One College Avenue

‘Student Bodies’
Art installations among Centennial’s lasting footprints
See Page 5

Also in this issue:
10 Running Without Eating Disorders
12 Lifting Young Lives in Lebanon
18 Coach’s Billtown Baseball Bond
Nursing student Emily L. Hibbs listens to the heart-valve sounds of SimMan 3G, a high-fidelity simulation manikin. SimMan is controlled remotely to test students’ skills in identifying and treating conditions from bleeding lacerations to strokes.
Living Outside ‘You’
George W. Settle III takes his welding talent to a children’s home near Beirut, Lebanon, where he teaches his young apprentices a new skill.

Joy Run
A student who made the difficult decision to postpone her education while seeking treatment for an eating disorder establishes a nonprofit to help others find joy – not punishment – in exercise.

Come Fly With Him
Student Max Davert’s skills behind the controls of a camera-equipped quadcopter provide a refreshing view from above.

Playing at Home
With a passion for the game and a history at the city’s historic ballpark, head baseball coach Chris Howard relishes his role in the college’s Division III program.

Investments Made, Lives Changed
The Penn College Scholarship Campaign – the first of its kind at the college – exceeded all expectations and doubled the amount of scholarship aid available to students.
Grant Helps Wetlands Revitalization Project

The state Department of Environmental Protection awarded an Environmental Education Grant to the college for revitalization of wetlands and related nature-trail work at the Schneebeli Earth Science Center. The money is being used to continue planting a wetland meadow that was begun by students in a Sustainable Landscape Procedures and Practices class.

“We have an area that drains very poorly, and we planted it with more than 1,000 native wetland perennials,” said Carl J. Bower Jr., a horticulture instructor. “We will continue planting wetland perennials in this area, which will lead to a set of steps into the woods.”

Those wooden steps – which are in poor condition and will be replaced – are at the head of the nature-trail system that winds through the ESC’s 400-plus-acre campus, where invasive plants are being removed and replaced with native species.

The project will illustrate a sustainable forest environment that can be studied in both the horticulture and forest technology curriculums. Faculty provide guidance with design and installation, but the project is executed primarily by students.

Student Competes in World Food Championships

Culinary arts and systems student Jessica N. Felton chops a red onion for the shrimp and grits dish that would earn her a Golden Ticket to the World Food Championships in Las Vegas, where she finished 14th among 45 competitors in the seafood category – just four spots from moving on to the category’s Top Ten Round. Television host Chef Ben Vaughn visited the college in September, granting a Golden Ticket to one Penn College student. The students competed in a faculty-judged cook-off to determine who would travel.

After removing invasive grasses, students plant native vegetation at the head of the campus’s walking trail.
Designing a Digital Future

Penn College’s third annual “Designing a Digital Future Camp” introduced dozens of high school students to employment opportunities. They developed personal computer games and mobile applications, and networked with faculty, staff and students.

Youth Training for Athletic Development

A four-week summer program paired faculty in the exercise science major – the only associate degree in Pennsylvania recognized by the National Strength and Conditioning Association – with middle school and high school student-athletes. The program helped the young athletes concentrate on such areas as flexibility, cardio, injury prevention and nutrition.

SMART Girls

A trade show that ended the college’s four-and-a-half-day SMART Girls session offered display after display by young women who showed as much heart as they did skill. During the “Dream It – Design It – Do It” themed program, the rising ninth- to 11th-graders used imagination, design software and 3-D printing technology to create projects on behalf of causes near and dear to them, then presented their finished work – complete with marketing materials developed under the guidance of graphic design faculty – to the Penn College community.
IT Students Excel at ‘Hackathon’

Students in information technology majors proved their prowess at a cybersecurity competition, finishing second at the Altamira Hackathon in Fairfax, Virginia. Participants tested their skills around the Atari game “Scram.” Team members controlled various aspects of a nuclear reactor while protecting their computer network and attacking the computing resources of other teams. Those other teams included Cisco Systems employees, cybersecurity organization members and graduate students.

Find Complete Articles on PCToday

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Plastics Students Recognized for Research

Research conducted by plastics and polymer engineering technology students was recognized by the Rotational Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

Four students researched powdered polyethylene and micro-pelletized polyethylene. Julia L. Gilchrist and Thomas J. Ryder delivered the team’s findings in Cleveland at RMD TOPCON, a forum for SPE members to exchange information regarding rotational molding.

In rotational molding, plastic is melted inside a hollow mold that is machined to the shape and size of the desired plastic part. The students researched which type of plastic – polyethylene powder or micro polyethylene pellets – performs best in terms of flowing into difficult features and minimizing voids in the molding process. They concluded that the pellets were superior and recommended additional study.

The students conducted their research at Penn College’s Rotational Molding Center of Excellence. Part of the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center, the Rotational Molding Center of Excellence offers independent, hands-on applied research and development to the rotomolding community.

Plastics and polymer engineering technology students receive plaques recognizing the research they presented at a rotational molding forum in Cleveland, Ohio. From left are: Julia I. Gilchrist, Thomas J. Ryder, Benjamin G. Robertson and Taylor J. Smith.

Social Media Roundup

Posted on Alumni Relations’ Facebook wall: You never know where you might meet a fellow Penn College alum … for Mark Trueman, ’97, and Amanda Sweeley, ’07, it was Belize!

@penncollege penncollege
WITH MUCH TO CELEBRATE, the college continued its look back on the first century of education on the Penn College campus during the second half of 2014. Events invited alumni, retirees and the community to reminisce and to share in the institution’s first steps into a second century.

Life-size, abstract human figures line the walking mall from its intersection with West Third Street to the Breuder Advanced Technology & Health Sciences Center. Faculty member Michael K. Patterson and approximately 50 welding students used 7,000 pounds of scrap metal (bottom photo) to create the 78 figures that make up the “Student Bodies” installation.
A four-day Homecoming Carnival lights up the Madigan Library lawn.
Students and employees wove trees and text to form a sculptural art installation that reads: “These trees shall be my books.” Working alongside internationally known environmental artists Kathy Bruce and Alastair R. Noble, the students used tree branches harvested from the Schneebeli Earth Science Center property to create the spiraling text, at the center of which is a wooden bench that reads “And in their barks my thoughts.” The quotation is from William Shakespeare’s “As You Like It.” The environmental art should last at least two years.
A Centennial Gala brings together former presidents and other pivotal players in the institution’s growth. The day featured campus tours, as well as a reception, remarks and dinner buffet in Madigan Library.

A display in an information technology lab shows a visual history of computer machinery during the Centennial Community Event at Fall Open House.

Chalmer Van Horn, left, emeritus associate professor of drafting, Dale A. Metzker, retired associate professor of printing and publishing, and Bernadette Eck Servey, retired secretary to the provost, partake in a panel discussion among Williamsport Area Community College-era employees during the college’s first WACC Reunion.

A Homecoming tradition: A bonfire near Rose Street Commons draws crowds.
Theoretical physicist and award-winning author of “Einstein’s Dreams,” Alan Lightman, addresses the Academic Center Auditorium audience as part of the Centennial Colloquia Series. He noted the need to step back from the fast pace enabled by high-speed communication technology and to find the stillness required to consider – as individuals and as a nation – “where we are going.”
"Running Without ED is about doing what you love without your negative thoughts stopping you."

The idea arrived simply enough, even in the midst of complexity. In a residential treatment center for eating disorders in late 2010, Julie Carr and a fellow patient were discussing positive life choices when Carr heard, “I wish we could just run without ED and swim without ED.” The thought of exercising freely and joyfully, without the negative mindset typical of a person with an eating disorder, seemed radical – and possible. The idea was born.

Carr launched Running Without ED (pronounced like the male name) in early 2011, but it truly gained traction in the Fall of 2013 with the start of the organization’s Penn College chapter. A Penn State Altoona chapter is being explored, and Carr hopes more chapters will follow.

In addition to a positive approach to fitness, Running Without ED focuses on promoting healthy body images and raising awareness of eating disorders. The group meets weekly to share an inspiring workout that’s not just running: Walking, yoga and self-defense exercises have also joined the mix. Eventually, Carr hopes to raise funds for scholarships for eating disorder treatment.

“Running Without ED isn’t just about ‘running,’” said the senior nursing student. “Running Without ED is about doing what you love without your eating disorder or negative thoughts stopping you. It’s about eating dessert with the ones you love without worrying and without ED. It’s about chasing your dreams and working hard to be everything that you strive to be without ED. It’s about living your life without ED!”

Now “seven semesters eating disorder-free,” Carr’s struggles began in adolescence. A high-achiever academically and athletically,
commitments and stressors accumulated. She graduated from high school in Doylestown in 2010, and as she prepared to enter college, she reached a tipping point.

“I chose to go to treatment against everything my eating disorder was telling me,” Carr said. “I had already bought everything for college and was ready to leave for my freshman year, but I knew in the back of my mind that I wasn’t ready and that I couldn’t survive college with an eating disorder. I chose treatment over school. It was the hardest decision I’ve ever made, but the most rewarding.”

Some of her treatment costs were covered by insurance, but many were not. She received a scholarship from her treatment center’s foundation to help. Knowing the financial struggles families go through while trying to attain treatment, she decided to make scholarships an ultimate goal of Running Without ED.

Carr envisions the Penn College chapter continuing after her graduation and plans to return to her alma mater for events like the chapter’s “After Dark Run and Yoga,” held for the first time during Homecoming 2014. Carr says the event raised awareness and a sense of camaraderie among her group’s members, the event’s co-sponsors – Sigma Nu fraternity – and other student and employee supporters.

“There was a lot of great energy there that night, and we received support from different types of people from across campus,” Carr said.

The power of positive energy, stirred by a simple focus, is something Carr first experienced with Operation Beautiful, an outreach dedicated to ending negative self-talk via the posting of anonymous, inspirational notes in public places.

“I remember finding my first note in the King of Prussia Mall. I was about 17,” Carr said. “The note said, ‘You are beautiful.’”

That encouragement stuck with Carr and certainly played a part in her desire to uplift others through simple acts.

For two years now, Carr has served as a social media intern for Operation Beautiful and has witnessed the power of social media in enabling organizations to gain a following. Running Without ED is in its early stages of that influence; its social media moderator, assisting with Twitter and Facebook posts, resides in England.

When Carr begins her nursing career, she plans to keep her professional work separate from her personal experiences and outreach; however, she realizes all are likely to merge in the future.

“I feel I suffered for a reason,” she said, “and I’m meant to help others with the same struggles.”
IN SUMMER 2014,
welding and fabrication engineering technology student George W. Settle III trekked to the Middle East, bound for the Home of Hope, where he hoped to teach welding skills to a few of the children living there – many used, abused or abandoned, picked up by police from the streets of Beirut. In the process, the children taught him.

“I learned that, while most of us take for granted a loving embrace and a tender kiss, there are kids that are dying for just a hint of such tenderness; dying to be loved,” he said. During his stay, he wrote several notes to supporters back home.

“I have found that writing these letters is extremely hard for me to do,” he wrote in one such correspondence. “How does someone describe a place where there is happiness and sadness, hope and depression, love and hate, every day, all the time? I shall do my best!”

Here, excerpts from Settle’s letters home:

In the morning of my first day here, I took a stroll into the area where the kids live. As I stood at the bottom of the stairs, trying to process in my mind this new environment, a tiny little boy showed up out of nowhere. He looked up at me, gave me a huge smile, grabbed my hand and started leading me to where all his friends were. I believe this was his way of saying “Look, guys! I found a new toy!”

This is how it has been ever since! Any time that I make my way into the kids’ area, I am swarmed by seven or eight kids, generally speaking to me in broken English or full Arabic. Any time that I am not working, I am playing with the kids.
The work here in regards to welding is quite extensive and will keep me and my three welding apprentices quite busy. … Our project is a vertical extension to the playground fence. Currently, the kids are not allowed to play football (soccer) because of the fly balls that make their way over to the extremely disgruntled neighbors. This extension will add ... 1.75 meters to the current 4-meter-high fence.

What I have been doing when welding is not an option (i.e. no power) is maintenance work: fixing beds and dressers, cutting old brackets off the walls, organizing the shop, and doing just about anything needing done. The fun thing about doing these jobs is I always have many little volunteers eager and ready to help.

After much complication, the fence extension for the playground has been completed! How do you get enough power out to the playground 150 feet away without buying a $100 extension cord? You can't. What time of day can you realistically work without becoming fried? Between 5 and 10 a.m. How do you work quickly with boys that don't speak English? You don't. (I now understand why the Tower of Babel was never completed.) How do you hang fencing 15 feet up without the help of scaffolding or a lift? Slowly, patiently, and out of sight of OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)!

With the fence extension complete, Settle plays soccer with the children. "Through spending my full days serving, I realized just how much of an honor it is to serve!"
To be real, there have been ups and downs with the kids. I have had some great times with them, and I have had times that I needed to step away from them. The violence these kids have known ... causes for a great deal of depression, anger and rebelliousness.

Though there is bad, there has also been much good. These past few weeks, I have had the privilege to teach dancing, diving/swimming, random gymnastic stunts and boxing. I have had the opportunity to develop deeper relationships with the older boys while acting as their personal trainer in the gym and to develop relationships with the older girls while making a fool of myself in Zumba. The recent favorite activity for the middle-school-age kids is this: 1) I lie on a mattress; 2) Six to 10 kids grab hold of my arms, legs, head and torso in attempts to restrain me; 3) I break out; and 4) repeat. This game is generally played before bed, in hopes to tire them out. I am uncertain if it helps them fall asleep, but it certainly works for me!

I finally got the opportunity to teach three boys the basics of welding! I taught them the basic setup of the AC stick welder, some electrode manipulation techniques, and the minimal safety requirements for welding. In teaching these boys, I learned two things: First, it is easier to teach a boy who knows nothing about welding than it is to teach a boy who knows how to weld wrong. The boy who knows nothing will listen to everything you tell him. The boy who knows how to weld wrong doesn’t listen but rather insists that he already knows how to weld. And second, the problem with educating the boys on safety is they immediately disregarded it; this is due to the culture they live in.
My last day was what you might consider “bitter-sweet.” The kids and staff organized a huge birthday/farewell surprise party for me; their gifts to me were 60 letters and a make-shift cake of crackers. The sad journey of goodbyes was probably the hardest part of my time there! During my final walk-through, I was flooded with dozens of hugs, kisses and – more gifts! These gifts consisted of small knick-knacks, like plastic crosses and necklaces, their personal stuffed animals, bracelets off their arms, and even a boy’s small yellow notebook. The beauty of these gifts was not that they were expensive, but they were among the only things these kids had! The types of things they said to me over and over again through this heart-wrenching process were: “We love you,” “We are going to miss you,” and “When are you coming back?!”

Four of the home’s 67 children gather with Settle.

Ready to lend a hand, this child was a “go-fer” for Settle and his welding trainees.

Web Extra
To learn more about Home of Hope, visit www.homeofhopelebanon.org or view its page on Facebook.

Web Extra
Forty years before Settle’s trip to teach welding in Lebanon, Richard Ashworth, ’67, taught welding in Jamaica. Read about it at oca.pct.edu/LO.
AMONG THE MANY DIVIDENDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION is exposure to vantages foreign to one’s own. Students leave their homes and open their minds to new friends and challenging perspectives, some of which take them well beyond the familiar.

One Pennsylvania College of Technology explorer has returned the favor, providing a growing audience of followers with a fresh way of looking at the world – rising above it, in fact, for a literal bird’s-eye view.

Maxwell A. Davert, graduating in May with a bachelor’s degree in building science and sustainable design, has applied the college’s hands-on philosophy to the joystick controls of a Phantom 2 Vision+ quadcopter, equipped with a 14-megapixel/1080p camera that has treated earthbound observers to the ride of their lives.

Taking a cue from Frank Sinatra, who crooned, “Once I get you up there where the air is rarified, we’ll just glide, starry-eyed,” the Greene, Rhode Island, resident lifts his viewers – as high as 1,700 feet at times – into thin air rich with wonder.

“Max has got mad piloting skills, a great eye for the right shot and a keen sense for editing,” said Carlos Ramos, web designer/interactive media strategist, and one of Davert’s earliest champions at Penn College. Ramos and co-workers in Public Relations & Marketing were so entranced with the student’s work that they engaged him to gather stills and high-definition video during the college’s Centennial celebration.

Like many experiments, Davert’s is rooted in curiosity. “I came across a YouTube video of great shots, and I wondered how they did that,” he said. “And at the bottom of the screen, it advertised what it was and where I could get one.” He talked it over with his parents, and a collaborative Christmas gift was born. After countless missions, zipping and zooming and spinning and soaring, he upgraded to a spiffier model last summer.

The newer drone is equipped with a three-axis gimbal that stabilizes the lens even when the aircraft pitches and rolls and yaws in turbulent conditions. An appropriate tool for a student at a college of technology, it also features such perks as a Wi-Fi downlink that can stream video to a smartphone while flying and a GPS-based autopilot that returns the quadcopter to its takeoff point should it drift out of range.

And drift it might.

His first camera once broke free in the wind, leading an increasingly nervous Davert on a six-hour hunt. Internal tracking had marked the Klump Academic Center as its last location, but the copter actually came down farther south, near the Field House tennis courts. Captured footage shows the

Come Fly With Him
craft bouncing on the asphalt, as if impatiently pacing for its owner’s return. It ultimately was recovered “without a scratch on it” at the Dauphin Hall police substation, thanks to an honest passerby.

Known by his social-media screen name of “magicwake” – a nod to his other passions of card tricks and wakeboarding – Davert has put together several seamless compilations of his greatest flyovers: A soccer field in play, the nighttime neon of the Homecoming carnival, the anchoring strength of the Klump Academic Center, the geometry of traffic around bubbling fountains, the Madigan Library clock and the fluttering American flag near the entrance.

He has hovered over atria and red-roofed landmarks that momentarily defy recognition, circled the Centennial art installations, caught the otherworldly aura of the campus at twilight, and followed the sunlight across main campus’s lush green spaciousness.

There’s even the occasional self-portrait, a peripheral glimpse of Davert on the ground, nimbly controlling the aircraft through its breathtaking adventures.

He has taken it off-campus, too, to add to his library, capturing the arresting fall colors around a back-home pond and the Hadany Arch outside the Lycoming Mall, casting its wishbone-shaped shadow.

In early November, a color-enhanced picture of the campus at sunset proved the most popular yet posted to Penn College’s Instagram page: a record 184 “likes” that topped a wintry shot from Thanksgiving Break 2013.

“We’ve never had so many ‘likes’ for one photo,” added another fan of his work: Deborah K. Peters, a graphic designer who administers the college’s account. “He even beat a ‘snow day’ pic!”

A campuswide legend of sorts whose aerial exploits have been shared online and on screen prior to Open House presentations, Davert will leave quite a legacy when he departs campus with his third diploma. (He earned associate degrees in architectural technology and building construction technology in 2012.)

He remains grounded, however, in spite of the celebrated way he has opened eyes and transcended boundaries.

“It’s a whole different point of view from up there,” he said, as awestruck by the results as anyone else watching.

“It’s really pretty neat.”
The little boy scampers about the worn grass in the empty stadium’s outfield. He has not a care in the world as he playfully absorbs his introduction to the game of baseball. His face brightens into a wide smile.

It’s 22 years later at the same stadium, this time occupied by a smattering of fans awaiting the first pitch. The young pro adjusts his shin guards and chest protector before scaling the steps of the first-base dugout and trotting behind the plate. His catcher’s mask can’t camouflage his smile.

Fast-forward a couple decades at the historic stadium. The man, clad in a blue windbreaker, strolls across the field as 30 or so collegiate players prepare for the game to come. His mind is consumed with multiple responsibilities. Yet a familiar smile crosses his face.
Christopher H. Howard is home.

“I was a baseball player, and now I’m a baseball coach,” Howard said. “It’s what I do. It’s what I know.”

Howard knows much about the game he first experienced as a toddler at Williamsport’s Bowman Field. His passion for the sport propelled him to a level that most experience only in their dreams: the major leagues.

“It wasn’t a 10-year career, but I will take the time that I was up,” said Howard, who appeared in 22 games for the Seattle Mariners between 1991 and ’95. “It’s all I imagined myself doing. I take pride in it.”

He also shows considerable pride in his current role as the head baseball coach for Pennsylvania College of Technology. He coached the Wildcats part time from 2006-14 before becoming the college’s first full-time coach as the institution transitioned to an NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports program.

“The only way I would consider going somewhere else is if the Kansas City Royals called and needed a manager,” Howard joked. “I want to build something here.”

The program already has a strong foundation, thanks to Howard. As the part-time coach, he led the Wildcats to two conference championships and three Small College World Series while mentoring several academic All-Americans.

“It was a very easy decision for me to make,” said Scott E. Kennell, director of athletics, when discussing hiring Howard for the full-time post. “Chris did not treat this like a part-time job. Chris was there for his student-athletes at all times. His love and passion for the institution and his team were apparent from the second I met him.”

Growing up in Kansas City, Howard loved baseball but was known more for his prowess on the gridiron. His high school didn’t field a baseball team, so summer leagues provided his lone outlet for the sport. Football was his avenue to a college scholarship.

Stellar play as a fullback and strong safety generated interest from the likes of Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas in the old Big Eight Conference. Howard chose the University of Oklahoma, mainly because its legendary coach, Barry Switzer, gave him permission to also play for the Sooner baseball team while on a football scholarship.

“I played a very insignificant role, but I was still part of the team,” said Howard, whose teammates included, besides Aikman, notorious All-American linebacker Brian Bosworth, future NFL All-Pros Keith Jackson and Tony Casillas, and Spencer Tillman, now a noted college football analyst for CBS Sports. “There were a lot of great ballplayers. It was fun. It was a great experience.”

Howard, whose suitemate was future Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman.

After redshirting his freshman year, Howard saw spot duty on special teams for Oklahoma, including the 1986 Orange Bowl when the Sooners topped previously unbeaten Penn State, 25-10, to capture the national championship.

“I want to build something here.”

“I want to build something here.”
Eventually, Howard decided to limit his athletic experience to baseball at Oklahoma, but he grew frustrated when the coaching staff shifted him from catcher to third base and designated hitter.

“I thought if I had any shot to play professionally, I had to be catching somewhere,” he said.

“Somewhere” became the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, where Howard transferred and played catcher full time for one season. The move paid off when the Seattle Mariners picked him in the 41st round of the 1988 draft.

“I felt I was better than the 41st round,” said Howard, who laughs at the paltry $2,500 signing bonus he received. “I used it as motivation. I take pride that I was a 41st-round draft pick and three years later I was playing in the major leagues.”

Two of those years were spent in Williamsport playing for the Mariners’ Class AA affiliate, the Williamsport Bills of the Eastern League. Howard had previously been to Williamsport and its Bowman Field. But he needed to watch black-and-white home movies for proof.

Howard was just a year old when his parents, Dick and Patty, lived in Williamsport during the summer of 1967. Dick, establishing the family tradition, was a catcher for the Williamsport Mets, the Class AA affiliate of the New York Mets.

“There are movies of me as a 1-year-old running around Bowman Field’s outfield,” Howard said. “When my parents come visit me today, we still go by the old house we had on Lycoming Creek Road.”

For Dick Howard, the Double-A level proved to be his baseball summit. A generation later, his son eclipsed that with a promotion to Triple A followed by a treasured call-up to the major leagues in September 1991. The Mariners’ opponent for Howard’s first big-league game: his hometown Royals in Kansas City.

“I got to make my major-league debut in front of all my friends and the people I grew up with,” Howard said. “My friends and I would go to Royals games all the time and sit in the right-field stands.”

His first time on the field was a memorable one. Howard smacked a double off Cy Young winner Mark Davis in his initial at-bat. A few innings later, the star-struck catcher received congratulations from childhood hero George Brett when the Royals future Hall of Famer came up to bat.

“You could have stopped my career right there,” Howard laughs. “It was all good.”

His career continued for several more years as he shuttled between Class AAA and the major leagues and played with the likes of Randy Johnson, Edgar Martinez, Tino Martinez, Alex Rodriguez and Ken Griffey Jr. A shoulder injury forced Howard to retire in 1997, leaving him with six hits in 32 big-league at-bats and a career .250
batting average in 790 minor-league games. That baseball odyssey provides him with plenty of material for war stories to impress his young Penn College players. Howard, though, prefers to teach the game rather than recount his notable achievements and proximity to all-time greats.

“I was talking with some of the players one evening after a game, and I mentioned that coach was a pro baseball player. I was surprised at how many guys didn’t know that,” said Ian C. Catherine, one of Howard’s assistant coaches. “Coach really doesn’t bring it up unless I ask him a question about his playing time or if one of the guys asks him. When he does bring it up, it is very effective without sounding braggadocious, because he uses it as a teaching tool.”

Despite living in the region for the previous eight years, Howard didn’t even know Penn College had a baseball team until he saw a newspaper advertisement for the part-time coaching position in 2006. Williamsport was home because his wife at the time was from the area. The two met during Howard’s tenure with the Bills, and after he retired, they decided to settle in South Williamsport to start a family, which eventually included three kids.

The college’s part-time opening came at a critical time for Howard. He was in the midst of a divorce and identified himself more as a car salesman, his job at the time, than a former pro baseball player. Howard had endured a tough transition to “civilian life,” and to cope, he distanced himself from the sport to which he had devoted his life.

“I needed to take stock of my life, and I was looking for a sign. That’s when I saw the ad,” he said. “Being hired as coach really helped me get back to who I was. Once I got back into baseball, I realized how much I missed it and how much a part of my life it was.”

From his first day on the job, Howard set high expectations, insisting that his players respect the game and do their best on the field and in the classroom. In essence, he said, he treated the program, which competed in the Penn State University Athletic Conference, as if it were an NCAA team. Eight years later, it is. Last July, the NCAA granted the college provisional membership in Division III. The Wildcats are playing their first season this spring in the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

The number of games has increased from 33 to 40. All contests are now nine innings instead of seven. The level of consistent competition has risen. Yet Howard still has the same objectives for his team.

“I’ve told the guys, even though this is our first year in Division III, we are not looking at just going out and trying to compete and ease our way into it,” he said. “We are out there to win. I want us to be one of the top four teams in the league and compete for a conference title this year.”

While he’s always been impressed with the quality of the student-athletes at Penn College, Howard has more of them to strive for those goals. It’s easier for him to recruit, thanks to the Division III move.

“Recruiting is a full-time job in itself. You are selling the college, yourself and the program,” he said. “Because of the NCAA, now everybody wants to talk to us. Kids want to be an NCAA athlete. Now that the objection that we weren’t an NCAA program has been removed, it’s unbelievable how much easier it is to get in the door and talk to people. Before, some wouldn’t give me the time of day.”

“Also, it helps that we play at Bowman Field.”

Known today as Susquehanna Bank Park, the stadium is the second-oldest operating minor-league park in the nation. And for Howard, it’s his second home, one that’s going to feature yet another game.

Before the first pitch, Howard can shut his eyes and replay those childhood home movies of him running in the outfield. He can walk behind home plate and visualize himself as the young catching prospect developing big-league skills. And he can glance in the first-base dugout at his eager team, grateful for the opportunity to be their coach.

“My parents and I always kid that it must be destiny that I’m here,” Howard said. “If that’s true, destiny has smiled on Chris Howard and Penn College.”
LAUNCHED TO COMMEMORATE THE COLLEGE’S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, the Penn College Scholarship Campaign had a distinct goal: “Invest Now, Change Lives Forever.” With the objective to raise funds that would directly support student scholarships – making opportunities available to students that may otherwise not be possible – supporters stepped up in record numbers.

“The success of the Penn College Scholarship Campaign exceeded all expectations,” President Davie Jane Gilmour said. “We challenged our alumni, friends and industry partners to commemorate the Centennial by helping students through increased scholarship support, and they responded with pride and enthusiasm.

“Thanks to their generosity, we can offer our students more than double the amount of scholarship aid that we did prior to the campaign. This will help future generations of Penn College students build on the legacy of its past and create an exciting and unlimited future.”
“As a student in my 30s, the scholarship awards have helped me to lessen the amount of hours I have to work. I have been able to take those extra hours and dedicate more time to my education and my family. As a result, I have been on the Dean’s List every semester and have been awarded Student of the Month honors. Before enrolling at Penn College, I was working a dead-end job and was very uncertain of my future. I have attained a skill set that will help separate me from others in the HVAC field. I now have a bright and promising future ahead!”

JEFFREY C. COMITZ
Heating, ventilation & air conditioning design technology
West Branch Susquehanna Builders Association Scholarship
American Infrastructure Annual Scholarship

“Receiving a Penn College scholarship has been a life saver. The donors to the scholarship are supporting and helping me achieve my dreams and goals. I think about their generosity almost daily, and I give thanks because it has helped me financially and made my dreams one step closer. Without them, I would not be here to accomplish my dreams nor make an impact at Penn College. So I want to thank Penn College scholarship donors for their support, for leading me to the right path to achieve my goals, and for helping me to believe that I can do whatever I set my mind to.”

NICOLE M. REYES-MOLINA
Building construction technology: masonry emphasis
Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association Scholarship

“I want to teach children and help them learn and develop in the best way possible. The scholarship that I was so kindly given has helped me with school books and the other materials required for my major this semester. It didn’t only help me materially, but it gave me more motivation and hope. Knowing that so many people care about others’ futures, their lives and their roads to success is a wonderful feeling, and it has made all the difference to me.”

ALICIA C. KIBLER
Early childhood education
The Next Centennial Scholarship
Alumni demonstrated pride in their alma mater by giving to the campaign in record numbers. From individuals establishing named scholarships to more than 180 graduates who made their first gifts to the college, alumni stepped up to support current and future Wildcats.

Ray Mattie, ’84, and his wife, Michelle, established the Mattie Family Scholarship to benefit students in occupational therapy assistant or early childhood education majors. “Being able to assist those students pursuing a career with children holds a special place in our hearts,” Ray Mattie said.

More than 180 first-time alumni donors contributed to the Next Centennial Scholarship Campaign, which—with a matching gift from the Penn College Foundation—offered one-time scholarships to first-year students from the donors’ respective majors.

Friends have experienced firsthand the value of a Penn College education in the workplace and in the community. Individuals who want to ensure that future students have the opportunity to pursue an applied technology education at Penn College gave some of the largest contributions to the campaign.

Principals of Amerikohl Mining Inc. and the family of Steelyn G. Kanouff, ’07, gather near the Donor Wall. The company endowed a $1 million scholarship fund in memory of Kanouff, who was an Amerikohl employee when he died.

Friends 646 Donors

Employees & Retirees 486 Donors

Alumni 660 Donors

Corporations 196 Donors

660 number of alumni participating (not including those employed by the college)

$6,409,780 total dollars raised

30 percent of employees participating

75 number of new scholarships

165 percent increase in scholarship aid from 2011 to 2014

(from $248,712 in 2010-11 to $658,386 in 2014-15)
Employees see every day the impact a Penn College education can have. Faculty and staff alike expressed their continued commitment to students by establishing new scholarships and helping grow existing scholarship funds.

About a dozen employees of Workforce Development & Continuing Education at Penn College contributed to the newly established Workforce Development Scholarship to benefit students in the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies.

Kenneth C. Kuhns, ’79, assistant professor of electrical technologies/occupations, and Diana L. Kuhns, assistant professor of mathematics, established a scholarship fund. “It gives me great pleasure to set up a scholarship so that others may benefit from (a Penn College) education,” Ken Kuhns said.

Student Nicole M. Reyes-Molina offers the December 2014 commencement address.

The investment of alumni, employees and friends translates directly into increased scholarship assistance.
Eric K. Albert, associate professor of automated manufacturing and maching, was chosen by Zeepro Inc. to visit its manufacturing facility in China. Zeepro produces consumer-market 3-D printers.

Chip D. Baumgardner, associate professor of business administration/management, presented “Using Cooperative Learning in the Changing Environment of Education” at the 25th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. The paper was published in “Selected Papers From the 25th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning.” Additionally, his paper “Juniata County: How the Labor Market of a Small, Rural Pennsylvania County Survived the Great Recession,” was published in the International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science.

Elizabeth A. Biddle, as K-12 project manager, was appointed as a consultant to the National Association for Partnerships in Equity Education. She served in the role of program manager. Biddle is now director of corporate relations.

Lisa R. Bock, assistant professor of computer information technology, led a session during the 19th annual Course Technology Computing Conference. Her presentation focused on packet analysis, the process of analyzing traffic over a digital network.

Carl J. Bower Jr., instructor of horticulture, and Dennis P. Skinner, assistant professor of horticulture, were judges for state FFA Activities week.


Kelly B. Butzler, associate professor of chemistry, received her Doctor of Education, specializing in e-learning, from Northcentral University. Her dissertation was titled “The Effects of Motivation on Achievement and Satisfaction in a Flipped Classroom Learning Environment.” She also presented “Flipped at an Open-Enrollment College” during an Online ConfCchem conference hosted by the American Chemical Society’s Division of Chemical Education’s Committee on Computers in Chemical Education. Additionally, she and two students co-presented a session titled “Flipping the Classroom: Is it Worth the Hype?” at the Penn State Symposium for Teaching and Learning With Technology.

Kirk M. Cantor, professor of plastics and polymer technology, presented “Materials & Extrusion for Roll-Fed Thermoforming” and “Essentials of Stable Sheet Extrusion” at the Society of Plastics Engineers 23rd Annual Thermoforming Conference.

Veronica C. Ciavarella, instructor of geology and environmental science, received her Doctor of Education in adult education from Penn State. Her dissertation was titled “Exploratory Qualitative Case Study of Lab-Type Activity Interactions in an Online Geoscience Course.”

Billie A. Coffman, associate professor of early childhood education, served on a Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education peer-review team to evaluate another college’s proposed child care professional associate-degree program.

Brian L. Cygan, executive director for assessment, research and planning, received a doctorate in educational leadership and management from Drexel University. His dissertation was titled “Technical College Choice: An Action Research, Mixed Methods Study of Influences on the Enrollment Decisions of Students Admitted to a Technical College.”

Debbie A. Day, an instructional specialist for Workforce Development & Continuing Education, received the Educator of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Practical Nursing Administrators.

Tina M. Evans, associate professor for applied health studies, co-authored the textbook “Introduction to Health Care Services: Foundations and Challenges,” published by Jossey-Bass. She was also lead author for “Palliative Care: A global development update, challenges and policy recommendations.” She and her co-authors presented the paper at the International Conference on Healthcare Systems and Global Business Issues.

Jeffrey D. Filko, assistant director of dining services, who is adviser to Penn College’s Mu Xi chapter of the Phi Mu Delta fraternity, received the Dr. Albert D. Nutting Award as the country’s outstanding chapter adviser.

Terry A. Girdon, professor of business administration/management, was elected to a three-year term on the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education’s Board of Commissioners.
Shawn A. Kiser, director of dental hygiene, was elected chairman of the board of directors for the Northcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center.

Dulcey J. Messersmith, instructor of nursing, received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Chatham University. Her dissertation was titled “Improving Pain in Older Adults Using a Focused Education Program With Practical Nursing Students.”


Mark E. Sones, instructor of diesel equipment technology, received Caterpillar Inc.’s annual Pathfinder to Excellence faculty award.

Bruce A. Wehler, instructor of English composition, earned a Doctorate of Education in adult education from Penn State. His dissertation was titled “Until All the Pieces Fit: A Hermeneutic Phenomenology of the Informal Learning of Selected Foster Parents in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

In Memory

Donald L. Belles, retired assistant professor of HVAC technology, July 29

James P. Bressler, retired dean of applied arts and sciences, July 8

William D. Davis Sr., former Board of Directors member, June 4

Edward “Mike” Gray, retired associate professor, machine shop, May 31

Thomas G. Gray, retired assistant professor of physical education and golf coach, Nov. 30

John J. Messer, assistant professor of Web and interactive media, Jan. 5

Joseph P. Miglio, retired associate professor of machine tool technology, Oct. 18

William E. Twaddell, retired dean of general services, Nov. 10

Dr. Marshall D. Welch Jr., benefactor, Aug. 27

Charles C. Tooley, ’79, journalism, is a writer of Victorian ghost stories. He resides in Coatesville.

Gene A. Berfeld, ’90, electrical occupations, is a DC electrician for IPS (Integrated Power Systems) at its Indiana, Pa., service center. He resides in Homer City.

Amy (Rebar) Mangiaruga, ’93, radiography, is a radiology and mammography technician for Geisinger. She resides in Paxinos.

Blane Reichart, ’95, electrical occupations, is a service technician for NRG Controls in Harrisburg. He resides in Hanover.

Diana L. (Ripka) Carson, ’96, office information systems, is a research supervisor for Nestarick Appraisal & Consulting in Lock Haven. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Lacy (Blair) Hess, ’97, office information systems, is a human resource analyst for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She resides in Selinsgrove.

Joseph Shaeffer, ’97, forest technology, is lead electrician for The York Water Co. He resides in York.

Jon C. Shipley, ’98, toolmaking technology, is a tool and die maker for GKN Sinter Metals in St. Marys. He resides in Clearfield.

Christopher R. Plank, ’99, surgical technology, is a surgical technologist first assistant on the cardiac team for Susquehanna Health. He resides in Williamsport.

Sen. Jake Corman, ’90, mass communications, was elected majority leader of the Pennsylvania Senate. He had been appropriations committee chairman. “It all started at Penn College,” he said. Corman represents Pennsylvania’s 34th Senatorial District.

Pamela J. Fuller-Voytko, ’80, food and hospitality management, worked part time for many years in a school cafeteria and worked for AmeriCorps for 3.5 years before becoming disabled. She resides in Westover.

Larry E. Decker, ’84, auto body repair, is co-owner of Heartbeat Hollow Performance in Linden, where he builds custom cars. He resides in Linden.

Robert L. Ryan, ’87, electrical technology, is a paramedic/firefighter for the city of Virginia Beach, Va., where he resides.

Jeffrey C. Tompkins, ’88, electrical technology, is director of maintenance for Lycoming County government. He directs a staff of 22 to maintain more than 480,000 square feet of county-owned facilities. He resides in South Williamsport.

Gary T. Bonser, ’89, construction carpentry, is a meat manager for Country Harvest in Palermont, where he resides. He also does small construction work.

Diana (Wyant) Kipp, ’00, applied human services, is a medical social worker for Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, where she resides.

Michael S. Vassallo, ’99, business management, is assistant vice president and branch manager for PS Bank in Sayre.

Christopher Birster, ’95, architectural technology, is a project superintendent for Wegmans Food Markets. He resides in Catawissa.

Chad Smith, ’93, business management, assistant vice president and branch manager for PS Bank in Sayre.

Kate (Bishop) Hunter, ’00, culinary arts technology and food and hospitality management, manages the office for Peak Sales & Marketing, a food brokerage company she and her family founded in Harrisburg. She resides in Maytown.

Jennifer M. (Wyant) Kipp, ’00, applied human services, is a medical social worker for Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, where she resides.

Bryan M. Orosz, ’00, electronics technology: communications/fiber optics, is a sales support representative for ACell, a regenerative medicine company in Maryland. He resides in Gaithersburg, Md.

Nina M. Rupert, ’00, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Dr. Robert E. Chanelli in Montoursville. She resides in Muncy.

Lacy (Blair) Hess, ’97, office information systems, is a human resource analyst for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She resides in Selinsgrove.

Pamela J. Fuller-Voytko, ’80, food and hospitality management, worked part time for many years in a school cafeteria and worked for AmeriCorps for 3.5 years before becoming disabled. She resides in Westover.

Diana L. (Ripka) Carson, ’96, office information systems, is a research supervisor for Nestarick Appraisal & Consulting in Lock Haven. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Jeffrey C. Tompkins, ’88, electrical technology, is director of maintenance for Lycoming County government. He directs a staff of 22 to maintain more than 480,000 square feet of county-owned facilities. He resides in South Williamsport.

Gary T. Bonser, ’89, construction carpentry, is a meat manager for Country Harvest in Palermont, where he resides. He also does small construction work.

Bryan M. Orosz, ’00, electronics technology: communications/fiber optics, is a sales support representative for ACell, a regenerative medicine company in Maryland. He resides in Gaithersburg, Md.
Douglas J. Stewart, '01, computer information systems: networking and technical support, is a software development analyst II for Mintab Inc. in State College. He resides in Lewistown.

Rebecca A. (Reese) Charles, '02, applied human services, is executive director of the Northcentral Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center. She resides in Wellsboro.

Lee R. Gable, '02, construction management, obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2013 and was ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He serves the New Centerville Lutheran Parish in Rockwood.

Christopher Boyer, '03, paramedic technology, is a full-time instructor in the paramedic program at Delaware Technical Community College and a certified flight paramedic. He holds a master’s degree in public administration and is a doctoral candidate in business administration at Wilmington University.

Tonya W. Chopick, '03, business management, is an inside sales representative for Jersey Shore Steel Co. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Melissa L. (Ward) Dewald, '03, office information systems, is the front office coordinator for Partners in Family Health in York. She resides in Hanover.

Matthew R. Kiker, '03, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is president of Green Mechanical LLC in Mechanicsburg, where he resides.

Dave Buss, '04, computer aided drafting technology and computer information systems: networking and technical support, is an information technology manager for General Dynamics Land Systems in Eynon. He resides in Gettysburg.

Richard C. Hornberger, '04, computer information technology: data communications and networking; '02, computer information systems: networking and technical support, is a network services supervisor for Phoenix Contract Inc. in Middletown. He received a Master of Business Administration from New York Institute of Technology in 2007. He resides in Lebanon.

Sarah (Frantz) Jones, '04, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Mangat Family Dentistry. She resides in Schuylkill Haven.

James A. Miele, '04, accounting, is an office manager for Bechdel Plumbing & HVAC. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Matthew G. Moore, '04, automotive technology management, is distiller/plant manager for Catacoin Creek Distilling Co. in Purcellville, Va. He resides in Hamilton, Va.

Jake S. Nelms, '04, computer information technology: internetworking application development, is an enterprise resource planning systems analyst for TE Connectivitity. He resides in Harrisburg.

William Shank, '04, automated manufacturing technology, is a machine operator for Westinghouse Electric Co. in Blairsville. He resides in Bolivar.

Jeff Turner, '04, building construction technology: carpentry and building construction technology: masonry, is co-owner of Turner Custom Building and Restoration in Northumberland. He resides in Selinsgrove.

Nichole E. (Michael) Frye, '05, health arts: practical nursing; '03, health arts: practical nursing, received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from University of St. Francis in 2014. She is a supervisor of inpatient care and the Emergency Department at Muncy Valley Hospital. She has received Susquehanna Health’s “Above Clinical Excellence” Award. She resides in Muncy.

Stacey L. (Heverly) Lee, '05, early childhood education, is the director of Blessed Beginnings Preschool and Childcare in Loyalsock. She resides in Williamsport.

Crystal M. McCusker, '05, business administration: management, is a field services assistant II for Chesapeake Energy. She resides in Dushore.

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

Jessica F. Sommers, '05, culinary arts technology, is a store manager for Turkey Hill. She resides in Lansdubg.

Katharine A. Stark Adam, '05, business management, works in accounts receivable and credit control for Fenner Drives in Manheim. She resides in Mohrsville.

Orion C. Behrer, '06, business administration: human resources management; '03, business management, is a human resources manager for The Tech Group: A West Co. He resides in Milton.

LaNae Firster, '06, information technology: data communications and networking, is a customer service specialist for the federal government’s Office of Personnel Management. She resides in Franklin.

Kimberly Learn-Stewart, '06, human services, is a fabrication supervisor for The Warren Co. in Erie, where she resides.

Samuel D. Ranck, '06, business administration: management information systems and business management, is the director of the Challenger Division and league development manager for Little League Baseball, Inc. He resides in Williamsport.

Julie (Reppert) Stelfox, '06, mass media communications; '05, technology management, is the lifestyle and education editor for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. She resides in Williamsport.

Heather (Leitzel) Smouse, '06, nursing, is a registered nurse for Banner Health. She resides in Avondale, Ariz.

Amanda J. Weaver, '06, early childhood education, is a lead teacher for STEP Head Start. She resides in Williamsport.

Brian M. Webster, '06, nursing, is a nurse practitioner for Islands Community Medical Services in Vindhaven, Maine. He earned a Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner from Frontier Nursing University in 2012 and a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Chatham University in 2014. He is a fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine.

Kyle D. Crain, '07, information technology: network technology, is a systems and network security analyst for Penn State. He resides in Tyrone.

Melani B. (Grady) Decker, '07, dental hygiene: health policy & administration, is pursuing a master’s degree in dental hygiene from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and resides in Durham, N.C.

Becky (Helmers) Ellis, '07, business management, is a community manager for S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co. She resides in Suffolk, Va.

Andrea M. (Stahl) Featherstone, '07, accounting, is a senior accountant for Susquehanna University. She resides in Lewisburg.

Chad W. Gray, '07, construction management, is vice president of business development and project management for Gray Builders in Danville, where he resides.

Megan L. Kime, '07, graphic communications management, is an art department and prepress supervisor for Herff Jones. She resides in Biglerville.

Dan Lewis, '07, advertising art, is an advertising sales representative for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. He resides in Williamsport.

Alex J. Wendel, '07, forest technology, works in maintenance for Mersen USA and is a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve construction battalion. He served in Afghanistan in 2013-14. He resides in St. Marys.
Jaimie S. Burns, ’08, hospitality management, is a sales coordinator for Hampton Inn Altoona. She resides in Roaring Spring.

Erin E. (Moslak) Crain, ’08, nursing, is a quality management nurse consultant for Aetna Inc. She resides in Tyrone.

Shawn K. Fetzer, ’08, civil engineering technology, is a civil engineer for the city of Loveland, Colo., where he resides.

Matt Friedhaber, ’08, HVAC technology, is a project manager for Limbach Co., overseeing construction of the first Highmark Medical Mall in Pittsburgh. He resides in Glenshaw.

Joseph A. Hagan, ’08, information technology: information technology security specialist, is a data scientist for Eclipse Engineering. He received a Master of Science in cybersecurity from University of Maryland University College in 2014. He resides in Loganville.

Joseph A. Krug, ’08, information technology: network specialist concentration, is an IT technician manager for Sheetz in Claysburg. He resides in Lilly.

Jill M. (Buzzard) Messick, ’08, advertising art, is a graphic designer for GK Elite Sportswear. She resides in Middletown.

Jared P. Miller, ’08, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is vice president of City Hill Construction in Penn Yan, N.Y. He resides in Stanley, N.Y.

John Schiel, ’08, technology management; ’06, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, is an electronics project engineer for Clemens Food Group. He resides in Douglassville.

Tracey E. (Brewbaker) Womelsdorf, ’08, physical fitness specialist, received a bachelor of science in health and physical education from Lock Haven University in 2014. She resides in Middletown.

Mark B. Cordeiro, ’09, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis, is a cutter for Pepper Logging of Granville Summit. He resides in Canton.

Desiree (Snyder) Hawkins, ’09, business administration: human resource management, is an assistant project manager for Appfellation Pre-Fab, a pipeline fabricator. She resides in Trout Run.

Holly (Sheaffer) Keresev, ’09, business administration: banking and finance, is an accounts payable coordinator for BAI Group Inc. in State College. She resides in Lock Haven.

Justin J. Kovaleski, ’09, construction management, is an assistant project manager for Mortenson Construction. He resides in Glenside, Colo.

Ashley (Olvera) McGrath, ’09, physical fitness specialist, is a physical therapy assistant for HCR Manor Care. She resides in Manchester, Md.

Lisa Miller, ’09, physical fitness specialist, is an appeals specialist for Novitas Solutions. She resides in Williamsport.

Meagan Morris, ’09, culinary arts technology and hospitality management, is an assistant manager for La Madeleine Country French Café in Alexandria, Va. She resides in Herndon, Va.

Anthony J. Peachey, ’09, business administration: marketing, is a marketing analyst for Construction Specialists in Muncy, where he resides.

Mary Jo (Nonnemacher) Widdershim, ’09, nursing, is a certified registered nurse consultant for Society Hill Anesthesia Consultants. She earned a master’s degree in nursing, specializing in nurse anesthesia from Drexel University in 2014. She resides in Harleysville.

Philip A. Woodring, ’09, HVAC technology, is a sales representative/Energy Star supervisor for Airtron Heating and Air Conditioning. He resides in Waynesboro.

Megan E. Cobb, ’10, graphic design, is a junior art director for Garfield, a marketing agency in Newtown. She resides in Levittown.

Jessica (Cobourn) Lauck, ’10, technology management; ’08, hospitality management, is an assistant front desk manager for Penn State’s Nittany Lion Inn. She resides in State College.

Elisabeth (Callahan) Lippy, ’10, culinary arts and systems, works in customer service for State Farm. She resides in Hanover.

Leah Lubeski, ’10, accounting, is a sales associate manager for CustomInk, a T-shirt design company in Fairfax, Va. She resides in Alexandria, Va.

Ashley McGee, ’10, health information technology, is a certified medical coder for Lehigh Valley Hospital. She resides in Allentown.

Hannah M. (Yates) Peachey, ’10, accounting, is senior production planner for Lycoming Engines in Williamsport. She earned her Master of Business Administration from Liberty University in 2013. She resides in Muncy.

Kevin M. Smith, ’10, information technology: information technology security specialist, is a network engineer for General Dynamics Information Technology. He resides in Martinsburg, W.Va.

Joe Ferraro, ’11, manufacturing engineering technology, is a CNC machinist for Keystone Powdered Metal Co. He resides in Ridgway.

Andrew Koskie, ’11, building science and sustainable design, is a CAD Tech III for The Murus Co. Inc. He resides in Liberty.

Travis M. Liebig, ’11, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer for Primus Technologies in Williamsport, where he resides.

Robert A. Miller, ’11, information technology: Web & applications development; ’06, programming and database processing, is a programmer/analyst for Penn State. He resides in State College.

Megan R. Pennington, ’11, graphic design, is a graphic and interactive designer for PLS 3rd Learning. She resides in Akron, N.Y.

Kelly (Maurer) Poorman, ’11, graphic design, is lead graphic designer for Jawbone. She resides in Pittsburg.

David C. Skiles, ’11, collision repair technology, enlisted in the Army after graduation and is stationed in Germany with the 1-91 Cavalry. His training has taken him to Israel, Lithuania, and Normandy, France, where he was selected to participate in the 70th anniversary commemoration of D-Day.

Amber K. (Bingaman) Bieryl, ’12, business administration: marketing, is a mortgage processor for Mifflinburg Bank and Trust. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Ryan M. Conrad, ’12, residential construction technology and management: building construction technology, is a project estimator/manager for Descio Design & Construction Inc., of Fleetwood.

Jeremy M. Klenger, ’12, information technology: network specialist, provides technical support for Strong Spas, a manufacturer and online retailer in Northumberland. He resides in Berwick.

Jennifer L. Leitzell, ’12, baking and pastry arts, is a baker for Sodexo. She resides in Huntington.

Rebecca Rudy, ’12, baking and pastry arts, is a pastry cook for The Reeds at Shelter Haven, a resort in Stone Harbor, N.J. She resides in Lancaster.

Jessica Segraves, ’12, graphic design, is a creative director for N2 Publishing. She resides in Wilmington, N.C.
Eric Stahl, ’12, civil engineering technology, is a product engineer for Wirerope Works Inc. in Williamsport.

Ashly N. Stivers, ’12, baking and pastry arts, is a salon manager for Sun Tan City. She resides in Dallas.

Matthew P. Bower, ’13, information technology: Web and application development, is a data engineer for Capital BlueCross. He is pursuing a Master of Science in computer information systems: database management and business intelligence from Boston University. He resides in Harrisburg.

Kristen P. (Miller) Edelstein, ’13, graphic design, is a graphic designer for Resilite Sports Products Inc. She resides in South Williamsport.

Ryan Enders, ’13, technology management; ’12, aviation technology, is a Cessna 402 aircraft mechanic for Cape Air. He resides in South Yarmouth, Mass.

Brock Gramley, ’13, computer aided product design, is an engineering technician for Olympus NDT. He resides in Reedsville.

Kaila Gruver, ’13, health information management, is a medical coder for G2N Inc. She resides in Elicott City, Md.

Kathleen Hart, ’13, Web design and multimedia, is an inside sales representative for Modern Marketing Concepts in Binghamton, N.Y., where she resides.

Max A. Jureckson, ’13, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is an applications specialist - refrigeration for Carel USA. He resides in Manheim.

Krista M. Kondisko, ’13, early childhood education, is a preschool teacher and group supervisor for Pitter Patter Day Schools. She resides in Williamsport.

Zachary E. Litchert, ’13, electronics and computer engineering technology, is a software developer for Thycotic, an information technology security company. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Cory McDonald, ’13, information technology: networking specialist, is a technical support consultant for Schneider Electric in West Kingston, R.I. He resides in Narragansett, R.I.

Richard J. McGlynn, ’13, culinary arts and systems, is an artisan bread baker at Woodloch Pines Resort and the sous chef for The Forest Lake Club. He resides in Hawley.


Erick Speer, ’13, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for Custom Engineering Co., where he oversees fabrication of pressure vessels. He resides in Erie.

Thomas M. Whitehouse, ’13, residential construction technology and management, is a project engineer for Harkins Builders in Marriottsville, Md. He resides in Gathersburg, Md.

Andrew Wright, ’13, Web design and multimedia, is a multimedia specialist for Penn State. He resides in State College.

Daniel J. Donowski, ’14, engineering design technology, is a mechanical designer for engineering firm Foth. He resides in Tunkhannock.

Rachelle Horning, ’14, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a paralegal for Williamsport law firm Lepley, Engleman and Yaw. She resides in Milton.

Shawn T. Knapp, ’14, heavy construction equipment technology: operator and technician, works for site contractor B. Blair Corp. of Ivyland. He resides in Horsham.

Heather M. Orso, ’14, health information technology, is a data integrity clerk for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Williamsport.


Stephanie M. Snyder, ’14, nursing, is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit at Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Williamsport.

This Aug. 9, 1947, photo shows a group of Williamsport Technical Institute plumbing graduates. The photo was provided by Gloria J. Hackenburg, a Penn College retiree and part-time customer service assistant, whose father, John R. Tilburg, is in the front row, fourth from left. The instructor (back row, wearing a tie), was Duke Oakes. According to Tilburg, who died in 2012, these men were the first to graduate from WTI plumbing courses.
Paul M. Treible, '14, technology management; '88, automated manufacturing technology and toolmaking technology, is vice president of Computer Designs Inc. He resides in Lehighton.

Kevin Waltz, '14, applied health studies, is a flight paramedic for Atlantic Health in Morristown, N.J. During the NFL season, he is team paramedic for the New York Jets. He resides in Nazareth.

Tina M. Watkins, '14, nursing (BSN), nursing, is a registered nurse for Susquehanna Health. She resides in Williamsport.

Max K. Wundschok, '14, aviation maintenance technology, is a helicopter technician for Mercer Aviation Group. He resides in Perkasie.

Michael S. Vassallo, '99, business programming, and his wife, Kimberly, welcomed son Chase and daughter Kendall on April 8, 2014. They reside in Bridgeville.

Christopher S. Frey, '99, computer information systems: microcomputer specialist, and his wife, Jennifer, welcomed their third son, Gabe, on April 18, 2013. They reside in Williamsport.

Richard V. Baus III, '02, construction management, and his wife, Sarah, welcomed daughter Clara E. on May 24, 2014. They reside in Allentown.

Lee R. Gable, '02, construction management, and his wife, Lauren, welcomed daughter Aria R. on May 23, 2014.

Melissa L. (Ward) DeWald, '03, office information systems, and her husband, Michael, welcomed their second daughter, Cora W., on May 23, 2014.

Nicole R. (Roberto) Petro, '03, baking and pastry arts, and her husband, John, '05, computer information technology: data communication and networking, welcomed son Connor J. on Nov. 19, 2012. They reside in Bethlehem.

Dave Buss, '04, computer aided drafting technology and computer information systems: networking and technical support, welcomed a son, Gage D., on June 11, 2014. He resides in Gettysburg.


Theresa D’Andrea, '06, graphic communications management, married Michael Powell, '06, construction management, in April 2014.

Samuel D. Ranck, '06, business administration: management information systems and business management, and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed their second daughter, Charlotte, on April 28, 2014. They reside in Williamsport.

Julie Reppert, '06, mass media communication; '05, technology management, married Adam Stellfox, '06, mass media communication, in November 2014. They reside in Williamsport.

Melani B. (Grady) Decker, '07, dental hygiene: health policy & administration, and her husband, Adam J., welcomed a son, Grady, on June 20, 2014. They reside in Durham, N.C.

Alex J. Wendel, '07, forest technology, and his wife, Brittany, welcomed daughter Aria R. on May 10, 2013. They reside in St. Marys.

Tracey E. Brewbaker, '08, physical fitness specialist, married Michael D. Womelsdorf, '08, technology management, in June 2014. They reside in Middletown.

Jill M. Buzzard, '08, advertising art, married David D. Messick, '07, applied technical studies: electrical trades, on Oct. 11, 2013. They reside in Middletown.


John Schiel, '08, technology management; '06, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, married Bambi M. Acey in May 2014. They reside in Douglassville.

Meagan Morris, '09, culinary arts technology and hospitality management, welcomed a son, Braxton, on Feb. 4, 2014. She resides in Herndon, Va.

Ashley (Olvera) McGrath, '09, physical fitness specialist, and her husband, Ryan, '10, construction management, welcomed son Hayden E. and daughter Harper E. on July 4, 2014. They reside in Manchester, Md.


Jessica Cobourn, '10, technology management; '08, hospitality management, married Geoffrey Lauck in May 2014. The couple resides in State College.

Elisabeth (Callahan) Lippy, '10, culinary arts and systems, and her husband, Dustin, welcomed son Camden on Sept. 21, 2012. They reside in Hanover.

Kaitlyn Kennedy, '11, business administration: small business and entrepreneurship, and Christopher DiStasio, '11, business administration: small business and entrepreneurship, were married July 26, 2014. They reside in Mount Joy.

David C. Skiles, '11, collision repair technology, married Kaitlin Accord on Dec. 28, 2013. They are stationed in Germany with the Army.

Amber K. Bingaman, '12, business administration: marketing, married Shane M. Biery, '10, business administration: marketing, in September 2013. The couple resides in Mifflinburg.

Jessica Segraves, '12, graphic design, and her husband, Eric, welcomed daughter Brooklyn on May 15, 2014. They reside in Wilmington, N.C.

Kristen P. Miller, '13, graphic design, married William Edelstein on Sept. 9, 2014. They reside in South Williamsport.
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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The Victorian House, built by students in 1997, dons a new color scheme.