

Fall 2021

Penn College[®]

MAGAZINE

A close-up portrait of an older woman with short, styled white hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a large, multi-strand pearl necklace. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a dark-colored top.

TOMORROW IS IN THE MAKING

President Gilmour
announces retirement,
legacy campaign

SEE PAGE 22

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

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degrees that work.

ON THE COVER

This issue's cover art, featuring retiring President Davie Jane Gilmour, was created by Mark W. Wilson, an instructor of graphic design at the college, using an assortment of watercolor brushes in Photoshop. The original photo it is based on (below), was taken by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor. On Page 22, Gilmour talks about her plan to retire in June 2022 and her launch of the "Tomorrow Is in the Making" campaign.



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Stacking the shelves

Penn College's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee delivered almost 700 books to a local child care facility. In conjunction with Read Across America, the committee invited employees and students to donate new and gently used books for children ages 6 weeks to 10 years. "The campuswide support for this initiative was absolutely incredible, and we are extremely grateful," said Christa Matlack, head coach of the Wildcat women's soccer team, who spearheaded the six-day collection. The books were donated to Blessed Beginnings Preschool & Childcare in South Williamsport.

New student groups celebrate diversity

Two students have formed new campus organizations – the Black Student Union and the One World Club – with a vision reflective of the institution's diversity.

The Black Student Union, initiated by applied management student Tiana M. Rawls-White, plans biweekly meetings this fall.

"I wanted to develop a BSU to help provide a safe, supportive space for Black students to express themselves, their needs and concerns and to provide an open space for all students to receive Black culture education," Rawls-White said. "I also want to improve communication between cultures, help the community and inspire new, inclusive ideas."

Formation of the One World Club was the idea of radiography student Angelyvette Santana.

"I remember feeling really lonely my freshman year, like a fish



Tiana M. Rawls-White

out of water. I did not want to feel like that anymore, and I did not want any other freshman feeling like that, either," Santana explained.

"One World Club is an organization to provide support on human rights and discussions on topics like multicultural/intersectional issues going on today in the world," she said. "The club celebrates not what makes us different, but what makes us unique."

New majors 'power' electronics lab

Electronics students finish installing a conveyer unit in a new lab at the college's Center for Business & Workforce Development. The addition of two automation engineering technology baccalaureate degrees prompted the creation of the electronics lab. Besides the conveyer system, the space features 16 programmable logic controller stations and four Kuka industrial robots. About 60 students per semester are using the lab.



Student's capstone project published in Journal of Dental Hygiene



The capstone project of a Fall 2020 graduate – on COVID-19 and dental care – was accepted for publication by the Journal of Dental Hygiene and is being offered as a continuing education opportunity by the American Dental Hygienists' Association.

Breanna J. Connell received a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene in December. Her paper – and the related continuing education offering – is titled "COVID-19 and Oral Maintenance."

Her project includes guidance not only for dental offices but for individuals, including keeping up good preventive measures: brushing, flossing and rinsing with mouthwash, which reduces oral bacteria and, with it, the risk of complications like pneumonia and sepsis.

NSSC becomes Clean Energy Center

The National Sustainable Structures Center at Penn College, a leading provider of building performance and energy-efficiency training in the mid-Atlantic, has rebranded to mirror the rapid transformation of the energy workforce.

At the heart of the rebranding is a name change to the Clean Energy Center at Penn College.

"Many associate clean energy with renewable energy, but renewables are only part of the equation. Energy efficiency is a necessary and equally important part of the movement to a clean energy economy," said Jason K. Embick, assistant director. "Our training programs teach workers and business owners how to optimize building performance to reduce energy consumption in preparation for a changing energy grid."



Paramedic program adds hybrid option and bachelor's degree

The college's paramedic program launched a hybrid instruction option that combines in-person and online learning.

Designed to provide flexibility for EMTs who want to complete paramedic education while continuing to work, the lecture portion of the paramedic coursework is both livestreamed and recorded for later viewing. For students who prefer the traditional experience, lectures continue to be held in-person.

All paramedic students continue to receive the same high-quality, hands-on clinical experiences in the college's dedicated simulation labs and in a variety of field and clinical settings.

The college is also accepting applications for a new bachelor's degree in health science: prehospital medicine concentration. The degree is offered in addition to the program's certificate and associate degree options.

While preparing graduates to function as competent, entry-level paramedics, coursework readies students for administrative and teaching positions and provides the foundational knowledge for entry into many graduate-level programs, including medical school and physician assistant degree programs.



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Baseball, softball teams to have new homes in 2023

Pennsylvania College of Technology will soon have a new home for its Wildcat baseball and softball teams, thanks to a partnership with the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

The chamber, through its subsidiary Williamsport Ballpark Inc., is constructing a synthetic turf field complex adjacent to Penn College's main campus on a 28-acre tract north of Interstate 180, between Maynard and Rose streets. Once construction is completed, the complex will feature six youth baseball/softball fields – one of which can be converted to a collegiate baseball practice field – and one collegiate baseball game field, as well as batting cages. A youth baseball field is the same size as a collegiate softball field.

Construction is underway, and Penn College is expected to play its first games at the site in Spring 2023.

"The Chamber is excited to bring this complex to the community and to have a partner like Penn College utilize it for its baseball and softball teams," said Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Jason Fink. "The challenges of playing a full spring season for those sports will be mitigated by turf fields and allow Penn College to complete a full season."

"We are delighted for this opportunity to partner with the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and provide a first-class venue for our Wildcat baseball and softball teams to compete and practice," said President Davie Jane Gilmour, who serves on the NCAA Division III Presidents Council, the highest governing body for Division III athletics. "This athletic complex will be a boon not just to the college but to the entire Greater Williamsport

community, and its proximity to our main campus is a bonus for students."

The collegiate baseball game field, which is 400 feet to center field, will feature a portable pitching mound, permanent dugouts, a scoreboard, bullpens, lights and a press box. An adjacent youth field will have the capability of moving its outfield fences to collegiate dimensions in order to be used as a practice field.

Penn College has played its home baseball games at Muncy Bank Ballpark at Historic Bowman Field and Logue Field, both of which have natural grass playing surfaces, for more than a decade, but the baseball team has never had a consistent facility where it can practice. The new turf complex will alleviate most inclement-weather postponements and give the Wildcats, who have reached the North Eastern Athletic Conference championship game three times since joining the conference in 2015, a permanent practice site.

"Having our home field literally a foul ball away from our campus is extremely exciting, and to have a

complex that student-athletes can be proud of is so important to a collegiate program," said Penn College baseball coach Chris Howard, who has 15 seasons as the Wildcats skipper.

"What's equally exciting is now our student body will be able to make the short walk from campus and watch Wildcat baseball!"

Penn College's softball team, the 2021 NEAC champion, has played at Elm Park in Williamsport since the program began in 2001. Elm Park is a natural grass and dirt facility and is 295 feet to center field. The new complex will feature a softball field that is the collegiate standard of 220 feet to center, with lights, dugouts, bullpens, a scoreboard and a press box.

"This facility is going to be a tremendous asset for our program," said Penn College softball coach Angie Hunley. "This space will allow us to host many more games and practices that, during spring months, are often canceled due to rainy, wet conditions. The convenience of a location that is within walking distance for student-athletes is a game-changer!"



Beginning in 2023, the Wildcats will play baseball and softball on a turf field complex, to be built south of campus by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

After nearly a full year off from participating in athletics, Penn College took full advantage of the opportunity during its spring season. All six of the Wildcats sports teams reached the North Eastern Athletic Conference playoffs – including two teams that hoisted championship trophies. Twenty-five Penn College student-athletes earned all-conference honors, highlighted by two Player of the Year awards, a Rookie of the Year honor, and a pair of coaches being named Coach of the Year.



The **golf** team became the first program in school history to reach the NCAA Division III postseason after winning the NEAC Championship. Sophomore **Kohlton Bartlow** won the individual title, while **Sean McNamara** and **Alex Acree** were named all-conference. Head coach **Matt Haile, '06**, was named the conference's Coach of the Year.

Penn College's **softball** team wrapped gold medals around their necks after winning the program's first-ever NEAC Championship and advancing to the NCAA Division III postseason. **Olivia Hemstock** and **Jordan Specht** were named both to the All-NEAC first team and to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division III All-Region third team. **Kyla Benner**, who opened the season with the program's first-ever perfect game, joined **Margaret Mangene** as a first team all-conference selection, while **Ivvy Morder** was named to the second team.

In its first season as an NCAA program, the **men's lacrosse** team finished the season 4-2 and reached the NEAC

Championship game, finishing second. Nine players earned all-conference honors. **Danny Jackson**, **Quinn Caviola**, **Benjamin Guaragno** and **Angelo Varcadipane** were named to the first team, while **Danny Harkins**, **Dylan Klemas**, **Isaac Hernandez** and **Andrew Gobbi** were named to the second team. Jackson was named the conference's Rookie of the Year, and head coach **Jordan Williams** picked up Coach of the Year honors.

The **men's tennis** team made the conference postseason and saw three players named all-conference. **Tucker Phillippe-Johansson** was named Player of the Year, and **Daniel Gianelle** and **Tommy Cavanagh** were named to the second team.

The **women's tennis** team made the conference playoffs and had two players earn all-conference nods. **Georgia Macensky** and **Marcie Harman** were both named to the All-NEAC second team.

Penn College's **baseball** team reached the conference playoffs for the fifth time in six years and landed three players on the all-conference team. **Brittan Kittle** became the first player in program history, and the first male student-athlete in Penn College history, to earn four All-NEAC honors after being named to the first team. **Ben Bretzman** joined Kittle on the first team, while **Jacob Carles** was named to the second team. **Kittle** was placed on the active roster for the Williamsport Crosscutters. The Crosscutters play in the MLB Draft League. Kittle is the most decorated baseball player in program history and recently finished his senior year as an American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings Division III All-Region Third Team selection.



Softball team



Golf team

CRUISING THE WORLD

Brandon Langdon, '14, is chief engineer aboard the Dorothea III, a transoceanic expedition vessel that has traveled to more than 75 countries. From February 2018 to March 2020, Langdon was part of one of those expeditions, voyaging close to 40,000 nautical miles.

by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor



Diesel technology graduate keeps expedition yacht's motors running during global adventure

PHOTO BY TAMY ALVAREZ MEDIA

A bright green comet

glowed in the evening sky as Brandon Langdon cruised in the middle of the southern Atlantic Ocean.

With no light pollution in the center of the sea, clear nights are breathtaking, impossible to describe, Langdon said. And that giant green orb moved like magic.

“It definitely felt like a surreal moment,” the Pennsylvania College of Technology alumnus said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I’ll never see that again.”

Considering the experiences he’s already enjoyed and the opportunities on his horizon, it’s likely Langdon will encounter something equally stellar.

The 2013 diesel technology and 2014 technology management graduate is chief engineer on Dorothea III, a 147-foot long-range expedition yacht that captured the 2020 Voyager’s Award in the prestigious World Superyacht Awards, considered the “Oscars of the yachting industry.”

Dorothea III was recognized for its 20-month journey that included two

Atlantic crossings, circumnavigating South America and crossing the Pacific – and Langdon was the man who made sure the motors ran smoothly, 24 hours a day.

Langdon estimates the global voyage achieved close to 45,000 nautical miles and 20,000 hours on generators. Fully self-sufficient at sea, the crew makes its own drinking water with a reverse osmosis system and likely processed more than 1 million gallons during the trek.

Owned by American businessman Steven Green, a former Samsonite Corp. chairman and CEO who served as the U.S. ambassador to Singapore from 1997 to 2001, the yacht is named for Green’s wife and is the third yacht the family has bestowed with her name.

“The history of Dorothea has always been about extreme travel,” Langdon said.

Dorothea III typically cruises in tandem with Post One, a 63-foot sport fishing vessel, and the fact that the smaller boat completed most of the trans-Atlantic journey sailing on its own bottom –

instead of being towed behind the mother ship – is an unprecedented feat in yachting.

That unique endeavor factored into its Voyager’s Award win, as did the boat’s humanitarian efforts. Along its global route, the crew donated supplies to schools in various villages.

Although exciting, the World Superyacht recognition was actually an afterthought, Langdon said, with the yacht’s builder nominating Dorothea III for the honor. Green, his family and crew were simply focused on fun – intent on following fish migration routes.

Departing from their base in Florida in February 2018, the explorers’ journey began in Central America, then moved east across the Atlantic to The Azores and Portugal. Traveling south to Cape Verde, Africa, and then across to Brazil, Post One was then shipped back to the Panama Canal, and Dorothea III continued to Patagonia, the southernmost region of South America. Meeting back up on the west side of the continent, in

the Galápagos Islands, the two boats traveled onward to various islands in the South Pacific and ended their odyssey in Australia, arriving in October 2019, then returning to Florida in March 2020.

Among Langdon’s highlights: wake boarding on an ice field in Patagonia, diving with hammerhead sharks off the Galápagos Islands and swimming with humpback whales in Tonga.

Play is plenty, but so is hard work. Most days, he works eight hours, but with machinery running 24/7, 18-hour workdays are easy to come by. Langdon spends hours in the engine room, monitoring systems, and is busy with servicing and fuel transfers at all hours of the day. He also takes turns with other crew members “watching the bridge.” (The yacht may be on autopilot, but a licensed watch keeper plus a second pair of eyes are necessities to stay attuned to radar, the maneuverings of other ships and any distress signals.)

Hard work is nothing new to Langdon,

who grew up in Manorville, New York, an inland hamlet in a wooded section of Long Island. With a father who is a machinist at Brookhaven National Lab, a trailblazing research center that is home to seven Nobel Prize-winning discoveries, Langdon’s sense of innovation and exploration was stoked early with visits to the site, seeing the machinery his father works on.

His fascination with engines was stirred further by a grandfather who owned a 26-foot center console fishing boat and an uncle who was an outboard mechanic. With their encouragement, Langdon chose to study marine mechanics at his high school’s BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) career and technical education program. While there, he was given his first boat – a circa ’70s Marquis – donated by a widow. At the age of 16, Langdon fixed up the boat, servicing the engine and adding a new fiberglass floor, then toiled around nearby Moriches Bay.

Maintenance and motion of other kinds

factored into his teen years as he engaged in racing and working on motocross dirt bikes, as well as rebuilding crankshafts for a jet ski company.

Langdon found this same zeal for machines at Penn College – and a kinship among fellow students.

“A lot of nights, we’d be working on each other’s trucks,” he recalled. “That filled our free time. That was the hanging out that we did. There was definitely a commonality that comes with that interest in engines. I didn’t grow up in farmland like there is in PA, but there were still a lot of similarities. We came from different areas but enjoyed the same hobbies and interests.”

Penn College was the last school Langdon visited when searching for a post-high school experience, but it was the one that inspired him the most.

“I looked at other places, but most didn’t give you a degree, just a certificate,” Langdon said. “There was one that was a straight-through process for one and a ▶▶



Langdon, in Dorothea III’s engine room, keeps the yacht’s systems shipshape on long oceanic crossings. He says many take temporary jobs in the industry – as deckhands or stewards – to see the world while they’re young. “For me, it’s different with engineering; it’s all the things I like to do and want to keep doing.”

PHOTO BY TAMY ALVAREZ MEDIA



PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE COURTESY OF DOROTHEA III



Panama, Patagonia or Portugal (clockwise from lower left), Dorothea III has traveled the world, following fish migration routes and winning the World Superyacht Awards’ 2020 Voyager’s Award.

half years; it was like a factory setting with assembly-line learning.

“I liked what I saw at Penn College. It was more of an actual shop environment that you’d see in the field. It appealed to me more. My mom, the financial planner, initially said: ‘It’s too expensive. We can’t do it.’ But we looked at Penn College for what I’d receive in the end – an associate degree, and I could go further and get a bachelor’s degree. It seemed worth it. I was like, ‘No, this is the school I want to go to.’”

After earning his diesel degree, graduating with honors and being inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, he added that Bachelor of Science and managed to complete his second degree in one year instead of the traditional two. “I was pretty busy,” he said.

Langdon landed a job as a diesel mechanic with Asplundh Construction, a national company geared toward the utility industry and civil construction services, and returned home to Long Island to work.

“I was able to pull all of that theory I learned at college (into) work in the field,” he said. “Everything I learned I put into practical use.”

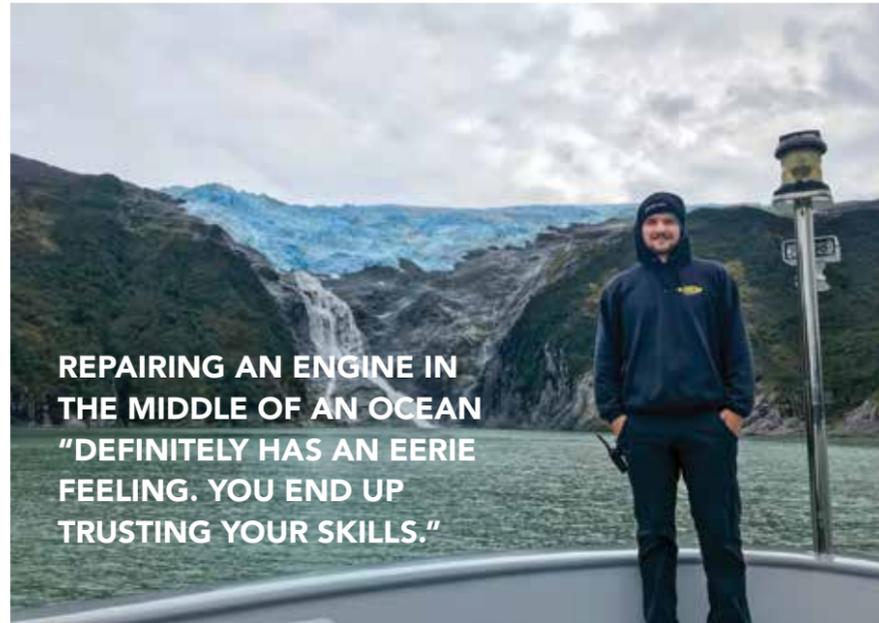
Four years after graduation, he paid off his college investment on his own and was ready to take the leap from life on Long Island to Fort Lauderdale, Florida – one of the main yachting hubs in the U.S.

Langdon started doing “day work” (a typical gig in the yachting realm) to break into the industry and soon landed a more permanent job on a 104-foot boat.

“The reason the captain hired me was because of my professional training and college education,” he said.

It took a few months to learn the ropes in this new world.

“There’s a higher standard and a lot of unspoken rules,” Langdon explained. “Coming from the construction industry, where there’s always oils leaking and something wrong; it’s a completely different scene in the yachting industry. For starters, everything is white – and any issue is very easily seen. The standard of



REPAIRING AN ENGINE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN OCEAN “DEFINITELY HAS AN EERIE FEELING. YOU END UP TRUSTING YOUR SKILLS.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRANDON LANGDON

Amalia Glacier, also known as Skua Glacier, is a tidewater glacier in Bernardo O’Higgins National Park on the edge of the Sarmiento Channel in South America. The glacier originates in the Southern Patagonian Ice Field.

excellence is set very high. You’re working in a very clean environment.”

He had posted his resume on a free industry website and soon, Dorothea III came calling. Langdon received an email from Capt. John Crupi and First Mate Jenifer Mosley, who were impressed with his credentials.

“The difference between Brandon and other guys that call themselves engineers is his education and training,” Crupi said. “Very few engineers in the yachting industry actually have a degree in diesel engineering; Brandon does, and that’s what made him stand out. His knowledge and abilities were evident when I hired him, and he continues to build on that every day – methodical thinking that leads to solutions for complicated problems.”

Mosley was familiar with Langdon’s alma mater as her father, Curt E. Vander Vere, is an assistant professor of mathematics at Penn College.

Langdon had Vander Vere for College Algebra and Trigonometry during his second semester.

“His class is hard,” Langdon said. “It was one of only two classes, besides English, that I had to go to tutors for help.”

During semester breaks, Vander Vere

has worked on all three of the Dorothea yachts while visiting his daughter – and has worked under Langdon’s direction in the engine room.

“It was a funny feeling giving your professor tasks to do years later,” Langdon said. “From going into his professional environment, and then years later, him coming into yours was an experience.” He appreciated his former professor’s problem-solving skills and collaborative engagement.

Vander Vere cites a sense of pride knowing the yacht’s chief engineer hails from Penn College and his classroom, where he often regales students with tales of his daughter’s adventures. He’s impressed with his former student’s continually evolving professional skills and his easy-going personality – a vital aptitude in this demanding setting.

“This crew is living and working together 24/7. You have to be able to get along personally, as well as professionally,” Vander Vere said. “Brandon’s personality fits right in.”

Dorothea III typically holds seven crew members (captain, chief engineer, first mate, chef, deckhand and two stewardesses or stewards), with two on

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The equipment Langdon oversees on Dorothea III

Main engine:
Caterpillar 3512 B

Auxiliary engine:
Caterpillar C7

Generators:
Two Northern Lights (John Deere) 90 kW
One Northern Lights (John Deere) 70 kW

Plus:
Quantum Zero Speed stabilizers (to reduce rocking in swell/waves)
Spot Zero double bypass water makers

Fuel transfer pumps
Fuel centrifuge/purifiers
Hydraulic cranes for lifting tenders on/off the boat
Other hydraulics systems

Post One (captain and mate).

Langdon said Crupi and Mosley spend a lot of time deciding who to hire, determining applicants’ abilities to withstand the demands of the work and life at sea, as well as tending to the chemistry of the crew.

“With our program, it’s very demanding because there is so much travel,” Langdon said. “It takes more than just work ethic to do this. It takes the interest and that wanting to be out in the middle of nowhere. You don’t live a normal life.”

Stressful scenarios obviously arise, like the time Dorothea III was anchored off Patagonia and was suddenly hit with hurricane-force winds in the middle of the night.

“Super strong winds came out of nowhere,” Langdon recalled. “It was extremely nerve-wracking. The boat was listing over super far, and we were on edge all night. But the boat held strong. It put us to the test, that’s for sure.”

Langdon was also tested with a bout of pneumonia that landed him in a Rio de Janeiro hospital for five days.

And there was that time they took in bad fuel from a barge in Panama.

“When you’re there, you’re pretty much stuck with whatever fuel they have,” he said. “That came back to haunt us. The sludge in the fuel clogs filters quickly. It took out the lift pumps that supply our generators with fuel. And you can get algae growth in the tanks.”

Repairing an engine in the middle of an ocean “definitely has an eerie feeling,” Langdon added. “You end up trusting your skills.”

Dorothea III hasn’t experienced any issues with pirates, but the crew travels aware and prepared.

“When we were coming down the western coast of Africa, we thought about that the whole time. We have protocols in place if it did happen,” he shared. “We stayed 300 miles offshore, out of their range, to mitigate it. We were definitely not close, because a 147-foot yacht would be a pretty big target. Typically, the eastern coast of Africa is where there is a lot of piracy.”

No matter the challenges, Langdon’s love for extreme travel has been cemented. Next on his bucket list? He’d like to cruise to Alaska and the Mediterranean, although the latter’s yacht scene is vastly different from what he’s experienced.

“I like cruising to remote destinations versus sitting at a dock where people are showing off their yachts. That doesn’t appeal to me. I’d rather be out in the middle of the South Pacific doing world-class diving after work, kiteboarding in Brazil or riding dirt bikes in the jungles of Costa Rica.

“You can make a lot of money in this industry, and many people end up going out all the time, socializing, drinking,

spending it. You see it happen all the time. I don’t want to live that type of lifestyle.”

Langdon says he’s saving for a house. “There are a lot of opportunities for hybrid jobs, with rotations like two weeks on the water, two weeks off the water, or 10-week or three-month rotations, for example,” he said. “There’s a lot of variety in the yachting and commercial boating field.”

In April, Dorothea III was hauled out of the water and moved to a shipyard to begin an extensive overhauling process estimated to take six months, and Langdon is in the center of all the action.

The yacht is now on the market for just under \$12 million. Post One has already been sold.

“For me to make a career move, I need to go to a different boat for Coast Guard licensing,” Langdon explained of his next step. “I need a bigger boat to progress. I’m at the max for what I can do with this boat.”

He also envisions enhancing his skill set by gaining licenses offered at maritime schools.

“I thought I was done with school but definitely not!” he laughed.

There is still much to learn, Langdon said, including taking electrical courses related to alternating current and international voltage standards.

“There are a lot of voltages around the world that you have to figure out when traveling,” he added.

And that green comet he saw? That was 46P/Wirtanen, dubbed “The Christmas Comet,” when it offered a dramatic flyby in December 2018. (Its proximity to Earth placed it in the top 10 of modern comet close encounters.)

“Back in high school, I was interested in astronomy, but I lost that after classes ended,” Langdon offered. “It’s neat to see that come back around again.”

The 46P/Wirtanen comet comes back around again in May 2024. By that time, Langdon will no doubt have logged many more adventures. ■

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'Living lab' lives on after half-century

Earth Science Center community shares 'golden' memories

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday

"Also opening this year will be the Earth Science Facility near Allenwood, 10 miles south of Williamsport. Approximately 405 students of forestry, horticulture, agriculture and heavy equipment will study in this building. ... The structure is conveniently located near the college's forest and farm lands for the benefit of students in the above courses."

— Spotlight student newspaper, Sept. 7, 1971

That development, published in Williamsport Area Community College's student newspaper, was among the first inklings of the wonders that awaited.

During the ensuing 50 years, WACC would become Pennsylvania College of Technology. The thriving campus would add a sawmill, and a riverside training ground for heavy equipment operators would open farther down Route 15. And five of the facility's faculty members would receive the Veronica M. Muzic Master Teacher Award, the institution's highest faculty honor.

It would also engender decades of fond memories for those who have called the paradisiacal campus "home."

"When I think of my wonderful teaching years at the Earth Science Center, I immediately think of my boss at that time, Joe Sick, division director, and his secretary, Mabel Nevel. What a team!" said Glenn R. Spoerke, a forest technology faculty member who retired in 2007 as a curriculum specialist. "Their devotion and hard work together made it a great place."

It was Joseph G. Sick and James P. Bressler (an instructor and later

administrator) who teamed up to drive the programs' move from main campus to the living laboratory over the mountain.

"Where are you going to teach it? You can't teach it down there in the basement of a machine shop," Sick related in a 2007 interview for the college's oral history project. (Sick died in 2016.) "We had no labs, no greenhouse." He said Bressler had "good rapport" with U.S. Rep. Herman T. Schneebeli, for whom the center has since been named, who arranged for the federal government to transfer excess prison land for educational use.

Among Sick's early hires was Dennis F. Ringling, whose arrival in 1972 coincided with the fledgling national observance of Earth Day – a tradition he honored each year. Maintaining that his students should have sufficient command of their subject matter to impart it to others, he annually marshaled them to share their knowledge with area middle school pupils through interactive displays on the campus.

"I told students to give me 'The Big E' – not a letter grade – but 'effort,' the product of time, practice and patience." He regularly stressed those values, along with safety, a must in a field that requires chain saws and tree-climbing.

Gerald Hoy, a 2002 forest technology graduate and today a forest resource planner for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, recalls arriving early, as usual, for a 9 a.m. class taught by Ringling on Tuesday,

Sept. 11, 2001. With carpool buddy Nick Nebzydoski, he encountered a group gathered around the cafeteria's television and learned that a plane had just crashed into the World Trade Center. As they watched, a second plane hit.

"I remember hearing some yelling, crying and cursing," Hoy said.

Forestry students were directed to a classroom, where Ringling was the first to speak.

"The normally calm, cool and collected forestry lead instructor had more emotion and urgency in his voice than ever before," Hoy recalled. "He said: 'From this point forward, America has changed; our lives have changed.'"

Ringling encouraged students to check on their loved ones, to wait for the facts and to refrain from doing anything irrational. (Read Hoy's full note at magazine.pct.edu/LL)

"I miss the students," Ringling, the 2010 Master Teacher, said, proudly noting the "next generation of environmental stewards" represented by the thousands of graduates to whom he gave a head start. "And I miss walking in the woods four or five times a day. I still go outside quite a bit, but I do more 'glamping' than camping. I need hot water and a bed that's semisoft!"

Richard J. Weilminster, the 1986 Master Teacher, came on board in August 1972, a year after the horticulture program was initiated by Wayne Ettinger, who had taught high school horticulture courses. At the time, there were only a few trees planted along the entrance drive to establish the arboretum, and the entire area was ungraded. (The arboretum added a conifer garden in 2006 and was named for Weilminster in 2008.)

2018: Forest technology students with instructor Eric C. Easton.

2017

THE CAMPUS



1971: The Herman T. Schneebeli Earth Science Center is dedicated. From left: Pete Gardner, Don Wert, Ira Franz, Wayne Ettinger, Joe Sick, Herman T. Schneebeli.



circa 1978

AT RIGHT 1978: The first sawmill at the Earth Science Center. It was replaced with the expansion of facilities in 1999. The sawmill sells lumber, sawdust and firewood to defray the cost of operation.



circa 1999: Aerial view of the center after renovations and expansion.



1972: Forestry competition. Holding clipboard is instructor Don Nibert.



circa 1976: Basic floral design class with instructor Wayne Ettinger.



circa 1980: Instructor Joseph Sick, left, with a student in the diesel engine lab.



1985: Students in the nursery management major retrofit brick pavers into the Earth Science Center patio garden, installed by the first graduating class in 1973.



circa 1983: Calculation of the amount of production lumber per log with instructor Glenn Spoerke, on logs.



circa 1985: Floral design students produce plants for sale to the public.



1992: Horticulture Club members participate in a service project for the Duboistown Garden Club. Instructors Richard J. Weilminster and Dennis Fink at center.



2004: Instructor Scott Welch, center, with students in diesel technology: Mack emphasis.



2007: Student Melissa (Berrier) Cramer, '08, in the arboretum.



2007: Landscaping students, under the instruction of Dennis Skinner, second from right, lay sod to replace the turf at the Earth Science Center.



2007: The Richard J. Weilminster Arboretum.



2008: President Davie Jane Gilmour and Weilminster unveil the sign denoting dedication of the 5-acre arboretum.



2004: Penn College's Jennifer L. Vastine, right, and Abbalie L. Hutton, left, compete in the crosscut saw competition at the Mid-Atlantic Woodsmen's Meet, held at the Earth Science Center. The college took second, earning nine first-place medals.

“The two original horticulture programs were nursery management and floriculture. We eventually had to change the title of nursery management, as it was thought to be a day care curriculum,” Weilminster recalled.

“Most of the ESC faculty were young, dedicated and enthusiastic,” he said. “It was both good and bad being separated from main campus.” He said having space to establish the programs and hold outdoor labs was a boon, but getting to know counterparts on main campus was difficult. Sick was the campus’s driving force.

“It was always the most fantastic experience being a faculty member at ESC,” he said. “My career was enhanced by the opportunity to prepare and train students for an industry I love. When I retired in 2006, I felt very rewarded and fulfilled.”

An eventual colleague, who also became acquainted with the Earth Science Center in the 1970s, is Mary A. Sullivan.

“I first laid eyes on the Schneebeli Earth Science Center 45 years ago as a high school student visiting the campus in an attempt to find a place to start the next chapter of my academic life,” said Sullivan, who earned an associate degree in floriculture in 1979. “To say it was ‘love at first sight’ would be an understatement. The sprawling campus was beautiful, and I had a sense of this being a good fit for me.”

Two decades and four degrees later, Sullivan returned to the Earth Science Center, eventually becoming its dean. Many of the faculty were still there and

very little had changed – including a unique culture.

“Faculty were either known by nicknames that made them sound like cartoon characters (Pivy, Doc, Weily and Bert) or simply by their last names,” she explained. “I soon realized the use of last names vs. first made perfect sense because, despite a small number of faculty, they all seemed to share only three or four first names!”

“It is thanks to Penn College and ‘the little campus over the mountain’ that I now get to spend my time doing what I love.”

Campus directions didn’t involve hallways, staircases or other classroom buildings, she added, but were phrased as “past the sawmill at the top of the mountain near the cell tower,” “at the training site near the munitions bunker,” “beyond the plant prison” or “near the old ropes course at the pond.”

“I’d often reflect about how lucky I was being at the Earth Science campus. For some, with hundreds of acres, it seemed isolating. But many of us welcomed the solitude. Where else could you walk for an hour, see snakes, fox, deer and even be chased by a bear, yet not see another human being?” Sullivan asked. “What other dean would come back from lunch,

do a tick check and have to use a boot scraper (one at every door) to clean her shoes? None! Yup, I was lucky.”

Wildlife also linger in the mind’s eye of Deborah C. Books, who – impressed by the “earth” part of “Earth Science” – shared a number of photos over the years from her vantage as an administrative assistant.

“On my lunch walks, there were bees and butterflies and dragonflies, plops of frogs in the pond, and the scurrying of chipmunks,” she recalled. “Every spring, the flowers burst from the ground in vibrant colors, and every winter, the design labs were spicy with fresh greens. How could anyone not want to work there?”

“And the students were excited to be an active part of learning. They got wet and cold, hot and dirty, and ‘most always smiled, even when running into bees!”

Hired in a youth co-op in the late 1970s, horticulture student Kay Stackhouse-Stahl helped build a pole barn and groom the nature trails that wind through the woodland acreage. Her husband, Franklin P., a 1978 graduate in tool design technology (and brother to two other WACC alumni), was reminded of that experience when learning that the campus pond had been restored.

“We are happy to see that the area is being used and that, once again, students are involved,” he wrote. “As we have driven by on Route 15 so many times over the years, my wife would comment about her desire to check out the trails she was

involved in. It was one of her favorite jobs of all times.”

Melissa (Berrier) Cramer, a 2008 graduate in landscape/nursery technology, is a landscape designer for Yonder Mountain Conservation Co. in State College; co-owner and creator of Big Valley Gardens with husband Nicholas B. (another 2008 alum); a professional Muay Thai boxer and a formidable lumberjill in logging competitions.

“It’s hard to place a value on the experiences I gained while at the Earth Science Center,” she said. “From the hands-on classes and plant collections that reinforced my love for the landscape industry, to the woodsmen’s competition that was a catalyst for my athletic endeavors, those years shaped my life in more ways than one.”

The most influential lesson came from assistant professor Dennis P. Skinner’s Plant Identification classes and had nothing to do with plants.

“It was to always walk with a sense of purpose,” she said. It paid to match his stride in class – whether to glean the tidbits he sometimes shared with those who kept up with him or to avoid being called out for lollygagging. “Today, that mantra continues to guide me when confidently walking onto a job site or into the ring.”

Student interaction with their environment is a hallmark for Carl J. Bower Jr., a landscape/nursery technology graduate who studied at Weilminster’s shoulder and now sits in his former office

as an associate professor of horticulture. “I have graduates ask me if I still take students out in Landscape Plants class in the snow, and the answer is yes,” he said.

He remembers Weilminster telling the class that, if he fell in the snow, they could laugh – as long as they got him back on his feet.

“I still tell students that on the first big snowfall,” Bower said. “Laugh all you want, but help me up!”

The 1993 graduate recalls his mentor cleaning out his workspace after 34 years, including the desk that would become Bower’s, and the surreal challenge of trying to fill a predecessor’s shoes.

“The day he left, or the day after, I sat there and just thought to myself, ‘I can’t believe I’m sitting here,’” he said. “I honestly don’t even know how long I sat there thinking that, but I can tell you I still feel as fortunate today as I did on that day.”

Karen R. Ruhl, part-time instructor of horticulture and the college’s 2021 Part-Time Teaching Excellence Award honoree, is likewise following a mentor’s footsteps.

Already a registered nurse, she enrolled in the floral design major in 2000.

“I was a part-time nurse, full-time mother of three and still loved the program,” she said.

She recalls creating artificial arrangements that were sold at Christmastime to college staff, helping with poinsettia placements at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and helping “the real professionals” set up displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

“We even presented a Floral Design Show of our own,” she said, that included an invited professional designer.

“Dennis and Christine Fink were instrumental in this course, and through their mentorship, encouragement and enthusiasm, I learned that I could create beautiful things, and that I knew I someday wanted to teach this art.

“Little did I imagine that I would get the opportunity to do just that,” she said.

After filling in for a class or two in Fall 2013, she was asked to take over the floral design course in 2014, no longer a degree but an elective art course.

“It is thanks to Penn College and ‘the little campus over the mountain’ that I now get to spend my time doing what I love: showing students the beauty of flowers and giving them the opportunity to explore their own creative abilities.”

For many, the enduring perception of the Earth Science Center, then and now, is that it really is a family.

“Yes, it’s work. Yes, we are teaching. But I think most all of the faculty, staff and students would agree that it’s different over here,” Bower said. “Maybe because it’s a smaller building, or because there are not near as many students as on main campus, but the feeling here is more personal, almost an escape. We hear people describe it as, ‘Oh, you’re all the way over there,’ to which we reply, “Yes, and we like it over there!” ■



2016: Student Anthony A. Hampton takes part in the Pole Climb event during Timber Fest at the Earth Science Center.



2016: Students learn in the Electric Power Generation Lab with instructors David C. Johnson, Bill J. Bashista and Keith N. Stefanowicz.



2017: A heavy-equipment operations site was added near the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in 1979.



2017: Heavy construction equipment technology students with Christopher S. Weaver, assistant professor of diesel equipment technology.



2019: A new deck was built by building construction students after a recent project rejuvenated the Earth Science Center’s pond.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIAN S. WATKINS

WORK LIFE balance is beautiful in Alaska

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

Building automation technology student Brian S. Watkins confidently maneuvers through the Career Fair crowd at Pennsylvania College of Technology. It's the fall semester of his senior year, so he is comfortable navigating the maze created by the scores of employers squeezed into Bardo Gymnasium for the biannual event.

His destination is the booth of a Fortune 100 company. He targets the well-known conglomerate because building technologies is one of its core businesses.

Its technology is used in about 10 million buildings throughout the world.

The path leading to the company's two representatives eventually clears. He approaches the table and introduces himself. The opportunity to present his offer is at hand.

"I'll work for you if you get me a job in Alaska," the student declares.

The officials from Honeywell International glance at each other before breaking into a laugh.

Eleven years later, Watkins is the one laughing.

The 2010 graduate moved to Anchorage, Alaska, to work for Honeywell as a building automation technician shortly after earning his degree. Thanks to his education and skill, Watkins is a project manager/field service supervisor for the company, responsible for clients

scattered over an area bigger than Texas, California and Montana combined.

"The Honeywell reps thought I was joking about wanting to work in Alaska," Watkins recalled with a smile. "When they realized I was serious, they said, 'Who would want to work there?' I said, 'Me!'"

The outdoorsman had explored Alaska two summers earlier and fell in love with the Last Frontier's jaw-dropping beauty and vast wilderness. The remote landscapes offered a welcome contrast to his native Hatboro, 17 miles from Philadelphia. Alaska is 663,000 square miles larger than the City of Brotherly Love with half the population (728,903).

"When I got back to school, I was like, 'I have to go out West.' Alaska was my spot with all the hiking, fishing and hunting," Watkins said.

Honeywell granted his wish. The company representatives at the Career Fair forwarded Watkins' resume to the Anchorage office, which offered him a position a few months later. Two weeks after graduating with his bachelor's degree, Watkins tossed a few suitcases and a hunting rifle in his truck and drove 4,500 miles to a new life.

"I Googled what it was like to live in Anchorage, and one of the things that came up said not to fall asleep outside because you will get hypothermia and die," he laughed.

At work, Watkins started at the bottom of the branch because he possessed the least field experience. However, it didn't take long to change his status.

"The degree that I came with put me a step ahead of where anybody else would have been. We worked on Honeywell

controls in class," he said. "I caught my stride with the company right away and moved up the ranks."

Today, he oversees the Alaska branch, working with four field technicians, an engineer, a sales representative, and a plethora of subcontractors and clients. Days are spent developing and



implementing automation systems throughout the massive state. Watkins' time is split among customer relations, project management, sales and engineering duties.

"I would 100% not be where I am today without my Penn College degree," he said. "Not only do you get the hands-on experience with controls and strategy, but the curriculum includes writing,

reading and math. You develop a sense of professionalism. Once you bring that to the field, you're way above everybody else. I think what has made me more successful is that I can go in and talk to people and build relationships. I work directly with security managers, building managers and government officials."

Soft skills are as important as technical acumen, according to Todd S. Woodling, assistant professor of building automation/HVAC electrical. A former electrical field engineer and engineering manager, Woodling has headed the Penn College program since 2004.

"The job is unique in that you, as the engineer, get to interface with many disciplines such as general, mechanical and electrical contractors, as well as numerous trades related to buildings," he said. "Your main interface is the building customer in dealing with scheduling, commissioning, training, operation and service."

Woodling defines building automation as the automatic centralized control of a building's interrelated systems – including HVAC, electrical, lighting and security – through a computer-based management

system that can be operated remotely. Common automation objectives include greater efficiency of building operations, enhanced security and reduced energy consumption.

In achieving those goals, Watkins compares himself to a music conductor. Whereas a conductor uses a baton to direct a cohesive sound from an orchestra and its menagerie of instruments, he employs

Putting adventures into words

Hunting is more than a hobby for Brian Watkins. According to Watkins, it's an obsession: one that he's able to share with readers of two publications.

Thanks in part to Penn College.

The walls of Watkins' home in Anchorage, Alaska, offer ample evidence of his hunting prowess. A black bear and a brown bear share space with deer, sheep, elk, moose, caribou and a musk ox. The taxidermy mounts serve as trophies from memorable hunting excursions.

"The adventure of hunting is second to none," Watkins said. "I love to be in the animals' natural habitat, learning about what they do and outsmarting them for survival. It's a holy feeling to be among the animals and to be able to eat what you get.

"When I have enough meat in the freezer, I usually switch from a rifle to a bow to make it a harder challenge."

Writing was a challenge

for Watkins during his time at Penn College, despite a stellar 3.73 GPA in earning a bachelor's degree in building automation technology. He turned a struggle into a strength after seeking assistance from the college's Writing Center.

"The tutoring there is second to none," he said. "I was there two or three times a week when I was writing essays. I mean, 100% I was a terrible writer, and the Writing Center helped me a lot. They taught me the fundamentals of writing and proper structure and organization."

Today, readers of Hunt Alaska Magazine and Alaska Sporting Journal are the beneficiaries of Watkins' refined writing abilities. He's written about 15 stories recounting various hunting escapades for those publications.

Watkins penned the cover story for the May 2020 issue of Alaska Sporting Journal. The riveting piece describes spending four springs on the Kenai Peninsula hunting

a 1,200-pound grizzly that he dubbed "King Tut." Watkins didn't see the bear in person until the third year and finally harvested the "biggest animal he ever saw" the following spring.

"I like to focus more on the adventure and what hunting encompasses rather than the kill," said Watkins, who spends about 45 days a year in the field.

As readers of Hunt Alaska Magazine discovered, Watkins' hardest days in the field occurred hunting elk with his father on tiny

Raspberry Island in the Gulf of Alaska. His story shares vivid details of countless challenges they overcame to take home an elk, from 7-foot seas to 60 mph winds to an Arctic swamp that "swallows you to your knees."

"Writing is a great way to recap an adventure and relive it in your mind," he said. "Writing the hunting articles is directly from that experience of going to the Writing Center at Penn College. I am grateful."

So are his readers.

-Tom Speicher



Brian S. Watkins, '10, left, with fellow Penn College grad Dave Moore, '10, center, joins hunting partner Trevor Embry on a mountain goat hunt in rugged Southeast Alaska. The story of their mountain adventure is one of many Watkins has authored for Alaska Sporting Journal.

"We can go to spots that have as few as 15 people. We can be 70 miles inside the Arctic Circle and dealing with 40-below conditions."

a laptop to connect, control and monitor myriad systems. Proper operation of all interrelated components is music to Watkins' ears, even when he can't feel his fingers or toes.

Some of Honeywell's customers are in the sparsely populated northern third of Alaska, home to the Arctic Circle and its notorious bone-chilling winter temperatures. Snowmobiles and puddle-jumper planes are relied on to reach clients in such rugged territory.

"We can go to spots that have as few as 15 people. We can be 70 miles inside the Arctic Circle and dealing with 40-below conditions," Watkins said. "Logistics is probably the most challenging aspect. There can be just a few flights a week to a region, and if you forget a bolt, you can be



Watkins at work as a project manager/field services supervisor for Honeywell International's Alaska branch.

delayed for a week. It can get stressful."

But often that stress results in success. For proof, Watkins points to a hospital in Kotzebue, a community of about 3,200 in northwest Alaska.

The remote location, escalating service prices and past performance issues made for a tenuous relationship between Honeywell and the hospital. When he became manager, Watkins developed a connection with key personnel at the facility and gained their trust in making incremental upgrades. He strategized with stakeholders for a few years before recently overseeing the retrofitting of the hospital's HVAC and fire systems.

"I can work all the way through the end goal to create a turnkey solution that makes the customer happy," Watkins said. "At the end of the day, you build friendships, as well. And you enjoy your job."

In high school, Watkins didn't know what building automation was. He wasn't even aware of Penn College until a friend in his career and technical education program suggested a visit. The classmate had recently applied to the college and believed Watkins' hands-on skills would be a match for the school's electrical major.

Watkins had worked a bit in construction and liked the electrical aspect of jobs. Vocational classes solidified that interest, which led him to heed his friend's advice and explore Penn College.

"I wanted to have a degree that gave you actual experience to be in the field," Watkins said. "When I got to Penn College and toured their facilities, I was like, 'Wow, this is impressive!' I liked hands-on, and that's what the college is all about."

He planned to earn an associate degree in electrical technology, become an electrician and return to the

Philadelphia area. Instead, a presentation by Woodling to the electrical students describing building automation and its career opportunities prompted him to reconsider. Watkins stayed at Penn College for four additional semesters to earn his bachelor's degree, a decision that years later proved essential for advancing to his management role.

"The job came down to me and two other guys, and I was told straight up that they went with me because I had the degree," Watkins said.

"It was one of the best moves that Brian made. Obtaining a bachelor's degree opens many paths as you move forward in your career," Woodling said. "Our building automation engineering graduates obtain in-depth skills and have a very high reputation of being able to start a job and be productive on day one."

That's why the demand for Penn College building automation engineering technology students is considerable. Graduates enjoy a near-100% placement rate, and more than three-fourths of students are like Watkins and commit to full-time employment several months prior to commencement.

They just don't usually move to Alaska.

"I miss friends and family, but I don't miss the East Coast," Watkins said. "It's a lot more laid back here, and there's so much more to do in Alaska. The Alaskan lifestyle is to enjoy the outdoors. We take off more time, I would say, than on the East Coast. It's a playground up here."

He takes full advantage of that playground. Multiple-day hunting trips in his treasured wilderness and skating and playing hockey at one of Anchorage's 30-plus outdoor rinks replenish Watkins for the demands of the job.

And it's a job he expects to be at for a long time.

"My old boss was here for 34 years. Honeywell has taken good care of me. I'll probably retire with them," Watkins said, appropriately followed by a laugh. ■

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Launching a legacy

After 23 years as president, Gilmour announces retirement

by Davie Jane Gilmour, president

On May 13, I informed the Pennsylvania College of Technology community of my plans to retire on June 30, 2022. After 44 years, the last 23 as president, it was not a decision arrived at lightly.

I have spent virtually my entire professional career at Penn College – a rewarding and fulfilling experience like no other. I knew there would be mixed emotions as I prepared to embark on a new life journey.

I knew, too, there would be much work to be completed in the months remaining before my retirement; I would have it no other way. As I told employees who gathered in Bardo Gymnasium and online at the end of the 2020-21 academic year for an all-college meeting: There is much to be done, and we need to move Penn College forward – to position us for our future students and the future leader.

In my four and a half decades of service to this remarkable institution, nothing has motivated me more than providing deserving students with ample opportunities to succeed – in their future careers and in life itself. There has been no more gratifying moment as Penn College president than to shake the hand of a student crossing the stage at commencement and wish them well, knowing that a universe of possibilities beckons because of the unique education and training they have received on this campus.

I am reminded of a lengthy conversation with my father – normally, a man of few words – when I was deciding whether to accept just such an opportunity: as the first dental hygiene

faculty member at Penn College’s immediate predecessor institution, Williamsport Area Community College, in 1977.

The gist of his sage counsel was: “What an opportunity, the first faculty member in a new program. You will have many opportunities. Look at it as an adventure, a first step in a journey, and see what happens. If it does not fit, you can always leave.”

Well, it certainly did fit for me. And now, nothing would please me more than to see our students presented with similar opportunities that turn out to be the perfect fit for them and their unique circumstances.

As I told the college community on May 13, my response – whenever I am asked about a potential legacy associated with my presidential tenure – is quite simple. I do not think in terms of personal legacy. The legacy I prefer to address is institutional. It is setting the stage for future leaders, students, alumni and employees for the next 100 years.

How do we ensure that lofty aspiration is achievable? Well, if you know me, and if you know Penn College, you know that we pride ourselves on doing things differently. No one starts a fundraising campaign during a pandemic, right? No one except Penn College, that is. We need to launch the college’s legacy into the future for generations of deserving students, and there is no time like the present to begin.

There will be no flashing campaign-goal thermometer for all to behold. That has never been our style. I will tell you, however, that our alumni, industry partners, parents, employees, retirees



“In my four and a half decades of service to this remarkable institution, nothing has motivated me more than providing deserving students with ample opportunities to succeed.”



Gilmour helps to welcome the family of Lauren Bitting on move-in day in 2014.



With 2014 student-athletes of the year Christopher Brennan, a soccer player, and Kendel Baier, an archer.

and friends have contributed \$28 million in gifts and pledges that have impacted our students tremendously over the past four years. Philanthropic support makes a profound difference for so many of our students. This campaign is not just about how much money we can raise; rather, it represents an education, a calling, an investment.

As I seek support from the entire Penn College community, let me tell you a bit about the foundation of my own philanthropic passions. My parents were my earliest educational and philanthropic role models. They were involved in our community as long as I can remember; they volunteered both their time and treasure.

My teachers and my elementary school principal were great influencers, as well. In third grade, our principal organized a “bank day” when we brought our money to school, and the “bank lady” came to record it in our passbooks. We watched her add interest and saw our investments grow. It was a great lesson in finances at an impressionable age.

When I give to Penn College today, I believe I am contributing to the future of our community in every sense. There simply is no greater reward than watching a student succeed. If you share my enthusiasm for student achievement and possibility, I hope you will see fit to join us in our campaign.

Gilmour kicked off the public phase of the campaign with a six-figure gift that will support the existing Tomorrow Makers Scholarship and establish two new funds: the Gilmour Global Experiences Endowment and the Gilmour Student Competition Endowment.

Since Day One as president, I have always said that people make the difference. Accordingly, I will be asking those who value what we do for students to be champions for Penn College in their personal and professional communities. Together, we will launch the legacy for the next generation.



Gilmour congratulates the women’s soccer team on its 2016 North Eastern Athletic Conference semifinal win.



The president gathers with student volunteers prior to an on-campus picnic for Little League World Series players.



Gilmour often says that shaking the hands of students at commencement and wishing them well is one of her most gratifying experiences as president.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Creating a launchpad for opportunity

Our wide variety of scholarships and awards puts students first. By enabling them to pursue their passions, scholarships offer our students opportunities that they would otherwise not have experienced. Empowering our students is an investment in the future, allowing for more skilled technicians, engineers, bakers, dental hygienists and business leaders, both locally and abroad. When you give young people the chance to fulfill their potential and realize their dreams, there's no limit to what they can accomplish.

Contribute to one of more than 350 existing scholarship funds, or create a new named scholarship and determine the criteria by which award recipients will be selected.

**TOMORROW
IS IN THE MAKING**

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 - \$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



▲
"Growing up, I was fascinated by the thought that one AC unit could cool an entire house on the hottest of summer days. I look forward to earning my degree and creating temperate environments. Scholarship support from The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation is helping me on my journey, setting up a solid financial future."

▼
WILLIAM HUGAR, '22
heating, ventilation &
air conditioning technology

"Knowing that people I've never even met want to support me and other students so that we can change the world is amazing to think about. I'm especially inspired by our very own President Gilmour's support of students. Knowing that we have someone leading us who cares about us so much made me want to do the best I could here. I hope someday I'll be able to support Penn College, as well, as a way to thank those who have given before and while I attended."

▼
MARY WATTS, '21
information assurance
and cyber security



▲
"As a scholarship recipient, the financial support has positively impacted my experience at Penn College. I currently pay for my tuition in its entirety, so the scholarships provide me more peace of mind throughout the year when I am determining how I will be able to pay for the next semester's tuition. This enables me to focus more on my schoolwork, excel in my classes and get more involved on campus, without the worry of money."

▼
SYDNEY TELESKY, '23
human services and
restorative justice

ACADEMICS & AFFINITY

Expanding minds and horizons

→ A Penn College education prepares our students for the world beyond campus. Here, learning begins in the classroom and lab, but it stretches to the field, the gym and even halfway around the world.

Academic schools and programs keep our students at the forefront of their fields, preparing them for the world beyond campus.

Our study abroad program gives students opportunities to deepen their studies of art and history, provide nursing and dental care in developing countries or even observe the repair of Lamborghinis in Italy. The Global Experiences Fund makes these life-changing experiences possible.

Closer to home, our Wildcats attract tens of thousands of fans each year and unite students, alumni and the local community. Enhanced athletics facilities will further enable our talented student-athletes.

A gift to one of these areas will keep Penn College on the cutting edge of applied technology education and continue to transform our students into committed, thoughtful and active citizens and leaders.

**TOMORROW
IS IN THE MAKING**

LEGACY CAMPAIGN FOR PENN COLLEGE

WAYS TO GIVE

Academic Programs

Give to grow

Consider a gift to one of our schools or programs. Our 100+ majors and 150+ learning labs create valuable opportunities for our students to learn and grow.

Athletics

Get on the team

Become a Wildcat Club member. Consider a gift to Wildcat Athletics or one of our 16 teams, providing student-athletes with opportunities on the playing surfaces and beyond.

Global Experiences

Expand horizons

Support life-changing experiences. Establish a named endowment or annual award, or make a gift to the Global Experiences Fund to help students sharpen their skills and discover a world of opportunities.



"I can literally do anything with my licenses and the skills that I've learned in the aviation maintenance technology program. I can stay in general aviation, work on small aircraft, work for a corporate airline or work for businesses that have fancy corporate jets. I can work on wind turbines. I can work with drones. I can work with the military. It feels like my options are limitless."

KATE RUGGIERO, '20
aviation technology

"Contributions from Wildcat Club members make it possible for student-athletes like myself to participate in the sports we love. We appreciate the continued support and always look forward to everyone cheering us on from the sidelines."

COLIN BROWNE, '22
human services and restorative justice wrestling



"The experience I had studying abroad in the Dominican (Republic) ignited a fire for volunteer work in me that will continue to burn throughout my life, as I continue to follow my dreams of providing dental care to those who are less fortunate, both in other areas of the world and right here in the U.S."

MEGAN MECOUCH, '21
dental hygiene

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Building the framework for success

→ By keeping our equipment and facilities up to date, we stay on top of the latest developments in applied technology. Gifts of equipment and machinery are invaluable to the success of our students, both on campus and in the ever-changing job market. Our partnerships with industry and businesses help students to hone the skills required in their fields. Equipment donations enable our students to become formidable workforce assets – maybe even as part of your own company.



**TOMORROW
IS IN THE MAKING**

LEGACY CAMPAIGN FOR PENN COLLEGE

WAYS TO GIVE

— ♦ Equipment & Facilities

Help improve our facilities with supplies, equipment or gifts in any amount.



“There is a wide array of machines that I can now say that I know how to use, thanks to the updates made to the Larry A. Ward Machining Technologies Center. When I show up for my first week of work and they’re expecting to train a kid who doesn’t know how to do anything, I can show them that I actually know a thing or two about the control.”

DAKOTA HARRISON, '22
manufacturing engineering technology



“All of this new equipment gives us the chance to take these real-life scenarios that will be placed in front of us, and allows us to get that hands-on experience in class. It’s one of the biggest things that we can do in school to learn the skills we’ll need to join the workforce.”

KURT MALY, '22
automation engineering technology: mechatronics



“While there are other nursing programs out there, what makes Penn College unique is the commitment to hands-on learning. Our curriculum includes clinical experiences in a variety of settings including nursing homes, hospitals, schools and clinics, to name a few. We also augment those experiences with simulations that allow students to learn skills and develop clinical judgment in a safe environment. We have several high-fidelity manikins that talk, breathe, cry and sweat and have real-life heartbeats, pulses and lung sounds.”

TINA MARIE KLINE
associate professor of nursing

The facility features interview rooms, networking event space and an open conference area. "The center gives alumni and employers a home when they are on campus," explained Loni N. Kline, vice president for college relations.

Brian M. Bilbao, a physician assistant studies student from Old Forge, felt like "a million bucks" after Melinda M. Heckman, coordinator of career programming, helped him tweak his resume. "(She) was absolutely terrific," he said. "She even went through my LinkedIn and showed me how to make it more professional."

Gabrielle E. Moore was among physician assistant students who visited the center shortly after it opened in Spring 2021. The ability to form long-lasting relationships was one of the aspects that drew her to Penn College. "I know when I walk onto campus, the community here wants me to succeed," she said.

During their visit, the physician assistant students received resume review and business card development and printing, and were introduced to the Career Gear Clothes Closet, which contains donated professional clothing. Other services available to both students and alumni include career assessments, job searching and interview preparation.

Third floor, Roger & Peggy Madigan Library

The Center for Career Design brings together students, alumni and industry partners to benefit tomorrow's workforce. It is the hub for students and alumni to brush up their resume and interview skills or explore career opportunities, and for alumni and corporate partners to meet and hire Penn College graduates. The space houses the Penn College Foundation, Alumni Relations, Career Services, Corporate Relations and Donor Relations.

1970s

Larry K. Erb, '70, graphic arts management, is retired and resides in Alto, Ga. He received a bachelor's degree from South Dakota State University.

Edward L. Thompson, '71, aviation maintenance technician, retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad, where he was a machinist for diesel locomotives. He resides in Belsano.

Allen Foster, '74, computer science, is a senior software engineer for TekSystems. He resides in Huntersville, N.C.

James Johnson, '74, forest technology, operated a portable sawmilling business for 30 years and retired in 2015. He resides in Hookstown.

Jerre Mohler, '74, forest technology, retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after 21 years as a fish biologist, developing technology and techniques for conservation and restoration of migratory fish populations. He completed a bachelor's in secondary education biology and general science from Lock Haven University and a Master of Science in biology from Bloomsburg University. He resides in Trout Run.

Dennis J. Richards, '74, business management, retired on April 30 as an estimator in the interior wall protection department for Construction Specialties. He resides in Hughesville.

Ted Reighard, '75, electrical technology, retired as a senior sales associate on April 2 after 42 years with Westinghouse Electric Wesco Distribution Inc. Manufactured Structures Group. He resides in Elizabethtown.

Steve Lower, '76, engineering drafting technology, retired as senior engineering designer, ECAD, from the Applied Research Laboratory at Penn State after 36 years. He supervised the ECAD design team and designed printed wiring assemblies for guidance and control of U.S. Navy undersea vehicles. He is a 36-year volunteer firefighter and past chief with Alpha Fire Co. in State College and received the Centre County Fire Chiefs Association Firefighter of the Year award. He is an adjunct fire instructor and certification examiner for HACC and the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy. He resides in State College and is a national-level competitor in Sports Car Club of America autocross events.

Cynthia (Mitchell) Zerbe, '76, clerical studies, is the ADA and on-demand operations manager for Centre Area Transportation Authority. She is a former board member of the Pennsylvania Public Transportation Association. Married in 1976, she has a son, a granddaughter and three grandsons. She resides in Huntingdon.

Paul M. Reier, '77, forest technology, recently retired after 42 years with the Virginia Department of Forestry, growing 1.125 billion loblolly pine seedlings, responding to fires and providing hundreds of Smokey Bear walkabouts (meeting actor Tom Hanks and singer Charlie Daniels). He was a forest technician and is a recipient of the U.S. Forest Service's Bronze Smokey Bear award for fire prevention. He resides in Toano, Va.

Terry D. Gerber, '78, engineering drafting technology, is a senior project specialist for EMD Performance Materials, a business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. He resides in Tamaqua.

Theresa R. Smith, '78, nursing, is a retired registered nurse. After earning her licensed practical nurse certificate from WACC, she earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Wilkes College in 1983. She resides in Lewes, Del.

Dona F. (Shaffer) Bean, '79, dental hygiene, is retired. Her husband retired and they relocated to Barto in January 2021.

1980s

John Bower Jr., '81, accounting, retired in 2020 as director of accounting from Beiter's Inc. after 30 years. He is married with one daughter and three grandchildren and resides in Yonkers, N.Y.

Christine (Cryder) DeRosa, '82, practical nursing, is a case manager for Scranton Counseling Center. She resides in Scranton.

Jeffrey E. Hanselman, '82, computer operations, is an administrative operations analyst for Selective Insurance. He resides in Allentown.

Vernon V. Poplaski, '82, computer information systems, is the owner, president and CEO of PA Renovate and Resell, LLC, a real estate investment company he started after retiring from the IT industry. In his 38 years in IT, he was a programmer, analyst, database administrator, project manager and product manager. After graduation he moved to Mechanicsburg, married and raised two children. He has two grandchildren.

Joseph Cammisa, '85, graphic arts, owns Citizen Publishing Co. He resides in Hazleton.

Willard J. Ramph Jr., '85, industrial drafting, retired as a drafting engineer from Bethlehem Steel Corp., where he designed machine parts, drew plant layouts, new machine layouts, and new designs for cables and strands, and interpreted original German drawings. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Steve Brunnhuber, '89, construction carpentry, is a registered nurse for Mount Nittany Medical Center. From his graduation until 2005, he was a lead carpenter for a custom home design/build firm, then received an associate degree in nursing from Penn State Altoona. He resides in Altoona.

Julia (Sneeringer) Hetrick, '89, floriculture, is a designer for Blooms by Vickrey. After spending most of her career as a supply sales manager for the Sieck Wholesale Florist Group in Pennsylvania, Washington and Maryland, she is enjoying the retail side of floriculture. Also in the Penn College family is her son, **Alex Hetrick, '21**, information technology: network and user support. They reside in Hanover.

1990s

Heather J. (Hildebrand) Fink, '90, architectural technology, is a facilities designer for Penn State. She recently became a licensed architect in the state of Pennsylvania. In addition to continuing to work for Penn State, she plans to start her own practice concentrating on residential and small-scale commercial projects. She resides in State College.

Scott Griffith, '94, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, works in RHVAC quality assurance for City Facilities Management, performing quality assurance on supermarket refrigeration and HVAC for the company's Walmart partnership in the Northeast. He resides in Montrose.

Robert Kaler, '96, diesel technology, owns Kaler Motor Co. He resides in Lake Ariel.

Jeffrey Galgon, '97, civil engineering technology, retired as a construction manager from Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering. He resides in Elliottsburg.

Robert T. Santor, '97, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, was recently promoted to assistant information technology manager for Transcore, where he has been employed since his Penn College graduation. He resides in Hummelstown.

2000s

Kristin (Eichengreen) Brickhouse, '01, hospitality management, is the assistant director of sales for The Study at University City, a hotel near Drexel University and University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. She resides in Media.

Jeffrey L. Paige, '01, toolmaking technology, is a manufacturing engineer/shop manager for Haines Fabrication & Machine. He resides in Snow Hill, Md.

Kristy J. Willson Thomas, '01, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for HealthPro Heritage. She resides in Camden, S.C.

Joan M. (John) Barnickel, '03, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer for HardGuard Group. She resides in Lithicum Heights, Md., and reports that she has "three wonderful boys that help make life complete."

Jason Campbell, '03, civil engineering technology, is a senior highway engineer for McTish, Kunkel & Associates. He resides in Hughesville.

April M. (Moore) Stine, '03, business management, is a contact tracer for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She resides in Cogan Station.

Becky Clawson, '04, biology, is an extension educator in food systems and local foods for Penn State Extension. She resides in Lancaster.

Richard C. Hornberger, '04, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is director of information technology for Phoenix Contact. He received a doctor of business administration from University of Maryland Global Campus in March 2021. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Jennifer R. (Brinkley) Martin, '05, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is an engineering manager for Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing North America. She leads the simultaneous engineering group for early vehicle design data assessment and manufacturing process plans, specifically for vehicle underbody and shell body areas. She resides in Paint Lick, Ky.

Jared M. Narber, '05, graphic design, is the senior visual designer in the marketing department for Disney+. He resides in New York City.

Nathaniel Aldinger, '06, diesel technology, owns Aldinger Repair, a mobile mechanic service focusing on agricultural, excavation, mining and commercial trucks. He resides in Forksville.

Olivia (Horn) Bower, '06, technology management, is an implementation, optimization and training technical trainer for UPMC. She coordinates and develops training curriculum in UPMC's 40-plus hospitals. She resides in South Williamsport. She earned an associate degree in mass communications from Penn College in 1999.

Julie (Reppert) Stellfox, '05, technology management, and **'06**, mass media communication, received the Meritorious Service Individual Award for Spring 2020 from Lock Haven University, where she is assistant director of media relations and chairs the Programming, Education and Visibility Committee on the President's Commission on LGBTQ Affairs. She resides in Montoursville.

Brad Diehl, '07, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, is a refrigeration supervisor for Sheetz Inc., managing two ammonia refrigeration systems for the Sheetz distribution center and bakery, and all HVAC/R for the distribution center. He is married with two children and a third on the way. They reside in New Enterprise.

Jill M. Purificato, '07, floral design/interior plantscape; **'08**, technology management, is an outpatient hospital coder for Lehigh Valley Health Network. She resides in Whitehall.

Kyle D. Stauffer, '09, civil engineering technology, is a project manager for Hawbaker Engineering LLC. He resides in Bellefonte.

2010s

Mark Hunsicker, '10, HVAC design technology, is senior operations manager for Prologis. He oversees preventive maintenance and manages capital projects at the Comcast Center, a 975-foot tall, 58-story building that serves as the global headquarters of Comcast Corp. He resides in Willow Grove.

Ashlyn M. Hershberger, '11, graphic communications management, is a member service representative IV, CCO fraud and digital, for the Navy Federal Credit Union. She assists as an acting phone supervisor, reviews accounts for suspected potential fraud and mentors newer representatives in the Contact Center Operations Fraud & Digital branch. She resides in Martinsburg, W.V.

Scott Snyder, '11, residential construction technology and management, is a senior production superintendent for ATI Restoration Inc., which provides disaster recovery services. He resides in Quakertown.

Derek Ban, '12, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a quality manager for Reynolds Consumer Products (the maker of Reynolds Wrap and other well-known brands). He resides in Charlotte, N.C.

TiNeesha T. Harris, '12, general studies, is a personal care aide for Homemakers. She resides in Williamsport.

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

Lauren (Rich) Madison, '13, baking and pastry arts, is a regional cake decorator for Food Lion. She resides in Frederick, Md.

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Annita (Ile) Tyberg, '13, human services, is retired and resides in Flinton. She serves on the boards and councils for several organizations and is an advocate for the deaf, spearheading several projects. She is the state ombudsman for Cambria and Blair counties and received the National Spirit Award for the Hearing Loss Association of America Convention. Her daughter **Mereta (Tyberg) Vogel** is also a graduate (nursing, 2009).

Holly R. (Hartsock) Hassler, '14, legal assistant: paralegal, is an estate administration paralegal for the Law Office of Shawn M. Pierson. She resides in Newmans town.

Caleb Dershem, '15, electronics & computer engineering technology: robotics and automation emphasis, is an intermediate controls specialist for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. He is pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a graduate certificate in leadership and another graduate certificate in finance from the University of Iowa. He resides in Commerce Township, Mich.

Andrew S. Manley, '15, software development & information management and information technology sciences: gaming and simulation, is a software engineer 4 for Sealing Technologies. He resides in Baltimore.

Cassandra Mohr, '15, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a registered dental hygienist for Geisinger. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Marc E. (Nelson) Mozdian, '15, ornamental horticulture: plant production, is vice president of Fire Cut Farm LLC, a local regeneratively and organically grown cut-flower farm that he established with his wife in summer 2020. He resides in Wyoming, Pa.

Dan W. Platt, '15, information technology: network specialist concentration, is a senior data center infrastructure technician for Iron Mountain Data Centers. He maintains an underground colocation facility in a 160-acre retired mine. He resides in Grove City, where he recently bought his first house.

Julie H. (Carr) Stansbury, '15, nursing, moved to Virginia Beach in October 2020 and began a new job as a health coach for Noom in November.

Donald Wieder, '15, physician assistant, is a chief PA for Geisinger Medical Center, overseeing advanced practitioner operations for the center's department of hospital medicine. He completed the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants Leadership Academy and is a member of the Penn College Physician Assistant Education Advisory Committee. He resides in Montoursville.

Jacqueline (Lyden) Clark, '16, baking and pastry arts, is a team leader for The Bake Shoppe at Country Table in Mount Joy. She resides in Palmyra.

Stephenie F. Everson, '16, baking and pastry arts, is a patient food service liaison for Geisinger Medical Center. She resides in Lewisburg.

Caleb G. Schirmer, '14, landscape/horticulture technology: landscape emphasis; and '16, applied management, is a graduate assistant – coordinator of student activities and leadership for Mid-America Christian University, where he will pursue a Master of Arts in leadership, higher education emphasis. He resides in Oklahoma City.

Krishna Mohan Yadav, '16, automotive restoration technology, is manager of restoration for Deneb and Pollux Engineering and Restoration. He resides in Gurgaon, Haryana, India.

Clark W. Fuller, '17, engineering design technology, is the mechanical design lead for HopFlyt, a startup company designing an electric vertical takeoff or landing aircraft (eVTOL) for urban aerial mobility (UAM). He resides in Lusby, Md.

Michelle L. (Fassett) Heeman, '17, radiography, is a radiologic technologist for Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital. She resides in Wyalusing.

Amanda Crevier, '18, surgical technology, is a certified surgical technologist on the neurosurgery team for Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. She resides in Hershey.

Kaycee Hunter, '18, nursing, is a registered nurse in emergency medicine for Geisinger. She resides in Dushore.

Jonathan W. Myers, '18, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is a project manager/estimator for Best Wash Inc. He resides in Mechanicsburg and plays recreational soccer and hockey.

Jonathan Sutcliffe, '18, manufacturing engineering technology, is a locomotive restoration specialist for the National Parks Service at Steamtown National Historic Site in Scranton. He resides in Orangeville.

Devon Sanders, '19, business administration: sport and event management, is an assistant baseball coach for Juniata College. He is enrolled in an organizational leadership graduate program and resides in Bloomsburg.

Courtney Shirmer, '19, health arts: practical nursing, is a psychiatric behavioral nurse and charge nurse for Mount Carmel Nursing & Rehabilitation. She resides in Mount Carmel and reports that she was promoted to an administrative role within a year of being a new nursing graduate.

Mary L. Wagner, '19, health arts: practical nursing emphasis, is a licensed practical nurse and COVID-19 tester for Maxim Healthcare, testing Big 10 athletes at Penn State. She resides in Mill Hall.

Dianna (Weaver) Zeafra, '19, business administration: management, is a customer service representative for The Hartman Group. She resides in Liberty.

David M. Zlotnicki, '19, electronics and computer engineering technology, is an automation and controls engineer for Simmons Machine Tool Corp., writing code for Siemens programmable logic controllers and programming robots for railroad wheel shop machinery. He resides in Albany, N.Y.

2020

Seth R. Henry, '20, building science and sustainable design, is an architectural designer for AEM Architects. He resides in Wernersville.

Abbey Mefferd, '20, culinary arts technology, is an operator of nutrition for Compass Group-Morrison Health. She resides in Boyertown and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in applied management from Penn College.

Charles Merroth-Ruiz, '20, automotive technology management, is a technical writer for American Honda Motor Co. He resides in Irvine, Calif.

Alexandra Petrizzi, '20, graphic design, is a user interaction designer for Vera Bradley. She resides in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Jacob M. Sekela, '20, hospitality management and applied management, is a cashier/cashier assistant for Costco Wholesale. He resides in Douglassville.

Joshua Walter, '20, emergency management and homeland security, is an associate for Delta Development Group, a consulting firm specializing in community planning, economic development and disaster preparedness. He resides in Harrisburg.

Kaitlyn M. Young, '20, health information management, is a health information management coordinator for Privia Health. She resides in Grottoes, Va.

Richard C. Hornberger, '04, computer information technology: data communications and networking, and Rebecca welcomed a son, Will, on Nov. 22, 2020. They reside in Mechanicsburg.

Nathaniel Aldinger, '06, diesel technology, married Samantha in September 2019. They reside in Forksville.

Julie (Reppert) Stellfox, '05, technology management, and '06, mass media communication, and her husband, **Adam Stellfox, '06**, mass media communication, and '15, information technology: information assurance and security, welcomed their second daughter, Maisie Madeline, on Aug. 5, 2020. They reside in Montoursville.

Lauren Rich, '13, baking and pastry arts, married **Kyle Madison, '13**, culinary arts technology, in September 2020. They reside in Frederick, Md.

Marc E. Nelson, '15, ornamental horticulture: plant production, married Allison Mozdian early in the COVID-19 pandemic, and they held a celebration gathering in July 2021. They reside in Wyoming, Pa.

Julie H. (Carr) Stansbury, '15, nursing, welcomed a son, Brody, in January 2021. They reside in Virginia Beach.

Jacqueline Lyden, '16, baking and pastry arts, married Joshua Clark in October 2020. They reside in Palmyra.

In Memory

James A. Bryan, retired counselor, age 89, on May 6

Victor A. Michael Sr., faculty emeritus, electronics technology, age 86, on Jan. 10

Robert L. Norton, retired instructor of aviation, age 90, on March 19

Judith P. Shimp, retired associate professor of food and hospitality management/culinary arts, age 67, on July 27

Donald K. Skiles, former assistant professor of English, age 81, on May 22

Pamela L. Starcher, retired director of nursing, age 78, on June 26

Marriages & Births

Julie (Rutt) Hedgepeth, '04, paramedic technology, and her husband welcomed a daughter, Adena, in May 2020. They reside in Elizabethtown.



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FILMING YOURSELF

These tips come from Hailee B. Mercy, a May 2021 graphic design graduate and a student videographer/editor in the college's Public Relations & Marketing Office.

"A lot of you are filming yourselves lately, and we'd love to give you some tips to improve the quality of your video," she explains in a video tutorial in which she – you guessed it – filmed herself.



Watch the video version of this tutorial at magazine.pct.edu/fy



Video should be shot horizontally (or landscape)

"We live our lives on a horizontal plane. It's how we see the world," Mercy explains. "This is why your TV screens and computer screens are horizontal. It's more natural to view video this way."



Clear audio is super important

"No matter how good your video is, if your audience cannot hear you, they will stop watching."



Record in high definition

The best option is Full HD, which may be listed as:

1080p
Full HD
1920x1080 (16:9)

On Android devices, go to your camera app, then settings. Look for "video size" or "video quality."

On iOS devices, go to your settings app, then find the "camera" tab and look for "record video."



Framing and camera position

Film yourself at eye level. No one wants to see up your nose, so use books, a box or whatever you have to position the camera directly in front of you (not below).

Maintain a comfortable distance. Allow screen space above your head – but not too much.

Align your eyes about two-thirds up the screen. Most mobile devices have the option to turn on a grid to help with this step.



Light is important for video

Position light directly in front of you (not above or behind), and use plenty of it. Natural sunlight from a window is great for filming.

After you've set up your lighting, tap your face on your phone's touch screen to automatically adjust exposure.



Look at your camera, not yourself

"You want to make sure your audience feels as though you're really talking to them," Mercy says.

If you have an idea for an Expert Tips topic, please email magazine@pct.edu

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From left, Alexis E. Heritage, who graduated in 2020 with an associate degree in information technology; technical support technology; Kienehn L. Jenison, software development and information management; and Mick O. Hoover, '21, information assurance and cyber security, build, test and troubleshoot networks in the networking lab (Center for Business & Workforce Development Room 143).

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's, 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.

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