickens, and the weather can only unsettle the best-laid plans. Too much heat and humidity, you get disease in the outfield. Too much rain, and you get drainage problems that can threaten to knock the series off schedule.

"We’ve had years when we’re pounded by rain, and the fields are very close to unplayable," she said. "We do the best that we can to keep things on track. We have kids missing school to play here, parents missing work to travel here. There’s no ‘Oh, we’ll just play tomorrow. They came to play ball, and it’s up to us to get those kids back out there."

After the champion is crowned and August turns to autumn, attention shifts to year-end maintenance. Equipment is put into storage, supplies are ordered for the following season, muddy ruts are repaired in parking areas, and Miller adds to her arsenal by attending professional-development events. She and her crew move indoors to paint dormitories in International Grove or whatever else needs to be done before “spring fever” heralds the return of baseball season.

Trial and Travel

Had she not heeded her inner voice along the way, Miller might be doing something totally different with her time.

A 1998 graduate of South Williamsport Area Junior-Senior High School, less than a mile west of Little League Headquarters, Miller first enrolled at Penn College with an eye toward business management or "something with computers." She soon realized that choice wasn’t for her and decided to “give the real world a try,” bouncing from odd jobs to temporary-employment agencies to factories, which quickly convinced her to return to higher education.

She moved into a recreation management major at Lock Haven University, but grew weary of the commute and nostalgic for the outdoors closer to home. With the help of a great-aunt who worked in the Little League kitchen, Miller took a data-entry position but often caught herself staring out the window watching the crew mow the fields. She joined the maintenance team part time in 2001, but her wanderlust returned. She
enrolled in New England’s private Suffolk University, flying to Boston with nothing but a suitcase, with her parents shipping her other belongings for what amounted to only one semester. Miller soon had an epiphany that led to her return.

“I was sitting in Fenway Park, watching the field crew at a Red Sox game, and I told my friends, ‘I do that. That’s what I do at home.’” I’d been coming back every summer, but I decided then and there, ‘I’m going to go back.’”

**Lasting Inspiration**

Looking to combine her part-time work at Little League with her passion for being outdoors, she opted for Penn College’s School of Natural Resources Management and the company of horticulture faculty members who inspire her to this day: Carl J. Bower Jr., Michael A. Dincher, Dennis P. Skinner and, most of all, Richard J. Weilminster.

“People would say, ‘Oh, he’s so tough,’” she says with appreciation. “If you did what he asked you to do, if you listened and worked and paid attention, you could learn so much. I still remember things he told me in class. I’ll see a tree or a plant and I can identify it right away, thanks to Mr. Weilminster.”

Weilminster has since retired, but he hasn’t forgotten Miller, either.

“I truly love Penn College and the students that I had during my career,” says the 1986 recipient of the Master Teacher Award. “Cheryl was always dedicated and worked diligently to become the best she could be; she was always a very good student. There are so many wonderful stories about (our) grads out there. They are inspiring and a wonderful part of the legacy of Penn College.”

Miller’s itch to travel returned after graduation. She took jobs in Baltimore, doing landscaping work in a large private retirement community before moving on to a position as plant health-care technician. She liked the variety, and gained valuable experience with both residential and commercial clients. Still, she maintained regular contact with Little League and, on one visit home, she asked if any full-time work was available.

“They offered me the maintenance/turf manager position, and it was like I never left,” she says. “This is where I was supposed to be the whole time. They’re really a family to me. I don’t believe in luck, but this is the best luck I’ve had in my life.”

As for her own legacy, Miller lets her work – and her admirers – speak for her. She shares a recent e-mail that Little League received from a spectator at the 2009 World Series, commending the field crew’s cheerfulness and professionalism in the midst of frustrating rain delays.

“He said he’d been coming here for four or five years, but that this year was extraordinary,” Miller related. “He said, ‘I got tired just watching the ground crew. He’d been to professional stadiums, he said, and he thought that we did the most wonderful job he’d seen.”

Miller has learned any number of tricks in her near-decade at Little League: How to combine a mower and a roller to make that striped field pattern so familiar to TV viewers, finessing the grass to get that just-right look when the sunlight hits the alternating bands of green. That the beaten-down hill behind the outfield – summer home to youngsters wearing a dirt path on cardboard toboggans – will bounce back to life on its own, thanks to natural springs that flow underground.

The 29-year-old saves her best advice for students, though.

“If you only want to make money, you probably should find another career,” Miller annually tells a facilities management class at Lock Haven, where the salary question inevitably comes up. “But if you love seeing your hard work pay off, if you love sitting back and proudly looking at the results, this is the job for you.”
Research Engineer’s Advice: Focus on Math, Problem-Solving

Eli M. Hughes, ’01, electronics engineering technology, had little interest in school until taking a computer course in junior high school. A Pennsylvania College of Technology admissions representative encouraged him to visit campus and explore the electronics program, and a career path was forged. As a research engineer at Applied Research Labs, State College, Hughes performs research and development for the U.S. Department of Defense involving acoustics, electronics, signal processing and software engineering. He also does consulting for Playworld Systems, Lewisburg, a leader in customized, commercial-recreation and playground equipment. He researches ways to incorporate light and sound into the design of a play system; he holds four patents in the field. Hughes commends the hands-on learning at Penn College, advising students interested in electronics to focus on math and problem-solving skills. He completed a master’s degree in acoustics and is pursuing a doctorate at The Pennsylvania State University. He collaborates with Penn College electronics faculty to offer project material for students and hopes eventually to teach in a college setting himself.

1940s

William Elder, ’49, architectural drafting, was one of five U.S. Coast Guard veterans honored at the Coast Guard Academy the weekend of June 5 (the 65th anniversary of D-Day) for their service aboard LCI(L)s – Landing Craft Infantry (Large) – at Normandy. They were also on hand for the unveiling of a mural at the Coast Guard Academy depicting an LCI(L) delivering troops on D-Day. Elder resides in Williamsport.

1960s

Robert E. Senft, ’67, architectural technology, resides in York and is project manager at York Hospital.

James M. Cendoma, ’69, mechanical drafting, graduated from Elmira College in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He is president/owner of Sterling Innovations Group. He resides in Corning, N.Y., and was a two-time chairman of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

1970s

Thomas M. Smith, ’72, accounting, received a bachelor’s degree in business accounting from Bloomsburg University in 1980 and was a 1990 honors graduate of Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He lives in Racine, Wis., and is senior vice president/chief administrative officer for Johnson Financial Group.

Paul Mikulak, ’75, diesel mechanics, is the owner of Honesdale Fire Equipment, a business specializing in fire-equipment sales. Mikulak, who resides in Honesdale, has owned the business for 30 years.

1980s

Cathy L. Breithoff, ’83, dietetic technician, is a systems coordinator/registered dietician at St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, and is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nutrition from Cedar Crest College. She lives in Mertztown.

Barry L. Kepner, Jr., ’87, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, resides in Mifflintown and is branch manager at Meier Supply Co., Inc., a wholesale refrigeration and HVAC distributor.

James Mothersbaugh Jr., ’87, broadcasting, continued his education and received his bachelor’s degree in mass communications from Bloomsburg University in 1989. He resides in Williamsport and is founder/president of Road Radio USA Inc., an award-winning show devoted to getting the message to teens about the consequences of alcohol and drug use.

1990s

Christopher R. Hoffman, ’95, data communications: networking concentration, resides in Harrisburg. He has been employed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 11 years. For the first 10 ½ years, he was employed by the Department of Insurance, where he and four fellow employees were awarded the 2007 Governor’s Award for Excellence for Innovation. Hoffman now works for the Pennsylvania State Police as a database analyst on the new software application TracCS (Traffic and Criminal Software), a program that collects accident information sent to the state Department of Transportation.

Jason Mahle, ’95, automotive technology management, is a technical data manager at Summit Racing Equipment and lives in Ravenna, Ohio.

Laura V. (McWilliams) Chubb, ’96, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Dr. Jon Ficken and resides in Richfield.

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Matthew D. Horn, ’96, landscape/nursery technology, successfully passed the North Carolina Registered Landscape Contractors exam and is a registered landscape contractor. He lives in Fayetteville, N.C.

Mohammed Al Afeef, ’03, paramedic technology, is a paramedic manager at International Medical Center and is a member of several national and international professional organizations and committees. Al Afeef is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in paramedic clinical practice at Charles Sturt University, Australia. He lives in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Michael C. Badger, ’06, technical and professional communication, is the author of Scratch 1.4 Beginner’s Guide for Packet Publishing, a comprehensive Scratch programming tutorial for teachers and parents. Badger, who resides in Hughesville, recently presented “Programming for the Young and the Young at Heart” at regional technology conferences in Pennsylvania and Ohio. The conferences featured talks, tutorials and exhibits in support of open-source and community-based software.

Gerald P. Butler, ’07, data communications and networking, is a network server administrator for North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School. His duties include maintaining all network servers (24, currently), serving as technical contact for server systems, advising department heads on technical purchases, and monitoring performance of the network and adjusting accordingly. Butler resides in Annandale, N.J.

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2000s

Chad D. Lucks, ’02, computer aided drafting, received a bachelor’s degree in construction management and safety from North Carolina Agriculture State University in 2008. Lucks, who resides in Fairfax, Va., is an office engineer for Hensel Phelps Construction Co. on the Pentagon renovation project. The project is estimated to be completed in February 2011 with a contract value of $700 million.

Eric M. Deardorff, ’03, construction management, resides in Chambersburg and is owner/paving estimator for Fayetteville Contractors Inc.

Sarah L. (Frantz) Jones, ’04, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Silverman Dental Associates. She and her husband, Kyle G., ’03, automotive technology, live in Schuylkill Haven.

Andrew J. Bickhart, ’06, aviation maintenance technology, continued his education at Embry-Riddle University and received a bachelor’s degree in aeronautics with a minor in safety and business. He is employed at the university as an airplane mechanic and has begun work toward a master’s degree. Bickhart, who lives in Phoenixville, credits all of his success to the education he received at Penn College.

Erin E. (Moslak) Crain, ’08, nursing, is a registered nurse at Mount Nittany Medical Center in State College. She and her husband, Kyle D., ’07, information technology: network technology emphasis, live in Tyrone. Kyle Crain is employed as an information technology specialist with The Pennsylvania State University.

Justin J. Kovaleski, ’09, construction management, resides in Lemoine and is a project engineer for Eastern PCM, LLC, Harrisburg.

Valerie L. Fessler was appointed director of alumni relations at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Previously, Fessler was employed as development officer, direct marketing for the Geisinger Foundation, as assistant director of development for the Bloomsburg University Foundation and as Children’s Miracle Network coordinator for Geisinger Health System.

She holds a master’s degree in business education and a bachelor’s degree in communications studies from Bloomsburg University.
Technologies

Business and Computer

Managerial Incentives and the session “Business Economics, EconSources.com, and chaired Paper Competition, sponsored by judge for the Best Undergraduate 2007-09. He also served as a Economics classes he taught from conducted in several Managerial Learning,” was born of research “Utilizing Cooperative Learning in Boston. Baumgardner’s paper, “Utilizing Cooperative Learning in Economics: Strategies for Effective Learning,” was born of research conducted in several Managerial Economics classes he taught from 2007-09. He also served as a judge for the Best Undergraduate Paper Competition, sponsored by EconSources.com, and chaired the session “Business Economics, Managerial Incentives and Government Regulation.”

Daniel W. Yoas, associate professor of computer information technology, presented a research paper at the 2009 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Applied Computing, held in Las Vegas. WORLDCOMP’09 is the largest annual gathering of researchers in computer science, computer engineering and applied computing. In Yoas’ paper, titled “Hashing as a Method of Preventing SQL Injection During Data Retrieval,” he suggests that, while Structured Query Language attacks are a serious threat to database management, appropriate use of “hashing” techniques can ease a programmer’s efforts to protect databases from such problems. The paper was the product of Yoas’ Research in Secure Systems Analysis class.

Health Sciences

Paul “Babe” Mayer, associate professor of fitness and lifetime sports, was a speaker at the student body awards assembly at Loyalsock Township High School. His subject, “Paradigm Pioneering,” posed the question to the student body, “Are you the pioneer or the settler?” The pioneer, he explained, is the risk-taker who reaps the best rewards, while the settler lets others set the path and then safely follows behind. Mayer also was a presenter at the Pennsylvania State Strength & Conditioning Clinic at Juniata College. His topics were “Functional Training for Athletes of All Ages” and “Core Training Breakout Session.”

Business Affairs Reorganizes

Pennsylvania College of Technology reorganized Business Affairs operations to address organizational growth and an evolving business structure. Suzanne T. Stopper became vice president for finance/chief financial officer. Her responsibilities include financial operations, long-range financial planning, procurement services, auditing and budget development. Robert M. Fisher became vice president for business operations. He focuses on The College Store, Dining Services, contracts and risk management, and investments. He also works with the Penn College Foundation, serves on the Community Arts Center Board of Directors and serves as assistant treasurer to the Penn College Board of Directors.

Hospitality

Charles R. Niedermyer, instructor of baking and pastry arts/culinary arts, earned a Judges Prize in the Artisan category of the Second Annual America’s Best Raisin Bread Contest, sponsored by the California Raisin Marketing Board and held at the American Institute of Baking in Manhattan, Kan. Niedermyer prepared his “Dueling Raisins Bread” recipe for a panel of distinguished judges from the artisan and commercial-baking industries. The judges sought the best raisin breads based on taste, appearance, creativity and value. Contestants were judged on their final products and workmanship. The top five contestants in each professional category received a five-day trip to California including tours of Yosemite National Park and the San Joaquin Valley and a visit to The Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley. The California Raisin Marketing Board will publish a book with the winning bake-off formulas.

Business and Computer

Asesh K. Das, professor of computer science; Sandra Gorka, associate professor of computer science; and Jacob R. Miller, associate professor of computer science; delivered a research paper at the IEEE Southeastern Conference in Atlanta. Relying on their senior-project teaching experience, the trio presented “Designing Multidisciplinary Capstone Courses – A Knowledge Engineering Approach.” The conference, which had the theme “Engineers Make the World a Better Place,” brought together faculty and students in electrical and computer engineering and computer science for technical sessions, tutorials, professional-development sessions and exhibits.

John W. Magyar II and Steven A. Wilson, part-time instructors of paramedic, successfully completed a new credential for EMS leaders, earning the professional designation of Chief Medical Officer. They were among 34 individuals nationwide to receive the prestigious designation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. Magyar is one of 15 individuals to be certified as both Chief Medical Officer and Chief Fire Officer. The Chief Medical Officer designation is a voluntary program designed to recognize those who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement throughout their career. Candidates are evaluated in seven components: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competencies. The candidate portfolios are evaluated by a team of peer reviewers appointed by the Commission on Professional Credentialing.
## Integrated Studies

**William J. Astore**, associate professor of history, was interviewed for BBC Radio 4’s “The World Tonight” program. During an interview conducted by host Brian Hanrahan, Astore, who also is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, provided commentary on U.S. and NATO military actions in Afghanistan. The BBC, a United Kingdom public service broadcaster, is the largest broadcasting corporation in the world.

**Clifford P. Coppersmith**, dean, was selected for inclusion in the 2010 Edition of “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.” The edition features more than 95,000 of the nation’s highest achievers – from business and politics, to health care and science, to entertainment and the arts. The biographies are compiled by Marquis Who’s Who editors using standards developed more than 110 years ago. Coppersmith has published a variety of articles and book reviews on American Indian history and has also been honored in “Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.”

**Jeremiah C. Gee**, outcomes assessment specialist, presented a session at the 64th annual Correctional Education Association’s international conference in Madison, Wis. Titled “Assessing Experience: Intersections of Education, Change, and Identity,” the session focused on qualitative assessment of the student learning experience. Each year, the CEA hosts educators and administrators in correctional institutions who gather to review and plan research, discuss instructional strategies, and identify best practices for improving student outcomes. Gee was also named to the CEA President’s Council as chair of the postsecondary education special interest group. The CEA’s mission is to increase community awareness and legislative support for providing educational opportunities to incarcerated people.

**Chris E. Kule**, assistant professor of biology (anatomy/physiology), was selected for inclusion in the 2010 Edition of “Who’s Who in America,” featuring more than 95,000 of the nation’s highest achievers.

**Mark D. Noe**, professor of English/composition, published an essay and assumed the presidency of an international literature organization. Noe’s essay “White Mulberry Economics in Willa Cather’s Nebraska” was published in the Summer 2009 issue of ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes, and Reviews. ANQ publishes research-based articles about the literature of the English-speaking world and the language of literature. Noe became president of the Sport Literature Association, an international organization devoted to the study of sport in literature and culture. He served as program chair at the association’s 2009 conference in London, Ontario, and will be host when the annual conference returns to Penn College’s campus in June. He is also on the editorial board of the association’s journal, Aethlon.


## Outreach for K-12

**Jeanette Carter**, director, offered remarks during an awards ceremony for graduating seniors at the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center in Coal Township. Carter addressed about 90 graduates of the center’s programs, emphasizing the power of failure – being unafraid to take risks – and the importance of building dreams in order to achieve. Carter has focused her career on technical education and the links between high schools, career and technical schools, and higher education; she provides leadership to the state’s advisory committee on the Career Education and Work Standards.

## Workforce Development & Continuing Education


**C. Hank White**, director of the Plastics Manufacturing Center, accepted the 2009 Society of Plastics Engineers Gold Pinnacle Award on behalf of SPE’s Rotational Molding Division. SPE divisions are technical groups organized around a specific process or application in the plastics industry. The Rotational Molding Division promotes technology programs and education for the industry, as well as technical conferences and networking opportunities for members. White serves as national chairman of the division. Achievements cited for the award include the Annual Technical Conference, held in concert with the National Plastics Exposition in Chicago, and ChinaPlast, a rotomolding conference held in China. Sections and divisions are reviewed in four categories: organization, technical programming, membership and communication.

## In Memory

**Joseph M. Younes**, instructor of electrical technology/occupations, died Oct. 23.

**Steven R. Parker**, assistant professor of physics, died Nov. 16.
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Taking a “ride” in a tethered hot-air balloon was one of the many activities offered during Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Parent and Family Weekend, which also featured interactive workshops, a College Store Fashion Show, a dessert reception at The Gallery at Penn College, “Get to Know Penn College” information sessions and campus tours.