Out of This World
Alumnus develops materials for space
See page 14

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p. 6  Class of 2011 Speaks
p. 8  Grad Still Inspecting Planes at 86
p. 22 Free Radicals Put a Fun ‘Spin’ on Plastic
Occupational therapy assistant student Nico Italiani pulls classmate Ashley M. Tedesco through a set of obstacles. Working prone (on the belly) encourages strengthening of extensor muscles that help support the core stability of children with coordination and postural difficulties.
Words From the Class of 2011
May graduates share their words of wisdom – and their most vivid memories.

Nonstop Flight
Eugene Breiner shares a tale 86 years in the making, of a career that spans aviation – and Penn College – history.

The Truths of Success
Lobbyist Clint Cullison’s competitive spirit, thirst for learning, and ability to hear and tell “the brutal truth” help him to negotiate the political landscape of Pennsylvania’s Capitol.

Cosmic Ambitions
Matthew Gross uses his knowhow to help advance the world’s knowledge of the cosmos – and to help deliver the most basic of needs to some of the world’s poorest inhabitants.

Follow Evidence on Path to Accreditation
The college conducts a deep self-study in preparation for reaccreditation, a form of quality control supported by evidence and data.

Free Radicals
The “ultimate” sport for plastics students – tossing a plastic flying disc with the “ultimate” coach, their academic mentor.

On the Cover
Plastics and polymer technology alumnus Matthew Gross, ’06, works in some of the cleanest environments on Earth in Ball Aerospace and Technology Corp.’s clean rooms, including the laboratory where the company is building the “eyes” of the James Webb Space Telescope, set for launch by NASA in 2014. Ball also built all the optics for the Hubble Space Telescope, which captured this image of the Butterfly Nebula with its newest camera. The nebula is a dying star that was once about five times the mass of the Sun. Read more about Gross’s work on page 14.

degrees that work.

Web Extra
additional content at oca.pct.edu

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Editor:

I was reading your Pennsylvania College of Technology Annual Report article about “Distinguished Teaching Awards,” and I think it would be great if you would do an article on your teachers/instructors of yesteryear.

I am a Williamsport Technical Institute graduate from the years 1960-1963 in the airframe/powerplant program and was privileged to have had two of the best “no-nonsense” instructors that a student could ever have – Frank Pannebaker, powerplant instructor, and Art Barr, airframe instructor. They let you know that you were not there to waste their time or yours!

We had classes two to three hours in the morning, and the rest of the day was spent in the aircraft hangar with “hands-on experience.” With these two excellent instructors right by our sides, we learned.

After completing the Airframe and Powerplant sections, we were required to take the Federal Aviation Agency’s grueling test in Harrisburg for the theory part of the courses. Everyone always did well, and this is a testament also to these two instructors. After you passed the FAA test, a practical test had to be taken to prove that you could do the actual work. This part of the test was usually given by the instructors themselves, except for when it was time for my practical. The FAA decided that it was going to administer some of the tests, so I was selected to spend two days with an FAA inspector. I overhauled cylinders, magnetos, carburetors, etc. FAA was pleased, I passed, and I give credit to the expertise of my two instructors who prepared me so adequately for this exam.

I received my Airframe and Powerplant license in February 1963 and went to work in the aviation industry immediately. When I walked into my first hangar for the beginning of my career, I could do anything that needed to be done. This is a tribute also to my instructors, because I was completely prepared for the duties of my job, with lots of hands-on experience. Today, when a newly licensed person is employed, they have more of a “license to learn” the trade and are not usually equipped educationally to perform on their own. W.T.I. equipped me to perform from day one on the job with confidence and, most importantly, competency and accuracy. Thank you to Frank Pannebaker and Art Barr.

Ron Michuck, ’63
Brockway
W.A.C.C. Meant So Much

Editor:

On June 12, 2009, I retired after 35 years of public service as an elementary teacher and guidance counselor in a small rural school in Clearfield County.

I received my bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Clarion University and my elementary guidance counseling degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

But the associate degree from Williamsport Area Community College that I earned 38 years ago meant so much to me.

As a young Clearfield Area High School graduate in 1970, my caseworker from the Children’s Home spoke to me about a college in Williamsport. It was my social worker who encouraged me to attend W.A.C.C.

I can recall many notable experiences from W.A.C.C. that influenced my character and disposition. I was involved with the work-study program as a mail carrier on campus, which gave me an understanding of time management and the significance of self-discipline. Also, I quickly became cognizant of how spread-out W.A.C.C. was, from all of that walking from one end of the campus to the other.

I remember three professors who affected my educational experience at W.A.C.C. – Dr. Paul Feng, Dr. Pete Dumanis, and Mr. Chester Pryor. Dr. Feng, my psychology professor, told me that I think too much on the test questions and should go with my first impression.

Dr. Dumanis, my English/composition professor, gave me a B-plus on my stories and writings. After getting many B-plus grades, I was determined to ask Dr. Dumanis if my B-plus was even close to an A-minus grade – and it paid off, because the remainder of my writings earned A-minus grades! I learned that it doesn’t hurt to discuss things with your professors, and it just might be rewarding.

Chester Pryor, my communications professor, was my favorite professor of all. His extraordinary charisma and caring disposition toward me established him as a momentous and impressive role model in my early college life. Mr. Pryor transformed a passive, timid and apprehensive boy into a confident, positive and talkative individual. Mr. Pryor brought me out of my insecure shell. That really made all the difference and inspired me on my path to be a teacher.

Activities I was involved in at W.A.C.C. included president of the Student PSEA (Pennsylvania State Education Association), president of the Cinema Club (Dr. Donald Skiles, adviser, thought my name was appropriate), wrestling team and a tutoring program for local schools.

W.A.C.C. will always be an integral piece in my educational journey. It was W.A.C.C. that started me in the field of education. I am very proud to be an alumnus of W.A.C.C.!

Van A. Johnson, ’72
Curwensville

Conversations at oca.pct.edu:

Great piece, folks! We look forward to doing it again this year. Who knew math and romantic adventures could co-exist?

Ed Barnhart
Director, Maya Exploration Center
(commenting on “Math + Travel = Unique Course,” Spring 2011)

My family would always make a trip out to Knoebels once every summer when I was younger. My grandmother, step-grandfather, mother, father, uncle, aunt and myself would always enjoy a full day at the park, riding the roller coasters and the “kiddy” rides, as my parents often referred to them. My father got me hooked on the “Cosmotron” at an early age, and it remains my second favorite ride in the park, second only to the “Twister.” Not only would we ride the rides, we would also sample some of the history of the park, not to mention some of the food the park has to offer. It is a cherished childhood memory that I will carry with me all my life. If I have children of my own, I plan on taking them to Knoebels at least once to experience the haven of food and fun that I found (and still find) so wonderful and thrilling.

Josh Barrett
(commenting on “Four Generations of Fun,” Spring 2011)

Correction:

The article “Four Generations of Fun,” Spring 2011, misstated the organization that awards “Golden Tickets.” It is Amusement Today magazine.
Two Spring Sports Score in National Championships

Two Pennsylvania College of Technology teams headed for national competition this spring: the archery team to the U.S. Intercollegiate Championships in Harrisonburg, Va., and the softball team to its first appearance in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association Championship in Akron, Ohio.

For the second year in a row, the archers finished second in the nation overall. And for the first time in his 11-year career, coach Chad L. Karstetter was honored with the national Coach of the Year award.

Individually, Daniel J. Wido claimed his third consecutive men’s compound national championship, and Joseph A. Dowdrick won the first bowhunter division national crown. Zachary M. Plannick and Glen R. Thomas finished second in men’s compound and men’s recurve, respectively. Thomas and Plannick represented the college on the All-World Team at the 26th World University Summer Games in Shenzhen, China, in August 2010.

The softball team finished third in the Penn State University Athletic Conference and earned the last available spot in the USCAA tourney, in which the team finished eighth.

Wildlife Class Assists in Invasive Plant Control

Invasive plant species such as autumn olive, exotic honeysuckle and ailanthus know no boundaries as to where to take root. Thanks to a combined effort by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and 34 Penn College forest technology students, fewer invasives are likely to survive on State Game Lands 252 near the Schneebeli Earth Science Center.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provided a grant to help with the process, which involves girdling the trees (cutting through the bark with a hatchet) and applying herbicide to the girdled area. The herbicide travels throughout the tree stem and kills the plant, which allows more desirable species – oak, dogwood and hickory, for instance – to reclaim the land and provide food sources for wild game.

This was the first of many planned activities to reduce the number of invasive species plaguing Pennsylvania’s forests, wild lands and private properties, noted Jack E. Fisher, instructor of forestry in the School of Natural Resources Management.
Students Establish ‘Clinic’ at Children’s Learning Center

Physician assistant students visited the Children’s Learning Center to practice health assessments on young children. As the photo shows, turnabout is fair play at these practice “clinics,” where big students learn how to work with the little ones, and the youngsters benefit by having a fun and positive experience with a health care professional. The class was accompanied by its instructor, Christine M. Kessler, associate professor.

MSETC Trains OSHA Oil, Gas Inspectors

The Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology delivered training for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s National Training Institute.

The objective of the OSHA 3000 course is to familiarize OSHA compliance officers with the processes used in the extraction of oil and gas. The three-day session included a tour of a drilling rig, offering a hands-on component to the training. The MSETC worked with Precision Drilling Corp. and Range Resources Appalachia for the tour.

This course is offered annually by the OSHA National Training Institute, based in Arlington Heights, Ill. OSHA inspectors traveled from Alaska, Oklahoma, Texas and other well-known oil-and-gas-play areas nationwide to participate.

Video of PCN’s Natural Gas Tour Available for Online Viewing

The “PCN Tours” program featuring the noncredit and degree offerings of the Marcellus Shale Education & Training Center, which originally aired on the statewide cable channel in February, is available on Penn College’s MSETC website (oca.pct.edu/msetc). Center director Jeffrey F. Lorson is narrator for the tour, which visited the Schneebeli Earth Science Center, the Avco-Lycoming Metal Trades Center, the Center for Business & Workforce Development, and an Anadarko Petroleum drilling site in Cogan House Township, Lycoming County (with a rig operated by Precision Drilling Corp.).

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 website, at oca.pct.edu/pctoday.
WORDS FROM THE
Class of 2011

DURING THE DWINDLING DAYS OF THE SPRING SEMESTER, writer/photo editor Cindy Davis Meixel asked graduating seniors for their advice and memories, and they graciously answered questions about their favorite food, places, memories, teachers and advice; who got them to graduation day; and how their goals have changed – or stayed the same – during their college experience.

Those in photos are not necessarily those quoted.

“Every Wednesday, during my first year of clinicals at Valley View (Nursing Center), there was this lady named Flo who would play an old ragtime piano and make six or seven of us students get up in front of all the residents and do the chicken dance. I’ll always remember that.”
Christina L. Reichenbach, nursing

“Enjoy the time you have at college, because they’re the best years of your life. I had heard that from a bunch of people who graduated ahead of me.”
Sarah R. Shott, information technology: web and applications development concentration

“One College Avenue

“Two weeks ago, we were out measuring trees, and we were walking down a steep hill, and I tripped over a log and rolled all the way down. The guys in my class were laughing so hard.”
Amanda K. Fetter, forest technology
“Stay strong and always pray. My family told me that. They were my stability.”
Yajaira A. Lockhart, graphic design

“When I was little, I was watching a national pastry competition on TV, and I recognized that cooking and baking could be an art. It inspired me. I’d always baked in the kitchen with my mom, but I realized then that I could apply my creativity to it, as well.”
Amanda “Kelcie” Angstadt, baking and pastry arts

“(When I was 12), I wanted to be one of the animal trainers at Sea World, but now, I want to work at a weight-loss clinic.”
Jordan A. Pennypacker, applied health studies: physical fitness specialist concentration

“My dad was my biggest help. He helped me with stressful emotional situations and paid for my tuition.”
Lauren K. Harris, hospitality management

Web Extra
See more from the Class of 2011 at oca.pct.edu/wc
Forget the “Who? What? Where? When? Why?” of Journalism 101; all you need to know to interview Eugene C. Breiner are “Show up, say ‘hello,’ shake hands, sit down and listen.”

The holder of a Certificate of Attendance from the pre-degree days of the Williamsport Technical Institute’s aviation program, Breiner keenly tells a tale 86 years in the making, a personal history that weaves like thread through that of his alma mater and its successors.

As Pennsylvania College of Technology counts down to its institutional centennial in 2014, he represents a parallel life, straddling the past and the future with the presence of mind to share his recollection during a visit to the Lumley Aviation Center.

Memories include a letter from Donald Parkes – “Uncle Don,” he calls him – the brother of George H. Parkes, W.T.I.’s first director, whose roadmap for vocational education ultimately leads to Penn College.

“I would like to encourage you to stick with the aviation game and get your mechanic rating,” Donald Parkes wrote in July 1944, luring Breiner back to Williamsport to finish his schooling. “I am sold on the prospect of aviation after the war, and a fellow with your education should be able to go places. If you can make the sacrifice, I would suggest that you come back and complete your work toward a license.

“I knew I had to get some training before I got drafted.

“This war won’t last forever, and you want to be settled in a good job when it’s over.” It was World War II that led Breiner to W.T.I. in the first place. Straight out of Tamaqua High School, he signed on with the National Youth Administration program in 1943 and spent a short time on campus learning the aircraft-maintenance trade.

“I had the war staring me in the face, and I knew I had to get some training before I got drafted,” he recalls. “I had no skills and was pretty much ‘cannon fodder.’” Breiner stayed only a month, however. When Congress declined to fund the NYA for 1944, he returned home and drove a coal truck. That spring, after being rejected for the draft due to double vision, he took advantage of Parkes’ offer and enrolled in an apprenticeship program endorsed by the Civil Aviation Administration.

“I went to school four nights a week to learn to weld, run metal lathe, machine-shop practices,” he says. On weekends, he worked in grocery stores and filling stations to pay expenses.

In December 1944, he was offered a job rebuilding surplus Army airplanes at the Sunbury Airport. Reluctant to leave W.T.I., he consulted instructor Frank Pannebaker.

“He told me, ‘You learned what you need to learn here,’” Breiner reminisces. “I’ll sign off on you to take the CAA Engine Mechanic Test.”

He worked in Sunbury from 1945-48, earning certification as a mechanic and a private pilot. When President Truman called all 4F draftees for re-evaluation, Breiner enlisted in the Army Air Corps for three years – adding to his familiarity with assorted aircraft. Upon honorable discharge, he moved with his wife, Ardella,
Penn College’s pre-World War II structure at the Williamsport Regional Airport was replaced in 1993 with the Lumley Aviation Center, which boasts 50,000 square feet of space – 11,000 square feet of which is used in the main hangar.

Two small structures sit to the west of the Aviation Center and serve as engine demonstration cells that students may use to safely start and operate recently overhauled engines.

The faculty and staff at the Aviation Center would like to share the facility with you. To arrange a tour, contact the Admissions Office toll-free at 800-367-9222 or email tinman@pct.edu.

Aviation is among Penn College’s signature programs, preparing students for the industry since the institution’s earliest days. The tradition is going strong, as graduates of the aviation maintenance technology major in 2008-09—the most recent class for which graduate survey reports are available—reported an average salary of $39,000 within a year of graduation, working for such companies as General Electric, Lear Siegler Services Inc., and Sikorsky Aircraft.

take a tour

Web Extra
Read about Breiner’s donation of a 1929 biplane to the Smithsonian Institution at oca.pct.edu/nf
THE TRUTHS OF Success

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

CLINT CULLISON walks tall, embodying an air of authority and affability as he traverses the iconic rotundas and bustling hallways of the Pennsylvania Capitol, greeting colleagues and ranking legislators along the way.

“Everyone in our firm agrees you have to have a Type A personality,” said Cullison, six years into a young career as a Harrisburg lobbyist. That is, success relies – in part – on a personality that can see a “no” as a starting point to a conversation.

“No” is not an objection; it’s an obstacle,” Cullison said. It is a natural starting answer to a question one does not fully understand. “Sometimes it’s a visceral reaction, not a logical one. Sometimes it’s a loyalty reaction.”

As a lobbyist, it is Cullison’s job to bring facts to legislators that will help them understand the benefit or detriment of proposed legislation to his clients and their constituencies.

Men and women like him have held an important role in legislating since the U.S. government’s founding.

“Lobbyists serve as conduits for information,” Cullison explained. “Legislators make policy decisions on a very wide range of subjects. Obviously, it would be impossible for them to become experts on all subjects. That is where we come in.”

Cullison works on issues of liquor control and food safety for the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association; gambling-related issues for Harrah’s; police issues for the Fraternal Order of Police, Pennsylvania State Lodge; and a host of issues for such other clients as Dauphin County government, the Hershey Entertainment Co., and Range Resources.

There’s no doubt that public skepticism of the profession is common, and Cullison said the key to protecting one’s integrity and the key to success are the same.

“We have a mantra here: ‘The Brutal Truth,’” he said. “If you tell the truth, you never have to worry about your integrity. Lobbyists who lie their way through issues do both themselves and their clients a disservice.

“A good lobbyist is a steward of their clients’ reputations. By carrying yourself responsibly – even when you don’t think anyone is looking – you do a great service to yourself as a lobbyist and your clients as a whole.”

Clint Cullison, ’04, credits having a brother just 16 months younger than he with fostering the competitive spirit that helps him in his work as a Harrisburg lobbyist.

A person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest.

- Washington Post Political Glossary

lobbyist Defined:
A good lobbyist, in turn, becomes a resource for legislators.

“Through working with lobbyists, legislators – usually – quickly determine who is providing them with good information and who is not,” Cullison said. “When future questions come up, legislators know who to turn to in order to help get them the best information so they can make informed decisions.”

When the state General Assembly is in session, much of Cullison’s day is spent in the Capitol, meeting with legislators and their staff to advance his clients’ positions.

“A lot of time is spent on the phone, running back and forth from office to office, talking through the issues that are out there,” he said.

When the legislature is not in session, Cullison travels to his clients, who tell him what their expectations are while he, in turn, apprises them of the political landscape.

“Clients are looking for one of three things,” Cullison said.

One of those is to initiate legislation and get it passed. The others are to change or kill legislation proposed by others.

“I constantly monitor legislation being filed,” Cullison said. “I take it to the client and say, ‘This looks like it is going to impact you.’ Then I work to support its passage or kill it in its tracks.”

That is where a number of Cullison’s gifts come into play: keen observation, clear communication, a positive demeanor and an innate sense of competitiveness that help him to maneuver what he likens to a living chess match.

He also recommends “an ability to hear what a person is telling you and not just what they are saying.”

While the layman often relies on hearing yes or no, Cullison said those words are not all that important to him.

“What matters are the ‘Ayes’ and ‘Nays.’ Hearing someone tell you something and having that person actually do something are entirely different matters,” he said. “The ‘yes,’ ‘no,’ ‘maybe’ are words you hear in conversation. ‘Ayes’ and ‘Nays’ are actions in committee meetings and on the floor. The ultimate goal is to get the desired ‘Ayes’ or ‘Nays,’ depending on what you are advocating for.”

At its heart, Cullison said, the government’s decision-makers are generally trying to do what they see as the most good for their constituents and the citizens of Pennsylvania as a whole.

“It all goes back to honesty,” he said.

“Start with an issue and a member. Explain to them the benefit or detriment of the issue in terms they can understand and relate with. The idea is to arm them with enough facts that they come around to understanding your point of view and acting on it.”

And when a legislator won’t be swayed?

“When you realize that someone is so committed to the issue that they cannot be moved, you regroup, restrategize and move on,” Cullison said. “Lawmaking is a game of numbers. It takes 102 plus 26 plus one to make anything happen.”

That is, any Pennsylvania bill requires 102 House votes, 26 Senate votes and the governor to become law.

In trying to rack up the support
needed for the state to pass or kill a bill, lobbyists should master yet another skill, Cullison said. They should be able to manage their time, as they balance keeping up with legislators when the General Assembly is in session with performing research to provide expertise on the issues those legislators are discussing. The number of tasks can lead to long days, especially given the unprecedented turnover in the Pennsylvania legislature in the past six years.

“If you are up on ‘the Hill’ meeting new members, you cannot be composing talking points on an issue. If you are back in the office learning about subject matter, you cannot be attending hearings on legislation,” Cullison said.

Sometimes lobbyists who have spent more time in the business have prior knowledge or relationships that can allow them to lessen their time commitment to the job, but meeting new people and digging into new topics are part of what gives Cullison pleasure in his work.

“I’m in no hurry to shorten my days at the office, enjoying what I do too much,” he said. “Hopefully I will never stop learning or meeting new people.”

He sees a long career ahead of him. The 2004 business administration: marketing graduate is young for his position. While many lobbyists enter the field after years of government experience, he took an internship with the 30-year-old firm Greenlee Partners just out of college.

“It’s a very atypical way to get into the business,” he said.

Indeed, he was not particularly interested in politics before applying for the internship. When pursuing his bachelor’s degree in marketing, he had visions of the typical career path, working in advertising and project management.

“I interviewed with several companies,” he said, mainly banks and other such “traditional” businesses. “I got a few offers, but nothing that really interested me.”

When he learned that Greenlee Partners was looking for a part-time intern, he was sold on the firm’s extensive list of clients, seeing an opportunity to make connections with potential future employers.

He landed an interview, all the while thinking, “I don’t know what lobbying is; I don’t know who my state senator is.” But he knew he would have to find out – quickly. “It’s the kind of thing you’re looking up on the Internet as you’re heading to the interview,” he kidded.

But Cullison learns quickly, and he nabbed not only the internship, but a full-time job offer at its conclusion. This year, he was named a senior associate.

“I absolutely love it,” he said. “I’ve been learning a lot about the political process.”

That process includes learning to navigate the sometimes-tricky dynamic of working alongside so many personalities pursuing varied interests in the Capitol. “Sometimes you have to pester people; sometimes you have to hide,” he said.

But friendships frequently form beyond the issue of the day.

“You can spend all day in the building trying to outmaneuver the other person. … Then, at the end of the day, you go out to dinner.”
The job: Determine and develop the best materials for use in future space flight.

Some materials must withstand unearthly cold temperatures of 4 kelvins (that's -452.47 degrees Fahrenheit), while others will see broiling-hot temperatures of 673 K (750 F).

One of the men taking on that job is Matthew Gross, a materials and process engineer for Ball Aerospace and Technologies Corp., a subsidiary of the packaging company known for its familiar “Ball” canning jars.

Ball Aerospace has contributed to hundreds of NASA projects, including the Hubble Space Telescope (Ball made all of the telescope’s optics), Deep Impact and the Mars Rover Lander. The company also supports the missions of such national agencies as the Department of Defense, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other U.S. government and commercial entities.

“A piece of satellite imagery from a Ball Aeropsace instrument that almost everyone is familiar with is the Google Earth images,” said Gross, a Pennsylvania College of Technology plastics and polymer technology graduate who began his full-time work at Ball about a year ago. “We built the satellite, WorldView, that captures those images.”

Among Gross’s assignments, he is investigating the use of carbon nanotubes for Ball Aerospace applications. At one-sixth the weight of steel and an estimated 150 times stronger, the material is touted by the Army Corps of Engineers as the strongest material ever discovered.

Gross proposed the research and received a $150,000 yearlong internal grant from Ball to study the tiny, hollow tubes of pure carbon – about 10,000 times thinner than a strand of hair.

Among the study’s major objectives, Gross is investigating the material’s electrical conductivity and how it can be used in coatings for low-Earth orbit. He’s also studying its use as a black body and stray-light control coating (arranged in a “carpet,” the gaps between the tubes absorb 99.5 percent of the light that hits them, which could help improve measurements of faraway space objects), and as an antenna substrate.

With the grant, Gross set up a small lab with the equipment necessary to process carbon nanotubes. His studies of the material – both during graduate school and at Ball – already have yielded three published articles, as well as presentations to the 2011 Denver American Chemical Society and the 2011 National Space & Missile Materials Symposium.

“The level of responsibility was scary, because when you start talking and telling people that things are possible and you’d like to work on it ... all of a sudden, it’s handed to you,” Gross said of his first months on the job. “That’s been scary, but fun at the same time, because it really pushes my comfort level, and it really does use the foundation of my education.”

Gross spends about 50 percent of his time on the grant’s funded research. The remainder of his time is dedicated to other internal research projects (he also worked on a new dust-resistant coating for lunar...
and extraterrestrial applications) and to program work on several of the company’s missions.

Among Ball’s current missions is the Hubble Space Telescope’s infrared replacement, the James Webb Space Telescope. The telescope is designed to observe, in only a few hours, objects that take the Hubble scope one or more weeks to record. NASA expects it to find some of the earliest galaxies formed and to view stars forming planetary systems.

“The things that we learn because of these spacecraft – it’s really neat to think that the very small part I have in this is both national pride and a worldwide gain in science and knowledge,” Gross said.

As the primary subcontractor on the James Webb Space Telescope, Ball Aerospace is contributing the new scope’s advanced optical technology and lightweight mirror system. NASA plans to launch the telescope in 2014.

Keeping it Together

“When a program starts, they have requirements for every material, down to the screws ... and the glue that hold things together,” Gross explained. “As an M&P (materials and process) engineer, we have to understand every material. We have to know how strong things are, how flexible things are and how materials will interact together.”

And he has to understand, test, evaluate and re-evaluate materials’ performance not only in the down-to-earth environment at Ball’s laboratories, but also in the volatile conditions of outer space.

When developing materials that will travel beyond Earth’s atmosphere, engineers must factor in temperatures that can range from extremely cold 4 K to up to 500 K when an object re-enters Earth’s atmosphere. In an extreme circumstance, which must be taken into account, a satellite that orbits the Earth can experience a 300-degree temperature change as it moves from facing the sun to passing through Earth’s shadow.

The materials used in spacecraft also must survive the move from the air-filled environment they are built in to the vacuum of outer space.
“The environments that we work on are literally out of this world,” Gross said. And with only one chance to send a project into space, Ball does not hesitate to test new materials – like carbon nanotubes – as they are developed, constantly searching for optimal outcomes.

“It’s really neat to be at the cutting edge of implementing new materials,” Gross said. “I just love the precision and the amount of engineering that goes into the projects that we make. We’ve never had a failed mission at Ball Aerospace, so that is something we pride ourselves on.”

Gross, hired after completing a master’s degree in materials science and engineering from The Pennsylvania State University, is the youngest in Ball’s materials and process engineering group.

Gross earned an associate degree from Penn College in 2006, then stayed on until Spring 2007, when he competed in the Quad College Business Plan Challenge and applied for the first of two summer internships at Ball Aerospace. He then transferred to Penn State to earn a bachelor’s degree in materials science and engineering. He completed the bachelor’s in 2009 and a master’s degree in August 2010, just weeks before getting married and beginning his full-time work at Ball.

He had followed his older brother, Jason, who earned a bachelor’s degree in plastics and polymer engineering technology in 2005, into the program at Penn College. They attended together during Matthew’s freshman and Jason’s senior year.

“I remember when he was in high school, he went to Penn College for Plastics Day,” Gross said. Now called Plastics Experience, the event invites high schools to campus to participate in hands-on activities and interact with Penn College plastics students. “We were both just excited about the program.”

Especially exciting was the prospect that an education in plastics could lead them to careers engineering some of their favorite playthings – snowboards, bike helmets and the like.

Jason Gross is using his degree as a capital project development engineer for Graham Packaging Co., a Pennsylvania-born company that is a worldwide leader in producing custom blow-molded plastic containers.

As the younger Gross brother moved through the plastics courses at Penn College, he said, “I always found myself wondering the ‘why’ behind plastics. Why does polypropylene behave one way and polystyrene behave another way? What was happening at a molecular level?”

He chose a related emphasis in polymer science when he entered the materials science and engineering major at University Park. It was much less hands-on, Gross said, but with an abundance of practical experience already under his belt at Penn College, he was well on his way.

“I found that I had a much deeper understanding while I was there because of the things I learned while I was at Penn College. … I don’t think I would be where I am today without Penn College, for sure,” he said. “I don’t think it was a mistake that I ended up at Penn College before Penn State. I really enjoyed seeing the application of fundamental knowledge, and that’s much thanks to what I learned at Penn College.”

At Penn College, Gross was active in Campus Crusade for Christ and the Society of Plastics Engineers student chapter. He was a plastics ambassador, teaching basic plastics concepts to high school students using traveling plastics equipment; worked in the college’s Plastics Manufacturing Center, which provides product development services to the plastics industry; and founded the Outdoor Adventure Club.

It is his love for the outdoors that helped lead him to Ball and its idyllic Colorado locale.

“I work to play and live; I don’t live to work,” Gross said.

But even work is full of highlights for the young engineer, as he works in some of the cleanest environments on earth in the Ball Aerospace laboratories and comes in close proximity to multibillion-dollar spacecraft – such as the $2 billion NPP, a weather satellite that is slated to orbit the earth from pole to pole and collect 24 types of data to track global change and climate science.

A self-described “people-oriented person” – as his Penn College activities reflect – Gross spends about half his time behind a computer, he said. “The other half I’m working and interacting on the floor with other engineers in the lab. … I’m definitely not locked behind a computer or locked in the lab.”
Manufacturing Hope

The people person’s relationships extend to Rwanda, where he hopes to establish a plastics company that would provide both crucial commodities and employment opportunities to the relatively young nation that is trying to break its reliance on foreign aid and to pull itself up from the horrors of a genocide a mere 17 years ago.

The small, densely populated nation – slightly smaller in area than Maryland but with double the population – has already rebounded with an average 7- to 8- percent growth in its gross domestic product every year since 2003. Yet, it remains among the world’s poorest nations, with 60 percent of its population below the poverty line, according to the CIA’s World Fact Book. In 2010, Rwanda ranked 208th out of 228 countries in GDP per capita.

Gross, who has visited Rwanda twice, sees the opportunity for a plastics company to provide infrastructure and commodities the nation still lacks – like readily available drinking bottles and other basics.

“I’m not looking to ‘develop’ Rwanda or ‘bring America to Rwanda’ as much as I am trying to feel for and listen to the needs of the people,” Gross said. “I will learn and take more from the people of Rwanda than they will ever take from me.”

An example of those needs, he said, is PVC pipe used for water transportation. “Many Rwandans do not have access to clean water, and the few that do have to travel, sometimes upwards of a mile, to get to the clean water,” Gross said. “Not only is this a hard physical activity, but it is so time consuming that sometimes children cannot go to school because they spend their days fetching water for the family while the other family members work.”

The plastic pipe is expensive and not readily available because it must be imported, he explained.

“It’s a multifaceted problem, and there is no one fix-all solution,” he said. “Having water from wells brought to different areas of villages would alleviate physical, emotional and family strain, but it wouldn’t by any means be a solve-all solution.”

As part of his participation in the Quad College Business Plan Challenge, Gross spent a lot of time outside of class – where he was learning the manufacturing side of the plastics industry – developing a product and business plan. He finished third in the competition for his plans for a company that would manufacture, market and distribute synthetic wallboard.

“Because of that, I have a lot more insight into the business world than I would have without the Business Plan Challenge,” he said.

Gross has been in contact with the Rwanda Development Board as well as the Young Professionals Organization in the United States. He plans to partner in the venture with a pair of Rwandan brothers who founded Umuryango Children’s Network, a boys home for which Gross is sponsorship director. Gross also serves on the Board of Directors for Global Capacity, a nonprofit that provides financial assistance to secondary-school students in Rwanda.

Because of the monumental task ahead and the slow pace of working in a country half a world away, Gross said he sees his dream becoming a reality in five to 10 years.

“It’s a really fun yet challenging goal.”

This image of a barred spiral galaxy is the first of a celestial object taken with the repaired Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) aboard the Hubble Space Telescope. The galaxy lies 6 million light years away in the constellation Ursa Major.
Look beneath the “stamp of approval” that comes with accreditation, and you will find a rigorous investigation of the academic programs and services provided by today’s colleges and universities.

“Accrediting bodies throughout the U.S. are looking closely at the academic rigor and quality of colleges’ and universities’ educational programs,” said Elizabeth L. Meyer, co-chair of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s accreditation self-study team. “As the federal government (and, consequently, U.S. taxpayers) become more involved in providing financial assistance through student grants and loans, taxpayers want assurance that the money really is helping people to learn and to acquire useful skills.”

Penn College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

The institution received its first accreditation – as Williamsport Area Community College – in December 1970. Every 10 years, the college undergoes an internal review that begins the reaffirmation process, conducting an extensive self-study and hosting a visit by a team of external evaluators that seeks evidence – by examining documents and speaking directly to students, faculty and staff – that the college meets the commission’s standards. Every five years, the institution reports on its progress by submitting a Periodic Review Report to the commission.

Veronica M. Muzic, who has been active in accreditation activities since the...
1980s, called the process of accreditation “a form of quality control.”

Muzic retired in 2006 as vice president for academic affairs and provost; she now serves as special assistant to the president for academic affairs and chairs the current instruction and outcomes study group.

“Being required to take a close look at what we do and how and why we do it is healthy for any organization – as well as for all humans,” she suggested.

She said that when the “close look” requires facts supported by data and evidence (as it does for an accreditation self-study), there is an opportunity for organizations to find gaps in performance or uncover information that could be used to support future decision-making.

Muzic and Meyer became collaborators in self-study activity when Meyer joined the human services faculty in 1990. At that time, Muzic chaired the self-study steering committee, and Meyer served on a study group examining issues related to diversity.

Both women point to the campus library as an example of how the self-study process might influence the institution’s future. The 1990-92 self-study recommended an increase in funding for library services. The next self-study, in 2000-02, called for strengthening the emphasis on information literacy collegewide.

These recommendations were fulfilled with the opening of the 104,000-square-foot, 1,000-seat Madigan Library in 2006. The 2007 Periodic Review Report demonstrated that the information literacy initiative had been successfully implemented.

Steering committee Co-Chair Tom Gregory, associate vice president for instruction, who served as co-chair for 2002 reaccreditation and 2007 Periodic Review Report activities, cites the college’s internal governance system as another example of progress inspired by accreditation. At one time, the president appointed most committees on campus. Now, for nearly three decades – resulting from a recommendation in the 1980 accreditation self-study – internal governance provides opportunities for elected and appointed faculty, staff and students to serve on committees and on College Council, making recommendations and reports to the administration.

“If the self-study is done thoroughly, and if an institution’s leadership is open to identifying areas for improvement – as Penn College’s leadership is – then the study groups’ findings invariably identify changes that will improve and strengthen the institution,” Meyer said. “Perhaps the most important benefit is that the self-study process makes the institution a better organization – for students to achieve their goals, for employees to find meaningful work, and for employers and communities to profit from graduates’ knowledge and abilities.”

As the federal government (and, consequently, U.S. taxpayers) become more involved in providing financial assistance through student grants and loans, taxpayers want assurance that the money really is helping people to learn and to acquire useful skills.”

Letter to college President
Kenneth E. Carl dated Dec. 7, 1970 – announcing initial accreditation
While the term “self-study” might suggest an opportunity to slant evidence in the institution’s favor, the commission – spurred by heightened interest from taxpayers and lawmakers – carefully scrutinizes institutional data. The team visit validates the institution’s compliance with the 14 standards that form the basis for the self-study. Those standards are applied to all colleges and universities in the “Middle States” region.

Gregory identified a number of “hot topics” now in focus for regional accrediting agencies, including:

- Growth in distance learning and the integrity needed to assure quality in these unique offerings
- Credit-hour definitions (because financial aid is awarded on the basis of the number of credit hours a student takes)
- Transparency in communicating costs, as well as retention, graduation and placement rates, to the public
- Ease with which students may transfer credits to and from an institution
- Assessment of student learning outcomes
- Use of assessment in planning and resource allocation
- Any significant institutional changes, such as those in degree offerings, campus locations, and/or ownership

The ultimate price an institution might pay for an unfavorable review – failure to gain reaccreditation – could mean the loss of government-supported financial aid for its students. In an era when most students rely on this aid to meet college costs, this could have a severe impact on an institution’s enrollment.

While it is uncommon for an institution to lose its bid for reaccreditation, even less severe sanctions from the commission are cause for concern. The road back into compliance with commission standards could require the institution to spend significant time and resources to initiate improvements, complete follow-up reports and host return visits.

Self-study is key to the reaccreditation process, and full participation from faculty, staff and students enhances the integrity of the self-study. Meyer said that more than 60 individuals, representing all areas of the campus, directly participated in study groups and steering committee activities for the current self-study. Many others responded to requests for information and channeled suggestions to the groups.

Five study groups identified and reported evidence of the college’s ability to satisfy accreditation standards related to mission, planning and resources; institutional leadership; integrity and faculty; instruction and outcomes; and student admissions and support. A steering group, co-chaired by Meyer and Gregory and comprising leaders of the five groups, is ultimately responsible for completing the self-study report.

In January 2010, after an all-college meeting with the president, faculty and staff took part in exercises to identify institutional strengths and areas of concern. Small-group activities led to lively discussions that helped structure the more in-depth self-study group investigation of issues that followed.

During and after a January 2011 all-college meeting, additional feedback was collected from faculty and staff through a variety of media – including text messages, online blogs and the more traditional paperwork, conversations and meetings – to enhance the work of the study groups.

A “Design Document for Self-Study,” published in April 2010 and available online at oca.pct.edu/ms, describes the process.

“Being required to take a close look at what we do and how and why we do it is healthy for any organization – as well as for all humans.”

Web Extra
Read the first letter of accreditation – given to immediate predecessor Williamsport Area Community College
oca.pct.edu/fp

“Being required to take a close look at what we do and how and why we do it is healthy for any organization – as well as for all humans.”
for collecting and reporting information. It includes the accrediting agency’s “characteristics of excellence,” as well as charges to and questions for the study groups, and sources of relevant information to be used in the review process. The commission staff reviews the document, which guides the work of the study groups, as an early step in the process.

In February, Penn College will present the self-study report, along with supporting material necessary for the visiting team to determine compliance, to the commission. When external evaluators visit the campus in April, they will look for evidence – in electronic and paper documentation, ranging from faculty résumés to course abstracts to standard publications – to confirm what was reported in the self-study.

Team members – faculty and administrators from colleges and universities outside Pennsylvania – will review documentation and meet with Penn College administrators, faculty, staff and students to verify claims made in the self-study report.

John M. Anderson, president of Alfred State College, SUNY College of Technology, chairs the visiting team. He will visit campus in October to review the self-study draft and meet with campus representatives.

According to Gregory, the team visit in April will include an intense round of tours, interviews, meetings and document reviews. The team will issue a final report – typically in an open meeting – before leaving campus. A written report to the commission will follow. The final official action will occur in June, when the commission hears the team chair’s summary and team’s recommendation. The commission then announces its action. Reaffirmation of the accreditation is the desired outcome.

Gregory, Muzic, Meyer and other Penn College faculty and administrators – including President Davie Jane Gilmour, Senior Vice President William J. Martin, Vice President for Information Technology and Business Process Improvement Jim Cunningham and recently retired Vice President for Business Operations Robert M. Fisher – served recently on visiting Middle States accreditation teams.

“The best feature of participating in a team visit is the opportunity to get a close-up view of other institutions’ inner workings,” Gregory said. “Each has strengths and weaknesses that invite comparison to our own institutions, and we have the opportunity to reflect on our own processes each time we visit another organization.”

Meyer said that the opportunity to do an in-depth review of what happens on other campuses leaves her with a feeling of gratitude.

“Administrative support for our majors, the congenial relationships among college employees, the leadership of the institution, our students – all compare to other institutions and come out way ahead. I really do feel fortunate to teach here,” she said.

Accreditation acts as a stamp of approval that affirms the institution:

- Supports freedom and quality in higher education.
- Strives to achieve excellence.
- Uses resources wisely to fulfill its mission.
- Satisfies governmental criteria for students to receive loans and grants.
Gerardo Pena is a bit in awe of his plastics technology professor—who also happens to be the adviser of his “ultimate” (the sport originally known as “ultimate Frisbee”) team.

“I’d heard stories about Dr. (Kirk M.) Cantor—about how he used to be into freestyle Frisbee and that he competed in nationals ‘back in the day’ when he went to college,” Pena said. “I think it’s awesome that he hangs out with us and plays Frisbee. Every time we’re losing a game, he calms us down and gives us advice. He’s a great leader in the classroom and on the field.”

For about eight years now, Cantor, professor of plastics technology, has been the “unofficial adviser” of an “unofficial team” of ultimate players on campus. The team first called itself “The Disc Jocks” but recently adopted the name “Free Radicals,” which is certainly fitting since most members are students in Pennsylvania College of Technology’s chemistry-focused plastics and polymer technology majors.

In addition to playing intramural games on campus, players compete in tournaments against other colleges from Pennsylvania and surrounding states.

“I’d never played Frisbee before, but I figured it’d be a great way to meet people and hang out,” said Pena, a senior from Aspers. “If it wasn’t for Frisbee, I might not have hung out with these guys or gotten to know them as well. Now, all my closest friends are people on the Frisbee team. It has definitely bonded us with a common interest outside of the classroom.”

And, are those rumors about Cantor’s freestyle past true?

Indeed. Cantor co-founded the University of Maryland Ultimate Frisbee Club in 1979, during his undergraduate career majoring in aerospace engineering. The high point of his collegiate career was as a member of the U.S. Team for the 1982 World Frisbee Championships at Rutgers University, considered to be the birthplace of collegiate ultimate.

Nowadays, Cantor is highly regarded in the plastics field and on the Penn College “field” and affectionately called, simply, “Doc” by his plastics students.
Gerardo Pena, '11, plastics and polymer engineering technology, right, studies the disc. The sport is a natural fit for plastics students, who frequently make flying discs for visitors to demonstrate injection molding.

Plastics students traditionally design a T-shirt for their major.

Free Radicals plan their strategy before the game.

Brett K. Braker, '11, plastics and polymer engineering technology, asks: "got plastic?"

Professor Kirk M. Cantor, far left, poses with members of the Free Radicals. The team comprises students, alumni and friends, most enrolled in plastics majors.
Students in plastics and polymer technology majors make two styles of flying discs in the department’s injection molding laboratory. Molds for both discs – which are used as giveaways and to demonstrate injection molding to visitors – were designed and built by students. The newer mold makes a “distance disc,” with more weight on the outer rim.

Ultimate player and senior plastics and polymer engineering technology student Gerardo Pena shows a disc produced in the college’s all-electric Nissei injection molding machine.
Top: Lance Richardson, a senior in plastics and polymer engineering technology, shows his form.
Middle row: Team adviser Kirk M. Cantor was a member of the U.S. Team at the 1982 World Frisbee Championships. Left, he shows his skills prior to the championships. Second from left, Cantor surveys the Penn College team’s performance at a recent tournament. Right, photos from Cantor’s college days.
Bottom: Evan R. Nordstrom, ’08, plastics and polymer engineering technology, waits for an opening.

**FREE RADICAL:** an atom or molecule having at least one unpaired electron: free radicals are usually reactive and unstable.
**Focus on Faculty & Staff**

**Business and Computer Technologies**

**Terry A. Girdon**, professor of business administration/management, received the John L. Green Award for Excellence in Business Education from the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education. The award annually honors an individual who has made significant contributions that advance the cause of academic quality in business education with specific attention to the IACBE. The award citation notes Girdon’s considerable involvement with IACBE: as president of the Middle States Region; his six years of service on the IACBE Board of Commissioners, including three as chair; as chair of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation Task Force that culminated in IACBE’s recognition by CHEA in January 2011; and in his current duties as chair of IACBE’s Board of Directors.

**Health Sciences**

**Michael P. Covone**, assistant professor of applied health studies, received a doctorate in education in March from Walden University. The title of his dissertation is “The Experiences of Health Sciences Educators With Online Course Design.” The purpose of Covone’s study was to understand the experiences of postsecondary health science faculty who transitioned from the classroom to Internet-based instruction.


**Dina L. Wilson**, associate professor of nursing programs, passed the National League for Nursing Certification Exam for Certified Nurse Educator. The CNE is deemed a mark of professionalism by the National League for Nursing. For academic nurse educators, it establishes nursing education as a specialty area of practice and creates a means for faculty to demonstrate their expertise in this role.

**Phil Landers** agreed to “turn off the lights” when he retired. Of course, when you log 43 years of teaching, the lights never fully go out; they are, instead, shining on in the lives of students and colleagues.

From business students who learned to love the art of preparing taxes to cross-country runners who honed their passion for persistence and international students who traveled far yet found a home in the Landers’ residence, the life and work of this accounting professor has long been about going the distance.

When Landers retired in May, he was the longest-serving active faculty member. At a collegewide gathering, he presented a special document to President Davie Jane Gilmour: the faculty list from a 1970 accreditation self-study appendix. Over the years, as faculty members retired, their names were crossed off the list by a “caretaker” of the document. Landers’ name was the last to be marked off.

“A couple of years ago, Dan Doyle (emeritus professor of history) gave me this list and wrote, ‘When you retire, mark off your name and turn off the lights!’” Landers related.

The professor of business administration and management retired with his wife, Gail, a group leader in the college’s Children’s Learning Center. Including her 17 years at the center, the couple departs with 60 years of college service.

The couple was married just three days before Phil began work at Williamsport Area Community College, Penn College’s immediate predecessor.

Above, a classroom snapshot of Phil Landers in 1968, his first year of teaching at Williamsport Area Community College, Penn College’s immediate predecessor.

Below, the Landers family on a 1984 visit to friends in Boston. From left, Phil, Gail and their children Peter, Melanie, Matthew and David. Their youngest, Mollie, was born two years later.

I always liked the start of school. ... It was always exciting.”
Over the course of the next two decades, they welcomed five children into their nest and weathered the storms of the 1973 W.A.C.C. faculty strike. (Phil was president of the faculty union from 1972 to 1976.)

They also participated in the start of Tot Watch, a “drop-in” child care service in the Academic Center. Gail volunteered at Tot Watch, which was initiated by faculty wives in the early ‘80s, marking her earliest efforts of tending to little ones on campus. Also in the early ‘80s, Phil, a marathon runner, coached the college’s cross-country team.

In 1988, Phil was among faculty selected for a South American Field Experience. The inspirational excursion launched the couple’s commitment to international outreach. They have since hosted 23 international college and high school students in their home.

“That made a huge change in our lives – for our whole family,” Phil offered, noting it was not uncommon to have students from numerous countries gathered at the family table at the same time.

More recently, Gail traveled to South Africa, invited by the director of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

“The college has provided us with opportunities we would never have had otherwise,” Phil commented.

Another outreach the professor is proud of is the college’s participation in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. “We have helped hundreds of people file their taxes,” said Phil, who has served as the coordinator of the college’s VITA site, staffed by accounting, finance and legal assistant students.

“It is so rewarding to hear a student say, ‘I really like this! This is fun!’ For students to equate preparing taxes for a senior citizen or a low-income individual to something that’s fun, is really a great thing to hear,” Phil noted.

In addition to her fulfilling connections with children, their families and early childhood education students, Gail is proud of the work she and her associates have accomplished via the Penn College Energy Conservation Subcommittee. She has shared many “green tips” with others on campus. The duo will be busy with their prolific volunteer efforts in the community and with their church.

Still, Phil wonders what the start of the semester will feel like when he’s not returning to campus.

“I always liked the start of school, the start of a new semester. Every year, it was always exciting,” he remarked, “I’ll miss that, I’ve always obtained energy from the students.”

- Cindy Davis Meixel
Tina W. (Weight) Meyers, ’78, secretarial science, medical, is owner/operator of Tina’s Desktop and Medical Transcription Service. She resides in Lock Haven.

Bradley S. Benner, ’94, plastics and polymer technology, was recently promoted to plant manager for Key Plastics LLC in Felton, where he oversees the operations of an injection molding facility in the manufacturing of automotive components. He resides in York.

Brian Gillette, ’03, construction management, is assistant director of the physical plant at Allegheny College. He resides in Saegertown.

Dee (Hostetter) Gillette, ’04, legal assistant: paralegal studies, is the human resources manager at Meadowville Forging Co. She resides in Saegertown and is pursuing a master’s degree in human resources and employee relations from Penn State.

Danielle M. McFadden, ’04, early childhood education, is director of the St. John Neumann Regional Academy Early Childhood Center in Muncy. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in education from Ashford University.

Aaron J. Rothrock, ’04, HVAC technology, is a lead systems specialist for Johnson Controls’ Allentown-area branch.

Adam Waigand, ’05, building construction technology, is an assistant neighborhood construction manager for Stanley Martin Homes in Reston, Va., where he supervises and schedules tasks to build homes in planned communities. He resides in Ashburn, Va.

Katina (Yokim) Faulk, ’06, business administration: small business and entrepreneurship; ’02, early childhood education, is pursuing a Master of Business Administration from Excelsior College. She is employed by Montgomery County Community College.

LaNae Firster, ’06, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a case screening technician for USIS in Boyers. She resides in Franklin.

Read the most up-to-date Class Notes and submit your alumni success story online at oca.pct.edu/cn
Cory D. Keys, ’06, electrical occupations, is a motor division service technician for the Edwin L. Heim Co. in Harrisburg, where he troubleshoots, repairs and services motors, pumps, gearboxes, blowers, fans and controls. He resides in Harrisburg.

Curtis D. Finck, ’07, business administration: management, resides in Allenwood and is a supervisor for Drill String Services Inc. in South Williamsport.

Kristy L. Frayvolt, ’07, welding technology, is a welding engineer for Matcor Metal Fabrication in Morton, Ill., where she upgrades manual welding to a robotic system. She resides in Morton.

Travis K. Ross, ’07, electronics engineering technology, is a systems engineer for AAI Corp. in Hunt Valley, Md. He is pursuing a master’s degree in systems engineering from Johns Hopkins University and resides in Rosedale, Md.

Daniel G. Zick, ’08, information technology: security specialist, is the IT technical lead for Amazon.com in Hazleton. He resides in Plymouth.

Amy N. (Kush) Zimmerman, ’08, radiography, is a mammography specialist at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She resides in Columbia, Md.

Justin J. Kovaleski, ’09, construction management, is a project manager for Eastern PCM, LLC, in Lemoyne. He obtained LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) accreditation in December and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in green development from Marylhurst University. He resides in Lemoyne.

Jessica R. Larson, ’09, business administration: marketing, is a technical assistant for McTish, Kunkel & Associates. She resides in Williamsport.

Nicole M. (Flory) Ward, ’09, graphic communications technology, is a teller at Titan Federal Credit Union in Pleasant Gap. She resides in Clarence.

Shane M. Bieryl, ’10, business administration: marketing, works in sales for Ritz-Craft Corp. He resides in Mifflinburg.

Jacob C. Cady, ’10, welding technology, is a welder for Hilliard Corp. in Elmira, N.Y. He resides in Knoxville.

Carly Dreibelbis, ’10, graphic design, resides in State College and is a graphic artist for Penn State.

Timothy E. Funk, ’10, electric power generation technology: ’11, technology management, is a power technician for DynaTech in Lebanon, where he services and maintains electric power generation units. He resides in Paradise.

Cody R. Kanouff, ’10, forest technology, is a conductor for Norfolk Southern Railroad. He resides in Renovo.

Stephen Beach, ’11, forest technology, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in forest science from Penn State. He resides in Roaring Spring.

James R. Belcher, ’11, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is manager/operator of Bob Johnson Flagstone Inc. in Wyalusing, where he resides.

Jason Bishop, ’11, electric power generation, is an industrial engines technician for Cleveland Brothers in Turbotville.

Kyle C. Boyer, ’11, diesel technology, is a trailer technician for Shaffer Trucking in New Kingstown. He resides in Tower City.

Allison M. Chappell, ’11, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a paralegal for Elliott Weiss & Associates in Williamsport. She resides in New Columbia.

Trisha Clabaugh, ’11, nursing, is a licensed practical nurse at Valley View Nursing Center in Montoursville.

Benjamin H. Clark, ’11, residential construction technology and management: building construction technology, is a carpenter for Good Construction. He resides in Chadds Ford.

Richard L. Cramer, ’11, automotive technology: Ford ASSET, is a technician for Beshore & Koller Ford in Manchester. He resides in Manheim.

John A. Crane Jr., ’11, heating, ventilation and air conditioning design technology, is a controls technician for DVL Automation in Bristol. He resides in Yardley.

Nicholas L. Fragello, ’11, construction management, is an estimator for Martik Brothers Inc. in Finleyville. He resides in Donora.

Benjamin J. Gallagher, ’11, automotive technology: Honda PACT, is a technician for Miller Honda in Vestal, N.Y. He resides in LeRaysville.

Michael J. Gasparovic, ’11, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is an equipment operator for Vanderra Resources. He resides in Nazareth.

Jonathan W. Gialouris, ’11, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is an equipment operator for Shelter Systems Home Builders Inc. in Stroudsburg, where he resides.

Marriages & Births


Brad S. Galloway, ’07, electronics engineering technology, married Jennifer A. Snyder in May 2010. They reside in Glen Rock.

Benjamin P. Gasparin, ’07, computer-aided product design, ’06, computer-aided drafting technology; and his wife, Mindy, welcomed a daughter, Avery M., on Aug. 17, 2010. They reside in York.

Yolanda T. Rauwendaal, ’08, culinary arts and systems, married Justin S. Helm, ’08, aviation maintenance technician, in California on July 17, 2010. The couple resides in Bellefonte.


Nicholas M. Gibbons, '11, construction management, is a project engineer for Whiting-Turner Contracting in Baltimore. He resides in Westminster, Md.

Michelle C. Goodling, '11, forest technology, is pursuing a bachelor's degree in forest science at Penn State. She resides in Renovo.

Natasha Gorham, '11, mass media communications, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in communication at Lock Haven University. She resides in Mill Hall.

Jonathan E. Hafft, '11, automotive technology: Honda PACT, is a technician for Concilli Honda in Conshohocken. He resides in Glenside.

Christopher J. Harris, '11, culinary arts and systems, is a line cook for Reichart’s Mardi Gras in Danville. He resides in Bloomsburg.

Skye Haupt, '11, nursing, is a registered nurse for Geisinger HealthSouth. She resides in Selinsgrove.

Jason M. Hirtzel, '11, electric power generation technology, is an intermediate technician for Exterrann. He resides in Colden, N.Y.

Megan E. Holt, '11, early childhood education, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education from Lock Haven University.

Mark A. Hosie, '11, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is an HVAC technician for F/J Hess and Sons in Swiftwater. He resides in Stroudsburg.

Kelly A. (Snyder) Hudick, '11, nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Geisinger Medical Center in Danville. She resides in Morris.

John R. Lamoski, '11, business management, works in sales for Matthews Motor Co. in Covington. He resides in Mansfield.

Andrew J. Levering, '11, electrical technology, works in the local sort for UPS. He resides in Williamsport.

Benjamin S. Keleher, '11, welding technology, is a laborer for Porlanick Inc. in Troy. He resides in Columbia Cross Roads.

Jonathan Kennedy, '11, electrical occupations, is a commercial electrician for Rogers Electric in Orbisonia.

Rory M. Malone, '11, forest technology, is a laborer for Pine Creek Country Gardens in Friedensburg. He resides in Schuylkill Haven.

Raymond A. Marcon, '11, construction management, is a project manager/estimator for R.H. Marcon Inc. in State College, where he resides.

Christopher J. McKelvey, '11, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for John Deere.

Jerome Nashadka, '11, electric power generation technology, works for Osram Sylvania in St. Marys, where he resides.

Kyle M. Nettles, '11, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is an architectural technician for Larson Design Group in Williamsport. He resides in Schuylkill Haven.

Chad W. Nickerson, '11, building construction technology, is co-owner of Nickerson’s Home Improvements in Liberty, where he resides.

Andrew S. Orr, '11, automotive technology: Ford ASSET, is a technician for Fullerton Ford in Somerville, N.J. He resides in Flemington, N.J.

Kim M. (Holtje) Pepperman, '11, office information technology: medical office information, is a biller for Jersey Shore Hospital. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Nadja M. Politza, '11, nursing, is a registered nurse for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Mount Carmel.

Brent Renninger, '11, technology management, works in automotive reconditioning for Fairfield Hyundai in Williamsport, where he resides.

Justin A. Rowlands, '11, automotive technology, is a repair technician for Rowlands Automotive in Reading. He resides in West Lawn.

Samantha J. Schaffer, '11, legal assistant-paralegal, is a title searcher for TM Bolton and Associates in Williamsport. She resides in Cross Fork.

Andrew P. Schatz, '11, automotive technology: Ford ASSET, is a technician for Murray’s Ford in DuBois. He resides in St. Marys.

Nicholas P. Seigenfuse, '11, information technology: network specialist, works in MTS-Information Systems for Verizon Data Services in Basking Ridge, N.J. He resides in Auburn.

Shakeem Thomas, '11, individual studies, is serving in the U.S. Army. He resides in Brooklyn.

Ryan L. Ventura, '11, building construction technology, is a carpenter for Ventura Carpenters in Racine, Wis., where he resides.

Khris R. Ward, '11, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, is a mechanic for Field-Tec Services in Muncy. He resides in Williamsport.

Andrew D. Warwick, '11, building automation technology: heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, is a controls technician for DVL Automation in Bristol. He resides in Swarthmore.

Shane W. Whitehead, '11, automotive technology: Honda PACT, is a technician for Smail Honda Village in Greensburg. He resides in Latrobe.

Kristen N. Wool, '11, building science and sustainable design, is pursuing a Master of Architecture at Boston Architectural College. She resides in Cogan Station.

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**Save the Date**

Join Alumni Relations and Penn College in the following upcoming activities:

**Speaker: Mike Aponte, subject of movie “21” – Sept. 20**

Homecoming – Oct. 6-9

**Speaker: Zach Wahls – Oct. 11**

Career Fair – Oct. 18

Alumni Hallo-Fun Night at Knoebels Amusement Resort – Oct. 22

Open House (alumni volunteers welcome) – Oct. 23

David London My Last Words Lecture Series – Oct. 24

Pennsylvania brewery tour with Chef Paul Mach – Nov. 5

Contact Alumni Relations: alumni@pct.edu or 1-877-772-2586
Thursday
Jam the Gym Volleyball Match — 7:30 p.m.
Alumni Match to follow

Friday
Kaleidoscope: Alumni Art Exhibition — 6-8 p.m.
Opening Reception in The Gallery at Penn College
Construction Management Alumni Reunion
Network with students & faculty – Invitations will be mailed

Saturday
Homecoming Golf Outing — 9 a.m. shotgun start
Three Ponds Golf Club
$65 per golfer/$260 per foursome – includes lunch
Email Alumni Relations to be added to the golf outing mailing list
Alumni Soccer Match — 10 a.m.
Williamsport Technical Institute Reunion — 10 a.m.
Soccer
Women vs. Robert Morris — 1 p.m. / Men vs. Penn State York — 3 p.m.
Alumni Happy Hour at Bullfrog Brewery — 5-7 p.m.
Open to all alumni. No RSVP required. See you there.
Car Show — 1 p.m.
The Midtown Men at the Community Arts Center — 7:30 p.m.

Sunday
Brunch in Le Jeune Chef — 11:30 a.m.
In Perfect Harmony — 1:30 p.m.
The Concert Series in The Gallery at Penn College featuring
Alfonse Ciaccio ‘93 performing “The Beauty That Surrounds Us”
Can you help identify the young women in this 1950s home economics class? Please contact librarian Patricia A. Scott, who oversees the Penn College Archives, with names, dates or other information at 570-320-2400, or email pscott@pct.edu.

In contrast to home economics courses, Judy Mingle was among women who enrolled in a four-month, SEDA-sponsored course to learn the machining trade in 1980.

Visit oca.pct.edu/centennial for more Countdown to the Centennial information.
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Pennsylvania College of Technology became an affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University in 1989 after establishing a national reputation for education supporting workforce development, first as a technical institute and later as a community college. Today, Penn College is a special mission affiliate of Penn State, committed to applied technology education. Conveniently located in Williamsport (northcentral Pennsylvania), Penn College attracts the second-highest enrollment in the Penn State system. In addition, Penn College manages the state's largest worker-training program through Workforce Development & Continuing Education. The modern Penn College campus offers students hands-on instruction and access to the latest equipment, leading to excellent graduate placement and degrees that work.

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Pennsylvania College of Technology does not discriminate in admission by race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, age, sexual orientation, political affiliation, status as a protected veteran, or any characteristic against which discrimination is prohibited by applicable law, and operates on a nondiscriminatory basis throughout the institution.
May 2011 graduate Jesse Winckler, who received a bachelor’s degree in information technology: network specialist concentration, savor the moment with his niece Kaylin Joy Winckler, daughter of Jason T. Winckler, ’06. Jesse Winckler was one of nearly 950 students who received certificates, associate degrees or bachelor’s degrees during three ceremonies at the Community Arts Center on May 13-14. Read more about the Class of 2011 on page 6.