One College Avenue

Thruway Headway
Alumna overseeing long-awaited ‘New Route 15’
See Page 16

Also in this issue:
6  An Artist’s Journey to Engineering
10  Baking His Way to Team USA
12  Lightening India’s Water Load
Koda, a Leonberger with a heart to match his stature, joined other tail-wagging visitors in the Madigan Library for pre-finals, stress-relieving therapy in Spring 2015. The college regularly holds activities to ease test anxiety for its students, and visits by certified therapy dogs are a favorite way to “paws” before finals week.
ON THE COVER
Maggie (Powers) Jackson, ’08, stands near PA Route 147 in Montandon, where the route transitions from a two-lane road to a four-lane divided highway. Eventually, a new roadway that bypasses a busy business district and winding, mountainous sections of Route 15 will connect here. Jackson is the project manager. See Page 16.

GO PAPERLESS
To receive an email when we publish new editions at oca.pct.edu, email alumni@pct.edu. Include your name, class year (if alumni), address and email address, and put Online OCA Subscription in the subject. You will stop receiving the printed One College Avenue.

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

Double Major
A student links the seemingly opposite disciplines of studio art and welding and fabrication engineering technology.

Bread Baking’s Best
Baking and pastry arts instructor Chef Charles R. Niedermyer, ’00, advances to the finals on a quest to join Team USA at Coupe du Monde de la Boulangerie, bread baking’s “world cup.”

Clean Water to Go
The expertise of a Penn College plastics graduate is facilitating access to clean water in rural India for women who no longer have to carry pots of water on their heads.

Building the ‘New 15’
The groundbreaking for a new bridge this fall will mark the first tangible progress on a highway construction plan that has been decades in the making. A 2008 alumna will oversee it.

Unique & Chic
Personal expression is among this year’s Penn College wardrobe “must-haves.”

Wildcats Complete Watershed Year
Penn College athletics continues its transition to NCAA Division III competition.

REGULAR FEATURES
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Opening Imaginations
Editor:

I wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the article “Living Outside ‘You’” in the Spring 2015 issue of One College Avenue that I just received today. I enjoyed reading about George W. Settle III’s experiences working at the Home for Hope in Beirut. His time with the young people at the Home for Hope can make a lasting impression for years to come.

I was particularly drawn to the section where he was teaching some of the boys the basics of welding. Just this act alone can open up their imaginations as to being able to build or repair things themselves.

I also want to thank you for including the article and photos of my Peace Corps experience in Jamaica, W.I.

I believe the article says a lot about being able to share with the world what valuable skills one has to offer.

Sincerely,
Richard S. Ashworth, ’67
Cobleskill, N.Y.

Conversations at oca.pct.edu:
What a great overview of a wonderful educational establishment. I am proud to have been an active part of it from the North Campus during the transition from WACC to Penn College ... and beyond. I left the campus in 2000, but have been frequently involved as a noncredit instructor since then. Great school. Trying to get my grandson to go there!

Linda Williams
Owner, Training Focus
(commenting on “100 Moments in College History,” Winter 2014)

Outstanding review of 100 successful years. Congratulations on the anniversary.

Robin Van Auken
Williamsport
(commenting on “100 Moments in College History,” Winter 2014)

A great history and a very promising future. I was very proud to have been associated with Penn College for nine years and have fond memories of the faculty, staff and students there.

Ted Nichols
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
(commenting on “100 Moments in College History,” Winter 2014)
New major designed for future sport & event managers

A new concentration in Penn College’s suite of business administration majors is designed to help prepare those who seek a management career in the sports or events industries.

Graduates of business administration: sport and event management concentration have the potential to work in such sports-related environments as arenas, ski resorts, health clubs or professional sports leagues, while those not interested in a sports-based career may choose management positions in convention and business-event planning, at entertainment venues, in travel and tourism, and more.

The U.S. Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the industry to experience “much faster than average” job growth over the next 10 years.

Physical fitness specialist major becomes exercise science

Reflecting an expansion of job opportunities in the fitness industry, the college’s former physical fitness specialist major is now known as exercise science. The new name also reflects the realignment of the program’s courses over many years.

Students in the exercise science major study exercise physiology and human movement, or how the body responds to exercise. They learn to design fitness programs, evaluate health behaviors and risk factors, conduct fitness assessments, write exercise prescriptions, and motivate individuals to modify negative health habits.

Exercise science student Brittany M. Fisher monitors the performance of Susquehanna Valley Velo Club member Dick Kaiser as a CardioCoach VO2 max calculator measures his carbon-dioxide vs. oxygen output.

More than lip service

Students struggling to ditch tobacco got a boost from fellow student Cassandra B. Mohr, a student in the dental hygiene: health policy and administration concentration. With pigs’ lungs as a visual aid, she presented “Don’t Let Tobacco Use Cause Oral Health Abuse!” at various on- and off-campus sites. She created the peer program to educate students about the effects that tobacco use can have on the mouth and the rest of the body, providing educational materials and “quit packets.”
Penn College was featured on NPR’s “Morning Edition,” in a piece highlighting the increase in natural-gas jobs in Pennsylvania despite layoffs in the larger petroleum industry. NPR correspondent Jeff Brady visited the college’s Energy Technology Education Center, where he interviewed students in the college’s three-week roustabout training class, which prepares entry-level workers for jobs on natural gas drilling rigs, and its diesel technology associate-degree major, as well as college officials.

Brady reported: “More than 100 students have completed the roustabout training, and 98 percent landed jobs right away at an average rate of $16.15 per hour.”

Penn College plastics initiatives touted on international stage

A video shown at NPE: The International Plastics Showcase in Orlando, Florida, featured Penn College’s plastics majors and its Plastics Innovation & Resource Center. The video was produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development and highlighted some of the state's best assets to plastics and rubber products manufacturers.

“Greiner Packaging, one of Europe’s leading dairy-industry plastics makers, chose Pennsylvania for its U.S. headquarters mainly for its rich natural gas reserves and the students and opportunities at Penn College's Plastics Innovation & Resource Center,” the five-minute video noted.

“They were putting out very high candidates for us,” David Kirkland, chief operating officer for Greiner Packaging Corp., told the video crew. “That’s critical. Our business model is ’Do the Innovation.’ We always want to be on the cutting edge of technology and want to lead the market, so it’s important that we have the right skill set available to us. That was one of the bigger factors that attracted us to Pennsylvania.”

In April, journalists representing plastics trade publications from India, France, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States toured the plastics facilities at the college.
A 72-hour social-media fundraising campaign asked alumni to give their praise to some of their favorite faculty.

props to Denise Leete
“I came to PCT as a self-taught Web designer. How wrong was I to assume I already knew everything! Professor Leete really opened my eyes and showed me things I didn’t even know were possible on the Web. She taught me the foundation of all my current Web-designing skills.”

props to Dennis Williams
“I couldn’t have hoped for a better teacher. Hard, but fair, he always had great business insights and answered any questions about life or coursework.”

props to Kay Dunkleberger
“Although Kay is not a professor, she was my support, mentor and guidance counselor. ... Thank you, Kay, for living my dream with me.”

props to the late Peter Dumanis
“He really encouraged me to think. ... I never understood why he constantly asked us ‘Why?’ until I realized I was retaining more because of it.”

props to Kelly Butzler
“Until I took Dr. Butzler’s Forensic Science class, I couldn’t have cared less about any kind of science. Her class woke me up regarding not just science, but the world around me and how to look for the obvious in not-so-obvious places. ... Years after taking the class, I still enjoy learning about forensics and all that it involves.”

props to Barbara Fisher Di Marco
“Math was never my favorite subject. ... I will never forget Barbara Fisher Di Marco coming in on her weekends off to review with me because I needed extra help. Because of her, I was able to pass the class.”

props to Mike Ditchfield and Paul Mach
“Chef Mike notified me when he heard about the sous chef position that I have now, and then Chef Paul’s letter of recommendation sealed the deal. I really wouldn’t have the career opportunities I have today if it weren’t for them. But my major prop goes out to Chef Mike for always trying to shove me out of the nest!”

Read more “Props for Profs” at oca.pct.edu/props

@penncollege #penncollege
Clad in a blue denim jacket and brown double-front canvas pants, the student pulls a helmet over her eager face. Her feet, protected by rugged leather boots, remain flat on the welding lab’s industrial floor. She reaches for the tool of choice: a slender black welding rod. Moments later, she confidently strikes a piece of metal and establishes an arc. The resulting glow competes with the dark red, orange and yellow flames layered on her helmet. It’s time to create.

In white pants and a short-sleeved blue top, the student wears a mask of anticipation. Her bare feet remain flat on the painting studio’s floor. She extends for the tool of choice: a slender brown paintbrush. Moments later, she dips the brush into a palette of bright colors and confidently strikes the white canvas in front of her. It’s time to create.

Different classes.
Different majors.
Same student.
Hannah Michelle relishes the apparent dichotomy. The Lewisburg native is seeking both a bachelor’s degree in welding and fabrication engineering technology and an associate degree in studio arts at Pennsylvania College of Technology. For her, the connection is clear between the majors at opposite ends of campus and, at first glance, the spectrum of academic disciplines.

“In engineering, you’re solving problems and coming up with new ideas, and in art, you’re solving problems and coming up with new ideas,” she said excitedly during a break between classes. “Instead of solving a problem with mathematics, there is a creative side to me that I can take and spin the engineering problems with, and often when I’m doing art, I’m thinking about perfect mathematical proportions. It coalesces very nicely.”

Michelle’s desire to link the two disciplines led her to Penn College. That and a discarded cello.

Art always has been Michelle’s passion, thanks to growing up around her grandfather’s woodcarvings and charcoal drawings. She gravitated toward artistic endeavors in both her free time and at school. Michelle fondly recalls the plethora of art supplies at Lewisburg High School and using ample space provided by its “art cave” to create inspired projects.

Painting. Weaving. Mixed media. She embraced a variety of mediums to tap and showcase her creativity.

Michelle enrolled at Susquehanna University to formalize her interests. She studied studio art and creative writing. Feeling “cramped” creatively, she left school after a year-and-a-half to become interim director of Top Floor Studio in Lewisburg. She used that time to teach art to kids and work on her own creations.

Enter the cello.

Michelle discovered it one day in a dumpster behind a building. Its time for emanating rich notes had passed, but she knew the dilapidated instrument could still be a source of artistic expression. Inspired by the possibilities, she quickly scooped it up, placed it in her car and sped home to experiment.

“I took the top off of it, took the whole stem off and finished the inside of it,” Michelle said. “I made a chest out of it. When I started putting brackets on, I was like, ‘Wow, metal is interesting.’ I started thinking about all these ideas that I
wanted to do with metal. You really need to know how to work with metal to do anything creative with it."

Unfortunately, Michelle didn’t. Her soldering experience didn’t cut it. Neither did reading a book about welding.

“I had all these ideas that I didn’t know how to implement,” she said. “I didn’t have enough knowledge. I was like, ‘I should go to school again.’”

She knew of Penn College because her late brother, Shaun, graduated from the school in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in computer information technology. A Google search for “welding programs” encouraged her to experience the institution for herself.

Touring the welding facility and interacting with School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies personnel sealed the decision. “They were really enthusiastic about me coming here,” she said.

“Enthusiasm breeds enthusiasm. Hannah was very excited and focused on her desire to come into the welding program, and with her artistic and creative background, it seemed like a natural fit,” recalled David R. Cotner, dean of the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies.

Cross-Generational Connection

A trip to the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia buttressed Michelle’s decision to develop welding skills. While she enjoyed the museum dedicated to maritime history, one display, in particular, attracted her undivided attention. The glass case included a welding mask, old tools, and black-and-white photos dating to the early 1940s. The contents belonged to Marie Hindsley. Known as “Gravel Gertie,” Hindsley was one of the first women trained and employed at the New York Shipbuilding Corp. in Camden, New Jersey, during World War II.

She was also Michelle’s great-grandmother.

Michelle has faint memories of Hindsley, who died when Michelle was 8 years old. She describes Hindsley as an eccentric, self-sufficient lady and remembers her constructing a treasured dollhouse featuring electricity. Over the years, Michelle learned that Hindsley was once a welder, but the significance of that endeavor didn’t resonate until her museum trip.

“I was like, ‘Wow. She was one of the first lady welders!’” Michelle said. “She was a Rosie the Riveter. It’s neat to have that in your background. Seeing that display got me more excited about welding.”

Her lack of welding expertise added to that excitement during the first weeks of school.

“I didn’t know it involved electricity. I didn’t know there were several different processes,” Michelle said with a laugh. “I didn’t know there were robots that could weld! I love learning, so it was exciting to have all this information coming at me.”

Michelle learned well. She established herself as a Dean’s List student and excelled in the welding lab, conquering stick and oxy-fuel welding before moving on to TIG, flux-cored and robotic welding.

“Being able to use my hands was great, as was learning the theory behind how metal works and how different metals are welded,” Michelle said. “The theory was harder for me to grasp, but the actual
physical welding came naturally. I love everything about it: the sound, the smell, the way it looks through your hood!”

The nontraditional nature of the major didn’t faze her. Michelle grew up around four brothers, so being one of just a dozen females working alongside guys in the welding program came naturally. Plus, she could always draw upon the legacy of “Gravel Gertie” for encouragement.

“My great-grandmother being an overall badass lady really inspired me to embrace and further gender equality,” Michelle said. “I like mentioning her to people, especially when it comes to welding, because I think it highlights what women can do when they need to or want to and that women are not limited to certain professions.”

Michelle decided not to limit herself to one degree after committing to the welding and fabrication engineering technology major rather than the two-year welding technology program. The extra time required for the bachelor’s degree presented the opportunity to also seek the associate degree in studio arts.

“If I’m going to be here for a couple more years getting an engineering degree, I decided I would really like to take some art classes,” she said. “And if I’m taking art classes, it might as well go toward something.”

Michelle’s trademarks are an infectious smile and a rattail dread that extends her “wild” red hair halfway down her slender frame. The smile and rattail are hidden in the welding lab, safely camouflaged by her helmet. In the painting studio, the smile brightens the room while the rattail’s tip has been known to daub various colors, creating a fun mess.

Like her physical traits, the link between art and welding is both hidden and pronounced.

“All welders have some artistic ability to an extent because we create,” said Ryan P. Good, instructor of welding and Michelle’s industrial processes teacher. “There is nothing more satisfying to a welder than enjoying the attributes of a perfectly rippled and contoured weld created from our own hand.”

Welders can express more than technical precision by virtue of their creative ability, according to Cotner, who in addition to being a dean is a certified welding instructor with more than 20 years’ experience in the field. He believes creative instincts can produce an enriching experience for welders and positive result for their projects.

“All welders have some artistic ability because we create.”

Using the tools of the welding lab – an oxy-acetylene cutting torch - Hannah Michelle cuts a steel plate.
for cost or time savings that may not have been otherwise attempted.”

Michelle’s painting teacher, Robert F. Pierce, an adjunct instructor of advertising art, doesn’t consider welding to be art but appreciates its potential as a medium of artistic expression. “Welding has been used to create art for as long as it has existed,” he said. “In general, an artist can create with whatever tool is placed in his hands. He just needs to develop a level of competency with the medium; then expression flows.”

Michelle is proof of that. For one class experiment, she wove metal in a flat sheet, bent it around a pipe, welded the seams and curled all the ends. The result was a “super heavy lampshade.” Outside of class, she created three of the 78 “Student Bodies” sculptures that line the campus mall. The abstract human forms were welded from scrap metal. Michelle’s contribution includes a proportional self-portrait that even mimics her hair with braided pieces of metal.

“Everybody in the welding department has taught me so much, and I’ve been very happy with my art classes,” Michelle said. “The best thing about this school is the teachers. We have some really cool equipment and toys, but what’s really kept me here is the teachers.”

As she juggles her studies with a full-time job cooking at the Bullfrog Brewery in Williamsport, Michelle expects to be on campus for a few more years. But she is envisioning her post-graduation life.

“I would like to work in the engineering field, working for some sort of renewable energy company,” she said. “I would really like to develop ideas. The metallurgical side of welding engineering is very interesting to me.”

But art will not be an afterthought. “I could see myself doing the engineering thing, saving a bunch of money and opening an art studio and teaching,” she said.

No matter the route she chooses, Good, her welding instructor, believes the result will be the same: Michelle will prosper. “I believe that, adequately motivated, there isn’t anything that this young lady can’t accomplish,” he said. “It is really just up to Hannah if she is willing to share her talents with industry or take an artistic entrepreneurial route. Whichever she chooses, I have no doubt that she will be successful.”

Michelle hopes the legacy she is establishing at the college will encourage greater interaction between welding and art students and their curriculums. She said the welders would benefit from the sharpened dexterity and self-expression resulting from art courses. As for the art students, she believes a simple walk across campus would leave an impact.

“The art students would benefit from even just seeing the welding lab and understanding that you can work with things other than a pencil or paint brush,” Michelle said.

But she advises them not to visit in white pants and their bare feet. After all, “Gravel Gertie” wouldn’t approve.

Hannah Michelle’s great-grandmother Marie Hindsley was a tacker in the turret shop at New York Shipbuilding Corp. during World War II, mainly working in areas that required a skillful touch. Hindsley’s welding rods – and some of her other equipment – are displayed at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia.
Over 15 months, Chef Charles R. Niedermyer baked, tweaked and perfected six original breakfast pastry recipes (plus the centuries-old European classic croissant and chocolate croissant). During nine hours of competition, he meticulously prepared samples and showpieces for each of his recipes: 159 pieces in total, each carefully prepared within 10 grams of one another, their garnishes placed with precision.

Judges watched. They timed. They weighed each piece. They critiqued each product’s look, texture and taste. Over a series of events, they advanced Niedermyer to the final three U.S. bakers vying for the “Viennoiserie” position on Team USA at the Coupe du Monde de la Boulangerie in 2016.

The Coupe du Monde is, in essence, the “world cup of bread baking.” Held every four years in Villepinte, France, only nine teams from across the globe are accepted. Each nation is represented by three bakers, each taking on a specialty: viennoiserie (the classical term for...
breakfast pastry), baguette & specialty breads, or artistic design.

Niedermyer is a 2000 graduate of Penn College's baking and pastry arts major and, after several years in industry, is a member of its faculty.

Given the theme for Coupe du Monde de la Boulangerie – “Your country’s emblem through bread” – Niedermyer played with uniquely American flavors: peanut butter and jelly, pineapple upside-down cake, caramel apples and red velvet cake.

Striving to create pastries like judges had never seen, he submitted the recipes – along with product photos, résumé and answers to essay questions – to the Bread Bakers Guild of America, which sponsors Team USA. His concept was a winner: The guild announced a few months later that Niedermyer was among seven selected to compete for the viennoiserie position on the 2016 team.

He spent the next several months preparing for the first round, finding time before classes and after, and pulling students into the experience. He exposed them to new flavors and new techniques.

“Every day, he is teaching them what needs to be done to be at the top of your field.”

“They’re watching what it takes to be as good as you would have to be to make that team,” said Gerri F. Luke, dean of the college’s School of Business & Hospitality. “Every day, he is teaching them what needs to be done to be at the top of your field.”

During December’s first-round competition, Niedermyer’s work impressed the judges, and he advanced with two others to the finals in March.

“I make the same products time and time again, tweaking them slowly,” Neidermyer said. “It’s not magic, and it’s not luck.”

Following the finals, Niedermyer received positive feedback from the judges, and – though not selected for Team USA 2016 – he hopes to compete for a spot on the 2020 team.

“My driving force is: I want to be better at my craft,” Niedermyer said. “And I’ll bring this all back to my teaching.”

— Additional reporting by Tom Speicher, writer/video editor
Clean Water to Go

Graduate’s plastics know-how helps take weight off the shoulders of women in rural India

Jason C. Gross

“To be part of something that truly can change the world was something that excited and intrigued me from the day I heard about it.”

Web Extra
Watch a WaterWheel video at oca.pct.edu/cw

The young woman walks briskly.

Bright traditional garb protects all but her face and forearms from the unforgiving sun. Her right hand gently stabilizes the metal pot resting on her head.

Nonchalantly, her hand returns to her side as she maintains an impressive pace. The pot balances atop her head despite just a thin pair of sandals separating her from the uneven, brown terrain. She still has a few miles to navigate before returning home.

Her burden is daily, as is the need. The heavy pot is filled with a couple gallons of life-sustaining water for the woman and her family.

That scene is repeated countless times every day throughout rural India and the developing world. Scarcity forces women to make multiple trips by foot to safe sources of water. The time-consuming obligation shrinks their opportunities for educational and work pursuits, and its arduous nature results in a variety of physical ailments. Women spend approximately a third of their day with weight equivalent to a stuffed airline carry-on bag atop their head.

Thanks in part to a Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate, that harsh reality is changing. Water collection remains “women’s work” in that part of the world, but weight has been lifted off their shoulders, literally.

Rather than adjust a pot on their head, they grasp a thin steel bar at their waist. The bar extends to an axle supporting a plastic drum, containing nearly a dozen gallons of fresh water. The drum doubles as a wheel that they can comfortably push or pull. Known as the WaterWheel, the innovation is helping to quench the thirst of a nation.
Jason C. Gross smiles at that thought. The skills and expertise he developed at Penn College as a plastics and polymer engineering technology student are enhancing lives 7,000 miles from his Williston, Vermont, home. His handiwork is facilitating access to clean water, reducing water-collection time and improving the health of women, who no longer have to rely on head loading as the sole means to transport water.

“As soon as I heard about the concept, it was one of those things where I said, ‘Wow. I can’t believe nobody has done that.’ To be part of something that truly can change the world was something that excited and intrigued me from the day I heard about it,” said Gross, 32.

The 2005 graduate heard about the WaterWheel initiative from his younger brother and fellow Penn College alumnus, Matthew L. Gross. Owner of a technical consulting firm, 144 Innovations in Boulder, Colorado, Matthew serves as the chief materials and processing engineer adviser for Jibu, an organization dedicated to combatting the water crisis in East Africa. His work for Jibu led to an inquiry from Wello, a nonprofit focused on improving access to safe water throughout India. Wello sought Matthew’s input to upgrade the initial version of its WaterWheel, released in 2013.

Overloaded with other projects and commitments, the 2006 Penn College graduate engineered a simple solution. “It just dawned on me that this would be a great project to get Jason involved in if I could,” said Matthew, 29. “I never doubted once that it wasn’t going to be successful. I knew Jason wouldn’t run into anything that he wouldn’t be able to fix or solve.”

The decision to subcontract the project to his brother was an easy one. Technical savvy and problem solving are in the Grosses’ genes. Their mother is an engineer, and their father is an electrician. Aunts, uncles and cousins engage in a variety of engineering disciplines.

Jason, in particular, has been a proficient “tinkerer” since childhood. He considered mechanical and electrical engineering as possible careers, but decided those fields were too broad for his taste. Constantly breaking the plastic binding on his snowboard pointed Jason in a different direction.

“I thought there had to be a better way to make the binding, and about the same time, I came across the option for a plastics degree,” he said. “I looked at programs around the country.”

He chose Penn College, home to one of just five plastics programs accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET. A Dean’s List student, Jason earned a bachelor’s degree in plastics and polymer engineering technology and also engaged in research and development for the college’s renowned Plastics Manufacturing Center, now known as the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center.

“What I did for the WaterWheel probably touched on 80 percent of my education,” Jason said. “It involved plastics processing, mold design, material selection testing, and engineering economics. It was similar to a capstone project in how you had to put everything all together.”

There were many “pieces” to put together for WaterWheel 2.5. Wello wanted to shift from a rotational-molded product to a blow-molded design in order to increase production output and reduce costs.

“Rotational molding is a very time-consuming process,” explained Kirk M. Cantor, professor of plastics and polymer technology. “Powdered plastic is tumbled in a heated, hollow mold and eventually coats the inside surface of the mold. Building up
the wall thickness of the product and cooling it down to remove it from the mold can take up to an hour in some cases.

“In blow molding, a hollow mold closes around a tube of molten plastic, and compressed air inflates the tube within the mold to acquire the desired shape and cool the product. The process can take just a matter of seconds.”

Jason led the successful conversion to a blow-molded WaterWheel in less than a year, despite working full time as a packaging equipment engineer for Keurig Green Mountain Inc., famous for its personal beverage system.

“I worked on it on a weekly basis. I didn’t keep track of the hours,” he laughs.

“I just made the time to be able to support the project.”

Since India is 9 ½ hours ahead of Vermont, Jason devoted many predawn hours to communicating with the Indian blow-molding manufacturer for the new version of the WaterWheel. “Between language barriers, communication gaps, understanding their process ability, it took some time to come to an understanding,” he said.

“He not only had to deal with the challenges associated with the communication barrier but also the technological barrier of a Second- or Third-World company manufacturing it,” Matthew said. “They might not have the tools we are used to, the computer programs that typically make something very easy to do. That can make a small task much more complicated.”

By employing Skype, videoconferencing, and PowerPoints with lots of pictures and arrows to aid understanding, Jason succeeded.

“Jason advised Wello through every step of the design-to-manufacture process, liaising with our manufacturer and mold maker to troubleshoot problems,” said Cynthia Koenig, founder and CEO of Wello. “He educated the Wello team about manufacturing best practices and container manufacturing, material choices and quality control. We couldn’t have done this without him!”

WaterWheel 2.5 features several improvements. A small, flat opening on the drum has been replaced with a larger, angled one to facilitate pouring and cleaning. Sturdier, ergonomic handles make it easier to grasp the drum, which is made of food-grade, human-safe, high-density polyethylene. The new WaterWheel is more durable, yet half the weight of the initial version.

“The Wello team spent countless hours in the field with the first WaterWheel to hear it from the end user, the people who are going to need it every day, to make sure it’s actually something we want to do,” Jason said. “These were well-vetted changes. Cynthia and the Wello team did a good job challenging us to make sure we could get a sustainable and functional product.”

Wello ordered 1,000 WaterWheel 2.5s for release in January. The organization teams with other nonprofits and charity groups to sell the device for $20 to villagers in Rajasthan, which is the largest state by area in India.

The majority of India’s 1.2 billion people live in rural areas. While the country contains more than 17 percent of the world’s population, it only has 4 percent of Earth’s fresh water supply. According to the World Health Organization, 97 million Indians (equivalent to two-and-a-half times the population of California) lack access to safe water. The WHO estimates that less than a quarter of Indian households have a piped-water connection.

“I told Jason in the beginning that I always think I learn more from working on these projects than what I am able to give,” Matthew said. “You realize you’re not Superman with a
Matthew offering Jason the opportunity to address that problem through plastics technology brought the Gross brothers full circle. More than a decade ago, it was Jason who opened Matthew’s eyes to the possibility of a plastics career.

“He is pretty much the reason I ended up at Penn College for plastics,” said Matthew, who graduated from high school without firm plans. “I went to Penn State York for a semester to play soccer. During that semester, I excelled at math, science and chemistry and saw my brother getting great internships and job offers at Penn College. I realized what he had going on there was a really good thing, and I followed in his footsteps.”

Timothy E. Weston, who developed the Penn College plastics program and serves as an associate professor and department head, is glad he did.

“Jason and Matt both came to Penn College with a strong work ethic and a desire to be successful,” Weston said. “We simply provided the opportunity and means to achieve their life goals. If you have the desire to succeed and the work ethic to make it happen, Penn College provides the opportunities for success.”

After Penn College, the brothers and “best friends” went their separate ways. Jason worked as a project development engineer at Graham Packaging for a decade before joining Keurig Green Mountain three years ago. Matthew earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in materials science and engineering at Penn State. He served as a materials and process engineer for Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp. prior to forming his consulting firm two years ago. Matthew received Penn College’s Alumni Achievement Award in 2012.

“The WaterWheel was a great project that got us in contact more often and allowed us to work technically together, which was really fun,” Matthew said.

More importantly, the collaboration has resulted in a sanitary, convenient means for the women of rural India to access wells, hand pumps, water tanker trucks and other sources of safe water. The 11.8-gallon capacity of WaterWheel 2.5 (approximately three times the amount of water in a typical head-loading pot) and ease of use cuts water collection time in half, which increases time for family, employment and education.

WaterWheel 2.5 is enriching lives by reducing a heavy burden, one family at a time.

That reality encourages Jason to do more. He’s starting his own consulting business to support growth in developing nations where great ideas may exist but technical know-how is lacking.

“You grow personally and at the end of the day maybe create something no one thought was possible,” he said.

Like a wheel transporting clean water.

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Waterborne illnesses are a leading cause of death for children under the age of 5, killing 1,000 every day.

– UNICEF

While water covers approximately 70 percent of Earth, less than 3 percent is fresh water, and only about 1 percent of the world’s fresh water is accessible for direct human use.

– U.S. Geological Survey

One in nine people lack access to safe water. That’s 750 million people worldwide (more than twice the population of the United States).

– World Health Organization

Did you know?

ALUMNI, share your story at oca.pct.edu/cn.
Alumna is project manager for long-awaited roadway improvement

Maggie [Powers] Jackson, ’08, is project manager for a $669 million construction project that will result in a limited-access highway that stretches from the current freeway end on Route 15 north of Selinsgrove to the four-lane section of Route 147 south of Montandon.
U.S. ROUTE 15 is the only major north-south route through central Pennsylvania. That means, when the divided highway leading north from Harrisburg ends, and the route tracks through a bustling business district, drivers have little choice but to adjust their freeway-driving mode and call to let loved ones know: “I’m stuck on ‘the strip’ in Shamokin Dam.”

Every day, as many as 40,000 vehicles travel Route 15 – conjoined with Route 11 – through Hummels Wharf and Shamokin Dam, about an hour south of Williamsport. The 4.5-mile “strip” contains 24 intersections, nine traffic signals and 101 driveways that lead to homes, restaurants and retailers of every sort.

It provides a challenge not only to through traffic, but to local drivers, as well, who apply extra caution as they turn on and off of the route.

A bypass that would separate the two types of traffic has been the dream of community members for decades. This fall, when ground is broken for a bridge across the Susquehanna River’s West Branch, construction for the bypass will officially get underway.

Overseeing it is Maggie (Powers) Jackson, a 2008 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology. Jackson is managing the $669 million Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

“Getting construction moving will most likely feel surreal and slightly overwhelming,” said Jackson, who said it has taken decades of resilience, determination and hard work to move the project forward, not only within PennDOT, but many supporting agencies, consulting firms and the public.

“I have no doubt that the planned thruway will provide for a safer interstate system.”
“After 40 years of false starts, the CSVT will soon become a reality,” said Pennsylvania Sen. Gene Yaw, who is chairman of Penn College’s board of directors. “This is a smart, strategic transportation investment in our region that will create hundreds of jobs and bring relief to thousands of motorists traveling daily along US 11/15. As one of those motorists, I have no doubt that the planned thruway will provide for a safer interstate system by relieving traffic congestion, improving the flow of goods and services throughout the region, and benefiting the environment by reducing auto emissions.”

“The alignment, as we know it today, has been in development since the mid-’90s,” Jackson explained. “However, the idea to improve the transportation system within the Central Susquehanna Valley started as early as the ‘60s.”

While a bypass stretching from the community of Selinsgrove to Shamokin Dam was designed in the early 1970s, only the Selinsgrove portion was completed by 1977. In the decades since, the population in the Central Susquehanna Valley has continued to grow, increasing congestion in the area and prompting continued petitions from the public.

In the mid-1990s, PennDOT was given permission to study the area. In 2003, an environmental impact statement for the project was approved. And then it awaited funding.

It remained, dormant, on state and federal transportation improvement programs until 2013, when Pennsylvania legislators approved the Act 89 Transportation Bill. With funding in place, PennDOT wasted no time in moving the project forward, tapping Jackson as the 13-mile project’s manager.

The “PM” role calls on a diverse set of abilities, David J. Fedor, a Penn College instructor of civil engineering technology and a former PennDOT engineer, explained.

“In addition to the engineering skills needed, managing any-size project requires foresight, prioritization, time-management, mediation,

Groundbreaking for a bridge that will cross the Susquehanna River’s West Branch near Winfield is expected in October. The bridge represents the first of seven contracts that, by 2024, will complete a 13-mile bypass to ease traffic congestion along U.S. Route 15 north of Selinsgrove.

Construction timeline:

**NORTHERN SECTION**

(Connects PA 147 south of Montandon to US Route 15 south of Winfield)

**August 2015-July 2020:** River bridge construction

**August 2016-December 2020:** Earthwork construction and construction of “non-river” structures

**January 2020-December 2021:** Pavement construction

**SOUTHERN SECTION**

(Connects US 15 south of Winfield to US 11/15 north of Selinsgrove)

**July 2019-June 2022:** Earthwork construction

**July 2020-June 2023:** Structures construction

**July 2022-June 2024:** Pavement construction

**January 2023-December 2024:** PA Route 61 connector construction
communication, record-keeping and decision-making skills, to name a few,” he said. “For a project like CSVT that involves a large river bridge, multilane highways and substantial right-of-way acquisitions, these skills need to be applied to solve numerous complex problems at a faster pace than a typical project.”

Jackson began working for PennDOT five years ago as a civil engineer in training. In that role, she gained experience in various departments. Most recently she had been a bridge engineer.

She was encouraged by colleagues in PennDOT’s District 3-0 office in Montoursville to seek the manager role for CSVT and is quick to point to the help she receives from her supervisor, her assistant project manager and other departments.

“I have a good, core group who supports me,” the 29-year-old said.

With the project back in motion, the first steps have included a re-evaluation of the previously approved environmental impact statement and making good on the department’s promise to the public that, with money in place, it would deliver the bridge contract by August 2015 and have the entire project completed by 2024.

“It has been a challenge to pick back up where progress was left off after shelving for extensive time periods, especially on a condensed schedule,” Jackson said.

It is appropriate for Jackson that the first piece of construction for the project is a bridge. As a child, each time she packed up with her parents and three older brothers for the five-hour trip to her grandparents’ house in Maryland, she had a single request: that her father wake her before they crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

Called an engineering triumph, the 4.3-mile bridge was the world’s largest continuous steel structure over water when it opened in 1952.

“As a young child, it was exciting to cross over the bay and see the boats below,” Jackson said. “As I got older, I became more interested in the architectural components, and later, I was curious how the bridge was able to stay up and service the large amount of traffic.”

Only when she was in college did she realize her fascination could become a career path.

Jackson had taken her father’s advice to all four of his children – who he recognized had strong math and science skills – by starting her college career in a technical major. (Her father reasoned that if his children decided to change majors, it would go more smoothly if they had already taken the higher math and science courses required of technical studies.) She enrolled in electrical engineering at Penn State.

But she quickly realized it was not the best fit.

With encouragement from her father, who reminded her of her childhood interest, and her boyfriend, now husband, Justin, a 2006 Penn College graduate who was already enrolled in its civil engineering technology major, she changed campuses and courses of study. (Justin is a project manager for McTish, Kunkel & Associates.)

As a Penn College student, Jackson was further guided by supportive civil engineering technology faculty, who included since-retired associate professors Jo Ann Stephens and William Sprinsky, who died in 2008.

Stephens, who taught all of Jackson’s “structural” classes, was always happy to answer
questions and provided career guidance, Jackson said. “Maggie was an outstanding student,” Stephens recalls. “She was a great team member – both in leading the team and in being sure that everyone on the team was not only involved but doing their part.” Sprinsky, Jackson said, taught “in his own manner.” She said her first encounter with the Army Corps of Engineers veteran nearly brought her to tears. “He had high expectations and made it known,” she said. But she adapted to his teaching style and learned to meet his rigorous standards. “When it came time for me to apply for my first job, I asked if I could use him as a reference,” she said. “He looked up from his desk and very matter-of-factly told me: ‘Yes, ma’am, because I’m impressed.’ That’s all he had to say. I finally felt his acceptance.” (And she landed the job.) As Jackson progressed through her studies, her interest in bridges continued to evolve. “I started to gain an understanding of how bridges need to be designed to withstand not only their own weight (i.e., dead load), but to withstand other loads, such as traffic, wind and seismic, to name a few. … Not only did I view bridges as interesting from an architectural standpoint, but now I would think about how all the different forces acted on the bridge and how it resisted them.” While not as unique as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the bridge that will cross the Susquehanna River has its own set of intriguing features. To be built in Winfield (just south of Lewisburg), the 4,545-foot structure will be supported by piers that range from 60 feet to 180 feet in height. (That’s as tall as 10 average-size giraffes.) It will require roughly 50,000 cubic yards of concrete – enough to fill about 15 Olympic-size swimming pools – and 20,000 tons of steel – equal to the weight of 133 blue whales.

When complete, the new four-lane, limited-access highway will extend nearly 13 miles from the existing Selinsgrove Bypass in Snyder County north to the interchange between PA Route 147 and PA Route 45 in Northumberland County, where 147 becomes a four-lane divided highway and eventually joins with Interstate 180. But how does a $669 million construction project get from A to B? Via 150 public meetings. Via environmental studies that detail potential impacts to wildlife, water, air, soil and personal property. Via permitting and collaboration with such agencies as the state Department of Environmental Protection, Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Highway Administration, in addition to municipal governments, homeowners groups, historical societies and chambers of commerce. All were painstakingly analyzed in determining the route the new bypass will take.

“Coordination between local, state and federal agencies for environmental permitting and other necessary clearances can be demanding and challenging at times,” Jackson said. Also a challenge is the complexity of the project, which includes “just about every civil design and engineering element associated with PennDOT roadway and bridge construction,” Jackson explained. In fact, nearly every department at PennDOT District 3-0 provides assistance.

“This project requires what you might call ‘all hands on-deck,’” she said. “There are also many consulting firms contributing to the design of the project, each with its own project manager.” “It’s the project manager’s responsibility to make sure that all of these parties are delivering their contributions on time and to be the conduit of information flow between them,” Penn College’s Fedor explained. “The project manager has to be the liaison between all these parties and, more or less, keep a bunch of people that may have competing interests working toward the same goal.” Jackson said the task requires many meetings among those involved in order for efficient and effective progress to continue. Still, she said, one of the most challenging balancing acts has been learning to juggle her dual positions of project manager and mom. “It sounds very cliché, but it’s very true,” the mother of two preschoolers said. “My professional career at PennDOT requires dedication, especially with this project and my responsibilities, but it has been a very rewarding opportunity that I’m not taking for granted. But at the same time, I keep it in perspective to my other priorities. My regular day starts and ends with making sure my family has everything they need.” In between, her daily work is to keep the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project on schedule, on budget and safe, ultimately helping to keep Pennsylvania’s roadways safe for tens of thousands of other families.

ALUMNI, share your story at oca.pct.edu/cn.
WIN Penn State football tickets.

WIN Community Arts Center tickets.

WIN dinner for two in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant.

CONTEST RULES: Entrants must be alumni of Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport Area Community College or Williamsport Technical Institute. Alumni who provide a valid email address at oca.pct.edu/alumniContest will be entered to win their choice of two Penn State football tickets, two Community Arts Center tickets, or dinner for two in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant. A drawing from all entries will take place Sept. 4, 2015. Winners will be notified by email. The first name drawn will select from all three prizes. The second name drawn will select from the two remaining prizes, and the final name drawn will receive the final remaining prize. All entrants agree – by submitting this form with a valid email address – to receive email communication from Penn College.
Inspired by fond “I-remember-those-styles” reactions to a vintage photo of a Klump Academic Center typing class (at right), One College Avenue canvased campus to see what fashion trends students are sporting now. Today’s styles appear to be varied and individualistic, with few “must-haves” and many forms of personal expression.

Penn College and Penn State attire are among the most common sights on campus, but during the college’s Centennial year, many students were spotted wearing WACC and WTI clothing (to commemorate its predecessors, Williamsport Area Community College and Williamsport Technical Institute). The WACC clothing was especially coveted, and many students opted to wear it even though they had no special connection to the institution – the gold and burgundy colors and vintage look were enough of an appeal. Nostalgia never goes out of style!

Left, from top:

LIFE IN INK: “Embrace the Meteor,” the phrase tattooed on her foot, is a line from one of Dalaney T. Vartenisian’s favorite spoken-word songs and a reminder to “embrace life.” The sophomore in Web and interactive media also has a botany-themed arm tattoo that is a work-in-progress. “I love plants and the representation of growth,” she said.

CAMO COLLEGE: The biggest seller in The College Store for more than five years has been the camouflage Penn College sweatshirt. One year ago, the retail facility in the Bush Campus Center added a camouflage sweatshirt with pink lettering to its outdoorsy apparel line.

HOT HAT: The College Store started selling “majors hats” last year, and the hottest seller was the HVAC cap, which sold out in Spring 2015. (The store plans to stock back up for the fall semester.) Gregory D. Dodge, a sophomore in heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, bought his dad one of the hats for Christmas. (The elder Dodge has his own HVAC business.) “He loves it. He wears it every day,” said the younger Dodge. He added, “He’s ’old school,’ and I figured I’d pick up on the ‘new school,’ and teach him some things when I graduate.”
Right, from top:

KITCHEN CHARACTERS: Self-described former “mountain men,” Bradley M. Moriarty, left, and Alexander R. Campolongo said they opted for their amazing mustaches for the fun and flair of it. Plus, they are deemed appropriate by food-service industry regulations for facial hair. “Ah, dude, that’s a great mustache!” is the phrase Moriarty says he hears most. Moriarty is a senior in culinary arts and systems, and Campolongo earned his culinary arts and systems degree in May.

MAGIC MAN: “It’s fun,” says Jonathan D. Straub of his bow tie. “Not a lot of people like to wear them as much anymore.” No stranger to showmanship, this graphic design sophomore is also a magician-in-training. His favorite card trick to perform is “673 King Street,” a caper relying on a knack for storytelling. “Magic is 95 percent presentation and only 5 percent tricks,” Straub said.

PASTEL & METAL: We found Krista A. Swinehart decked out in a colorful and eclectic mix: pastel pink sneakers, a mint-colored hat, a Marilyn Monroe-inspired shirt, gauge earrings and a nose ring. The baking and pastry arts sophomore, skateboarder and vegetarian says her favorite Penn College experiences thus far have been “meeting celebrity chefs!”

PAYING TRIBUTE: “I bought this shirt because of my grandfather,” said Grady A. Neidrich, a senior in welding and fabrication engineering technology. Neidrich’s grandfather John “Butch” Knoffsinger was an electrical graduate from Penn College’s immediate predecessor, Williamsport Area Community College. He worked as a journeyman electrician for 35 years before his death in 2005. “I spent a lot of time with him as I grew up,” Neidrich said. “My favorite memory was going fishing with him.”

Unique & Chic
The growth of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s athletics department has been steady over the past four years, and 2015 marked a watershed year for the Wildcats. Penn College completed its first year of NCAA provisional membership in Division III and its inaugural year in the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

“We are right where we need to be – and maybe a little further along than expected – in our transition to an NCAA program,” Penn College Director of Athletics Scott Kennell said. “We have one year behind us, and we’re looking forward to what the future has for this department.”

The NCAA defines the membership process as “an interactive multi-year progression that prepares candidate institutions for membership as successful Division III athletics programs. The five-year process is comprised of one exploratory year of membership and four years of provisional/reclassifying membership, and includes educational and operational benchmarks that introduce institutions to the Division III philosophy and the best practices of model Division III institutions.”

“The first year has been very informative for the administration as we transition into an NCAA institution,” explained Kennell. “The NCAA is very detailed and thorough in its expectations of a potential member, and that has made any changes we have to make a seamless process.”

Penn College added its first four full-time coaches, with plans for two additional full-time coaches after the 2015-16 academic year. In addition to the new coaches, the college has hired a second full-time athletic trainer to keep up with the growing number of student-athletes and appointed Tom Zimmerman, associate professor of psychology, as the faculty athletics representative. He serves as a liaison between the faculty and the athletics department.

Prior to the beginning of the 2014-15 year, the athletics department partnered with SideArm Sports to launch an athletics-specific website (athletics.pct.edu) and signed a three-year deal with Lids Team Sports to make Nike the official apparel for Penn College athletics.

“Those two changes will go a long way in the recruiting and retention of student-athletes,” Kennell explained. “And we wouldn’t be able to make these necessary changes without the support of President Davie Jane Gilmour and (Chief Student Affairs Officer) Elliott Strickland.”

With 13 intercollegiate programs and more than 170 student-athletes, athletics is becoming a significant recruiting tool for the college. Fifty-eight current students were recruited for athletics in 2014-15, and that number is expected to increase in the next two years.

The Wildcats’ athletic teams and student-athletes have navigated the higher level of competition with mixed results. Men’s tennis qualified for the NEAC playoffs, and the baseball team won the 2015 NEAC Championships.

“I strongly believe that, within the next two seasons, Penn College will be competing annually for conference championships,” Kennell said. “We have great resources, great coaches, the backing of our institution and the strong reputation of Penn College that will entice the students we want and need to be successful in sports.”
“We’re looking forward to what the future has for this department.”

The Wildcats celebrate their win in the North Eastern Athletic Conference Championships.

Penn College freshman Hannah Schoenly drives to the basket in a North Eastern Athletic Conference women’s game against Wilson College.

Freshman Benjamin Leibig executes a backhand during his first collegiate match: a win at third singles against Misericordia University.
Stocked with electric motor controls, industrial pumps and equipment for hydraulics, pneumatics and industrial process control, the Mechatronics Lab is a hive of activity as students use the specialized technology to test the theories they’ve learned in class. In addition to hosting mechatronics engineering technology courses, the room is used for automation classes in electronics and computer engineering technology majors, and for individual student projects. So what is mechatronics? It’s the setup and repair of all mechanical and electrical systems used in industry.

The Industrial Controls Training System teaches the techniques and theory of electric motor controllers. It includes “insertable faults” that test students’ ability to troubleshoot.

Thirteen types of industrial pumps, including vane, flexible impeller, progressive cavity, peristaltic and pneumatic diaphragm, are featured on the Pumps Training System.

A fixer-of-everything, Howard W. Troup, maintenance mechanic/millwright, teaches mechatronics classes, tends to the lab equipment and helps out in the welding, machining and plastics labs. At home, he restores classic cars; his current project is a 1970 Mustang.

Jacob M. Diorio was the first student to earn an associate degree in mechatronics engineering technology. Next, he’ll attain a Bachelor of Science in building automation technology.

With the Mechanical Training System, students prepare various setups using T-slotted extrusion bars on a universal steel base unit that includes a current meter and an electromagnetic clutch-brake.

Other equipment in this room’s industrial arsenal includes trainers in hydraulics, pneumatics, process control and industrial wiring.

Taking off to Mars! Matthew G. Cummings is packing his bachelor’s in electronics and computer engineering technology and moving to Topeka, Kansas, to work as a project engineer for Mars Chocolate North America. Here, the four-year member of the Wildcat archery team fine-tunes an inverted pendulum project.

“Controlling an entire, complex system from one simple touch screen is amazing to me,” said Thomas J. Koren, ’15, electronics and computer engineering technology: robotics and automation emphasis. When Koren was a child, his father noticed his knack for K’NEX projects and told him about engineering. “This moment … was when I realized that I could get paid for what I did for fun. I pursue this path because I don’t simply want a job to make money, but I want a job that I’m excited to wake up to every morning.”

Charese M. Bova, ’15, electronics and computer engineering technology, is a fan of Tough Mudder obstacle races, which benefit Wounded Warrior Project. “It’s really awesome when I see fellow military who’ve been wounded but are still up for the challenge to complete the mudder,” the Army reservist said. “My goal is to participate in a Tough Mudder in every state.”

Koren’s senior project, a computer-controlled conveyor system that sorts bottles, includes four pneumatic arms, 12 pneumatic pins and 10 belts. “For each belt, I can change the speed and direction and enable them separately, which has never been done before with this system,” he said. His human-machine interface “allows people with little electronics experience to have fun and take control of the system. It allows them to intuitively make changes by simply clicking on a graphic layout of the conveyor system on a computer screen.”

– Cindy Davis Meixel
Daniel Cohick, ’65, computer science, retired in 2009 from Computer Sciences Corp., where he worked in computer systems development. His career also included uploading data to global positioning system satellites, working on computer systems for the space shuttle program as an employee of Martin Marietta Corp., working in computer development for GE’s aircraft engine group, as well as working in computer systems while enlisted with the Navy from 1965-68. He holds bachelor’s degrees from Penn State and Kent State and a master’s degree in system management from the University of Southern California.

Robert “Rocky” Holland, ’67, drafting, retired in September 2014 from Kane Manufacturing Corp., where he was an engineer for 35 years. He served in the Army from 1968-70. He resides in Kane.

Leslie W. Burlingame Sr., ’76, electrical technology, is retired and resides in DuBois.

Cindy Tarr, ’76, printing, ’75, social work, retired after 33 years of teaching, mostly in the Milton Area School District, where she taught elementary math support and started an after-school math program. She is former president of the Milton Area Education Association, a lifetime member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators. She received a Woman of Distinction Award in 2009.

James J. Dean, ’77, automotive technology, is a facility maintenance mechanic for Maui Cup in Pittston. He resides in Wapwallopen.

Francis G. Levenduski, ’78, business management, is a facilities manager for SMC Powder Metallurgy in Galeton. He resides in St. Marys.

Eric S. Saxon, ’79, electrical construction, is a material handler for PPL Corp. He resides in Conyngham.

Matthew Artman, ’86, toolmaking technology; ’85, tool design technology, is a project coordinator for American Bar Mat in Sugarloaf. He resides in Dillsburg.

Delene S. Engel, ’88, dental hygiene, is a part-time dental hygienist for Dr. Jefferson G. Porter. She resides in Williamsport.

Brian Hoy, ’91, industrial drafting, is a structures foreman for HRI Inc., which constructs roadways and bridges throughout Pennsylvania. He resides in Lock Haven.

Lori A. (Hall) Kepner, ’92, radiography, is a radiographer/resource clinician for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Hughesville.

Tracie (Eichner) Lesher, ’92, business management, is an administrative secretary for Geisinger in Lewisburg. She resides in Sunbury.

Denise (Smith) Updegraff, ’92, nursing, is a health facility quality examiner for the state Department of Health. She resides in Montoursville.

This Williamsport Technical Institute group proudly poses with a baseball trophy.

If you know anything about this photo, including who is in it or why it was taken, please contact Penn College Archives.

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Scott A. Hunter, ’93, civil engineering technology, is a senior bridge engineer for McTish, Kunkel & Associates. He received a bachelor’s degree in structural design and construction engineering from Penn State in 1995. He resides in Montoursville.

Fred Reeder, ’93, accounting, is president/owner of Reeder Insurance LLC. He resides in Lock Haven.

Matthew W. Miller, ’95, building construction technology, is a project superintendent for Allied Building Corp. in Bethlehem. He recently earned the designation of Certified Healthcare Constructor. He resides in Whitehall.

Craig G. Krotzer, ’96, civil engineering technology and surveying technology, is a civil engineering technician for the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service. He works and resides in Somerset.

Kathy M. Thompson, ’96, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a corporate recruiter for First Quality Enterprises Inc. She resides in Howard.

Lesli (Breneman) Willoughby, ’96, culinary arts technology, is a dining services supervisor for WellsSpan Health. She resides in York.

Robyn P. (Wyckoff) Kopinetz, ’97, graphic communication, is a telesales program specialist for MSC Industrial Supply. She resides in Pine Grove.

Karen Krum, ’97, business management, is manager of plant administration for Koroseal Interior Products LLC, in Muncy, where she resides.

David Orris, ’97, electronics engineering technology, is a product development engineer for TE Connectivity. He holds numerous patents and resides in Middletown.

William T. Giles Jr., ’98, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is operations supervisor for FedEx Freight. Before moving into management, he was a 10-year “safe driver” with over 1.5 million safe miles. He placed fourth at the 2013 Pennsylvania Truck Driving Safety Awards. He resides in Cogan Station.

Todd M. Fetzer, ’99, broadcast communications, is an on-air DJ for Soft Rock 100.1, WQIC in Lebanon, where he resides.

Aaron Sica, ’99, information technology: data communications and networking, is an application support specialist for Capital Area Intermediate Unit. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Jeffrey Winchester, ’99, electrical technology, is an electrician for DSM Biomedical and resides in Elverson.

Keri (Smith) Lamb, ’00, early childhood education, is a lead infant teacher and infant/toddler mentor for the YMCA of Centre County Early Care and Education Program. She received a Master of Education in early childhood education in 2014 from Ashford University. She resides in Bellefonte.

Charles A. Wasp, ’00, building construction technology and building construction technology: masonry, owns Wasp Construction. He resides in Cogan Station.

Kelly T. (Wesley) Amos, ’01, legal assistant-paralegal, is a human resources generalist for Penns Woods Bancorp. She resides in Williamsport.

Patrick Curran, ’01, graphic design, is production manager for Signarama of Harrisburg, which provides business signage of all types. He resides in Enola.

Stephen Patterson, ’01, computer information systems: networking & technical support and computer information systems: programming & database processing, ’95, electronics technology: automation instrumentation, is a programmer/analyst for Construction Specialties. He resides in Williamsport.

Kristin (Helt) Clark, ’02, health arts: practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse at Cole Memorial Hospital. She resides in Coudersport.

Bradley T. and Janae B. (Rohrer) Rydborn were named Alumni Sweethearts for 2015. Dozens of married graduates submitted their wedding photos to Alumni Relations on Facebook, with the winner determined by the number of “likes” received. Janae is a 2014 alumna of the occupational therapy assistant major, and Brad earned a bachelor’s degree in 2012 in heating, ventilation and air conditioning design technology. The couple won an overnight stay in the Victorian House and dinner in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant.

Christine Fedoriw, ’02, accounting, owns Christine’s Diner on Campbell Street in Williamsport. She resides in Williamsport.

Joseph C. Luther, ’02, landscape/nursery technology, is an educator for Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology in Pleasant Gap, where he was named Pennsylvania’s Outstanding New Career and Technical Educator for 2014 by the Pennsylvania Association for Career and Technical Education. He is adviser for the college’s Future Farmers of America club, which placed first in the hardscape competition at the 2015 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Luther resides in Coalport.

Lisa (Hutchins) Stubbs, ’02, nursing, is a registered nurse for Geisinger Medical Center. She resides in Unityville.

Richard D. Boyer, ’03, graphic design, is a Web designer for Paciolan in Exton, developing emails and personalized URLs for sports and entertainment venues, universities and sports teams. He resides in King of Prussia.

Renee Ellis, ’03, graphic design, is a production artist for Clipper Magazine. She resides in York.

Rebecca Mazurik, ’03, applied human services, is a school psychologist in the Pottsville Area School District. She resides in Milton.

Joelle (Armanda) Wolfe, ’03, computer information systems: networking and technical support, is owner/operator of Wolfe Contracting LLC and assistant manager of client services for CRS Advanced Technology. She resides in Montoursville.

David Buss, ’04, computer aided drafting technology and computer information systems: networking and technical support, is a senior systems administrator for General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in technology management from Penn College. He resides in Gettysburg.

Kristin (Mahaffey) Fornwald, ’04, radiography, is a radiographer technologist II for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Bloomsburg.
Andrew Portzline, '04, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineering and quality manager for Lely North America, a producer of robotic milking systems, in Pella, Iowa. He resides in Otley, Iowa.

Amy R. Clark, '05, nursing, is a registered nurse for Geisinger, administering chemotherapy. She resides in State College.

Luke Rae, '05, electronics technology: industrial process control and communications/fiber optics, is a party chief, completing surveys for the energy industry, in engineering firm RETTEW’s Athens office. He resides in Sayre.

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

Francesca K. (Romano) Weaver, '05, radiography, is an MRI technologist for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Montoursville.

Misty M. (Phillips) Dion, '06, applied human services, was named executive director of Roads to Freedom, Center for Independent Living of North Central PA, in January. The organization provides resources and services for people with disabilities. She resides in Lock Haven.

Jason L. Dohl, '06, construction management, is co-owner of Dohl General Construction. He resides in Hughesville.

Sara Greenawalt, '06, electric power generation technology, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Penn State Harrisburg. She is a planning and cost analyst for PPL Brunner Island. She resides in Newburg.

Andrew W. Lackman, '06, residential construction technology and management, is a senior estimator for David Boland Inc. in Titusville, Fla., where he resides.

Laura (Dowdall) O’Brien, '06, graphic communications management, is an employment training specialist for Delaware County Intermediate Unit. She resides in Philadelphia.

Christina (Brower) Tippett, ‘06, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Select Rehab. She resides in Pottsville.

Brandon J. West, '06, automotive technology, is the president of All Wheels Driven. He is the lead technician, head car salesman and lead detail tech. He resides in Wellsboro.

Josh Davis, '07, business administration: management, is a supply chain analyst for Northrop Grumman. He resides in Ellicot City, Md.

MeChelle (Reichenbach) Hawkins, '07, nursing, is a registered nurse in emergency services at Sunbury Community Hospital. She is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Penn College. She resides in Williamsport.

Tacy I. (DeGreen) Schuler, '07, technology management; '05, baking and pastry arts, is the assistant supervisor of food services for KidsPeace. She resides in New Tripoli.

Jaimie S. Burns, '08, hospitality management, is a sales coordinator for the Hampton Inn in Altoona. She resides in Roaring Spring.

Kimber (Shermeyer) Hofmann, '08, early childhood education, is the lead teacher of 1-year-olds at World of Wonder Child Care in Camillus, N.Y., where she resides.

Matthew A. Lyster, ‘08, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, is president of Lyster Excavating LLC. He resides in Honey Brook.

Eric P. Schmidt, ‘08, HVAC technology, is an account manager for Trane, providing commercial HVAC sales. He resides in Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

Erin E. Yost, ‘08, radiography, is a radiologic technologist for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Linden.

Thomas J. Caputa III, '09, information technology: network specialist, is a PC/local area network technician for TD Bank. He resides in Levittown.

Andrew Chrisman, '09, business administration: management, is a project manager for Spectrum Metal Finishing. He resides in Selinsgrove and continues the sports card blog he began while a Penn College student.

Caitlin L. Girard, '09, business administration: management, is an employment specialist, is a shipper/receiver for Five Star International. He resides in Canton.

Megan (Hawn) Davis, '11, business administration: management concentration, is a credit and collection specialist for The Sherin-Williams Co. in Detroit. She resides in Deerborn, Mich.

Zach MacMullen, '10, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for Miller Electric Manufacturing Co. He resides in Menasha, Wis.

Donnell Shaffer, '10, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, was installed as president of the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists’ Association for 2014-15. She is an instructor of dental hygiene at Fortis Institute in Erie, where she resides.

Juliette Yeager, '10, physical fitness specialist, is head nutritionist for The Biggest Loser Resort at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation in Florida. She teaches guests about healthy lifestyles, allergies, fitness nutrition, label reading, etc. and works with the executive chef to develop recipes. She received a bachelor’s degree in nutritional science from Penn State in 2012 and resides in Jacksonville Beach, Fla.

Donald C. Blazer II, '11, human services, is a shipper/receiver for The Sherwin-Williams Co. She resides in Johnstown.

Megan (Hawn) Davis, '11, business administration: management concentration, is a credit and collection specialist for The Sherin-Williams Co. in Detroit. She resides in Deerborn, Mich.

Skye L. (Haupt) Hoehn, '11, nursing, is a registered nurse for Geisinger. She resides in Danville.

Ryan Intihar, '11, hospitality management, is an assistant manager at Hess’s Steak and Sea House. He resides in Johnstown.

Nicholas A. Cafarchio, '12, information technology: Web & applications development, is a report developer for Susquehanna Bancshares Inc. He resides in Elizabethtown.
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Stacey M. (Rupp) Cafarchio, ’12, graphic communications management, is an administrative assistant for Engle Printing & Publishing Co. She resides in Elizabethtown.

Amanda M. Cropper, ’12, graphic design, is the graphic arts coordinator for Little League International Baseball & Softball. She resides in Hughesville.

Matthew Dennis, ’12, civil engineering technology, is a civil engineering project manager in RETTEW’s Mechanicsburg office. He is a certified Professional Land Surveyor and Engineer in Training. He resides in Upper Allen Township.

Zachary A. Hay, ’12, civil engineering technology, is a project engineer for Yingst Engineers & Associates in Hershey. He received a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.

Christopher Silverstrim, ’12, electrical technology, is a software controls engineer for Fortna Inc. He resides in Williamsport.

Justin M. Weaver, ’12, technology management; ’10, computer aided drafting technology, is a mechanical designer for The Ames Companies in Camp Hill. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Jodie D. Cochran, ’13, health arts: practical nursing, is an interim licensed practical nurse in Muncy and is continuing her education in nursing at Penn College.

Brandi Davis, ’13, baking and pastry arts, is a culinary operations manager for Busch Gardens Williamsburg. She resides in Grafton, Va.

Megan E. Endres, ’13, culinary arts and systems, is a sous chef at P.J. Harrigan’s in State College, where she resides.

Jennifer L. Karchner, ’13, health information technology, is an admitting clerk for Berwick Hospital Center. She resides in Berwick.

Victoria M. Laubscher, ’13, early childhood education, is a substitute preschool teacher for the Dunham Children’s Learning Center and Head Start. She resides in Lock Haven.

Christine M. Reed, ’13, culinary arts and systems, is a line cook for Metz Culinary Management at Misericordia University. She is pursuing a degree in journalism and media writing from Luzerne County Community College. She resides in Kingston.

Christina L. Robidoux, ’13, applied human services, is a counselor/therapist for Williamsport Family Medical Center, where she provides case management and counseling to individuals struggling with chemical dependency. In her position, she helped facilitate a 5K Race for Recovery. She is pursuing a master’s degree in clinical mental health counseling from Lock Haven University. She resides in Williamsport.

Daniel H. Rummel, ’13, technology management; ’11, automotive service sales & marketing, is an automotive technician for Blaise Alexander Buick Cadillac GMC in Sunbury. He resides in Shamokin.

Abby Wasiakowski, ’13, baking and pastry arts, is a pastry cook II at the Arizona Biltmore resort. She resides in Phoenix.

Nyala Allen, ’14, accounting, is a tax associate for KPMC LLP in Harrisburg and is studying for the Certified Public Accountant exam. She resides in Harrisburg.

Nolan T. Hansen, ’14, building construction technology, is a meter reader for UGI. He resides in Northampton.

Cortney (Allen) Jespersen, ’14, radiography, received a certificate in radiation therapy from Washburn University in 2015. She resides in Mansfield.

Nicholas A. Repella, ’14, information technology: network specialist, is a systems engineer for Santander. He resides in Reading.

Laura Rausch, ’14, nursing, is a registered nurse for the State of Delaware. She resides in Newark, Del.

Chantelle Salwocki, ’14, nursing, is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Milton.

Paul M. Treible, ’14, technology management; ’88, automated manufacturing technology and toolmaking technology, was promoted to president of Computer Designs Inc. He is pursuing an Executive Master of Business Administration from Penn State. He resides in Lehighton.

Charles A. Wasp, ’00, building construction technology and building construction technology: masonry, and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed son Jethro T. on Oct. 15. They reside in Cogan Station.

Joelle Armanda, ’03, computer information systems: networking and technical support, married Jared P. Wolfe, ’08, building construction technology, in April 2014. They reside in Montoursville.

Kristin Mahaffey, ’04, radiography, married Garrett Fornwald in June 2013. They reside in Bloomsburg.

Kyle R. Rhoads, ’05, manufacturing engineering technology, married Melissa Miller on Oct. 3. They reside in Mechanicsburg.

Katharine A. Stark, ’05, business management, married Zachary Adam in October 2013. They reside in Mohrsville.

Francesca K. (Romano) Weaver, ’05, radiography, and Gabriel Weaver, ’14, nursing, welcomed their second daughter, Rosalie, on Nov. 9, 2012. They reside in Montoursville.

Laura (Dowdall) O’Brien, ’06, graphic communications management, and Nathan O’Brien, ’06, welding and fabrication engineering technology, welcomed their second child, son Logan, on Sept. 5. They reside in Philadelphia.


Tacy I. DeGreen, ’07, technology management, ’05, baking and pastry arts, married Adam Schuler, ’06, electrical occupations, in September. They reside in New Tripoli.


Katie (Hoffman) Dumm, ’08, environmental technology management, and her husband, Adam, welcomed daughter Madison on May 2, 2014.

Brennae (Gehringer) Leach, ’08, business administration, human resource management, and Alex Leach, ’08, information technology: Web & applications development, welcomed their second son, George, on March 20, 2014.

Matthew A. Lyster, ’08, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, and his wife, Melissa, welcomed son Collin. They reside in Honey Brook.

Bradley A. Yohn, ’09, manufacturing engineering technology, and his wife, Jill, welcomed daughter Brooklynn G. on April 14. They reside in Orbisonia.


Jenna (Eichner) Hunt, ’10, emergency medical services, and Phillip G. Hunt, ’05, architectural technology, welcomed their second child, Joslynn N., on Dec. 19. They reside in Gettysburg.


Skye L. Haupt, ’11, nursing, married Matthew S. Hoehn on Sept. 8. They reside in Danville.


Megan R. Pennington, ’11, graphic design, married Lee J. Asbeck, ’12, welding and fabrication engineering technology, in October. They reside in Akron, N.Y.

Stacey M. Rupp, ’12, graphic communications management, married Nick A. Cafarchio, ’12, information technology: Web & applications development, welcomed their second son, George, on March 20, 2014.

Matthew A. Lyster, ’08, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, and his wife, Melissa, welcomed son Collin. They reside in Honey Brook.

Bradley A. Yohn, ’09, manufacturing engineering technology, and his wife, Jill, welcomed daughter Brooklynn G. on April 14. They reside in Orbisonia.


Jenna (Eichner) Hunt, ’10, emergency medical services, and Phillip G. Hunt, ’05, architectural technology, welcomed their second child, Joslynn N., on Dec. 19. They reside in Gettysburg.

Nicholas A. Repella, ’14, information technology: network specialist, married Janine Triano in May 2014. The couple resides in Reading.

In Memory

Donald L. Belles, retired interim dean of construction and design technologies, July 29, 2014

Glen F. Getchen Jr., faculty emeritus, machine shop, April 2

Marlin M. Roush, retired dean of transportation technologies, May 10

William B. Urosevich, retired professor of biology (anatomy and physiology) and power lifting coach, May 6
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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. 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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Welcome Weekend
Alumni volunteers welcome
Aug. 15-16

Gallery: Joo Lee Kang
Aug. 18-Sept. 20

Multicultural Lawn Party
Aug. 27

Fall Fiesta & Part-Time Job Fair
Contact Student Activities to reserve a table
Sept. 1, 3-5 p.m.

Pack the Park with the Williamsport Crosscutters
Sept. 1, 7:05 p.m.

Parent & Family Weekend
Sept. 18-20

Men’s soccer vs. Lycoming College
Sept. 29

Gallery: Paula Chang & Karen Rips
Oct. 2, Nov. 1

“My Last Words” faculty lecture
Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

Homecoming
Oct. 8-11

Career Fair
Visit oca.pct.edu/careerfair for a list of participating employers
Oct. 10

Men’s and women’s soccer vs. Lancaster Bible
Oct. 24

Open House Alumni volunteers welcome
Oct. 25

Mark Your Calendar for Homecoming 2015!

Williamsport Area Community College Reunion
Annual Alumni Golf Tournament
Athletic Hall of Fame
Grub Crawl
Homecoming Carnival
and more

Keep checking oca.pct.edu/homecoming for up-to-date information and events, and online registration.
Wyatt E. Fink, a culinary arts and systems student from Cogan Station, takes a spin on Eli the camel, a special visitor to campus to celebrate an April Fools’ “Hump” Day.