WHERE

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SEE PAGE 8
Penn College Magazine, published by Public Relations & Marketing, considers for publication materials submitted by students, alumni, faculty, staff and others including letters to the editor, alumni notes and other information. We reserve the right to edit or refuse items for publication.

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Penn College students are multidimensional – and multitalented! During his Penn College days, Nate Lyon, a senior in welding and fabrication engineering technology, has played with three Lycoming College music groups: wind ensemble, concert band and a saxophone quartet. The Lebanon County native began saxophone lessons at the age of 8 and welding at 14.

“The pairing of music and engineering in my life has been a real blessing,” Lyon said. “I get to play music with the scrutiny of an engineer and solve problems with the creativity of a musician.”
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Big League Gig
The Wildcat baseball team will serve as the tarp crew during the MLB Little League Classic, a major league game played on the team’s home field at BB&T Ballpark at Historic Bowman Field.

‘Chopped’ Champ
In February, Kristina Wisneski, ’13, became the second Penn College alumnus to win an episode of the popular TV show “Chopped.”

Self-Study
Joey Morrin knew he’d someday find his way to his homeland. He was surprised that it found him through a study abroad opportunity at Penn College.

Room to Grow
A new building quadruples the space for the college’s Wellsboro offerings and expands the number who can enroll in its Practical Nursing Program, helping to relieve the area’s nursing shortage.

degrees that work.
ON THE COVER
Hundreds of incredibly detailed technical illustrations are among the treasures in the Penn College Archives. Readers received one of four alternate covers showcasing these works by former students. See Page 8 for more pieces from the archives.

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

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New majors fill needs

Professional baking certificate

The college developed a quicker pathway to a baking and pastry arts career through a new 12-month certificate in professional baking – available beginning Fall 2020 – and a revision to the associate degree in baking and pastry arts that makes a degree obtainable in 16 months. Visit www.pct.edu/baking.

Chemical dependency credential

Providing a comprehensive understanding of the scientific causes of addiction, prevention strategies, intervention opportunities and treatment options, Penn College has launched a 12-credit credential in chemical dependency. The online credential is designed to enhance the skills of professionals working in health care, human services, law enforcement, education and other fields. Consisting of four eight-week classes, the coursework can be completed in two semesters. Visit www.pct.edu/humanservices.

Pennsylvania College of Technology contributed $306.6 million to the Pennsylvania economy in Fiscal Year 2017 and supported, directly and indirectly, 3,266 Pennsylvania jobs, according to a study released Feb. 26 by Penn State, which focused on measuring the university’s impact in communities across the commonwealth.

Overall, the study found that Penn State contributes more than $11.6 billion to the state’s economy. More than 102,000 Pennsylvania jobs can be attributed to Penn State on the whole, the study found, and for every $1 in state appropriations received by Penn State, the university returns $1.24 in revenue to the commonwealth.
In February, the Penn College Board of Directors authorized the college to begin developing the curriculum for a Master of Science in Nursing. The new MSN degree is proposed to have two program options: family nurse practitioner and nursing education. It would be offered online. Full-time students would complete their degree requirements within two years. There is a significant demand in the health care industry for such nurses. The proposed timeline calls for a launch in Fall 2021. Once the curriculum is developed and approved through campus processes, it will go back to the board for final approval.

In Fall 2017, Penn College began offering its first graduate degree, a combined Bachelor/Master of Science in physician assistant studies.

Penn College nursing students work with patient simulator SimMan 3G to practice assessment and documentation skills and to prepare and administer medications. The college is developing a curriculum that, if approved, would add a Master of Science in Nursing.

Diesel drag truck wins

The Diesel Performance Club’s modified 1959 Mack B61 brought home the “Top Race Vehicle” trophy from the Motorama Speed Show at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. The diesel drag truck has provided nearly 20 years’ worth of unique hands-on experiences for students.
Quoted in Washington Post

The Jan. 11 edition of The Washington Post featured the efforts of two members of Penn College’s information technology faculty to extend cybersecurity education to high school age students – and younger.

Jacob R. Miller and Sandra Gorka, associate professors of computer science, won a 2016 National Science Foundation grant to pioneer a college-level cybersecurity course that local high school students can take for college credit, one that can serve as a nationwide model.

College fields esports team

Penn College added competitive, multiplayer videogaming, known as “esports,” to intercollegiate athletics this spring.

Penn College is in the process of becoming the 10th Pennsylvania school to join the National Association of Collegiate Esports, which began in 2016 with six schools. It now boasts more than 125 members.

The college’s first tournament took place in March, when 17 Penn College students competed against players from 15 other collegiate teams in the games “League of Legends,” “Overwatch” and “Hearth.” The team played remotely from Penn’s Inn, in the college’s Bush Campus Center, where seating was available for spectators.

First in U.S. higher ed to get electron beam welder

Penn College is partnering with Cambridge Vacuum Engineering Inc. to bring electron beam welding to the curriculum of its welding and metal fabrication program.

A 60kV electron beam welder from the British company will be used in the expanded Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center, set to open in August. It will be the only electron beam welder placed by CVE in any college or university in the United States.

Electron beam welding has become a vital technology in the aerospace, automotive, energy, medical, semiconductor and military industries. The low heat input allows sensitive internal electronics packages to be sealed in a device without damage.
When Joe Tavani travels, he likes to go off the beaten path. He did just that when he spent five days traveling over 200 miles through the Swiss Alps – on a mountain bike.

“I got to see the Matterhorn in a very unique way,” he says. “I got to ride up a glacier instead of going in a gondola like all the tourists do.”

Tavani and a Susquehanna Valley Velo Club teammate took part in the Swiss Epic, a bike race that had them climbing 6,000-9,000 feet each day as they rode through quaint mountain villages and lush forests.

**PASSING IT ON**

Tavani likes adventure. But he is far more excited about the adventures to be had by his automotive technology students at Penn College and by the teens he teaches to mountain bike.

With civil engineering technology alumnus Jeremy Rusczyk, ’09, Tavani coaches the 4-year-old Lycoming County Composite Mountain Biking team for sixth- to 12th-grade students from across the county. Rusczyk and Tavani teach students the mechanics of mountain biking: the “ready” position, how to traverse skinny trails, how to cross over a log.

And while the team competes in meets across the state as part of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League, races are an optional part of the program.

“Only one person gets to win, so you can’t base it on that,” he says. Rather, it’s about having fun, learning bike skills and being outdoors.

**HIS ‘WHY’ IS ‘HOW’**

Recently asked in a coaches’ seminar why he leads a team, the automotive instructor, whose career focuses on how things work, naturally answered “How.”

“I like to teach others how to do what I love to do,” he says. That goes for his Penn College classroom, too, where, in the Honda Professional Automotive Career Training program, he helps students to master the skills they’ll need to pursue a career that he has loved.

And he hopes that by following his own passions – in the classroom and beyond – his students may find the confidence to follow theirs.
When the Chicago Cubs and Pittsburgh Pirates square off Aug. 18 in the third annual MLB Little League Classic, there will be a few familiar faces at the nationally televised event. Some 20 Pennsylvania College of Technology baseball players, led by head coach Chris Howard, will be responsible for the field tarp in case of inclement weather at the ESPN Sunday Night Baseball game.

The Wildcats have served in that capacity since the inaugural game in 2017.

The idea originated with Little League President and CEO Steve Keener. When asked by Major League Baseball if there were grounds crew members for the Little League World Series who could handle the tarp, Keener suggested to Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour, then chairman of the Little League International Board of Directors, that the college’s baseball team would be a good choice for the job.

And Howard and company were more than willing to help out. “It’s going to be exciting to see major leaguers in our dugout on our home field,” Howard said of sharing the same field at BB&T Ballpark at Historic Bowman Field with the Cubs and Pirates.

The team will go through several days of training prior to the big game. On the Thursday and Friday before the game, the team will have about 10 hours of practice moving and removing the tarp, while Saturday brings a 12-hour standby day in case of inclement weather. On game day, the team will arrive at 7 a.m. and help where needed around the park before the 7 p.m. start time.

“It’s a long four days of training in the hot August weather,” Howard said. “But the payoff is really rewarding, with some of the best seats in the house during the game.”

Getting volunteers from his team has never been hard for Howard. In 2017, Howard says, he never had a quicker response to a group text than he did when he asked his players to help with the event. Howard expects the same enthusiasm this year.

“Our guys are excited to see Major League players play on the same field that they do,” Howard explained. “It’s one of the coolest experiences they’ll have while they’re here.”
“IT’S GOING TO BE EXCITING TO SEE MAJOR LEAGUERS IN OUR DUGOUT ON OUR HOME FIELD.”

Wildcat baseball team members, along with head coach Howard, right, prepare to pull the tarp over the infield at BB&T Ballpark at Historic Bowman Field, which is transformed for a day into a Major League stadium. Standing, from left, are Brandon Barnyak, Cody Nelson, Trevor Dolin and Conner Curran. At bottom of frame is Joe Gaumer.

ARCHERY
Freshman Trevor Quarry placed third in men’s recurve at the USA Archery Outdoor National Championship. In team events, Sidney Alpaugh, freshman Zach Williamson and junior David Fox reached the quarterfinals in men’s bowhunter.

BASEBALL
For the 12th time in Chris Howard’s 13 years as head coach, the Wildcats reached the postseason. Four underclassmen were named to the NEAC all-conference team.

GOLF
Penn College finished third in the NEAC Championship for the second-straight season and had three individuals among the top 10 in a 39-player field. Three players earned all-conference honors.

Senior Ned Baumbach and sophomore Brian Whelan tied for seventh place, while junior Austin Moscariello tied for 10th.

MEN’S TENNIS
With three individual champions, two runners-up and the NEAC Rookie of the Year, it was a great finish for the Penn College men and first-year interim coach Jessica Bower.

Freshman Tucker Phillippe-Johansson was named the conference’s top rookie after he captured the No. 2 singles crown and then teamed with sophomore Will DeMarco for the No. 2 doubles title. DeMarco also was the No. 3 singles champion, and for their efforts, both were named to the all-conference first team. Two Wildcats earned second-team honors.

SOFTBALL
The Wildcats went 3-2 in the NEAC playoffs and earned the program’s first runner-up finish in the North Eastern Athletic Conference.

Penn College closed its season with 24 wins – setting a new Penn College single-season win record. Four Wildcats were named to the all-conference team.

WRESTLING
A program-record four Penn College wrestlers placed in the top six at the NCAA Division III Southeast Regional tournament. Heavyweight Dylan Otis and 197-pounder Jared Mooney both placed fourth, while Dylan Gettys and Daniel Bergeron took sixth at 174 and 165, respectively.

The team finished at 12-16, the best in the college’s Division III Era.
Archives provide historical context to the institution where the future was made by hand

by Tom Wilson, writer/PCToday editor

“There have been many attempts to place on the record the history of this unusual institution, but such records as exist are scattered and incomplete,” wrote George H. Parkes, the first director of Williamsport Technical Institute. He would be heartened to know that his words are part of a treasure trove of objects, photos and papers that have been cataloged in the archives of that “unusual institution’s” successor and, collectively, help to tell the story of the institution and those who have dwelled in its halls.

For the past 20 years, those archives – on the third floor of Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Madigan Library – have been studied, cataloged and preserved by Patricia A. Scott, who retired in June as an associate professor, the librarian for the college’s School of Sciences, Humanities & Visual Communications, and the college archivist.

Scott is a 1971 graduate of Williamsport Area Community College, holds Bachelor of Arts (1976) and Master of Arts (1986) degrees from Penn State, and earned a master’s in library science from Clarion University in 1994. She worked in libraries at Penn State and Bucknell prior to her Penn College employment.

Before retiring, Scott shared a few of her favorite archives finds. If you know more about these pieces, please call 570-320-2400, ext. 7110, or email magazine@pct.edu.

A caddy for electronic tubes (or vacuum tubes), harks back to a time when televisions were too cumbersome to be repaired off-site, so technicians carried the tubes along on house calls. Then, as now, learning with the most current technology available was essential to the college’s educational philosophy and to students’ success.
Parkes papers

More than 50 essays by George H. Parkes, the first director of Williamsport Technical Institute, describe his time at WTI. Some have great titles like "The Panama Episode," "The Case of the Truncated Man" and "A Humorous Incident." "They give details about college history found nowhere else," Scott says.

In one essay, the plain-speaking Parkes describes the college’s first automotive lab beneath the football field’s bleachers, years after the program had moved to a better home:

“This place served us well, although we almost froze to death in the winter. In this crude area, we explored our real needs, and made plans and plans. We knew we would have a better shop someday.”

Today, the college’s Parkes Automotive Technology Center proudly bears his name.

In another piece, he uses the same frankness to describe himself: “This writer has gained the reputation of being a stubborn, uncompromising troublemaker. It’s an unescapable penalty for the privilege of serving the public.”

In another piece, he uses the same frankness to describe himself: “This writer has gained the reputation of being a stubborn, uncompromising troublemaker. It’s an unescapable penalty for the privilege of serving the public.”

and the Lumber branch is the m. 102, on the ground floor er room. In about 1936 we capacity to learn, but could with automobiles. We procured building and set it up as the basic apparatus for these boys to disassembly and assem- vle. There was little instruction. I think the director, whose office was nearby looked in occasionally. But it did provide the answer for these boys, and the experiment was successful. It With this modest beginning, we looked about for a more commo- dious shelter. We fixed upon the sloping storage space provided under a newly constructed football grandstand, a bleak, dark and grimey instructor, froze to death at work in the years. We...
Lifelong Education Center
A color rendering of the Hager Lifelong Education Center’s “loop” previews a now-familiar vantage from West Third Street. In those days, school buses brought area high school students to the college for their career and technical education classwork.

Did you know?
On the library’s website, you can access:
- Williamsport Area Community College “Montage” yearbooks
- “The Spotlight” student newspaper
- Williamsport Technical Institute and WACC catalogs
- WTI photographs
Visit magazine.pct.edu/archives
The page also includes instructions for scheduling an appointment to visit the Penn College Archives.

Wine labels
Among faculty members whose papers have been donated to the college are the late James E. Logue, a member of the college’s English faculty, whose three boxfuls of material in the archives include wine labels, a July 1956 script from his internship on “The Ernie Kovacs Show,” and a 1950s letter that young “Jimmy Logue” received from the Captain Marvel Club. “People keep what’s important to them,” Scott says. “And it is through those items that we connect the past to the present.”
Never built

The archives includes a rendering for a “Proposed Vocational School Building” for the Williamsport School District. The rendering is credited to W.D. Shollenberger, registered architect, of the city, who left a clue to its era in the style of vehicle he illustrated. The drawing was provided to the archives by late administrator William Homisak.

Technical illustrations

Hand-drawn technical illustrations include a massive steam boiler brought down to size in a student’s meticulous ink work. The pieces were donated to the archives by retiree Patrick Murphy, an associate professor of advertising art who received Master Teacher honors in 1989. The work of technical illustrators was used in service manuals, textbooks and parts catalogs.
Kristina Wisneski’s earliest cooking memory is in her great-grandmother’s kitchen in Iowa. Her childhood in an eastern Pennsylvania household that prepared meals together, with main courses made by dad and desserts baked by mom, shaped her interest in a culinary career.

Likewise, it was a shared family activity that helped lead her to the set of the Food Network’s popular competition show “Chopped,” where she hurriedly whipped up dishes with surprise ingredients and set them before renowned chefs, who eliminated one contestant after each round.

“I’ve always loved watching the show with my parents,” Wisneski said. “My dad and I always try to figure out what we would make if we were in the same situation.”

The musings paid off. Wisneski was the last chef standing at the end of the hourlong episode titled “Wonton Wonder,” which premiered on Feb. 12. During the bout, she bested three other chefs. For each of three rounds, the contestants were given a basketful of required – and usually unexpected – ingredients and 20 minutes to prepare a masterpiece. The challenge tests the chefs to think creatively and combine flavors tastefully.

In the appetizer round, the 2013 Pennsylvania College of Technology graduate managed to impress judges with the flavor in her steamed wontons, made with a mystery basketful of ingredients that included scallions, water chestnuts, wonton wrappers and hot dog eclairs.

In the entrée round, when the three remaining chefs opened their baskets, they found pheasant, green tomatoes, tepache liqueur and “trash can nachos.” Wisneski, a native of Whitehall, had the advantage of hunting and cooking pheasants with her family. She again pleased the judges’ palates with roasted pheasant, green-tomato salsa verde and a flavorful crumble made from the loaded nachos.

In the final round, Wisneski and her remaining competitor, Chef Patrick
Carter, of Indiana, were challenged to concoct delectable desserts from moon drop grapes, apricot paste, bagel chips and pickle cupcakes.

“I instantly thought of sweet salty,” Wisneski said. “Who doesn’t like that?”

She served judges a port wine and moon drop grape mousse with an apricot and mint sauce.

She credits her ability to successfully combine flavors—even odd ones like apricots and pickles—to an adventurous palate.

“School really helped to teach us all different combinations, as well,” she said.

Wisneski earned a bachelor’s degree in culinary arts and systems and has fond memories of her time at Penn College—even nine-to-10-hour labs.

“I will always remember how much Chef Mike (Michael J. Ditchfield, instructor of hospitality management/culinary arts) took me under his wing,” she said. “He really taught me a lot and showed me that you can balance life and being a chef.

“All of the classes taught us new things and kept us on our toes. I loved that our labs were like real-life working shifts, because this job is no joke!” she added.

“I also loved how small our classes were, because I made some of my best friends in college. We used to get together for dinners and wine tastings, which were always fun!”

Aiding her “Chopped” success, she credits a Culinary Competition and Skills Assessment course that she took with Chef Mary G. Trometter, assistant professor of hospitality management/culinary arts, and experiences volunteering on the PA Preferred

“All of the classes taught us new things and kept us on our toes. I loved that our labs were like real-life working shifts.”
“Culinary Connection” stage at the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

At the show, students spend two days preparing audience samples and providing on-stage assistance as Pennsylvania chefs demonstrate recipes for the Farm Show’s attendees. The students then engage in a “School Cooking Challenge.” In Trometter’s course and during the Farm Show challenge, Wisneski and classmates whipped up dishes for a judges panel using assigned ingredients.

Wisneski also did some late-night cramming before appearing on “Chopped.”

“The night before (taping the episode) I couldn’t sleep, because I was terrified I would get something I didn’t know how to prepare, so I was looking up YouTube videos!” she said.

Since her 2013 graduation, Wisneski has been making a name for herself in the Philadelphia food scene, where she is executive chef of Amis Trattoria in Devon, a Main Line suburb of the city. The Italian eatery focuses on simple, seasonal recipes. It is part of the URBN portfolio of brands.

Wisneski began her culinary career at Savona in Gulph Mills, another Main Line suburb, where fellow Penn College culinary arts graduate Chef Andrew Masciangelo is the executive chef and co-owner. While at Savona, Wisneski was included in a Zagat restaurant guide roundup of “20 Sous-Chefs to Watch in Philly.”

“That was surreal,” the young chef said.
She then joined Zavino Hospitality Group, where she was able to work at each of the company’s restaurants.

“It was great to see (restaurant) openings and all the different food they served,” she said.

“When I got the call from URBN for Amis in Devon, I almost died!” Wisneski said. “It was so exciting, because Amis has always been my favorite restaurant in Philadelphia, and Chef Brad Spence (the culinary director) is one of the best Italian chefs I’ve ever met. He teaches and pushes us constantly.”

She’s happy with the place her culinary career has led her.

“I plan on staying with URBN. I like what they have to offer. I love being in Philly, and I’m not sure I see myself going elsewhere, but who knows?” she said. “I think eventually – like way down the road – I will end up teaching. It’s always been an interest of mine. But for now, I plan on eating, teaching, learning and, of course, traveling around the world!”

Kristina Wisneski, ’13
Other hospitality graduates on national television

Kristi (Ritchey) Genova, ’02, culinary arts technology, competed on the Food Network’s “Extreme Chef” in 2002 and made an appearance on NBC’s “The Biggest Loser.”

Jason Hopple, ’00, hospitality management, demonstrated a July 4 drink recipe on VH1’s “Morning Buzz” in 2012.

James Parker, ’91, culinary arts, a top fruit and vegetable sculptor, has appeared on several Food Network series, including “Food Network Challenge” (as a winning competitor and a judge), “Sugar Rush,” “Food Landscapes” and “Chef vs. City.” He’s also appeared on NBC’s “Today” show, “The Rachel Ray Show,” “Fox and Friends” and The Home Shopping Network.

Dean Yasharian, ’03, culinary arts technology, won an episode of “Chopped” in 2009 and whipped up British dishes on NBC’s “Today” show during the 2012 London Olympics, when Yasharian was executive chef of London’s Bar Boulud.

Top: The dining room at Amis Tratoria in Devon, where Wisneski is executive chef. Among her spring dinner menu dishes are seared sea scallops with asparagus, preserved lemon and roasted red pepper (left) and ahi tuna steak with fiddlehead ferns, ramps and olive tapenade.
An exploration of the math and science of an ancient American people led graphic design student Joey Morrin to also explore himself, his ties to his birthplace and his connection to his Pennsylvania home.

by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor
A one-credit study abroad trip is the reason Joey Morrin enrolled at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

The college was at the top of his list for graphic design studies, but his older brother was a Penn College student. Not wanting to follow his footsteps, Morrin was considering Drexel University instead. That was until he saw the course description for Mathematics in Non-European Cultures II.

Exploring Maya mathematics, design, engineering and astronomy, the class’s next study abroad trip would be to Guatemala: Morrin’s native country – a place he did not remember.

Born in December 1997 in Escuintla, a city in southwestern Guatemala on the Pacific coastal plain, Morrin arrived in the U.S. at 15 months of age, adopted by a Pennsylvania couple who had previously adopted another boy from Guatemala.

Growing up in Morrisville in Bucks County, Joey and his brother, Christopher, enjoyed quintessential U.S. childhoods, brimming with basketball, soccer, tennis and track. Their mother, a high school math teacher, was also a basketball and tennis coach, so an active lifestyle was part of the family equation.

Fully identifying as a North American kid, Joey had not given much thought to Guatemala – until college came calling.

“I always imagined that I would eventually find it some way, yet to my surprise, it found me because of Penn College,” he said. “Before the trip, I was not actively trying to visit Guatemala, but by chance, I found myself knee-deep in the opportunity of a lifetime.”

After completing a prerequisite course, Mathematics in Non-European Cultures I, in Fall 2017, Morrin joined 17 other travelers, including three faculty members, on a 10-day trip to Guatemala that commenced two days after Christmas and extended into the first week of 2018.

Key in Morrin’s mind was whether he’d feel at home in Guatemala. Although his parents had provided positive multicultural reinforcement, and diversity was common in his community and schools, there remained a subtle sense

“It allowed me to grow and feel a bit more whole than ever before.”

Graphic design student Joey Morrin joins Curt E. Vander Vere, assistant professor of mathematics, left, and D. Robert Cooley, associate professor of anthropology/environmental science, in front of a Maya temple in Guatemala’s Tikal National Park. Known as the Temple of the Great Jaguar, it was constructed around A.D. 732.
of “otherness” in his life in the U.S. Would his physical appearance, directly connecting him to his Central American roots and Maya Indian ancestors, translate into a sense of belonging in Guatemala?

“He wondered how that would play out when we reached Guatemala,” said one of his course instructors, D. Robert Cooley, associate professor of anthropology/environmental science. “Would he fit in or would he be an outsider there – fitting in by appearance, but not culturally?

Some of his questions were answered on the group’s first flight.

“The flight crew on Avianca, a Colombian airline, addressed him initially in Spanish, apparently assuming he was returning to a Central American home from the U.S.,” Cooley said. “The surprise on their faces when they realized he spoke no Spanish was tangible, and at times, it seemed almost as if Joey would need to explain why to justify the situation.”

These types of exchanges continued throughout the trip as local Guatemalans perceived Morrin to be a tour guide or the “point person” for communication with the group. Some admonished him for not knowing Spanish. The ensuing confusion and frustration were difficult for the young traveler, who said he “learned to stay in the back” of the group to not call attention to himself.

He found “freedom” from the pressure by walking down a street by himself, taking photographs.

“I could absorb it all better without everyone around me. Without them drawing attention to me, I just looked like a tourist taking photos,” he said.

Older women, in particular, gravitated toward Morrin.

“They perceived me as ‘the lost child,’ finally coming back home,” he related. “They wanted to hug and comfort me, even though, for me, there was nothing to be comforted about.”

Hugging him warmly, one woman said (in Spanish), “You need to get Guatemala in your heart. Welcome home, son.”

In another encounter, an older man shook Morrin’s hand and welcomed him back to his ancestral homeland. Joseph E. LeBlanc, assistant professor of physics, who speaks fluent Spanish and traveled with the group, translated: “He says he’s very happy for you. You have a world of possibilities at your fingertips. Enjoy it.”

Although emotional and often challenging for Morrin, the exchanges enhanced the experience for many of his fellow travelers.

“One of the other students said to me, ‘I just loved walking with you. You didn’t know what was going to happen next!’” Morrin said.

The trip itself was filled with new experiences and surprises for the Penn College group. Although Cooley and co-instructor Curt E. Vander Vere, assistant professor of mathematics, began taking groups to Guatemala in 2011, an unexpected adventure landed in their path in 2018. They were invited to explore an enormous cave near the town of Flores. Cuevas del Tecolote had just been opened to the public by a local Maya co-op of families and landowners as a historical site, and the Penn College group was believed to be the first non-Maya tour group to view it. (The English translation of “tecolote” is “owl.”)

“When we arrived, a few local Maya families were seated around a hearth, reciting prayers as part of a New Year’s celebration,” Cooley said. “It was the same religious ceremony that the Maya
had celebrated in that spot for centuries, according to our local guide. The students were speechless. Our guide showed us the residue of a painted owl on the cave walls and moved the flashlight to the cave floor where there were thousands and thousands of pottery shards and stone tool fragments. The objects were from very different time periods, and they correlated to things we saw in museums. It was like a time capsule of Maya history. The cave had been the place of continuous human activity for 2,000 years.

“Everyone was completely spellbound. I’ve never seen a group of students so captivated. It was such a powerful experience. What a neat thing we lucked into. The students felt very special it was shared with them.”

The group also visited Maya ruins at El Ceibal, Yaxha, Tikal and Uaxactun, and explored the Ixpanpajul Natural Park where they ziplined, hiked and traversed suspension bridges.

Morrin, ever the artist, captured these experiences with a camera and pencil sketches. Many were placed into a detailed journal. He also completed a required class project highlighting an educational aspect of the study abroad trip. For his part, Morrin conducted research, reaching out to other Guatemalan adoptees via a Facebook community page – Next Generation Guatemala – to further explore the topic of cultural identity. His final project was titled “Identify Defined.”

“In conducting my extensive post-trip research, I was overjoyed to find that I’m not the only adoptee who relates to a feeling of cultural limbo. It’s something only a very small and very special group of individuals can relate to,” Morrin said.

Prior to Joey’s return to Guatemala, his brother, Chris, held no interest in exploring his homeland, but he has enjoyed hearing about his brother’s explorations, and his curiosity has been stirred.

“I have a feeling that if I went back, he would join me after hearing me talk about the trip and seeing the photos I took,” Joey said. “I would love to return to Guatemala. If I were to go back, I would definitely learn a good amount of Spanish before returning so that I could interact with the locals and speak for myself rather than relying on others to be my voice.”

Joey continues to process his journey to Guatemala and his journey of self-identity.

“I greatly enjoyed learning about all things Maya. … The trip, the loving people, the mouth-watering food, and the unique culture I was immersed in were not only new to me, but were, in a way, very refreshing to experience,” he said. “For the first time, I looked like others around me; I was no longer ‘the brown kid’ or a complete anomaly. I was home, but in my heart, I was not.

“The disconnect between my American heart and my Guatemalan roots is one that I have embraced even more than before. I’ve become comfortable with fitting in loosely in the places where I don’t quite fit in. It’s not like a round hole with a square peg, but a round hole with a smaller round peg. I don’t fit snuggly, but I’m in there.”

He added: “It is something I will always hold close to my heart, because it allowed me to grow and feel a bit more whole than ever before.”
n March, Penn College at Wellsboro moved into a new home, only steps from the health care facilities where many who attend classes in the building will gain clinical experiences and, eventually, employment.

When the Wellsboro Area School District and the college’s administrators joined in the early 1980s to expand higher education in the area, a program to educate future licensed practical nurses was the first offering. Since 1983, the program has been educating students and providing skilled employees to the region.

“I’m a single mom of three,” said practical nursing student Rena Brown. “I worked for 22 years as a CNA (certified nursing assistant) and decided it was time to advance. Being a one-year program, it fit into my schedule.”

Brown and her classmates began the Practical Nursing Program in February at its former site in the New facility provides room
Wellsboro Area High School, where, since 2012, the college leased space for a classroom and a learning lab. The school district also provided office space in the high school and in its administration building.

“We have a great working relationship with the Wellsboro Area School District,” said Jason P. Zielewicz, the college’s director of workforce development at Wellsboro, noting that the district graciously provided a place, even though it had limited space to spare.

But the generosity of another area organization has allowed the college to move Penn College at Wellsboro into a Walnut Street building that had most recently been used by UPMC Susquehanna Home Care & Hospice. UPMC Susquehanna transferred the 8,400-square-foot facility to the college for $1, contingent upon the college using the building to expand its Practical Nursing Program in Wellsboro.

Pennsylvania is experiencing the second-largest shortage of licensed practical nurses nationwide, with the impact hitting rural communities the hardest.

“We are pleased to be part of the solution,” said Davie Jane Gilmour, Penn College president, calling UPMC Susquehanna’s gift “more than a building. It is a partnership that influences lives for the better.” The demand for the program’s graduates is high.

“Most students have jobs before graduating,” Zielewicz said.

Many go on to work in long-term care facilities, including at UPMC Susquehanna Soldiers + Sailors in Tioga County and UPMC Cole or Sweden Valley Manor in Potter County. There’s also been a trend toward graduates entering medical/surgical and emergency room nursing, and some are moving into home health care.
“The partnership between UPMC Susquehanna and Pennsylvania College of Technology in Wellsboro is an investment in the future of health care in Wellsboro and across the region,” said Steve Johnson, president of UPMC Susquehanna. “Nursing students are getting quality hands-on training and a practical education they can put to work locally right after completing their programs.”

“This is a win, win, win: the health care industry wins by addressing the workforce shortage, PCT wins by receiving a needed home for its Wellsboro base, and the region wins by having these skilled graduates become an integral part of our community,” Johnson added.

Practical nursing students call their new space beautiful and high tech. By the time they graduate, they will have completed over 1,500 hours of classroom and clinical instruction and be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN, the national licensing exam for practical nurses.

The building’s first floor includes a learning laboratory, two classrooms, a 28-seat computer lab (up from 18 in the prior facility), staff offices and meeting space.

The second floor includes a student lounge, library/study space, a nursing lab and two classrooms.

The expanded space allows the college to increase the capacity of the Practical Nursing Program from 18 to 24 students initially, with room for further expansion. It also gives the college room to begin a second cohort in the fall, adjusting the program’s 12-month, full-time schedule. Traditionally, the course has run January to December, which is inconvenient for new high school graduates.

Classes for the Penn College at Wellsboro Practical Nursing Program are simulcast to students taking the course at the Potter County Education Council building in Coudersport, who receive clinical experiences in Potter County health care facilities.

The new facility also provides space for other programs. Penn College at Wellsboro is one of several locations for a hybrid emergency medical technician course, designed to help ease the burden of training for local fire departments, EMS services and hospitals. Lectures are offered by streaming video, and hands-on learning takes place at the new facility, as well as at sites in Lycoming and Union counties.
Penn College at Wellsboro also offers customized courses to business and industry. Specialized training for the natural gas industry is also available.

Penn College and UPMC Susquehanna have long enjoyed a mutually beneficial relationship. An estimated 1,000 graduates are employed throughout UPMC organizations.

UPMC Susquehanna is a leading provider of clinical sites and internships for students in the School of Nursing & Health Sciences at Penn College. It partners with the college for emergency-response exercises and provides guest lecturers throughout the academic year. UPMC professionals share their expertise on more than 20 different program advisory committees. The health system is the sole health care and health insurance sponsor for Penn College Athletics and offers athletic training services and equipment to student-athletes. A synthetic-turf athletic field being installed on campus will bear the name “UPMC Field,” courtesy of a commitment by the organization.
Devin M. Heimbach, left, works with Daphnide R. St. Vil to practice proper techniques to transfer a patient from a specialty positioning chair to a hospital bed. Heimbach hopes to find work as a certified occupational therapy assistant in the mental health field, while St. Vil would like to continue her work in the inpatient setting. In addition to being a full-time student, St. Vil, of Providence, R.I., is a full-time therapy aide in a stroke rehabilitation unit.

Erin R. Niedzwiecki, left, practices ultrasound therapy with Madalyn Q. Engle. Ultrasound can be used to break up scar tissue or contractures, to help manage pain, and to reduce inflammation. The second-year students are pursuing national certification in Physical Agent Modalities. The advanced course required for the credential is optional for graduation. It certifies professionals to use physical agents, such as heat, cold, water, light, sound and electricity, in therapy.

Program director Jeanne M. Kerschner works alongside Lindsey A. King, right, as she uses adaptive equipment to cut a watermelon. She is learning to use and show others how to use one-hand feeding techniques and adaptions.

Felicia Baker and Kayla N. Kern lie on their bellies to play the matching game Spot It. “It works on visual perception but is also a great social game,” Dixon explains. The weighted blanket Baker is lying beneath helps to provide calmness, affecting a child’s proprioceptive input (information received from muscles and joints). Activities on the belly or back can help children to improve stability and balance, and they exercise children’s sensory systems (touch, movement, vision and auditory).

Barrels like the one Kern is in can be used in therapy to roll kids inside or as a tunnel as part of an obstacle course. “I love people, interacting with them, seeing the outcomes, and forming a relationship with them,” Kern says. “Every life doesn’t have to be perfect to be beautiful.”
A haven for hands-on learning since it first welcomed students more than 30 years ago, the occupational therapy assistant lab was updated in 2018 to provide an even more realistic simulation space for students. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants help people with physical, developmental and psychosocial challenges learn how to use adaptive techniques and equipment to participate in the daily activities they need and want to do. “We recognize the value of one-on-one, hands-on application, providing as much clinical experience as we can,” said Jeanne M. Kerschner, program director. Each lecture includes a clinical competency, plus students complete fieldwork beyond what is required by current accreditation standards.
Megan Mecouch is well on her way to finding success in the global marketplace. Refining her purpose, aligning her passions and applying her technical know-how to serve others, her positive influence extends far beyond our beautiful campus to communities abroad. Traveling to the Dominican Republic with her dental hygiene classmates and instructors, she taught children and adults proper oral hygiene strategies. Many she interacted with had never had their teeth cleaned, nor did they own a toothbrush.

Fluent in Spanish, she quickly calmed the children’s fears so she and her classmates could continue to perform oral health exams and preventive care. Megan will be the first to tell you that her experience in the Dominican Republic was transformational and that it ignited a fire within her for volunteering.

“If something so simple could bring such joy to others, what a capacity I have to create even more joy and happiness in the lives of others through my dental hygiene career,” she says.
1960s

Howard W. Calkins, ’60, welding, is retired and resides in Aston.

Vincent Beck, ’63, electronics technology, retired from Eaton Corp. after 29 years in its research department, where he was a materials test lab engineering supervisor. At Eaton, he helped to design electronic cruise control and auto emissions controls. In earlier work for RCA, he was part of the launch crew working in communications – for NASA’s Mercury MR-3 and MR-4 missions in 1961, which launched astronauts Alan Shepard and Virgil “Gus” Grissom, respectively, into suborbital flight. He resides in Battle Creek, Mich.

Louis Paulauski, ’63, electronics technology, is a retired quality control inspector for engine assembly and overhaul. He is a veteran of the Navy’s flight. He resides in Battle Creek, Mich.

Michael Roth, ’66, technical illustration, is retired and resides in Sarasota, Fla.

Richard Conni, ’67, aviation, is retired and resides in Trophy Club, Texas.

Karl R. Dietzel, ’68, engineering computer science, was a member of the programming/technical staff at Bell Telephone Labs. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Thomas W. Fuller, ’69, forest technology, is retired but has worked the past six summers as a lookout for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon. He resides in Crescent, Ore.

1970s

Dennis Hauser, ’70, aviation maintenance technician, is retired and is rebuilding a Piper Vagabond Cub, PA 15. He resides in Etters.

David R. Heggenstaller, ’72, automotive and diesel, retired as a sergeant first class from the Army, for which he was a maintenance supervisor and platoon sergeant. He resides in Pleasant Gap.

Donald R. Warner, ’72, engineering drafting technology, retired from a career in new product development. He was a design engineer for Cameron Manufacturing and Design and Ingersoll Rand. He holds nine U.S. patents.

John Confer, ’75, business management, is retired and resides in Montoursville.

William A. Kane, ’75, forest technology, retired as a sales arborist for Davey Tree Expert Co. He is an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) certified arborist and Delaware Nature Society Certified Naturalist. He resides in Drexel Hill.

David Armstrong, ’76, building construction technology, is retired and resides in New Columbia.

Gregory Smith, ’76, drafting, is the community planner for Clinton County government. His work includes recreation and Rails to Trails design, and project management. He resides in Lock Haven.

Lon E. Baker, ’77, construction carpentry, retired as a senior foreman after 39 years of work for National Fuel Gas. He resides in Marble.

Larry C. Frace, ’77, electrical construction, is a certified master inspector and owner of Larry C. Frace Inspections LLC. He resides in Bloomsburg.

James P. Lambert, ’77, construction carpentry, is the director of facilities and construction for St. Thomas Aquinas College and has served on the City of Beacon and County of Dutchess planning boards. He resides in Beacon, N.Y.

Morgan Lytle, ’79, electrical construction, is a retired network engineer. He resides in Califon, N.J.

John Troiani, ’79, plumbing and heating, is a plumbing trade instructor for the Department of Corrections. He resides in Dickson City.

1980s

John Davies Jr., ’80, aviation maintenance technician, is a regional aircraft maintenance manager for Spirit Airlines, in charge of aircraft maintenance for the East Coast. He resides in Boothwyn.

Douglas Hofford, ’80, radiologic technology, is an MRI/radiologic technologist for Berwick Hospital Center. He resides in Montoursville.

Howard T. Woodruff, ’80, paramedic, is the founder and president of Advanced Crisis Preparation and Intervention. He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology, political science and religion from Lycoming College and both a master’s and doctorate in divinity. He resides in Rocky Hill, Conn.

Edward W. Noyes III, ’81, electronics technology, is a strategic sourcing specialist for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Dorothy (Burger) Randler, ’81, dental hygiene, is a dental health technology instructor at SUN Area Technical Institute. She has received Teacher of the Year honors and the Red Cross Hero Award. She resides in Danville.

Cathy Breithoff, ’83,dietetic technician, earned a Master of Health Administration from St. Joseph’s University in May 2018. She is employed by St. Luke’s University Health Network, where she is a builder/analyst for the network’s electronic medical records system. She resides in Macungie.

Lori M. (Torres) Spangler, ’83, clerical studies, is a senior litigation paralegal for Greenberg Traurig. She resides in Orlando, Fla.

Stephen Harry, ’84, forest technology, is a project technician for Air Products & Chemical Inc. He retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve at the rank of chief petty officer. He resides in Whitehall.

Daryl R. Hoffman, ’84, computer information systems, is a senior principal consultant for Software AG Government Solutions, working with webMethods, AgileAps and related Software AG products on civilian, Department of Defense and other government contracts. He resides in Nicholson.

Wayne A. Burke, ’85, forest technology, is a strategic sourcing specialist for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. He resides in Mechanicstown.

Erik Zetterstrand, ’85, machinist general, owns Exigo Manufacturing, a producer of stainless steel hose fittings for use in food and biopharmaceutical manufacturing. He resides in Palmerton.

Scott Mondock, ’86, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is the assistant director of campus safety for Elmira College. He resides in Lawrenceville.

Gary Underhill, ‘88, diesel technology, is a lead mechanic for XPO Logistics. He resides in Mifflinburg.

Sandy (Walizer) Wolford, ‘89, radiography, is an MRI technologist for St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Mont. She resides in Big Timber, Mont.

Michael W. Fitzsimmons, ‘90, HVAC technology, is vice president of operations for JR Kays Trucking. He resides in Warren.

Eric Trinkley, ‘90, automotive technology, is the motorcycle market manager and a race support technician for Penske Racing Shocks. From 1993-99 he was a member of the Penske Racing IndyCar team, which won the Indy Car Championship and the Indy 500 in 1994. More recently, he has been the suspension technician for the 2011, 2012 and 2014 AMA Pro Daytona Sportbike Champion team and for the 2015 MotoAmerica Superstock 1000 Champion team. He resides in Reading.

Larry A. Basile, ‘91, architectural technology, is the vice president of sales for SupplySource. He resides in Williamsport.

Chad Herrold, ‘91, graphic communication, is employed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. He resides in Newburg.

Boyd Semken, ‘91, building construction technology, is a teacher for the Lackawanna Trail School District, where he teaches CAD, wood, electronics and junior high technology. He resides in Dalton.

Cindy (Bickel) Stahl, ‘91, surgical technology, is a senior certified surgical technologist and operating room first assistant for general surgery at UPMC Susquehanna. She resides in Montoursville.

Mark R. Simmons, ‘93, architectural technology, is a senior drafter for Construction Specialties. He resides in Muncy.

Michael J. Speicher, ‘93, construction carpentry, is a service manager for Mel’s Heater Service. He resides in Conestoga.

Heather Hughes, ‘94, architectural technology, is an architectural designer for Publix Super Markets. She resides in Lakeland, Fla.

Timothy A. Racine, ‘94, architectural technology, is a structural designer for McTish, Kunkel & Associates. He resides in Hamburg.

William A. Robertson, ‘94, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, is a millwright for Williamsport Wirerope Works. He resides in South Williamsport.

Valerie (Palmatier) Lundy, ‘95, dental hygiene, is a surgical assistant for Susquehanna Oral and Facial Surgery and Dental Implant Center. She recently traveled to Guatemala to perform dental assessments, fluoride treatment and nutritional counseling. She resides in Montoursville.

Anthony DeFazio, ‘96, applied human services, is a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor. He maintains a private practice, Anthony DeFazio, LCADC LLC. He resides in Belmar, N.J.

Jeffrey T. Tudor, ‘96, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a shift superintendent for High Concrete Group. He resides in Denver, Pa.

Brent Wimer, ‘96, diesel technology, is a diesel technician and education mentor for FedEx Freight. He has participated in TMC SuperTech competitions and is a FedEx Freight in-house technician competition finalist. He resides in Mount Holly Springs.

David Orris, ‘97, electronics engineering technology, is a senior product development engineer for TE Connectivity. He resides in Middletown.

Geri (Dorley) Kern, ‘98, paramedic technology, is a paramedic for Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department, one of the largest, busiest volunteer fire departments in the U.S. She resides in Tomball, Texas.

Jodi (Wentzel) Reilly, ‘98, graphic design, is an office administrator and market researcher for the National Golf Foundation. She resides in Loxahatchee, Fla.

Tina (Bradley) Gain, ‘99, nursing, is an assistant professor of nurse education at Elmira College. She is a certified nurse midwife, holds a Master of Science in Nursing and is the author of “A Nurse’s Medicine Basket: Tools for Compassionate Self-Care.” She resides in Sayre.

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

Kathy Olbeter, ‘99, physician assistant, is retired and resides in Green Valley, Ariz.

Vicky E. Heim, ‘00, occupational therapy assistant, is retired and resides in Hidenite, N.C.

Joseph Padilione, ‘00, automotive technology: Ford ASSET, is a heavy equipment mechanic supervisor for the Defense Logistics Agency, the nation’s combat logistics support agency. He manages 20 employees who maintain more than 2,000 pieces of equipment. He resides in Hummelstown.

Phillip D. Wagner, ‘00, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, is a lieutenant for the Anne Arundel County (Md.) Fire Department. He resides in Marysville.

Matthew M. Light, ‘01, printing and publishing production, is a client services specialist for TSI Associates, a printing, promotional and marketing company. He resides in West Lawn.

Brian R. Nagel, ‘01, business management, works in sales for W.A. DeHart. He resides in Muncy.

Richard V. Baus III, ‘02, construction management, is a chief estimator/project manager for River Front Recycling and Aggregate. He resides in Levittown.

Terri Matthews, ‘02, technology management, is an income management caseworker for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She resides in Williamsport.

Ryan Newswangler, ‘02, architectural technology, is the CEO of Jubilee Ministries. He resides in Myerstown.

Erick D. Speer, ‘02, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is an assistant operations manager/welding engineer for Custom Engineering Co. He resides in Grove City.

Daniel Yost, ‘02, electronics engineering technology, is an automation support manager for Red Lion Controls. He resides in Manheim.

Ryan Yura, ‘02, cabinetmaking and millwork, is the lead carpenter for The Lawrenceville School, a private boarding and day school in New Jersey. He’s also a beekeeper at the school’s farm and owns an apiary. He resides in Morrisville.

2000s
Jessica M. (Alderson) Zawalick, ‘02, radiography, is a staff CT technologist for Geisinger Medical Center. She resides in Paxinos.

Andrew Brooks, ‘04, paramedic technology, is a detective/SWAT medic for Manassas City Police in Virginia.

Richard Hornberger, ‘04, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is the IT director of infrastructure and operational solutions for Phoenix Contact. He is pursuing a doctorate in business administration from University of Maryland University College. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Rohan Lewis, ‘04, automotive technology management, is the human resources and compliance director for CompanyVoice. He resides in Harleysville.

Jessie H. (Hinds) Burchfield, ‘05, business administration: management, is a senior reimbursement manager for UPMC Susquehanna Home Care and Hospice. She resides in Altoona.

Andrew W. Nagle, ‘05, automotive technology management, is an account executive for DCI Fleet Services. He resides in Media.

Matthew Reiff, ‘05, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer and vice president of sales for Welding Alloys USA. He resides in Sinclairville, N.Y.

Lauren J. Schuman, ‘05, graphic design, is the digital communications director for Country Meadows Retirement Communities. She resides in Harrisburg.

Jennifer Blew, ‘06, paramedic technology, is an administrative assistant for Penn State. She resides in Bellefonte.

Jared Hoover, ‘06, construction management, is a project manager for Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. He resides in Baltimore.

Sean M. Stabler, ‘06, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is the research and innovation manager for Sekisui SPI. He resides in Bloomsburg.

Joshua D. Young, ‘06, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a learning systems administrator for Penn College. He resides in Montoursville.

Grayson F. Bailey, ‘07, information technology: network specialist and security specialist, is a computer systems specialist for C&T Enterprises. He resides in Towanda.

Ryan Boutwell, ‘07, collision repair technology, is a senior training delivery specialist for Erie Insurance. He trains material damage adjusters across the country.

Chad W. Gray, ‘07, construction management, is vice president of construction management for Gray Builders. He resides in Danville.

Kristen (Cook) Yankowy, ‘07, graphic design, is a graphic designer for U.S. Foods, designing menus for restaurants nationwide. Her work has won awards from Graphic Design USA, the American Advertising Federation and the Outdoor Advertising Association of America. She resides in Allentown.

Michelle P. Beggs, ‘08, early childhood education, is a preschool teacher for STEP Head Start. She resides in Williamsport.

Jaimie S. Burns, ‘08, hospitality management, is a sales manager for Plamondon Hospitality Partners, overseeing sales for the Fairfield Inn/TownePlace Suites by Marriott in Altoona. She resides in Claysburg.

Kimber (Shermeyer) Hofmann, ‘08, early childhood education, is a lead toddler teacher for U-GRO Early Learning Centres. She resides in Mountville.

Jon Lazarus, ‘08, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an applications development engineer for Amcor Flexible. He resides in Greencastle.

Zachary R. Mazur, ‘08, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineering and maintenance supervisor for Flowserve Corp. He resides in Suffolk, Va.

Jeremy Miller, ‘08, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a sales engineer for Graham Engineering Corp. He resides in York.

Melissa (Urey) Stepp, ‘08, individual studies, is a seventh grade teacher for Southern Door Middle School. She resides in Green Bay, Wis.

Michael Cantellos, ‘09, building automation technology, is an engineer in field test data services for Southwestern Energy. He and his wife, Melissa (Franke), ‘14, nursing, reside in Towanda.

Timothy A. Miller, ‘09, graphic design, is a commercial and advertising art instructor for the Williamsport Area School District. He resides in Lewisburg.

Jermaine L. Mitchell, ‘09, mass media communication, is a direct support professional for Hope Enterprises. He resides in Williamsport.

Anthony Peachey, ‘09, business administration: marketing, is a product manager for Construction Specialties. He resides in Muncy.

Melissa Rake, ‘09, early childhood education, is a group supervisor for the Danville Child Development Center. She resides in Washingtonville.

Ann-Denise Reed, ‘09, radiography, is a radiation therapist for Geisinger. She resides in Lewisburg.

2010s

Lauren A. (Harris) Cohick, ‘10, technology management, is an administrative assistant for Plante & Moran. She resides in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Alexander Gingerich, ‘10, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is an HVAC service technician for Walton & Co. He resides in York.

Brad Kavetski, ‘10, emergency medical services, is a station captain for Horry County (S.C.) Fire Rescue. He presented at the South Carolina State Firefighters’ Association’s 2019 Fire Improvement Conference, completed a bachelor’s degree in fire science management from American Military University in 2018, and is a state director for the Firefighter Cancer Support Network. He resides in Aynor, S.C.

Kayla Kehres, ‘10, forest technology, is an urban/recreation service forester for the state’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. She serves several counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and resides in Boyertown.

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

Dustin Ott, ‘10, residential construction technology and management, is a project manager for Clayco. He resides in Hollidaysburg.

William C. Robertson, ‘10, automated manufacturing technology, is a journeyman tool and die maker/craftsperson for B. Braun Medical Inc., where he maintains plastic injection molds that make medical products for hospitals. He traveled to the company’s Germany locations for a four-month learning experience. He resides in Paltmerton.
Amanda (Reedy) Heider, ’11, electrical technology, is an industrial technician for Lonza. She resides in Williamsport.

Logan Kucerak, ’11, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for AZZ Specialty Welding (AZZ WSI LLC). He resides in Jefferson, Iowa.

Dhaav J. Patel, ’11, building science and sustainable design, is a lead virtual design and construction/building information modeling coordinator for McClure Co. He resides in Gettysburg.

James Walker, ’11, information technology: information assurance and security, is an information security analyst for UPMC Susquehanna. He resides in Williamsport.

Khris Ward, ’11, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, is a construction superintendent for EMIT Inc., overseeing multimillion-dollar material-handling system installations. He resides in Turbotville.

Timothy Weaver, ’11, emergency medical services, is a paramedic platoon chief for UPMC Susquehanna. He also teaches at Penn College. He was named the Susquehanna Regional EMS Paramedic of the Year in 2013 and the Lycoming County Paramedic of the Year in 2013 and 2018. He earned a bachelor’s degree in emergency management and a master’s degree in health care administration. He resides in Gamble Township.

Steven M. Bartz, ’12, graphic communications management, is a customer service manager for Taylor Communications. He resides in Philadelphia.

Samantha (Catlin) Bruinooge, ’12, graphic design, is a graphics specialist for Mondelez International, the maker of Oreo, Cadbury, Trident and other brands. She resides in Roaring Brook Township.

Shane Knauber, ’12, technology management, ’10, information technology: technical support technology, is an IT assistant for Hermance Machine Co. He resides in Montoursville.

Andrew N. Myer, ’12, welding technology, is a steamfitter for W.L. Gary Co. He completed the five-year Steamfitters Local 602 apprenticeship program in 2018. He resides in Ridgely, Md.

Matthew E. Fogtman, ’13, technology management; ’06, diesel technology, is a fleet manager for Volvo Construction Equipment North America. He resides in Hagerstown, Md.

Rory Kania, ’13, technology management; ’10, Caterpillar equipment emphasis and on-site power generation; ’00, heavy construction equipment technology, is an inside sales representative for Cleveland Brothers Equipment Co. He resides in Avoca.

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

Michael A. Bastian, ’14, automated manufacturing technology, is a new-business administrator for UGI Utilities. He resides in Watstown.

Joshua A. Bonner, ’14, web design and multimedia, is the creative director for Mount Saint Mary’s University. He resides in Gettysburg.

Cory Karges, ’14, industrial and human factors design, is a lead fabrication designer for Sign Producers. He resides in Orlando, Fla.

Robert Marchese, ’14, automotive technology management, is a technical support analyst for Ford Motor Co. He resides in Dearborn, Mich.

Benjamin Rehmeyer, ’14, electronics and computer engineering technology: robotics and automation emphasis, is an automation engineer for Multi-Dimensional Integration. He resides in York.

Steven M. Thompson, ’14, emergency medical services, is a paramedic for Geisinger Medical Center. He resides in Muncy.

Julie Carr, ’15, nursing, is a registered nurse for St. Vincent’s Medical Center, where she is an emergency room nurse, charge nurse and preceptor. She resides in Jacksonville, Fla.

Paul A. Evans, ’15, automotive technology management, is a field service engineer for Ford Motor Co. He was named 2017 Technical Field Operations MVP. He resides in Grosse Point Park, Mich.

James D. Flamm, ’15, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a metallurgical engineer for Curtiss Wright. He resides in Centerport, N.Y.

George A. Gadbois, ’15, business administration: banking and finance, is a paraplanner and investment analyst for Legacy Financial Group. He resides in Rockville, Md.

Alta Hardenstine, ’15, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a partner program specialist for Fronius USA. She resides in Orchard Beach, Md.

Miranda (Fink) Simon, ’15, nursing, is an RN supervisor for HCR ManorCare. She resides in Sunbury.

Rebecca L. Knee, ’15, for UPMC. She resides in Williamsport.

Jared Summers, ’15, architectural technology, is a designer for Hiller Architectural Group. He resides in Hughesville.

Katalynn M. Thomas, ’15, forest technology, is a forest technician for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, responsible for dispatching wildland firefighting airplanes from the Hazleton Tanker Base. She resides in Berwick.

Mindie (Lytle) Vlacic, ’15, nursing, is a nurse practitioner for UPMC. She resides in Montoursville.

Daniel J. Richner, ’16, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer for Dresser-Rand, part of Siemens Power and Gas. He resides in Port Allegany.

Jonathan D. Bean, ’17, civil engineering technology, is a civil engineer field inspector for RK&K. He resides in York.

Tim Beller, ’17, aviation maintenance technology, is a technician for Dassault Aircraft Services. He resides in Cochranville, Pa.

Garrett D. Corneliusen, ’17, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding manufacturing engineer for Tesla. He resides in Sparks, Nev.

Gaven Crosby, ’17, emergency management technology, is a training program manager for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He resides in Shickshinny.

Ashley N. Irish, ’17, applied human services, is an intervention specialist for the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay, where she provides crisis counseling and resource referrals. She resides in Tampa, Fla.

Rebecca L. Knee, ’17, surgical technology, is a certified surgical technologist for UPMC Susquehanna. She resides in South Williamsport.

Jessica (Larson) Lehman, ’17, physician assistant, is a PA for MedExpress urgent care center. She and husband, Harry A., ’09, welding technology, reside in Dover, Del.
Lindsay McCloskey, ‘17, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC Susquehanna. She resides in Howard.

Brittany (Hoffman) Smith, ‘17, health information management, is a registered health information administrator and quality coding and documentation educator for Geisinger Health Plan. She resides in Williamsport.

Christina Spanner, ‘17, health arts: practical nursing, is an LPN for Interim HealthCare, responsible for pediatric home health care. She resides in Muncy.

Liz Asher, ‘18, health arts: practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Valley View Nursing Center in Montoursville.

Quinn S. Cleis, ‘18, residential construction technology and management, is a project engineer for Clark Construction Co. He resides in Howell, Mich.

Raven R. Cooley, ‘18, nurse/health care paralegal studies, is a risk management analyst and registered nurse for UPMC Susquehanna. She resides in South Williamsport.

Madison H. Januchowski, ‘18, emergency management technology, is a supply and program tool specialist for The College Store at Penn College. She resides in Montoursville.

Donald K. Kolletzki, ‘18, toolmaking technology, is a senior model maker for Globus Medical in Audubon. The company develops musculoskeletal implants for patients with spine disorders.

Erica Kuhns, ‘18, applied health studies: occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Mountain View Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She resides in Middleburg.

Andrew A. Langan, ‘18, legal assistant: paralegal, is a paralegal for Carpenter, Harris & Flayhart, Attorneys at Law. He resides in Williamsport.

John Matthews, ‘18, nursing, is a registered nurse for Mount Nittany Medical Center. He resides in Boalsburg.

Amanda Montesdeoca, ‘18, nursing, is a staff nurse for UPMC Susquehanna Muncy. She resides in Muncy.

Carrie Phillips, ‘18, baking and pastry arts, is employed at the front desk for Hampton Inn & Suites. She resides in Trout Run.

Ethan M. Yoder, ‘18, software development & information management, is a software engineer for Clark Associates. He resides in Denver, Pa.

Liz Asher, ‘18, health arts: practical nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC Susquehanna Muncy. She resides in Williamsport.

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Marriages & Births

Jodi (Wentzel) Reilly, ‘98, graphic design, adopted four children, all siblings, via Florida’s foster care system. They reside in Loxahatchee, Fla.


Andrew W. Nagle, ‘05, automotive technology management, recently welcomed a son, William. They reside in Media.

Leanda Hill, ‘08, culinary arts technology, married Austin Upright, ‘09, civil engineering technology, on May 12, 2018. They reside in Benton.


Alexander Gingerich, ‘10, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, and his wife welcomed their first baby, a boy, in July 2018. They reside in York.

Brad Kavetski, ‘10, emergency medical services, married Mindy Yorks in September 2017. They reside in Aynor, S.C.

Andrew N. Myer, ‘12, welding technology, married Ashley Matthews on June 16, 2018. They reside in Ridgely, Md.

Matthew E. Fogtman, ‘13, technology management; ‘06, diesel technology, welcomed baby Cullen on Feb. 2, 2019. They reside in Hagerstown, Md.

Jessie Chronister, ‘15, applied management; ‘14, hospitality management, married Tim Ford in October 2018. They reside in Cockeysville, Md.

Briana Sheehan, ‘16, engineering CAD technology, married Carlos Pereira, ‘16, diesel technician, on June 2, 2018. They reside in Reading.

In Memory

Gay Campbell, WACC board of trustees chair, age 86, on June 2, 2018.

Anthony L. DiSalvo, the driving force behind the large U.S. flag at the college’s main entrance and the God, Country and Community Flag March that culminates there each Flag Day, age 89; on Feb. 4.

Frederick J. Rankinen, retired professor of civil engineering technology, age 80, on April 20, 2018.

Veronica M. Muzic, who retired in 2006 as vice president for academic affairs/provost, died June 18 at the age of 82.

Muzic joined the college faculty in 1968. The professor of English was a popular mentor to students, faculty and staff and was the first recipient of the college’s Master Teacher Award in 1982. When she retired from full-time service, the award was renamed the Veronica M. Muzic Master Teaching Award.

During her long tenure, she was instrumental in a number of college initiatives. She implemented a developmental education program, opening the Tutoring Center. She brought a variety of women’s programming to campus, including the Women’s Series, which brought Maya Angelou and other prominent authors to campus. She later led the effort to establish SMART Girls, a program that uses hands-on career exploration activities to encourage teens to continue challenging themselves in science and math.

She generously supported the college’s annual giving campaigns as well as special initiatives, including providing a leadership gift to support the opening of the Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College.

Muzic was among administrators who developed the college’s first bachelor’s degrees and served as the first chair of College Council when the institution introduced an internal governance system. She also was instrumental in leading the college’s accreditation self-studies.

She served on many committees at the college as well as in the community. In 2011, she was named YWCA of Northcentral Pennsylvania’s “Wise Woman of the Year.”

Memorial contributions may be made to the Muzic Family Scholarship at the college.
Preserving your family photos

Is Great Aunt Harriet looking a little pale these days?

by Patricia A. Scott, ’71, retired librarian and college archivist

1. Hang photos on walls where they will not get direct sunlight. If possible, hang photos on an inside wall away from fireplaces or heating units.

2. For your framed photos, be sure to use a mat between the photograph and the glass. Otherwise moisture can cause the photo to stick to the glass. If you try to remove it, you’re likely to damage the photo.

3. Don’t put photos in albums that sandwich the photos between plastic sheets. Over time, the plastic will stick to the photos.

4. Don’t glue or tape photos into albums. Storing photos in storage boxes designed for photos is better.

5. If you have photo albums where the photos have been glued or taped in, you can insert sheets of acid-free paper between the pages. It will help to prevent the photos from sticking together.

6. If you have photos that have faded, especially color photos, consider transferring them to CDs before they fade any further. Otherwise, Great Aunt Harriet may fade into oblivion. (Not a bad thing, you say?)

7. If you have color slides, try to keep them in a cool place. (But not the basement; it gets damp down there.)

8. When dusting framed photos, use only a dry cloth: no Endust, Pledge or other cleaning solvents.

9. It is best to store black-and-white photos, slides and negatives separately.

Tell your children (or whoever will inherit the photos) about the people in your photographs. If you don’t know who is in the photograph, you will be less likely to keep it. Putting a face and a name to the person in a photo will help to preserve memories along with the highly important job of preserving the physical photograph.

– Elizabeth P. Waugh, librarian
Pennsylvania College of Technology
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