

# Penn College

MAGAZINE



## LIVING LANDMARK

College welds walls for Vatican project

SEE PAGE 12

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.

Visit Penn College Magazine online at [magazine.pct.edu](http://magazine.pct.edu)

**EDITOR**  
Jennifer A. Cline

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
Matt Blymier  
Cindy Davis Meixel  
Tom Speicher  
Tom Wilson  
Joseph S. Yoder

**ISSUE DESIGNER**  
Sarah K. Patterson '05

**DESIGN & DIGITAL PRODUCTION**  
Ken Engel  
Larry D. Kauffman  
Tina M. Miller '03  
Deborah K. Peters '97

**WEB DESIGN**  
Phillip C. Warner '06

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Matt Blymier  
Jennifer A. Cline  
Larry D. Kauffman  
Cindy Davis Meixel  
Tom Speicher  
Tim Wegman  
Tom Wilson  
*Other photos as credited*

**PENN COLLEGE MAGAZINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Nicholas D. Biddle '07  
*graphic designer, web developer*  
Biddle Studios and Sage Age Strategies

Joshua Bonner '03, '14  
*creative director*  
Mount Saint Mary's University

L. Lee Janssen '82  
*editor-in-chief*  
The Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Lana K. Muthler '70  
*managing editor*  
The Express, Lock Haven

Julie Stellfox '06  
*assistant director of media relations*  
Lock Haven University

Robert O. Rolley '83  
*publisher*  
The Express, Lock Haven  
and The Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Joseph Tertel '02  
*manager, eCommerce Marketing*  
Rite Aid

**PENN COLLEGE MEMBERS**  
Barbara A. Danko  
*retired director of alumni relations*

Katherine A. Downes  
*vice president of public relations*  
Student Government Association

Sandra Lakey  
*retired faculty*  
*speech communication and composition*

Brad L. Nason  
*faculty*  
*mass communications*

Alexandra D. Petrizzi  
*student*

Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D.  
**PRESIDENT**  
PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE  
OF TECHNOLOGY

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.

To submit items for consideration, or to subscribe, contact:

**Penn College Magazine** DIF 30  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
One College Avenue  
Williamsport, PA 17701-5799  
PHONE 570-321-5527  
EMAIL [magazine@pct.edu](mailto:magazine@pct.edu)  
WEB [magazine.pct.edu](http://magazine.pct.edu)

# Contents

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 2



Raised on a dairy farm, landscape/horticulture technology student Courtney M. Wilcox chose her major because she loved watching her family's crops grow. The lettuce she helps to raise in the hydroponic garden at the college's Schneebeli Earth Science Center is served in dining facilities on campus.



## Trading Uniforms

With spring sports canceled and classes moved online, athletes trade jerseys for scrubs.



## Making Makers

Makers from all majors learn from one another as they bring ideas to life in The Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College.



## Designer of Signs

Work is a thrill ride for industrial designer Cory D. Karges, '14, whose work for Sign Producers Inc. is seen by millions at theme parks Universal, Disney and others.



## Living Landmark

A plant-laden open-air chapel, with walls fabricated by Penn College faculty and students, is bound for the World Heritage Site home of the patron saint of ecology.



## Responding With Resolve

Penn College's community of problem solvers rises to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Campus News **2**

Penn College Family **5**

Sports Replay **7**

Niche **24**

Class Notes **26**

Expert Tips **32**

## degrees that work.

### ON THE COVER

James N. Colton II, assistant professor of welding, slides a wall section into the foundation for the "Living Chapel." The structure, a project of the Vatican ecology division, was welded by Penn College students and faculty and shipped overseas for display in Rome and the Vatican, where it is to be blessed by the pope, before moving to its permanent home near the World Heritage Site birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi. See Page 12.

### ATTENTION, ALUMNI

Share your story and catch up with classmates online at [magazine.pct.edu/cn](http://magazine.pct.edu/cn)

### GO PAPERLESS

To receive an email when we publish new editions at [magazine.pct.edu](http://magazine.pct.edu), email [alumni@pct.edu](mailto:alumni@pct.edu). Include your name, class year (if alumni), address and email address, and put Online Magazine Subscription in the subject. You will stop receiving the printed Penn College Magazine.

### ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

If you are receiving more than one copy of Penn College Magazine, or if it is addressed to a daughter or son who has established a separate permanent residence, please notify Alumni Relations at [alumni@pct.edu](mailto:alumni@pct.edu), or call toll-free 877-PCT-ALUM (877-728-2586). You can also update mailing info at [magazine.pct.edu/update](http://magazine.pct.edu/update).



### Art installation shows work of 500-plus students

Over 500 students and more than 500 ceramic tiles in the making, another stunning example of Penn College art is complete and ready for rave reviews and views.

"It was my idea to have students make something to leave behind as part of a permanent art piece," said David A. Stabley, instructor of ceramics and wood sculpture, who started the project with students in Fall 2013. "It's an interesting idea of working on a group project over such a long period of time."

The ceramics sensation adorns a wall in the north stairwell of the Bush Campus Center.



Ceramics III students Natascha G. Santaella, left, and Amber Kreitzer show off the final piece after helping to place the finishing touches on the Campus Center stairwell project.



Michael S. Shreiner, a 2019 forest technology graduate, joins Pennsylvania College of Technology forestry personnel alongside the hand-fed chipper that he delivered to the college just a month after graduating. From left are Nathan D. Avery, laboratory assistant for forest technology; forestry instructor Eric C. Easton; Shreiner; and Andrew Bartholomay, assistant professor of forestry.

### Forestry grad facilitates equipment donation

Thanks to the resourcefulness of December graduate Michael S. Shreiner, now employed full time by his family's business, Shreiner Tree Care, forest technology students at Penn College's Schneebeli Earth Science Center will have access to a 150XP Bandit Tree Chipper that the alumnus solicited from the manufacturer.

"Industry donations like this are so important to the programs they serve, but what makes this donation special

to us is that it was initiated by a student who saw a need for his program," said Justin W. Beishline, assistant dean of diesel technology and natural resources. "Michael paved the way for future students to have what he thought would enhance the program. He, Stephenson Equipment and Bandit all went out of their way to make sure our forestry students have the opportunity to learn from one of the best chippers on the market."

### IT student presents at conference

Sophomore Carson D. Seese co-presented "Hands-On Writing Malware in Go" at Security B-Sides DC, an annual regional open security conference for and by information security practitioners.

Seese, a Dean's List student, is seeking a bachelor's degree in information assurance and cyber security. He co-presented with Stuart McMurray of IronNet Cybersecurity, a worldwide leader in network traffic analysis. Seese worked with McMurray during his summer internship.

Seese wrote two of the software libraries referenced during the session and created most of the slides. The 30-minute presentation outlined the steps to write malware with Go, an open source programming language developed at Google.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES

### College to offer building performance training in western PA

Pennsylvania College of Technology's National Sustainable Structures Center is adding a training site in Westmoreland County to enhance its delivery of building science and energy efficiency training for the U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program.

The leased 7,500-square-foot facility in Latrobe will enable the center to offer the same services provided in Williamsport. NSSC is contracted by the state Department of Community and Economic Development to provide certification training and testing to building performance professionals.

Learn more at [www.pct.edu/nssc](http://www.pct.edu/nssc).

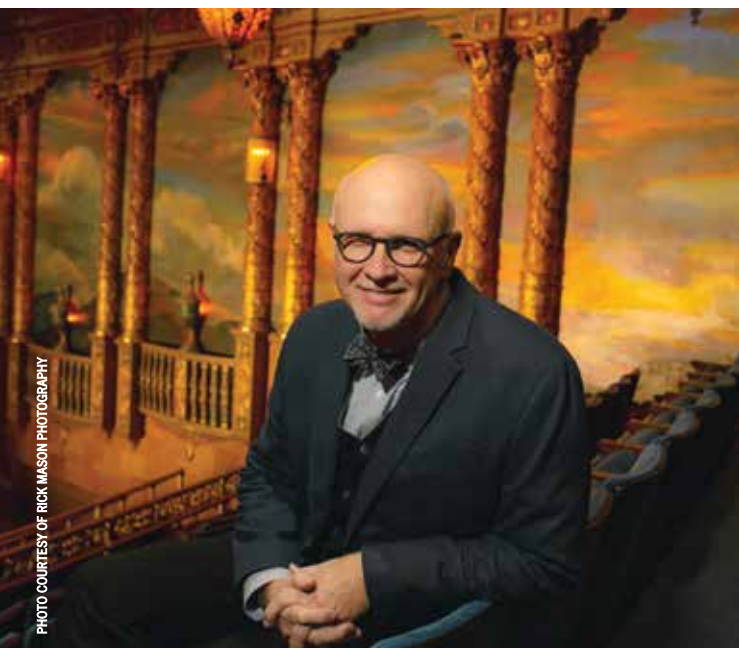


PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK MASON PHOTOGRAPHY

### Veteran cultural arts, fundraising executive to head Community Arts Center

Following an extensive search, the Community Arts Center Board of Directors selected Chuck Still to become executive director of the center, a wholly owned subsidiary of Pennsylvania College of Technology that has served 1.5 million guests for more than 1,000 productions since opening in 1993.

Still comes to the Community Arts Center from the Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston in Texas, where he oversaw the startup of the facility and helped complete a \$25 million capital campaign as MATCH's founding executive director.

From 2008-14, Still was founding executive director of the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center ("The Kate") in Old Saybrook, Connecticut. Prior to that, Still served as executive director of Riverside Theatre, Vero Beach, Florida.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN S. WEINRICH

### ROTC cadet honored

Penn College Army ROTC cadet Austin S. Weinrich (right), of Jenkintown, receives the RECONDO badge for displaying superior skills at Advanced Camp. Held at Fort Knox, Kentucky, Advanced Camp is considered ROTC's most significant training experience, and successful completion is a requirement to earn a commission as an Army officer. Weinrich was one of 14 cadets out of approximately 600 in the 4th Regiment to receive the RECONDO Badge. Presenting the RECONDO badge is Brig. Gen. Antonio V. Munera.

"Every day I was faced with a new problem, and, as a leader, I quickly discovered that it was my duty to be the all-around problem-solver," Weinrich said. "Overall, my Advanced Camp experience revealed to me that I want to be challenged in my future career and that I want to be assigned to the difficult tasks because I am confident in my abilities as a leader and problem-solver."

Weinrich was among eight Bald Eagle Battalion Army ROTC cadets commissioned as second lieutenants in mid-May.



# PLAYFUL DIVERSION



IMAGES COURTESY OF ELIZA R. WHYMAN

Find the USB stick in the makeshift home office.

## TOMORROW MAKERS

### President, provost launch fund for new-student scholarships

The Tomorrow Makers Fund, created with philanthropic support from Penn College President Davie Jane Gilmour and Michael J. Reed, vice president for academic affairs/provost, will be promoted by alumni participating in the college's Tomorrow Makers Program as they help recruit the next generation of Penn College students.

"Our alumni are an invaluable resource in recruiting new students," Gilmour said. "What better way to convince someone to enroll here than by having them hear directly from a graduate who had a great experience at Penn College and went on to find success in his or her professional career? I am proud to support a program that facilitates this unique scholarship opportunity."

The Tomorrow Makers alumni members carry Admissions Office business cards to provide to prospective students. Each card promotes a \$500 scholarship, awarded upon acceptance by the college. The scholarship awards, managed by the Financial Aid Office, will come directly from the fund established by the president and provost.

### Find complete articles on PCToday

To find more comprehensive versions of the articles in Campus News – and to read other news stories about Penn College – visit PCToday, the college's news-and-information website, at [pctoday.pct.edu](http://pctoday.pct.edu)

Members of the Penn College Family across the globe used their skills in a variety of ways to help others during the global pandemic, including graphic design alumna **Eliza R. Whyman, '17**, a designer at MediaCom in Manchester, England.

Whyman designed and illustrated six visually appealing brain teasers for Brits to enjoy during shelter-in-place orders.

She and her MediaCom teammates produced the colorful creations for their client Plumbs, a 60-year-old reupholstery company in the United Kingdom.

They were so popular, they were republished by large media outlets across the U.K. and in the Netherlands, Spain, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore.

"I was surprised it reached so far. ... I was glad to see so many people having fun and engaging with my work," she said.

A dual citizen of the U.K. and U.S., Whyman relocated to England shortly after graduating from Penn College and landed a job at MediaCom within a month. Whyman says her Penn College education "thoroughly prepared" her for a successful and rewarding career in the demanding graphic design profession.

"I like being a graphic designer because of how I can be creative and feel confident in my work, knowing I've followed the rules of design. It's defined and ordered creativity," she said. ■

See more "Penn College Family" profiles at [family.pct.edu](http://family.pct.edu)

# TRADING UNIFORMS

by Matt Blymier, assistant director of athletics for compliance & athletics communication

ATHLETES SWAP  
CANCELED SPRING  
SPORTS FOR HEALTH  
CARE WORK

It was an easy decision for two Pennsylvania College of Technology student-athletes, despite myriad emotions following the cancellation of their sports seasons due to the coronavirus pandemic in early March.

They would trade one uniform for another.

Sophomores Connor Burke and Gillian Sinnott returned home when Spring Break was extended, traded in their baseball and softball jerseys for scrubs, and immediately went to work in their respective health service fields, Burke as an emergency room technician near his hometown in Pottsville, and Sinnott as an aide at a nursing home near her hometown of Sykesville, Maryland.

"I was in a position to help make a difference," Burke, a nursing student, said. "It was an easy decision to help out during this difficult time."

Sinnott, who is also majoring in nursing, had similar sentiments and left for work almost immediately after she returned home. Her father, who works at the same facility, told her that the nursing home already had some COVID-19 cases, and Sinnott dropped her belongings off at her house and went right to work.

"I want to be able to help people that can't fully help themselves," Sinnott explained. "I would want my parents to be cared for in that situation, so I want to help other people's parents be cared for and stay safe."

Sinnott, who aids the staff in serving and caring for residents, had her work plans detoured when her mother, who works at a different nursing home, tested positive for COVID-19. All three Sinnotts quarantined themselves for 14 days. Her

mother made a full recovery from mild symptoms, and Sinnott and her father tested negative for the virus.

Burke works three eight-hour shifts per week from 11 p.m.-7 a.m. He works alongside doctors and nurses completing

basic, but critical, tasks such as preparing patients for operations, drawing blood and taking vitals.

"It was pretty packed the first few days when I returned," Burke said of the emergency room. "It was in the early stages of the virus, and we had the normal cases we generally see in the ER and people with COVID symptoms. Once quarantine was imposed and the overall numbers of people infected in the area came down, it's been less busy."

Both students had their sports seasons cut short in March when the decision was made to cancel the remainder of the spring season. Burke's baseball team was off to a 5-5 start – including three straight wins during its Spring Break trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, while Sinnott's softball team was 5-4 during the trip. The baseball team had already completed its week when it was told of the decision, while the softball team still had two games to play.

"Everyone was bummed," Burke said of his team's reaction. "We were off to a good start, put a lot of work in with practice and workouts and developed relationships among the team. We wanted to continue what we started, play for a conference championship and play together as a team."

Sinnott and Burke both see the similarities in being a member of an athletics team and part of a team in the health field. Communication, teamwork, sacrifice and adaptability are skills reinforced by sports and transferred into the workforce.

"Working as a team is a huge thing in the health field," Sinnott said. "Everything will not always go the way that you might expect, and you need to be able to rely on those around you. Knowing that you have a team behind you makes all the difference." ■

"I would want my parents to be cared for in that situation, so I want to help other people's parents be cared for and stay safe."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GILLIAN SINNOTT

Gillian Sinnott traded her softball jersey for scrubs, returning to her job as an aide at a nursing home when spring sports seasons were canceled and classes were moved online.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNOR BURKE

Nursing student Connor Burke, a sophomore on the Wildcat baseball team, returned to work as an emergency room technician.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Wildcats reached the North Eastern Athletic Conference postseason for the first time in program history. **Ben Sosa** closed his four-year career with 1,286 points, securing fourth place on the Penn College men's scoring list. Sosa, who averaged 17.3 points and 7.7 rebounds per game in 26 games, also earned All-NEAC Second Team honors, which was the highest all-conference selection in program history. **Elijah Vazquez**, who transferred from the Community College of Rhode Island, concluded his overall collegiate career with 1,374 points – 634 of them in a Wildcat uniform.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**Cassi Kuhns** averaged 12.2 points and eight rebounds per game, while **Ja'Quela Dyer** averaged 8.5 points and 9.2 rebounds. The team ended its first season under coach Britni Mohney with its most wins (seven) since 2014-15.

## WRESTLING

The Wildcats placed 15th at the NCAA Division III Mideast Regionals. **Dylan Gettys** placed eighth at 165 pounds.

## BASEBALL

Penn College was 5-5 before its season was halted by the coronavirus pandemic. **Brittan Kittle** earned NEAC Player of the Week honors in the Wildcats' only week of the season.

## SOFTBALL

The Wildcats were 5-4 before their season was canceled. **Morgan Heritage** was named NEAC Pitcher of the Week in the season's lone week.

## ANNUAL AWARDS

Penn College presented its annual athletics awards in a virtual ceremony in May. **Hayden Beiter** (cross-country) and **Taylor Gonzales** (women's soccer) were named Scholar-Athletes of the Year; **Brittan Kittle** (baseball) and **Morgan Heritage** (softball) earned Athlete of the Year honors; and **Ryan Bauer** (wrestling) and **Sloane Tressler** (women's soccer) were named Newcomers of the Year.



Sosa



Kuhns



Gettys



Kittle



Heritage

# MAKING MAKERS



by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday



Students Barbara J. LeGeyt, left, welding and fabrication engineering technology; Anthony F. O’Koren, center, applied technology studies; and Mason Peters, applied management and heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, learn and lead using equipment in The Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College.



## IN DR. WELCH WORKSHOP, STUDENTS SHARE WHAT THEY KNOW AND ABSORB WHAT THEY DON'T

**B**lack walnut and cherry, milled just over the mountain at Pennsylvania College of Technology’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center, cascade to the floor in ribbon curls as Mason Peters wields his favorite gouge on the turning lathe.

At a nearby computer numerical control router that he assembled, Anthony F. O’Koren watches as programmed letters are cut into a slab of wood, forming a fitting mantra for his surroundings: “Learn the unknown. Make the unseen. Teach the unspeakable.”

On the other side of the wall, Barbara J. LeGeyt delivers a mandatory safety lecture

before teaching metal inert gas welding to a pair of fellow students.

It’s a beehive of activity on any given day at The Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College, student-designed and dedicated in August 2018 as an impetus to collegewide innovation and collaboration.

This particular afternoon includes a brewing and fermentation science student etching a club logo onto pint glasses for a fundraiser; an amateur fashion designer, stylishly clad in one of her own creations, pinning fabric to a dress form; and a group of students huddled over a butcher-block table, scouring the web for just the right

images to replicate in vinyl.

The buzz is effectively managed by attendant Jeremiah C. Johnson and assistant Roberta Schwenk, whose combined counsel gives makerspace patrons the boost of confidence to bring even the wildest ideas to life.

“I spend my days dodging drones and tripping over robots,” Schwenk says, a tongue-in-cheek appreciation of the inventiveness that’s afoot within the Carl Building Technologies Center facility. Lavishing their increasingly voluminous body of knowledge on the busy crowd, Schwenk and Johnson smile in recognition of students caught in the act of creating

something – a tantalizing variety of “somethings” – and recreating themselves in the process.

One’s ability to inspire someone else is a credible barometer of what’s been learned, and these students can add “mentor” to their resume.

“One of the nicest things I have seen happen in the space is the collaboration among students from all different majors,” explains Tom F. Gregory, assistant dean of construction and architectural technologies. “You might see machining students teaching business students how to use the lathe, or perhaps welding students teaching construction students how to weld, or construction students teaching electronics students how to use a table saw, etc.

“It is a space that promotes and builds relationships among students with many different interests and skills.”

It is also a space that is accustomed to traffic.

With projects in hand, a parade of makers often gathers in the hall, and weekly themed sessions are offered to the campus at large on topics from rubber mold making to centuries-old Vietnamese embroidery technique.

“I have seen students waiting for it to open up, and there always seems to be activity. It has a good balance of craft-friendly working areas and a heavy-duty fabrication shop,” says Thomas E. Ask, professor of industrial design and – like Gregory – an early proponent of bringing the maker movement to Penn College.

The makerspace is named in memory of Dr. Marshall Welch Jr., a local orthodontist with a knack for tinkering and a penchant for philanthropy. It is outfitted with equipment provided by a roster of beneficence, divided into The Gilmour Tinkertorium (including computers, 3D printers, sewing machines and vinyl cutters) and The Logue Fabritorium (lathes, CNC machinery, saws, routers, drill presses, welders, and the like).

The overall space was laid out by assistant professor Rob A. Wozniak’s architectural design technology students,



“THE DR. WELCH WORKSHOP HAS TAUGHT ME THAT MY PATH TO HAPPINESS IS FINDING A PLACE THAT I CAN SHARE MY KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS.”



from whose presentations the winning configuration was chosen. (Even the runner-up ideas showed an intuitive grasp of the project’s intent. One of them carried the working title of “Broken TV,” a pointed reminder to turn off the television and do something with one’s hands.)

“The students were trying to encourage, by their delightful designs, a space where students who wouldn’t normally come into a ‘shop’ would feel comfortable to enter this space,” Ask says. “And I think they succeeded!”

Long interested in the underlying motives for the human desire to build things, the faculty member (and adviser to the college’s Society of Inventors and Mad Scientists) wrote a paper for the 2016 International Conference for Design Creativity in Atlanta. His “Philosophical Foundations of the Maker Movement” explored the interlocking concepts of usefulness, beauty and fun.

“The joy of the designing and building process can be of greater importance than the object’s utility. The world of hands-on design teaches the heroics of the nail gun, the intimacy of the soldering iron, the magic of casting and the crunching sound of failure,” Ask wrote. “Makers know the dance of deep thinking and wonderful journeys.”

LeGeyt’s journey began on a Barkhamsted, Connecticut, horse farm and included a side trip to Davenport, Iowa, where she served a summer internship with John Deere. She learned to stick-weld during a course at her high school, overcoming the fear of burning down the shop and running a serviceable rookie bead on a lap joint.

“Are you sure you’ve never done this?” her impressed instructor inquired – and welding, she says, “became my thing.”

LeGeyt has combined her natural ability with her equestrian background for a crafty side hustle, repurposing worn horseshoes into wine racks, decorative four-leaf clovers or pumpkins, wedding favors – even a Christmas tree.

She and several classmates developed the makerspace welding curriculum, with >>



a PowerPoint presentation on proper precautions before moving to small-group instruction in the dedicated space. Pursuing a bachelor's degree in welding and fabrication engineering technology, she would like to teach when she's done working in her chosen field.

She is, in a word, unfazed about meeting qualifications: "If I can coordinate a 5-year-old on a pony, I can handle college students."

Equally at home in sharing his expertise is Peters, a 2018 graduate in heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology from Shickshinny, who is adding an applied management bachelor's degree to his toolkit. While excelling academically, it is outside of school – in venues like the makerspace and beyond – that he finds a teeming reservoir of

satisfaction.

Woodworking is but one of his passions – "I haven't bought a Christmas gift in five years," he points out – and he feeds it through making pens from exotic species (Mexican kingwood, anyone?), custom-crafting a racing trophy in a checkered-flag motif and helping to teach dozens of veterans at the Williamsport Community Woodshop in the Pajama Factory artisan complex not far from main campus.

"It's like having 30 grandpas," he said of that Wednesday gig. "And who wouldn't want to give back to them?"

He also competes in micro sprint car racing on area speedways, keeps rare tropical fish in a saltwater aquarium and is learning how to tend bonsai trees.

But today, he is shaping a native cherry and black walnut piece that will

be smoothed with 2,000-grit sandpaper and donated to the Student Government Association's silent auction. Tuned to the music flowing through his noise-canceling headphones, he finesses each curve, instinctively following a mathematically sound schematic that he sketched out on poster board, a symphony of alternating grain and color.

O'Koren, too, has delivered artistry to the annual scholarship benefit. Among the highlights of the 2019 auction was a reborn piece of campus tradition: a "Why Not Women" sign that floated among faculty offices for decades.

The original was first displayed by the late and legendary Veronica M. Muzic, a former English instructor, longtime college administrator and (with husband, Bill) a noteworthy donor to the makerspace. The

Williamsport resident used centuries-old hemlock in his replicated version, which was appropriately bought by college President Davie Jane Gilmour (among the colleagues whom Muzic embraced and inspired) and displayed at a June 2019 life celebration on campus.

O'Koren earned a bachelor's degree in applied technology studies in May. He focused his learning on automation, electronics and networking, and that is apparent in one of his latest makerspace projects: an automated coin identifier, designed to bring order to the chaos of pocket change – or entire collections.

Standing by the churning CNC router on a late-winter afternoon, he shows off a collaborative showpiece: a breathtakingly intricate topographical map of Pennsylvania etched in 1830s

barn wood and destined for the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau.

Like LeGeyt and Peters, he finds reward in passing along his bountiful talents and insight.

"The makerspace has given me the blessing of many quality friendships that will result in long-lasting relationships," O'Koren says. "But most importantly, the Dr. Welch Workshop has taught me that my path to happiness is finding a place that I can share my knowledge with others and instill in them the same confidence that the makerspace did for me."

A regular since the facility's beginnings, he has capably represented the makerspace in a YouTube video and before an April 2019 gathering of Williamsport Technical Institute alumni, exhibited a honeycomb

warmer a month later at Open House, and volunteered to teach soldering and other skills at makerspace workshops. His demeanor is one of pure helpfulness, furthering the cooperative tone that flows throughout the creative arena.

"We have our own little family in here. It's a great place to bounce things off one another," LeGeyt says, a perspective shared by Peters.

"You don't have to know what you're doing," he notes. "There's so much knowledge in one place, so many different fields represented in one area, such a diversity of people.

"All the tools are there; materials, too – metal, wood, vinyl – and all that's left to do is ask, 'Can you show me?'" ■

 Watch a video highlighting makers in the Dr. Welch Workshop at [magazine.pct.edu/mm](http://magazine.pct.edu/mm)



In The Gilmour Tinkertorium, welding students pore over online images that can be readily rendered in vinyl to adorn their toolboxes.



Operations in The Logue Fabritorium generally involve cutting wood, metal and plastics, as well as welding and joining. Equipment includes drill presses, lathes, milling machines, sanders, table and miter saws, routers, and grinders.

# Living



by Tom Speicher, writer/  
video producer

ILLUSTRATION BY KENNEDY L. ENGLERT

FACULTY,  
STUDENTS WELD  
VATICAN-BOUND  
LIVING CHAPEL

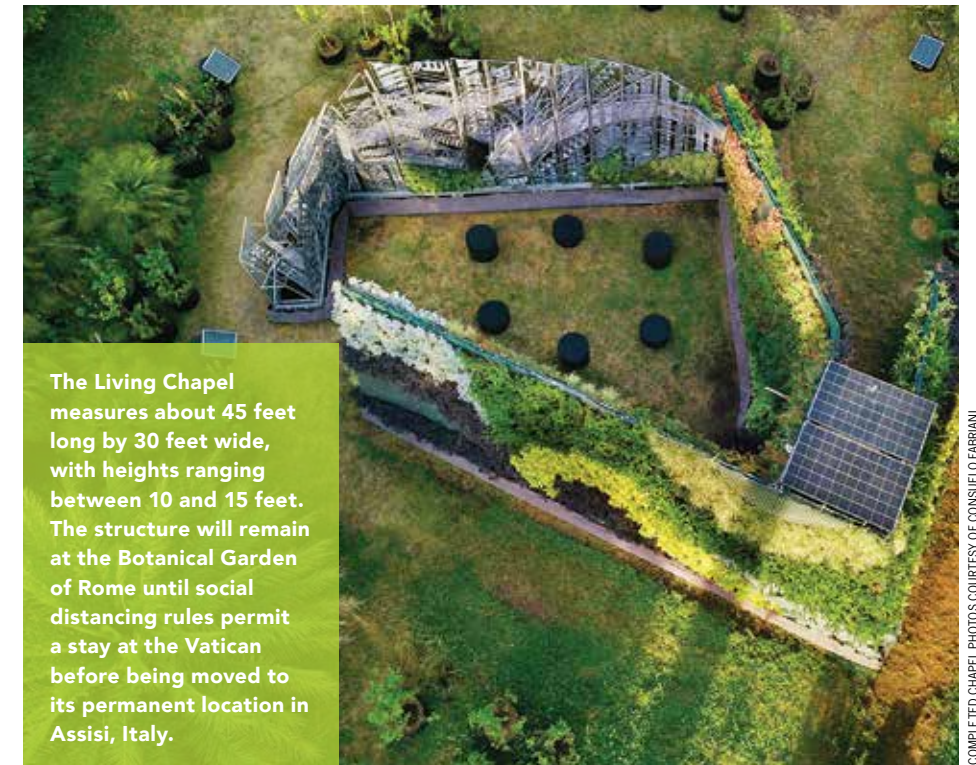
# Landmark

It's two days before Christmas. Pennsylvania College of Technology's campus is still, save for the sparks illuminating the expansive welding facility and a "once in a lifetime" project.

Inside, a handful of faculty forgo the serenity of winter break to tackle a tight deadline. On this day, like many before and after, they meticulously measure and cut a seemingly endless supply of aluminum. The resulting pieces are arranged before one of thousands of welds joins them together, forming a geometric symphony of angles. The dedicated instructors are fabricating the foundation of a dream meant to enlighten for generations.

During a 10-week window, nine welding instructors and 15 students worked a collective 3,500-plus hours and used an aluminum supply that could be stretched for nearly a mile to birth the Living Chapel. The Penn College contingent built the four walls that make up the structural framework for the modular spiritual sanctuary, unveiled in May at the Botanical Garden of Rome and online at [www.livingchapel.com](http://www.livingchapel.com) as part of Global Catholic Climate Movement activities, United Nations World Environment Day celebrations and the U.N. Trillion Tree Campaign.

Made from recyclable and repurposed materials and integrating art, music, architecture and nature, the Living Chapel is a sacred space that encourages acts of ecological restoration. The project is inspired by the United Nations 2030 sustainable development agenda and Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si," the papal letter that calls safeguarding the planet an "urgent priority."



The Living Chapel measures about 45 feet long by 30 feet wide, with heights ranging between 10 and 15 feet. The structure will remain at the Botanical Garden of Rome until social distancing rules permit a stay at the Vatican before being moved to its permanent location in Assisi, Italy.

COMPLETED CHAPEL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CONSUELO FABRIANI

Once COVID-19 pandemic social-distancing rules are relaxed, the Living Chapel will be placed at the Vatican before being moved to its permanent location in Assisi, Italy, the birthplace of St. Francis, whose small church provided the footprint for the Living Chapel.

"I don't think it's sunk in yet, what it's going to mean to everybody," said James N. Colton II, assistant professor of welding, who led the Penn College fabrication team. "It's definitely a big deal."

In the Living Chapel's final form, more than half of the structural skeleton fabricated by Penn College is hidden. Three of the sections are covered with a mix of 3,000 evergreen leaves and flowers inserted into recycled fleece fabric stapled to PVC boards that are bolted to

the aluminum walls. Most of the metal is exposed as a visual element for the fourth wall. It features discarded, small steel pans serving as "drums," stamped steel automotive scrap repurposed into decorative metal screens, and suspended cross cutouts made of metal waste.

The section is called the "Chime Wall," because the hung crosses chime when moved by the wind.

According to organizers, nature will engulf the senses of those who visit the open-air chapel. The swirling design of the flowers and light reflecting from the crosses will color their view. The aroma emanating from the perennials will encourage them to inhale life. Vertically stacked steel pan drums – struck by mallets powered by water – produce a >>





natural melody that will nurture their soul. The experience should touch them spiritually and move them to join others in caring for the world.

“It’s just amazing to be like, ‘I have a couple welds on that,’” said Sara D. Stafford, a welding and fabrication engineering technology student from West Chester. “Penn College creating a huge structure and piece of art for Italy. Who would have thought?”

The four walls built by the college measure approximately 45 feet long by 30 feet wide with heights ranging between 10 and 15 feet. They are joined at various angles, with the exception of two portions that separate to form a space in the shape of a cross.

“The initial PDF that we saw didn’t show the complexity of the project,” Colton said with a smile. “We were definitely a little bit more overwhelmed once we got into it.”

The myriad pieces of aluminum that Colton and his crew connected to form the Living Chapel served as a metaphor for the disparate forces that joined to make the project a reality.

Penn College is linked with an Australian-Canadian music composer; a Toronto-based architect; faculty and students from the Department of Architecture within the Stuckeman School

at Penn State; Vatican and U.N. officials; Italian landscape architects and botanists; as well as other individuals and entities.

“It’s a very multidimensional project,” said Julian Revie, creative director of the Living Chapel and associate director of music at the Center for Music and Liturgy of St. Thomas More Chapel at Yale University. “Once Penn State was involved, they told us, ‘The team to get this done is at Penn College. They have the capacity to take on something that is quite ambitious and large-scale on a tight time frame.’”

Revie, who has composed for two papal masses, presented the Vatican ecology division with an idea to employ instruments – made from recycled materials – to create a musical piece that would celebrate the “serene harmony between humanity and nature.” Those conversations led to the concept for the Living Chapel, a physical structure combining music with architecture influenced by Porziuncola, the chapel in Assisi rebuilt in the early 13th century by St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology.

“Music is ephemeral. I think the real power of this project happens in the confluence of the musical element and the physical reality, so people can come into the Living Chapel and have a holistic, all-encompassing experience,” Revie said.

To turn concept into reality, Revie

contacted a former graduate-school friend from the University of Cambridge: Gillean Denny, an independent architectural designer in Toronto, who has a background in sustainable design, urban agriculture and theater production.

“I’m always looking for interesting projects, and this definitely falls in the category of interesting,” said Denny, a 2007 Penn State alumna. “Julian said, ‘We need to recreate St. Francis’ chapel but out of plants, and it needs to go together and come apart and move several times.’ The jigsaw puzzle of trying to figure out how that would work was intriguing.”

The uniqueness of the project led Denny to seek support from one of her Penn State mentors, James Kalsbeek, associate professor of architecture, who has been involved with the Department of Architecture’s study abroad program in Rome since 1991. In late summer, Kalsbeek hand-picked a small team, comprised mostly of graduate students and research assistants, to provide design support with the intent of fabricating and building the entire chapel at University Park.

“Those early sketches were a little rough,” Kalsbeek said. “I think the complexity, the design, the shadows, the layers, the metal work were not quite represented.”

The sketches morphed into a detailed, 250-page construction document that guided the work of Penn College welding faculty and students after Kalsbeek realized that Penn State didn’t possess the resources to fabricate the walls.

Penn College enjoys a long history with the architecture program at Penn State. Each year, Penn State Stuckeman School students – including Denny in 2002 – receive hands-on building experience by visiting the college’s masonry lab to cut stone and lay brick.

Kalsbeek’s request in September to extend the opportunity to Penn College’s welding and metal fabrication department was well-timed. The college recently opened its expanded 55,000-square-foot welding lab, believed to be the nation’s >>

**“No way, no how, did the chapel get built without them. Period. They were amazing.”**

**Gillean Denny,**  
chief architectural designer



From Penn College’s Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center, the disassembled walls are loaded into a truck, destined for Penn State. Several days later, the walls are sent to Italy.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PENN STATE



Members of the Penn College and Penn State teams pose with the completed chapel in Penn State’s Laundry Building prior to its shipment to Rome in February.



largest. The facility provided ample space and fabrication equipment to get the job done, such as electric cold saws, portable band saws, grinders and MIG welding units.

It was also home to the most crucial components for success: the expertise and will of welding faculty and students. They embraced what Kalsbeek called a “mammoth, gargantuan task,” despite a looming deadline.

“The faculty saw this as a huge opportunity for students and the institution,” explained Bradley M. Webb, the college’s dean of engineering technologies. “It would help students with their practical skills and, given the significance of the project, carry the Penn College name for generations. They would not let this fail.”

“It was an obvious and brilliant solution (to contact Penn College),” Denny said. “While I was waiting for him (Kalsbeek) to make that call, I was sort of crossing my fingers going, ‘Please say yes.’”

Denny got her wish after an October meeting at Penn College when the welding faculty suggested building the walls with aluminum rather than steel to cut the

weight in half and eliminate the need to powder coat, a time-consuming process. That input foreshadowed the give-and-take between architect and builder throughout the ensuing weeks.

“Not only were they instrumental in actually fabricating it, but they helped us work through the design of it, to make changes, to make it easier and better to build, and stronger,” Denny said. “They were incredibly creative.”

Fabrication began in November when the first of many design modifications were sent to the college.

“It was definitely challenging because the structure was still evolving as we were fabricating it, so we would get the plans for Wall A, and while we were working on that wall, Gillean would finalize the plans for what Wall B would look like, and so on,” Colton said.

Based on Denny’s drawings, Jacob B. Holland, instructor of welding, led the effort to calculate the various lengths and angles of aluminum tubing required for each section and spent countless hours making the cuts. Colton; Cody W. Wolfe, instructor of welding; and a slew of other faculty and students applied nearly 5,000

1-inch welds to erect the structure.

“All of us had to go back and rethink about fabrication and how we fabricate things, especially in aluminum, because aluminum will move and distort,” Colton said.

The learning extended to students, who assisted with the required cutting, welding and grinding.

“It was amazing that we got our hands on it,” said Nolan Durecki, a welding and fabrication engineering technology student from South Lyon, Michigan. “I hadn’t done a whole lot of MIG welding on aluminum, so it was good hands-on learning. I like to learn by getting thrown on something and trying to figure out the best way to do it.”

“It was great to see our teachers so involved and so committed to something, because their dedication made me more dedicated to the project,” Stafford added. “They did an amazing job, and it was flattering and humbling to say that I worked with them on that.”

Because of finals and winter break, students weren’t available during some weeks, which put the pressure on faculty to meet the late-January deadline. Ten-to-12-



**James N. Colton II, assistant professor of welding, who led the Penn College fabrication team, applies one of thousands of welds to the structure.**

hour workdays became the norm.

“They literally were working miracles on that campus through Christmas break and into the new year,” Denny said. “But no way, no how, did the chapel get built without them. Period. They were amazing.”

“Toward the end, we were wondering if we would make it on time,” Colton admitted. “We were still welding on pieces as they were loading the truck. There was a lot of stress released when it was gone.”

That truck delivered the walls to the Laundry Building at Penn State, where Kalsbeek’s team had spent months assisting Denny with various design aspects, focusing on the chime wall, the drums’ music function and the solar-powered irrigation system. More than

2.6 tons of water, housed in the walls’ bases, nurtures the plants and “plays” the steel drums.

Throughout the fall, Kalsbeek’s crew combed through 1,500 pounds of scrap donated by two automotive metal stamping plants to devise “framed” screen patterns to be fastened on the chime wall. They also inserted some of the 15-inch steel pan drums in the wall before all the sections were shipped by boat to Italy in early February.


The Penn State students were to assemble the Living Chapel in Rome during spring break and assist in its planned move to the Vatican in May. The COVID-19 pandemic eliminated those opportunities. A Rome-based architectural firm, Sequas, stepped in for the students, with Denny coaching them

through the details of the assembly via email and Skype from Canada.

In this social-distancing time, the Living Chapel – surrounded by recycled oil barrels containing 2,500 saplings of 46 tree species from Central and Southern Europe – will remain at the Botanical Garden of Rome, waiting for its eventual move to the Vatican and Assisi.

Colton and other members of the Penn College team had planned to visit the Living Chapel in May at the Vatican. While disappointed, they are heartened that it will be assembled at the Vatican when the pandemic dissipates. They’re also honored it will be placed permanently near the grounds of the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, which was built around St. Francis’ chapel. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has designated the basilica as one of about 1,100 World Heritage Sites for its universal value.

“A lot of us looked at it as a project that we wanted to do for the school and for the program. It was something neat to be a part of,” Colton said. “I don’t think it’s really sunk in until we see it up close and go, ‘Hey, we helped build that.’” ■

 **Watch a video of the making of the Living Chapel at [magazine.pct.edu/LL](http://magazine.pct.edu/LL)**



**THE PENN COLLEGE LIVING CHAPEL FABRICATION TEAM**

**CORE FACULTY FABRICATION GROUP**



From left, Jacob B. Holland, Cody W. Wolfe and James N. Colton II.

**FACULTY ASSISTANTS**



From left: Matthew J. Bell, Matthew W. Nolan, Michael J. Nau, Michael C. Schelb, Ryan P. Good and Michael R. Allen.

**STUDENT ASSISTANTS**



From left: Philip N. Shipe, Johnsonburg; Ian M. Yon, Altoona; Gavin W. Young, Elkton, Md.; Kyle J. Weaver, Morris; Austin G. Hampton, Watsontown; Jim A. Barker, Easton; Sara D. Stafford, West Chester; Nolan Durecki, South Lyon, Mich.; and Christian A. Novick, Hickory.



# Designer of Signs

Alum's work points way for millions at iconic resorts

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

The memory is timeless for Cory D. Karges.

He and a couple of his Pennsylvania College of Technology classmates were clustered in a campus lab, working on a cooperative education project for the General Electric Co. As they imagined possible means to expand GE's design of a miniature ultrasound system, a knock at the door served as a reality check.

A College Police officer poked her head in to inform the students it was past 11 p.m., and they needed to vacate the building. Karges was stunned it was that late. Time escaped him because he was so enthralled with the industrial design experience.

"We were having fun, making cool stuff," Karges recalled. "That's when it clicked: 'This is what I'm going to do for the rest of my life.'"

Six years later, Karges is on his way to fulfilling that revelation. Unlike his GE endeavor, which couldn't be shared publicly because of proprietary information, his work today as an industrial designer is seen by millions.

The 2014 graduate is the design manager for Sign Producers Inc., a custom designer, builder and installer of signs for Universal, Disney and other entertainment destinations throughout the world.

Karges' "playground" is inside the company's 25,000-square-foot Orlando,

Florida, manufacturing facility. In a quiet, open-office space, he employs computer aided design software to master his latest creations. Recent projects include signage for Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge, a 14-acre showcase at Disney World and Disneyland inspired by the "Star Wars" movies, and Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure, an immersive coaster experience added to The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal.

For Karges, the job is a thrill ride.

"Since I've started here, pretty much every single project that's happened at the park (Universal), we've been involved in," he said. "Not too many people can say that they worked on Harry Potter!"

When Karges strolls through the Universal Orlando Resort, he can point to a smorgasbord of signage made by Sign Producers for branding (the letters on the rotating Universal globe), rides (including Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, Despicable Me Minion Mayhem and The Incredible Hulk Coaster) and restaurants (Red Oven Pizza Bakery and Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. among them).

Karges designed the signs greeting visitors at Universal's Aventura Hotel and Surf Side Inn & Suites Endless Resort, adorning the restaurants Bigfire and Today Café, and promoting attractions such as Universal Cinemark and Central Park.

Some of the signs consume several feet in both height and width; others are narrow and vertical. Some fit perfectly atop a low-rise building's facade; others are fastened to structures high in the sky.



Karges designed signage for Bigfire restaurant at Universal CityWalk Orlando.

Some illuminate at night; others sparkle in the sunlight. All fulfill Karges' longtime desire to "make really cool stuff."

"If you have a passion for something, you go for it, and you're going to get good at it, or else you'll find something else," he said.

Growing up in Whitney Point, New York, Karges flirted with an information technology career at a local community college. He was good at IT but didn't

possess the requisite passion. Several months of research and soul searching reminded him that he had always enjoyed taking things apart and putting them back together in a fresh way.

"I had glue-gun burns on my hands when I was 5 years old," he chuckled.

Eventually, Karges discovered the perfect match for his inventive mind: industrial design, the practice of transforming ideas into designs of marketable projects and systems. A tour

"I never felt like I had homework assignments. ... You were always inventing something."



of Penn College and interaction with Thomas E. Ask, the professor spearheading the school's then-new industrial design major, convinced Karges to use that program as a career building block.

"He had as much passion for it as I did," Karges said.

One of five students in the inaugural industrial design class, Karges immersed

himself in the major, which today boasts over 40 students. He helped start a club for the college's creative community, the Society of Inventors and Mad Scientists, and relished challenging projects, consistently making the Dean's List.

"Cory wanted to do more than just finish assignments," Ask said. "He wanted to do an excellent job at whatever he worked on. During his time at Penn College, he combined hard work and passion in a powerful way."

"I never felt like I had homework assignments, because when you're there, you're doing what it is you want to be doing," Karges said. "So you were always inventing something, creating something, doing some type of study. You learned by going out and doing it, which was every single day.

"Penn College was there to make sure I became all that I could be. I'm very thankful for everything I've learned."

So is Sign Producers. The family-owned firm hired Karges in 2018 after he spent a few years working in Orlando as a design engineer for a fabricator of architectural specialties.

"Sign Producers strives to hire and maintain a level of quality in our employees that can't be matched," said Daniel Scimé, company director. "When Cory was referred to us, it was evident that he possessed the work ethic, experience and education we needed to continue to build our department of strong designers. Cory's passion for what he designs is not only displayed in the details, but also throughout the design process."

Whether a job calls for a two-day turnaround or a couple years of painstaking work, the process usually involves the same basic steps.

The type of material is a key consideration. Aluminum and steel are used often, but if wood signage matches an attraction's theme (as in Universal's Skull Island: Reign of Kong), Sign Producers employs polygem epoxy, an artistic

concrete that resembles wood. (The theme parks prohibit wood because of the fire hazard.)

Signage is engineered to "five times what it would actually take to fail," according to Karges. The signs must withstand tropical storms and hurricanes in Florida, earthquakes in California and the weight of overeager tourists everywhere.

"Any sign close to the ground, we assume somebody is going to jump on it, lean on it or hang from it because they've been waiting so long in line for the ride," Karges explained with a smile.

One of Karges' recent projects at Universal was the aluminum marquee for The Bourne Stuntacular, a new show based on the "Jason Bourne" film franchise. Karges called the design – featuring the attraction's title in three shades of blue and varying amounts of raised lettering – both "fun and challenging."

So was keeping the work a secret. Theme parks keep a lid on coming attractions until an official announcement is strategically scheduled.

"You're working on stuff that you can't talk about, which sometimes is the hardest part of the job," Karges said. "The new Harry Potter ride was hush-hush for two years when we were working on it."

To prove his point, Karges cheerfully preempted any discussion of future projects.

"There is a lot of cool stuff coming up. That's all I can say."

But Karges revealed his favorite experience related to the job.

"When you go into the park and you're standing next to something that you've made, and a family comes up and takes a picture of it, you're like, 'Oh, that's cool!' The thing that I made that nobody thinks about is probably in hundreds, thousands of pictures on Facebook and Instagram."

For Cory Karges, it's another timeless memory. Only this time, it's shared. ■

Read an expanded version of this story and watch a video featuring Karges' work at [magazine.pct.edu/ds](http://magazine.pct.edu/ds)

Karges' design work on Universal's Aventura Hotel.



# Responding WITH Resolve

## Penn College alumni, students, employees face COVID-19 challenges

by Jennifer A. Cline,  
writer/magazine editor

As the spread of coronavirus compelled communities across the globe to drastically change their approach to daily life, the community of problem solvers at Pennsylvania College of Technology rose to the challenge, revealing new levels of compassion and ingenuity.

“This unconventional form of education is the exact opposite of what our college’s hands-on based instruction requires,” said residential construction technology and management student Jack E. Stahley, “however, we have come together to adapt to these changes that have been forced upon us.”

In March, as the coronavirus emerged in Pennsylvania, Penn College extended Spring Break for a second week, asking students to remain at their permanent residences while faculty prepared to teach online for at least a few weeks.

As the situation quickly progressed, Gov. Tom Wolf asked all non-life-

sustaining businesses, including college campuses, to close their physical locations and told residents to stay home as much as possible. Within two weeks, the entire state was subject to a stay-at-home order.

Remote learning is a particular challenge for a college of technology that specializes in hands-on education. In fact, it was hands-on industrial arts courses at Williamsport High School (now the college’s Klump Academic Center, the oldest building on campus) that grew into the Williamsport Technical Institute, which later transitioned to Williamsport Area Community College and then to today’s Penn College.

Fortunately, innovation and determination are also part of the college’s foundation.

“Adaptability remains another Penn College trademark,” President Davie Jane Gilmour said. “We are mindful, as well, of our commitment to provide students with the type of instruction for which we are renowned, and of our responsibility to fulfill the needs of employers, who

desperately need our skilled graduates to continue operations in uncertain economic times.”

Still, the abrupt change in plans – and everyday life – was jarring.

Jordan S. Wise, a health information technology student, had hoped to prove himself during his final season on the golf team. News that the North Eastern Athletic Conference was canceling all spring sports seasons made his heart sink.

“It was my last opportunity, and for that to be taken away like that – it hurt,” he said. “As a competitor, I want to go out and compete. That’s my favorite thing on the planet to do – compete.”

A personal disappointment for SGA President Patrick C. Ferguson was the cancellation of a summer internship.

“A lot of us feel anger, fear and frustration with how 2020 has turned out and are anxiously waiting for the danger to subside so we may make up for lost time,” he said of the student body.

“However, many of us have converted our frustrations into novel and

compassionate outlets in a means to adapt during this chaotic time,” he added.

### ESSENTIAL WORKERS

In health care, manufacturing and any number of service fields, a vast group of Penn College alumni, students and employees continued their work while the majority of the nation attempted to thwart the virus’s spread by staying home.

“If you look at the list of essential businesses that are open, both at the federal level and the state level, you would be hard-pressed to not find a Penn College major on that list,” Gilmour said. She called those workers “our true heroes. They are working on the front lines to deliver patient care and important services that have to happen for all of us while we work through this pandemic.”

For 2015 graduate Kyle Stavinski, a critical care flight paramedic and educator for Geisinger’s Life Flight, a part-time paramedic for Susquehanna Regional EMS and part-time instructor at Penn College, the pandemic has caused uncertainty on

many fronts. “Most would claim the most obvious ‘uncertainties’ are: Do I have the virus? Will I transmit the virus to my family? Is my protective equipment – gloves, face shields, gowns, etc. – protecting me? Is there enough personal protective equipment to sustain this rapidly unfolding virus? While those are the most current ‘uncertainties,’ there is the one unique ‘uncertainty’ of: Will I lose my job?”

While the work has always held inherent dangers, the new concerns are real, and are faced by EMS personnel on every call, Stavinski said. “And to top off these ‘uncertainties,’ providers are radically changing the way they confront patients during an emergency.”

Emergency management and homeland security student Brooke M. Strubel worked as an emergency medical technician in her Lancaster County hometown while taking remote classes.

“I, along with thousands of other EMTs, have signed up to take these risks, >>



A Geisinger employee demonstrates the use of an EMS airway hood. Franklin D. Gillis, '13, '18, a construction/building science instructional specialist for the college’s National Sustainable Structures Center, assembled the framework for five hoods for Geisinger Medical Center.



Penn College student Kristien Quintanilla, fifth from left, is part of a Joint Force Medical Strike Team deployed by the Pennsylvania National Guard to assist at a nursing home in Delaware County.



Eric K. Albert, now retired associate professor of automated manufacturing, holds three of the eight ventilator splitters he made with his home 3D printer. On campus, he 3D-printed more than two dozen face shields.

A well-traveled Chris Warren, instructor of building construction technology, completes a drop-off to student Jack Stahley in a vacant parking lot during a 500-mile trip to deliver project materials to students. Below: Brady T. Wolfe, who traveled with his mother from Myersville, Md., to Harrisburg, signals another successful transfer of materials.



Penn College employees load about 850 potted flowers and hanging baskets for delivery to UPMC hospitals in the Williamsport area for distribution to nurses during National Nurses Week in May. The flowers were originally cultivated at the college’s Schneebeli Earth Science Center for a sale in the center’s greenhouses and as a learning project for students in plant production courses.



**While on campus, emergency management and homeland security student Brooke M. Strubel lived and volunteered at Willing Hand Hose Co. in Montoursville. When the college transitioned to remote instruction, she returned to full-time EMT work at Ephrata Community Ambulance. (Strubel is part of a long-time “live-in” partnership through which area fire companies provide free housing to students in their facilities, and, in exchange, students volunteer as EMTs and firefighters for the companies.)**

and if I knew about this pandemic back then, I still wouldn't have changed my decision,” Strubel said.

Strubel is among many students who continued to work in health care and other essential fields.

Nursing student Connor Burke (see “Trading Uniforms” on Page 6), a Wildcat baseball player who works at his hometown hospital as an emergency room technician during college breaks, stepped back into service when the college began remote instruction.

“I plan to provide as much help as I can in the ER throughout this pandemic,” he said.

At least three students who are members of the Pennsylvania National Guard were called into active service as the semester closed out.

Kristien T. Quintanilla, enrolled in human services and restorative justice, and freshman construction management student Mason E. Blethen were both tasked with providing help at understaffed nursing homes.

Quintanilla, a combat medic in the

Guard, performed the duties of a certified nursing assistant at a rehab and nursing home in Broomall, Delaware County, while Blethen, whose military occupational specialty is machinist/welder, served as support staff at a similar kind of facility in the Harrisburg area.

“We're helping nurses so they are not pulling double shifts, so they can get some rest,” Blethen explained.

In addition to delivering food, moving trays and the like, Blethen said his secondary mission was “just generally being there to talk to them (residents of the facility), because none of their families are able to see them.”

### ADAPTING COURSEWORK

Moving lessons from labs to online platforms was a hurdle for students and faculty alike, but employees summoned their creative energy to make the transition and support students through it.

Madigan Library and Information Technology Services staff deployed laptops to students in need.

In the dental hygiene and paramedic

programs, directors mailed supplies to students to continue practicing skills at home.

“While some other programs had no choice but to suspend teaching their paramedic students, we are fortunate enough to have the faculty, staff and technology needed to continue our students' education during the COVID-19 closures,” said Christopher T. Boyer, '03, director of the paramedic program.

Chris C. Warren, building construction technology instructor, drove more than 500 miles to deliver materials to students in his Interior Finish class so they could complete a pared-down version of their lab project at home.

He left State College at dawn, loaded a truck bed at the college, and set off on his mission. Warren and the students observed prescribed safety measures at every dropoff, wearing face masks and gloves and ensuring the outdoor deliveries followed social-distancing guidelines.

“We, as Penn College students, are problem solvers, and this has been our biggest challenge yet,” said Stahley, one of Warren's students. “In the field, we will have to overcome these difficulties and figure out how we can still get the project at hand completed, and completed successfully.”

Many faculty provided live video feeds to demonstrate skills, including high-climbing GoPro videos by Michael A. Dincher, assistant professor of horticulture, and Wyatt C. Forest, laboratory assistant for horticulture, to deliver instruction for arboriculture labs.

Graphic design faculty uploaded student work to continue group critiques during class time, while leaders of the college's new student chapter of AIGA, the professional organization for design, developed a YouTube channel where students share design tips and tricks.

“Skillshares are essential in majors like graphic design, where the field is always evolving and technology is advancing,” said Alexandra D. Petrizzi, president of AIGA Penn College. “Even as a graduating

senior, I've learned something from all of the tutorials posted that will help me as a student and in my future career path.”

And, as it always has, classwork continued to adapt in response to real-world cues.

As nonessential businesses were ordered to close their physical sites and restaurants were told to provide takeout and delivery only, Spyke M. Krepshaw, instructor of web and interactive media, saw a community need that he and his students could help meet.

“I strongly believe that we need to help support the people and businesses in our community during this time of crisis, so I came up with the idea of offering my services free of charge to help businesses start selling their goods online,” Krepshaw explained.

Working through the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce to promote the service, Krepshaw and seven students provided online ordering systems and other website-related services for 12 businesses in the Williamsport area.

### MORE COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Early in the crisis, various departments collected supplies – originally intended for on-campus student and employee use – and distributed them to nursing homes.

Donations included 14,000 vinyl gloves, 4,000 nitrile gloves, 300 procedure masks, 170 isolation gowns, 125 face masks with fluid shields, 50 isolation masks, 20 personal protection kits (gown, gloves, booties, cap and mask), 20 bottles of hand sanitizer, about 670 N95 masks, 1,000 additional masks, and transparencies to be repurposed for facial shielding.

The college's General Services staff collected the materials and sorted the items to facilitate distribution.

In addition, Eric K. Albert, who retired in August as an associate professor of automated manufacturing, produced more than two dozen face shields, which help protect health care workers from fluids, using the college's Stratasys 3D printers.

“You punch three holes into an acrylic

**“We, as Penn College students, are PROBLEM SOLVERS, and this has been OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE yet.”**

sheet, snap it into the visor, and you have a face shield,” Albert said.

Albert also produced eight non-FDA approved ventilator splitters using his own materials and 3D printer. Two splitters allow a single ventilator to serve two patients.

“It's a classic case of technology solving problems,” Albert said. “This is giving students a first-hand look at the important role technology, in this case additive manufacturing, can play in combating a crisis.”

Likewise, student Matthew A. Semmel, who in May earned a bachelor's degree in engineering design technology and an associate degree in plastics and polymer technology, used the technology at his disposal while studying at home to create visors – or brackets – for face shields.

Semmel modified a CNC router that he usually uses for woodworking projects by adding a cooling system and an air line to cut the brackets.

Between classes, he cut 310 visors from 3/16-inch polycarbonate sheets. The shields, which were then assembled with other pieces by a leader in his community, were distributed to several hospitals near his Carbon County hometown.

Alumnus Franklin D. Gillis, who is a construction/building science instructional specialist for the college's National Sustainable Structures Center, used the plumbing and pipe-fitting skills he learned in the Mechanical Systems I class in Fall 2011 to fabricate the

framework for five EMS airway hoods to be used at Geisinger Medical Center.

Gillis holds Penn College degrees in heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology (2013) and applied management (2018).

The PVC frames can be covered with clear plastic to protect health care workers while working in the airways of potentially infected patients.

### STAYING POSITIVE

While the coronavirus disrupted everyone's plans, many found positives.

Valerie J. Kovalick, simulation laboratory coordinator in the nursing program, is one of those who created video lessons for students.

“One positive of working from home is that I have had time to investigate other tools and software and put what I have learned to good use,” she said. “My hope is that other faculty will be able to benefit from the ability to make custom content ... once we return to campus using these tools.”

Blethen, who chose the Guard over active duty because it would enable him to serve his community, appreciates that sense of community even more.

“It makes you value social interactions,” he said. “It brings people together because we're all in the same boat.”

Other students are inspired by the way their classmates and faculty have responded.

“I feel pride in knowing that I am enrolled at an institution that is taught by professors that truly care about their students and community,” said SGA's Ferguson.

“This is a great example of how we are different than any other college, perfectly showing what we are all about: not just taking the easy way out of a situation, but coming together as a team and conquering it,” said construction student Stahley.

“I am proud to say that I am a student at PCT, because there is so much more to us and who we are than ‘just’ a hands-on school.” ■

A CTK 5-ton capacity overhead crane allows students to move heavy plate for larger fabrication projects. Training in crane and rigging operations will be valuable as they enter industry, where they can expect to work with such equipment. (A related certification is being considered for the future.)

To the left are a specialized welding room, where air pressure is kept higher than surrounding spaces to keep dust and particles away, and a nondestructive testing lab – with a dedicated classroom next door. Outfitted with phased array ultrasonic testing units and digital X-ray testing capabilities, the lab is used by associate and bachelor's degree welding students. A minor in nondestructive testing is being launched in Fall 2020, and an associate degree is being considered.

Eroclina angle rolls and Lemas four roll plate bending rolls.

A Hydmech S-20A fully automatic, pivot-style band saw features a touch-screen controller, a straight-cutting capacity of 18 inches wide and 13 inches high and up to 60-degree miter cuts.

A 120-ton Baykal CNC press brake provides programmable multi-axis control.

Inside an automation area that was part of the expansion, students gain experience on robotic welders and plasma cutters, including a CLOOS QRC 320 Upright, as well as a laser welding cell and an electron beam welder.

A printing press is among student projects. The press is used as a prop at the Community Arts Center and needs a new cart to make it easier to move around the stage.

Pipe-threading machine

Eroclina tube, pipe and profile bending machine.

Oxyacetylene cutting torches

Scotchman cold saw, for cutting aluminum stock, angle iron and square tubing

Hypertherm handheld plasma cutter

## Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center

An expansion to welding instructional facilities added 35,000 square feet of hands-on learning space – room to enroll up to 60 more welding students annually and provide new technological capabilities, with nearly 100 pieces of equipment provided by corporations through entrustments, discounts and donations. The expansion, funded in part by a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, caught the attention of news outlets both locally and nationally, with stories running on Fox News, in Welding Digest and in the U.S. Economic Development Administration newsletter. "The expanded center is coming online at a critical time, as the industry predicts a shortage of more than 200,000 skilled welding professionals this year," the EDA newsletter noted.

**1989 PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**1965 WILLIAMSPORT AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**1941 WILLIAMSPORT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

## 1960s

**Gerald Alkire, '60**, electronics technology, retired from Westinghouse Electric Co. as a senior engineer. Other positions at Westinghouse included design engineer for large turbine generator components. He developed five patents for the company. After retiring from Westinghouse, he was a consulting engineer for Siemens Corp. for 20 years and finally stopped working in 2018. He earned a bachelor's in engineering from University of Pittsburgh in 1974. He has been married for 58 years and resides in Winter Garden, Fla.

**Howard W. Calkins, '60**, welding, retired after nearly 30 years in shipbuilding/ship repair in Chester. He has been married for 50 years and is the grandfather of nine. He has been living in southeastern Pennsylvania since the day he graduated from Williamsport Technical Institute. He resides in Aston.

**Gary L. Berlin, '62**, mechanical draftsman, is retired. He is a life member of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers and resides in Manheim.

**Philip J. Knarr, '69**, electrical instrumentation technology, is a critical systems infrastructure engineer for Asurion Insurance Services. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology. He resides in Goodyear, Ariz.

## 1970s

**Charles H. Johnson II, '70**, mechanical drafting, retired in December 2019 after working 30 years in the railroad industry and 17 years as a maintenance planner. He resides in Pueblo West, Colo.

**John Delovich, '71**, mechanical drafting, is retired and resides in Lopez.

**Terry J. Kervin, '72**, architectural technology, retired and resides in Brooksville, Fla.

**David R. Rowe, '72**, aviation maintenance technician, retired from Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. in 2009 after 33 years providing mechanical maintenance on pump station and pipeline equipment. He resides in Homer, Alaska, where he still flies his Piper Super Cub and restores trucks and cars, most from 1941.

**Barbara Eck Tosi, '73**, education/social work, recently published her first book. The collection of short, fictional stories, written in four-line rhyming stanzas, is titled "Scary: A spine-splintering slide into what lies inside the psychotic mind." Eck holds a bachelor's degree in English from Penn State and attended Dickinson College. At WACC, she was co-editor of Colours, the college's literary magazine. Before retiring, she worked in the hospitality, nonprofit and administrative fields. She resides in York.

**Daniel E. Moyer, '74**, aviation maintenance technician, is a self-employed consultant and airframe and power plant mechanic with inspection authorization. He received the FAA Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award and a single engine land and sea pilot license. He is a girls softball assistant coach, Cub Scout and Boy Scout master and merit badge counselor, and 4-H shooting sports counselor. He resides in Enola.

**Jae E. Gettig, '76**, aviation maintenance technician, is a retired aircraft maintenance supervisor for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He resides in Mill Hall.

**Susan (Kiodo) Wright, '76**, business management, is a realtor for Fish Real Estate, where she has received numerous awards. She resides in Montoursville and has three "beautiful, busy" grandchildren.

**Chris Malinowski, '77**, forest technology, is a logistics manager for Life Cycle Engineering. He resides in Upper Chichester.

**Marlin R. Cromley, '78**, business administration, was the 2019 Little League Baseball World Series host (aka "uncle") for the championship team from River Ridge, La. "The team graciously extended an invitation for me to ride on their Krewe of Bacchus float at this year's Mardi Gras," Cromley said. "What a wonderful week of visiting with the young men, coaches and families once again." Cromley is retired and resides in Montoursville.

## 1980s

**Frank Brouse, '80**, nursery management, owns Brouse Landscapes LLC. He holds a bachelor's degree in leadership from Cairn University and is past chairman of the Hatfield Township Shade Tree Commission and a past board member of Plumstead Christian School. He resides in Hatfield.

**Thomas A. Bythell, '80**, forest technology, is the arborist and grounds department business officer for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He resides in Durham, N.C.

**Delroy (Butch) Seip Jr., '83**, machine tool technology, is a senior engineering technician for Teleflex, a provider of specialty medical devices, and is a PIAA and NCAA men's lacrosse official. He resides in Schnecksville.

**Lori M. (Torres) Spangler, '83**, clerical studies, is a litigation paralegal for Lycoming Engines, having returned to Pennsylvania in January after her husband's retirement. She is chair of the Florida Bar Association's Florida Registered Paralegal Committee and founding president of the Orange County Bar Association's Paralegal Section, among other service roles and awards. She resides in Williamsport.

**Randy McCauley, '87**, diesel mechanics, is the county equipment manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, making sure mechanics and equipment are ready for winter and summer road work. He enlisted in the Army as a wheeled-vehicle mechanic for four years, then joined the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, retiring with 23 years of service. He has worked for PennDOT for 25 years and been married for 27 years. He has three sons and resides in Muncy.

**Eric Johnson, '88**, electronics technology, is founder and president of Audio-Video Group LLC, which in 2020 celebrates 20 years of providing sound, video and theatrical lighting systems. He resides in Frederick, Md., with his wife of 25 years and twin children. He is an active member of the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek and is on the Board of Directors for the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce.

**Kimberly (Greene) Bailey, '89**, landscape/nursery technology, is a garden center manager for GreenScapes Garden Center & Landscape Co. She resides in New York Mills, N.Y.

**Gary Bonser, '89**, carpentry construction, is the meat department manager for Country Harvest supermarket and oversees the deli and bakery departments. He resides in Palmerton.

## 1990s

**Dulcey J. (Smith) Frantz, '92**, nursing, is an assistant professor of nursing at Penn College. She holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice from Chatham University. She resides in Montoursville.

**Robert E. Ignat, '93**, automotive service technician, is a mechanic supervisor for the Pennsylvania National Guard, managing the maintenance shop and fleet for about 200 vehicles and other equipment. He resides in Greenville.

**Brent Seville, '93**, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is the director of buildings and grounds for the Central Fulton School District. Under his direction, the district has received awards from the Keystone Athletic Field Managers Association and the Sports Turf Managers Association for Field of the Year and Field of Distinction. He resides in McConnellsburg.

**Adrian Auten, '95**, electronics technology: automation instrumentation, is an electronics technician and locksmith for Evangelical Community Hospital. He resides in Danville.

**Laura (Hartley) Stroble, '95**, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Spring Garden Dental. She resides in Thomasville.

**Cindy (Hamilton) Whiteman, '97**, human services, is director of client services for Guardian Construction Management Services. She resides in Murrysville.

**Paul A. Berenbrok, '98**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a project manager for Westmoreland Mechanical Testing & Research Inc. He resides in Latrobe.

**James J. Smith, '98**, nursing, is the home health manager for Guthrie and head football coach for Troy High School. He was voted Northern Tier League 2019 Coach of the Year. He resides on Armenia Mountain, near Troy, in a self-built log home with his wife, **Lori Machmer, '98**, dental hygiene, and their two sons.

**Todd M. Fetzer, '99**, broadcast communications, is the Golf Pro Shop manager at Fairview Golf Course in Lebanon and is a part-time on-air radio DJ/talent for Fun 101.3 FM in Lancaster. He resides in Lebanon.

**Cynthia A. Love, '99**, applied human services, is the Clinton County prothonotary and clerk of courts. This year, she is celebrating 45 years of marriage, and she recently welcomed her fourth grandson. She resides in Lock Haven.

**Jason S. Wolgemuth, '99**, aviation technology, is an engine development mechanic for General Electric. He received a bachelor's degree in technology management from Penn College in 2018. He resides in Cincinnati.

## 2000s

**Trevor Spence, '00**, plastics and polymer technology, is an applications development engineer for DSM Engineering Materials. He resides in Redwood City, Calif.

**Kevin M. Cornelius, '01**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is vice president of engineering for Tramec Sloan, leading the engineering group responsible for new product development for a variety of transportation-industry products. He resides in Monterrey, Mexico.

**Michael H. Hiras, '01**, civil engineering technology, is a project engineer/associate for JMT, where he manages a team designing civil engineering and land development projects. He is past president of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers Lincoln Chapter and a coordinator for Mathcounts, a middle school mathematics competition. He resides in York.

**Ryan D. Snyder, '01**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a senior manufacturing engineer for Berk-Tek. He resides in Lititz.

**Jeff M. Bilansky, '02**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, works in IT policy and planning for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, directing the 47 agencies under the governor's jurisdiction in technology deployment and ensuring that critical government services continue during emergencies. In addition, he recently started his own retail business. He resides in Minersville.

**Jamie Hummer, '02**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an engineering and facilities manager for Altadis USA. He resides in Danville.

**Tim Dietz, '03**, plastics and polymer technology, is a quality consultant for Ledge Inc. He resides in Hanover.

**Andrew R. Marsic, '03**, construction management, is a senior project manager for Guardian Construction Management Services. He resides in Murrysville.

**Rafiq Vohra, '03**, electronics engineering technology, was recently promoted to associate director of operational excellence for Recro Gainesville. He resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

**Jason P. Zielewicz, '99**, paramedic; '03, applied health studies, is director of workforce development for Penn College at Wellsboro. He was named Instructor of the Year by the Lycoming Tioga Sullivan EMS Council in 2016 and 2019. He holds a master's degree in health service administration from University of Saint Francis and a Doctor of Health Sciences from Nova Southeastern University. He resides in Williamsport.

**Kyle R. Rhoads, '05**, manufacturing engineering technology, is a site engineering manager for TE Connectivity, managing individuals in two facilities and 14 value streams. He resides in Harrisburg.

**Aaron C. McCoppin, '06**, information technology: network specialist, is a senior network engineer for Charles River Associates. He resides in Framingham, Mass.

**Kirk M. Allen, '07**, business administration: management information systems, is a general manager for Regal Theatres. He received the Rising Star Award for excellence in management and Regal's Community Showmanship Award for his volunteer efforts (over 700 hours at Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts). He resides in Birdsboro.

**Kelly Bidlespacher, '07**, nursing, is a case manager in discharge planning and case management for UPMC Susquehanna. She received a Master of Science in Nursing from Grand Canyon University in 2019 and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Penn College in 2012. She resides in Trout Run.

**Jonah G. Howe, '07**, landscape/nursery technology, is a public relations manager for Chief Oil & Gas. He resides in Montoursville. >>

### Share your story!

Complete the form at [magazine.pct.edu/cn](https://magazine.pct.edu/cn), or call toll-free 877-PCT-ALUM (877-278-2586)

**Alex Piper, '07**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is an IT program manager for Defense Logistics Agency, responsible for leading software development and other IT-related projects for the agency's enterprise business system. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

**Matthew A. Marchiori, '08**, automotive technology management, is a service manager for Ciocca Toyota of Williamsport and an advisory board member for Lycoming Career and Technology Center and its co-op program. He resides in Williamsport.

**Paul A. Roma, '08**, information technology: security specialist, is a cybersecurity engineer for J.S. Held. He began his current role in December 2019 after four years as the cyber threat response team lead at Geisinger Health. He resides in Williamsport.

**Dan Gongloff, '08**, computer aided product design; **'09**, plastics and polymer technology, is director of product development for DiamondBack Automotive Accessories. He holds multiple patents and resides in Ashville.

**Tyler Gross, '09**, computer aided product design, is a product development engineer for Strouse Corp. He resides in Hanover.

**J.C. Phillippy, '09**, information technology: security specialist and information technology: network specialist, is a senior systems engineer for Sierra Nevada Corp., deemed one of the three most innovative U.S. companies in space. He resides in Waynesboro.

**Adam Wood, '09**, building construction technology, is a project manager for Guardian Construction Management Services. He resides in Southwest.

## 2010s

**Jaclyn (Smith) Barros, '10**, accounting, is a rebate analyst for Bausch Health. She resides in Fords, N.J.

**Christopher M. Gayman, '10**, aviation maintenance technology, is OEM sales manager for Lycoming Engines. He received the Penn College Alumni of the Year Award at the 2020 Education Celebration hosted by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the college's Aviation Technology Advisory Committee. He and wife, **Nicole (Vollman), '09**, graphic design, reside in Montoursville.

**Rebecca A. Kayes, '10**, surgical technology, is a certified surgical technologist for Advocate Christ Heart Institute. She resides in Chicago.

**Shannon (Stackhouse) Anderson, '11**, business administration: human resource management, is program manager, physician recruitment and retention, for Guthrie Medical Group. She resides in Milan.

**Brett K. Braker, '11**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a senior engineer for Lubrizol Life Science, Health – CDMO (contract development and manufacturing organization) Division. He also coaches baseball and plays golf, ultimate and roller hockey. He resides in Bethlehem.

**Megan (Hawn) Davis, '11**, business administration: management, is an assistant controller for The Armored Group LLC. She resides in Dearborn, Mich.

**John E. Gudonis, '11**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a sales representative for Paragon Machinery. He resides in Danville.

**Taylor Kijak, '11**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a technical service/application development engineer for Chase Plastics. He resides in Colfax, N.C.

**Zack R. Rineer, '11**, automotive technology management, is a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service. He resides in Columbia with his wife and two children.

**Henry J. Sorgen, '12**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a technical development engineer for Polymer Resources. He resides in Colfax, N.C.

**Mohammed Alnasser, '13**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is the director of business development for TexoFib Non-Woven Industrial Fabrics Factory Co. He resides in Safwa, Saudi Arabia.

**Kyle S. Mullin, '13**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a senior welding engineer for Evapco Inc., overseeing global welding operations. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Seton Hill. He resides in Fairfield.

**Erick D. Speer, '13**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, earned a master's in engineering management from Gannon University in December 2019. He is an assistant operations manager and welding engineer for Custom Engineering Co. He resides in Grove City.

**Ashley M. Baker, '12**, welding technology; **'14**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is a service technician for UGI and is pursuing an emergency medical technician certificate through Workforce Development at Penn College. She resides in South Williamsport.

**Ryan W. Hoe, '14**, electromechanical maintenance technology, is an electrician for Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He resides in Blairsville.

**Lindsay Musser, '14**, health information technology, is a clinical systems specialist for Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Milton.

**Christopher E. Patterson, '14**, technology management, is an operations support leader for Landis Solutions LLC. He resides in Chambersburg.

**Crystal J. (Broschious) Rice, '14**, graphic design, is a library operations and public services assistant for the Madigan Library at Penn College. She resides in Williamsport.

**April M. (Brought) Bryer, '15**, nursing, is a staff nurse in the intensive care unit for UPMC Williamsport. A certified critical-care nurse, she resides in Montgomery with her husband, **B.J., '06**, paramedic technology, and their son.

**Brittany Delmo, '15**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer. She resides in Toms River, N.J.

**Allison Fowler, '15**, surgical technology, is a registered nurse for Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. She obtained associate and bachelor's degrees in nursing in 2018 and 2019 from Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences. She resides in East Berlin.

**Zach D. McCurdy, '15**, automotive technology management, is a senior customer support representative for Turn 14 Distribution. He resides in Warminster.

**Bryan Robinson, '15**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a Lean Six Sigma black belt for Mitsubishi Chemical Advanced Materials. He resides in Gilbertsville.

**Jarrod Taylor, '15**, information technology: web & application development, is a software engineer for Defense Logistics Agency. He is a Navy veteran who served 2006-10. He resides in Milton.

**Ryan N. Troiano, '15**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is head of project management for Greiner Packaging Corp. He resides in Lake Ariel.

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

**Jake Heuman, '16**, building automation technology, is a field engineer for Air Systems Inc. He resides in San Jose, Calif.

**Stormie Mauck, '16**, legal assistant: paralegal studies, is an associate attorney in the litigation department for global law firm Dechert LLP. She is a 2019 cum laude graduate of Penn State Law, where she received the National Association of Women Lawyers Outstanding Law Student award. She resides in Berwyn.

**Shawn M. Moyer, '16**, information technology: information assurance and security, is a security specialist for Select Medical Corp., handling governance, risk management and compliance – data loss and eDiscovery. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

**Joshua Nadonley, '16**, information technology: information assurance and security, is an information security analyst for UPMC. He resides in Pittsburgh.

**Toncia Plocinski, '16**, nursing, is a registered nurse in the inpatient behavioral health unit at UPMC Williamsport Divine Providence Campus. She resides in Williamsport.

**Charles M. Stankye, '16**, residential construction technology and management, is a Seabee (construction battalion) builder for the U.S. Navy. He is stationed in Chania, Crete, Greece, then will be living in Gulfport, Miss.

**Andrea Whitley, '16**, surgical technology, is a certified surgical technology/ophthalmic technician for Progressive Vision Institute, where she assists with retina, cataract and oculoplastic surgeries. She has served as a guest speaker for Penn College's surgical technology program. She resides in Summit Hill.

**Ainsley Bennett, '17**, graphic design, is a senior designer for Equator. She resides in Cincinnati.

**Aziz Omani, '17**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a product manager for the Ministry of Finance, where he was named Superior Employee of the Year. He resides in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**Carlos Rojas, '17**, residential construction technology and management, is an engineer for Turner Construction. He resides in South Williamsport.

**Aaron C. Shaffer, '17**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a process engineer for Exide Technologies, a battery manufacturer. He resides in Mount Joy.

**Brittany J. (Hoffman) Smith, '17**, health information management, is a quality coding & documentation educator for Geisinger Health Plan. She resides in Williamsport.

**Katelin E. Thompson, '17**, occupational therapy assistant, is a psychiatric rehabilitation specialist for Skills of Central PA. She resides in Salladasburg.

**Matthew P. DeVirgilis, '18**, automotive technology management, is a diagnostic communications engineer for Penske Truck Leasing. He monitors a fleet of 325,000 trucks for fault codes and performs over-the-air programming, which allows him to remotely change maximum speed limits and update software in trucks. He resides in Lebanon.

**Paul M. Lasell, '18**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a process engineer for First Quality Products. He resides in Williamsport.

**Elizabeth Morrin, '18**, legal assistant/paralegal, is a legal services initiative paralegal for Family Design Resources, serving as the paralegal for Clinton County Children and Youth Services. She earned a bachelor's from Ohio State University. She resides in Lock Haven.

**Kendra S. (Hamilton) Brown, '19**, business administration: management, is an assistant finance officer for River Valley Transit. She resides in South Williamsport.

**Allison F. Chapman, '19**, information assurance and cyber security, is an information technology technician for Jersey Shore State Bank. She resides in Montoursville.

**James A. Dansereau, '19**, electrical technology and electromechanical maintenance technology, is a security officer for Securitas. He resides in Jersey Shore.

**Daria Datsenko, '19**, nursing, is employed by Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Lewisburg.

**Autumn A. Farrell, '19**, emergency management technology, is an associate business analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. She resides in Richmond, Va.

**Mariah H. Garwood, '19**, information technology: technical support technology, is a computer operator for Weis Markets. She resides in Muncy.

**Erin K. McCarthy, '19**, web and interactive media, is a web and marketing specialist for Kennel Connection. She resides in Salt Lake City.

**Anthony M. Schauble, '19**, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, is a grower for Dan Schantz Farm and Greenhouses. He resides in Nazareth.

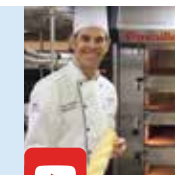
**Reilly M. Streeter, '19**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a heavy equipment operator for Lyons & Hohl Site Contractors. He resides in Pottstown.

**Alane D. Zellars, '19**, human services and restorative justice, is a substitute assistant group leader for the Children's Learning Center at Penn College. She resides in Williamsport. >>

CONNECT WITH FELLOW ALUMNI



/PCTalumni  
/penncollege



/penncollegevideos



@penncollege



@penncollege



linkd.in/penncollege



## CLASS NOTES

### Marriages & Births

**Kevin M. Cornelius, '01**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, married Cristal Belmont-Cruz in November 2019. They reside in Monterrey, Mexico.

**Nicki S. (Brelsford) Gottschall, '07**, business administration: human resource management, and husband, **Scott, '00**, plastics and polymer technology, welcomed daughter Paislee Harper on Oct. 18, 2019. They reside in Williamsport.

**Kate (McCall) Stepnick, '07**, applied human services, welcomed son John Jr. in September 2019. They reside in Millville.

**Justin R. Holland, '08**, civil engineering technology, married wife Ylora in April 2018, and they welcomed a daughter, Justyce, in March 2019. They reside in Royersford.

**Matthew A. Marchiori, '08**, automotive technology management, married Katherine Visco in Key West, Fla., in May 2019. They reside in Williamsport.

**Paul A. Roma, '08**, information technology: security specialist, welcomed a son on Jan. 29, 2020. They reside in Williamsport.

**Tyler Gross, '09**, computer aided product design, and his wife welcomed their second child, a son, in February 2020. They reside in Hanover.

**Jaclyn Smith, '10**, accounting, married **Joseph Barros, '09**, automotive technology management, on Nov. 16, 2019. They reside in Fords, N.J.

**Fadhil A. Aljishi, '12**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, and his wife welcomed their second child, son Saud, in July 2018. They reside in Qatif, Saudi Arabia.

**Erick D. Speer, '13**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, married Nicole Grove on June 1, 2019. They reside in Grove City.

**Lindsay Musser, '14**, health information technology, and **Jarrod Taylor, '15**, information technology: web & applications development, welcomed their second daughter, Vivian, in November 2019. They reside in Milton.

**Max Bower, '16**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, married Caitlyn Chute in October 2019. They reside in Chambersburg.

**Toncja Plocinski, '16**, nursing, and husband, **Cory Chilson, '12**, collision repair technology, welcomed a daughter in May 2019. They reside in Williamsport.

**Kendell (Edwards) Runyan, '16**, health arts: practical nursing, welcomed a son in May 2020.

**Jessica R. (Larson) Lehman, '17**, physician assistant; **'09**, business administration: marketing, and husband, **Harry IV, '09**, welding technology, welcomed daughter Vivian in December 2019. They reside in Dover, Del.

**Brittany J. (Hoffman) Smith, '17**, health information management, and husband, **Ryan, '12**, civil engineering technology, welcomed a son, Connor Lee, on Nov. 24, 2019. They reside in Williamsport.

**Elizabeth Morrin, '18**, legal assistant/paralegal, married Steven Ruhf on May 13, 2020. They reside in Lock Haven.

### In Memory

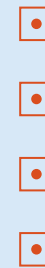
**Lester L. "Jack" Lessig Jr.**, former Williamsport Area Community College Board of Directors chair, age 90, on April 27.

**Irwin H. Siegel**, retired professor of business administration/business law, age 66, on April 12.



## Scholarships

“Scholarship support lets me spend less time worrying about money and more time prioritizing academics and exploring diverse interests like political campaigns and campus advocacy. By the generosity of our donors, I've received the valuable gift of freedom. Freedom to try, fail and discover my passion in places I'd have never otherwise searched. For that, I am deeply grateful.”



### Ethan McKenzie

*software development & information management*



## Empower Tomorrow's Workforce

Scholarship support creates opportunities for our students to pursue their passions and turn their dreams into reality. Empowering our students through contributions to scholarships is an investment in the future, allowing for a more skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Our unique, hands-on learning philosophy gives students a valuable edge in the increasingly competitive job market. Their experience wouldn't be possible without the generous support of alumni, corporate partners, parents and friends. It's up to all of us to shape the future – a future made by hand.

Help impact our students by supporting an existing scholarship or creating one of your own.

### WAYS TO GIVE ♦ SCHOLARSHIPS

#### ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

**\$25,000** minimum; can be given over five years, permanent funding source

#### LIMITED DURATION SCHOLARSHIP

**\$5,000** minimum, contribution is divided evenly over a specified number of years with a \$1,000 award minimum

#### ANNUAL AWARD SCHOLARSHIP

**\$1,000** minimum annually, award amounts are based on annual contributions

To learn more about scholarship opportunities, contact the Penn College Foundation at 570.320.8020 or [giving@pct.edu](mailto:giving@pct.edu).

# Help for the Job Hunt

by Danielle M. Liddic, employer and industry relations manager, Penn College Career Services

As a result of the pandemic, there are a lot of unanswered questions when it comes to one's employment status.

Here are some tips to consider when approaching your own job search:



**Update your resume.** Highlight your unique accomplishments and transferable skills. Optimize your resume with keywords, and customize it each time you apply to a different position or company.

**Practice** your video and phone interviewing skills. You can schedule an appointment with Career Services to do this very type of mock interview and get feedback on the entire process.



**Develop new skills** to enhance your qualifications through online learning such as LinkedIn Learning, Coursera, edX, Alison, Udacity, Skillshare, Codecademy or General Assembly.



**Continue with your job search!** There are organizations that have put their recruitment on hold; however, others are still hiring. Stay informed about who is hiring and who is not on sites such as Candor, LinkedIn and The Muse.

**Keep networking!** If you have not yet created a LinkedIn account, consider doing so now. Using this professional networking platform is as important as ever.

**Utilize Penn College Career Hub** to actively search for newly posted positions. Create job search agents that run on their own based on criteria you set. Visit [www.pct.edu/careerservices](http://www.pct.edu/careerservices) to link to the job search site.



If you have an idea for an Expert Tips topic, please email [magazine@pct.edu](mailto:magazine@pct.edu)

Remember, you do not have to do this alone! Contact Penn College Career Services at [careerservices@pct.edu](mailto:careerservices@pct.edu) for any questions regarding your job search or career development process. We are here to help!

Visit [www.pct.edu/careerservices](http://www.pct.edu/careerservices)

## PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sen. Gene Yaw, *Chair*
- Dr. Robert N. Pangborn, *Vice Chair*
- Mr. Joseph J. Doncsecz, *Treasurer*
- Dr. Blannie E. Bowen
- Mr. Michael J. DiRaimo
- Rep. Garth Everett
- Mr. M. Abraham Harpster
- Dr. Steven P. Johnson
- Ms. Lynda M. Livingston
- Dr. John J. Romano
- Mr. John M. Young
- Dr. Robert E. Dunham, *Chairman Emeritus*
- Dr. John J. Cahir, *Director Emeritus*
- Mrs. Carol Herrmann, *Director Emerita*
- Dr. Robert A. Secor, *Director Emeritus*

### FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr. Mark C. Sitler, *Chairperson*
- Mr. John M. Confer, '75, *First Vice Chairperson*
- Mrs. Linda K. Alberts, *Second Vice Chairperson*
- Mr. Raymond R. Mattie, '84, *Secretary*
- Dr. William J. Martin, *Treasurer*
- Mr. Kyle A. Smith, *Executive Director*
- Mr. Aubrey V. Alexander, '09
- Mr. Jay B. Alexander
- Mr. Lawrence Allison Jr.
- Ms. Alfreda C. Baer
- Mr. Al A. Clapps
- Mr. Jon P. Conklin
- Mrs. Nichole Crawford
- Mr. Marc F. Demshock, '05, '06
- Mr. Henry E. Dunn II
- Mr. Brent M. Fish
- Mr. Christopher Gayman, '09, '10
- Mr. Michael A. Gibble, '00
- Dr. Davie Jane Gilmour
- Mr. George E. Girio
- Mrs. Anna Griffith
- Mr. Michael J. Hudock Jr.
- Mr. Philip H. Johnson
- Mr. Christopher E. Keiser, '95
- Mr. Allen W. Kiessling
- Mrs. Loni N. Kline
- Mr. Daniel A. Klingerman
- Mr. George E. Logue Jr.
- Ms. Ann S. Pepperman
- Mr. Rick Quigley
- Mr. Jeffrey W. Rauff
- Mr. Joseph H. Reynolds, '76
- Mrs. Maggie R. Roche
- Mr. Paul H. Rooney Jr.
- Mr. Richard F. Schluter
- Mr. Steven M. Sleboda
- Mr. Bruce A. Smithgall
- Mr. Blair D. Soars
- Mr. Marshall D. Welch III
- Mr. Ray E. Wheeland
- Mr. John M. Young
- Mrs. Karen S. Young

### HONORARY TRUSTEES

- Mrs. Karen A. Blaschak
- Mr. James E. Cunningham, '73, '96
- Mr. Thomas W. Dempsey
- Mr. William P. Manos
- Mrs. Annmarie Phillips
- Ms. Charline M. Pulizzi
- Mrs. Linda L. Schultz
- Mr. David L. Stroehmann
- Dr. Albert R. Styrcula



Emergency management students remain observant, engaged

In Penn College's emergency management and homeland security major, teaching courses online mirrors what's happening in the field right now.

"Emergency operations coordination can be done remotely," said David E. Bjorkman, instructor of emergency management/social science. "Many emergency management professionals have been teleworking through the activation of their virtual emergency operations centers, as well as by maintaining situational awareness using information-sharing platforms such as WebEOC, a web-enabled incident management software."

"We acquired WebEOC in December, and students have been using this platform on a weekly basis within our Incident Command System class during disaster exercises."

"The transition to online learning this semester has been challenging; however, adapting to changing situations is an important skill for both the classroom and the real world, and I think we have adapted well, given the unusual circumstances," said Joshua M. Walter, a junior from Spotsylvania, Virginia. "The COVID-19 disaster has provided a great opportunity to discuss and follow the response of public and private agencies across the country."

To learn more about the major, call 570-327-4521, or visit [www.pct.edu/em](http://www.pct.edu/em).

**Pennsylvania College of Technology** became an affiliate of Penn State in 1989 after establishing a national reputation for education supporting workforce development, first as a technical institute and later as a community college. Today, Penn College is a special mission affiliate of Penn State and a national leader in applied technology education. Penn College offers more than 100 master's, bachelor, associate and certificate majors to nearly 5,000 students in careers ranging from manufacturing, design, transportation and construction to hospitality, health, business and natural resources. Business/industry connections, small classes, industry-standard equipment and faculty with work experience contribute to strong graduate placement rates. The full college experience awaits those desiring on-campus housing, Greek Life, student organizations and NCAA Division III athletics.

An affiliate of The Pennsylvania State University

*Penn College operates on a nondiscriminatory basis.*

Image courtesy of graphic design student Ali D. Petrizzi. Posters for the exhibition were designed by each graphic design student as a component of the Portfolio Design course.



# GRAPHIC DESIGN 2020

STUDENT  
PORTFOLIO  
EXHIBITION

**NOW ONLINE**  
[pctgraphicdesign.com/gd2020](http://pctgraphicdesign.com/gd2020)