TOMORROW IS IN THE MAKING

President Gilmour announces retirement, legacy campaign

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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 is based on (below), 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.

degrees that work.

Cruising the world
Diesel technology graduate Brandon Langdon, ‘14, has experienced a lifetime of once-in-a-lifetimes aboard a 147-foot long-range expedition yacht.

‘Living lab’ lives on after half-century
Fifty years after the Schneebeli Earth Science Center opened “over the mountain” from main campus, alumni and former employees share their memories.

Launching a legacy
After nearly a quarter century leading Penn College, President Davie Jane Gilmour plans to retire in June 2022 and announced the launch of a legacy fundraising campaign.

Baseball, softball to have new homes
The Williamson/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce is constructing a synthetic turf field complex adjacent to main campus, featuring six youth baseball/softball fields and a collegiate baseball field.

Work-life balance is beautiful in Alaska
At work, building automation technology grad Brian Watkins, ‘10, oversees Honeywell’s Alaska branch. Off the clock, he’s sharing his outdoor adventures with popular hunting magazines.

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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 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.”

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 conveyor system, the space features 16 programmable logic controller stations and four Kuka industrial robots. About 60 students per semester are using the lab.

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.

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.”
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 an athletic 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 on the new field 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 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!”

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 Hamstock and Jordan Spach 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 Ivy Moulder 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 Guarango and Angelo Varcaipine 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 Phillips-Johanson 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 list. 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 Brezeman 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.
Diesel technology graduate keeps expedition yacht’s motors running during global adventure

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
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, impossibly 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. “The story of Dorothea has always been extreme travel,” Langdon said.

Dorothea III typically cruises in tandem with Post One, a 65-foot sport fishing vessel, and the fact that the smaller ship – is an unprecedented feat in yachting.

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: wakeboarding 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,” Langdon said.

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’s 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 fooled around nearby Moriches Bay.

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 farm land 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.”
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 added. “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 with 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, there’s where there’s always oil 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 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. “Our 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 II 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 stewards/esses or stewards), with two on board.

“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 clings filters quickly. It took out the lift pumps that supply our generators with fuel. And you can get algae growth in the tanks.”

Reparing 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 happens,” 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.
‘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 new, modern facilities in 1999. The sawmill sells lumber, sawdust and firewood to defray the cost of operation.

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 to the college’s forest and farm lands for the benefit of students in the above courses.

“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)

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.)

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

1973: Calculation of the amount of production lumber per log with instructor Glenn Spoerke, on logs.

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

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

circa 1983: Floral design students produce plants for sale to the public.


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


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

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

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

2006: Student Andrew R. Moyer, foreground, positions a stone atop “A Tribute to Knowledge,” a looping dry stone wall at the Earth Science Center entrance, constructed by James A. Asbury, ’02, right, with students.

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 hard 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 (Pryce, Doc, Wally 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!”

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 lingered 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 floriculture (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 well maintained,” she said. For many, the enduring perception of Earth Science Center, then and now, is the unique culture. “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.”

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

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

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

“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. “I do 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 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.


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.
When 2010 building automation technology grad Brian S. Watkins is working, he oversees Honeywell’s Alaska branch, coordinating the systems that control comfort, efficiency and security of buildings throughout the Last Frontier. Off the clock, he treks the state’s vast outdoors, recording his adventures for popular hunting magazines.

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 Beverly, 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 automated 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...
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 outsourcing 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

“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.”

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 paddle-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 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 tensious 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 the 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. —

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.
Launching a legacy
After 23 years as president, Gilmour announces retirement

by Dave 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 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 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.

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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.

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.

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.

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

With 2016 student-athletes of the year Christopher Brennan, a soccer player, and Kendell Baier, an archer.

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

WAYS TO GIVE

○ Endowed Scholarship
  • $25,000 minimum
  • Can be given over five years
  • Permanent funding source

○ Limited Duration Scholarship
  • $5,000 minimum
  • Contribution is divided evenly over a specified number of years with a $1,000 award minimum

○ Annual Award Scholarship
  • $1,000 minimum annually
  • Award amounts are based on annual contributions

“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
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 Lamborghini 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.

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

"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

"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

"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."
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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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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 Lori N. Kline, vice president for college relations.

Third floor, Roger & Peggy Madigan Library
5705

Larry K. Erb, ’70, graphic arts technician, resides in Alto, Ga. He received a bachelor’s degree from South Dakota State University.

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

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

James Johnson, ’74, forest technology, is a retired sawmill ownership business for 30 years and retired in 2015. He resides in Hoosicktown.

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

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

Steve Lower, ’76, engineering drafting technology, retired as an 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 underwater vehicles. He is a 36-year volunteer firefighter and past chief with Alpha-Phi 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, clinical 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 resides in Huntington.

Paul M. Reier, ’77, forest technology, recently retired after 42 years with the Virginia Department of Forestry, growing 1,125 lobolly pine seedlings, responding to fire and providing hundreds of Smokey Bear booklets (written by his wife Hanks and singer Charlie Daniels). He was a forest technician and is a member of the U.S. Forest Service’s Smokey Bear fire awareness award. He resides in Tamaqua.

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.

William J. Ramsey Jr., ’80, industrial technology, is a retired registered degreed engineer. After earning her licensed practical nurse certificate from Wayne Community College in 1983. She resides in Westville, Del.

Donia F. (Shaffer) Bean, ’79, dental hygiene, is retired. Her husband retired and they relocated to Barto in January 2020.

Scott Griffth, ’94, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology 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 Brunhuber, ’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 Vickery. 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 husband, who works in information technology: network and user support. They reside in Hanover.

Heather J. (Hildebrand) Fink, ’90, architectural technology, is a facilities designer for Penn State. She recently became a licensed architect in the state of Maryland. In addition to continuing to work for the United States Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., she plans to start her own practice concentrating on sustainable, low impact, rural commercial projects. She resides in State College.

Jason Campbell, ’90, civil engineering technology, is a senior highway engineer for McTiagh, Kunkel & Associates. He resides in State College.

April M. (Moore) Stine, ’90, business management, is a contact tracer for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She resides in Cogan Station.

Olivia (Horn) Bower, ’90, technology management, is a 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 marketing communications from Penn College in 1999.

Nathaniel Aldinger, ’06, technology management, and ’03, business management, is a contact tracer for the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She resides in Cogan Station.

Bockey Clawson, ’04, biology, is an external educator in food systems and local foods for Penn State Extension. She resides in Lancaster.

Richard G. Hornberger, ’04, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is director of information technology for Phoenix Connect. He received a doctorate 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.

Jill M. Purifoy, ’07, floral design, interior plantscape; ’08, technology management, is an operations manager for Lehigh Valley Health Network. She resides in Whitehall.

Kyle D. Steafer, ’09, graphic design, is the senior visual designer in the marketing department for Disney+. He resides in Eddystone.

Nathaniel Aldinger, ’10, HVAC design technology, is senior operations manager for Prologis. He oversees preventive maintenance services for all capital projects at the Comcast Center, a 975-foot tall, 58-story building that serves as the headquarters of the Comcast Corp. He resides in Willow Grove.

Aslyn H. 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 and reports on potential fraud andounters in Naval Service 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 in the United States.

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

Tinesha T. Harris, ’12, general studies, is a personal care aide for Home Makers. 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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Anita (Ila) Tyberg, ’13, human services, is retired and resides in Clifton. She serves on several 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) Vogelson is also a graduate (nursing, 2009).

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INNOVATION CREDENTIAL

Class Notes

完成所有模块的学生将获得创新工程黑带。
These tips come from Haliee 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.

**Video should be shot horizontally (or landscape)**

“We live our lives on a horizontal plane. It’s how we see 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.

**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 bricks, 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

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