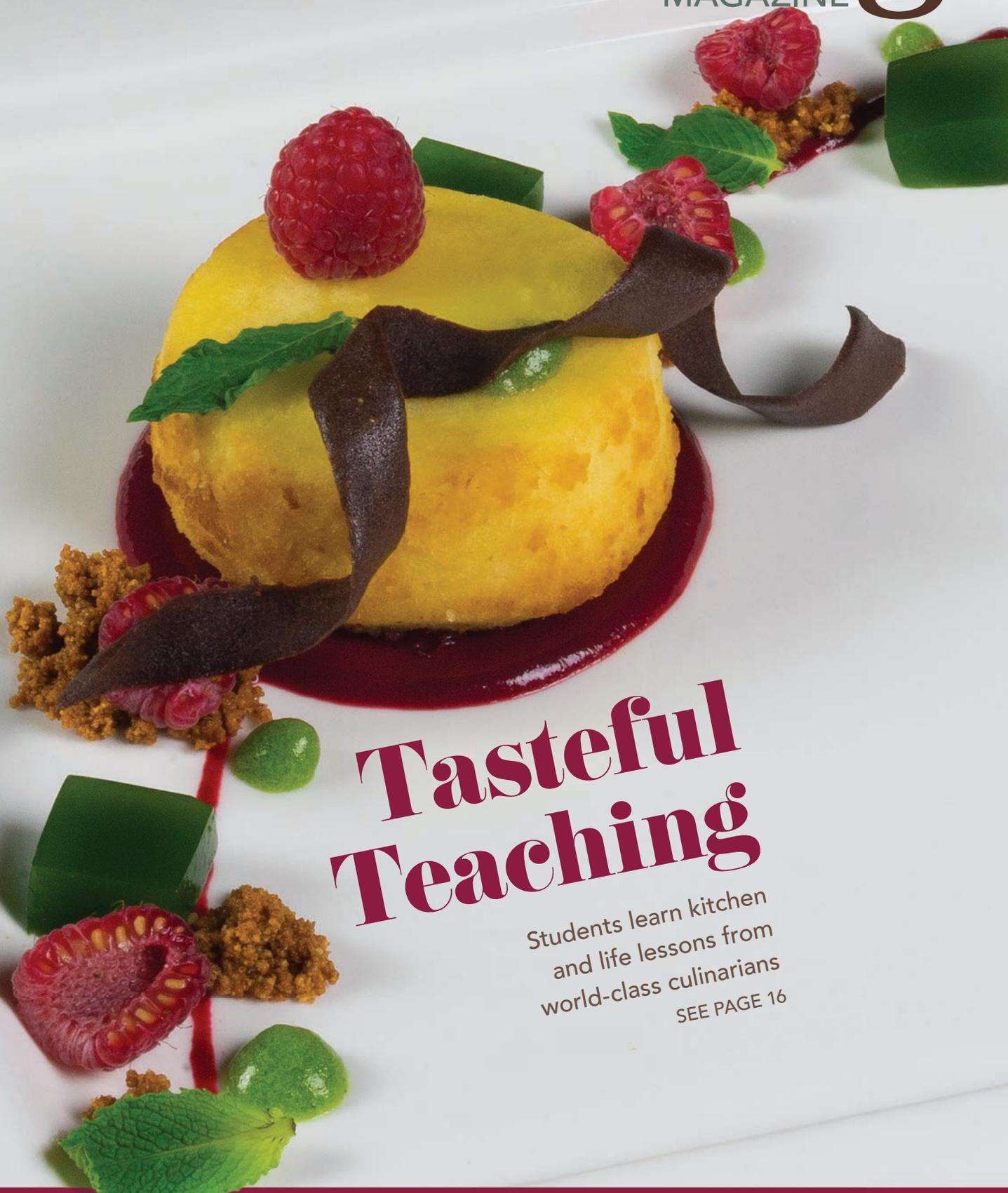


# Penn College

Fall 2017

MAGAZINE



## Tasteful Teaching

Students learn kitchen  
and life lessons from  
world-class culinarians  
SEE PAGE 16

Penn College Magazine, a publication of Pennsylvania College of Technology, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals and achievements of Penn College students, employees and alumni with one another and with the greater community.

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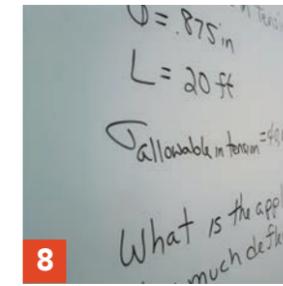
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Graphic design student Lindsey Martin helps to transform a room formerly used to teach CPR courses. The classroom – Room 107 in Bardo Gymnasium – is now equipped for a hybrid Group Cycling and TRX Training class. Martin's mural is faced by cyclists on stationary bikes, so she was directed to design a scene that included a path. "I wanted it to be very vibrant," she said, so her tree-lined trail leads to a bright sunset over purple mountains.



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## Math Matters

If students don't like math or aren't grasping the concept, it's the responsibility of educators to help them understand before they move on, Nolan Bushnell contends.



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Physics faculty member Joseph E. LeBlanc lived in three other nations before making his home at Penn College, where he finds creative ways to make physics meaningful to students.



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The Visiting Chef Series was established to inspire students by working alongside the nation's best chefs. A quarter-century and more than 50 chefs later, renowned culinarians continue to bring the vision to life.



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A group of 25 engineers from China, all military officers, became part of the city's fabric when they studied aviation at Williamsport Technical Institute and Aviation Corp. in 1945.

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## degrees that work.

### ON THE COVER

At the college's Spring Food Show, R. Colby Janowitz, a culinary arts and systems student from Westminster, Md., received first place for his white chocolate cake with raspberry sauce, chocolate tuile, mint gelee, fresh raspberries, mint leaves and brown butter solids. Janowitz, a May graduate who helped with Visiting Chef dinners throughout his four-year Penn College experience, accepted a position with Canlis, a fine-dining restaurant in Seattle.

### GO PAPERLESS

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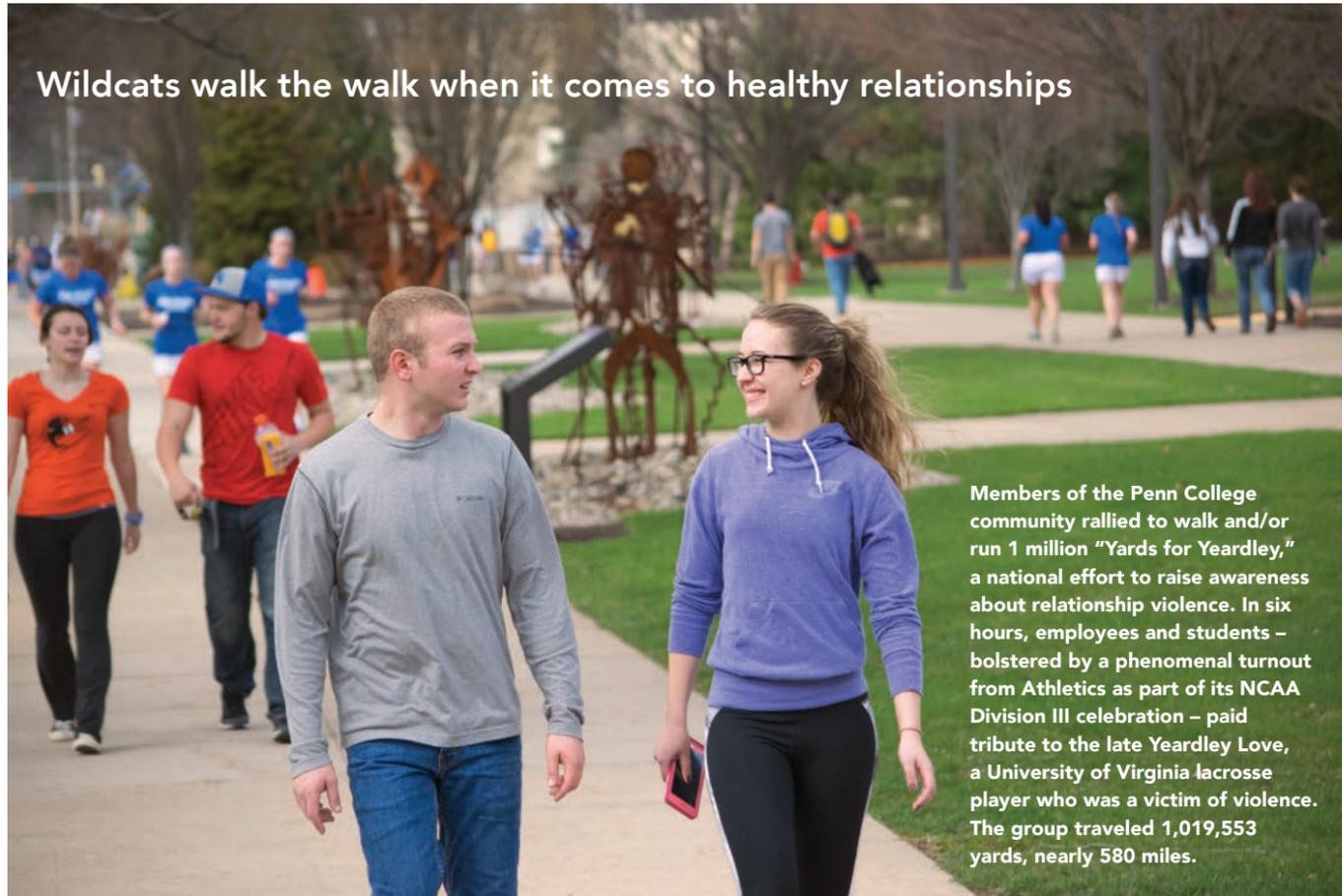
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### Wildcats walk the walk when it comes to healthy relationships

Members of the Penn College community rallied to walk and/or run 1 million "Yards for Yeardeley," a national effort to raise awareness about relationship violence. In six hours, employees and students – bolstered by a phenomenal turnout from Athletics as part of its NCAA Division III celebration – paid tribute to the late Yeardeley Love, a University of Virginia lacrosse player who was a victim of violence. The group traveled 1,019,553 yards, nearly 580 miles.

### Students' short-term business benefits scholarship funds

Students took course learning in the Business Planning and Operations class far beyond the textbook, forming a retail operation that raised nearly \$1,800 for a student scholarship fund.

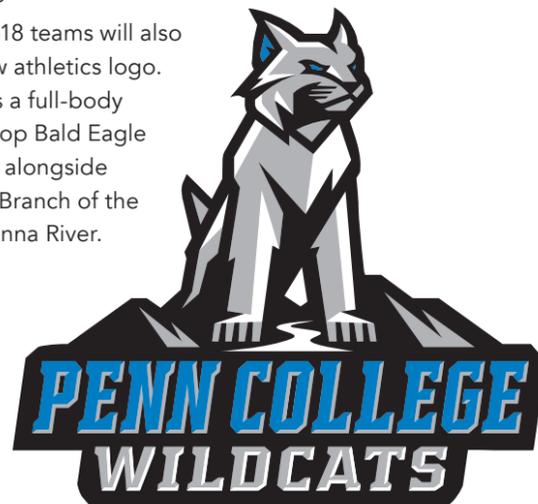
Coining their company Comfy & Sweet, the students sold blankets and handmade candy at two on-campus locations. To help entice their target audience, the blankets were adorned with the college's Wildcat logo, and the candy featured paw prints. The students exceeded their expectations, quickly selling their initial stock of blankets and running out of a second order before their two-week sales period expired.

Funds were donated to the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded each fall to a student who is pursuing a minor in small business management and entrepreneurship and has taken the Small Business Management class.

### Full NCAA membership granted

The Wildcats will compete as full members of NCAA Division III, having successfully completed the provisional process. As a full member, the college is eligible to compete for national championships and has voting rights on NCAA legislation.

The 2017-18 teams will also don a new athletics logo. It features a full-body wildcat atop Bald Eagle Mountain alongside the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.



### Student manufactures emblems for River Walk

Joel E. Bergerstock, of Liverpool, produced aluminum emblems depicting the logo of The Bicycle Center for the South Williamsport business' Susquehanna River Walk initiative. The emblems were placed on each of the three repair stations that The Bicycle Center installed on the paved walkway and bike trail, which loops atop the levee system in Williamsport, South Williamsport and Loyalsock Township.

The manufacturing engineering technology student employed electrical discharge machining, a process that utilizes fine wire to cut material via electric charge, to make the 6-inch-by-8-inch emblems.

"I like a challenge," Bergerstock said. "I love it when people ask me to build something and I'm able to do it. This was a difficult job. There were a lot of small, intricate details in the logo."

Working off a sketch, Bergerstock used geometry to calculate tool pathways for the cutting process. He then devoted more than 10 hours of machine time to manufacture the emblems, which required 11 separate cuts.



Penn College manufacturing engineering technology student Joel E. Bergerstock displays one of three emblems he made for The Bicycle Center's Susquehanna River Walk initiative. Bergerstock is standing in front of the electrical discharge machine he used to cut aluminum to form the emblems.

### Construction Association, visiting scouts build rapport

The Penn College Construction Association mentored Pack 24 from Muncy, helping the Cub Scouts assemble birdhouses and toolboxes in the hands-on environment of the School of Construction & Design Technologies. With guidance from Cubmaster Stephen D. Puzio, and Barney A. Kahn IV and Levon A. Whitmyer, instructors of building construction technology, the students worked with the Cubs to safely craft their handmade souvenirs.



Building construction technology major Michael J. Deragon, of Fort Washington, helps Joey Boler Santoyo with a keepsake toolbox. The boy is the grandson of Stanley G. Boler, who retired in 2012 from the electronics and computer engineering technology faculty; his mother, Amanda, is a 1998 graduate in legal assistant-paralegal.

### Greek Life collects baseball equipment for Cuba

Members of Greek Life teamed up with a math professor to solicit donations of used baseball equipment for young baseball players in Cuba.

The outreach was inspired by a chance encounter on the grounds of Ernest Hemingway's home in a suburb of Havana. There, Curt Vander Vere, assistant professor of mathematics, and three Penn College students saw a team of young baseball players and their coach engaged in a game, making do with a few pieces of old equipment.

"Not only did they invite us to join them in their practice, they shared their gloves and other equipment, and taught us the fundamentals of the game," Vander Vere said.

Vander Vere and the students were in Cuba as part of a Chautauqua course sponsored by the National Science Foundation and coordinated by Ancient Explorations, a branch of the Maya Exploration Center.

The equipment will be delivered to the team's coach on an upcoming trip by the Maya Expedition Center.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURT VANDER VERE

**Curt Vander Vere swings at a pitch from construction management student Anthony V. Rode while playing baseball with Cuban youngsters near Ernest Hemingway's house in suburban Havana.**

### Dance team performs annual production

Wildcat Dance Team members hosted their spring "Take the Stage" fundraising production, showcasing jazz, lyrical, hip-hop, street funk, modern, Broadway jazz, character, cheer, commercial jazz, baton and contemporary dance styles.



**Kaitlyn E. Miller (foreground), of Montgomery, an applied health studies: radiography concentration student, takes the stage with the Wildcat Dance Team.**

### College adds metal fabrication technology degree

An associate degree in metal fabrication technology joins the college's academic portfolio for Fall 2017, furnishing students with well-rounded skills in welding, machining and sheet metal fabrication.

"There is a huge deficit of young people working in welding and machining," said David R. Cotner, dean of industrial, computing and engineering technologies. "In the past couple months alone, I've had at least a half dozen companies contact me looking for students who have such a skill set."

Opportunities exist in custom metal fabrication, specialty parts fabrication, all forms of industrial manufacturing, and classic-vehicle maintenance and repair.

The first year of the program will focus on machining, and the second will be devoted to welding. With an additional year of study, students may obtain a second associate degree in welding technology or machine tool technology.



**During the School of Health Sciences' annual Interdisciplinary Professional Event, nursing student John Fox and paramedic student Ryan Funk discuss the case of a gall bladder patient, played by physician assistant student Sabrina Boring (sitting in bed). About 250 students from the school's 11 distinct health care and allied-health fields participated in a two-day series of hands-on emergency health simulations that allowed them to discuss and observe one another's roles as "patients" moved through the health care system.**



**Kirk M. Cantor (left), professor of plastics technology, dresses for a photo with Yahya S. Rumaili, one of his students.**

### Saudi students hold informative expo

Saudi Arabian students at Pennsylvania College of Technology organized a crosscultural presentation to familiarize the campus community with their homeland. "Being at Penn College, where students get the most support, gave us a chance to share and discuss our pride freely," said Abdulaziz S. Alomani, a plastics and polymer engineering technology major, who was among those involved in planning the Saudi Expo. "The event came about to serve as a cultural bridge between the United States and Saudi Arabia and to allow us to share with our American friends what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is all about."

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**SPORTS REPLAY**



Tanner Leid

**Wrestling**

Four Penn College wrestlers competed in the National Collegiate Open Championships, where heavyweight **Dylan Otis**, of Towanda, had the best showing for the Wildcats with a 5-1 win in the consolation quarterfinals. Also competing were **Ben Doll**, of Glen Rock; **Joe Swank**, of Friedens; and **Tanner Leid**, of New Holland.

Penn College went 1-15 in 2016-17, highlighted by a 24-21 win against Southern Virginia.



Jane Herman

**Women's Basketball**

Senior **Alicia Ross**, of Williamsport, was the top scorer for the Lady Wildcats with 410 points (17.1 per game), and she concluded her career with a school women's-record 1,515. Sophomore **Jane Herman**, of Greencastle, was second in scoring with 274 points (11.9 average), and junior **Gwendolyn Lavelle**, of Pocono Summit, contributed 230 (9.6). Ross also was the leading rebounder with 170 (7.1 average), and Herman was second in rebounds with 146 (6.3).

Ross was named to the North Eastern Athletic Conference Third Team, making her the first player in program history to earn consecutive All-NEAC honors.

Penn College finished 3-22 and 3-17 in the conference.



Marquis Delgado

**Men's Basketball**

Freshman **Ben Sosa**, of Loyalsock Township, topped the team in scoring with 378 points, 15.1 per game; senior **Erik Eichinger**, of Villanova, scored 335 points (13.4 average). Senior **Thomas Ross**, of Williamsport, scored 250 (10.4) and closed out his career with 1,044 points. Ross also topped the team with 179 rebounds (7.5 average), while freshman **Jesse White**, of Harrisburg, had 173 rebounds (7.2) and Sosa 141 (5.6).

The Wildcats compiled a 9-16 record, their most wins in a season since 2010-11. In the NEAC, they ended with a 7-13 mark and ninth-place showing after being picked in a coaches' preseason poll to finish 12th.

– Matt Blymier, assistant director of athletics/sports information director



Alicia and Thomas Ross

**Sibling Success**

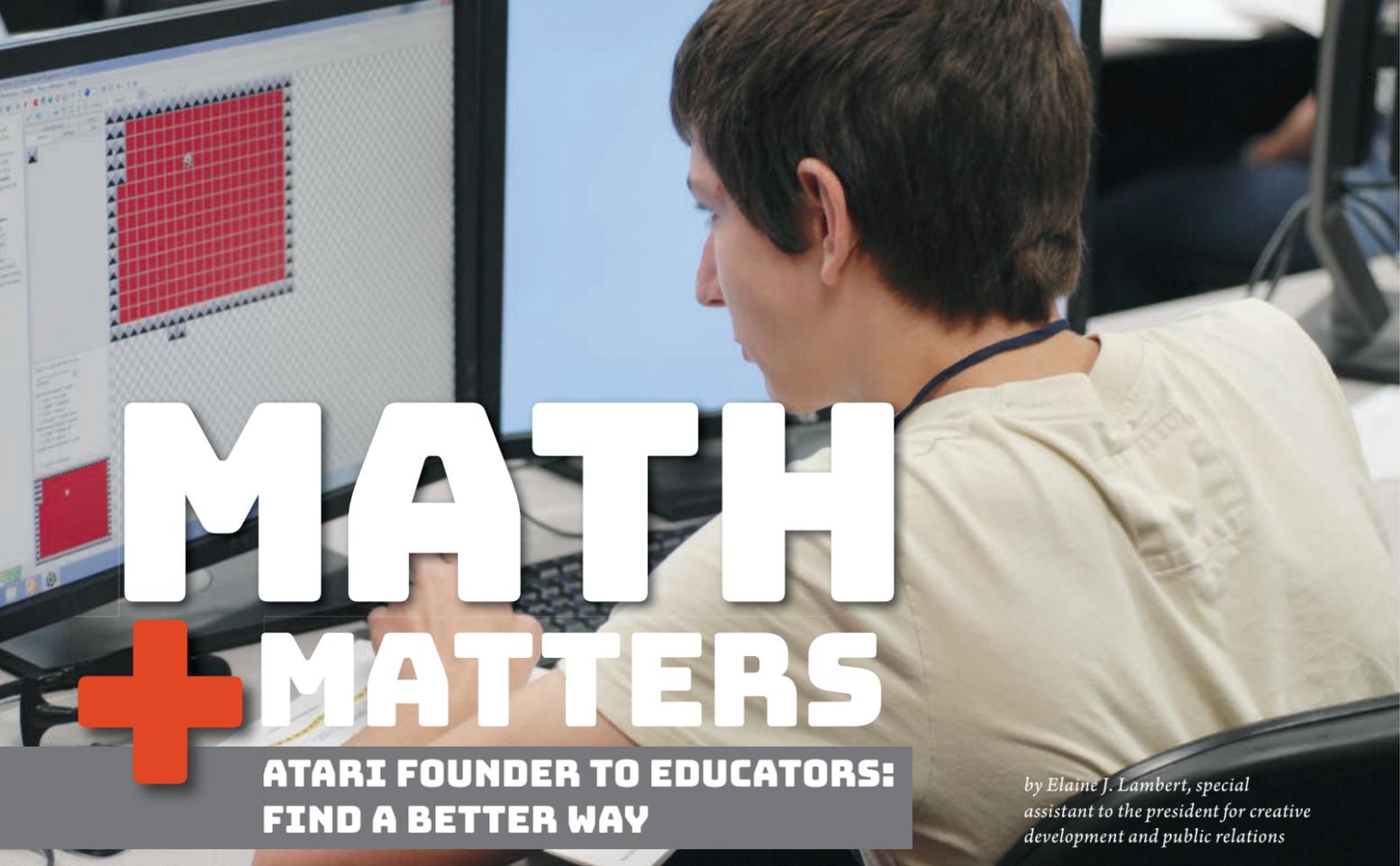
Williamsport natives **Alicia** and **Thomas Ross** cemented their legacies in their respective programs in 2016-17. Alicia finished her career as the all-time leading scorer in women's basketball history, and her brother Thomas became the seventh men's basketball player to reach 1,000 career points.

# save the date



Aug. 5	<b>Commencement</b>
Aug. 11-Oct. 11	<b>Gallery: The National Poster Retrospecticus</b> / Reception: Sept. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. with lecture in SASC 1056 at 5:30 p.m.
Aug. 12-13	<b>Welcome Weekend</b> / Alumni, call 1-877-PCT-ALUM to help welcome students to campus.
Aug. 14	<b>Fall classes begin</b>
Aug. 16	<b>Williamsport's Grand Slam Parade</b> / Welcoming Little League Baseball World Series teams
Aug. 21	<b>Fall on-campus recruiting begins</b> / Employers, call 570-327-4502 to schedule.
Aug. 23	<b>Penn College Night: Williamsport Crosscutters</b> / Historic Bowman Field, 7:05 p.m.
Aug. 29	<b>Part-Time Job Fair</b>
Sept. 26	<b>My Last Words</b> / Faculty lecture, Klump Academic Center Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Oct. 6-8	<b>Homecoming and Parent &amp; Family Weekend</b>
Oct. 17	<b>Career Fair</b> / For Penn College alumni and students / Employer registration opens Aug. 1.
Oct. 24	<b>Technology &amp; Society Colloquia Series</b> / Thomas Ask, Dr. John Boll and Dr. Alex Nesbitt: "Medical care on the edge: Redesigning care across cultures" / Klump Academic Center Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Oct. 27-Dec. 7	<b>Gallery: Melanie Johnson</b> / "The Spaces Between" / Reception: Nov. 16, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Oct. 29	<b>Open House</b> / Alumni, call 1-877-PCT-ALUM to help.
Oct. 31	<b>Out of the Darkness Walk</b> / "Walk to Fight Suicide," 5 p.m.
Nov. 29	<b>Holiday Card Lighting Ceremony</b> / 5 p.m.
Dec. 3	<b>"The Nutcracker" pre-show tea</b> / Community Arts Center / Alumni, call 1-877-PCT-ALUM for details.
Dec. 8	<b>Polar Express</b> / on Lycoming Valley Railroad / Alumni, call 1-877-PCT-ALUM for details.
Dec. 16	<b>Commencement</b>
Jan. 8	<b>Spring classes begin</b>
Jan. 22	<b>Spring on-campus recruiting begins</b> / Employers, call 570-327-4502 to schedule.
March 19	<b>Career Fair</b> / For Penn College students and alumni / Employer registration opens Jan. 22.
March 24	<b>Open House</b>
April 10	<b>Technology &amp; Society Colloquia Series</b> / Rebecca Strzelec: "Art + Engineering = Creative Problem Solving" / Klump Academic Center Auditorium, 7 p.m.
May 11-12	<b>Commencement</b>
June	<b>Penn College Summer Camps</b> / Explore "degrees that work" and earn scholarships. / <a href="http://www.pct.edu/summercamps">www.pct.edu/summercamps</a>

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# MATH + MATTERS

**ATARI FOUNDER TO EDUCATORS:  
FIND A BETTER WAY**

*by Elaine J. Lambert, special  
assistant to the president for creative  
development and public relations*

**W**hat do you do when you discover the founder of Atari is following you on social media?

First, you double-check to be sure. Is it really the same Nolan Bushnell who launched the home video game industry? Who first hired Steve Jobs? Who created the Chuck E. Cheese pizza arcade chain? Yes, it is.

So, you make contact. Request an interview. Wait. Don't expect anything to come of it.

Fortunately, for Pennsylvania College of Technology's Telly Award-winning television series, something did. The legendary entrepreneur – who began following “Working Class” on Twitter in 2016 – agreed to an interview now featured in “Working Class: Game On! Math Matters.” The one-hour documentary focuses on the importance of math education.

Bushnell – the man who brought video games into homes in the 1970s – now reimagines education as CEO of

BrainRush, a company that incorporates video game technology in educational software.

“If the student doesn't want to come to school or is bored in school, it's our fault,” he insisted. “We have to change what we're doing. We have to open up our eyes and say, ‘There's got to be a better way.’ We need to find that way.”

The way, he said, is to focus on each student's mastery of the subject matter as opposed to the traditional one-size-fits-all, advance-with-the-class approach to teaching.

“I think we need to get rid of grades, and we need to get rid of grades,” Bushnell declared. “When you say that Johnny's in the third grade, it automatically infers batch processing. ... I think that everybody should progress at their own special level. ... I think that we need to get rid of A, B, C, D, and impart, ‘You have to know 100 percent of it.’ This is particularly important in mathematics, because mathematics is very building-block sensitive. In the underlying concepts, you

have to have total mastery before you can progress to the second level.”

Penn College faculty member Jacob R. Miller agreed: “If you structure the teaching and learning environment as a game ... where there are clearly defined goals, and there are clearly defined objectives, and there's a clearly defined process for leveling up – ‘I master this, I move to the next level; I master this, I move to the next level’ – the kids seem to respond to that very well.”

A popular hobby of the 1950s was Bushnell's motivation for accelerating his math studies when he was only 10. “I taught myself just enough algebra and just enough calculus so that I could pass the ham radio test. ... I am by no means a math genius, but it was a situation where it was something I wanted to do.”

He said the same thing is happening with youngsters today who want to design their own video games and find that math helps them achieve that goal.

Video games can encourage academic study and career preparation, said Spyke

M. Krepschaw, a faculty member who works with students entering Penn College's gaming and simulation major.

He urges parents – who “hear the word ‘gaming’ and they're like, ‘OK, they're going to be playing ‘Call of Duty’ for the next four years,’” – to understand that, while gaming attracts student interest, simulation prepares them for practical careers.

“The students themselves are enjoying what they're learning a little better because they're learning to create a game or a simulation, in their mind, a game,” he said. “Really, what they're learning is computer programming.”

Math is a must for programming and other information technology careers, said student Jason Horton.

“A big portion of IT is limited if you don't really care that much about math. ... You need to write mathematical statements a lot of the time to just make the code work right to do what it needs to do.”

Math also is a key to success in electronics and computer engineering, said faculty member Edward J. Almasy: “Everything that we do in electronics – ranging from power distribution to radio communication, to launching satellites, to high-tech photography equipment and image processing and communications networks – all comes down to some very basic principles, very simple math.”

A “convergence of amazing technology” is creating new job opportunities that require a foundation of math skills, said Almasy, associate professor of electronics.

“You have computing technology; you have manufacturing technology, 3-D printing capabilities. You have amazing advances in the biomedical field and embedded sensors in the human body,” he explained. “We have a real eclectic mix of things that our graduates do. We have quite a number of them who are involved in automation fields. Factories and buildings and complex systems are controlled by devices that control when things turn on and off and move here and there. ... A lot of our students are very, very skilled at these semi-robotic systems. They



**“IF THE  
STUDENT  
DOESN'T  
WANT TO COME  
TO SCHOOL OR  
IS BORED IN  
SCHOOL,  
IT'S OUR FAULT.”**

“Most students who are struggling with math see letters and numbers; they don't see what they represent. A teacher can make math more interesting,” he said. “I think you have to capture their attention with the problem first, and then you can go backwards and teach the skills.”

Rhodes said we must look at math literacy in a similar context as reading literacy – stressing the importance of everyone learning the subject matter, even when mastery may be difficult.

“We have learned how people learn to read. We have overcome so many learning disabilities in getting everybody to read. In fact, a teacher would probably be fired if that teacher said to a student, ‘That's OK. You're probably just not a reader.’ ... Yet, I have heard parents, teachers, other students, people talk about themselves saying, ‘Oh, that's OK, you're just not a math person. Some people just aren't. You'll probably never be able to do mathematics.’ I want to scream, ‘No. No!’ It may be harder in some ways to learn some pieces of mathematics for some people, but we need to find a way for math literacy.”

“Working Class: Game On! Math Matters” addresses a question frequently asked in math classes – “When will I ever use this?” – by describing real-world connections between mathematics and technology-based careers. Produced by Penn College and WVIA Public Media, the series is broadcast on public television and presented online at <http://workingclass.TV>. ■

have to know programming. They have to know how to interface equipment to one another. They have to interface computers to these systems. They have to write programs that drive all this sort of stuff. There's quite a lot of opportunity there.”

Math faculty members Ed G. Owens and Lauren A. Rhodes encourage students to learn mathematics so they can pursue technology-based careers.

“Math is being used in art. It's being used in music today with all the electronic digital instruments that we have. It's used in television broadcasting. None of that's possible without understanding all of the mathematics behind that,” Owens said. “Math is tied to the science and the technology. ... When you look at our world, and how much we've expanded in transportation, in health care, in industry, ... the robots that we have running many of our manufacturing plants, and how they're controlled by routines today, you don't really need a person so much to do the actual physical part of constructing something; you need someone who knows how to control the machine.”

Owens sees this as an opportunity and a challenge for students and for math teachers.



## SUPERHERO ADVENTURES

Mike Cherry decided there was a need for a math superhero, so he created one.

When Penn College math teacher Ed G. Owens shared “The Addventures of Plusman” with the producers of “Working Class: Game On! Math Matters,” they went in search of the comic’s creator. They found him at Mohonk Preserve in New York, coaching the Shawanpunks, a team of young rock climbers named for Shawangunk ridge, one of the nation’s premier climbing areas.

“The essence of delving into a mathematical concept and the complexity of movement required to complete a rock climb are essentially parallel creative processes,” said the experienced climber, coach and comic book creator.

“Math and climbing are similar in that they’re both hard,” he stressed. “If you approach them with joy and you’re interested in them, hard is irrelevant; it’s something you want to do.”

Overcoming fear is crucial for success in climbing to the top of a mountain or solving a difficult math problem.

“It’s difficult to teach kids that it’s OK to fail,” Cherry said. “I think with math, sometimes students go in with the idea that ‘I’m going to fail’ or, ‘I don’t want to look stupid.’ They have to realize that math is hard. ... It’s just like a progression in climbing.”

Atari founder Nolan Bushnell echoed Cherry’s comments in describing the connection between fun and learning: “When I play chess, I expect to be beaten on occasion, and when I fail, ... I set the pieces up and do it again. That’s the mindset we want. ... We’re seeking adventure.”

The prospect of a new adventure can encourage us to grow beyond our fears and limitations.

“Failure is actually a byproduct of doing,” Bushnell said. “The old story is if you want to make it down the hill skiing without falling, just go slow. That person made it down the hill; they made it down without failing, but it wasn’t very fun. It was kind of boring. What you want to be able to do is have people do a lot of things that challenge them.”

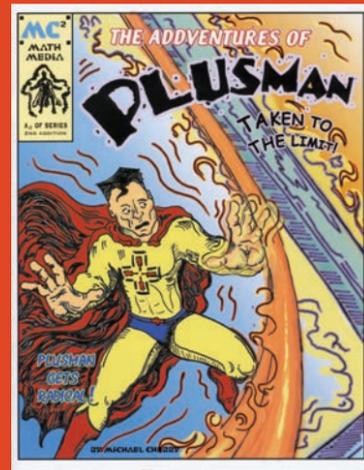
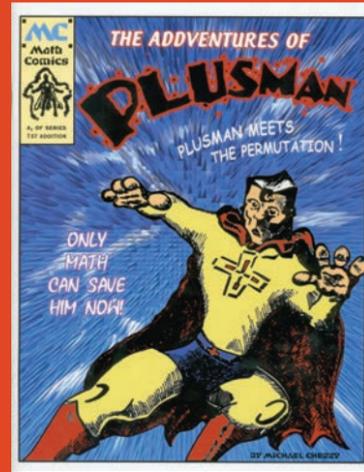
Cherry agrees that fun often leads to learning, even when the subject is mathematics.

“When I was coming up with the idea of Plusman, ... I knew I wanted to make it humorous and I wanted to make it easily accessible to students so that they would read it and laugh,” he said. “The idea of incorporating puns into it and taking the language of math and puns and just creating a humorous, sort of campy, math superhero comic book. That was the idea behind it.”

With characters that include the hero Adam Togedder, a three-legged dog named Tripod, and the evil Dr. Nein, “The Addventures of Plusman” encourages a lighter approach to the serious subject of math.

“I think my comic books make math accessible,” Cherry said. “You can’t look at Plusman and be terribly intimidated. He’s not an intimidating character. ... A lot of students like the concept. ... They can begin to look at math and see it in a different light, where it’s actually fun.”

– Elaine J. Lambert



## Well-Rounded Campus involvement reflects appreciation for life

Williams, who says she was given “a second chance at life,” strives to make the most of her student experience.

by Matt Blymier, assistant director of athletics/sports information director

Visit with Hanna Williams on any Monday and you will witness two concurrent states of being.

Williams will no doubt be physically recovering, while at the same time mentally preparing.

Chances are, the Pennsylvania College of Technology junior is coming off a full weekend of back-to-back soccer games or tennis matches while she gets ready to tackle the upcoming week, which includes practice, several club and organization meetings, and classes, where she maintains a 3.9 GPA.

Williams, an industrial design major, has played soccer at Penn College for three years and tennis for two seasons. She is the vice president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Alpha Chi Honor Society, and is a member of the Penn College Construction Association and the Society of Inventors and Mad Scientists. She juggles these commitments while earning Dean’s List honors in every semester.

She is the epitome of an NCAA Division III student-athlete.

The NCAA’s ideal Division III student-athlete experiences “rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and the opportunity to pursue the multitude of other co-curricular and

extra-curricular opportunities offered on Division III campuses.”

“Hanna makes so many personal sacrifices in order to be involved in so many extracurricular programs, all while being virtually a 4.0 student and two-sport college athlete,” said head women’s soccer coach John McNichol Jr. “Hanna exemplifies the mission of Division III athletics; her dedication to her academic and athletic success is incredible, and she is a fantastic role model to all of her teammates. Hanna’s energy and time-management skills are second to none and allow her the ability to be such a well-rounded student-athlete.”

Williams’ work ethic and drive were ingrained while growing up on her family’s 800-acre produce farm in Marion, New York, and it was reinforced when she survived a near-fatal car accident when she was 15 years old.

Williams spent her childhood helping her father around their sprawling farm with duties that included, among other mundane tasks, applying soap to acres of apple trees to keep deer away and hitching tractors to wagons.

“I grew up having to work. Nothing was given to me,” Williams fondly recalled. “I had to prove myself.”



It was a horrific accident, however, that made Williams the person she is today.

During her 10th-grade year, Williams was a passenger in a serious accident, which led to her being airlifted for an eight-hour surgery. That was followed by nine months of bed rest and rehab, during which Williams attended classes via Skype through a laptop her friend carried around school.

“I was given a second chance at life,” Williams said. “It changed my whole perspective on life.

“I want to be a well-rounded person. I wish I could be

an expert in everything, but I know that’s not possible. So I think becoming knowledgeable and experiencing many things is the closest to that.”

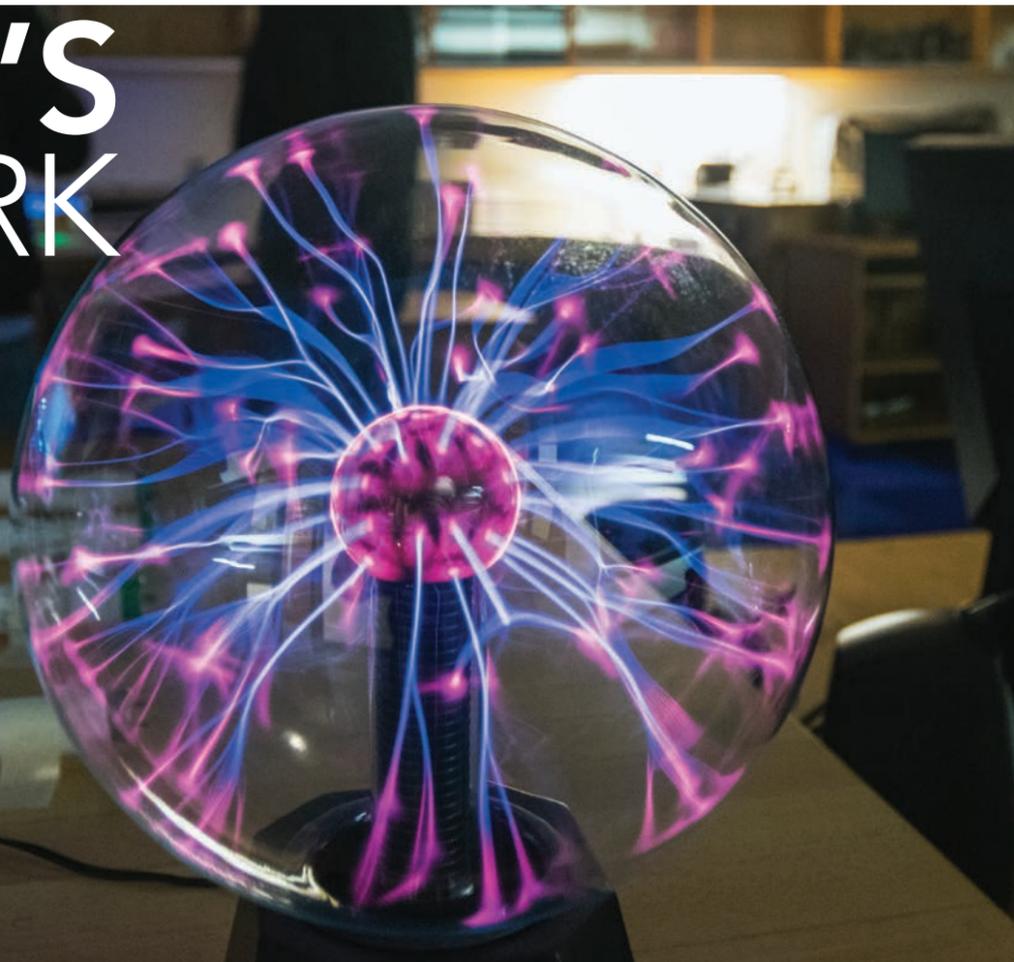
Her intelligence, passion, drive and work ethic have not gone unnoticed at Penn College. In January, Williams was selected to represent the North Eastern Athletic Conference at the NCAA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, which followed a week with classmates in Orlando, Florida, at the Residential Construction Management Competition.

Following that trip, Williams recovered and prepared for the second semester of her junior year.

Just as she always has. ■

# LIFE'S WORK

Professor's physics manual brings real-world understanding to subject



by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor

Joseph E. LeBlanc was living in Japan when he was invited to interview for the position of physics faculty member at Pennsylvania College of Technology. After the official meeting on campus, his interviewers took him to the Bullfrog Brewery in downtown Williamsport. (It also happened to be his birthday.)

Over beer, David Richards, professor of physics, asked, curiously, "So, if we offer you this position, you'd be willing to move here from Japan?"

Two months and multiple airline miles later, the aerospace engineer landed in his office in the Breuder Advanced Technology and Health Sciences Center, then the home of the physics department.

That was the summer of 2000. This spring, LeBlanc completed his 17th academic year at Penn College.

For a man who has spent his life globetrotting, he's found contentment and a home in northcentral Pennsylvania.

At Penn College, he's discovered an enriching academic life – and recently published a physics laboratory manual that was 10 years in the making.

Uninspired by available textbooks and boring lab manuals, LeBlanc began using his own teaching techniques to present a more modern, applied technology approach and motivate his students with topics closely related to their lives and academic demands.

"For many years, I followed the 'standard sequence' of topics in a physics textbook, but eventually realized that it was neither essential nor valuable for the needs of my students of technologies and trades – who desired to *conceptually* understand the fundamental phenomena in some of the technologies and devices

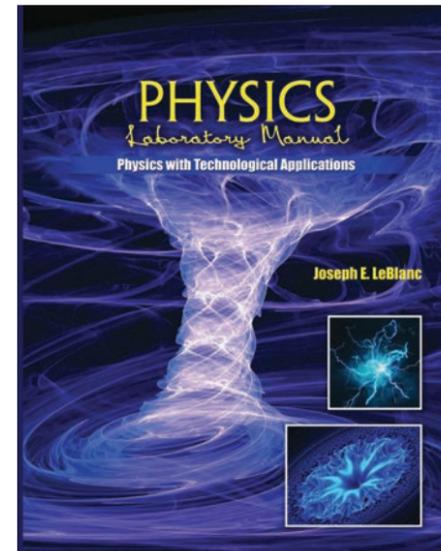
they interacted with," he explained.

His techniques grew into a collection of physics lab exercises that was scouted for publication by Kendall Hunt Publishing Co. Titled "Physics Laboratory Manual: Physics with Technological Applications," LeBlanc's work offers a unique and creative twist on the standard physics course.

"Students love it," LeBlanc said. "This way of teaching brings physics to life in so many ways."

From radiography students learning about center of mass and stability as they relate to positioning patients for X-rays, to aviation students understanding the physics of flight and drag force, LeBlanc is engaging his students' minds with practical applications they'll encounter in their work, as well as in their personal lives.

He's also sparked interest in the topic of heat transfer as it relates to grilling and the heat management required while cooking.



Physics Laboratory Manual: Physics with Technological Applications, by Joseph E. LeBlanc, assistant professor of physics



During a 2004 study abroad trip, LeBlanc (in white shirt) joins students at a cultural site in Japan. LeBlanc led six study abroad courses in Japan, where students visited Tsuyama National College of Technology.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH E. LEBLANC

**"I've found that they are curious about these phenomena, and if presented in a proper way, it will excite the imagination and understanding."**

"I have students who never thought about grilling in terms of the physics involved, but now they do," LeBlanc said.

"I've found that they are usually curious about these phenomena, and if presented in a proper way, it will excite the imagination and understanding. By creating a stronger experience, the likelihood of transferring these ideas to long-term memory and understanding is increased. That's more important than learning to solve clever numerical problems with no sense of relevance to life or career."

LeBlanc's life and career have been a study in motion.

Born in Canada to an Italian mother and a French-Canadian father, he grew up in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

His parents and older siblings had fled the Dominican Republic for Canada

during the oppressive dictatorship of President Rafael Trujillo. After Trujillo's assassination in 1961, the family returned to the Dominican Republic and later relocated to Puerto Rico, where LeBlanc resided until his mid-20s. (He became a U.S. citizen during high school.)

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from the University of Puerto Rico, he moved to California to work as a physicist on a team of aerospace engineers at Hughes Aircraft Co.'s Missile Systems Group at Canoga Park. While working, he attained a Master of Science in physics from California State University, Northridge.

During his six years in California, he married a Japanese woman and planned to establish a family.

"The aerospace industry took a dive at the end of the Cold War," he said. "After a layoff and a tough year without

work, and having a love of Japanese culture, I relocated to Japan to start a new adventure."

He studied for his doctorate in aerospace engineering from Nagoya University. To earn a living, he also taught conversational English to engineers at such companies as Toyota and to librarians and secretaries at the university.

"After eight years in Japan, I made the difficult decision that I had to return to the United States and began looking for work in the Northeast U.S.," he said.

To market himself, he participated in online physics discussion forums and created a website to share his projects and writing.

"I was writing regularly what are now called blogs, but the word didn't exist then," he said. "I guess you could say I was blogging before it became a thing."

He knew he wanted to be a college >>>

educator due to the immense satisfaction he experienced while student teaching at the University of Puerto Rico.

“It was a very creative time, and I felt most alive in front of a classroom,” LeBlanc said.

His first interview for the Penn College physics position was conducted via phone.

“The time for the interview was midnight in Japan, so I stayed awake, anticipating, thinking and thinking about what I would say,” LeBlanc said.

Heading to Pennsylvania for his second interview, LeBlanc recalled what he’d been told about the Northeast: “As soon as you move out of the cities, you’re surrounded by nature.”

He found that to be true as he drove from Philadelphia to Williamsport, blasting “American rock ‘n’ roll” on his radio.

“Although I’d been away, I never lost contact with American culture,” he said.

At Penn College and in the community, the professor has found engaging cultural outlets.

His fluency in Spanish and conversational Japanese has been put to good use in a variety of ways. Among them: He’s chaperoned six study abroad trips to Japan and two to Mexico; he enjoys conversing with international students and visitors to the college as well as those at the Little League Baseball World Series, held in South Williamsport every August, and The Gallery at Penn College displayed his collection of Japanese textiles in 2008. Every Friday, LeBlanc volunteers to teach science at West Branch School, a private elementary school near campus.

While attending international-student conferences at Penn College, he met the woman who would become his new wife – Mercedes, a native of Venezuela.

“She shares my Latin American culture,” he beams.

“My life is very comfortable. I have a good career. Penn College provides an excellent venue for me,” LeBlanc said, adding that he views his new physics publication to be “my life’s work!” ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH E. LEBLANC

A young LeBlanc, left, with his brother and sister. The family lived in Canada, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico while he was a boy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH E. LEBLANC

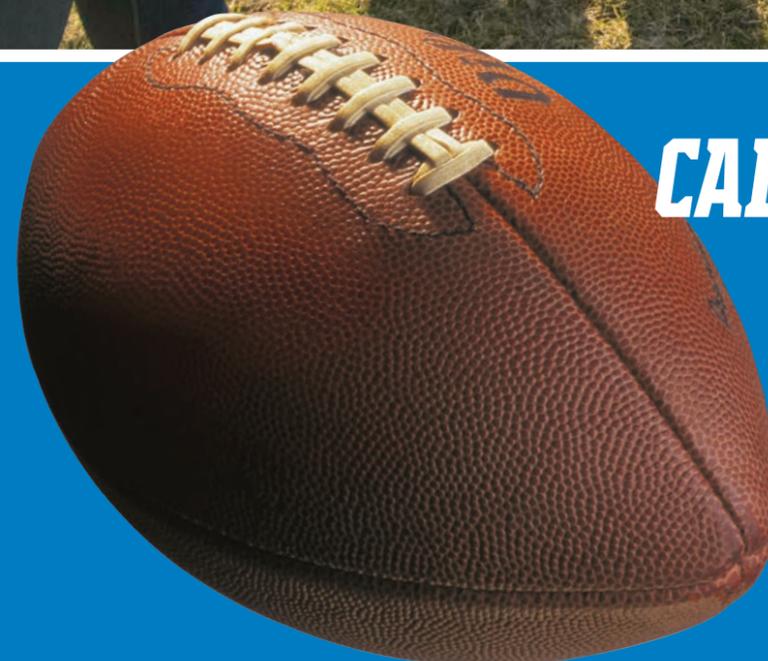
LeBlanc poses before the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in Japan during a Penn College study abroad trip.

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**CALLING ALL ALUMNI!**

Complete the Update Form at [alumni.pct.edu/contest](http://alumni.pct.edu/contest) by Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, for the chance to win prizes including Penn State football tickets.

In April, Pennsylvania College of Technology celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Visiting Chef Series with a group of culinary giants who, like all its Visiting Chefs, devoted hours in the college's kitchens and classrooms, imparting wisdom as they led students to create a one-of-a-kind meal.

Chefs Rick Tramonto, John Folse and Donald Wressell – all with remarkable international culinary accolades – joined forces with 2011 Penn College alumna Chef Elaine Gardner for the sold-out event that benefits students in many ways: through live-event learning, industry connections, inspiration and scholarships that are funded by the proceeds of the Visiting Chef Dinner.

The series' first installment was held in April 1992, not long after Chef Mary Trometter, assistant professor of hospitality management/culinary arts, joined the faculty.

"Our goal was to seek out industry professionals who could inspire our students and be willing to share their expertise and passion for what they do with our students, staff and guests in our wonderful Le Jeune Chef Restaurant," Trometter said.

The first of those was Chef Richard L. Kimble Jr., who graduated from Penn College forerunner Williamsport Area Community College in 1981 and was head saucier at New York's famous Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

"Our students will be able to experience working with chefs, we hope, from all across the U.S. This will expose them to the professionalism of the business and the real excitement that's possible in their career field," Ann Miglio, then-department head of food and hospitality management/culinary arts, told the college magazine in 1992.

With a roster of more than 50 chefs who have traveled from across the U.S., from Maine to Hawaii, to give their time and talents to the Visiting Chef Series, that vision has been met. ■



During preparation for the college's first Visiting Chef dinner in 1992, students Ric Newton and Vanessa Buck study the technique of Visiting Chef Richard L. Kimble Jr.



Fall 2002 Visiting Chef Todd Downs, of Mrs. Park's Tavern at Doubletree Guest Suites in Chicago, instructs a student on plating for the evening's second course: Jamison Farm Lamb-Two Ways.

# Visiting Chef Series Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Amber A. Kreitzer, of Port Trevorton, carefully aligns bonbons for 2017's post-dinner dessert reception.



## Scholarship support

As a result of funds raised through the Visiting Chef Series, the Visiting Chef scholarship fund has a balance of nearly \$162,000 and currently awards seven \$1,000 scholarships annually to students in hospitality-related majors.

I have learned so much from our visiting chefs and visiting industry professionals. I have grown technically and professionally, plus just had a lot of fun watching beautiful food being combined with fabulous wine over the years – all produced by students in collaboration with staff and faculty.

– Chef Mary G. Trometter, '84, assistant professor of hospitality management/culinary arts



A "Wild Beast Feast" in 1997 featured Chefs John Folse, Charles Carroll, Guy DiSalvo and Jack Braun, with assistants Michael Foucqueteau, David Harris and Carol Gunter. Also in the photo are Penn College staff and faculty members Mary G. Trometter, Monica J. Lanczak, Paul E. Mach, Frederick W. Becker, Robert L. Twine, Stephen A. Manley, Linda J. Miller, Eileen A. Ambrose, Craig A. Cian and Michael J. Ditchfield, and the late William Butler, the school dean.



In 2003, a student works alongside Chef David Robins, then-executive pastry chef for the Corner Café and Buckhead Bread Co.



Students gather around Spring 2003 Visiting Chef Jeff Vosburgh, then-executive chef of Georgian Terrace Hotel.



During his sixth visit in 2005, Chef John Folse gathers with students and staff outside Le Jeune Chef Restaurant.



Student Sarah E. Myers during a 2017 pre-dinner reception.



Jacob O. Spencer assembles a tiny garden of vegetables, panna cotta, crème fraiche and edible "soil" under the direction of 2016's Chef David Danielson, of Churchill Downs.

### Record returns

Chef John Folse, an internationally recognized restaurateur, public-television host, author and industry leader who has taken Louisiana cuisine worldwide, has served as a Penn College Visiting Chef seven times.

Others who have made at least two visits are:

- Donald Barickman, of Magnolias, Charleston, S.C.
- Phillip Brown, of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- Charles Carroll, of River Oaks Country Club, Houston, Texas
- Leah Chase, of Dooky Chase's, New Orleans, La.
- Timothy Eldridge, of The Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- Andrew Masciangelo, '97, of Savona, Gulph Mills, Pa.



Osteria di Tramonto Halibut

### My favorite memories

Some of my favorite memories were spent in the plating lineup in the kitchen, waiting in line to pick up plates, interactions with guests, and the cleanup dance party in the dining room afterward. It was always amazing to see how we, as students, came together to produce great food and an amazing dining experience. ... Some of the lessons I learned as a student were to **never pass up an opportunity, jump in and get your hands dirty, and patience** when teaching those with less experience. The experiences and education I received have helped me to get where I am today, and I owe it to the chefs and staff of the School of Hospitality. Thank you!

– Brianna Helmick-Phillips, '15, sous chef, Louisiana State University

### Alumni Visiting Chefs

- Callie Chalmers, '08
- Dennis Eckrote, '97
- Scott Endy, '96\*
- Elaine Gardner, '11
- Richard L. Kimble, '81
- Andrew Masciangelo, '97
- Kristi Ritchey, '02
- Errol Walters, '04

\*Spring 2012 Visiting Chef  
Scott Endy died in 2013.

### A highlight of my school days

Jean-Louis Palladin was the Visiting Chef in the spring of 1996. Dr. (Robert L.) Breuder (then-Penn College president) took him pheasant hunting the morning of the dinner, and they returned with a dozen pheasants and a couple of woodcocks. Chef, his assistant, myself and another student broke the birds down into pieces, and I started to brown them per Chef's instructions. The bones and trim were put into the tilting skillet with the woodcocks and mirepoix, with some fresh herbs. A gallon of ready-made stock was added, then our sommelier brought Chef two cases of red wine. Jean-Louis grabbed four or five bottles under each arm and poured the wine into the skillet. The second time he did this, he dropped three or four of the bottles, and they broke, creating an unexpected mess. ... Chef let me help make the finished product, which was used to make pheasant au vin for a VIP photo shoot late in the afternoon, before dinner service.

I was picked to be one of the finish cooks for the meal that night, which was one of the highlights of my Penn College school days. Jean-Louis only spoke in French to the sous chef he brought with him during prep and service. **He expected the best effort and didn't hesitate to let you know if something wasn't exactly the way it should be.** I later worked out the rough details of working with him the following summer in D.C., but he moved to Las Vegas. I still have the note he wrote to me saying that it wouldn't be possible for me to work with him that summer. I worked almost all of the Visiting Chef Series dinners from 1995 until 2015, as a student and then as the professional staff dinner chef, and it remains a favorite for me.

– Chef Robert Armstrong, '98, retired sous chef, Le Jeune Chef Restaurant

### We all laughed so much

My absolute favorite Visiting Chef Series was with Joseph Poon, where he not only introduced us to fusion cuisine and his incredible story of working his way up into a leadership role and business owner, but **he made all the hard work fun.**

I remember being so impressed with the vegetable carvings and the simple menu items, heightened with bright colors and flavors. I had a ball designing monkeys on plates and making fortune cookies in the pastry kitchen. We all laughed so much, and his incredible energy is something I role-modeled in all of my leadership roles. He was also incredibly patient and took the time to teach everyone, which still, to this day, stands out as something I expect from myself as a leader.

– Tacy (DeGreen) Schuler, '05 and '07, sales representative, Blue Mountain Vineyards and Cellars



Chef Joseph Poon, of Joseph Poon Asian Fusion Restaurant in Philadelphia, offers a demonstration for the public in Fall 2004.

# Healthy Dose of Data



**A**pproaching his 50th birthday, Joseph Travagline sought a career boost. An eclectic information technology background and associate degree led to an impressive position at a renowned institution, but Travagline wanted more.

More education. More responsibility. More influence.

Just a few years out of high school, Lyndsey Diehl hoped to broaden her career prospects. She boasted an associate degree and the qualifications for plenty of promising job opportunities, but Diehl wanted more.

More education. More responsibility. More influence.

The two students from different generations received the same wish thanks to their tireless work ethic and the bachelor's degree in health information management from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Travagline completed his studies without leaving his Baltimore home or treasured employer. The distance-learning degree aided his climb to director of operations for the Centralized Credentialing Office at Johns Hopkins Health System. Johns Hopkins is annually ranked as one of the best hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

"Hopkins likes to see people who push forward and get degrees," Travagline said with a rapid-fire delivery befitting his Type-A personality. "If I wanted to advance and become a director, a manager, or even higher, I needed to really put my foot down and get that bachelor's degree."

The credentialing office supports more than 7,500 medical staff members across all Johns Hopkins hospitals and community physicians. In essence, Travagline and his staff of 17 serve as information traffic cops as they validate the qualifications of the medical staff and standardize various types of data.

"We are the first gate to patient safety," he said.

Diehl's credentials earned her the sole trauma data quality specialist position

at the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation in Mechanicsburg. The foundation is the accrediting body for the approximately 40 trauma centers located at hospitals throughout the state.

The 2013 graduate employs software to ensure the integrity and consistency of patient data generated by the trauma centers, which provide specialized care for those suffering from serious bodily injuries. On-site audits help her determine if the centers are abstracting information appropriately. Diehl is like a pleasant, low-key detective searching for informational clues to improve the flow of data.

"It's exciting when you find something in the data," she said with a warm smile. "As a person who can't cut a patient open or who doesn't want to touch a patient, I feel like I'm still involved in the health care field and making a difference."

Those realities attracted Daniel K. Christopher to health information long before Diehl was born. The department head for health information majors has been devoted to the field for 37 years as a director of medical records, consultant and teacher. He wrote the curriculum for Penn College's accredited associate and baccalaureate degrees in health information technology and health information management.

"It's a very good career option in the health care arena where you're not doing direct patient care, but you're definitely contributing to the quality of care," he said. "Health information provides the backbone for a lot of the decision making regarding patients and documents the outcomes of their care."

The American Health Information Management Association defines health information as "data related to a person's medical history, including symptoms, diagnoses, procedures and outcomes." Such data are collected and analyzed both for individual patient treatment and research based on demographics.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, employment in the field is expected to grow at least 15 percent

BY THE NUMBERS

## Health Information

### 64

The number of Penn College students seeking an associate degree in health information technology during the Spring 2017 semester.

### 26

The number of Penn College students seeking a bachelor's degree in health information management during the Spring 2017 semester.

### \$37,110

The median pay in 2015 for medical records and health information technicians, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### \$94,500

The median pay in 2015 for medical and health services managers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### 191,066

The number of open health information management positions in the United States, according to the NACElink Network Extended Job Search.

— Tom Speicher

through 2024, which is "much faster than the average for all occupations." Entities that have any connection to health care are potential employers.

"You don't need to cut anybody. You don't need to touch anybody," Travagline said. "You just need to care."

And you don't need to be a math whiz. >>

“Many parts of our profession are not heavy math-oriented except for one of the newer areas called data analytics,” Christopher said. “The keys for success are attention to detail and mastering the skill set you learn in the program.”

Travagline followed a winding path to the Penn College health information program. Growing up five minutes outside of Baltimore in the blue-collar town of Dundalk, the sports-minded teenager was given two choices by his father: college or the military. Intrigued by the newly introduced personal computer, Travagline attended tech school for a year, which led to a series of jobs working for PC manufacturers.

Those adventures included installing the first desktop PCs (complete with 10-megabyte hard disks) for NASA Mission Control in Houston and later working with engineers building new computers in Silicon Valley.

“I went to a conference in the 1980s where Bill Gates gave a speech,” Travagline remembered. “He said, ‘All computers will have Windows on them.’ Everyone laughed and we were like, ‘What’s Windows?’”

Travagline discovered Windows firsthand, thanks to subsequent roles as a PC technician and network engineer at the Environmental Protection Agency and in private industry. Eventually, his nomadic employment history left a craving for career stability in a field offering advancement opportunities. Travagline targeted health care and Johns Hopkins.

“The opportunities in health care will last a lifetime,” he said. “Johns Hopkins is an awesome institution. It’s part of Baltimore, and it’s part of my heritage. Anywhere you go in the world and you say, ‘Johns Hopkins,’ everyone knows it.”

An associate degree in health care administration/management from a community college helped him become application project leader for Johns Hopkins Healthcare in 2012. In that role, Travagline integrated information systems and ensured they aligned with organizational goals. In other words, he



**Lyndsey Diehl, who received a bachelor’s degree in health information management online in 2013, secured the position of trauma data quality specialist with the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation.**



**Joseph Travagline had a healthy career in IT before seeking work in health care. With a degree in health information management – earned via distance learning in 2015 – he leads a team that supports 7,500 Johns Hopkins medical staff members.**

was the Duke of Data.

“Health care is data-driven,” he said. “To be able to understand data is one of the most interesting areas to me. As they say, ‘Data is king.’”

Travagline began considering a bachelor’s degree about a year into his new job. Ironically, he discovered his future school while helping his daughter search for colleges. During a college fair, he grabbed a Penn College brochure to

add to his daughter’s growing collection. The information transformed Travagline from conscientious dad to college-bound student. Included on the college’s long list of “degrees that work” was the health information management degree offered via distance learning.

“I started to research the school and talked to some other folks who I know in the industry,” Travagline recalled. “They said, ‘Yes, Penn College has a very good program, and it’s part of the Penn State family.’”

A visit to campus confirmed that assessment.

“Everyone I met was very personable and eager to help and answered questions,” he said. “From there, I was sold. I didn’t want to do a school that was not brick and mortar. I found Penn College to be the perfect fit for me.”

It was for Diehl, as well. Only her initial choice of study was radiography.

A talented high school volleyball player and swimmer from Mechanicsburg, Diehl sought a health care career, but she knew her “weak stomach” wouldn’t tolerate the blood that can result from direct patient access. Her mother suggested radiography. Internet research and one trip to Penn College solidified not only her major but her school.

“The campus just spoke to me. I don’t know any other way to put it,” she said. “It was a great visit from every aspect. It felt comfortable and the right place to be.”

The Dean’s List student quickly discovered that the clinical setting wasn’t for her. Wary of causing pain, Diehl felt uncomfortable when physically manipulating patients for X-rays. The career dilemma frustrated her; however, Diehl knew the solution didn’t mean deserting Penn College. She loved the school and was on her way to becoming a three-time team captain for women’s volleyball.

Rather than a new college, Diehl needed a fresh major. A long, productive conversation with Erin S. Shultz, the college’s coordinator of career

development, directed Diehl to a foreign field for her: health information.

“It sounded interesting. I could still be in health care, have no patient care and still make a difference,” Diehl said. “I did my research and found a ton of job opportunities, and the salary looked pretty good, too. I was like, ‘I’m going to give it a shot and go with it.’”

According to her college professor, Diehl’s route to health information is common.

“The profession has always struggled with recognition as a career because there are no TV shows about health information professionals,” Christopher said. “People just aren’t aware of it until they stumble into it. They are at a school; their first option doesn’t pan out, and they are looking for something else in health care. Those who find it are satisfied with the career and what it offers. They enjoy the program and go out and get good jobs.”

That’s true for both associate- and baccalaureate-degree graduates.

“For the most part, the associate-degree grad will go into more technically oriented jobs like coding or handling requests for patient information. They are in more of

**“As a person who can’t cut a patient open, I feel like I’m still involved in the health care field and making a difference.”**

the technical, ‘worker bee’ type positions,” Christopher said. “The person with the bachelor’s degree typically will have higher-end technical positions and be supervisors or managers.”

The majority of students also seek industry credentials to maximize their career prospects: Registered Health Information Technician for graduates with an associate degree and Registered Health Information Administrator for those with a bachelor’s. Diehl and Travagline boast both credentials, passing the exams on their first attempts.

Coursework and industry experience enabled through required internships

prepare students for those tests. Diehl’s internship with the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry provided a bonus — a full-time position after she graduated from the associate-degree major. As a registry technician and later a registry specialist, she monitored cancer information supplied by reporting facilities to certify compliance with the registry’s data definitions.

While working full time for the registry, Diehl, like Travagline, completed her bachelor’s degree via distance learning before moving on to the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation.

“I’m a very determined person, so when I had assignments, I did them,” she said. “I think as long as you do what you’re supposed to do and you make time for it, it’s just as beneficial as being on campus.”

Travagline had to juggle his full-time job at Johns Hopkins and roles as a husband and father with his quest for a baccalaureate degree. He believes Penn College made the experience the best possible.

“I had taken online courses previously where you couldn’t even get an email back from the teacher. Penn College was

not like that. The teachers were very professional and responsive,” he said. “From the first class to the last class, I was very, very impressed. The teachers have professional experience in the industry, and that makes all the difference in the world. You can’t get what you need to work in the industry out of a book all the time.”

Travagline and Diehl continue to draw upon their Penn College background in advancing their education.

Diehl recently earned the Certified Specialist in Trauma Registries credential and is preparing for the Clinical Health Data Analyst credential exam. “Penn College definitely gave me the health

## How health information is used

- Trauma registrars track the incidence of traumatic injuries, such as gunshot wounds and motor-vehicle accidents, which results in valuable public-safety data.
- Health information managers protect the privacy of a patient’s health record by enforcing federal HIPAA guidelines and other privacy laws.
- Health information personnel assign diagnosis and procedure codes to ensure health care providers can receive payment for the services they provide.
- Health information professionals work with patient data to ensure the meaningful use of electronic health record technology.
- A quality database of health information helps researchers note a high incidence of a particular type of cancer in a geographic region.

– Michele Budnovich, instructor of health information technology

information framework, and I was very confident coming out of school that I could do what I wanted to do with that framework,” she said.

In May, Travagline obtained his master’s in health care management from Johns Hopkins University’s Carey Business School. “I quickly found that I was farther ahead than some of the other students who hadn’t had a really strong bachelor’s program,” he said.

Both Penn College graduates are bullish on their future and the future of health information technology.

“There are always going to be jobs, and new jobs will be created because we are an evolving profession,” Diehl said.

“It’s a career that will never go away. We will always need the data and systems behind health care,” Travagline said. “You can make it what you want.”

Like more education, more influence and more responsibility. ■

See a list of degrees available online on Page 32.

Want to learn more about health information careers? Watch a video at [magazine.pct.edu/hd](http://magazine.pct.edu/hd)

# CULTURE x change

China's aviation industry has World War II-era Williamsport roots

by Helen L. Yoas, librarian

According to Pennsylvania College of Technology's Fall 2016 Fast Facts, there are 54 international students enrolled at the college, having come from Austria, Canada, Germany, Ghana, India, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

They are only the latest of many welcome visitors, however, and one group in particular – Chinese engineers – may have had as great an impact on Williamsport Technical Institute, a Penn College forerunner, in its heyday, and on Williamsport in general, as our school and the city had on them.

If you've read the Penn College centennial publication "Working Class," you may have noticed the following reference to a New York Times quote pertaining to WTI:

"The institute's detailed attention to connecting instruction with localized

workforce needs attracted worldwide interest in its programs.

"An article published January 14, 1945, in The New York Times reported, 'Williamsport Technical Institute is training 20 officers of the Chinese Army in aviation mechanics. This is the third project in international education within six months for the 25-year-old Williamsport, Pa., public technical school. Two men from Colombia are studying machine shop practice and radio communications as the conclusion to a nationwide educational tour, prior to becoming vocational teachers in their homeland. Dr. George H. Parkes, the institute's director, is on leave in Panama to advise the Panamanian government in the construction of a \$3,000,000 vocational school.'"

When I read these paragraphs, I thought, "How cool!" and then didn't think any more about it, until some chance research in online newspapers made me realize the length of the Chinese officers'

visit, the breadth of their experiences and the depth of the commitment to learning that brought them to Williamsport.

At the time, China was, like much of the world, embroiled in World War II, attempting to fight off an invasion by Japan onto its soil.

Word of the officers' impending arrival was first published in the Williamsport Gazette & Bulletin of Nov. 2, 1944. It announced that the officers would "arrive in the city this month to combine a course of study and training at the Williamsport Technical Institute and the two Aviation Corporation divisions – Lycoming and Spencer Heater." The men were on the last leg of their journey from Chungking (now spelled Chongqing), and would soon settle in at the YMCA.

Their goal was to learn how to manufacture a training plane, a first step in establishing a postwar aviation industry in their home country.

More details were published in the paper the next day, making it clear that the



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIT MAGAZINE

Taking a cylinder apart is one step in the learn-by-doing process practised at Williamsport

Chinese army engineers take a cylinder apart as they learn to manufacture a training plane in Williamsport in 1945. They would use the skills to establish an aviation industry in their homeland.

men were here to work. Titled "Chinese group ... to have few spare hours," the article began:

"Much as the people of Williamsport would like to fete them and provide for their relaxation in a manner befitting a city whose slogan suggests the utmost in courtesy, the 30 Chinese graduate engineers coming here for a year's training at Aviation Corporation's Lycoming and Spencer plants and the Williamsport Technical Institute will have no problem of time on their hands. ...

"The Chinese coordinator revealed that the engineers will put in a 48-hour work week at the aviation plants and will devote eight additional hours each week to study at the Technical Institute. Sunday will be their only day off.

"Colonel Tai said the group is coming to Williamsport from Chungking via India and New York. They are, he said, of uniform age, somewhere around 21 years, and all have had industrial experience. Although all are commissioned officers

and connected with the military, they will be on detached service here and will not wear the uniform of the Chinese army. ... (He) reports a wave of enthusiasm over aeronautics engulfing the young people of his country, anticipates a tremendous post-war development through the land, and foresees speedy reconversion to peacetime production in his predominantly agricultural homeland."

The article concluded: "Colonel Tai has had no opportunity to sample the reaction of his people to the recent invasion of the Philippines and the ensuing naval victory by the United States forces, but he regards both developments as the forerunners of an increasingly accelerated drive calculated to hasten the day of victory in the Far East."

**"The beginning of this program may well mark the opening of a new era of industrial co-operation between America and China."**

Page 9 of the Gazette & Bulletin for Dec. 20, 1944, described the engineers' 96-day journey concisely: "By airplane from Chungking to Dinjan on the Indian border. By rail from Dinjan to Bombay. By Army transport ship from Bombay to Los Angeles. By train from the West Coast to Williamsport."

The article continued to say that their course of study would begin on Dec. 22, only two days after their arrival, that the Chinese Embassy in Washington had requested that only one social event – a dinner planned for Jan. 11 – be held here in their honor, and that the men were defense-plant engineers who had only recently been inducted into the Chinese army. All of their names and ranks were listed, and the group was described as being aged from 24 to 38, with seven of them >>

being husbands and fathers.

Tai was also quoted: "China is, industrially, an undeveloped country. Most of our people are peasant farmers and lack the experience of mechanical manufacturing. It is the ardent wish of the Chinese Government and of these young men to learn the art of making Lycoming engines. ... It is a co-operative enterprise amongst three parties: The Aviation Corporation, the U.S. Army Air Forces and the Chinese Commission on Aeronautical Affairs."

In the months that followed, the Gazette & Bulletin kept the public informed about numerous ways in which the Chinese engineers played a part in local activities. A Jan. 29, 1945, article about the Williamsport Hospital Fund campaign said: "The 25 Chinese Army Air Force officers receiving instruction and training at the Lycoming Division of Aviation Corporation, and at the Williamsport Technical Institute, contributed \$100 to the fund, it was announced Saturday. The youthful officers arrived in Williamsport during December. Their gift is described as an expression of appreciation for the friendliness of local persons and reflects the importance they attach to the service a hospital performs in a community."

It was reported on Feb. 5 that the leading engineer of the group, Maj. Kyung-Yun Loh, had presented a history of China

at a meeting of the International Club at the YWCA. It was announced on Feb. 15 that Loh would describe youth activities in China to 200 members of the local YMCA boys' groups and their fathers at a fellowship banquet to be held as part of Father-Son Week activities.

Imagine how it must have felt to these 25 young men to take part in the parade following President Harry S. Truman's announcement of peace after the surrender of Japan on Aug. 14, 1945. The front-page article of the next day told how "an estimated 2,000 persons paraded along a route lined by approximately 25,000 residents, ... (and) another 10,000 jammed their way within hearing distance."

Among the units were "Chinese Army officers here as engineering students at the Williamsport Technical Institute, who received ovations all along the line of march. Each carried his nation's flag."

A Page 2 article included a moving statement from Loh:

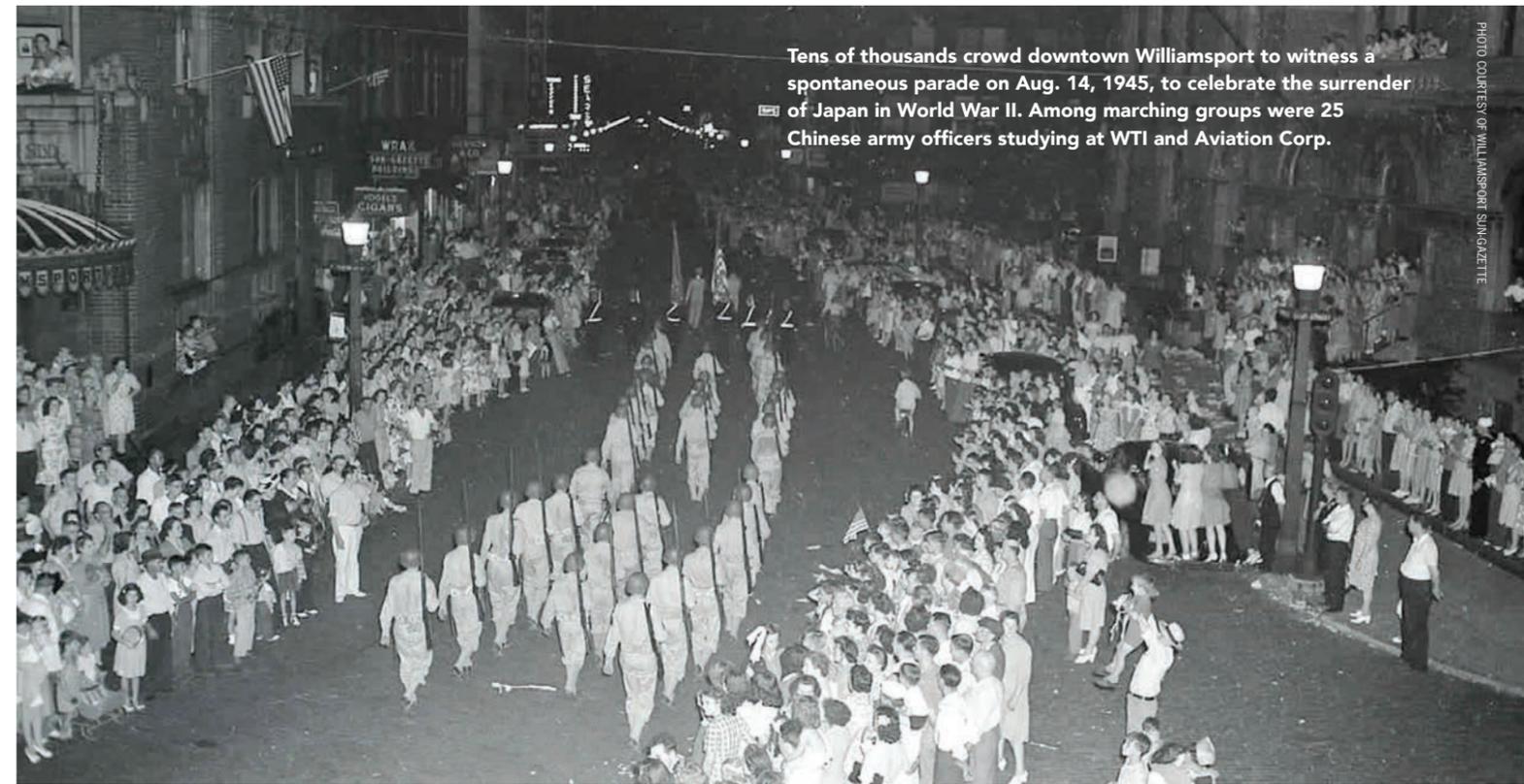
"The surrender of (the Japanese) marks a new era of the world. This, undoubtedly, is the achievement of the unselfish co-operation of the Allied nations. And it is also indisputable that such co-operation is the only foundation of lasting peace. This hard experience shows that it is not race or creed that divides good and evil people, but soundness of conscience makes the difference.

"During this long while, we Chinese were much inspired and encouraged by the sympathetic attitude in the beginning and full-hearted alliance at the later, from the United States. The world is very deeply impressed by the hard working and hard fighting spirits of you Americans. Our people are grateful of our friendly neighbor, and at the same time feel the importance of keeping ourselves worthy of our friends.

"At this jubilant time, in this friendly place, our emotions are mixed. As this is the end of long ordeals, we should celebrate it feverishly; as it is only the beginning of the real opportunity to re-establish our torn country and tarnished civilization, there is no time for us to seek rest. The fallen warriors have cleared the path for peace, and great leaders are laying new foundations for it; there will be no excuse if we should fail to make good from it.

"In our homeland, we can imagine, that fire crackers are bursting everywhere, and everybody is shouting, laughing, or crying, for the coming of this long expected day. We enjoy very much your magnificent celebrations, but we feel ever stronger than before the desire to go home!

"We wish that this war were the last one, and human beings shall never again take to conquering and preying on their neighbors as their sacred ambition. We wish that all the energy of mankind



Tens of thousands crowd downtown Williamsport to witness a spontaneous parade on Aug. 14, 1945, to celebrate the surrender of Japan in World War II. Among marching groups were 25 Chinese army officers studying at WTI and Aviation Corp.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

would direct to the welfare instead of warfare. We have the confidence of a bright future of the world and of our country, if people could keep good their conscience and faith."

As their time in Williamsport neared its end, one more occasion was reported in the Gazette & Bulletin of Oct. 9, 1945.

"A large Chinese flag will be presented to the Williamsport Technical Institute by the Chinese Army officers who have been studying in the Aviation Mechanics Department for the past nine months in a ceremony Wednesday morning at the top of the steps leading to the Williamsport High School. ... The Chinese officers have planned to present the flag to the Institute out of gratitude for the training they have received in aviation mechanics. They have arranged the presentation to coincide with their national holiday, which is celebrated tomorrow."

By the next month, the story of the Chinese engineers was receiving more widespread attention. An article titled "Clever People, These Chinese!" appeared in The American Legion Magazine of November 1945. It described the joint project of the Lycoming Division of

the Aviation Corp. and "Williamsport's nationally-famous Technical Institute" and quoted Maj. Gen. Pang-Tsu Mow, deputy chief commissioner of the Chinese air force: "The beginning of this program may well mark the opening of a new era of industrial co-operation between America and China. This is the beginning of China's effort to build an aviation industry. Successful completion of the project will contribute materially to the aviation phase of China's post-war industrialization program."

After describing the rigorous training and activities of their daily lives, the article concluded: "The young men attend the various churches, often in company with local residents. Local luncheon clubs and other civic organizations have on occasion had representatives of the group as guests. At a Kiwanis Club luncheon last March, representatives of Garrett Cochran Post of the Legion presented an American flag to the Chinese students as evidence of the 'strengthening of the bond' between the two countries.

"Stressing the need for the establishment in China of schools similar to the Williamsport Technical Institute,

Major Loh pointed out that if such vocational institutions were in operation there today, his group would not have been forced to make an 18,000-mile journey to this country to train for the jobs they are so urgently needed to fill in China."

Two other Pennsylvania papers, the Harrisburg Telegraph and the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, covered the completion of the engineers' work on Jan. 12 and 14: the graduation dinner, the presentation of embossed certificates by Williamsport Mayor Leo Williamson, and the announcement that although they originally planned to return to China that month, the group would remain for another year to manufacture 20 engines.

To bring the saga to an end was a July 19, 1950, article describing a local businessman's receipt of a letter from Loh, reporting that all members of the group who had been stationed with him in Williamsport were alive and well following the end of civil war hostilities in China. I felt a sense of closure as I read this article, knowing that Williamsport and its Technical Institute had touched and been touched by lives that continued to fulfill the goals that had brought them here. ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRIT MAGAZINE



The instructor's little joke got across all right, and then the class settled down to the job of learning airplane engine design

A photo in the November 1945 edition of The American Legion Magazine shows the officers sitting in a classroom at Williamsport Technical Institute, a forerunner of Penn College. According to the article, the men spent their evenings at WTI, taking courses in blueprint-reading, drafting, foremanship, heat-treating, gear cutting and other technical subjects.

The realistic layout of the HVAC laboratory appealed to Cory L. Hoyt, of Shickshinny, building automation technology: heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology concentration. "I like hands-on," he says. He takes that philosophy on the road on weekends, participating with his father, Kris, in a longtime family activity: Super Pro Stock tractor pulls.

Instructor Kenneth E. Welker Jr. talks with students Brant V. Dornisch, left, of Saint Mary's, and Cole M. Robinson, of Howard, as they install a functioning high-efficiency natural gas boiler and hydronic water system. Dornisch was enrolled elsewhere for welding when a friend of his father said that if Dornisch studied HVAC, he'd hire him and eventually sell him his well-established business. "I never really gave any thought to going to school for HVAC/plumbing, but after he offered a for-sure job, I looked into it and realized what a good option HVAC really was." Robinson concurs. "I want my career to always be changing, and I find that in HVAC. I love everything about it."

Brett M. Hughes, of Tunkhannock, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology major, threads a pipe while he works with fellow second-semester students to install hydronic finned-tube heat transfer units. The units are strategically placed on exterior walls to replace heat lost in homes. Hughes' mother, Diane, a 1991 graduate in surgical technology, encouraged him to look at Penn College. "So I came with my dad and fell in love with the place and the overall atmosphere of the HVAC labs."

Zachary F. Britner, of Carmichaels, graduated in May in heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, but months before commencement, he had a job lined up in application engineering controls with a building automation company. He was led to the company by one of its suppliers, who Britner met at the college's Career Fair. Outside of class, he's proud of the electrical longboard he built; it goes 25 mph.

**Carl Building Technologies Center, Room 137**

The heating, ventilation and air conditioning laboratory simulates a typical home or light-commercial building north of the Mason-Dixon Line. (Southern construction is largely slab-on-grade, with nothing below ground.) "The first floor of the lab is set up like the basement of a structure, where the boiler, steam-heat furnace or other mechanical equipment is installed," says Marc E. Bridgens, the dean of construction and design technologies. "The second floor replicates the location of the heating units themselves, what you would expect to find in the living space of a home."

- 1989 PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**
- 1965 WILLIAMSPORT AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
- 1941 WILLIAMSPORT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

## 1950s

**Robert C. Lambertus, '59**, technical illustration, is a designer for Continental Hardware. "Williamsport Technical Institute taught me the fundamentals of illustrating and detail drawing of accurate mechanical items, and helped me to establish a base from which I ended up with a designer position," he said. "I'm currently 80 years old, and I'm still working (a three-day week) as a furniture hardware designer. The school got me my first job as an illustrator with a major company, drawing guided-missile repair manual illustrations. Then, I got into the design field, and have remained there ever since. The experience of being with so many other students, from all over the world, helped me to develop, not only as an employee, but as a person." He received a Bachelor of Religious Education in 1966 from Piedmont Bible College. He resides in King, N.C.

## 1970s

**Carmella A. DiPippa, '74**, secretarial science: medical, is a school library media specialist-classroom teacher for the Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. She holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education-biology from Bloomsburg University, a Master of Science in workforce education: training and development from Penn State, and a Master of Education in school libraries and information technologies from Mansfield University. She resides in Bloomsburg.

**Charles F. Kraus Jr., '74**, automotive mechanics, is an ASE-certified master automobile technician and automobile service advisor. He has been employed as an automotive technician since his graduation and has worked in Chrysler dealerships since 1976, working with engineers on lemon-law or buy-back vehicles. He was recently offered a position with AllData, staffing its help hotline for technicians tackling difficult repairs. "Many thanks to Marlin Rausch and Joe Brown for their guidance and instruction in my time at the college," he said. "I hope to retire to Williamsport, in a small cabin next to the 'Sock, and hook a mess of trout with my ol' college friend Floyd (Bud) Mastellar." He resides in Douglasville, Ga.

**Ted Reighard, '75**, electrical technology, is a senior sales associate for Wesco Distribution Inc. in Lemoyne. He resides in Elizabethtown.

## 1980s

**Rich Hoffner, '87**, graphic arts, was named to Cumberland Perry Area Vocational Technical School's Occupational Advisory Committee for graphic communications. He is the print and mailing services manager for the Dauphin County Library System and resides in Shermans Dale.

**Jan Faust, '89**, computer information systems, is a senior network engineer for First Quality Enterprises. He resides in South Williamsport.

## 1990s

**Chad S. Chelius, '93**, graphic communications, owner of Chelius Graphic Services, is a trainer, author and consultant who helps companies to use Adobe software more efficiently and effectively. He speaks at various industry conferences. He has written and co-written several books and created multiple videos for Lynda.com about Adobe software. He also writes articles featured in InDesign Magazine, CreativePro.com and InDesignSecrets.com. Chelius resides in Shillington with his wife, **Rebecca (Ferree), '93**, floral design/interior plantscape, and their two children.

**Joanne Oberecker Rogers, '95**, business management, retired from Walt Disney World. She resides in Davenport, Fla.

**Steven G. Schaeber Jr., '98**, automotive technology management; **'97**, automotive service management, is technical editor and manager of service training for the Mobile Air Conditioning Society Worldwide, where he is the technical editor for the society's AAction Magazine, MACS Service Reports and its blog. He writes the columns "Service Port" and "Cooling Corner" in each issue of AAction and regularly writes articles for the blog. As manager of service training, he develops course materials and training books and videos, and teaches classes and webinars. He also contributes to other publications, including Pennsylvania Automotive & Insider News and The Automotive Engineer magazines. He resides in Lansdale.

**Kristy L. (Steinbacher) Derr, '99**, general studies, is a team leader for West in Williamsport, where she resides.

**Melissa Schad, '99**, accounting, is a retirement plan supervisor for Smith Elliot Kearns & Co. in Chambersburg, where she resides.

## 2000s

**Kristin (Hartley) Bachman, '00**, general studies, is a merchandiser for Winston Retail Solutions. She resides in Williamsport.

**Dustin W. Stumpf, '03**, computer information systems: programming and database processing, is a service technician for Dixie Electric. He resides in Hagerstown, Md.

**Travis C. Meiss, '04**, computer information technology: data communications and networking; **'02**, computer information systems: network & technical support, is a network systems analyst for BB&T in Lititz, where he provides third-tier support of the wireless network and branch routing and switching. He resides in Columbia.

**Lauren Schuman, '05**, graphic design, is the marketing director for Pyramid Consulting Group in New York City. She received an associate degree in surgical technology in 2010 and an associate degree in nursing in 2012. She resides in Union City, N.J.

**Bobbi Winn, '05**, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Flagship Rehabilitation Services. She resides in Lock Haven.

**Katina (Yokim) Faulk, '06**, business administration: small business & entrepreneurship; **'02**, early childhood education, is administrative director for the Business and Entrepreneurial Initiatives Division and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Montgomery County Community College, where she also serves as a regular lecturer in management majors. She received a Master of Business Administration from Excelsior College in 2012. She and husband, **Jarrett, '06**, business administration: management information systems, reside in Hatfield.

**Jennifer Sterner, '06**, technology management; **'04**, computer aided drafting technology, is a designer for Custom Tool & Design in Erie, where she designs plastic molds. She resides in Erie.

**Marc Bear, '07**, automotive technology management, is the service manager for Chapman Nissan in Philadelphia. He resides in Drexel Hill.

**Terry N. Bly, '07**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a program associate for American Petroleum Institute. He resides in Hebron, Md.

**Eric Kramer, '07**, information technology security specialist, is an IT risk and compliance analyst for Fulton Financial Corp. He resides in York Haven.

**Lacey (Daubert) Martin, '07**, office information technology: specialized office information, is a registered nurse for Lancaster General Health. She received an associate degree in surgical technology in 2010 and an associate degree in nursing in 2016. She is pursuing a master's degree in nursing. She resides in Myerstown.

**Kimber (Shermeyer) Hofmann, '08**, early childhood education, is an infant teacher for U-GRO Learning Centers. She resides in Lancaster.

**Jill (Buzzard) Messick, '08**, advertising art, is the graphic design manager for Elite Sportswear in Reading. She and husband, **Ryan, '07**, electrical trades, reside in Middletown.

**Amanda Basalla, '09**, legal assistant: paralegal studies, is an administrative support assistant for Penn State University. She resides in Snow Shoe.

## 2010s

**Megan E. (Cobb) Caputa, '10**, graphic design, (minor in graphic communications technology) is the art director for Garfield Group in Newtown. She and husband, **Thomas J., '09**, information technology: network specialist, reside in Levittown.

**Allison J. (Toltesi) Reichard, '10**, applied health studies: radiography; **'09**, radiography, is a registered technologist in radiography and computed tomography. She is a diagnostic technologist for Lehigh Valley Health Network. She resides in Northampton.

**Lindsay Derrick, '11**, office information technology: medical office information, received an associate degree in nursing from Penn College in May. She resides in Williamsport.

**Aaron M. Hale, '11**, information technology: network specialist concentration, is the IT manager for Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, one of the world's pre-eminent centers for collaborative research, in Berkeley, Calif. "I ensure researchers have the necessary high-performance computing, cloud architecture and advanced artificial intelligence/neural networks environments for their research," he said. He resides in Concord, Calif.

**Kelsey E. (Young) Steinmeier, '12**, graphic communications management, is an account manager for David A. Smith Printing Inc. She resides in Harrisburg

**Kathleen K. (Hart) Beagell, '13**, web design and multimedia; **'11**, mass media communication, is a marketing communications specialist for Modern Marketing Concepts. She resides in Binghamton, N.Y.

**Alissa Harris, '13**, applied health studies: occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Willow Point Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Vestal, N.Y. She resides in Binghamton, N.Y.

**Jessica Tobias, '13**, graphic design, is a graphic designer for Major League Soccer team FC Dallas. She resides in McKinney, Texas.

**Amber L. Belles, '14**, health information technology, is a registry technician for the Pennsylvania Cancer Registry. She resides in Williamsport.

**Ryan Byers, '14**, physician assistant; **'04**, graphic design, is a certified physician assistant for Arnold Memorial Medical Center. He resides in Milbridge, Maine.

**Jordan E. Highland, '15**, applied human services, is a case manager II for Community Services Group, providing care management for families of children with a mental health diagnosis/disability. She resides in Williamsport.

**Alexander R. Miller, '15**, electronics and computer engineering technology: robotics and automation, is a controls engineer for Multi-Dimensional Integration. He resides in Dover.

**Cassandra B. Mohr, '15**, dental hygiene: health policy and administration; **'14**, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Geisinger Health System. She resides in Milton.

**Shelby A. Mordan, '15**, nursing, is a registered nurse for White Deer Run of Allenwood, where she works with detox clients. She resides in Sunbury.

**Jeffrey C. Sebasovich, '15**, web and interactive media, is a digital marketing project manager for Golden Proportions Marketing. He resides in Sunbury.

**Max Bower, '16**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is an operator/laborer for Melhorn Builders Inc. He resides in Lewisburg.

**David Buss, '16**, technology management; **'04**, computer aided drafting technology and computer information systems: networking and technical support, is an information technology specialist for the U.S. government. He is pursuing a Master of Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University. He resides in Gettysburg.

**Tyler Capece, '16**, engineering CAD technology, is a CAD technician for Mariano Construction Inc. in Bloomsburg. He resides in Catawissa.

**Chad M. Nicks, '16**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a weld engineer for Bayloff Stamped Products in Belleville, Mich. He resides in Milan, Mich.

**Paul Simko, '16**, automated manufacturing technology, is a programmer for Benton Foundry Inc., where he designs and builds fixtures, programs robots to grind castings, and oversees six robotic grinding cells. He resides near Benton.

**Heath D. Strickland, '16**, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is a technician for R&J Ertel in Williamsport. He resides in Muncy.



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## CLASS NOTES

### Marriages & Births

**Julie (Reppert) Stellfox, '06**, mass media communication; **'05**, technology management; and **Adam Stellfox, '15**, information technology: information assurance and security, welcomed daughter Lorelai K. on Nov. 9, 2016. They reside in Montoursville.

**Jennifer Sterner, '06**, technology management; **'04**, computer aided drafting technology, married **Chris Mioduszewski, '06**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, in October 2016. They reside in Erie.

**Kimber (Shermeyer) Hofmann, '08**, early childhood education, and **Bill Hofmann, '08**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, welcomed daughter Caroline on Oct. 25, 2015. They reside in Lancaster.

**Holly (Sheaffer) Maxwell, '09**, business administration: banking and finance, and her husband, Kenneth, welcomed daughter Kenley on Nov. 21, 2016. They were married in July 2016 and reside in Mifflintown.

**Allison J. Toltesi, '10**, applied health studies: radiography; **'09**, radiography, married Marc R. Reichard in October 2016. They reside in Northampton.

**Miranda L. Altemose, '12**, baking and pastry arts, married Keith Kunkel in May 2016. They reside in Summit Hill.

**Kelsey E. Young, '12**, graphic communications management, married Bret A. Steinmeier on Oct. 23, 2015. They reside in Harrisburg.

**Kathleen K. Hart, '13**, web design and multimedia; **'11**, mass media communication, married Kyle Beagell on July 16, 2016. They reside in Binghamton, N.Y.

**Ryan Byers, '14**, physician assistant; **'04**, graphic design, and his wife, Holly, welcomed son Clayton on Oct. 24, 2016. They reside in Milbridge, Maine.



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Resident Assistant Lindsey A. King gingerly catches a water balloon during the annual Wildcat Wars. The event pits residence hall teams against one another as they try to "Conquer the Campus" in events that include dodgeball, kickball, relay events and more.

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