SPRING 2026

Penn College® MAGAZINE

HOME COURT REVIVAL

HISTORIC BARDO GYMNASIUM GETS UPGRADE

SEE PAGE 8

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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WHERE'S THE WILDCAT?

In the Last Issue

We were very tricky – but we tricked you a little better than we'd hoped. While we received lots of guesses, no one found the Wildcat we hid in a vehicle windshield on Page 23 of the Fall 2025 issue. But we have faith in you! Now that you know what you're looking for, let's give it another go. When you find the Wildcat hidden in this issue, email us at magazine@pct.edu with the page number and the photo where the Wildcat is located. Include your name and address. Your name will be entered into a drawing, and five winners will be selected April 30.

Here's a clue to help you out: The Wildcat is interested in pursuing polymers.

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SOIL SCIENCE

Civil engineering technology students Dennis M. Prestash Jr. (left) and Dante T. Hatton use a GPS receiver to record the location of a soil test pit. Students used a Munsell chart to identify the soil, then determined its moisture content in the lab. The activity is part of the Origin, Distribution & Behavior of Soils class, in which students learn how moisture, composition and compaction affect soil strength, density and permeability.

degrees that work.

ON THE COVER

Student-athletes gather on their updated home court inside Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium. From left: wrestler Kaden R. Ware, of Brooklyn, Connecticut (heating, ventilation & air conditioning engineering technology); volleyball player Lillian Stockum, of Dauphin (emergency management & homeland security); men's basketball forward Joe D. Savage, of Williamsport (business administration); and women's basketball guard Kenni A. Galbreath, of Shrewsbury (human services & restorative justice).

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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

In this issue of Penn College Magazine, you will see reminders that this institution is truly dynamic, nimbly adapting to ensure individuals are prepared for a lifetime of meaningful work.

But I am frequently reminded that while our technologies, facilities and curriculum evolve, this college's core mission has changed very little.

Two of those reminders came from Penn College Magazine readers following the publication of the Fall 2025 edition.

The first was from Roberta Feddersen, the wife of former college president William Feddersen, who died in 2025 and was remembered in the issue. Mrs. Feddersen, a 30-year educator herself, recalled her time at Williamsport Area Community College and in the Williamsport community, where her boys attended elementary school.

"Getting to play Little League baseball and attend the World Series in the stadium students (excavated) was a highlight we all treasure," she said. "And I so enjoyed being actively involved in WACC 'faculty wives,' truly an anachronism today."

The second note came from Heather (Young) Whipple '02, whose father (James Young) and grandfather (William Young Sr.) taught building construction at the college. William appeared on the cover of the Fall 2025 edition as part of a story about homes built by WTI and WACC students in the 1960s and '70s.

"The article speaks of Morgan Valley, my father's 'baby,' as we used to refer to it," she wrote. "I grew up hearing stories of WTI and the classes they both taught, and running around the labs."

Our forebears built a firm foundation. I am honored to help share how today's alumni, students and employees are carrying that mission forward. In the pages ahead, my colleagues share stories about a new facility for budding entrepreneurs and the history of one of the college's oldest buildings, the Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium, which received its first new floor since it opened in 1937. You'll also learn about an employer-supported initiative to financially help students pursuing summer internships and see a few examples of the thousands of Penn College alumni using their degrees to enhance the lives of many.

Thanks for reading,

Jennifer A. Cline
College Editor

Enrollment growth continues

Penn College's total enrollment for Fall 2025 was 4,705 students, a 2.8% increase over Fall 2024 and a 9.2% improvement from Fall 2023. New student enrollment is also up 2.1% over the Fall 2024 incoming class.

"Penn College is not immune to the challenges and complexities facing higher education, but we are positioned better than most," said President Michael J. Reed. "Consistent enrollment growth demonstrates that our commitment to applied technology education is in high demand. Industry desperately needs our graduates, as evidenced by our 98% overall placement rate. And our students aren't just placed: Most secure futures in high-earning and high-growth fields."

College maintains high U.S. News & World Report rankings

Penn College has been ranked the No. 1 school for innovation for the third consecutive year, No. 1 for veteran students for the second consecutive year and No. 3 top public school in the Regional Colleges (North) classification by U.S. News & World Report for 2026. Penn College also moved from No. 5 in 2025 to the No. 4 school in 2026 among Regional Colleges (North) when all public and private colleges and universities are considered.

Dual enrollment expands to virtual setting

Penn College entered its first cyber charter dual enrollment partnership, which began with the 2025-26 school year.

Insight PA Cyber Charter School, a K-12 public online school that offers virtual education to students throughout Pennsylvania, was selected as part of a state Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program. The grant has allowed Penn College to expand course offerings to new partners, increase services for current secondary partners, and enhance instructor professional development and career-awareness activities for students.

Alum's gift leads to new student opportunities

Thanks to a $300,000 gift from alumnus Larry A. Ward, Penn College is creating an innovative lab to bridge the gap between the design and manufacturability of products.

A storage area and a classroom in College Avenue Labs will be renovated and combined to form the Larry A. Ward '66 Engineering Design Pilot Plant. The space will provide access to manufacturing equipment and tools, enabling engineering design students to translate concepts into real-world prototypes. By focusing on manufacturability, students will learn to design smarter, more efficient products with real-world constraints in mind.

The space will be incorporated into the curriculum for the college's ABET-accredited bachelor's degree in engineering design technology. It's anticipated to be operational for the Fall 2026 semester.

College offers certificate pathway for high school students

With the support of a National Science Foundation grant, Penn College is offering a pathway for high school students to earn 32 college credits and a certificate in polymer processing at no cost.

Designed for high school juniors and seniors, the program – developed with the college's polymer industry advisory board – provides training on high-tech machines and equipment used by top manufacturers. After obtaining the 32 college credits and certificate, students will possess the skill set to enter the workforce or remain at Penn College to complete the associate degree in polymer technology (one additional year) or the bachelor's in polymer engineering technology (three additional years).

Polymer engineering technology students troubleshoot in the extrusion lab. High school students can access Penn College's high-tech, industry-standard polymer labs by taking advantage of a new program.

Grant helps pantry expand services

The Cupboard, the college's on-campus food pantry for students experiencing food insecurity, expanded its services using funds from a PA Hunger-Free Campus Grant.

The Cupboard offers students perishable and nonperishable food, drinks and hygiene products, as well as items for students who are parents, such as diapers and wipes.

Grant funds were used to add a commercial double-door refrigerator and freezer, allowing The Cupboard to increase its offering of fruits, vegetables and other perishable items, which students have been quick to pick up. The money is also being used to add "break boxes" for students who need to stay on campus during college closures, as well as emergency meal swipe cards.

'Accelerated Learning' again makes finals

Following its impressive drag-racing debut in 2024, "Accelerated Learning" is at it again, and this time, the Diesel Performance Club's 12,000-pound 1959 B-61 Mack truck advanced to the seventh-round finals of the Maple Grove Raceway's 2025 Keystone Truckin' Nationals, narrowly missing the top prize by .079 seconds. More than 100 trucks competed for top big rig honors at the event.

"TJ (Buck, driver) and crew were on their game all day, consistently putting our truck in the mid-13.30-second range at 105 mph in the quarter mile, pass after pass," said Mark E. Sones, diesel equipment technology instructor and Diesel Performance Club adviser. "I have always compared this sport to a high-speed game of chess. It's not the fastest truck that wins; it is based on consistency, time predictions and reaction times."

Find complete articles on **Penn College News**

To find more comprehensive versions of the articles in Campus News – and to read other news stories about Penn College – visit Penn College News, the college's news-and-information website, at **pct.edu/news**.

KEEPING RAIL TRAVEL SAFE

As the director of safety & security technology for Amtrak, Patrick Butler '07 leads the team that keeps thousands of devices running smoothly across the country and makes the national transportation network safer.

Butler completed a bachelor's degree in computer information technology: data communications & networking concentration, and an associate degree in computer information systems: networking & technical support.

Among his accomplishments with Amtrak is his team's role in launching the NextGen Acela, the fastest train in North America. The trains, which can reach 160 mph, were launched in August 2025.

Tell us about your work as director of safety and security technology:

Amtrak is America's railroad; our 20,000 employees support the operation of 300-plus daily trains to over 500 destinations across 46 states and three Canadian provinces. In my current role, I lead the staff, financial planning and strategic direction for information technology that supports the mission of Amtrak's Police and Security departments. My direct team of 13 professionals leads project management, technology engineering, and operational maintenance and support for thousands of devices across Amtrak's nationwide network. We develop solutions for everything from police dispatch, radio and camera technology, to bridge and tunnel security and on-board train security systems.

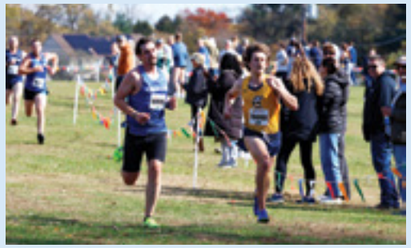
What do you enjoy most about your career?

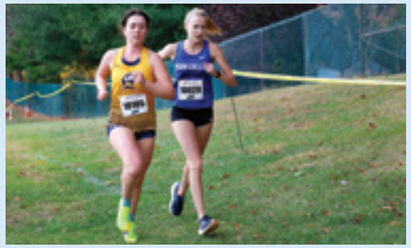
No two days are ever the same. One day I may be working on planning budgets and projects for next year, and the next day I may travel on our national network to a meeting with the train car manufacturer of the next generation of Amtrak trains. My team and I are constantly responding to the needs of train operations, with the goal of delivering our customers to their destination both safely and on time.

How are you using your Penn College degree with Amtrak?

Penn College gave me the technical foundation to be a great IT practitioner. Through my extracurricular activities, I also learned how to be a leader. I learned the skills necessary to make me qualified to serve in a variety of system administrator and network engineering roles. These skills are still relevant and applicable to my work today, as I know how to lean into the technical details but also back away and see how those details relate to the larger business objectives.

Read about other members of the Penn College Family at **pct.edu/makers**


Mitchell Campbell ‘26


Alexis Durn ‘29


Ella Garman ‘29


Justin Crismale ‘29


Lilly Stockum ‘29

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

CROSS-COUNTRY

Penn College’s men placed third and the women finished fifth at the United East Conference Championship race. The men’s squad had seven runners earn all-conference awards, and the women’s team picked up three. **Mitchell Campbell ’26** placed 12th to earn second-team honors and become the program’s first four-time all-conference selection. **Chase Ebeling ’27** (13th) and **Ben Casuak ’29** (18th) also earned second-team recognition, and **Holden Furey ’27** (20th), **Aaron Guerrisky ’26** (23rd), **Ethan Knapp ’28** (25th) and **Ben Heym ’29** (27th) earned third-team honors. **Alexis Durn ’29** led the Wildcats on the women’s side with an eighth-place finish and first-team honors. **Elaina Brady ’27** placed 17th to earn a second-team award, and **Ellie Miller ’29** (23rd) made the third team.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

The team tied its single-season wins record with a 15-3-2 campaign and reached the United East semifinals for the second straight year. Seven Wildcats earned all-conference awards. The conference Rookie of the Year award went to **Ella Garman ’29**. **Sara Darlington ’26** collected her third first-team all-conference award after leading the team with 21 goals and 49 points. **Ashley Gordon ’28** joined Garman and Darlington on the first team, while **Mikayla Gordon ’29** and **Sierra Klinger ’28** earned second-team nods, and **Ava Gamble ’29** and **Morgan Solano ’26** were selected to the third team.

MEN’S SOCCER

The Wildcats posted their second consecutive 11-win season, finishing 11-7-2, and knocked off two-time defending conference champion St. Mary’s to reach their first ever United East Conference Championship game. Goalie **Justin Crismale ’29** was a key factor with a conference-high seven shutouts. Crismale was named the conference Rookie of the Year and earned first-team goalkeeper honors. **Silas Miller ’29** and **Will Watson ’29** received all-conference third-team selections.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The women’s volleyball team reached its first conference postseason in the NCAA era, fielding a team of nine freshmen, one junior and one senior. **Lilly Stockum ’29** earned third team all-conference consideration after leading the Wildcats with 348.5 points, 290 kills and 47 service aces. **Nashalie Vializ ’29** paced the defense and ranked eighth in the conference with 309 digs.

CATS AWARDS

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Megan Kurian ’28 (women’s soccer) set the women’s soccer single-season goals, assists and points record in 2024 while leading the Wildcats to an undefeated regular season (15-0-4) and a run to the United East semifinals. Kurian scored 26 goals, 15 assists and 67 points while appearing in all 20 games. She became the first student-athlete in United East history to be named United East Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year in the same season and was a United Soccer Coaches All-Region Second Team selection.

Elliot Dotson ’28 (men’s lacrosse) became the second-ever student-athlete to be named United East Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year in the spring. Dotson set the program single-season record and led the conference with 96 points and 53 assists while scoring 43 goals. He ranked 22nd in Division III men’s lacrosse with 2.74 assists per game and 33rd with 5 points per game.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Megan Kurian ’28 (women’s soccer) See above.

Peyton Mussina ’25 (golf) made the 96-person cut for the second consecutive year at the NCAA Division III Championship. Mussina tied for 49th place and became the college’s first All-American in the NCAA era. Mussina also earned his third United East All-Conference selection and second PING/GCAA Division III All-Region nod following a season in which he averaged a score of 72.2 over 24 rounds.

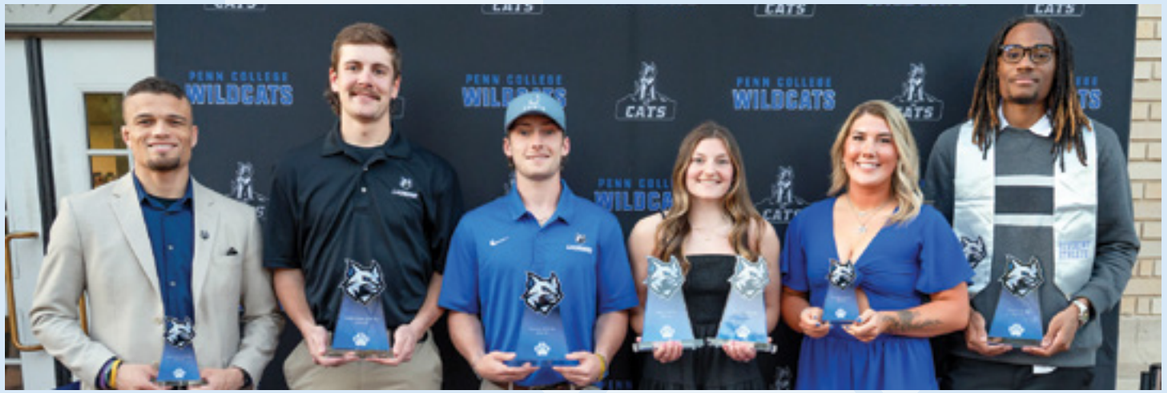
Livingston Cross ’25 (men’s basketball) averaged 22.3 points and 13.2 rebounds while starting in all 28 games for the Wildcats. He led the country in double-doubles (23) en route to collecting his second United East All-Conference first-team honors. He was also named to the D3hoops.com All-Region team.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Kayleigh Miller ’25 (women’s cross-country and basketball), a two-sport athlete while maintaining a 4.0 GPA, helped the Wildcats score their highest finish at the United East Cross Country Championship race with a time of 31:50.2. On the basketball court, Miller scored 71 points and dished out 31 assists in 25 games. She earned the United East Elite 20 Award in women’s cross-country and the conference’s Senior Scholar-Athlete award in women’s basketball.

Walt Heiser ’25 (men’s lacrosse) led the team among defenders with 37 ground ball pickups and was seventh on the team with 11 caused turnovers to garner United East first-team All-Conference. The 2025 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president was also the United East Elite 20 Award winner and a USILA Scholar All-American.

Also earning awards were: Mackenzie Weaver (One Shining Moment Award), Eric Hunt (Staff Member of the Year), men’s lacrosse team (Community Service Award), Tom Leeser (Coach of the Year), Roshaun Cooley (Assistant Coach of the Year) and men’s cross-country (Scholar Team Award). Men’s lacrosse earned the Wildcat Cup, which recognizes a team’s cumulative performance in the classroom, in the community, on the field and in supporting all athletic teams.



CATS (Celebrating Athletic Triumphs and Successes) Awards winners (from left) Eric D. Hunt, Walt Heiser, Elliot Dotson, Megan Kurian, Makenzie Weaver and Livingston Cross.

GYMNASIUM GETS FACELIFT

by Matt J. Blymier, assistant director of athletics for compliance and athletics communication

ONE OF PENN COLLEGE'S OLDEST BUILDINGS received a much-needed renovation when the Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium was remodeled in the spring and summer of 2025. The 88-year-old gym was dedicated in 1937 as home to the Williamsport High School Millionaires.

The renovation, which began in March and was completed in October, included removing the original gym floor, re-leveling the subfloor, removing the bleachers and painting the original brick walls. The new floor is highlighted by a court-filling Wildcat logo, while the blue and gray bleachers offer a touch of color to accent the newly painted gray walls. The annexes on both ends of the court feature a large mural of the cropped Wildcat logo that matches the design of the exterior mural on the building's Third Street entrance.

The gym will continue serving the college as the host of its semiannual Career Fairs, the home of its basketball, wrestling and volleyball teams, and an indoor practice space for both the baseball and softball programs. ■

1937 FUN FACTS:

- **President Franklin Roosevelt was in the second of his eventual four terms in office.**
- **Disney released the first animated film in the United States, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."**
- **The average house cost was $4,100.**
- **The average car cost was $760.**
- **A gallon of gas cost 10 cents.**

The gymnasium and its surroundings, circa 1970.

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF THE BARDO GYMNASIUM'S HISTORY:

1936
Construction begins on Williamsport High School's gymnasium through a Works Progress Administration project. The WPA was a President Franklin Roosevelt New Deal program that employed millions of people to complete public works projects during the Great Depression.

1937
The gym is dedicated on Nov. 22. After Williamsport Technical Institute (a predecessor of Pennsylvania College of Technology) opens in 1941, the gym is used by the high school during the day and by WTI students in the evening.

1972
Following the construction of a new high school, the gym (known as Unit 16 by WTI and its successor Williamsport Area Community College) becomes the property of WACC. The gym was renamed the Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium, in memory of one of WACC's first deans, who had died of a heart attack in 1967.

1977
The gym is renovated to fix loose bricks on the outer facade and modernized in the interior.

2012
The basketball court is extended to meet NCAA requirements.

2017
The gym floor is repainted with the new athletics logo.

2019
Air conditioning is installed.

The Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium as it looked in 1940. At the time it was the Williamsport High School gymnasium. On the left is a gate to the high school's football field.

Today's Bardo Gym exterior.

ON THE 'ROAD TO SPACE'

Grad's career 'takes off' with Blue Origin

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

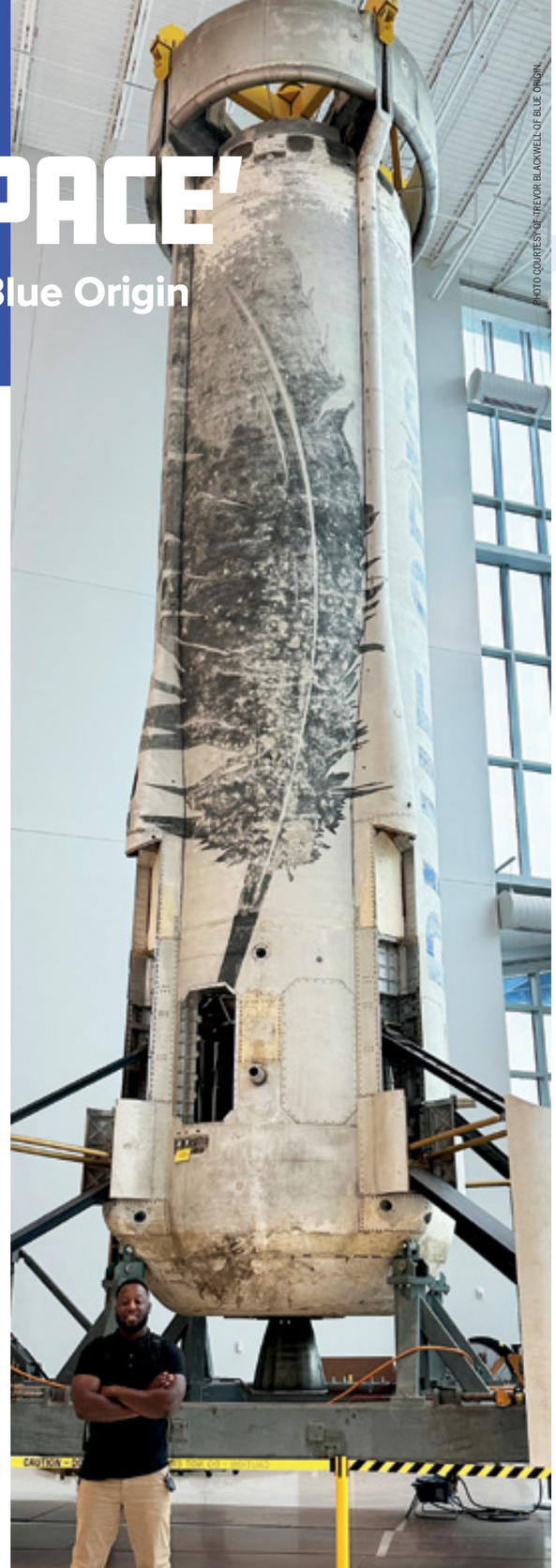


PHOTO COURTESY OF TREVOR BLACKWELL OF BLUE ORIGIN

Dwight D. Alexander does more than live along Florida's Space Coast. He contributes to the industry that gives the region its name, drawing on his industrial design degree from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

The 2017 graduate and Brevard County resident is a technical designer at Blue Origin Enterprises, the American space technology company founded by Jeff Bezos. Alexander creates and manages designs for aerospace components and systems. His responsibilities encompass conceptualizing design ideas, creating computer-aided design models and drafting technical specifications.

"While I can't discuss specifics, knowing those models and drawings help hardware leave Earth is humbling and motivating," Alexander said. "It raises the bar for clarity and quality in everything I deliver."

He works for Blue Origin at its Merritt Island complex, home to the manufacturing and launch facilities for the New Glenn rocket, a reusable rocket intended to deliver payloads to space. Blue Origin is also well-known for its New Shepard rocket, which is built for space tourism. Launched from West Texas, New Shepard has flown over 80 people past the Kármán line (62 miles above sea level), the internationally recognized boundary for space.

Named after iconic astronauts, New Glenn honors John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, and New Shepard pays tribute to Alan Shepard, the first American in space.

On occasion, Alexander witnesses the literal power of those legacies.

"Time seems to slow as everything snaps into focus," Alexander said in describing Blue Origin launches. "You feel the vibration first, then an ocean of sound as precision and raw power move in sync. It's visceral and inspiring every time. It's a reminder why this work matters as we build a sustainable road to space."

The Florida native's interest in aerospace and the tenets of industrial design first intersected in childhood. Aerospace fascinated him because it "sits at the edge of what's possible." And growing up, Alexander's "handy" father repeatedly showed him that it's possible to build what one imagines.

"Hands-on problem solving – paired with making things intuitive and human centered – pulled me into industrial design," Alexander said.

Penn College was Alexander's last visit on a tour of northeastern colleges and universities. Impressed by the passion and expertise of Thomas E. Ask, professor of industrial design, Alexander chose to enroll at Penn College.

"Dwight was aspirational in many ways. He was clever and could get things done," the professor recalled. "He learned about a lot of the practicalities of designing objects. The art foundation courses guided him on how to think visually. Good things arise when you love to make the world a better place and you know how to work hard."

Penn College exceeded Alexander's high expectations as he immersed himself in his core courses and seized unique opportunities. He was one of 20 students worldwide to attend a workshop at Kobe University's International Innovation Design School in Japan and completed a remote internship with Nexeon MedSystems, a global medical device company.

Alexander also flourished outside the classroom, playing intercollegiate basketball for two years and serving as secretary and treasurer of the student chapters of the Industrial Design Society of America and the Society of Inventors and Mad Scientists. He credits those experiences for developing the teamwork and time management skills that are fundamental for fast-paced engineering environments.

Following graduation, Alexander worked as a mechanical designer for a couple of companies before seeking and accepting in September 2024 an open spot in Blue Origin's Entry Level Technical Designer-Rotation Program.

"It blends deep tool and process training with rotations across the product lifecycle," he explained. "With a lead and mentor, I built proficiency in Creo (3D CAD software) and Windchill (a product lifecycle management system), learned Blue Origin standards, and supported structural, mechanical and routed systems work. The learn-apply-improve cadence fit my drive to grow and add value quickly – reducing rework, accelerating release quality and preparing me to lead change across teams."

Today, Alexander is a mentor to the designers in the ELTDR program. He's also enjoying turning "ambiguity into clear models, drawings and standards that remove barriers and empower teams. Turning complexity into repeatable, teachable workflows is both the challenge and the fun," he said. "It's key to reusability and rapid turnarounds."

At left: Dwight D. Alexander, a technical designer for Blue Origin, is dwarfed by a New Shepard rocket, a reusable, suborbital rocket system built by Blue Origin for human flight. Alexander graduated from Penn College with a degree in industrial design in 2017.

> "Knowing those models and drawings help hardware leave Earth is humbling and motivating."

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN KELLEHER OF BLUE ORIGIN

Alexander stands at Launch Complex 36 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. In January 2025, Blue Origin launched its New Glenn rocket from the location.

While he works over 1,000 miles away from the Penn College campus, Alexander said the lessons learned at his alma mater remain close to his heart. He relies on his education daily.

"It provided a strong foundation in design principles, technical proficiency and problem-solving skills, which are essential for fulfilling duties effectively," he said. "It equipped me with the ability to think creatively and develop designs that are both aesthetically pleasing and technically sound, which is crucial in the aerospace industry."

That's an industry Alexander hopes to serve for years to come.

"I want to keep growing as a technical designer and as a change leader – helping teams self-solve faster and accelerating our mission to build the road to space for the benefit of Earth," he said.

Spoken like a true resident of the Space Coast. ■

Natalie A. Greiner operates a Motoman robotic welding cell in Penn College's Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center. She completed an internship with auto parts maker Autokiniton in Michigan.

BANISHING BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

INTERNSHIP SUPPORT FUND EASES FINANCIAL BURDEN OF ACCEPTING INTERNSHIPS

by Adrienne Wertz, news writer

AS STUDENTS ENTER COLLEGE to begin the next phase of their academic journeys, one word often is at the forefront: finances. Having the means to cover the costs associated with the college experience can go a long way in securing a successful future.

Pennsylvania College of Technology is on a mission to support students throughout their college years in ways that mitigate nerves, offer solutions and encourage an open mind. The Internship Support Fund, a donor- and employer-supported program offered through Career Services, helps minimize barriers for students who are considering internship opportunities, allowing them to enjoy a positive experience with less financial stress.

Internships are a graduation requirement for many majors and highly encouraged in others. But finances are often a roadblock or a major stressor in meeting this requirement, said Lizze R. Winters, the college's career and professional programming manager.

"We want students to be able to say 'yes' to opportunities that might otherwise be a hindrance," Winters said. "But they're worried they won't be able to afford it, overwhelmed at finding short-term housing, scared to fly across the country. There are so many factors to consider."

The pandemic forced the college to rethink how it engaged with students who were preparing for an internship. Recruitment Days were developed as a way to get employers on campus and interacting with potential student interns.

"These are small career fairs focused on clusters of majors," Winters said. "The majority of them are held outside under pop-up tents."

The events have continued and have helped provide $84,842 to 93 students since their inception in 2022. Employers are charged a small fee to attend a Recruitment Day, and the money directly supports services for students who apply for financial help through the Internship Support Fund.

"Employers love when we tell them that not only are we connecting you to students who study the majors, but they also seem to really like that we put that money back into the students," Winters said. "We are very clear when we invite them – these funds are used to support professional development."

A portion of the money raised through Recruitment Days helps with indirect costs associated with some of the programs offered through the college's Center for Career Design, which provides both a physical space and virtual opportunities to bring students, alumni and industry partners together. Internship students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources offered there, including developing a resume, cover letter or LinkedIn profile; scheduling a mock interview; navigating the Penn College Career Hub (the college's job-search website); discussing networking skills; and visiting the Career Gear Clothes Closet to find professional clothing for important events.

Although students must provide a proposed budget as part of the Internship Support Fund application process and work with staff to determine the best direction for their funding, there are very few restrictions on the use of the money.

Last year, 25 students were offered funding, which averaged about $963 per award. Winters said students went to 16 different states. Funding uses included defraying the cost of short-term housing in Michigan, paying for security deposits or a first-month's rent, covering gas and groceries, and taking care of the cost of an overnight hotel stay in Nebraska. Money has also been put toward plane tickets, testing costs, expensive specialized uniforms and safety equipment, and to assist with paying for academic credit.

"At Penn College, knowing that we pursue a hands-on degree, work experience falls right into that," Winters said.

The Internship Support Fund application for 2026 is open through April 24, as long as funds remain available. The application gathers important information from each student and encourages them to consider a few critical questions: How is the internship going to help them move forward with their end goal? How is the internship different from others? What are the roadblocks they're facing? The application's budget component urges students to report on the associated expenses. How much is it going to cost to commute an hour each direction for four months in the summer? Is a plane ticket needed? Is this being done for academic credit? ▶▶

Twenty-five students used Internship Support Fund gifts in 2025 to defray the cost of short-term housing, airplane tickets, testing costs, specialized uniforms and safety equipment.

NATALIE'S STORY

Natalie A. Greiner, of North Wales, is a leader across campus. A cross-country runner, Greiner is seeking a bachelor's in welding & fabrication engineering technology.

An internship with Autokiniton was overwhelming, but being selected for funding through the Internship Support Fund helped ease her mind by covering travel expenses related to relocating to Milan, Michigan, for a 40-hour/week, 12-week summer internship.

The hands-on training didn't just lead to a possible full-time job opportunity; it helped Greiner strengthen several key professional skills.

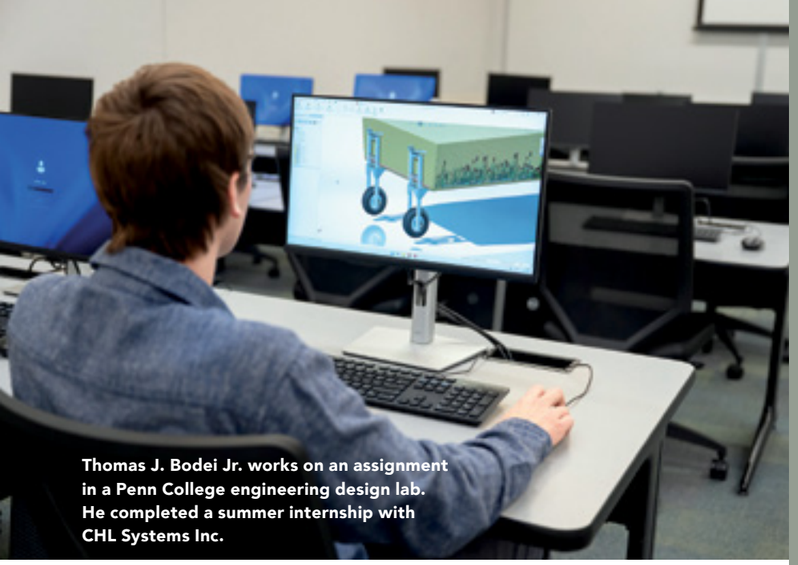
"In any job, strong communication is essential," she said. "When communication breaks down, things can easily fall through the cracks. I've learned how important it is to communicate clearly and consistently with others to keep everything running smoothly. Confidence has also been a major area of growth for me. I used to second-guess myself when speaking about certain parts or processes, unsure if what I was saying was correct. Over time, I've realized that I'm usually right in those situations; I just need to trust my knowledge and speak with confidence."

Critical thinking, she added, was crucial during her time with the company, which produces car parts.

"In this environment, time is money. If something goes wrong on a production cell, it's important to quickly assess the situation, identify possible causes and help get the system back up and running. Everyone depends on you to troubleshoot effectively, and that pressure has pushed me to think fast and problem solve under real-world conditions."

Greiner encourages all students to commit to an internship as a way to experience growth outside of their comfort zones.

"The internship has given me a much clearer picture of what to expect after graduation and has helped me better understand how my education connects to the industry."



Thomas J. Bodei Jr. works on an assignment in a Penn College engineering design lab. He completed a summer internship with CHL Systems Inc.

"That budget is important," Winters said. "We review the apps, and we look for financial gaps between what they're earning and what they're outlaying."

Members of the College Relations team from a variety of areas, including Career Services, the Penn College Foundation, Grants and Communications, and Alumni Relations, are a part of the student selection committee. The Financial Aid office also provides information related to the finalists.

"Finalists are required to attend a virtual interview with members of the selection committee," Winters said. "We determine if they have satisfied the questions. Do they seem excited? Have they told us about the company and what they're going to be doing during their internship? Do we understand how the money will help that student? Then we are able to make a decision and award monies, ranging from $650 to $1,250."

The Penn College Foundation manages the financial aspects of the Internship Support Fund, including what is collected through Recruitment Days, donors and businesses.

Keith and Jennifer Kuzio, of Williamsport, learned about the Internship Support Fund in its early days. Keith, a retired civil engineer, and Jennifer, an educator in prekindergarten, elementary and college for more than 20 years, had firsthand experience with the benefits of internships in their own academic journeys and those of their three children.

They feel the fund is a way to "pay it forward" by helping Penn College students make the most of college internships, so the pair, along with their family, established the first endowed internship fund.

"The Kuzios are passionate about leadership, they're passionate about business and industry and innovation, and they're passionate about supporting young people," said Kyle Smith, vice president of college relations. "They fund a scholarship and the endowment, as well."

According to Smith, the Kuzios take their commitment one step further by working with the foundation to meet with recipients of Internship Support Fund awards.

"It's been very meaningful, that they're able to connect and learn, firsthand, about the students' experiences," Smith said.

The Internship Support Fund serves as a powerful tool for both the corporate partners and students, Smith said, allowing the college to leverage

THOMAS' STORY

When Thomas J. Bodei Jr., of Toms River, New Jersey, first connected with Souderton-based CHL Systems Inc. at a Penn College Career Fair, he was concerned about the financial aspects associated with an internship. The engineering design technology student discovered the Internship Support Fund.

"T.J. worked so hard to apply for the funding," said Lizze R. Winters, career and professional programming manager. "It was going to be a different answer in taking the internship if he did not receive funding."

Bodei met with Winters to identify how he could put himself in the best position possible and presented a detailed budget to demonstrate his financial needs. Bodei was awarded funding for a 40-hour/week, 10-week internship with the company over the summer. The award, he said, allowed him to focus on his role with the company, rather than the cost of temporary housing.

As a result of the internship, Bodei said he was able to get hands-on experience with new technologies.

"Firsthand experience with seeing how industry operates, utilizing software and management systems, improving communication skills and understanding the importance of your role on a larger scale" were just a few of the ways Bodei said he was able to advance his professional skills.

Bodei advised other students to network with people, start conversations and be passionate about their chosen careers.

"The relationship you build with people can lead to opportunities," Bodei said.

A full-time job offer from CHL Systems Inc. is living proof.

Students can apply through the Center for Career Design at www.pct.edu/internship-fund. For more information, email collegerelations@pct.edu or call 570-320-8020.

Employers interact with potential future employees during a Recruitment Day for students in automated manufacturing & machining, polymer engineering, and welding & metal fabrication majors. Employers pay a small fee to attend a Recruitment Day. That money aids students who apply for financial help through the Internship Support Fund.

the support of partners and pass that directly to the students. Those companies, he added, are playing a big role in supporting this initiative.

Smith said the fund often opens doors for students to immerse in their industry in a new setting.

"Why not go see how buildings are designed in Arizona? It's about expanding their opportunities and what a career experience looks like to them," Smith said. "Industry is different in different regions. An internship is one more thing that gives them applied technology experience, while also building those soft skills."

And, Winters said, working in the field helps students put all their skills to use immediately.

"It helps them hone their skills and helps them see how they fit within their larger industry," she said. "When students are connected at these recruiting events with industry partners, they are getting the best exposure to their industry."

In many instances, she said, internships have turned into full-time offers.

"A company has already put the training and time and effort into them. The students know the system and processes and colleagues," Winters said. "That conversion is helpful for both students and companies. Penn College students become professionals so much sooner because they're working in their field from their first summer. The more they do this, the more skilled they get and, in turn, the higher the salary offer because they have real-world experience."

Easton-based Victaulic has enjoyed a mutually beneficial partnership with the college for nearly 20 years. Judy Tierney, senior talent acquisition partner for the global manufacturing company, said 11 Penn College graduates are working for Victaulic.

Its summer internship program includes three months of learning new skills paired with a challenging workload, networking events, a buddy program, social activities and competitive compensation. Students are housed at local universities, depending on their location in either Easton, Alburtis, Nazareth or Allentown, and at the end of their time with the company, they give a presentation to management and leadership that details their internship experiences.

"Penn College has something that most other schools don't offer," Tierney said. "It's why we keep coming back again and again. We establish relationships with students through Career Fairs and Recruitment Days that start as early as freshman year. By the time they're ready to consider an internship, they're familiar with us, and we're already familiar with them. We have already established a familiar relationship with them, and that can take time to invest in that."

Tierney added that her team is looking to hire interns into permanent positions.

"This school correlates to what we're looking for, and we don't know of any other schools that are as impressive at connecting students with internship and employment opportunities," she said. "It's fabulous to know that each time we're here, our small fee is helping to support the students. This does our hearts good, and we remain fully committed to helping the students. In the end, that is helping us, too."

Victaulic is a Corporate Tomorrow Maker and a member of the Heritage Society ($50,000-$99,999) on the college's Donor Wall.

Remaining Recruitment Days this semester include:

- March 18: Diesel Technology/Heavy Equipment/Forestry
- March 19: Nursing
- March 25: Dental Hygiene
- Mach 27: Physician Assistant
- April 1: Radiography
- April 7: Wildcat Rotorfest/Emergency Management

To be eligible for funding through the Internship Support Fund, applicants must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, have completed at least two semesters at Penn College before the internship begins and be pursuing a major-related work-based experience, credit-based internship or clinical experience that includes a minimum of 120 hours. ■

CAPSTONE ACHIEVEMENT

PHOTOS BY RUDY FABRE

SENIOR PROJECT LEADS TO PATENT

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

In kindergarten, when Zachary C. Moore was asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, he offered a one-word answer: "inventor." Thanks to his education at Pennsylvania College of Technology and personal fortitude, the lifelong tinkerer has fulfilled that childhood dream.

About a year after his May 2024 graduation, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office granted a patent for the prosthetic socket Moore designed for his capstone project at Penn College, a semester-long undertaking required for the bachelor's degree in engineering design technology.

At bottom right: Zachary C. Moore holds a prototype for the "Rose Socket" he designed as a senior project to provide more comfort for those using prosthetic limbs. The 2024 graduate recently received a patent for the invention.

"It is extremely rare for students to continue working on their capstone project following graduation, let alone pursue patent protection for their work," said Craig A. Miller, assistant professor and department head of engineering design technology. "It is difficult to express how proud we are of Zachary. Achieving a patent is the pinnacle of success for so many engineers, inventors and entrepreneurs worldwide. The fact that Zachary has achieved this feat at such a young age only adds to the pride we feel."

A prosthetic socket serves as the interface between the body and the prosthesis. The socket fits over the residual limb and holds the prosthesis in place, providing stability and allowing for controlled movement.

Not all sockets are created equal. As Moore wrote in his patent filing: "Poorly fitted sockets can cause discomfort, pressure points and skin irritation, leading to pain, blisters or pressure sores. Hard materials may not conform well to the limb, reducing comfort during prolonged use, while uneven pressure distribution can cause tissue damage. … Many sockets are designed for a fixed shape, failing to accommodate residual limb fluctuations."

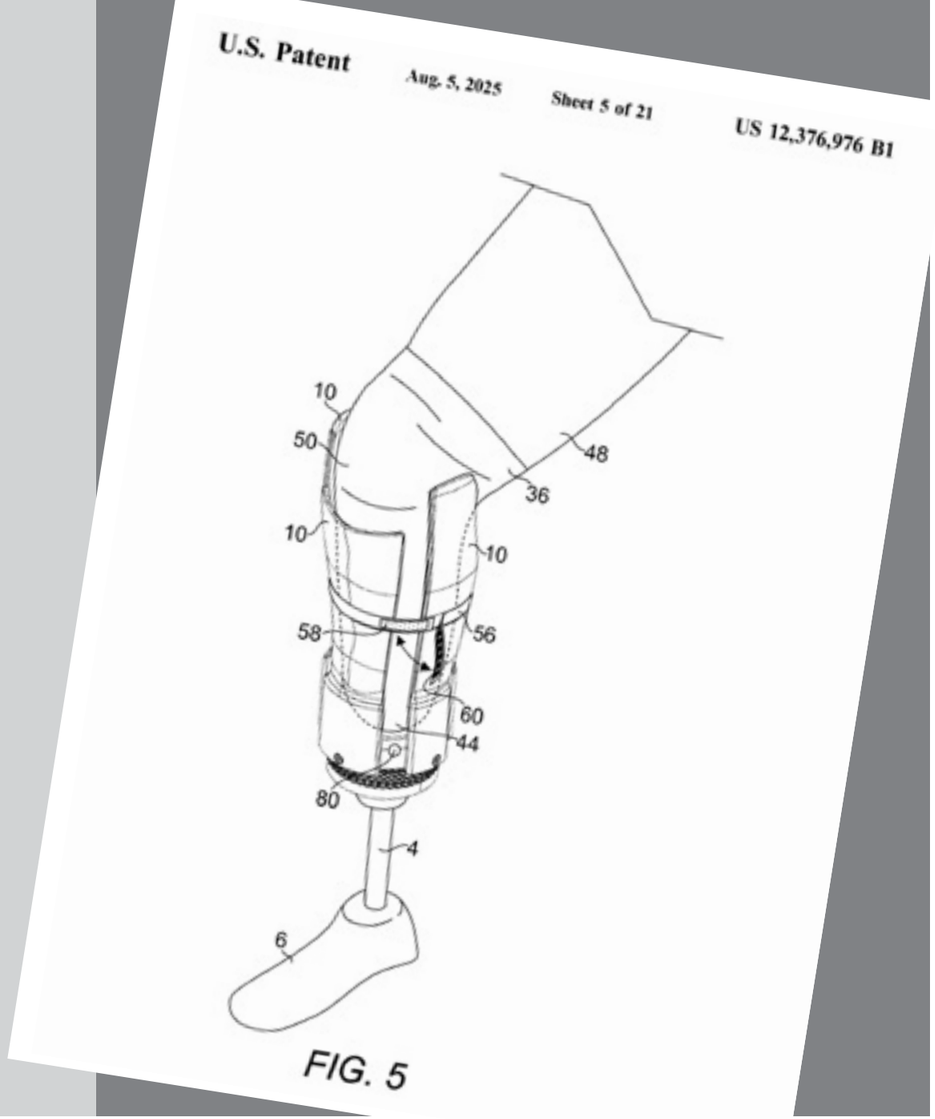
Moore patented a prosthetic socket with adjustable panels that secure the residual limb in place.

A ratcheting mechanism – when rotated – moves the panels in or out in a straight line to either increase or reduce the socket's opening. With the ability to easily adjust the fit of the socket, an individual can account for changes throughout the day in their limb's fluid volume. For example, physical activity may cause the limb to swell and prompt the user to expand the socket's aperture.

"The panels evenly distribute pressure to the entire limb while providing air flow through the gaps between the panels. The pin lock suspension system ensures a high level of prosthetic security, in that it won't easily detach unless the user intends it to do so," Moore explained.

"Achieving a patent is the pinnacle of success for so many engineers, inventors and entrepreneurs worldwide.

The fact that Zachary has achieved this feat at such a young age only adds to the pride we feel."



A drawing within Moore's patent documents depicts his prosthetic socket.

The clock began ticking on the patent possibility once he shared a 3D-printed prototype of the prosthetic socket during his capstone presentation to faculty and classmates a few weeks prior to graduation. In the U.S., individuals have just a year to file for a patent after publicly revealing their invention.

Fortunately, a key capstone requirement – conducting exhaustive research to prove his version of a prosthetic socket didn't exist – matched an essential step in the patent filing process. With that obligation complete, Moore – with the aid of a patent attorney – spent countless hours post-graduation writing in extreme detail how all parts worked, why the invention was useful and how it differed from existing devices. His written explanations were complemented by 23 black-and-white illustrations of device components.

The final stages of the application took months to complete because Moore was busy at his day job. Upon graduation, Hybridge Dental Laboratory in Rochester hired him as a dental CAD technician. The medical equipment manufacturing company specializes in full-mouth and full-arch dental restorations.

Moore saw the job opening on LinkedIn and responded by submitting his resume and capstone materials.

"Medical design was always something I wanted to do after graduation," he said. "Considering the company is based around dental prosthetics, they were really interested in talking with me, given my educational background and capstone project."

In his role, Moore designs and adapts a variety of different models and parts, including pre-op models that represent a patient's current dental anatomy. Those models serve as quality control and allow doctors to visualize an upcoming surgery.

"Working with full-arch restoration cases every day provides me with a variety of dental anatomy to work on. No case is ever the same. It never becomes mundane or boring," Moore said. "The company is always evolving, so there's always something to learn."

He grew up about 35 miles west of Hybridge Dental Laboratory in the quaint community of Albion, New York. From a young age, Moore remembers taking everything apart around his house in a quest to understand how things worked. His tinkering meshed with a rudimentary introduction to engineering design during a high school art class. A 3D printer in the room enticed him to discover the possibilities of computer aided design.

"I was instantly drawn to the 3D printer and proceeded to teach myself how to design things in any CAD software I could get my hands on," Moore said.

An associate degree in mechanical technology followed from Monroe Community College. Moore planned to use that program as a springboard to an engineering design baccalaureate degree at a private university in New York but changed his mind after discovering Penn College.

"Penn College provided an immersive program with a lot of hands-on opportunities at a fraction of the cost of other colleges and universities that offer the same curriculum," Moore said. "Penn College also has a great reputation for helping its students find a job after graduation and, in most cases, even before that point. Lastly, the smaller program size allowed me the one-on-one time with the professors that I knew I would highly benefit from compared to other bigger colleges. Penn College met all my expectations."

Miller remembers the highly motivated transfer student entering the engineering design technology major, which today is one of a few such programs accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET.

"Zachary always wanted to do the very best he could with any task assigned to him," the assistant professor said. "He often performed above and beyond expectations to ensure that the work he submitted was as good as it can be."

From his first day at Penn College, Moore knew he would have to complete a capstone to graduate. The focus for his eventual study was unclear, but the goal was not.

"I wanted to design something for my capstone that was helpful and creative enough to potentially earn a patent," he said.

Observations at an ice cream shop and later at a retail store – coupled with insights from industry professionals and prosthetic users – helped inspire and formulate his eventual project.

During the summer prior to his senior year, Moore worked at Double Dips, an old-fashioned ice cream stand in Medina, New York. When taking the trash out one sunny afternoon, he noticed a kindergarten-age girl playing with other children in the small grassy area by the stand.

"She would often stop and fuss with her prosthetic leg/socket. And from that, I decided that coming up with a potential solution to aid in that type of situation would be my capstone project," he recalled.

Not that it would be easy. The project consumed the spring semester of his senior year. "I went through many different design iterations," Moore admitted.

Input from engineering design faculty, along with technical advice from Emily Siffrinn – a certified orthotist and prosthetist in Williamsport – proved helpful. Through Penn College connections, Moore also gained the perspective of prosthetic users Diane Matter and James Healey. But it was a random experience at a Walmart that Moore credits for a big breakthrough.

Suffering from daily project fatigue, Moore decided to run some errands to clear his mind. While in the local Walmart, he noticed a worker fluffing roses and other flowers at a Valentine's Day display.

"From that, a lightbulb went off. I recognized that the way in which a rose opens and closes would be a great base point to design the mechanism for my adjustable socket design," Moore said.

The spiral appearance of the roses inspired him to create the ratcheting mechanism that opens and closes the prosthetic socket. Moore's invention uses spiral tracks arranged in a circular pattern, requiring a twisting motion to align the panels to the desired socket opening.

To honor the floral stimulus, Moore called his capstone the "Rose Socket."

"Developing a practical and cost-effective design was the most challenging aspect," he said. "Too much complexity or moving parts can lead to higher rates of failure and can also lead to higher costs. I found it most challenging to keep the moving parts to a minimum while meeting the goals I had set."

Moore's current goal is to license the patent to a company that will manufacture and market the device to serve both lower and upper amputees. The adjustable panels are designed to be 3D printed from carbon fiber nylon material. The mechanism responsible for expanding and contracting the panels is to be made from a combination of injection-molded plastic and aluminum, cut from a laser or computer-numerical-control machine.

Receiving an "A" on the capstone pleased Moore. Obtaining the patent thrilled him. Witnessing the "Rose Socket" change lives would overwhelm him with joy.

"Oh, it'd be absolutely phenomenal to see it because of the different aspects that I had woven into the project to account for different challenges an amputee may encounter," said Moore, who is considering a master's degree in medical device design. "It would be really rewarding."

"Rewarding" is how he views his time at Penn College – a place that nurtured his inventive spirit and sharpened his technical skills, planting the seeds for a career that is now in full bloom.

"I am very grateful to Penn College for providing me with the opportunity to explore my passions in developing medical devices," Moore said, "and for providing me with a strong engineering design foundation for all my future endeavors."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN S. SHULTZ

Entrepreneurial Entryway

Williamsport LaunchBox provides no-cost resources for startups

by Adrienne Wertz, news writer

CALLING ALL STARTUPS, entrepreneurs, innovators and creatives: Pennsylvania College of Technology has opened a new space that is designed specifically for individuals with big ideas. Williamsport LaunchBox supported by Ken and Kristie Healy offers resources to turn any business concept into reality.

The LaunchBox, in Room 150 of the Carl Building Technologies Center, 1031 W. Third St., is the 24th innovation space in the Invent Penn State LaunchBox & Innovation Network. The project spans the state within campus communities to provide a wide array of resources at low or no cost. Open to students, faculty, staff and community members, Williamsport LaunchBox offers resources for those who are in the process of accomplishing a variety of critical steps in the business cycle, including startup accelerator programs, legal and intellectual property resources, entrepreneurial/small business workshops and an expert speaker series.

"Our mission is to empower entrepreneurs by connecting them to resources, support and the innovative spirit needed to accelerate growth and drive economic impact," said Erin S. Shultz, manager of Williamsport LaunchBox operations. "With our mission in mind, we've created a community-focused innovation hub that is designed to help entrepreneurs and small businesses turn their ideas into action. Further, through providing no-cost resources and free access to vital services, we're eliminating hurdles and providing pathways to successfully starting a business. Williamsport LaunchBox will act as a catalyst for economic development and social change by providing the infrastructure and expertise necessary for local ideas to be transformed into successful, sustainable ventures."

The Invent Penn State LaunchBox & Innovation Network, initiated in 2015 by Penn State President Emeritus Eric Barron, has engaged more than 24,000 students and faculty and assisted over 8,000 entrepreneurs, resulting in the creation of 1,033 startups, 770 internships and 708 jobs – a substantial economic development impact. General network services include accelerators, makerspaces, prototyping, legal and intellectual property advice, co-working, speakers, competitions and advisers. Each innovation hub is equipped with resources to meet the specific needs of the surrounding community. If a resource isn't offered through a local space, guests can access the statewide network to find exactly what they need through one of Penn State's other undergraduate communities, including Penn College, a special mission affiliate of Penn State.

"Each innovation space across the Invent Penn State LaunchBox & Innovation Network is designed to serve the community in which it is located," Shultz said. "Programming, services and resources are tailored to meet the unique needs of our diverse communities throughout Pennsylvania. I feel Williamsport LaunchBox will bring people with diverse skills and perspectives to learn from one another and collaborate on real-world solutions."

The Penn College space is equipped with workstations, collaboration stations with shared monitors, a conference room, free Wi-Fi, 3D printers for prototyping, comfortable seating, a hospitality station and easy access to the Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College. The goal is to create a hub for innovators, entrepreneurs and like-minded individuals to connect and share ideas. Shultz has also initiated key collaborations with the Penn State Small Business Development Center and Ben Franklin Technology Partners, both of which hold regular office hours at the local LaunchBox.

The Williamsport LaunchBox's location was once known as the "hallway to nowhere." (The building it once led to, Unit 6, was demolished in the 1980s.) More recently it housed the baking & pastry arts patisserie. Brenda A. Wiegand, director of academic operations, said the space's proximity to the college's makerspace made it the ideal spot for a collaborative environment for users.

"The Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College will provide LaunchBox participants with a collaborative, creative environment to develop a product, a prototype or test a concept," Wiegand said. "Our makerspace is here to help you turn ideas into real-world, viable solutions. Makerspace access is available by appointment for LaunchBox participants who are developing business ideas or product prototypes. In addition, The Dr. Welch Workshop is open year-round to Penn College students, faculty and staff. It offers limited summer hours to the community through summer membership options for a minimal fee."

According to Anthony J. Pace, vice president for enrollment & student success, the idea behind the Williamsport LaunchBox was in the works for a few years, but it was only because of the generous financial and operational support from donors and campus resources that the project was brought to life.

Penn College President Michael J. Reed recognized the support of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and that of the Ken and Kristie Healy Foundation, Barbara B. Hudock, and Paul and Tom Kerr during a November dedication of the space.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Ken and Kristie Healy Foundation, Williamsport LaunchBox will serve as a hub for students, faculty and community members to bring ideas to market, with a strong focus on technology-based innovation, workforce development and industry collaboration," Reed said. "Thanks to the generosity of Barbara Hudock, the Entrepreneur Tech Fund will provide annual funds for operations to power innovation, mentorship and business development." ■

"We've created a community-focused innovation hub that is designed to help entrepreneurs and small businesses turn their ideas into action."

At an event to dedicate the Williamsport LaunchBox, Richard Vilello (left), deputy secretary of community affairs and development for the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, joins Ken and Kristie Healy, who provided financial support for the LaunchBox, in ceremonially opening the facility's doors.

LaunchBox programming, generally offered at no cost, includes:

- ◇ Customer Discover 101 – A self-paced online course
- ◇ E-ship CrashCourse – A one-hour introduction for anyone considering their own startup
- ◇ Legal Services Workshop
- ◇ Idea TestLab – A four-week program to help turn an idea into a viable business
- ◇ Digital TestLab – A fast-paced program helping startups and brands learn to navigate the digital landscape
- ◇ MVP DevLab – Designed to support entrepreneurs in the crucial phase between idea and business creation
- ◇ FastTrack Accelerator – A 10-week program helping to avoid common startup mistakes, build an actionable plan, test the market quickly and launch a business
- ◇ Summer Founders Program – A 13-week program available to startups with at least one current student; teams work full time on their ventures in State College.
- ◇ Teen Entrepreneurship Challenge Camp – Learning entrepreneurship mindset through education and project-based learning

Williamsport LaunchBox is open by appointment on Mondays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more information, call 570-320-2400 or email launchbox@pct.edu.

Physical Therapy Clinic

Breuder Advanced Technology & Health Sciences Center, Room W210

Operating since Oct. 3, the Physical Therapy Clinic provides pro bono services to the community and allows physical therapist assistant students to work with real patients. Upgrades to the space, much of the equipment and funding for the first two years of the clinic's operation were provided for through a gift from Penn College President Emeritus Davie Jane Gilmour. "Now these students will be able to work in a hands-on environment, on real people with real needs," Gilmour said. "The opportunity to provide these services is one of many priceless gifts Penn College can provide. There is no better place for students to have that opportunity." The clinic offers services twice weekly to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured or have financial barriers to receiving physical therapy. A doctor's referral is required.

Jessica D. Beasom, of South Williamsport, uses therapeutic ultrasound with fellow student Liberty N. Homan, of Centre Hall. The device is used to decrease pain and swelling and to promote healing in injured tissues.

Savanna R. Duvall, of Petersburg, spots classmate Melissa L. Biichle, of Williamsport, as she does a single leg balance exercise on a Bosu trainer. The exercise is designed to improve balance, stability and proprioception (a person's awareness of themselves in space). "I love being hands-on with people and seeing them improve over time," said Duvall, who learned about the field as a high school student at Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center. She visited three colleges and liked Penn College the best. "We get a lot more patient experience here than I've seen anywhere else," said Duvall, who is president of both the Physical Therapist Assistant Club and the Alpha Alpha Alpha national honor society for first-generation college students.

In addition to equipment purchased through Gilmour's gift, clinical and industry partners from UPMC donated equipment. An additional gift from Dr. Sheldon M. and Denise M. Schwartz will fund at least five years of the clinic's operation.

Ashton R. Breed practices core stabilization exercises. "The Physical Therapy Clinic is such a privilege for us, especially since no other schools have this unique opportunity for students," the Mifflinburg resident said. "Being able to apply what we learn in classes to the clinic with real patients and guidance from our clinic physical therapist (Katie E. Beaver) has made the learning process natural and has really prepared me for working in a professional setting." Patients are evaluated by a licensed physical therapist to determine an individualized plan of care, and that plan is implemented by student physical therapist assistants under direct supervision of a licensed physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.

In the 88 years from Bardo Gymnasium's dedication in 1937 to the replacement of its original floor in 2025, many feet crossed its boards. Can you help us identify who's taking "center court" in these images? Please email magazine@pct.edu or call 570-321-5527.

IN THE LAST ISSUE

Many thanks to Scott Ranck '74, Tom Casti '68, Jim Young (who retired in 2009) and Heather (Young) Whipple '02 for identifying building construction faculty members Frank Grenoble (wearing a vest and tie) and William Young (reviewing plans with students at a worksite) on the Fall 2025 "Photographic Memory" pages, which featured photos from the construction of student-built homes known as WACC IV and WACC V. Ranck, who earned a certificate in construction carpentry, and a friend from Danville, Donald Burke, were selected by faculty member Mason Wagner to lay bricks for WACC V. "I distinctly remember laying bricks on the right front end of the home," Burke said. Jim Young retired from Penn College as a building construction technology instructor and is the son of William. Whipple, Jim Young's daughter and William's granddaughter, holds a degree in business administration: management concentration.

1970s

Daniel Botts '71, aviation maintenance technician, retired from Link Fight Simulation and Training, where he was an industrial engineer. He built and installed aviation and aerospace training equipment and systems for the Defense Department. He resides in Susquehanna.

Nellene (McKalips) Bunting '72, secretarial science: medical, is retired and resides in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Clark P. Craumer '72, civil engineering technology, is president of Clark P. Craumer LLC. He is past president and current treasurer of the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors South Central Chapter. He resides in Abbottstown.

John Musser '72, aviation maintenance technician, is retired after 36 years as a service technician for two Ford dealerships. He's also been a contractor on the side for Juniata County school buses and a PennDOT equipment operator. He resides in McAlisterville.

Marjorie (Long) Scholl '74, floriculture, is retired and resides in Lewisburg with her husband, **Timothy '75,** broadcasting.

Steven R. Deitrick '76, general studies, is retired and resides in Merritt Island, Fla.

Michael C. Emanuel '76, technical illustration, retired from AMP as a senior technical illustrator and patent draftsman. He resides in Harrisburg.

Gregory J. Souchak '76, electrical construction, is retired and resides in Spring Brook Township.

Harland Bergstrom '77, electronics technology, is retired and resides in Williamsport with his wife, **Carole '96,** legal assistant/paralegal.

Frank D. Watson '77, diesel technology, is president of Watson Diesel Inc., an engine and drive train rebuild facility, and WD Hot Block LLC. Watson invented the Hot Block, a water discharge valve heater. He received Bradford County Business of the Year honors and resides in Canton.

Kenneth E. Howanitz '78, construction carpentry, is retired and resides in Shickshinny.

1980s

Lori A. (Williams) Strayer '80, secretarial science: legal, is a court manager for the State of North Carolina-Judicial Branch. She oversees 300-plus civil cases a year for the Pitt County Superior Court. She worked for 30 years as a litigation paralegal all over the country while her husband was in the Army. She resides in Farmville, N.C.

Gerald J. "Jerry" Dougherty Jr. '82, automotive mechanics, retired from the Pennsylvania State Police in 2019 as assistant fleet manager, overseeing a 2,500-vehicle fleet. He started his career with the state police in 1984. He spent three years as a member of Ford's Police Advisory Board, working with Ford engineers to refine and develop new technologies for police vehicles. He resides in Hummelstown.

David J. Sheehan '82, electrical construction, is a sales and marketing manager for V&S Korns Galvanizing. He resides in Johnstown.

Michael A. Zechman '82, aviation maintenance technician, is retired and resides in Mifflinburg.

Julie (Pfleegor) Raup '87, dietetic technician, is the food service director for UPMC's northcentral Pennsylvania region, overseeing six health care food service operations. She holds a bachelor's in nutrition and dietetics from Mansfield University. She resides in Turbotville.

Susan K. (Mull) Lyons '88, dental hygiene, is retired after a 30-plus-year career in dental hygiene. She resides in Lewisburg.

Amy (Lowe) Woodley '88, secretarial office administration, is an office manager for Gillum Psychological & Counseling Services. She resides in Williamsport.

1990s

Jeffrey P. Herrman '91, graphic communication, is an operator for Delta Packaging Inc. He resides in Red Lion.

Karen (Persun) Mensinger '93, accounting, is an accounting manager for the Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority. She resides in Montoursville.

Shawn M. Young '93, aviation technology, is the general manager of East Coast Propeller Service. He resides in Elizabethtown.

Robert A. Peters '94, industrial drafting, is a senior civil designer for Boyd Civil Engineering and owns Robert Peters Design Services. He continued his education at Valencia Community College and resides in Riverview, Fla.

Laura (Hartley) Stroble '95, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for DePasquale Dental. She resides in Thomasville with her husband, **Jerry '90,** paramedic.

Shelly (Mase) Clokey '96, graphic design, is owner/graphic designer for Concepts Design, an advertising and graphic design firm. She resides in Williamsport with her husband and business partner, **Robert '84,** advertising art.

Teresa C. (Cillo) Wolfe '97, computer applications technology, is a senior underwriter for Geisinger Health Plan. She continued her education at McCann School of Business. She resides in Sunbury.

Robert A. Armstrong '98, culinary arts technology, retired from Penn College as a sous chef in Le Jeune Chef Restaurant. He resides in Wolf Township.

Tammy A. (Gibbons) Scholl '98, legal assistant-paralegal, is an office manager for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. She resides in New Columbia and is the mother of **Nathan Scholl '25,** engineering design technology.

Nichole A. (Heckman) Yost Scholl '98, human services, is a secretary for Faith Baptist Church. She resides in Beavertown.

Melinda R. (Foust) Roat '99, early childhood education, is an Early Head Start classroom teacher at Summit Early Learning. She resides in New Berlin and completed a bachelor's in early childhood education from St. Francis University in 2024. Her daughter **Maggie** is a pre-physical therapist assistant student.

2000s

Vicky E. Heim '00, occupational therapy assistant, is retired and resides in Ruskin, Fla.

Andrew J. Kline '01, aviation maintenance technology, is a sixth grade teacher for Whitehall-Coplay School District. He resides in Macungie.

David E. Yaeger '01, computer aided product and systems design, is president/CEO of the Product Development Factory, which focuses on manufacturing processes, analysis, testing and quality control. He holds multiple patents and is particularly passionate about U.S. Patent No. 12,111,631 (Advanced Manufacturing). He resides in Telford.

Michele L. (Praster) March '03, applied human services, is the executive vice president of NuWeld Inc. She resides in Williamsport.

Jonathan M. Egan '05, automotive technology, is a BMW master elite technician for BMW of Westlake. He resides in Westlake, Ohio.

Christopher Swoyer '05, computer aided drafting technology, is a senior manager of work planning for Amtrak. He coordinates and schedules construction interests throughout Amtrak's New York Division. He holds a bachelor's in construction management and a master's in engineering management, both from Drexel University, and was recognized by Amtrak for Outstanding Achievement in Customer Focus and Financial Excellence. He resides in Harleysville.

Jenn (McHenry) Wolfe '05, culinary arts technology and dietary manager technology, is a senior clinical dietitian for Geisinger. She holds a bachelor's in nutritional sciences from Penn State. She resides in Lock Haven.

Kyle F. Dolinsky '06, diesel technology, is a diesel technology instructor for St. Mary's County Public Schools. He resides in La Plata, Md.

Robert J. Nickels '07, manufacturing engineering technology, is a project manager for Emerald C's Development, a commercial construction company. He resides in Neptune Beach, Fla.

Steve Reed '07, computer aided product design, is a mechanical designer for Gillespie & Powers. He helps to design furnaces that melt scrap aluminum for the recycling industry. He resides in St. Marys.

Selanda A. Embee '08, information technology: network specialist and information technology: security specialist, is a systems analysis adviser for Evernorth Health Services. They reside in Berwick.

Robert M. Layng '08, toolmaking technology, is an engineering technician and machinist for Lafayette College. He works with engineering students to complete their projects and manufactures, installs and maintains research and lab equipment. He resides in Saylorsburg.

Matt A. Marchiori '08, automotive technology management, is a fixed operations director for Ciocca Automotive. He relocated to Doylestown to oversee the acquisition and integration of a new group of dealerships. He received Toyota's Field Product Quality Award and achieved the Toyota President's Award for three consecutive years. He is a member of Penn College's Automotive Technology Honda PACT Advisory Committee and a co-op partner for the Upper Bucks County Technical School.

2010s

Zachary MacMullen '10, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer manager for Miller Electric Mfg. He resides in Larsen, Wis.

Philip Wesbury '10, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology, is vice president of Builtech Services. He oversees business development activities nationwide and manages the Charlotte, N.C., office. He holds a bachelor's in business and sustainability from Arizona State University. He resides in Charlotte.

Amy S. (Dibble) Chervinsky '11, business administration: banking and finance, is manager of business lending operations for Corning Credit Union. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Baker College. She lives in Elmira, N.Y.

Misty (Bennett) Jones '11, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a quality assurance engineer for Siemens Energy. She resides in Rixford.

Taylor M. Kijak '11, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a project engineer II for Jabil Healthcare. He resides in Etowah, N.C.

Katie (Arthur) Tobin '14, baking and pastry arts, is a data analyst for Geisinger. She resides in Hughesville.

Paul Wagner '14, diesel technology, is a heavy equipment technician for Foley Inc. He resides in Schuylkill Haven.

Jonathan F. DeRoner '15, computer aided product design, is a mechanical drafter for Mach III, a producer of pneumatic clutches, brakes and torque limiters. He resides in Horseheads, N.Y.

Rebecca (Young) Freezer '15, business administration: banking and finance, is director of business operations for Penn College Workforce Development. She holds a Master of Business Administration and resides in Cogan Station.

Michael A. Betz '16, heating, ventilation & air conditioning design technology, is a plumbing engineer for James Posey Associates. He resides in Owings Mills, Md.

Brandon J. Bodine '16, information technology: network specialist, is a systems engineer II for CSX. He resides in Wellsboro.

Jessica L. (Wright) DeMutis '16, early childhood education, is a Pre-K Counts/Head Start teacher for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. She additionally completed bachelor's and master's degrees in education. She resides in Plymouth Meeting.

David Manikowski '16, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a supplier development engineer for JLG Industries. He resides in St. Thomas, Pa.

Joshua Nadonley '16, information technology: information assurance and security, is a security analyst for Sheetz. He resides in Chesterfield, Mo.

Charles M. Stankye IV '16, residential construction technology and management: was promoted to builder first class petty officer in the Navy. He oversees construction projects and manages teams. He is stationed at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, in Kaneohe Bay.

Lindsay (Nye) Clink '18, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a certified welding inspector and lead engineer for Eaton Aerospace. She resides in Saline, Mich.

Evan N. Moore '18, manufacturing engineering technology, is a process engineer for Prysmian Group. He resides in Williamsport.

Olivia (Hawbecker) Billman '19, web and interactive media, is an applications support analyst for MCCi. She resides in Orrstown.

Tanner Huff '19, engineering design technology, is a senior VDC (virtual design and construction) lead for Southland Industries. He resides in South Williamsport with his wife, **Gabrielle Moore '22,** physician assistant studies.

2020s

Kendall Bartley '20, health arts: practical nursing, is a registered nurse for Jefferson Health. She completed her LPN to RN nursing degree from Penn College in 2023. She resides in Warminster.

Dylan Baley '21, industrial design, is an assistant set designer and prop master for Family Life Ministries' community theater arm. He also volunteers as a performer. He resides in Bath, N.Y.

Sara F. Fox '21, human services & restorative justice, is a disability and access resources assistant at Penn College. She resides in South Williamsport.

Nick Tartaglia '21, residential construction technology and management, is a project engineer II for Harkins Builders. He resides in Doylestown.

Matthew J. Eck '22, civil engineering technology, is an engineering technician for Frederick, Seibert & Associates Inc., working with municipalities to design capital projects and providing site designs for the private sector. He's also a zoning officer and sewage enforcement officer for several townships. He resides in Carlisle.

Kalie A. Kostelnik '23, human services & restorative justice, is a life skills counselor for Valley Youth House, where she works with children and young adults who were or are in foster care. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Tori Siler '23, physician assistant studies, is a PA for Clearway Pain Solutions. She lives in Bel Air, Md.

Cheyenne Stein '23, residential construction technology & management, is a project engineer for ISEC Inc. She resides in Nashville, Tenn.

Emily R. Heller '24, landscape/plant production technology, is a sales support representative for SiteOne Landscape Supply and is pursuing a bachelor's in applied management from Penn College. She resides in Northampton.

Blaine W. Mann '24, construction management, is a project estimator for Welliver. He resides in Painted Post, N.Y.

Jared D. Schwenk '24, culinary arts technology, is a cook for 1933 Restaurant at the Hotel Hershey. He resides in Hershey.

Bryce A. Borger '25, welding & fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for Curtiss-Wright. He resides in West Babylon, N.Y.

Blake R. Gehman '25, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is a laborer/operator for general contractor Gordon H. Baver Inc. He resides in East Greenville.

Ashley M. Kenney '25, human services & restorative justice, is a life skills counselor for Valley Youth House. She resides in Dallastown.

Nichole (Smith) Lauver '25, surgical technology, is a surgical technologist for Mount Nittany Medical Center. She resides in Montoursville.

Richard T. Markle '25, engineering design technology, is a tool design engineer for Advanced Powder Products, designing metal injection molds for some of the biggest gun manufacturers in the world, as well as medical and industrial companies. He resides in Spring Mills.

Anastasia Maxwell '25, nursing, is a registered nurse for Geisinger. She resides in Williamsport.

David Modispaw '25, heavy construction equipment technology: technician and operator emphases, is an operator for Koppers Inc. He resides in Montoursville.

Bryce M. Weikel '23, electrical technology; **'25,** building automation engineering technology, is a refrigeration technician for Tyson Foods. He resides in Gordon.

Marriages & Births

Robert M. Layng '08, toolmaking technology, and wife Rachel welcomed their second child, Allie Mae, in 2025. They reside in Saylorsburg.

Matt A. Marchiori '08, automotive technology management, married Christina Le on Sept. 22, 2025, in Tuscany, Italy. They reside in Doylestown.

Paul Wagner '14, diesel technology, and his wife, Amber, welcomed their first child, Kashton, in March 2025. They reside in Schuylkill Haven.

Jonathan F. DeRoner '15, computer aided product design, and wife Jacquelyn welcomed a child, Paxton, in August 2023. They reside in Horseheads, N.Y.

Jessica L. (Wright) DeMutis '16, early childhood education, and her husband, **Charles '16,** engineering design technology, welcomed daughter Scarlett Rose in August 2025. They reside in Plymouth Meeting.

Vanessa M. Dick '17, dental hygiene, married **Kent E. Wilkinson '16,** surveying technology, on July 26, 2025, in Devon. They reside in Pottstown.

Meghan Herman '18, industrial and human factors design, married **Evan N. Moore '18,** manufacturing engineering technology, in May 2024. They reside in Williamsport.

Olivia (Hawbecker) Billman '19, web and interactive media, and her husband, **Luke '18,** heavy construction equipment technology: technician emphasis, welcomed a daughter, Addy, in June 2024.

Alyssa Ogden '19, emergency medical services, married **Nick Tartaglia '21,** residential construction technology and management, in June 2025, after her May graduation with a Master of Medical Science. They reside in Doylestown.

Julie (Morelli) Haeseler '23, nursing, and her husband, **Jake '20,** electrical technology, welcomed a son, Colt, in September 2025.

In Memory

Franklin P. Beatty III, retired associate professor of plumbing and heating, age 86, on Sept. 3

Lawrence W. Emery Jr., retired counselor, age 82, on Aug. 19

Jessie L. Hafner, retired clerk-typist, age 101, on Dec. 6

Paul S. Schriner '63, faculty emeritus, welding, age 86, on Nov. 28

Doreen Shope, retired associate professor of automotive, age 89, on Dec. 12

Lawrence P. Stabler Sr., retired associate professor of automotive, age 89, on Nov. 12

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Penn College is a place where students can grow today, and long after graduation. Young people are the future of our industry. By supporting their education, we're not only building stronger communities: We're building the next generation of leaders, innovators and craftspeople."

Brett Garman '99
building construction technology

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LOVE BY THE LADLE-FUL

Chef Frank M. Suchwala garnishes his mushroom soup. For years, Suchwala and his students have been preparing the soup for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank's annual soup fundraisers.

Chef Frank M. Suchwala has been supporting Ladles of Love – a Central Pennsylvania Food Bank fundraiser (and its predecessor, Soup and a Bowl) – since 2007. Each February, the associate professor of hospitality management/culinary arts leads students in making 20 gallons of soup – most often including several gallons of mushroom bisque – for the event, which features soups from several local restaurants. Each quart of soup sold yields enough funds to supply 100 meals to those facing food insecurity in the areas served by the Food Bank's Williamsport hub.

"Community service has always been a huge part of my family," the Excellence in Teaching Award winner said. "All five of my children, as well as my wife, have volunteered for various organizations." They range from Scouting America events to lending a hand at Camp Victory and the Ronald McDonald House. Suchwala also served on his local school board and the joint operating committee for Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School. ■

CHEF FRANK'S MUSHROOM SOUP

(vegetarian and gluten-free)

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 5

3 tablespoons olive oil

4 ounces (1 ½ cups) portabella mushrooms, diced

3 ounces (1 cup) shiitake mushrooms, diced

3 ounces (1 cup) oyster mushrooms, diced

1 ½ teaspoons garlic, minced

1 tablespoon shallots, minced

32 ounces vegetable stock

¼ teaspoon thyme

Salt and pepper to taste

¾ cup heavy cream, warmed

Water and cornstarch slurry mixture
(3 tablespoons of each)

Heat a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat, then add olive oil. When oil is hot, add the mushrooms and saute until soft.

Add the garlic and shallots, and saute until just fragrant.

Add stock. (If not making a vegetarian soup, any type of stock can be substituted for vegetable stock.)

Bring to a simmer for 20 minutes, then season with salt, pepper and thyme.

Use an immersion blender to smooth. Caution: If using a regular blender instead of an immersion blender, do not fill the container: Blend in small batches so there is no pressure buildup in the blender.

Bring soup back to a simmer and add the warmed heavy cream.

Adjust seasonings and serve.

Possible garnishes are seasoned croutons, sauteed mushrooms or a slice of brie cheese – or all three.

This is a base mushroom soup and can be altered to your own taste: more mushrooms, a roux instead of a slurry, or possibly some celery or onions.

"The Food Bank is especially important to us as chefs, as we never want anyone to go hungry – especially children."

- Chef Frank M. Suchwala

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHEF FRANK M. SUCHWALA

2 TRUTHS **AND A LIE**

One of these statements is false. Can you guess which?

1. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band Black Sabbath, led by vocalist Ozzy Osbourne, performed in Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium.

2. Country Music Hall of Famer Kenny Rogers performed in Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium.

3. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band ZZ Top performed in Lewis H. Bardo Gymnasium.

The first Williamsport Area Community College commencement ceremony, 1966. Commencement ceremonies were held in Bardo Gymnasium before the college purchased and rejuvenated the Journey Bank Community Arts Center in downtown Williamsport.

The first statement is false. Williamsport Area Community College's Student Government Association booked Black Sabbath to perform for Spring Weekend 1973 – but the band canceled to play a weeklong gig in Canada. Still, several music legends did appear on stage in Bardo Gym, including Kenny Rogers, then a member of the First Edition, during Spring Weekend 1969; ZZ Top, which played a concert with Manfred Mann's Earth Band for Spring Weekend 1974; and Neil Diamond (Fall Weekend 1967). Each year, SGA organized Fall Weekend and Spring Weekend, which usually featured concerts, a dance with a queen contest, a picnic and a road rally.

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April 12	**Accepted Student Day**
April 26	**Open House** for prospective students ǀ www.pct.edu/visit
April 30-May 8	**Graphic Design 2026** Senior portfolio exhibition The Gallery at Penn College ǀ gallery.pct.edu
May 1	**WTI/WACC Alumni Reunion**
May 4-8	**Finals Week**
May 15-16	**Spring Commencement**
June 7-July 19	**100 Miles: The 2026 Regional Juried Exhibition** The Gallery at Penn College ǀ gallery.pct.edu
July	**Penn College Summer Camps** Explore "degrees that work" and earn scholarships ǀ www.pct.edu/camps
July 18	**Open House** for prospective students ǀ www.pct.edu/visit
Aug. 8	**Summer Commencement**
Aug. 12-16	**Welcome Week**
Aug. 17	**Fall 2026 classes begin**

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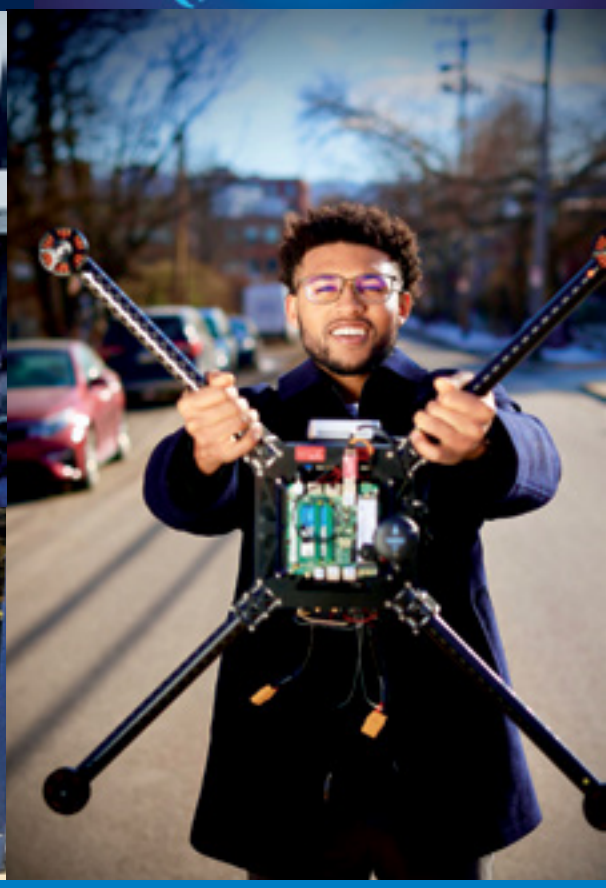

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