Creative Potential

Graduate develops innovative design tool
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Who designs the future?
SEE PAGE 18
Penn College Magazine, a publication of Pennsylvania College of Technology, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals and achievements of Penn College students, faculty and staff with one another and with the greater community.

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Sibling Rivalry
Sharp-shooting sisters Kierstin, left, and Jamie Steer set back-to-back scoring records for the Lady Wildcats.
Behind Every Door
Student photographer Caleb Schirmer, ’16, explores the diversity of doors on Penn College’s campuses – and the opportunities waiting on the other side.

Cheyenne Summer
An internship on a Montana reservation makes for “the best summer” of a forest technology student’s life.

Design Code
Tom Giannattasio, ’06, earned his first few dollars for his art skill in second grade. The graphic design grad now develops products for other designers.

Who Designs the Future?
The first episode of the college’s latest public television series explores how a knack for design and creativity is essential to other fields, including science, math, engineering and technology.

The Whole Picture
Reeling from a late-stage breast cancer diagnosis, Cindy Spinello, ’84, pushed for legislation that could prevent the same outcome for others.

Ten Weeks to Fitness Victory
Exercise science students put their knowledge into practice as they help employees meet their fitness goals.

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From the Editor:

New name, same mission

For a quarter century, you’ve known Pennsylvania College of Technology’s official magazine as One College Avenue. With this issue, we introduce a new name, but our mission remains the same: to tell stories that exemplify the mission, values and history of Penn College.

We strive to show you life on today’s campus, where industriousness and innovation are balanced by fun, and look back to decades past, when a similar balance was struck. We share how alumni are using their “degrees that work” to impact the world around them.

Ultimately, we hope you will feel informed and inspired, and that you’ll tell the world about the unique and vital community that is Penn College. We consider you, the Penn College Magazine reader, an indispensable part of that community, and we hope you will remain Penn College Proud.

Jennifer A. Cline
writer/magazine editor

From the readers:

Spread the word

I am a 2013 Penn College graduate, and the only reason I found the college was because my parents stayed at the Marriott just across the street.

I believe you should be advertising all over the country and in as many ways as possible. I live in Marlton, New Jersey, and I would love to turn on the TV and see a commercial about Pennsylvania College of Technology like the ones that ITT Technical puts out.

I want to see Penn College become one of the top colleges in America. The only way I see that happening is getting our name out there for people to see, whether it be radio, newspaper, TV, social media ads like Facebook and Twitter, etc. I know it can be done with a little creativity and a lot of hard work. I can’t wait to see our name among the top-named colleges in the country. Penn College Proud!

Nick Massimilla, ’13
building construction technology
Marlton, N.J.

We love to hear from you

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Email it to: magazine@pct.edu

Or comment online: magazine.pct.edu

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

Fifty graduates of Williamsport Technical Institute returned to campus to reminisce in April. WTI is a Penn College predecessor that existed under that name from 1941-65. “We brought bail money – just in case,” joked Arthur Mann, ’65, a mechanical drafting grad, and D. Frederick Wascher, ’56, whose certificate was in automotive mechanics. Among the attendees were four who graduated in the 1940s. From left are Albert Kreamer, ’49, neon fabrication; Kenneth Getz, ’49, drafting; Robert Fries, ’45, aviation mechanics; and Raymond Eck, ’41, drafting. During a tour of culinary and baking and pastry arts labs, mechanical drafting alumni Chalmer Van Horn, ’58, who is also an emeritus faculty member, and Kenneth Burkett, ’60, share a laugh with Sarah I. Tielmann, a baking and pastry arts student from Tatamy. Joining them is Van Horn’s daughter Rosa.

Emergency management students evaluate drill

As role-playing humans and dummy patients cover the ground after a simulated drone attack, emergency management technology students Brittany L. Neupauer and Christopher H. Warney assess the response. Eleven upper-level emergency management technology students were invited to observe a large-scale, mass-casualty and decontamination drill on the Williamsport Regional Medical Center campus, where they were tasked with observing the response systems, victim assessment and aid procedures used by first responders.

Robots go head-to-head

Engineering design technology student William C. Hayden attends to details during “Wildcat Battle of the Bots.” The event was hosted by the Student Wildcats of Robotic Design, a revitalized campus organization. About a dozen robots, built by students from S.W.O.R.D. and members of the community, entered in the head-to-head battle. S.W.O.R.D. is open to all Penn College students. No experience with engineering or robot-building is required.

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Dental Hygiene Clinic partners with local school

Crystal C. Harrison, of Dallastown, shares tips on flossing during a program benefiting 14 fifth- and sixth-graders from Muncy School District. The elementary pupils visited the college’s Dental Hygiene Clinic, where Penn College students, in conjunction with Dr. Mary Bennardi, the district’s dentist, provided dental cleanings, sealants, fluoride treatment and examinations.

Timber Fest puts forestry in spotlight

James C. Synol, a building automation technology student, gives the crowd a lesson in concentration during the Stihl Standing Block competition, part of Timber Fest at the college’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center. The event included the Mid-Atlantic Intercolligate Spring Woodsmen’s Meet, which featured six colleges competing in 16 events, along with a regional qualifier for the Timbersports Challenge. The Penn College Woodsmen’s Team will next compete in October at the Cradle of Forestry near Asheville, North Carolina.

Scouts’ honor: merit badges awarded for lab proficiency

Mary Ann Banks, a part-time member of the college’s chemistry faculty, encourages a budding scientist during the Susquehanna Council, Boy Scouts of America’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Merit Badge College. Nearly two dozen Penn College faculty members provided hands-on sessions for about 125 Boy Scouts from across the state.
Board OKs graduate-degree proposal

The Pennsylvania College of Technology Board of Directors endorsed a graduate-degree proposal related to the Physician Assistant Program. Pending additional approvals, there could be Penn College students enrolled in a master’s degree program for physician assistant by Fall 2018.

Before the college can offer the master’s degree for physician assistant, its implementation must again be approved by the Penn College Board of Directors, as well as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Currently, the Penn College Physician Assistant Program is a four-year baccalaureate-degree offering. By 2020, the accrediting agency for physician assistant education will require all students entering physician assistant studies to be enrolled in graduate-level programs.

Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour said the college is not exploring graduate programs for other disciplines.

Nine masonry students, from instructor Glenn R. Luse’s Advanced Masonry Principles class, built flower beds at wheelchair height at the Lycoming County Sensory Garden so that disabled residents have an equal opportunity to exercise their green thumbs.

“Through projects such as this, students learn about helping others and making dreams become realities,” said Marc E. Bridgens, dean of construction and design technologies. “That is an education that can never be taken away.”

The serpentine-pattern beds are at the entrance to the garden, constructed by the Lycoming County Master Gardeners to provide a combined sensory and learning experience for community members to interact with nature.

Dennis R. Dorward, associate professor of construction management and spouse of a master gardener, also lent considerable help to the garden’s construction.

A “Penn College 2015” brick signifies the workmanship by instructor Glenn R. Luse, in suspenders, and nine students from his Advanced Masonry class, who constructed accessible flower beds at the Lysock View Complex.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LINDA BETTS

Masonry students aid sensory garden

Social Media Roundup

Posted on @best_of_exs Instagram account:
Too fly.
@best_of_exs is a group of Penn College exercise science students who mix core strength, calisthenics and acroyoga.

Posted on @penncollegebajasae Instagram account:
New gearbox, some assembly required.
@penncollegebajasae is the official Instagram account of the Penn College Baja SAE team.

@penncollege #penncollege
Workshop emphasizes STEM’s creative side

Debra Lindner and David Lentz, technology teachers at Sullivan County High School, assemble a rubber-band-powered glider. They were among middle school educators who visited campus to practice hands-on lessons they can use in their classes to help students practice creative problem solving, a key skill in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

The free STEM curriculum was developed and demonstrated by the National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center; a workshop on the curriculum was offered by the college and BLaST Intermediate Unit 17.

According to a 2012 report by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science & Technology, economic projections point to a need for approximately 1 million more STEM professionals than the U.S. will produce at the current rate over the next decade if the country is to retain its historical pre-eminence in science and technology.

“If we are truly preparing students at both the secondary and postsecondary levels, we are preparing them for 21st-century jobs,” said Paul R. Watson, Penn College’s dean of academic services and college transitions. “Twenty-first century jobs primarily focus on STEM.”

Science Festival opens fifth-graders’ eyes to wondrous possibilities

About 1,500 fifth-grade students from 11 school districts attended a Science Festival at Penn College. Co-hosted by College Transitions and the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, the event offered youngsters a peek into math- and science-related career opportunities. Vendor exhibits continued for the public during the evening, filling the Field House with inquisitive elementary and middle school students and their families.
Women’s Basketball

Penn College finished 3-19, with all wins coming against North Eastern Athletic Conference teams.

Junior Alicia Ross became the first player in program history to be named United States Collegiate Athletic Association First Team All-America and the first to land on the NEAC Third Team. She also became just the third player in the program’s history to reach 1,000 career points.

Senior Jamie Steer ended her career as the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,422 points and became the first player to be named to three USCAA All-America teams when she was named to the Honorable Mention team.

Men’s Basketball

The Wildcats finished 3-21 in 2015-16, with all three wins coming against NEAC opponents.

Senior Kevin Laurence-El became the first player in program history to earn NEAC postseason honors when he was named to the All-NEAC Third Team. Junior Thomas Ross was named to the USCAA All-Academic team, which is awarded to players with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

Wrestling

Penn College ended 2015-16 with a 6-10 mark and finished fifth at the USCAA Championship.

The Wildcats placed four wrestlers at the USCAA, highlighted by third-place finishes from seniors Mason Replogle and Daniel Frankenfield. Senior Pat Fitzgerald and junior Tanner Leid both finished fourth in their respective weight classes.

– Matt Blymier, assistant director of athletics/sports information director
It’s impossible to write the history of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s women’s basketball program without referencing the name Steer. The 1,000-point banner in the rafters of Bardo Gymnasium says as much, as does the oak-based plaque in the athletic department that displays the names of every All-American in the school’s history.

The names Kierstin Steer and Jamie Steer appear on top of the banners, and show up several times on the aforementioned plaque.

Kierstin graduated from Penn College in 2013 as the program’s all-time leading scorer with 1,246 points and earned one United States Collegiate Athletic Association All-America honor; she was also named USCAA All-America three times in soccer. In the ultimate nod to friendly sibling rivalry, Jamie graduated in 2016 with 1,422 points and a trio of USCAA All-America honors.

“It’s crazy when you think about it,” Kierstin said. “It’s such an honor to be a part of everything that we’ve been able to do at Penn College.”

Needless to say, the Steer sisters – with a combined 2,668 points and five All-America awards – have left an indelible mark on the women’s basketball program in particular, and all future female athletes at Penn College in general.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet. I don’t think I’ve fully realized it all,” Jamie said. “What’s neat now is that we can go places and people will say, ‘Congrats on breaking your sister’s record,’ or ‘Wow, you two had great careers,’ and it’s nice to hear.”

Though the scoring production was similar between the sisters, their individual games were completely different. Kierstin’s strengths were in face-up situations and shooting mid-ranged shots, while Jamie was more prolific with her back to the basket in the post.

The Steers honed their skills in their South Williamsport neighborhood, playing basketball with other kids as far back as they can remember. The duo played together for a year in high school when Kierstin was a senior and Jamie was a freshman. They played one more year together in college for the Wildcats and cherish the two seasons they shared the hardwood.

“It was really fun being able to play together,” Jamie said. “We made a lot of memories that will last us a lifetime, and it was a blast.”

Both sisters admitted that reaching 1,000 career points in college was never a goal, and owning the career scoring title was never an objective. Kierstin’s best sport was arguably soccer, and Jamie needed the postseason in high school to reach 1,000 points.

Their sibling rivalry helped them both, they said, reach their prolific scoring heights in college.

“It’s a playful rivalry,” Kierstin said. “The competitive nature in you wants you to do your best and push a little harder when you’re playing with your sister.

“But, it hurt a little less when my record was broken. If it was going to happen, I wanted it to be my sister.”

by Matt Blymier, assistant director of athletics/sports information director
A collegiate internship can cut a number of ways.

Perhaps there’s an uninspiring or unavailable boss, who provides nothing more challenging than copying, collating and coffee runs – all in the name of unpaid labor.

Or maybe it’s being relegated to a shared office, crammed like an afterthought between the restroom and a supply closet, with no windows and a fluorescent light that blinks and buzzes. All. Day. Long.

Or for Katalynn M. Thomas, like many Pennsylvania College of Technology student interns, it could be a rewarding “once-in-a-lifetime experience” that closely mirrors the institution’s laboratory learning and offers a credible approximation of the working world.

In what she characterizes as “the best summer of my life,” a watershed experience second only to graduating from Parris Island, South Carolina, as a Marine, Thomas helped the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Rocky Mountain Region assess woodlands within a 445,000-acre reservation in Lame Deer, Montana.

“You know how people say, ‘If you have a job you love, you’ll never work a day in your life’? Well, that’s how it was for me that summer,” said Thomas, who earned an associate degree in forest technology in December.

“Waking up in the morning was no trouble because I enjoyed what I was doing. I understood it, and I knew it had a purpose. Having been able to be in a major that I truly loved – and didn’t have to settle for – made all the difference.”

Thomas was one of two Penn College students assigned to western work crews alongside forestry management technology students from Horry-Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina. She

A buffalo jump is among new sights for forest technology student Katalynn M. Thomas, who spent a summer assessing woodlands on a reservation in Lame Deer, Mont., for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. “At the bottom ... you could find pieces of fossilized buffalo bones,” she says.

“There were horses everywhere out there, and they could do pretty much whatever they wanted,” Thomas says. On this day, she was elated to get close enough to join them in a photo.

Thomas – who has a fear of heights – takes a 30-foot leap at Tongue River Reservoir, a Montana state park about an hour from the reservation. “I only jumped twice, while the others just kept going.”
spent 13 weeks of the summer of 2015 with five students in Montana, while classmate Dalton C. Dougherty (who also graduated in December) was on a two-person team surveying black walnut trees in Winnebago, Nebraska.

“I was out in the wild all summer, interacting with trees and wildlife! There aren’t many majors that provide that – let alone the chance to have an internship in such raw country,” Thomas said, noting that many of her rise-and-shine moments brought stiffness from the often-arduous work of conducting a Continuous Forest Inventory among steep, mountainside stands of Ponderosa pines and junipers.

“Most mornings I woke up sore, but always ready for more.”

Continuous Forest Inventory is used to determine the health of a forest and the capacity an area has to grow, as well as helping to develop a management plan. It is a process called mensuration, estimating the condition and productivity of a timber stand, well-known to forestry students who learn it in-depth among the natural surroundings of the Schneebeli Earth Science Center south of Penn College’s Williamsport campus.

“We had to cover plots that were burned in fires from previous years, as well as plots so thick you had to push your way through,” the 25-year-old explained, noting the ease with which the locals, many of them her elders, could traverse the landscape. “It was funny to think that where we were having trouble getting up some of those hillsides, they could’ve been up to the top and back down already.”

A typical day started at 7 a.m. and usually consisted of driving a good distance to the plots, said Thomas, who lives in the Columbia County community of Stillwater. The goal for each day was three plots, each with two locations that needed to be covered. Access was simpler on some days when “the GPS was in a good mood”; other mornings required a hike. 

Swimming was a big part of relaxation for Thomas and her fellow interns. They frequented Crazy Head Springs, a swimming hole on the reservation, after work and on weekends.

“The experiences I gathered ... will stay with me.”
of at least a mile, workers laden with gear. Ah, yes, the gear.

“Dressed to the nines in our cruising vests, loaded down with hammers, nails, tree tags, loggers’ tape, spray paint, compasses and clinometers – oh, and plenty of water – we soldiered our way through to the plots,” Thomas recounted. “Sometimes, we had music playing. Most of the time, we just had each other’s company to keep the mood up.”

Some of the plots had few trees, and others had so many that it took a good portion of the day to take stock.

“After we finished measuring the trees that were already tallied from the previous inventory, we had to go through and check for new growth,” she said. “Trees that were 5 inches in diameter, and within the limits of the plot, were tagged and tallied. They had joined the ranks!”

Some of the plots had to be abandoned quickly because wildlife “was not particularly thrilled” with human encroachment on their habitat. Bears were big players in some of the terrain, and usually in combination with rattlesnakes.

“So the one time, while we were scooting off the hill to get away from a bear that had circled us and was coming closer and closer, we had to keep a close lookout on the hill, right? The sun was facing it directly and it was rocky – perfect for sunbathing rattlers – so we were worried about a bear from behind and snakes underfoot.”

On the upside, Thomas had one lucky discovery that summer: learning that poison ivy has no effect on her.

“Some of the others, though, would get it so bad they needed a shot to relieve it,” she said. “You’d swear the area wasn’t going to let you out alive!”

Approximately 5,000 people live on the reservation, which borders the Crow Agency and the Tongue River. Most are Northern Cheyenne, who call themselves Tsis tis’tas (“the beautiful people”), but members of other tribes, as well as non-Native Americans, also live there.

In their company, Thomas endured adventures both cultural and culinary, taking part in a number of goosebump-inducing customs and dining on such local fare as elk burgers, mule deer, grouse and a fried delicacy known as the “Navajo taco.”

“To be a white person participating in some of their rituals was an experience I’ll never forget,” said Thomas, who honored the sanctity of a ceremonial sun dance through a respectful reluctance to talk about it.

“Their stories and their histories are so rich, and so different than my own, and the experiences I gathered from them will stay with me,” she said. “I made a couple great friendships with some of the people there, and I still keep in touch with them.”

There was also the spectacle of wild horses running free and the area’s scenic big-sky grandeur, not to mention side trips warranted by the proximity to Yellowstone National Park and Mount Rushmore.

Add it all together, and it amounts to a meaningful internship: validation of skills learned from her professors and an invitation to other students to open wide the door when opportunity knocks.

“If you get the chance, take it,” Thomas said. “You don’t know where it may lead.”

“Here I am, somewhere on the reservation,” Thomas says of this photo, taken during the first week of her internship. “The distance you can see from one area to the next is absolutely incredible!”

“These two professors made my time at Penn College great,” Thomas says. “I owe a lot to Mr. (Eric C.) Easton and Dr. (Andrew) Bartholomay.” Easton, left, is an instructor and Bartholomay is an assistant professor, both in forestry.
During her stay in Montana, Thomas attended a Battle of Little Bighorn re-enactment, held annually on the banks of Little Bighorn River.

"Bears, just bears everywhere," Thomas says. "I had the opportunity to snap a picture of these two adorable guys one day. They were up and down that Ponderosa pine so many times, and flopping and rolling on the ground."

The gear Thomas and other interns had to have with them at all times included a handbook, vest, hand axe, compass, clinometer, diameter tape, logger's tape, increment borer, magnifying glass, first aid kit, plot stakes, flagging ribbon, tree tags, nails, plot folders, a GPS unit, camera and map.

"This is just a portion of the herd," Thomas says of the buffalo she encountered in the Crazy Head Springs area. "This herd was just massive. Not as big as (herds) have been, but for me seeing live, wild buffalo for the first time, it was a lot."

"I like (this photo) because it shows the scenery well, although the scenery did change a lot," Thomas says. "You could see storms for miles off, and we would all prepare as soon as we saw them because we are used to the situation of: If you see it, get ready; it's gonna be a big one."

"We spent as much time as we could at the tribal powwow," Thomas says. "The drum music was amazing; it was like they were dancing to the Earth's heartbeat. There are too few words for me to describe this event; I was just ecstatic that I could attend it."

Thomas takes a photo on the shore of Yellowstone Lake, inside the United States’ first national park. "The moment I stepped out of the car at Devil's Thumb, I cried," she says. "I never in a million years thought I'd get to see Yellowstone."
Grad’s innovative product bridges designer-developer gap

Giannattasio’s Macaw Scarlet, a “live design environment,” above and at right.
As a second-grader in Williamsport, Tom Giannattasio’s tiny pockets were stuffed with crumpled dollar bills and tarnished change, courtesy of his classmates. The lunchtime loot and resulting classroom disruption necessitated a call home.

The youngster’s parents were surprised but not angered when notified of his newfound wealth. Their son wasn’t a dreaded schoolyard bully, confiscating cash from other kids. Instead, he was an enterprising artist, selling original drawings of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles for a buck apiece.

Giannattasio laughs at the irony of that memory. He’s matured from a kid peddling depictions of anthropomorphic turtles to a professional designer, working for the likes of Apple and Twitter before selling his own entrepreneurial creation to a company boasting worldwide clients.

“Second grade was my first experience of putting artistic talent and business together,” said the 2006 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate. “Second grade was my first experience of putting artistic talent and business together. I eventually grew into a life of creating in this art form and trying to make money, as well.”

The art form in question is web design, specifically creating intuitive tools that connect design and development. Thanks to Giannattasio’s work, designers can draw and manipulate on-screen elements, and the code required for publishing the web page is automatically written for them.

In other words, it’s like drawing the four Ninja Turtles on paper and having the pencil’s movement dictate animation instructions to bring the renderings to life. Although as a child, Giannattasio did the opposite.

“I have fond memories of sitting in front of the TV on Saturday mornings not just watching cartoons, but trying to redraw the cartoons,” he said. “I loved the art of drawing. I was just naturally drawn to creating things. It’s something you feel inside.”

Giannattasio credits his mother, Donna, an avid painter who teaches computer networking at Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center in Port Allegany, for cultivating those feelings.

“My mom has always been really creative, and she encouraged me to be that way,” he said.

Today, Giannattasio is designing on his Mac Pro in a 400-square-foot, glass-enclosed space in a WeWork office building shared with other creative types and entrepreneurs in Washington, D.C.’s Chinatown. Giannattasio is product manager for InVision, which bills itself as the world’s leading design collaboration platform with more than 1 million daily users, including Adobe, Twitter, LinkedIn and Uber.

Giannattasio obtained his position after selling his company and acclaimed web-design tool, Macaw, to InVision in January. He describes his role as a “mini-CEO,” interacting with InVision’s 200 employees scattered across the globe to develop products and bring them to market.

Penn College’s graphic design classrooms and labs are far removed from Giannattasio’s present-day reality, but he still relies on the principles embedded in his bachelor’s degree.

“The way I learned to think about design in college holds true today,” said Giannattasio, who, with short black hair and neatly cropped beard, resembles tech guru and “Big Bang Theory” actor Wil Wheaton. “I developed taste. I learned how to process ideas. And I learned to put all that together to make something meaningful in the world.”

The burgeoning internet served as Giannattasio’s first medium to showcase his design ability. As a preteen in the mid-1990s, he badgered his parents to buy him an HTML book so he could teach himself to build websites. Countless after-school hours spent pouring over the text resulted in a series of sites dedicated to video games, music and skateboarding.

The design work impressed skateboarding pioneer Tony Hawk, whose marketing team contacted a stunned Giannattasio to request banner ad placement on his site in exchange for product. Giannattasio obliged.

“I was like, ‘Wow, I’m building a site and getting stuff for it,’” he said. “‘Maybe this is a career option?’”

It was.

Attending high school in Coudersport as a result of his father’s work transfer, Giannattasio decided to return to Williamsport and formally begin his
Tom Giannattasio, ’06, translates ideas to pixels in a WeWork space in Washington, D.C. He is product manager for InVision, working with the likes of Adobe, Twitter, LinkedIn and Uber.

That was true despite a focus on graphic design rather than web design.

“When I started at the college, I had sort of the folksy skills. I taught myself design up to that point. I understood how the web worked, but learning taste is totally different,” he said. “I gained an appreciation for clean, modern aesthetics, very functional type of work. A lot of the principles and things I developed in college translated to the web.”

According to Patrick Murphy, retired associate professor of advertising art and one of Giannattasio’s favorite teachers at the college, that translation was by design.

“When theories and principles are creatively applied to projects, they enhance the process and ultimately the finished projects. It takes time and practice to successfully apply theories and principles,” he said. “These are abstract concepts concerning space, proximity, marks, numbers, repetition, direction, position.

The principles apply to multiple media, including drawing, illustration, print layout and computer web design.”

A dean’s list student, Giannattasio employed those principles professionally before he graduated from Penn College. He worked part time for a Williamsport advertising agency before serving as a production artist and creative director at the firm following graduation. Two years later, he moved to Washington, D.C., to be a designer for Sabre Hospitality Solutions, a marketing agency geared to high-end hotels and resorts.

Giannattasio advanced to senior designer at Sabre while writing for Smashing Magazine, a major outlet for web designers and developers, and teaching part time for Boston University’s Center for Digital Imaging Arts in Washington.

“When you have to go to teach someone else what you know, you realize all the things you don’t know,” he said. “You have to fill so many holes. I learned the material at a much deeper level.”

Brian Flynn, assistant professor and department head for art and design at Penn College, wasn’t surprised by Giannattasio’s career ascension and dedication to his craft.

“Tom was a quiet, respectful, humble student. He is very intelligent. I think Tom is successful because he listens to what he is told, does a great job processing the information, works very hard and is always trying to learn.”

After learning all he could about designing for hotel clients, Giannattasio searched for a new challenge. He found it as art director at nclud, a creative design firm engaged in experimental work for top brands. Giannattasio primarily worked for two of nclud’s biggest clients: Apple and Oracle.

“That is where I really found my knack for product design,” he said. “Before that, I had been doing designs to help people market their products. Once I started working with Apple, I realized that I enjoyed building tools and actual products to help people do something.”

Apple was concentrating on different HTML-based platforms and authoring tools. Giannattasio’s task was to innovate and develop features for those tools.

“It was a higher level of design thinking,” he said. “It wasn’t so much how do I make something that is beautiful, it was more how do I make something that other people would find useful. It really broadened my eyes to what was possible through design.”

On this warm spring day, Giannattasio is considering design possibilities for InVision. Attired in a dark shirt and jeans, he seamlessly moves his right hand from the keyboard and mouse to a pencil that he adroitly twirls before opening a sketchbook.

“There’s something about putting pencil to paper that you don’t get on a computer that is invaluable,” he said. “I know I can iterate ideas much quicker, and I can get feedback on those ideas a lot faster. My professors encouraged the process.”

That comment pleases Murphy.

“Training students to develop hand skills, the ability to see and to develop concepts, is important,” he says. “Students who develop these skills become better designers in all media.”

Giannattasio clearly sees the concepts he gives life to in his black-and-white sketchbook. When colors appear on his computer screen, it becomes more of a challenge. The designer suffers from red-green colorblindness, a condition discovered in elementary school after he used the “wrong color” while drawing acorns.

“I can’t differentiate between reds and green hues, which means purples and blues look alike, and oranges and reds and greens get muddled,” he says.

Coping with colors on the computer is made possible by Giannattasio’s understanding of the numeric values of red, green and blue. By hovering over
a color, the hue’s numeric value reveals where it falls on the color spectrum.

“I learned to think scientifically about color. I understand the way we perceive color. When you have two different hues, I understand how they interact.

“Working with color in the analog world can be difficult. I remember one painting class we had a model come in, and my instructor looked at my work and said to me, ‘You’re either a weird genius or you’re colorblind,’” Giannattasio says with a big laugh.

Some students shy from such blunt reactions. Giannattasio embraced the tough critiques that historically the graphic design faculty have dished out to encourage artistic growth and development.

“Critiques are a significant part of the learning process,” said Murphy, the 1989 recipient of the college’s highest teaching honor, the Veronica M. Muzic Master Teacher Award. “They require students to analyze their work. This involves the student, other students and instructor comments on concept development, the design process and the execution of the project.”

“You learn that design isn’t something that you just create and stick up on a wall,” Giannattasio said. “You learn you have to sell to your professors, you have to sell to your classmates. That holds true when you get out in the real world because you have to sell to clients or you have to sell to users. You need to be able to explain why your design will achieve its goals.”

Giannattasio’s personal goals began to change during his time at nclud. Twitter acquired the company, and while doing product design work for that renowned entity, Massachusetts Institute of Technology recruited him to Boston to help start edX, an ambitious project offering free online courses from some of the world’s top institutions.

Once edX got off the ground, Giannattasio fully embraced his entrepreneurial spirit. In his spare time, he had been working on a tool meant to bridge the wide gap between designers and web developers. The semi-complete product earned rave reviews from trusted industry sources. Giannattasio responded by resigning his post at MIT and moving his wife and infant daughter back to the Washington area so he could start his own company.

“I had always thought that I would own my company at some point. It was always a dream. It would be great to work for myself,” he said. “Our plan was to spend no more than three months developing the product and launching it.”

Fifteen income-deprived months later, the company and tool, Macaw, was a reality.

“I never built anything of that scale before. I never started a company before. It was trial by fire. It was very difficult,” Giannattasio said. “I was used to working with design tools, and here I was building a design tool, which meant I had to be inside a text editor 80 percent of the time.”

Encouragement from colleagues kept him motivated. An online campaign facilitated by Kickstarter that raised $250,000 kept him afloat. On March 31, 2014, Macaw hit the market.

“We named it that because a macaw is one of the only species in the world that can speak both bird and human,” Giannattasio says. “It speaks different languages for different species. That fits because developers and designers are often thought to be different species!”

Macaw quickly brought them together. The tool promotes fluid work as designers create on a blank canvas while the necessary codes are written for them.

“It’s got a very unique algorithm to think like a developer behind the scenes so that, as a designer, you can work the way you want, but at the end of the process, you still get the things a developer wants.”

The tool became an instant hit as the likes of Google and Adobe began employing it. InVision took notice and offered a price for Macaw that Giannattasio says made it in the company’s “best financial interest” to sell.

“It was a tough decision. This was our baby,” he said. “But we realized this was one of those opportunities to level up in terms of impact. Instead of impacting the 125,000 users we had, we could impact millions with one move. It’s been an amazing ride so far.”

The ride has allowed Giannattasio to go from 70-hour work weeks to a manageable schedule and enjoy more time at his Bethesda, Maryland, home with his “incredible” wife, Maggie, and “amazing” young daughters Ellie and Lucy.

But he still finds time to design.

“I’ve found that if I’m stuck in the middle of a project and I’m not doing much design, I need to go home and supplement. I’m so passionate about making things. I get very excited about creating things.”

InVision’s current expansion into animation and advanced prototyping tools should fulfill Giannattasio’s creative needs for the next few years, but he expects to one day start a new company. When that time arrives, Giannattasio will surely reflect upon his Penn College background as he has at all the other stops on his impressive journey.

“I’m extremely thankful for Penn College,” he said. “Penn College really helped me find and understand my purpose in life. The college gave me the skills and the confidence to go out and achieve it.”

Just like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. ■
Children who doodle on notebooks and imagine new gizmos and games while doing their schoolwork might grow up to be among tomorrow’s greatest innovators.

Imaginative youths and artistic types of all ages – who can learn to find answers to their creative challenges in academic coursework – will find kinship with students and faculty featured in the first episode of a new TV series produced by Pennsylvania College of Technology and WVIA Public Media.

“Working Class: Dream & Do” premiered on public television in northeastern Pennsylvania and the central Susquehanna valley in January. Since then, WVIA and other public broadcasting stations serving Pennsylvania and neighboring states have added the series to their programming schedules.

“Working Class” encourages viewers to make an impact in the world by pursuing careers that reflect personal talents and interests, while addressing real, 21st-century workforce needs. The series was inspired by the success of the 2015 Telly Award-winning documentary “Working Class: 100 Years of Hands-on Education.”

The new series aims to increase public awareness of modern career fields while stressing the importance of education that combines academics, hands-on experiences and applied technologies. Foundations of mathematics, science, English and the humanities are emphasized throughout the series.

In episode one, viewers learn how designers use mathematics, language and modern technologies, including additive manufacturing (3-D printing), to enhance their work. They also gain appreciation for the diversity of careers related to design, helping to dispel myths suggesting there are few creative jobs in the “real” world.

Well-meaning adults often suggest back-up career plans for young artists, but with education and encouragement, students with creative potential can turn daydreams into career goals. All around the world, successful designers work among publishers and promoters, architects and builders, engineers and manufacturers. They are the dreamers and doers – designers and makers – that create consumer products and inspire innovation and technological advancement.

In addition to broadcasts via public television, episodes of “Working Class” may be viewed online at http://workingclass.tv. The website also offers a producer’s blog, with regular postings relevant to education and workforce issues, and links to educator resources that can be used to plan lessons incorporating career themes into K-12 classes.

Inspiring teachers, parents and the general public to make positive connections between education and the world of work is the goal of the “Working Class” initiative. By encouraging students to connect classroom learning with practical career applications, the series promotes the importance of academics in helping every student gain the skills
required to follow his/her personal interests and dreams.

“Working Class: Dream & Do” features Penn College faculty Thomas E. Ask, professor of industrial design; Rob Cooley, assistant professor of anthropology/environmental science; Brian A. Flynn, assistant professor of graphic design; J.D. Mather, assistant professor of engineering design technology; David A. Probst, assistant professor of engineering design technology; Lauren A. Rhodes, assistant professor of mathematics; Nicholas L. Stephenson, instructor of graphic design; Katherine A. Walker, assistant professor of engineering design technology; and Rob A. Wozniak, associate professor of architectural technology.

Also featured are student designers Zachary G. Bird and Matthew H. Gordon; Joe Schoenly, science educator and camp coordinator at the Da Vinci Science Center; Drew Seeling, teacher at Wellsboro Area High School; Andrea McDonough Varner, teacher at Williamsport Area High School; and Penny G. Lutz, director of The Gallery at Penn College.

Locations filmed for the first episode include Penn College and its Dunham Children’s Learning Center, Wellsboro Area High School, Bucknell University, Da Vinci Science Center, and GE Inspection Technologies.

The “Working Class” TV series producers invite comments – including recommendations for K-12 schools or other educational programs that could be featured on future episodes of the series – via Facebook and Twitter. Online challenges – such as the Purple Art Challenge for viewers of episode one – also offer opportunities for viewer interaction.

**Purple Art Challenge**

**For Penn College Magazine readers**

Penn College Magazine readers (and their students/children) are invited to participate in the Purple Art Challenge, which was inspired by drawings created by children from the Dunham Children's Learning Center, who were filmed for "Working Class: Dream & Do."

To join in the fun, submit a photo of original artwork created by you or your students/children that features the color purple. “Working Class” producers will display selected images on the [http://workingclass.tv](http://workingclass.tv) website.

**STEP 1:** Create an original piece of artwork that incorporates the color purple, or select a piece you have already completed.

**STEP 2:** Take a photo of your creation and post it on Facebook with the hashtag #PurpleArtChallenge, or post it to Twitter and include the handle @WorkingClass_TV and the hashtag #PurpleArtChallenge in your tweet.

**STEP 3:** Don't forget to include your name and the title of your piece in your submission.

**STEP 4:** Tell your friends! Help share as many purple art images as possible on the Working Class TV website.

**COMING SOON:**

**Episode 2**

**Working Class: Build & Grow Green**

[http://workingclass.tv](http://workingclass.tv)

Fabric art by Dorothy J. Gerring is among "Purple Art Challenge" submissions.
On April 8, at the age of 51, Cindy Spinello lost her battle with breast cancer. For the last four years of her life, she worked tirelessly for changes that would help countless women, even though it was too late to gain the benefit herself.

Cindy Spinello spent her career working in health care. The 1984 Williamsport Area Community College graduate worked for nearly 30 years as a dental hygienist, including 10 years as a part-time instructor in Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Dental Hygiene Clinic, and was pursuing a physician assistant degree from the college. The wife and mother was the picture of proactive health care, getting regular mammograms and annual physical exams and performing regular self-breast checks.

Still, it was not until she felt enlarged lymph nodes on her neck that she was diagnosed with breast cancer that had spread to her spine, stomach, ovaries and numerous lymph nodes.

Cancer that has spread, or metastasized, to other organs is known as stage 4. Stage 4 cancer is considered incurable.

The news came three months after normal mammogram results.

“I had dense breast tissue, and no one told me,” Spinello said in a February interview.

Dense breast tissue is normal: It comprises glands, ducts and fibrous connective tissue. When radiologists read a mammogram, they classify a woman’s breast into one of four categories, from mostly fatty to extremely dense. Because both dense tissue and tumors appear white or light gray on a mammogram, the dense tissue can hide cancer.

Spinello was diagnosed in July 2012. She had just completed prerequisite courses and been accepted to the competitive-admission Physician Assistant Program. She was to begin program-specific classes in four weeks. Instead, she underwent surgery to remove her ovaries and began a hormone treatment to subdue her estrogen-fed cancer.

Spinello was shocked. Her husband, Greg, went into action.

“My story can’t change now, but we can change it for other people,” she said.

“Cindy spoke up for other women so that they would not have the same tragic results that she did,” said Dolores Magro, director of patient advocacy for the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition. “She spoke at meetings, rallies and was quoted in our newsletters that reached hundreds of thousands of households.

“Without someone like Cindy selflessly telling her story, the dense breast issue would be an abstract idea. She offered her voice, her face and her story to provide the much-needed personal element that people could relate to. She and another woman became the public faces of women diagnosed with breast cancer at stage 4 because of their breast tissue density.”

The legislation was not without opposition, Spinello said, because ultrasound and MRI can produce “false positives”: They may reveal suspicious lesions that are determined to be benign after biopsy. Along with the financial cost of biopsy, those initial “positives” can cause anxiety.

“I say that it’s better to receive a false positive than a false negative, like I did,” Spinello said.

On Nov. 1, 2013, the Pennsylvania Breast Density Notification Act was signed into law.

“The most important thing about this legislation is to make women aware so they have more choices and can speak with their doctor. … It can save their life,” Spinello said in a Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition video.
Spinello’s advocacy for other women didn’t end with the passage of the legislation. She continued her work with the coalition as a member of the Dense Breast Advisory Committee, surveying mammography facilities to learn how they were complying with the act.

“The feedback we’ve gotten is 100-percent compliance,” she said, adding that she had received notes of thanks from women for whom the legislation had made a difference.

“That makes it worth it,” she said.

Yet, she wanted to do more.

When Spinello was diagnosed and began treatment, her friend Lisa Bernard made hand-stamped thank you cards for Spinello to send to those who had lent a helping hand. Making cards, she decided, was something she could do while she was recovering, so Bernard lent her supplies, and the two made stacks of greeting cards with a plan to sell them to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Calling their venture “Cards of Hope,” Spinello and Bernard placed the cards in a few offices around Lewisburg, where they lived, and sold them in packs of four for $5.

Cards of Hope raised $8,200 for the breast-cancer research of Dr. Craig Meyers at the Penn State College of Medicine. Meyers’ research, published in the August 2014 issue of Cancer Biology & Therapy, determined that a virus not known to cause disease kills triple-negative breast cancer cells and killed tumors grown from these cells in mice.

They kept making cards, raising $4,000 for the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition, and $1,500 for Are You Dense Advocacy Inc.

“It made me really happy to be able to do something like that,” Spinello said.

She also traveled to Washington, D.C., to share her story with lawmakers as she helped Are You Dense to advocate for federal dense breast notification legislation. Are You Dense was founded by Nancy M. Cappello, who, like Spinello, was diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer that was not found on mammograms because of her dense breasts. Cappello was diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer that was not found on mammograms because of her dense breasts. Cappello spearheaded passage of dense breast notification legislation in her home state of Connecticut, which was the first to pass such a law. Spinello became the organization’s Pennsylvania representative.

She had planned to return to the nation’s capital with Are You Dense in Fall 2015, but a recurrence caused her to miss it. This time she had stomach pains, and exploratory surgery found a tumor in her small bowel and mesentery, the lining of the intestines. After three years, her cancer had become resistant to hormone therapy. She recovered from a surgery to resection her bowel and began a pill form of chemotherapy.

Over lunch in February, more than 3.5 years after her initial diagnosis, Spinello said she felt “pretty blessed.” She explained that the life expectancy with stage 4 breast cancer is a year and a half, and 15 to 20 percent of women live five years after they’re diagnosed.
“Every day is a good day,” she said. “Some are just better than others.”

She was busy being a tennis mom to her son Tyler, then a high school senior, and planning to leave in a few days for a cruise with Tyler, Greg and her nephew. If she kept feeling well, she hoped to make a return trip to speak with Washington legislators in the spring or summer.

“I think you get to the point where you don’t think about tomorrow,” she said. “It’s a lifestyle you have to learn, when you don’t fret about tomorrow because that takes away from the quality of today. When you have metastatic cancer, things can change in a day. My son and my husband, but my son, especially, have helped me. When you have a child, it motivates and inspires you to live for each day and enjoy the day you have with them.”

She was also advocating for another research grant, this one by Dr. Elizabeth McDonald of the University of Pennsylvania. McDonald is studying better imaging for breast cancer using positron-emission tomography (PET scans) with a radioactive agent that binds itself to a cell protein (Sigma 2) that is known to be more highly concentrated in malignant tumors than nonmalignant tumors.

Spinello’s role was to ensure that the researchers’ abstracts were understandable for the lay person. Later, if funding were approved, she would represent patients to ensure they were being taken care of. “I am excited to utilize my knowledge and experiences as a stage 4 metastatic breast cancer patient and my breast cancer advocate activities to assist with and support this promising research,” she wrote in a letter of support for the grant.

In late March, Spinello entered the hospital, where she learned that the cancer had spread to the lining of her brain. She did not recover. The grant she had been advocating for was awarded days after she died.

Spinello explained how she turned initial anger at her diagnosis into a drive to help others. “In the beginning, you’re in a fog,” Spinello said. “Focusing on others helped me through that. When you’re focusing on others, you’re not focusing on yourself. That really helped me along the way.”

“Countless women across Pennsylvania will benefit from her determination to ensure that they will not face the same struggle she did,” a tribute to Spinello on the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition website says. “We will never forget Cindy’s strength, courage and hope. She was a good friend, a fierce fighter and a true advocate.”
Spinello shared her story and her face to help the Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition in its quest for legislation that would require mammography centers to notify women if they have dense breasts.

FIND MORE INFORMATION:

Pennsylvania Breast Cancer Coalition
www.pabreastcancer.org

Are You Dense Advocacy Inc.
www.areyoudense.org

Dense Breast Info: An Education Coalition
http://densebreast-info.org

Radiologists classify breasts on a four-level density scale ranging from mostly fatty tissue (top image) to extremely dense (bottom).
During a 10-week cardiovascular training program, Kay E. Dunkleberger meets fitness goals while exercise science student Hailey J. Heistand puts her classroom knowledge into practice.
n the ground level of Bardo Gymnasium, a floor below the Wildcats’ home court, a different kind of victory is taking place, for students and employees alike.

On this level are locker rooms, classrooms and faculty offices, and a suite of rooms that contain the tools to build not just an attractive body, but a better quality of life. In these rooms, first-year exercise science students coach their clients – all Pennsylvania College of Technology employees – to reach their fitness goals.

During a 10-week period under the students’ watchful eyes, the victories come – in incremental changes.

At week four, Brandon S. Peters, of Mount Joy, can already list improvements he’s seen in his client, Carolyn R. Strickland, vice president for enrollment management and associate provost. Strickland’s goal is to run a 10K, and eventually a half-marathon, and to train without taking so many breaks.

“She’s making really good progress,” he says. “Her cardiovascular endurance has gone way up, and I can see her strength has gone up, too.”

Peters and his classmates in a Cardiovascular Programming course develop a training program for their clients and monitor them to ensure they’re using good form and working their hearts at optimal levels. It is the first time in the associate-degree program that they act as a one-on-one trainer.

“For a lot of students, the first time they meet a client in this class is the first time they’ve (ever) met a client, and a lot of them are shaking in their shoes,” says Ron Kodish, assistant professor of exercise science. “They’re not sure if they’re ready. It’s around the second week – third week at the latest – that they become comfortable.”

“I think that 6 mph was too easy for you,” Emylee R. Shultz tells her client, Chris Holley, as he takes on a second round on the treadmill. Holley is an assistant professor of automotive who wants to counteract the weight gain caused by a new medication and to enhance his flexibility.

Shultz, who lives near Hughesville, began her Penn College studies in exercise science, changed majors for a semester, then returned.

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” she says as she monitors Holley’s efforts. Her goal is to teach at the college level. “I chose this major because I love the human body, and it can do amazing things when the work is put in. I hope to someday teach others more in-depth about the importance of physical fitness.”

For Shultz and Holley, today’s session is a circuit that transitions from treadmill work to functional exercises.

The students customize workouts and change them throughout the program based on their clients’ goals and progress, taking notes on their performance throughout each training session.

“You ready? We’re going to go hard for three minutes,” student Hailey J. Heistand, a Wrightsville native, tells her client, Director of Disability Services Kay E. Dunkleberger. >>
“I watch her breathing,” Heistand says as she makes a note on her workout log and Dunkleberger begins her three-minute treadmill run. “I talk to her, because if she’s having trouble talking, that shows she’s working hard. I watch for when her face changes color – turns red. I watch how far forward she is on the treadmill. That shows she’s getting tired, and I don’t want her to face plant. I watch her heart rate, because hers is normally low, so when it gets to 150, it shows she’s really pushing it.”

Clients wear a heart-rate monitor, so students know their heart rates at all times. Measuring and interpreting a variety of data are important, says Kodish, who teaches the course.

Before every meeting, Heistand and other students take their clients’ blood pressure. At the beginning and end of the program, they use the “Cardio Coach,” a VO2 max – or maximal oxygen uptake – calculator. The sophisticated equipment, obtained through a grant proposal written by Kodish, is the envy of bachelor-degree programs and many graduate programs. It measures how well a person’s body is using oxygen while exercising or at rest. The students use the data to determine the heart-rate range their client should maintain during exercise.

It’s among the information the students use while planning future workouts.

“Some people might think that giving a workout to a client is easy, but there is more science behind it,” Shultz says. “For example, there are three energy systems our body uses, and we as trainers need to make sure we are working the client in the appropriate system for their goals.”

Students also use their knowledge of body movement, learned in a course on human movement science. In another course, they’ve learned how the body’s cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and metabolic systems respond to exercise.

“There’s so much knowledge that plays into creating a workout,” Peters says. “It’s very interesting.”

The 10-week cardiovascular program allows students to put that knowledge into practice in a safe environment – safe in that they are working with committed clients who are interested in the students’ success as much as they are in their own fitness results, and safe in that instructors are near to offer advice.

Students are required to meet with their clients three times each week. Much like “real life,” if a client is unable to make it to a scheduled session, it is the student’s responsibility to reschedule.

While they work with their clients, the students are monitored by Kodish and Erin J. McMurray, lab supervisor for exercise science.

“I watch, observe, give them pointers,” McMurray says. “I see how they’re interacting with their clients and draw their attention to things they’ll need to know when they’re working professionally. ... I might say, ‘Did you notice your client was looking really tired at this point in the workout?’”

She and Kodish each evaluate the students in 10 areas.

“I write detailed information for each student,” McMurray says. “It’s unbelievable how they incorporate that information when they come back in the fall.” In the fall – the first semester of their second year – they’ll again be matched with clients, this time with a focus on weight training.

In addition to grades from Kodish and...
The students are evaluated by their clients.

“In the beginning, I see how nervous they are,” Dunkleberger says. “But by the end, they’re confident.”

Dunkleberger, Holley, Strickland, and most of the other clients, come back again and again to work with the students, not just for the results they see in themselves. “I want them to have a good experience the first time they work with a client so that they will feel encouraged,” Strickland says. “I know I get something out of it, but I want them to get something out of it, too.”

It motivates the volunteers to persevere in their training. “When you participate in this program, you will not let the student down (by missing a session),” Dunkleberger says. “You’re committed. If it were me exercising on my own, I might come up with excuses.”

She didn’t. Dunkleberger met her 10-pound weight-loss goal and, along with Holley and Strickland, moved into the top – “superior” – range in their Cardio Coach scores.

In terms that demonstrate knowledge, Peters can rattle off the changes he’s seen in his client: Her endurance is up; she flushes out her lactic acid more quickly; she works out at a high anaerobic threshold for a long period of time. Her face does not get as red during hard workouts. She has more power in her strides. And she’s lost weight, yet gained muscle.

“I love helping people out in reaching their goals,” Peters says. “That’s pretty much what I want to do with my life is help people.”

Their instructor, Kodish, has a similar goal. “It’s such a pleasure to come in and watch the students grow,” he says. ■
Earth Science Center, Room 172

Smack in the middle of the Schneebele Earth Science Center’s main building, students pursuing degrees in on-site power generation add hands-on know-how to their classroom lessons. On the left, first-year students learn to disassemble and reassemble diesel engines, while on the perimeter, fourth-semester students in the Power Generation System Controls course gather data from generators before spending the next month running and troubleshooting the equipment, all of different makes. Students in the on-site power generation major split their time learning about electrical systems on main campus and about engines at the Earth Science Center. They learn to install, service and maintain diesel and gas-powered generator sets. “These are all really good students,” said Ken C. Kuhns, assistant professor of electrical technologies and occupations. “I’d give any of them a reference. They all shine in different areas.”
Troyleon R. Mann, left, a native of Barto, and Garritt R. Aucker, of Winfield, access online service manuals for engine rebuild procedures. Mann takes part in medieval re-enactments, including full-contact battles and duels. One of his favorite events is the Pennsic War, an annual gathering near Slippery Rock. Aucker is restoring a 1972 Chevy truck. “They’re good trucks,” he said. “They’ve got style!”

Like Aucker, David C. Johnson, instructor of diesel equipment technology, at left, is restoring a 1972 Chevy truck. He checks in with student Stephen C. Port. Port grew up on a grain, Christmas tree and pumpkin farm in Waterford. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do until I came for a visit,” he said. “This major looked interesting and new, and I figured it was something my dad doesn’t know a lot about, so it’d be helpful.”

Wildcat third baseman Carlos N. Rodriguez Baez gathers data from a Cummins Model DSGAA 100KW Generator, one of three new diesel generators in the lab. The other two are manufactured by Caterpillar and MTU. “We wanted our on-site power generation students to have the latest technologies,” said Justin W. Beishline, assistant dean of the School of Transportation & Natural Resources Technologies. “This addition enables students to work on the newest engine and generator controller software.” Rodriguez Baez, who is from Puerto Rico, learned about Penn College when he spotted an ad in a power generation magazine.
1970s

Jerome D. Perch, '74, forest technology, is a customer support assistant for Geisinger Wyoming Valley. He resides in Blakeslee.

Karen Bolig, '76, general studies, is a legal secretary for Farella Braun & Martel LLP. She continued her education, receiving a bachelor's degree from California State University, Northridge, in 1989. She resides in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Michael C. Emanuel, '76, technical illustration, is semiretired after working as a CAD designer for Arora and Associates and Danwood Engineering. After graduating from WACC, he began his career as a technical illustrator for AMP Inc., where he was a patent draftsman and senior technical illustrator for 22 years. He works as a driver for a retirement community in Harrisburg, where he resides.

1980s

David Demko, '83, diesel mechanics, is supervisor of garage services for Penn State's University Park campus. Prior to moving back to Pennsylvania, he worked in technical and supervisory positions in industry, including large construction companies, refuse and recycling, and heavy truck dealerships. He resides in Lock Haven.

Greg Tama, '83, automotive technology, is director of maintenance and engineering systems and technology for UPS Inc. He received a bachelor's degree in automotive engineering technology from Indiana State University in 1985 and a graduate certificate in supply chain management from Penn State in 2015. He resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

Daryl R. Hoffman, '84, computer information systems, is principal consultant for Software AG's Government Solutions division in Herndon, Va. Among his duties is web application development and integration. He resides in Millheim.

Ray Rhodes, '84, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is a construction manager for Berkel & Co. Contractors. He resides in Highspire.

Michael R. Tichnell, '89, automotive service technician, is maintenance supervisor for Penske Truck Leasing in Carlisle. He resides in Gardners.

1990s

Steven A. Sochor, '99, welding technology, is a welding instructor at Erie Institute of Technology. In February 2015, he was presented the American Welding Society's District Educator Award for 2013-14. The accomplishment was published in the Welding Journal in April 2015. He resides in Erie.

2000s

Michael Crain, '01, construction management, is a project manager for Reynolds Building Solutions. He resides in Phoenixville.

Alicia Betz, '02, floral design/interior plantscape, is founder of The Welcoming District, a boutique gift-box company that specializes in gifts from the Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia region. She received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Lock Haven University in 2005.

Leann M. (Deitrick) Resides, '00, technology management; '00, environmental technology, is a quality systems coordinator for First Quality Tissue. She resides in Lock Haven.

Robert D. Gifford, '05, business administration: marketing, is a senior business development representative for Deacom. He resides in Harleysville.

Jessica Daluz, university programs specialist for Google, describes “Googlyness” and other attributes of desirable candidates during a recruiting session on campus.

Scores of Interested Applicants Answer On-Campus Google Search

Among dozens of companies visiting Penn College this spring to recruit students and alumni was Google, which attracted a standing-room-only crowd to Penn’s Inn during the company’s first recruitment trip to campus.

Did you know? Career Services provides lifelong support to alumni of Penn College, Williamsport Area Community College and Williamsport Technical Institute. The office is here to assist you throughout your career path, from that first job, to retraining, to graduate school advice, to advancement and new beginnings.

Visit alumni.pct.edu or call 570-327-4502.
Jeremy E. Kreiser, ’05, physical fitness specialist, is the fitness manager for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Harrisburg. In 2012, he received the center’s Merv Woolf Award. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Theresa (D’Andrea) Powell, ’06, graphic communications management, is a revenue research analyst for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue’s Bureau of Criminal Tax Investigations. She resides in Harrisburg.

Deirdre (Bilger) Keys, ’07, business administration: management, is a field support manager for Maxim Healthcare Services. She resides in Harrisburg.

Zachary R. Mazur, ’08, manufacturing engineering technology, was promoted from senior engineer to engineering supervisor at Flowserve Corp. in January 2016. In May 2015, he joined the college’s Automated Manufacturing & Machining Advisory Committee. He resides in Portsmouth, Va.

Patrick J. Rodack, ’08, electric power generation technology, is an electric power generation field technician for Cleveland Brothers Equipment. He resides in Ephrata.

Christopher A. Heiss, ’09, emergency medical services, is a staff charge registered nurse for Geisinger Medical Center’s Adult Intensive Care Shock/ Trauma Unit. His former work as a flight paramedic for University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Adult Intensive Care Shock/Trauma Unit inspired him to continue his education. He earned an associate degree in nursing from Luzerne County Community College in 2013, a bachelor of science in nursing from Western Governors University in 2014, and is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing in nurse anesthesia from Bloomsburg University/Geisinger Health System. He resides in Williamsport.

Lance E. Lepley, ’09, civil engineering technology, is a bridge engineer for PennDOT. He resides in Williamsport.

Christian Calle, ’14, residential construction technology and management: building construction technology, is an assistant construction project manager for M. Melnick & Co. Inc. in the Bronx, N.Y. He resides in Astoria, N.Y.

Shawn Givler, ’14, welding technology, is a welder for Curry Rail Services in Hollidaysburg. He resides in Tyrone.

Cortney N. (Allen) Jespersen, ’14, radiography, received a certificate in radiation therapy from Washburn University in 2015. She is a radiation therapist for Guthrie Corning Hospital in Corning, N.Y. She resides in Mansfield.

Matthew Lowe, ’14, technology management; ’12, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis, is an operations assistant for Tomlinson & Bomberger Lawn Care, Landscape, Pest Control in Lancaster. He resides in Ephrata.

Stephanie M. (Snyder) Suzadall, ’14, nursing, is a registered nurse in the emergency department at Susquehanna Health and is pursuing a master’s degree in forensic nursing from Duquesne University. She resides in Montoursville.

Joshua Bobenrieth, ’15, electronics and computer engineering technology, is a salesperson for Sheetz. He resides in Port Allegany.

Nicholas E. Horan, ’15, legal assistant-paralegal, is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in legal studies from Penn College. He resides in York.

2010s

Nicholas P. Seigenfusse, ’11, information technology: network specialist, received a master’s degree in organizational leadership and development from Saint Joseph’s University in 2015. He works in network architecture and integration for Verizon in Philadelphia. He resides in Lansdale.

Alison Erb, ’13, surgical technology, is a surgical technologist for PinnacleHealth West Shore Hospital. She recently returned from a medical mission trip to India with the nonprofit organization Operation Medical. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Matthew E. Fogtman, ’13, technology management; ’06, diesel technology, is an outside sales representative for The Pete Store (a Peterbilt dealer) in Hagerstown, Md., where he resides.

Ashley M. Stuck, ’13, applied human services, received a Master of Science in social work from University of Louisville in 2015. She is a Family Preservation Program therapist for Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Elizabethtown (Ky.), providing clinical services across eight counties. She resides in Elizabethtown, Ky.

Peter B. Stuut, ’13, business administration: small business and entrepreneurship, is a customer service representative for Jersey Shore State Bank. He resides in Hughesville.

In Memory

Barbara Helen Williams, faculty emeritus, drafting, June 13
PENN COLLEGE
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Students in information technology sciences: gaming and simulation paint the The Rock with a Super Mario Bros.-themed graduation message: “BGS Class of 2016: Next Level.” Nine students graduated from the major in May.