Carving a Future
Student’s past inspires his tomorrow
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One College Avenue, a publication of Pennsylvania College of Technology, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals and achievements of Penn College students, faculty and staff with one another and with the greater community.

Please visit One College Avenue online at oca.pct.edu

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GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE on the Penn College Student Blog. The site features the creative work of student photographers Marc T. Kaylor and Whitnie-rae Mays – both of whom have photos in this issue of One College Avenue. Watch for regular posts showcasing their photos and their college experiences.

Visit studentblog.pct.edu

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degrees that work.

ON THE COVER
On a skateboard made by his Smorgas Board Co., Benjamin M. Schappell prepares to propel himself into the “bowl” of Williamsport’s Lifland Skatepark. The computer aided product design student lent his CAD skills to help illustrate the skatepark’s concept. Read more on Page 18.

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ATTENTION ALUMNI:
Share your story and catch up with your classmates online at oca.pct.edu/cn

Web Extra
additional content at oca.pct.edu

In this issue, you will find “QR codes” like the one at right. Smartphone users can scan them and get instant access to extra content – like photos and video – on the One College Avenue website.

Falling in Place
A drummer, a skater and a tinkerer, computer aided product design student Benjamin M. Schappell credits his inventive nature to summer visits with his grandfather.

Engineered for Success
As BMW's highest-ranking official for engineering in North America, Tom Baloga, ’74, advanced major improvements in vehicle safety. He visits campus to talk with students.

Sustaining a Dream
Sustainable agriculture makes its home at the Earth Science Center, providing fresh, local, pesticide-free produce for campus eateries.

Enjoy Summer Flavor All Year
Culinary arts graduate Michelle Mierwald’s recipe for garden salsa – chock full of her personal tips – will help you preserve your garden’s bounty.

Invest Now, Change Lives Forever
A Penn College education holds tremendous promise for a fulfilling future. The Penn College Foundation launches a $3.75 million scholarship campaign to help students attain “degrees that work.”

The Gifts We Give
A lifetime of giving continues for the Savoy family, whose business evolved from a machine woodcarving shop to today’s Savoy Contract Furniture.

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We love to hear from you

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Letters may be edited for length and clarity.
We reserve the right to refuse items for publication.

Back to Our ‘Roots’

Editor:

You brought up the Spotlight (Spring 2013). I recognized the crossword puzzle. Today I probably don’t have the answers, but it took me to your archives. I found my picture watching the Grass Roots. Awesome. I’m so glad to be receiving this magazine.

I also saw the picture of Hugh MacMullan and said, “I know him.” (My husband still thinks I’m nuts.) This issue hit my time: ’69-’70. I know there’s not too many of us left, but I’m still here.

Patricia Poorman Scheid, ’70
Douglasville, Ga.

(Editor’s Note: Browse the Williamsport Area Community College student paper, the Spotlight; its yearbook, The Montage; and more at www.pct.edu/library/collections/archives.)
MacMullan Connections

Editor:
Wonderful article and inclusion of archive collection items on Hugh MacMullan (“From Hollywood to the Classroom,” Spring 2013, written by Patricia Scott). I have passed the online link on to Don Skiles and Roger Holdstock. Hugh hired both of them based on phone interviews when they were living on the West Coast. Both were among the most highly regarded faculty (by students and colleagues) when at WACC, as well as among the most accomplished in what they did after leaving the college.

Don is a well-regarded poet, short-story writer and critic who has published extensively. Don lives in San Francisco, where he had a distinguished teaching career.

Roger retired from teaching in Vancouver, where he created a Canadian film-studies program. He is also active in a folk-style singing group that writes its own songs. They are prominent in Vancouver at labor and similar type rallies. Roger was awarded a Canadian national faculty of the year honor at one point. Roger has already replied that he learned things about Hugh from your article that he did not know.

Well done by you! Thanks for recognizing Hugh. My footnote regarding Hugh is that after being isolated for my first year where my office cubicle meant that, teaching at night, I rarely interacted with other faculty – I asked Hugh to get me into the Strailey building. It was the place to be for Liberal Arts faculty. He did that, and thus my experience at WACC changed by being in the same small area as some of the wonderful faculty with whom I then became friends. When Pete Dumanis (emeritus English faculty) came, he asked me to get him into the building, which fortunately I was able to do. One good turn deserved another!

Thanks again!

Daniel J. Doyle, emeritus faculty, history

Logue and his CATS

Editor:
After reading the story about Mr. George E. Logue in the Spring 2013 issue of One College Avenue, it brought back a great memory of my time at WACC: Mr. Logue and myself on one of his beloved Caterpillar tractors!

Brian Mcguigan, ’81
Pierre Part, La.

A student checks fluid on one of several Caterpillars that still track across college facilities, where students in heavy construction equipment majors apply their learning.
Penn College's Daniel Frankenfield, in lighter blue, works toward an 8-3 victory during a home match. To end its season, Penn College sent seven wrestlers to the National Collegiate Wrestling Association Championships in Texas. Since 2004, Penn College Athletics' accomplishments include 35 conference championships. Since 2008, the Wildcats have had 24 national tournament appearances and 48 coaches of the year.

Working Vacation

Eighteen students spent their Spring Break putting their hands to work, helping to alleviate three distinct areas of need.

Six students in the four-year dental hygiene: health policy and administration major traveled to Managua, Nicaragua, to provide dental work to students at La Escuelita, “The Little School,” whose families cannot afford such care. With the help of Nicaraguan dentists, they provided cleanings, extractions and restorations for more than 150 children.

Seven students ventured to Yonkers, N.Y., to work on housing projects for Habitat for Humanity. The delegation helped with ongoing home-demolition work. In addition, they dismantled and extricated a half-ton boiler from a basement to prepare for installation of a new heating system.

Five students participated in a trip to New Jersey, logging 180 hours of community service amid lingering hurricane damage. The contingent worked in coastal communities installing drywall, painting, cleaning up debris, clearing space for a community garden and organizing materials at an area relief center.
NCAA Division III Grants Exploratory Membership

Penn College’s Athletics program was approved for exploratory membership in Division III of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The college’s one-year NCAA Division III exploratory status officially begins Sept. 1. Officials from the college will participate in orientation activities at the NCAA’s national office in Indianapolis in September.

Exploratory membership provides institutions with an opportunity to learn more about the NCAA and Division III, which comprises more than 170,000 student-athletes at nearly 450 colleges and universities nationwide.

After the 2013-14 academic year, Penn College will consider pursuing a four-year provisional membership in Division III for its Wildcat athletic teams. It has been accepted as a full member in the North Eastern Athletic Conference for 2014-15.

Penn College resurrected intercollegiate athletics in 1992 and fields 12 intercollegiate varsity athletic teams.

Four New Academic Majors Start Up

This fall, Penn College will offer a mechatronics engineering technology associate-degree major and two bachelor-degree majors: applied technology studies and emergency management technology. An online professional certificate program in magnetic resonance imaging rounds out the new offerings.

**Mechatronics Engineering Technology** provides students with the diverse skill set required to install, calibrate, modify, troubleshoot, repair and maintain automated systems. Hands-on instruction develops skills in mechanical, electrical, electronic, fluid-power and automated-control systems.

**Emergency Management Technology** provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the phases of emergency management, levels of governmental responsibility, policies and procedures influencing coordinated/integrated public safety efforts, and the appropriate roles and requisite skills of an effective emergency manager.

**Applied Technology Studies** is a flexible degree designed for students who wish to combine course work – for business, professional or personal reasons – in more than one discipline.

**Magnetic Resonance Imaging** is offered entirely through distance education. It’s designed to educate U.S.-registered radiographers to use MRI equipment, conduct image scans of cross-sections of the body and reconstruct those scans into 3-D images.

College Names ‘Athletes of the Year’

The Athletics Department named senior archer Joseph A. Dowdrick III, of Lebanon, and first-year women’s soccer player Reda A. Vermilya, of Turbotville, the 2012-13 Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

Dowdrick ranked first in the nation through the indoor season. He won the Adam Wheatcroft Memorial Tournament and ended the year a national champion in the mixed bowhunter competition, coming in third individually. At the Eastern Regional Championships, he won with both the men’s bowhunter and mixed bowhunter teams. His efforts landed him a multitude of accolades, including selection to the U.S. Collegiate Archery All-American Team (for the third time) and All-East Region team.

Goalie Vermilya had a phenomenal rookie season for the Lady Wildcats, racking up 141 saves and six shutouts while helping the team to eight wins and a berth in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association national tournament. She led the conference in saves and was third in save percentage. Vermilya’s efforts earned her a spot on the USCAA All-American Second Team, and she was named “Goalie of the Week” and the Wildcats’ Most Valuable Player.

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.
He gazed at the myriad parts scattered about.

He looked down at his hands, covered in dirt and grease. No manual or mentor was in sight. There would be no shame in retreating from the endeavor. Instead, the mounting challenge strengthened his resolve. His vision of a smooth-running machine would become a reality.

The story isn’t describing a gearhead, diligently working on a vintage car to produce a sweeter ride for the open road. The protagonist is a 10-year-old boy, assembling the engine of an aging lawn mower to be pushed around his parents’ fenced-in yard.

Today, the buried remnants of the lawn mower continue to deteriorate, but the impact of getting that engine to start and purr endures. The feeling of accomplishment hooked the boy for life. It led him to Williamsport Area Community College, a forerunner of Pennsylvania College of Technology. It led him to leadership positions with two of the world’s most prestigious automotive manufacturers. It led him to transform vehicle safety for generations of Americans. It led him to a full life.

Thomas C. Baloga, class of 1974, returned to his alma mater in February to share with current students stories and advice gleaned from his life of achievement. The visit to the Williamsport campus served as Baloga’s retirement gift to himself. In December, he stepped down from his three vice-president posts at BMW of North America to begin a new chapter, one that will undoubtedly focus on meeting challenges, just like his triumph over that old lawn mower.

“It actually started,” Baloga said, still smiling at the memory, generated nearly a half century ago. “It was a tremendous feeling that I actually did that on my own without a manual, without anyone helping me. I was able to figure it out for myself, and that was a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and confidence.”

Thanks to a tireless work ethic, tenacity and mechanical aptitude, Baloga has experienced those same feelings at the highest levels of his chosen specialties. His responsibilities at BMW of North America included overseeing U.S. engineering departments, technology research projects, quality and safety recall decisions, and product safety and environmental issues. Prior to BMW, he spent 11 years at Mercedes-Benz USA, where he helped revolutionize American crash testing. In between, Baloga served as president of Britax Child Safety Inc. Within five years, he shaped it into the nation’s top premium child-safety seat brand.

“I think what I have enjoyed the most has been being in a position to influence improvement, whatever form that took,” Baloga said. “That’s the greatest satisfaction I think I’ve enjoyed in my career.”

Baloga’s “vintage” 1970s Williamsport Area Community College ID. Complete with vintage haircut.
Examples of improvements prompted by Baloga abound and are most evident in the vehicle safety arena. As manager of safety engineering at Mercedes-Benz, he convinced the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety to incorporate offset crash testing rather than relying exclusively on full-frontal crash tests to determine how well a vehicle protects its occupants. Baloga reasoned that more accidents occur at an angle rather than head-on, and that testing should reflect that reality in America as it does in Europe. The findings generated by the offset tests pushed by Baloga led to structural changes in all automobiles to better withstand side collisions.

“It resulted in the transformation of the whole industry,” he said. “I know that it has reduced severe injuries, fatalities and debilitating injuries to the lower body.”

At Britax, Baloga flexed his engineering muscles in serving as the primary inventor on eight patents for the juvenile products industry. He created three different child-safety seats and introduced the first booster seat in the United States for children up to 80 pounds. At the time, child restraints were only designed for kids 40 pounds and under.

“It was very exciting to have the opportunity to look at what the industry needed, what the moms needed, what the kids needed for better protection and just do it,” said Baloga, who worked seven days a week during his first several months as president of Britax. “It was a great opportunity.”

Baloga is grateful for the role Williamsport Area Community College played in molding him into a professional who could seize such opportunities. The benefits of his automotive technology associate degree continue to resonate.

“I’m very happy that I went to this institution,” he said. “I had a lot of good teachers and mentors. I owe a lot of my success to the approach of this institution with the classroom work and the hands-on education.”

The practical, hands-on nature of WACC served as the perfect match for the hardworking, mechanically inclined Baloga. As one of seven kids growing up in a modest home in the Wilkes-Barre area, he discovered from an early age the need to be self-sufficient. New toys were the exception; hand-me-downs were the rule. If he wanted to ride a bike, he would first have to fix a secondhand one.
Eventually, he graduated from bikes to lawn mowers to cars. The first of many was a 1955 Chevy station wagon that he purchased for $40. Of course, it didn’t run, but Baloga spent a cold winter underneath the vehicle in his parents’ backyard to change that. In the end, he persevered.

“I love cars,” said the former Eagle Scout. “I always liked to tackle difficult problems. If there was a problem with some vehicle that multiple people couldn’t fix, that was what I wanted to be given. I really liked the challenge.”

After graduating from high school and spending a year working at a Chevrolet dealer for $1.60 an hour, Baloga enrolled at WACC in 1972. He felt at home learning on various vehicles in the college’s automotive lab.

“It was realistic compared to the real world at that time,” said Baloga, who fondly recalls his main automotive instructor, Ray Pickering. “It was very helpful to know what we were going to experience in the real world. It gave us real problems and real practical experience. By today’s standards, the lab would be considered incredibly archaic. But at the time, it was state-of-the-art compared to what the industry was using.”

Baloga did well in lab and in the classroom, despite holding down numerous part-time jobs to pay his way through college. He worked from 4 to 10 p.m. in the former Rishel Furniture factory, now the site of College Avenue Labs, then drove truck until 2 a.m. in support of efforts to build the bypass around Williamsport. On weekends, he assisted Pickering, who had a car workshop on the side.

“I don’t have much recollection of fun back then, but that wasn’t the point,” Baloga said. “I was getting an education. I was supporting myself, and I did what I had to do.

“My career goal was to earn $25,000 a year in the auto industry. If I could have a job that I could earn $25,000 a year, then I thought that I would have made it.”

Within five years, Baloga would surpass that goal. After graduating from WACC, he worked in heavy-duty truck repair when he came to the realization that his 6-foot-6 frame wasn’t conducive to long-term crouching under vehicles. He remembered his parents’ advice “to find a job in which you can work with your brain rather than your back because, after 20 years, your back will give out.”

Baloga went to Penn State Harrisburg, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical design engineering in 1978. He became a senior test engineer at Mack Trucks in Allentown and later joined Mercedes-Benz as a senior staff engineer. He then began his steady climb up the executive ranks at that renowned company, even spending a year living in Germany, before transitioning to Britax and eventually BMW.

Throughout all those stops, Baloga drew upon the tremendous hands-on background obtained at WACC. His practical experience “from the ground up” allowed him to learn sophisticated safety technology and automotive construction quicker than engineers whose backgrounds consisted mostly of theoretical study. “It was a huge advantage for me,” said Baloga, who, at the time of his retirement, was BMW’s highest-ranking official for engineering in North America.

While Baloga is thankful for his WACC education, he believes the current generation of Penn College students has greater opportunities. “The difference between when I left until now is nothing short of phenomenal,” he said after touring the campus for the first time in 39 years. “It is awesome. I can’t think of all the superlatives to describe how impressed I am with the college. I wish I were a student. The opportunity to use the new technology and learn from the smart people here, it’s just phenomenal.”

With decades’ worth of executive experience at prestigious companies, Thomas C. Baloga, ’74, knows there is no “app” for career success. During his visit to Pennsylvania College of Technology, Baloga offered students practical career advice collected from working at the highest levels of the automotive and child-restraint industries.

“It’s important for people who graduated from this institution to come back and inspire people to be their best,” he said shortly before interacting with approximately 225 students in the Klump Academic Center Auditorium. “It’s important to show that I was not a straight-A student. I was not the level of IQ of Albert Einstein; but with hard work, dedication and passion, and with heart, you can really accomplish a lot of things and improve the quality of life.”

Baloga’s 90-minute presentation and question-and-answer session revolved around his “Ten Tips for Career Success.”
In his retirement, Baloga is relocating with his wife, Gayle, from Goshen, N.Y., to a new home in North Carolina. With four adult children and four grandkids, he will make time for family and is already targeting new challenges. He seems determined to return to the juvenile-products industry and specialize in crafting restraints for kids, such as conjoined twins, who are enduring unique medical situations.

"Those kids need to get to the doctor. They need to get to the hospital," he said. "They need to be transported safely, and there isn’t anything that exists. So I thought about getting back into that side of it because it’s a very big challenge, and it would be rewarding to do it.”

Obviously, Baloga can still hear the echo of that lawn mower.

Web Extra
Watch Baloga's "Ten Tips for Career Success" presentation at eca.pct.edu/ef

1. "YOU are as good as any and better than most"
   Be confident, not arrogant
2. Understand a hobby vs. a career
   Hobby = You pay $$$
   Career = You are PAID $$$
3. First two weeks on job define your reputation
   Be on your best behavior from the start
4. Deliver 110 percent ... or 100 percent and move on?
   Exceed what people expect
5. You are paid ONLY to solve company problems
   Remember your employer's needs
6. Always be fair, but expect unfairness
   Be fair even if it “hurts” you
7. “Trust but verify”
   Be discreet when you verify
8. Ask for the hardest jobs
   It builds confidence and character
9. What’s not in your head must be in your legs
   Research, ask and listen
10. You WILL change the world ... for better or worse
    Your job performance helps or hurts people

– Tom Speicher
Planted during the Fall 2012 semester at the college’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center, the Campus Community Garden is offering fresh learning opportunities – and food options – to the college’s campuses.

The first phase offers lettuce and tomatoes grown in a hydroculture environment that was assembled by campus volunteers. In April, School of Hospitality students planted a raised-bed section where peas, squash and a variety of root vegetables are growing.

Several campus departments are reaping the benefits of the Campus Community Garden, which serves as a teaching tool in Sustainable Crop Production and other landscape/horticulture technology courses. Culinary arts students use the fresh, pesticide-free produce in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant, the fine-dining eatery where students serve the public. In addition, produce is sold to the community at large during the School of Hospitality’s weekly bread and pastry sales in The Market, Le Marche Commun.

The college’s Dining Services operation uses the produce for its salad bars and “Grab ‘n’ Go” pre-packaged salads and sandwiches. Any remaining produce is donated to local food banks.

Channel System
A channel system, used for lettuce-family plants, uses the “nutrient film technique” and can grow more than 10,000 heads of lettuce annually. The innovative system eliminates the runoff of traditional crop production by circulating nutrient-enriched water through 58 channels, each of which accommodates 15 heads of lettuce. Before being recirculated, water passes through a “fertroller,” an automated dosing system that analyzes the water and injects needed nutrients.

Dutch Buckets
The garden’s Dutch bucket growing system, used for tomatoes, can sustain 120 plants and produce up to 2.5 tons of vegetables each year. Like the channel system used for lettuce, the Dutch bucket system uses only nutrient-enriched water that circulates through 12-inch-by-12-inch pots filled with perlite.
Nursery
Plants begin in a controlled environment lovingly referred to as “the nursery.” There, seeds are planted in rock wool and nurtured until they reach transplant size.

First Harvest
Dennis P. Skinner, assistant professor of horticulture, helps to pull the first harvest from the garden in early November. Skinner helped to spearhead the garden initiative. Among its chief goals, the project seeks to provide a living laboratory for alternative agriculture technologies and to offer opportunities for employee and student volunteers to work together as a community.

“The system being used does not require the use of pesticides, reduces the use of water and allows vegetables to be grown anywhere.”

Jonathan T. Hall
Landscape/horticulture technology student and a member of the garden committee

Student Learning
Diners Club members, all students in the School of Hospitality, get a lesson in how the hydroculture systems operate courtesy of Layne E. Eggers, former assistant dean of hospitality, who proposed the garden. Students, including members of the Diners Club and the School of Natural Resources Management’s Horticulture Club, are involved in overseeing and managing the garden. Students make up half of the 12-member community garden committee.
Ripe. Fresh. Nutritious.

“Working with the product in lab, I really notice the ripeness of the tomatoes, especially, compared to the tomatoes coming from elsewhere,” said Benjamin A. King, a culinary arts and systems student and president of the Diners Club. “The tomatoes coming from the garden have a great ripe, fresh tomato smell, something that reminds me of a typical garden in the summer, yet we can get this in the middle of winter and beyond, and for much less cost. The flavor and texture of the lettuce are just what you expect them to be, bright in color and crisp, tasting as they were meant to. The products are allowed to grow as they want, letting the tomatoes ripen on the vine, developing that flavor. And the time from farm to plate is substantially cut down, taking only a day when the product is used the same day it arrives. Typically, the product has been out of the ground for a week for conventional products, before they even arrive at the store for you to buy, losing flavor and nutrients along the way.”

The Market

While the bulk of the produce is used in the college’s Dining Services units and Le Jeune Chef Restaurant, some is sold to the community at large during the School of Hospitality’s weekly bread and pastry sales. Proceeds from the sales are used for the garden, with hopes of making it a self-sustaining venture. Equipment for the garden was purchased using funds from the Student Government Association, corporate donations and fundraising dinners hosted by the Diners Club and Horticulture Club.
Michelle Mierwald, a 2011 graduate of culinary arts technology, shared one of her ideas for preserving your garden’s bounty.

After graduation, Mierwald, who lives in State College, started Sweet Heat Gourmet, where she produces hot sauce, barbecue sauce and a variety of other products, all using products from local farmers.

I like this recipe because you don’t have to pressure-cook it. You have to pressure-cook foods that are low in acid; since the recipe is high in acid, it’s done in a hot-water bath instead.

You should make sure you have the right equipment. You do need a canner for this recipe, or any canning recipe. It comes with a “shelf” that the jars sit on, so they are not directly sitting on the bottom of the pot, which could be dangerous.

And I’d tell anyone, don’t be intimidated by canning! This is an easy process to learn and a great way to capture summer in a jar. With all the wonderful fruits and produce that come out in the summer, you can save money by canning these for later use, and they just taste wonderful. Nothing like eating farm-fresh corn or tomatoes on a cold and snowy day!

— Michelle Mierwald, ’11

Garden Salsa (yields 6 pints or so)

6 pounds of tomatoes
Skin and seeds removed

9 chili peppers
Depending on how much heat you like. You can add jalapenos, serranos, etc.

3 cups diced red onion
Again, don’t be afraid to play around with this; if you like Vidalias, use those, or white Spanish onions. You can add less or more depending on whether you like or don’t like an “oniony” flavor.

1 ½ cups chopped cilantro
I add less to my salsa; I’m not a huge fan of cilantro.

15 cloves of garlic
You can also roast the garlic first; the garlic will become sweeter and have a toned-down flavor. Just cut the top off the bulb, rub it in oil, tightly wrap it in foil and roast in an oven until the cloves are soft.

1 tablespoon of salt

¾ teaspoons of chili flakes
Again, add more or less depending on your heat tolerance.

¾ cup red wine vinegar
Important to keep the recipe high-acid.

Heat the water in your canner to a simmer, about 180 degrees. Place the empty jars in the water, to disinfect and cleanse them, for about 10 minutes.

Take them out and add the hot salsa to the hot jars. This is called “hot packing.” Place a knife along the side of the jar and gently push on the salsa to release any air bubbles. Fill the jars and leave about a half-inch of head space.

Place the lids and bands in the hot water to disinfect and heat up, as well. Place the lids and bands on top of the jars. Place the salsa-filled jars back in the hot water, making sure there is enough water to cover all the jars by at least an inch. Turn the heat up (this is important), and bring to a rolling boil. The water has to be at least 212 degrees and must process at a rolling boil for at least 15 minutes.

Remove the jars. Let them cool on the counter with at least 2 inches of space between them for 12 to 24 hours. Enjoy listening to the “popping” noise the lids make as they cool; this means they were canned properly and have sealed!

After you have all your ingredients, put them in a pot and bring it up to a simmer. I simmer mine about 10 minutes, just until I know it is heated through all the way. If you prefer, you can simmer it longer, depending on how you want your salsa to come out.

6 pounds of tomatoes
Skin and seeds removed

9 chili peppers
Depending on how much heat you like. You can add jalapenos, serranos, etc.

3 cups diced red onion
Again, don’t be afraid to play around with this; if you like Vidalias, use those, or white Spanish onions. You can add less or more depending on whether you like or don’t like an “oniony” flavor.

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1 tablespoon of salt

¾ teaspoons of chili flakes
Again, add more or less depending on your heat tolerance.

¾ cup red wine vinegar
Important to keep the recipe high-acid.

Other ingredients you can add to this recipe to make it your own: lime juice, black beans, white beans, yellow or green squash—anything you have an abundance of in your garden will probably taste good in a garden salsa. Don’t be afraid to play around with your ingredients!
The year was 1966. Myself and two other guys (Dennis Schaffer and another classmate) began school in September of that year. Since all three of us had just completed four years in aviation in the U.S. Air Force, the very basics being taught toward obtaining our A&P (Airframe and Powerplant) Certificates were secondhand to us. If my memory serves me correctly, our instructors were Art Bauer, Angelo “Firp” Michael and Frank Pannebaker.

One day, while walking around the old aviation hangar, we happened to notice an airplane sitting in the corner, supported by wooden horses. The aircraft happened to be a Piper Twin Comanche PA-30 (S/N 30-219), which had been built in 1963. The airplane was minus the engines (Lycoming IO-320).

All of a sudden, a light bulb went off as all three of us looked at each other: “Let’s put this plane back to airworthiness specifications! Why, heck, we have two years to accomplish this task!”

Here is a little history about the Twin Comanche. Apparently, the plane was purchased by a gentleman who wasn’t familiar with the method by which the engines are fed fuel from the tanks. I don’t know the full story, but on takeoff from Lock Haven, he had to belly it on the runway. Of course he bent the props. The crank shaft, the fuselage and wings had minor damage.

We approached Mr. Michael with our plan. At first he was skeptical, but he handed us a few requisition sheets and instructed us to order what we needed. A month went by, and no word from anyone. Finally, I went to see the dean and explained our plan. He
explained that he didn’t think we were serious. However, we were. He finally said that he would OK the purchases. To make a long story short, we began working on the school’s Twin Comanche (N7195Y).

Mr. Pannebaker’s engine shop rebuilt the IO-320s. Fast-forward, after 1½ years, we were ready for a gear retraction and to hang the engines. All went off without a hitch. We pushed her outside, chocked the wheels and cranked the engines. All went well. Of course, all the paperwork had to be taken care of, along with the registration, which was very time-consuming.

It was now getting close to graduation, and our minds were set on getting a job with a major airline. I applied for a mechanic position with National Airlines in Miami, Fla., and was accepted upon graduation.

Once again, if my memory serves me right, the college was preparing for commencement. We all worked hard on raising money through bake sales, etc. They hired a singer, and guess who it was: Yes, Neil Diamond. His fee was $600.

Well, graduation came, and my wife and I left Pennsylvania for Miami and my new job with National Airlines. About a year after I graduated, I had to retrieve some paperwork from the college. When I arrived at the hangar, I looked over my shoulder, and there it was, our Twin Comanche PA-30, painted in the school colors. Whoa! I heard a voice calling my name. It was Mr. Michael. “Do you want to go for a ride?” he asked.

Well, now, let me think … My mind raced back, trying to remember if we did everything correctly according to the manual.

“Let’s go,” I said. He buckled me in, and off we went. The school paid for the complete restoration, except for the Bendix Autopilot. We came in for a landing, and I was thrilled to death! The plane is now registered to a man in Hoschton, Ga.

Thank you, Williamsport Area Community College, for this awesome experience and a wonderful education that led to my career as an aviation mechanic!
Student photographer Whitnie-rae Mays, of Reading, created a composite of the Klump Academic Center – formerly the Williamsport High School and home to adult education classes that later grew into Williamsport Technical Institute, Williamsport Area Community College and Pennsylvania College of Technology.
Falling IN Place

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday

Meeting a middle school goal – and proving a guidance counselor wrong – Benjamin M. Schappel, a CAD student, peer mentor/tutor and the college’s first commuter assistant, developed Smorgas Board Co.
A stickler for skatepark protocol, he calmly waits his turn, one foot on the back end of his board, the other marking time ’til launch.

Front wheels overhang the lip of the course, an empty swimming pool of sorts at the bottom of a very sheer drop, indeed.

With the fearlessness of youth, Benjamin M. Schappell propels himself into play, from one side of the bowl to the other, a pendulum gathering momentum into the quarter-pipe. He soars and smiles and surfs the breeze, attempting an aerial stunt called the “roast beef.”

It’s a move that relies on midair balance, a subtle shift as the skater drops to grab the heel-side of his board, then stands to stick the landing. He misses it, barely, rolls onto his back, laughing. His skateboard scampers on, into the surrounding mulch.

A fresh scrape joins its distant cousins on Schappell’s elbow, and with a philosophical “Wiping out is part of the game,” he rises to go again and again, each time getting closer to nailing it. Close enough, at least, for another bit of etiquette: the staccato applause of other skaters’ wheels tap-clap-tapping against the concrete.

A computer aided product design major at Pennsylvania College of Technology, Schappell embraces trial and error.

To him, falling isn’t remotely like failing. Rather, it is a beneficial concept in his field: industry’s capability to fashion goods on-screen prior to reaching the expensive, unforgiving factory floor – to “digitally tweak stuff before you have to spend a dime.”

“I can spend months and months designing and redesigning before I ever build anything by hand,” says Schappell, who clearly enjoys working – and playing – with CAD.

A tinkerer by bloodline, he terms his Reading-area family a “bunch of frugal, handy people.” No exception was his grandfather, christened as David G. Simmons but remembered simply as “Pop,” who retired to Morris and remained after the 2006 death of his wife, Jean.

“He was a Navy man, a jack-of-all-trades,” Schappell says, eyes bright as he conjures an adolescence of do-it-yourself adventure with a senior accomplice.

“We’d come up over the summer, and we’d always (have) project ideas. We’d invent something, then get it done that week,” he remembers. “We made marshmallow guns, a rocket launcher that would send soda bottles way up into the sky; we hooked a ‘weed-wacker’ motor up to an old banana-seat bike.

“Doing stuff like that with him inspired my love for engineering and design. ‘If you can create something, don’t buy it.’ That’s a motto I live by. ‘Fix something yourself; I learned that from him.”

Emotional and geographical closeness was a factor in Schappell’s Penn College decision. And the childhood challenge of bringing an idea to life within seven days would resurface, not coincidentally involving the park where “Pop’s” grandson now glides with confidence and finesse. But first things first.

“I knew I wanted to get into engineering, mainly with a CAD focus. I didn’t really have an idea of where to go,” Schappell says. “My mom suggested I look into here.

“They have a wonderful program. The fact that it’s in an area I’m familiar with – I could move in with my grandfather and commute – it was just too perfect. I didn’t even bother applying anywhere else; I knew this was where I had to go to school.”

His career interest wasn’t quite as well-defined. In middle school, he told his guidance counselor that he wanted to open a skateboard business. “He suggested I come up with other ideas, some Plan B’s.”

Schappell showed an aptitude for technical drawing in eighth grade, but found it “boring.” As a sophomore at Schuylkill Valley High School, he looked closer, and “it just became a passion.”

“‘If you can create something, don’t buy it.’ That’s a motto I live by. ‘Fix something yourself; I learned that from him.”

Schappell with his grandfather, who helped to influence his love for engineering and invention.
During Penn College orientation, he met David A. Probst, an assistant professor of drafting and computer aided design, who talked engagingly about student projects and showed him the rapid prototyping laboratories.

“Dave’s just a real guy who has experience in industry, not just a professor with a bunch of knowledge who can’t relate it to the real world,” Schappell says. “All the professors have field experience. You know they’re real and you know they can relate the subject matter to reality.”

Probst, characterized by Schappell as “pretty cool” and “a biker dude,” readily shares the affection: “Ben is a very dedicated and hard-working student. He is a team player and helps others that may be struggling. He’s very conscientious about any project he works on (and) manages his time well.

“He did a fantastic job on the skatepark design.”

Schappell’s assistance with the Lifland Skatepark, dedicated in September of 2012, was a blend of hobby and happenstance.

“When I came to school here, there wasn’t anywhere to really skateboard besides the parking lots around campus,” Schappell explains, “and a parking lot gets boring after a while. When I found out there was a push to get a skatepark built here, it really got my interest.”

He left a Facebook message for Lonnie Wilcox, who was spearheading the project, offering, “I’m a CAD student, I know a lot about skateboarding, I’ll be willing to help where I can.” By the time they met, going over details that would move the idea closer to fruition, the clock was ticking.

“They had some cardboard models that weren’t very representative, so he asked me if I could take the information we talked about and create a digital 3-D model – as an actual representation of the basic construction design and shape of the park – to show to City Council.”

He had one week.

“I worked on it every night, after classes, with help from my professors to give me pointers about different methods of modeling some complex curves, the way the ramps flow,” Schappell remembers.

He got it done in plenty of time and showed it to the organizers, who used the mockup in the council presentation.

“Ben truly stepped up,” Wilcox says. “It didn’t take him long at all. He got me his model days ahead, and we were able to really show what we had in mind. Council unanimously
approved the project, and Ben’s design helped make all that possible.”

It also saved an estimated $8,000 to $10,000 that might have been spent on a professional design consultant.

“So the money that was raised (including a $40,000 donation from Sally Butterfield, for whose parents the Lifland Skatepark is named) could go toward seeing it done instead of conceptualizing,” says Schappell, glad to be part of such an addition to his adopted community.

“There’s a very deep culture around skateboarding – people who love to skate just love to skate,” he says. “It was important to have something for them. Otherwise, there’d be skateboarders all over town, aggravating people who don’t want them on their property.”

That outlet will only improve in its next phase, an L-shaped expansion that will incorporate “street”-style enhancements: staircases, ledges and other “fun obstacles for people to skate on.”

“They won’t need to go downtown and skate on some business’s railings,” Schappell says of the facility, which also caters to other so-called extreme sports: BMX bikes, scooters, in-line skates. “They can come to the skatepark that’s created for them. It’s an awesome park.”

He is certainly enjoying it on this afternoon, tirelessly looping the course even as shadows lengthen, headgear protecting him from inevitable spills.

“I like wearing a helmet ‘cause I’ve hit my head so many times,” he shrugs, intimating an equation that arose from a teenage injury: staples + lecture from the doctor = advocacy. “I wear hats constantly, and this is just another hat.”

In just a few years, he has worn many such hats, accruing an admirably diverse body of work.

“Pop,” who died in July 2012 while Schappell was on a mission trip in Trinidad, would be proud.

Contrary to that counselor’s advice, Schappell did start a skateboard company: Smorgas Board Co., with its tagline “All you can skate.” He also designs and builds drum kits as part of a praise band that performs weekly at Liberty Church.

“As long as we’re creating, doing anything new, there’s always a need for CAD,” he says, pointing to a communications tower beyond. “It was designed very intentionally; people didn’t just sketch it and start grabbing metal and welding it together. There’s documentation of the process, to look back on and inspect and ensure that it’s done correctly to the highest quality. That’s the role CAD plays in just about everything.”

As Schappell nears graduation, his job hunt will grow more earnest. He’d like to stay in the area – preferably near Liberty, where he moved in with his pastor after the sale of “Pop’s” house.

“I don’t find myself particular to any field,” he says. “I just love the work itself. I love designing, seeing something made in 3-D and comparing it to the real-life project in the end.”

Time will tell ... and it shouldn’t take but a week.
Odd jobs – like sharpening drill bits and waiting tables – helped to fuel the Fall 2012 semester for computer aided product design student Benjamin M. Schappell, providing the cash to put food in his stomach and gas in his vehicle for the 40-minute daily drive to campus.

The 20-year-old’s schedule – six classes, campus involvement and part-time jobs that have also included landscaping and working in a bucket truck to replace TV lines going to the town of Morris – is not much different from many Pennsylvania College of Technology students working their way toward a degree.

Like the near century’s worth of students who have come before, today’s Penn College students exhibit a rare work ethic. They demonstrate passion for their fields. They invest significant time in study, in hands-on projects that they will soon be touting to employers, and in seizing the opportunities a Penn College education offers.

And all for good reason:
“I truly expect, come graduation, I will be prepared and confident to enter the workforce and quickly settle into a well-paying, secure career,” Schappell said.

His assurance lies in the reputation built by those who came before. Since 1914, Penn College and its predecessors have been changing futures. When local adults took courses in the newly opened Williamsport High School building’s industrial arts shop – the first of its kind in the state – they learned skills that would help them land jobs with local manufacturers.

As society and its needs have changed, the institution’s mission has evolved, from job skills training to a comprehensive college offering baccalaureate and associate degrees.

But some things remain: An investment in an education at Penn College holds tremendous promise. The college’s overall graduate-placement rate over the past five years is 95 percent. That means that – even amid a serious recession – 95 percent of Penn College students had a job or were continuing their education within a year of their graduation.

It’s no secret that success takes commitment.
“If college could be paid for in sleepless nights of studying and long hours in the library, I’d have it paid 10 times over,” 2012 graduate Emily Carella, who was honored several times for her work as a resident assistant, told a group of donors.

“The price of an education is much higher than that.”

The estimated cost of tuition, fees, housing, meals and books for a Pennsylvania resident to attend Penn College in 2012-13 was $24,830, plus personal expenses.

The lack of financial resources is a significant challenge for many students. Approximately 78 percent of Penn College students receive some type of financial aid. Yet the average unmet need for a Penn College student is $9,200 per academic year, and the average level of education-related debt for a Penn College graduate is more than $31,900.

In response, as the institution counts down to its centennial celebration, the Penn College Foundation has launched a $3.75 million campaign to raise funds that will be used directly for student scholarships.
If college could be paid for in sleepless nights of studying and long hours in the library, I’d have it paid 10 times over.”

Emily Carella, ’12

“We never want finances to be the reason a student does not receive a Penn College education,” said Robb C. Dietrich, executive director of the Penn College Foundation.

What does a scholarship mean?

For Schappell, notification that he has been selected for a Penn College scholarship brings relief and comfort. He has received both the Glenwood Cheslock Industrial Design Scholarship and the Dwight E. Stoltzfus Memorial Trade Scholarship multiple times. He calls them a blessing.

“Let me tell you, 4.0 (GPAs) don’t come that easily,” Schappell told a group of donors during a recognition event in December. He thanked the group for the boost – both material and motivational – that their financial support provides.

On a more practical level, it means fewer odd jobs and smaller loans to pay back after he graduates.

“When I get the notification that I am a (scholarship) recipient each year, it means I have that much less of a loan to take out, and that’s all money I would have to pay back with interest. It adds up!” he said. It was sharpening drill bits and waiting tables that helped to fill the financial gap when he missed a scholarship deadline. “Scholarship money has enabled me to work a lot less outside of class and focus on coursework.”

He’s also used that time to give back to both the campus and the community.

“My education is extremely important to me, and Penn College has provided amazing opportunities for growth,” Schappell said.

As a sophomore, he served as the college’s first commuter assistant, and as a junior, he served as a peer mentor/tutor in the engineering design/CAD technologies majors, helping fellow students with anything from basic drafting challenges to higher-level calculus.

Off-campus, he volunteered his CAD knowledge to develop a mock-up model of the then-proposed Lifland Skatepark to be presented to Williamsport City Council. Council approved the plans, and the park opened near Original Little League Field, not far from campus, in September. (Read more about Schappell on Page 18.)

Schappell is not alone among Penn College students pursuing higher challenges and making an impact. School of Hospitality students were sought to prepare food in Churchill Downs’ newest, most exclusive dining venue during the 2013 Kentucky Derby. Manufacturing engineering technology students finished in the top six among colleges from eight countries in a four-hour “endurance race” that tested the mini Baja vehicle they designed and manufactured. Likewise, students in graphic design, information technology and construction majors compete nationally and bring home high honors.

Students are building their futures on the foundation laid by their predecessors: alumni who likewise answered challenges and today are leaders in their industries and their communities, spreading the institution’s reputation; faculty whose real-world expertise has formed academic programs; and industry liaisons whose knowledge helps to keep academic programs relevant.

By giving to the Penn College Scholarship Campaign, donors make opportunities available to students that may not otherwise be possible. They make a critical difference in the lives of many students and their families.

How to support the campaign

To support the Penn College Scholarship Campaign, you may establish a new, named scholarship, or you may contribute to an existing scholarship fund. Call toll-free 1-866-GIVE-2-PC or visit oca.pct.edu/giving.

Web Extra: Watch campaign video at oca.pct.edu/in

The following funds are building toward endowed status, $25,000 or more, to become permanent sources of scholarship funding:

- Automated Manufacturing and Machining Scholarship
- Robert G. and Nancy C. Bowers Scholarship
- Russell and Betty Bridgens Memorial Scholarship
- Lamont E. Butters Memorial Scholarship
- Jeanette F. Carter Scholarship
- Linda F. Clark, BS RN, Memorial Nursing Scholarship
- Computer Aided Drafting and Design Scholarship
- Correll Family Scholarship
- William H. Ealer Scholarship
- Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology Scholarship
- Ryan and Karen English Marcellus Measurement Scholarship
- Judith Folmar Memorial Scholarship
- Gilmour Scholarship
- Peter Hellermann Scholarship
- William E. Henry Memorial Scholarship
- Carl M. Hillyard Scholarship
- Information Technology Scholarship
- Barbara Johnson Memorial Pastry Arts Scholarship
- Ken and Diana Kuhns Scholarship
- Carolyn G. Martin Memorial Scholarship
- Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technology Scholarship
- Don and Kim Praster Family Scholarship
- School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies Endowed Scholarship
- Small Business/Entrepreneurship Scholarship
- Ronald E. Thompson Memorial Physical Fitness Specialist Scholarship
- Bill Ward Memorial Scholarship
- Joseph M. Younes Memorial Scholarship

More than 200 scholarship funds are administered by the Penn College Foundation. These funds support various majors, and many are in honor or memory of Penn College alumni, students, faculty and friends. Your gift to an existing scholarship fund will be a tribute to the individual, family or business that originally established the scholarship. In addition, your gift will help that scholarship fund grow and ensure that it will continue to help students pursue “degrees that work.”
When Carol Savoy attended Williamsport Area Community College in the early ’70s, she recalls navigating muddy, unpaved parking lots and attending geology lab in a closet of the old “Trolley Barn.” As a single mother returning to school, she was a bit older than her fellow students and juggling full-time classes along with a full-time job, but she managed it all, thanks to the kindness and support of “good girlfriends and neighbors.”

Today, the 1973 graduate enjoys returning to her alma mater’s now “beautiful and pristine campus,” and she’s eager to give support to other young women aiming to better their lives through education.

In particular, she is motivated to help students training for careers in the health care field. Following the three-year health struggle and 2010 passing of her husband of 35 years, John, she established the Savoy Health Sciences Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to females, ages 23 or older, enrolled in any of the college’s Health Sciences majors.

“During the time when my husband was really ill, we got to know so many people who helped John,” she said. “We witnessed so much dedication and received so much caring. It’s such an important field, and it’s so underserved. Opportunities are always going to be there, and it’s a field that works so well for women. So, if I can help someone who wants to get back to school and go into health care, I want to do that, for sure.”

The Savoy family also supports the John A. Savoy Scholarship for Electronic Applications, awarded to students in automated manufacturing technology or manufacturing engineering technology majors. The family established that scholarship in the ’80s due to its company’s need for employees who could operate and repair the specialized equipment at John Savoy & Son Inc., a furniture manufacturing firm in Montoursville.

Carol is now president of the company, which like the college, has a long-standing history in a humble, solid work ethic, craftsmanship, machining and innovation.

Founded in 1946 by John and his father, the business began as a machine woodcarving shop, crafting ornate furniture parts. Over the years, the business evolved to include furniture frames and upholstered furniture and has become known as Savoy Contract Furniture, supplying furniture to institutional and government markets.

Several Penn College graduates are employed at Savoy’s manufacturing facility, and the company’s furniture can be found in all of Penn College’s residence halls (comfort and convenience for current students, crafted by former students).

The Savoys’ connection with the college was first cultivated by former college President Robert L. Breuder, who formed a friendship with John while actively seeking community support during the early days of his tenure, which began in 1981.

“Bob was trying to get the community on board with his vision, and back then, the community was not that enamored with WACC, but Bob was trying to change that,” Carol relayed. “John became inspired by Bob’s dedication to his job and his vision for the school, so John jumped on board.”

For three decades, John was dedicated to the college’s mission, serving on various boards and providing guidance and support to staff and students. His commitment was book-ended with honors – an honorary degree and Trustees Service Award at the college’s 1984 commencement and the first Director’s Chair award, received with Carol, from the Community Arts Center, a college subsidiary, in 2005.

“John was always a believer in community service. His character was one of giving. He believed that everybody deserved a chance,” Carol said. “Throughout our marriage, he would always say: ‘We must give back. We’ve been so fortunate. You’re not put here on earth to only look out for No. 1.’ It’s just something
Over the past 10 years, the Penn College Foundation has added 152 scholarship funds. Among the newest is the School of Health Sciences Endowed Scholarship fund.

With a principal balance of $25,000 or more, a scholarship fund is endowed, producing investment income that provides perpetual scholarship awards.

The School of Health Sciences fund reached endowment in 2012, largely through the $15 entry fees of 500 supporters who took part in 5K run/walks from 2008-12. The walks were organized and staffed by employees in the School of Health Sciences to benefit the very students they teach.

The first scholarship from the fund will be awarded to a student in the School of Health Sciences in 2013-14.

“The students’ gratitude is heartwarming,” she said. “They talk about how the scholarship benefited them, how they didn’t have to borrow more and have so much debt. They are so grateful that there are others who are willing to help them and encourage them. I think, you can write a check and send it to a national organization and never really know how it benefits a particular person, but with something local, you’re more aware of the impact.”

Carol has met some scholarship recipients at college functions, and one student, in particular, even visited the Savoy facility to extend his thanks.

“It’s just heartwarming whenever you see a young person who you know will go on to be a responsible citizen, making a difference in the community,” she offered. “It makes you want to do more when you see people benefitting. I truly believe ‘the more you give, the more you get.’ It’s so rewarding.”

The power of a Small Gift

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Dogs That Work

Al Thomas and his service dog, Jesse, walk side-by-side through the college’s collision-repair facilities.

“There’s a sense of ‘I’ve got your back.’”

though he is an Agent Orange-exposed veteran and annually visits a veterans’ clinic. His symptoms were initially spotted by his daughter, Susanna, a 2003 physician assistant graduate of Penn College. After graduation, she began working in federal clinics and soon recognized her father’s PTSD symptoms and encouraged him to pursue further testing.

“I knew I was traumatized when I came back from Vietnam, but at the time, it wasn’t recognized,” said Thomas, who served two tours of duty from 1968 to 1970. “Back then, people weren’t socially accepting of a grown man with PTSD. The post-Vietnam society was not open to it like they are now.”

Thomas says many sufferers of PTSD are highly successful in their jobs: “They just keep the symptoms down by being workaholics.”

The college professor is certainly among that prolific group. A nationally recognized expert in the collision repair arena, Thomas is a contributing editor for Auto Body Repair News; the magazine has published 75 of his articles in the past seven years. He’s also a best-selling author, having co-written a leading textbook used in secondary and post-secondary education – “Collision Repair and Refinishing: A Foundation Course for Technicians.” Published in 2009 by Delmar Cengage Learning, the popular publication has already been updated with a second edition just this year.

A master certified collision repair refinishing technician and an I-CAR platinum technician, Thomas says he has one of the largest collections of collision repair images and enjoys regularly sharing photos via social media. “I’ll post a photo and someone will ask, ‘What kind of paint gun did you use in that picture?’ so I’ll reply with the information,” he explained, noting that he has Twitter and Facebook accounts.

“For a 65-year-old man, I’m one of few older guys who’ve embraced the technology of social media. I like to keep in touch with my family and also with my students. I like to know what things they’re doing, and I like to wish them ‘Happy Birthday,’” he noted, adding that he’s also accessible to his students via texting and email.

It’s his connections with students that he’ll miss most when he retires at the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

“When I retire, I can continue to paint cars, but what will be hard to leave is all those nice kids out there,” he said, motioning to the lab space outside his office while Jesse rested under the desk.

Yet, retirement plans are aplenty. Thomas will return to his native Michigan, the state that stirred his interest in the automobile.

“Growing up in Michigan certainly influenced my career,” he said, mentioning that he deeply appreciates the social and economic history of the automobile and its role in our country’s narrative.

“Falling in love with the automobile came to me naturally,” Thomas said. “I understand how they work; I understand how to fix them. I had to have something I’m good at – and it turned out to be cars. Some careers you find; some careers find you. I think this one found me.

“I’ve been painting cars all my life. I bought my first car at the age of 14. It was a $5 junk car, and six months later, it was ready to run, and I sold it. I’ve been flipping cars since I was 14.”
In retirement, Thomas plans to restore a 2006 Mustang that he bought for his 4-year-old granddaughter. He previously restored a 1966 Mustang (painted the iconic turquoise color) for her mother, Susanna, and figured another Mustang with a “6” in its year was an appropriate follow-up.

He’s also looking forward to repairing and painting buggies for his Amish neighbors.

“Yes, the buggies are all black, but they still take a lot of pride in a shiny, clean, well put-together Sunday buggy,” he said.

Staying true to his productive inclinations, Thomas is also a farmer. On his homestead in Michigan, he produces a variety of certified organic products including hops, honey and artisan cheeses. For now, his son-in-law tends the farm.

Roaming there, along with Thomas’ grandchildren, are Jesse’s three siblings who are also being trained as service dogs. Frank James, Doc Holliday and Big Nose Kate (yes, more Wild West characters) will most likely go to Gulf War veterans, he says, noting that there’s always a waiting list for service dogs.

“It’s an emerging therapy,” Thomas said of PTSD service dogs, adding, “The people get trained more than the dogs. The dogs pick up things instinctually.”

For a time, Thomas considered volunteering in the Peace Corps upon retirement and using his health care skills. Following his service in Vietnam, he worked for nearly three years as a physician assistant in Papua New Guinea and Haiti, but soon opted to return to his earlier love – the automobile.

Still, traveling is on his agenda – with his wife of 40 years, Lynn, a former adjunct English instructor at Penn College, by his side. Among his dream destinations are Wales and England, where this Scotch-Irish lover of Highland games would love to see a sheep dog trial, starring his favorite herders – border collies.

— Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor

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**Web Extra**

See more photos of Jesse at oca.pct.edu/dt

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**Business & Hospitality**

Frederick W. Becker, dean, completed a doctorate in hotel, restaurant and institutional management from Penn State. Becker defended his dissertation: “The Impact of Fun in the Workplace on Experienced Fun, Work Engagement, Constituent Attachment, and Turnover Among Entry-Level Workers in the Hospitality Industry.”

Chef Monica J. Lanczak, instructor of baking and pastry arts/ culinary arts, completed the course Principles and Methods of Teaching for Foodservice Educators and met the skills and standards established for the Certified Food Service Educator credential. The intensive, 12-week course and credential are sponsored by the Foodservice Educators Learning Community.

**Health Sciences**

Dr. Gregory R. Frailey, medical director for the paramedic technology and physician assistant programs, received the 2013 John P. Pryor, M.D., Street Medicine Society Award from the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. The award is presented to a practicing physician who began his or her career as an emergency medical technician or paramedic and contributes to EMS in an exceptional way.

**Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies**

Daniel W. Yoas, associate professor of information technology, earned a doctorate in computer information systems with a concentration in information security from Nova Southeastern University’s School of Computer and Information Sciences. The title of his dissertation is “Using Forecasting to Predict Long-Term Resource Utilization for Web Services.” Using Penn College’s Web resources, Yoas collected data over seven months about the central processing unit, free memory, disk use and network traffic.
Children's Learning Center

Barbara J. Albert, director, presented a workshop at the Pennsylvania Early Childhood Education Summit, titled “Rough and Tumble Play, Is It OK?” During the session, she examined the benefits of vigorous play and taught participants about appropriate rough-and-tumble play and methods to encourage and supervise such play while promoting safety and positive social interactions. The event was co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Child Care Association, the Office of Childhood Development and Early Learning, and the Pennsylvania Head Start Association.

Kelly B. Butzler, assistant professor of chemistry, who is pursuing a Doctor of Education from Northcentral University, was selected for membership in Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, as well as the Golden Key International Honour Society. Butzler also was co-presenter with Lolita A. Paff, assistant professor of business economics at Penn State Berks, of a session titled “Flip Your Class! Strategies and Student Reactions to a Flipped Classroom” at the Penn State Symposium for Teaching and Learning With Technology. In addition, Butzler was named moderator of the “Flip Research on Higher Education” and “College Level Flippers” groups in the Flipped Learning Network.

Workforce Development & Continuing Education

John E. Manz, director of the National Sustainable Structures Center, was appointed to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council’s Standards Committee, tasked with ensuring that training credentials continue to reflect industry needs. As one of seven charter members of the committee, he will help shepherd this year’s development of revised standards to promote a safe and effective renewable-energy and energy-efficiency workforce.

College Information & Community Relations

Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday, received a Silver Award in the Sixth Annual CUPPIE Awards competition, sponsored by CUPRAP—the Association of Communicators in Education, for the article, “As He Sees Fit.” The article, featured in the Spring 2012 issue of One College Avenue, profiles Domenick S. Schiraldi-Irrera, a part-time personal trainer, who holds Penn College degrees in physical fitness specialist and applied health studies. In addition, the Spring 2012 edition of One College Avenue overall earned a Bronze Award in the 28th Annual Educational Advertising Awards sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report.

In Memory

Bruce A. Emig, assistant professor of HVAC technology, died May 29.

James W. Little, retired aviation instructor, died April 14.

Fred C. Schaefer Jr., retired assistant professor of graphic communications, died April 24.

Vinay Bahl, associate professor of sociology, was appointed to serve as an external examiner for a master’s degree study titled “The Role of Dress Style for Senior Women in a Corporate Consulting Firm” by the Department of Industrial Psychology and People Management at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Bahl also organized a panel discussion at the Pennsylvania Sociological Society’s annual conference, also serving as a panelist for the discussion, which was titled “Impact of Technology, Assessment, Student Evaluation, and Administrative Class Observation on Undergraduate Teaching in the USA.” She was joined on the panel by Penn College faculty members Craig A. Miller, assistant professor of history and political science, and Richard Sahn, instructor of psychology and sociology.

Kelly B. Butzler, assistant professor of chemistry, who is pursuing a Doctor of Education from Northcentral University, was selected for membership in Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, as well as the Golden Key International Honour Society. Butzler also was co-presenter with Lolita A. Paff, assistant professor of business economics at Penn State Berks, of a session titled “Flip Your Class! Strategies and Student Reactions to a Flipped Classroom” at the Penn State Symposium for Teaching and Learning With Technology. In addition, Butzler was named moderator of the “Flip Research on Higher Education” and “College Level Flippers” groups in the Flipped Learning Network.

Jodi L. Binkley, early childhood lab assistant, was among the faculty/staff winners in Penn State’s Global Perspectives Photography Contest. Binkley’s “Forever” was a winner in the People category of the contest, which was administered by The University Office of Global Programs.

Nicholas L. Stephenson, instructor of graphic design, received an Award of Distinction from the American Graphic Design & Advertising Awards, in the professionals publication-design category for a magazine feature he designed titled “EcoLogic.”
Visit pct.edu/homecoming for Homecoming 2013 event details, including the Landscaping/Horticulture Reunion and our first Alumni Quizze!

Turn to page 32 for Alumni Golf Outing information and registration.

1970s

Jim Carpenter, ’71, journalism, is a senior night desk editor/religion editor at the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, where he has been employed for 42 years. He resides in Williamsport.

Kenneth J. Lyle, ’74, toolmaking technology, is a programming supervisor at Quality Machining Inc. in Bellefonte, where he does CNC programming and IT administration. He resides in Frenchville.

Tim Sink, ’74, printing, is a self-employed publisher. Since 2007, he has been publishing Rutland Magazine, a quarterly publication in Central Vermont, with his wife and business partner. He resides in Woodstock, Vt.

Ernie L. Airgood, ’78, architectural technology, is a program manager for the U.S. Department of State, for which he manages upgrades and renovations at overseas embassies and consulates. He resides in Springfield, Va.

1980s

David F. McClure, ’81, engineering drafting technology, is a mechanical designer at System One. He resides in Enola.

Timothy S. Irvin, ’83, computer information systems, is chief information officer for the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He resides in Pine Grove.

Lori E. (Pepperman) Baier, ’87, computer information systems, is a financial aid assistant at Penn College, where she is also pursuing a Bachelor of Science in technology management. She resides in Williamsport.

Barry L. Kepner Jr., ’87, air conditioning-refrigeration, is a branch manager at Meier Supply Co. Inc. He resides in Mifflintown.

1990s

James W. Kurtz, ’91, HVAC technology; ’03, technology management, is a safety, environmental and security manager for the Dairy Farmers of America Inc. Mechanicsburg facility. He resides in Watsontown.

Donald E. Stringfellow, ’94, technology management, retired from the position of regional community relations director for PPL in July 2011. He continues working in economic development and resides in Lock Haven.

Steven L. Arnold, ’95, construction carpentry, is a carpenter at Sun Precast Co., where he constructs molds for decorative concrete. He resides in McClure.

Bryan J. Waltz, ’96, data communications & networking concentration; ’93, microcomputer specialist, is manager of telecommunications and networking at Penn College. He resides in Montoursville.

Joshua R. Lepley, ’97, graphic design, is founder and designsmith of Lepley Design, which provides graphic and industrial design solutions for in-house projects and clients worldwide. He is also the founder of Ecoustik, which is a sustainable sound solution for Apple devices, and the CINCH wallet. He resides in Williamsport.

Robert P. Adams, ’98, construction management, is director of operation and maintenance for Stafford County Public Schools. He manages comprehensive repair and maintenance services for the 3.9 million square feet of physical plant space and 1,200 acres of land owned and operated by Stafford County Public Schools. He resides in Stafford, Va.

Jillian K. Bliss, ’98, early childhood education, is a teacher at KinderCare Child Care Center. She resides in Pittsburgh.

2000s

Kristin M. (Hartley) Bachman, ’00, general studies, is an assistant manager at Christopher and Banks. She resides in Williamsport.

Ryan E. Buckwalter, ’00, landscape/nursery technology, is the owner/president of Buckwalter Landscape Services Inc. He resides in Douglassville.

Michael W. Kistler, ’00, building construction technology, is a project manager at Lobar Associates Inc. He resides in Carlisle.
Charlie Baum, '01, data communications and networking, is a senior engineer at Comcast Cable. He works in IT automation and enterprise integration and is responsible for automating system deployments for Comcast corporate. He resides in Downingtown.

Clark A. Bixler, '01, computer-aided product and systems design, is a service engineer at Stanley Black & Decker, serving as a liaison between engineering and service center technicians. He resides in York.

Julie A. Moodler, '01, legal assistant/paralegal, is a legal advocate manager at YWCA Northcentral PA, where she works with the courts, the police and with the Lycoming County District Attorney's Office on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and other violent crimes. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Jennifer (Haas) Sheaffer, '01, nursing, is a certified registered nurse practitioner at Family Practice Centers PC. She resides in New Columbia.

Jessica (Becker) Engel, '03, business administration, is marketing and sales manager of Home Instead Senior Care, a Clarks Summit-based company serving five counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. She is also president for the NEPA Aging Network Coalition and founded Senior Networking Alliance of the Poconos. She serves on the board of directors for the Lackawanna Interagency Council and Support Services for Seniors of Monroe County. Engel was featured as the Scranton Times-Tribune Northeast Woman in January 2012. She resides in Scranton.

Cristopher Gebhardt, '03, architectural technology, is a building information modeler at Thornton Tomasetti. He resides in Arlington, Va.

Todd L. Stocum, '03, accounting (bachelor's); '90, accounting (associate), recently became co-owner of Gearhart & Associates Inc., a business he has worked for since its inception in 1994, beginning as a staff accountant, and later as a Certified Public Accountant. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Michael T. Best, '04, culinary arts technology, is a lead cook for Muncy Valley Hospital. He resides in South Williamsport.

Michael R. Merlino, '05, floral design/interior plantscape, is a manager at Daniel Vaughn Designs, where he helps the owner run the shop, oversees the design room, supervises the part-time help, and oversees party setup. He resides in Bellefonte.

Kyle R. Rhoads, '05, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer II for Volvo Construction Equipment. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Dusty J. (Brooks) Zeyn, '05, legal assistant/paralegal studies, is the assistant director for residence life at Mansfield University. She resides in Mansfield.

Kevin H. Chase, '06, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is an HVAC technician for First Quality Products. He resides in Dubois town.

Becky A. (Hellmers) Ellis, '07, business management, is an assistant community manager at S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co. She resides in Suffolk, Va.

Katie L. (Hoffman) Dumm, '08, environmental technology management, is a compliance assurance specialist at Avantor Performance Materials. She resides in Allentown.

Kimberly A. Erdman, '08, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, co-authored a paper that was published in the November 2012 issue of Dimensions of Dental Hygiene, a monthly, peer-reviewed journal. Her paper is titled “Dental Detectives.” Erdman is a graduate student at the University of Bridgeport, Fones School of Dental Hygiene in Connecticut. She works in clinical practice as a government contractor with the U.S. Navy and volunteers in the forensic dental identification process at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Charles E. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, Dover Air Force Base, in Dover, Del. Erdman is a member of the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the American Society of Forensic Odontology. She resides in Silver Spring, Md.

John Hardcastle, '08, web & applications development, is a software engineer at Nuance. He resides in Pompton Lakes, N.J.

James Jones, '08, culinary arts and systems, is a graduate assistant at Indiana State University. He resides in Terre Haute, Ind.

Sarah R. Wilson, '08, graphic design, is a graphic designer for Blair Companies. She resides in Tyrone.

Allyson J. (Roan) Borger, '09, baking and pastry arts, is a bakery team leader at Wegmans. She resides in Julian.

James P. Craft, '09, construction management, is a project manager for James Craft & Son Inc. and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration from Eastern University. He resides in York.

Justin J. Kovaleski, '09, construction management, is director of business development at Eastern PCM LLC. He received a Master of Business Administration in sustainable business and green development from Marylhurst University in 2011. He resides in Harrisburg.

Jessica R. (Larson) Lehman, '09, business administration: marketing, is a heavy highway construction inspector for McTish, Kunkel & Associates. She resides in South Williamsport.

Jaime (Trauger) Marchese, '09, health information technology, is a staff assistant in the health information management department at Penn State University. She resides in Reedsville.

Ryan A. More, '09, construction management, is an assistant project manager at Spectrum Inc. General Contracting, where he manages commercial projects throughout the Washington, D.C., metro area. He resides in Fairfax, Va.

Brandon Sluga, '09, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer at GE Aviation. He resides in Cincinnati.

Kenneth M. Steinbacher, '09, information technology: network specialist, is the owner of Real IT Care. He resides in Williamsport.

Rachael Bahner, '10, occupational therapy assistant, is a licensed certified occupational therapy assistant for Rehab Care. She resides in Tewksbury, Mass.

Jason M. Brown, '10, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is an engineer associate for Honda Manufacturing of Alabama. He resides in Anniston, Ala.
Kathryn A. Chamberlain, '10, information technology: network technology, is an IT support specialist for Penn State World Campus. She resides in Tyrone.

Amanda L. (Hinkal) Dangle, '10, nursing, is a registered nurse at Geisinger. She resides in Pennsdale.

Stephanie J. Irvine, '10, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a supplier quality engineer for Liebherr Mining Equipment in Newport News, Va. She resides in Elberon, Va.

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

Alesha Love-LaForme, '10, applied human services, is a shelter counselor/advocate at Transitions. She resides in Williamsport.

Christine Muthler, '10, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a paralegal at the Law Office of Brian L. Kerstetter. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Shannon L. (Hine) Brophy, '11, legal assistant-paralegal, is a legal secretary at Harding & Hill LLP. She resides in Bloomsburg.

Brandon J. Close, '11, business administration: marketing, is a research associate in the department of Sociology at the City University of New York's John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He plans to graduate with a master's degree in criminal justice policy in 2013. He resides in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Nicholas J. Colaric, '11, construction management, is an assistant project engineer at Turner Construction. He resides in Eighty Four.

Greg P. Dangle, '11, diesel technician, is a diesel technician at Eck's Garage. He resides in Pennsdale.

Valerie LaCerra, '11, applied human services, was certified as a Human Services-Board Certified Practitioner by the Center for Credentialing and Educators. She is employed by the Community Services Group, where she works in behavioral health rehabilitation, and resides in Linden.

Megan R. Pennington, '11, graphic design, is a graphics project lead for Bausch & Lomb Inc. She resides in Akron, N.Y.

Samantha Catiin, '12, graphic design, is a graphic artist/sales assistant at Forever Broadcasting. She resides in Avis.

Matthew Druckenmiller, '12, civil engineering technology, is employed by PennDOT and resides in Paxinos.

Megan Nestel, '12, information technology: network specialist, provides technical support at Schneider Electric. She resides in North Kingstown, R.I.

Stacey J. (Webb) Paronish, '12, health arts: practical nursing, is an LPN at Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in New Columbia.

Lauren A. Powell, '12, surgical technology, is a certified surgical technologist at Pinnacle Health Hospital. She resides in Lewistown.

Padraic O. Stimpson, '12, diesel technology, is a diesel mechanic at Venezia Bulk Transport. He resides in Nazareth.

Heather Thielman, '12, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a dental hygienist for Dr. Bernard Logan and resides in Rochester.

Sean M. Timm, '12, information technology: network specialist, is a network consulting engineer for Cisco Systems, where he provides proactive network support on Cisco’s Comcast team. He resides in Morrisville.

Brian S. Witner, '12, hospitality management, is a shift supervisor at Flying J Travel Center. He resides in Lock Haven.


Jenna Wegielksi, '05, dental hygiene, married Peter Baisch on Sept. 30, 2012. They reside in Peekskill, N.Y.

Dusty J. (Brooks) Zeyn, '05, legal assistant/paralegal studies, and her husband, Joshua, welcomed a daughter, Madison E., on Oct. 28, 2011. They reside in Mansfield.


Katie L. Hoffman, '08, environmental technology management, married Adam Dumm, '09, computer aided product design, in May 2012. The couple resides in Allentown.


Jaime Trauger, '09, health information technology, married Michael Marchese, '08, automotive technology, on May 21, 2011. The couple resides in Reedsdale.


Cody R. Kanouff, '10, forest technology, welcomed a son, Zander, on Sept. 20, 2012. He resides in Renovo.


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IN THE FIELD OF PLAY
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SAVE THE DATE

Welcome Weekend (alumni volunteers welcome) Aug. 17 – 18
Gallery Exhibit: Christopher Olszewski Sept. 6 – Oct. 6
Parent & Family Weekend Sept. 20 – 22
Wildcat Comic Con Sept. 28
Homecoming Weekend Oct. 11 – 12
Gallery Exhibit: Lauren Kinney & Patrick Vincent Oct. 11 – Nov. 10
Career Fair Oct. 14 – 15
Open House (alumni volunteers welcome) Oct. 27

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