

Penn College

Spring 2022

MAGAZINE

HANDS-ON PRESIDENCY

Celebrating the service
of retiring President
Davie Jane Gilmour

SEE PAGE 14



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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AMONG MAJOR PROJECTS DEDICATED DURING PRESIDENT DAVIE JANE GILMOUR'S TENURE at Pennsylvania College of Technology is a welcoming main entrance at Maynard Street – designed to resemble a baseball and bat. Fittingly, Gilmour would go on to become the chair of the Little League International Board of Directors, one of many community posts she has held. See more landmarks of Gilmour's legacy on Page 30.



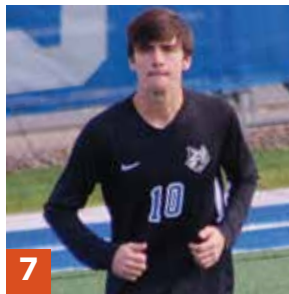
Building others' dreams

In his work for Habitat for Humanity, Todd J. Fox '98 helps affiliates across the country to increase access to decent, affordable housing.



Curtain call

As President Davie Jane Gilmour prepares to retire in June 2022, colleagues applaud her 45 years of service.



Front office pro

Christian Peters '20 uses his student-athlete experience and business administration degree to pave his path to a dream job as a professional soccer team administrator.



Launching a legacy

Supporters of the Legacy Campaign for Penn College are creating opportunities for students in three impactful areas: scholarships, equipment and facilities, and academics and affinity.



A gem formed from grit

Despite choosing "the worst time ever" to open his first solo venture, Michelin-trained Chef Dean Yasharian '03 demonstrates resilience at Perle Restaurant in Pasadena, California.

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degrees that work.

ON THE COVER

Retiring President Davie Jane Gilmour adds her signature using one of her favorite pens: a handmade piece that mixes old with new (a recycled circuit board is wrapped around a pen tube with a bolt-action click mechanism at the cap end). Twenty-four years' worth of graduates have received degrees bearing Gilmour's signature. She has likewise left her distinctive touch throughout the community. See Page 14.

ATTENTION, ALUMNI

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

GO PAPERLESS

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

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Providing plastics perspective

Kirk M. Cantor, professor of plastics technology, was quoted in an Oct. 7 article in the Delaware Valley Journal that explored Philadelphia’s ban on single-use plastic bags and straws.

“As with every manufactured product, there are opportunities to improve the raw materials, product design, manufacturing methods, and end-of-life path for plastic bags and plastic straws,” Cantor told reporter Chris Woodward.

“The innovators most knowledgeable and most motivated to make these improvements are those within the industries that manufacture these products,” Cantor said. “We have already seen tremendous innovation over the last decade.”



Le Jeune Chef prepares 12,000 meals for Little League teams

Baking, pastry and culinary arts students began the fall semester with their hands full as they worked to fill the stomachs of the teams participating in the Little League Baseball World Series, held just a few miles from main campus.

The college’s Le Jeune Chef Restaurant is the new provider of dining services inside the secure team housing area at the Little League International complex. Because the casual fine-dining restaurant is a live-learning lab for the college’s baking, pastry and culinary arts majors, students were heavily involved in the experience.

From Aug. 13-30, the college prepared more than 12,000 meals – breakfast, lunch and dinner each day – for players and coaches during their stay in Williamsport.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL

Find complete articles on PCToday

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

State House panel holds campus hearing on boosting economy



The state House Majority Policy Committee visited campus in August, taking a tour before holding a hearing on "Growing Pennsylvania's Economy." Among those sharing testimony during the two-hour session was Shannon M. Munro, the college's vice president for workforce development, who was characterized by Rep. Jeff Wheeland as "the go-to person" in her field.

"Because employers grow the economy, we must respond to their needs," Munro said. "Penn College does this in two distinct ways: We provide a pipeline of graduates in degrees that align with what employers are looking for, and we also offer lifelong training opportunities for their incumbent workers."

Munro testifies and answers questions about the many ways Penn College addresses workforce challenges, from apprenticeship programs to the Clean Energy Center to WEDnetPA training of companies' employees.



Employers, students embrace Career Fair

At Penn College's in-person Fall Career Fair, students and employers alike expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet en masse for the first time since October 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 230 employers and 1,450 students participated in the daylong event, split between the college's Field House and Bardo Gymnasium.

"It's phenomenal," said Patrick Hutt, service supervisor for Siemens, a global technology company focused on industry, infrastructure, transport and health care.

While there was a waiting list for companies to attend the event, Penn College Career Services also accommodated employers through a series of 13 outdoor On-Campus Recruitment Days throughout September.

Penn College ranks in top 10 in U.S. News' Regional Colleges North category

Pennsylvania College of Technology is a top 10 performer in the "Regional Colleges North" category in U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best Colleges rankings, announced Sept. 13.

Penn College is tied for ninth best overall in the "Regional Colleges North" category of the annual rankings, which take into account more than 15 separate measures of academic quality.

The college is tied for No. 7 in the "Top Public Schools – Regional Colleges North" ranking category.

Penn College also earned a No. 4 ranking among "Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional Colleges North."

CAMPUS NEWS



Magazine chronicles kayak outing's 'transformative impact'

An article in the July/August issue of Pennsylvania Angler & Boater featured a field trip taken by Rob Cooley's Outdoor Recreation as a Therapeutic Tool course during the spring semester. The class traveled to nearby Rose Valley Lake, accompanied by Lycoming College's director of outdoor learning and education, for a day of kayaking. The magazine piece was facilitated by Douglas M. Hess, manager of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Benner Spring State Fish Hatchery in Centre County.



Fish Real Estate Leadership Challenge Course dedicated

The Fish Real Estate Leadership Challenge Course was dedicated in August on the southcentral side of main campus.

The Challenge Course – a remarkable project funded by Brent and Daria Fish in memory of Brent's father, William H. Fish – "will foster leadership and team-building skills for generations of students, faculty, alumni and industry partners," said Loni N. Kline, vice president for college relations

and chief philanthropy officer. Brent is president of Fish Real Estate, and Daria is head of corporate communications for OxiWear.

The project involved the college's General Services Department, architectural technology and concrete science classes, and Tony Draus of Edventure Builders. The Sigma Pi philanthropic fraternity donated a picnic table.



LEAP Center opens to ease transition for new students

The newly launched LEAP Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology opened in fall to help first-year and transfer students "learn, evolve, adapt and prepare" for rewarding futures.

"Today's students are looking for a sense of belonging and expect a connected experience at college. The LEAP Center's

mission is to be a cohesive and collaborative partner with students in their first year," director Christie Bing Kracker said. "The LEAP advisers strive to connect students to expert resources, such as their academic advisers, counseling services and student engagement, to increase their ability to successfully navigate any obstacles to achieving their academic goals."

EMBRACING SECOND CHANCES

In December 2007, Long H. Nguyen relocated with 11 family members from Dalat in southern Vietnam's Central Highlands to Hughesville in northcentral Pennsylvania.

"When my parents told me that we were moving to the U.S., I was very excited," Nguyen said. "That year I got bullied a lot at school, so I kind of gave up on school. I took coming to America as a second opportunity at life. I could reset. If I was in Vietnam right now, I can't see myself anywhere near where I am today."

Fourteen years later, the honors graduate is a design engineer for Andritz's global foundry and manufacturing facility for Durametal refiner plates in Muncy. The refiner plates are the heart of paper and pulp machines; they break wood chips to wood fibers. Nguyen's name is on two patent applications related to the work.

When Nguyen arrived in the U.S. at age 13, he didn't speak or understand English, which made him apprehensive about venturing outside his home.

By his high school graduation, Nguyen had won a slew of academic awards in drafting and design. He earned an associate degree in engineering CAD technology in 2016 and began working for Andritz. In May 2021, he completed a bachelor's degree in engineering design technology.

"I learned so much with all the things that all my professors taught me," he said. "Penn College taught me not to limit myself with design. If it doesn't work, try a new thing. Think outside the box. Come up with something crazy, because something crazy might work."

"Let your imagination take you to wherever you're supposed to be."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDRITZ

Long H. Nguyen '21 at Andritz,
where he is a design engineer

H O F HALL OF FAME

Penn College inducted four members into its **Athletics Hall of Fame** during Homecoming Weekend. The Class of 2021 comprised James Woodring '09 (baseball), Jamie Steer '17 (basketball), Kendel Baier '15 (archery) and Scott Kennell (administrator).

From Fall 2005 to Spring 2008, **Woodring** provided solid defense at second base and was a key cog on Wildcat teams that went 101-55, reaching the postseason all four years while winning Penn State University Athletic Conference championships in 2006 and 2008. Woodring was named all-conference in each of his four seasons.

A four-year starter who played at the center and guard positions from 2012 to 2016, **Steer** led the Wildcats in scoring as a freshman with 452 points and was second in scoring during each of her next three years to finish with 1,422 career points. At the time of her graduation, Steer was the program's all-time leading scorer.

As a freshman in 2012, **Baier** was a member of Penn College's national championship women's bowhunter team, and by the time she graduated in 2015, she added four more national team

titles to her resume, while claiming the individual national women's bowhunter crown in 2013 and placing second as a senior. Additionally, Baier was a three-time All-American archer, three-time Academic All-American and was named the college's Female Athlete of the Year in 2014.

During his five years as athletic director, starting in 2011, **Kennell** oversaw the transition of Penn College to an NCAA Division III affiliate and membership in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (renamed United East Conference in 2021).

During his five years as athletic director, starting in 2011, **Kennell** oversaw the transition of Penn College to an NCAA Division III affiliate and membership in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (renamed United East Conference in 2021). Also during that time, the college elevated six coaching positions from part time to full time, launched an athletics-specific website, established an Athletics Hall of Fame, significantly increased the number of recruited student-athletes, and enhanced many of the college's athletics facilities and policies.



Cassie Johnson

Both Wildcat soccer teams had players named to the United East's Second Team All-Conference: **Cassie Johnson**, a freshman midfielder in women's soccer, and **Chris McFarland**, a senior midfielder for the men's soccer team. Johnson led her team in assists and finished second in both points and goals. McFarland became the first men's soccer player in the college's NCAA era to earn three career all-conference honors.



Chris McFarland



President Davie Jane Gilmour (left) and Matt Blymier (right), assistant director of athletics for compliance and athletics communication, join the 2021 Athletics Hall of Fame Class (from left): Scott E. Kennell (administration), James C. Woodring (baseball), Kendel F. Baier (archery) and Jamie L. Steer (basketball).



FRONT OFFICE PRO

**PENN COLLEGE EXPERIENCE
LEADS TO MLS POST**

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

Christian H. Peters, who received a bachelor's degree in business administration: sport and event management concentration in December 2020, is the assistant team administrator for Major League Soccer club Real Salt Lake.

THE FINAL DESTINATION WAS ALWAYS CLEAR

for Christian H. Peters, and the journey to get there was paved in Williamsport.

Peters is the assistant team administrator for Major League Soccer team Real Salt Lake, and he credits his experience as a student-athlete and the hands-on learning he practiced at Pennsylvania College of Technology as the reasons he was able to secure his dream job of working in professional soccer.

"If I didn't play college soccer, I wouldn't have been as prepared to handle the hectic schedule that we have in pro soccer," said Peters, who graduated from Penn College in December 2020. "And having the hands-on assignments in classes really prepared me for the logistical part of my internship, which led to this job."

Peters is responsible for myriad activities. In the off-season, he is busy with relocation for both new players and staff, helping them to set up visas, flights, bank accounts, phone numbers and housing, and outgoing players returning to their home country. He also works to secure preseason training venues, hotels and team activities.

In-season, he handles all aspects of travel – including buses, hotels and meals for away matches; participates in the pre-match roster exchange and referee meeting; provides day-to-day player care, from grocery runs and doctor's appointments to family member immigration; and connects with new players to ensure they have everything they need to move to Real Salt Lake.

"Honestly, there's so much more that goes into what we do!" Peters said.

The Germansville native matriculated to Penn College in large part because the institution had just become a member of NCAA Division III, as well as the personal recruiting provided by men's soccer head coach Tyler Mensch.

"Coach (Mensch) is absolutely the biggest reason why I came to Penn College," Peters said without hesitation. "He's very

personable and attempted to get to know me as a human during the recruiting process and was very polite to my entire family. He's an overall great person, and he's more than a coach to me."

Peters initially enrolled at Penn College in the physician assistant major but switched to business administration: sport and event management concentration because he felt it was the best major to put him on the path to working in professional sports.

And it was.

In the summer of 2019, Peters interned with Reading United, a USL League Two team, which led to a game operations internship with the Philadelphia Union, of the MLS, in the spring of 2020. Peters took classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays and commuted to Chester on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to finish his internship.

"It was a sacrifice I knew I had to make in order for my dream of working in pro sports to come true," said Peters, who transitioned to an equipment internship in May 2020. "Being a student-athlete, with the hectic schedules, long road trips, and balancing classes and social life, prepared me well to make that commitment."

Peters' sacrifice and commitment paid off in September 2020 when he flew to Salt Lake City to interview with the Real Monarchs of the United Soccer League and was offered a team administrator job soon after. At the end of the Monarchs' 2021 season in October, Peters was promoted to assistant team administrator for Real Salt Lake, the Monarchs' MLS affiliate, in time for RSL's playoff run to the Western Conference Finals.

"Chris is the classic example of a student who sought out an internship that paved the way to a professional opportunity in his major," said Chip D. Baumgardner, associate professor of business administration/management. "By obtaining a highly sought-after internship, Chris turned it into an incredible job that is a great fit for his career path." ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL

BUILDING OTHERS' DREAMS

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

BIKE RIDES ARE COMMON FOR TODD J. FOX AND HIS WIFE, ERIN.

They often pedal about the Williamsport area, enjoying the exercise and savoring the fresh air. But one summertime excursion a few weeks before their September 2021 nuptials proved special. This ride had a specific destination – a part of Fox’s past that foretold his future.

The pair navigated from the Susquehanna River Walk to Maynard Street and turned left at the black macadam road colored with blue paw prints, denoting Pennsylvania College of Technology’s main campus. They breezed past the college’s entrance sign and about 50 yards later slowed to a stop along the left berm. Fox directed Erin’s attention away from the collection of water fountains enhancing the gateway to one of countless commemorative red bricks adjacent to the road and basking in the afternoon sun.

The faded black lettering paid tribute to Fox and the Alumni Citizenship/

Humanitarian Award the college bestowed on him in 2008 for distinguished community service. At that time, Fox was executive director of Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity.

“I had to show her. Erin is from Illinois and lived in State College. She had never seen the campus,” Fox said.

Erin was struck by the beauty of Penn College but not surprised by the award recognition noted on the brick. It reflects Fox’s profound commitment to community that he’s extended far beyond the borders of northcentral Pennsylvania since receiving the alumni accolade. The 1998 graduate is an organizational development consultant for the capacity building division of Habitat for Humanity International, the global nonprofit organization that helps families obtain access to new or improved housing.

“I think in life that we need to be able to think less of ourselves and more about impacting another person. If I can be a positive influence on someone and be part

of a cause that has an impact in their life, then I want to be part of that,” Fox said.

The capacity building division is responsible for allocating about \$10 million annually in federal grants to some of Habitat’s 1,100 domestic affiliates, chosen from an application process. Fox is one of three organizational development consultants who assist affiliates awarded funding to maximize growth potential.

The aid often includes nonprofit leadership coaching, fundraising support, and relationship facilitation between the local Habitat office and community stakeholders. Fox is based in Williamsport but is responsible for providing such services to affiliates throughout the Eastern Seaboard as well as in Idaho, Wyoming and California.

“It’s a very powerful movement what we do, seeing the impact of a family’s life changing,” Fox said in explaining why he left a successful and comfortable career in banking about 14 years ago to devote his professional life to families seeking a

“hand up rather than a handout.”

Since its 1976 founding in rural Georgia, Habitat for Humanity has helped approximately 35 million people in all 50 states and 70-plus countries obtain safe and affordable housing. The renowned Christian organization relies on supporters and volunteers from all backgrounds and faiths to fulfill its vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

The typical process requires families to complete an application with their local Habitat organization for housing possibilities. A local selection committee picks applicants based on level of need, financial history, willingness to assist in the building process and ability to repay an affordable mortgage. The affiliate usually coordinates the build with a paid construction team and community volunteers. In the end, the family purchases a home with a 30-year, interest-free mortgage paid to the Habitat affiliate. The monthly payments help fund future home builds.

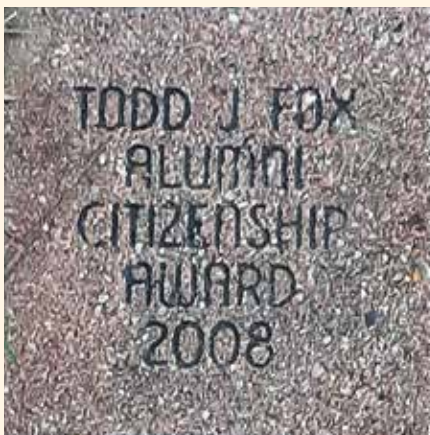
“Traditionally, what’s built are 1,100- to 1,200-square-foot, energy-efficient homes,” Fox said. “They are built to help families maintain affordability over the long term.

“Some people think we give homes away. That’s not even close to the truth. Nothing is given. Future homeowners have to make a down payment and contribute hundreds of hours of sweat equity during construction.”

“Sweat equity” is an apt description of Fox’s time at Penn College. It took him nearly six years and plenty of long nights to earn an associate degree in business management. The Lycoming County native juggled a couple classes per semester with full-time employment at what today is known as M&T Bank. ▶▶

Todd J. Fox '98, bottom right, is grateful for the opportunity to impact others through his work with Habitat for Humanity International. The organization, with the help of volunteers, top left and top right, helps to build homes across the U.S. and in 70 countries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL



“I think in life that we need to be able to think less of ourselves and **more about impacting another person.**”



Fox's love of numbers and people directed him to a career in finance. A series of banking jobs confirmed his aspirations, paid for college and complemented his education. The real-world experience that instructors Dennis Williams and Ray Tyler brought to that education left an enduring impression.

"They were good businesspeople and applied that as professors. They understood not only the bookwork, but how it translates to real life, and that made sense to me," Fox recalled. "They lived it and taught it, so it was a unique perspective that they would bring."

When he enrolled at Penn College, Fox was fresh out of high school. By the time he graduated, he was classified as a nontraditional student. Being older led to an evolving relationship with the faculty.

"They realized I was working for a purpose – to start a career in business and finance. They saw my work ethic, integrity and job/college load and created more opportunities for dialog and real-life discussions," he said.

The instructors stressed the importance of relationship building, a skill – combined with financial acumen – that propelled Fox up the corporate ladder following graduation. He was community office manager, responsible for asset and lending development,

when he left Woodlands Bank in 2007.

The bank post is responsible for Fox's introduction to Habitat for Humanity. He volunteered for a day with other local bankers to help construct a home. After witnessing the impact of their effort on the family in need, he wanted to do more. Not long after, Fox received a call from a Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity board member, asking him to become executive director. Fox said, "No." Six months later, he was solicited again. This time, Fox said, "Yes."

"I relate it to a redirection in my life and being reminded of the importance of my faith and seeking more of how I could impact others instead of just financially impacting me and my family. I knew it was time for a change," he said.

During the next four years, Fox bolstered the local affiliate by expanding its territory, increasing community and volunteer support, and raising several million dollars. Five to six families each year enjoyed new homes.

"It's neat to have an impact on a family so that they can live in a safer, more comfortable environment without worrying about being able to afford the essentials," he said. "For some, it

may be the step they need to put their children through college. Thankfulness continuously comes to mind seeing this over and over again and realizing that what we do works."

The strong sense of gratitude made Fox's transition to the nonprofit arena much smoother.

"With nonprofits, you need to realize the equipment and facilities may not compare exactly to the corporate world," he said. "You have to realize what's important. Is it having a new laptop or using resources to serve another family? Once you make that switch mentally, there's no going back."

Instead, Fox went further.

In 2011, he left the local affiliate to become a senior fiscal analyst at Habitat for Humanity International, headquartered in downtown Atlanta, about 140 miles north of the home of former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, the organization's most prominent supporters and



volunteers. However, Fox didn't have to relocate to the Peach State.

The remote position allowed him to stay in Williamsport and maintain his connection to the area, strengthened by years of volunteer work. The American Cancer Society, Kiwanis Club, Leadership Lycoming and Fox's church are just some of the entities that have benefited from his boundless desire to serve.

As a senior fiscal analyst for Habitat, Fox ensured affiliates were being accountable, transparent and responsible in spending funds and dealing with their communities. The job was rewarding, but Fox missed direct experiences with families, like the time a woman walked into her new home's laundry room, saw the washer and dryer, and asked, "Where do I put my quarters?"

"When I heard that, I'm thinking it's just a washer and dryer, something most of us take for granted. Experiences like that remind me that I have so much to be thankful for," he said. "I've

been blessed with a family (in addition to his wife, Fox has two daughters, Emily and Madison) and blessed not to have experienced poverty."

He joined the capacity building division a few years ago for a more personal, active role in assisting affiliates with the Habitat process, from family selections to house dedications.

"I love to see affiliates in communities that are thriving, knowing that we are part of the process to help them grow," Fox said. "Some of my affiliates might be building one home a year, and others are building 30 or 40. It's the full range."

Fox's commitment to Habitat's mission isn't lost on his boss.

"Todd starts every day trying to help affiliates do the best they can to increase access to affordable housing to those who are underserved," said Anna Beningo, director of the capacity building division. "Todd works to ensure that affiliates are doing their jobs the best way they can, and at times, he suggests ways in which

they could improve their policies and procedures. He has their best interests at heart."

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed travel and the personal experiences that Fox craves. Like other Habitat team members, he's had to rely on virtual meetings since March 2020, even though home construction builds have continued in some areas. Fox is excited to resume spending one or two weeks a month visiting affiliates when conditions permit.

"I am definitely committed to Habitat for Humanity International. This is where I am to be," he said. "To make an impact, you need to be involved, not invisible. Impact doesn't happen unless you're

involved in the process. I'm thankful for

the opportunity to impact others."

An impact that will endure much longer than the fading recognition on a commemorative brick. ■



Penn College students, on a pre-pandemic Alternative Spring Break trip, participate in a project with Greater Miami Habitat for Humanity. Closer to home, students in building construction majors frequently gain service-learning experience with Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity.

TOMORROW IS IN THE MAKING

LEGACY CAMPAIGN FOR PENN COLLEGE

WHEN DAVIE JANE GILMOUR ANNOUNCED her June 2022 retirement, she launched the public phase of the Legacy Campaign for Penn College, intending to set the stage for future leaders, students, alumni and employers.

Campaign supporters are helping to create opportunities for deserving students in three impactful areas: equipment & facilities that enhance cutting-edge instruction, scholarships that increase access to innovative education, and academics & affinity programming that inspires students to explore their passions.



EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Building the framework for success.

Laserline Inc. has extended its entrustment of a laser power source to Pennsylvania College of Technology's welding and metal fabrication program.



The 2-kilowatt laser power source enables an operational laser cell used for upper-level courses in the college's 55,000-square-foot welding lab.

"Laserline is proud to partner with Penn College through this extended entrustment. The company believes in supporting education and helping to develop the next generation of laser welding experts, and the hands-on nature of Penn College's curriculum is an ideal fit."

WOLFGANG TODT,
VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS FOR LASERLINE

"We are one of a few institutions that couples laser welding technology with 6-axis robots. This provides flexibility that can't be replicated on traditional laser cutting beds. Laserline's technology helps take the curriculum experience to the next level."

RYAN P. GOOD '01, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF WELDING

Forty students in the college's heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis major are gaining valuable hands-on experience at the college's 125-acre heavy equipment operations site, using excavators loaned by industry partners.

"Giving students the experience of Volvo technology will serve not only Highway Equipment and Volvo, but all of our customers who rely on Penn College students and graduates to bring a wide foundation of skill to their employer. We greatly appreciate the talent and quality graduates recruited from the college to support Highway Equipment & Supply's technical needs and our customers' technical needs."

RYAN FLOOD, VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT AND PENN COLLEGE PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

"We are grateful for the continued support of Highway Equipment & Supply and Volvo Construction Equipment. Our students remain excited to have different industry leaders as part of the curriculum and to learn the different facets of technology by Volvo."

RYAN W. PECK '00,
INSTRUCTOR OF DIESEL EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY



Among those learning hands-on with an EC220 E excavator on loan from Volvo Construction Equipment and Highway Equipment & Supply Co. are students (from left) Christian J. English; Jared T. Corson; and John F. Montague (who is also pursuing a bachelor's degree in applied management).





SCHOLARSHIPS

Creating the launchpad for opportunity.

The 13th Foundation Dinner & Auction at Pennsylvania College of Technology generated commitments totaling \$600,700 for student scholarships.

- 49 items auctioned, including items made or donated by students, alumni, and current or retired faculty
- Cunningham Family announces significant pledge to the Legacy Campaign in honor of Gilmour
- \$200,000+ pledged to the Don E. Waltman Memorial Scholarship by dozens of community members and businesses

“The strength of community and the value of an applied technology education was clearly affirmed through the generosity of our loyal advocates. Scholarship funding creates access and transforms lives. Hundreds of students will benefit from the generosity that was demonstrated at the Dinner & Auction. It was overwhelming and inspiring, a night that I will never forget and always cherish. On behalf of our hardworking, innovative students, I share my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to this meaningful event.”

PRESIDENT DAVIE JANE GILMOUR



PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY J. SHANER

Student college relations assistants Rudy C. Shadle, construction management; Lauryn A. Stauffer, automation engineering technology: robotics & automation; Sydney M. Telesky, human services and restorative justice; and Ally N. Moore, graphic design, assisted guests at the Penn College Foundation Dinner & Auction.



ACADEMICS & AFFINITY

Expanding minds and horizons.

A gift from Dan and Monica Klingerman funded the renovation of the Wildcat Athletics offices, now known as The Klingerman Family Athletics Suite. The overhaul offers a welcoming and spirited experience for prospective student-athletes and their families. The gift also established the Klingerman Family Wrestling Fund.

“Investing in education is the gateway to the future. Strong academics, paired with a quality student-athlete experience, helps build a foundation for a rewarding career and a successful life. The first visit to campus is impactful. Student-athletes envision their futures, and we want to help them see clearly what life as a Wildcat will offer them.”

DAN AND MONICA KLINGERMAN, THE LIBERTY GROUP

- 88 athletes on the dean’s list
- 3.31 overall student-athlete GPA
- 2 teams competed in NCAA Division III Championships



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CURTAIN

COLLEAGUES APPLAUD OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S SERVICE, SENSIBILITIES

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday



IT'S A SLIVER IN A DECADES-LONG CAREER,

fragmentary moments from the scores of graduations over which Davie Jane Gilmour has presided. Yet, on the eve of her retirement, they stand out in the blurry parade of capped-and-gowned superstars in bloom.

"At some colleges and universities," she begins, a reverent hush overspreading the Community Arts Center crowd.

"This is where the president or the marshal or the provost would say, 'In order to respect the dignity of our ceremony, please silence your cellphones, put them away and behave yourselves,'" she continues. "But this is Penn College. And we're a college of technology."

With that, Gilmour pulls out a smartphone, tacit permission for the spontaneously smiling audience to do the same.

"I'm going to take the first picture," declares this sudden co-conspirator, whose cell-flash bursts from the podium. "And second of all, keep yours out. Capture the moments *you* want to capture during *your* commencement ceremony."

A guaranteed smile and an instant icebreaker, warming up the murmuring assembly and putting everyone at ease with the promise that the proceedings, however imbued with the customary pomp and circumstance, are ones in which student achievement can be happily and unstuffily celebrated.

While delivered casually and in good humor, it is not a stand-up comic's throwaway gag. In no small measure, it sums up Gilmour's leadership qualities – qualities that are a constant amid cyclical fashion changes in clothing, hair and eyewear; standards encapsulated in her oft-repeated watchwords, "People make the difference."

N CALL



President Davie Jane Gilmour addresses incoming students at UPMC Field during her final convocation at the college's helm. Inset: Gilmour takes the first photo of the ceremony during commencement, encouraging audience members to capture their own memories.



A HANDS-ON PRESIDENT

She has been Pennsylvania College of Technology's president since 1998, willing to take part wherever and whenever and however students are involved.

"Connecting with a student is priceless, and there are so many little and big connections," Gilmour says. "I have had students write to me and remind me of a 10-minute chat that made a difference for them. I watched a student from my First Year Experience class walk across the commencement stage and well up with tears; my thought was, 'Maybe I had a tiny piece of that.' Or the big hug of a returning alum at the athletic field who boasted about his success compared to his high school friends.

"We *all* make a difference."

Ethan M. McKenzie, alumnus and college relations fellow, former Student Government Association president – and a law ▶▶

“
**WE ALL
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE.**
”

HANDS - ON PRESIDENT :

As president, Gilmour has:

- ✓ Driven a car through a ribbon to dedicate a new lab
- ✓ Ridden in a “blue move-in bin” with the wrestling team’s “perfect push”
- ✓ Directed traffic on new student move-in day. “You learn a great deal!”

school-bound devotee of Ralph Waldo Emerson – treasures the connection he forged as an undergrad, however tentatively and belatedly it began.

“The way she eschewed the glorious spotlight, opting instead to work behind the scenes to focus attention on students, was admirable yet unusual – especially in an era when everyone and everything seems accessible at the tap of a finger,” says McKenzie, who graduated in 2021 with a degree in software development and information management. “For many students, our president lived in our imaginations as a benevolent enigma.”

She was painted in broad strokes, he acknowledges: a glimpse of her at a campus event here, abridged remarks published there. But the fine contours remained hazy.

“While we admired her steady leadership from afar, it was only after stepping closer that I came to fully appreciate the strength of her character, the depth of her dedication, the luminance of her light,” adds McKenzie, who briefed the president monthly on organizational developments after he was elected to lead SGA.

“Owing partially to my deep respect for her and partially to my anxious disposition, I often joined these meetings a shaking, nervous mess,” he recounts. “Despite my sometimes-disheveled appearance and sometimes-jumbled sentences, she offered sincere kindness and respect, considered even my most trifling updates and questions with deep thoughtfulness, and treated me always as a peer and never anything less.”

Yes, people make the difference.

It has been Gilmour’s credo since she got word of her selection, ideas sparking as fast as her sprint to the Thompson Professional Development Center for official confirmation.

The co-worker who delivered that news? The same man who hired Gilmour as the college’s first dental hygiene instructor for a brand-new program launched in 1977: longtime faculty member Robert G. Bowers – an emeritus professor of mathematics and recipient of the 2007 Veronica M. Muzic Master Teacher Award.

Bowers was a member of that 20th century Presidential Search Committee, which worked with consultants to identify and vet 16 “well-qualified” final candidates from across the country. The group was narrowed to eight for comprehensive on-campus activities and discussions, and ultimate committee interviews in Harrisburg on April 14-15, 1998.



Gilmour directs traffic on move-in day, 2019.

“Of course, Davie was very well-prepared and articulate as we asked prepared and unprepared questions along with other exploration,” he recounts. “Her analytical mind and her creative thinking skills were on display. Her enthusiasm for her Penn College work and positions held could not be missed.”

Although certain that it was a stressful 90 minutes for Gilmour, Bowers says she honestly presented herself – demonstrating her beliefs and priorities, and emerging as a very viable candidate.

“While positively biased as a friend and colleague, I believe I was able to objectively compare and judge each of the finalists,” he asserts. “However, Davie possessed something that no other candidate could offer: 21 years of supervisory experience, growing responsibilities and a list of substantial accomplishments, from beginning instructor to interim president.”

On the morning of May 4, the committee met for the last time and unanimously recommended to the Penn College Board of Directors that Gilmour be the new president. Robert E. Dunham (who chaired the committee and the Board of Directors) asked Bowers to fetch Gilmour from her office to come to the afternoon board meeting, which was already in session in the PDC.

“I remember this joyous task as if it were yesterday,” Bowers says. “I was never again so excited to deliver good news as on that sunny day in May. Davie was thrilled. As we walked to the board meeting, already she was enthusiastically talking about the future of Penn College.”

“I certainly believed choosing Davie was the absolute correct decision; 23 years later, my belief has been validated.”

Dunham, appointed to the board five years before assuming the chair in 1997, readily recognized Gilmour as the ideal person to chart a much-needed recalibration of Penn College.

“I watched it try to develop as a college of technology. It did a pretty good job of improving itself as a community college

but lacked the leadership and vision to become what it is today,” he says, assessing the institution through 1992 eyes. “The relationship with Penn State was misinterpreted and tenuous. The college seemed willing to continue offering associate degrees and certificates and remain ‘independent,’ even at the risk of severing its ties to Penn State.”

When selected to lead the board, Dunham says, he thought it was time to seek a new direction, to clarify the relationship between Penn College and Penn State for both parties, and to build academic programs that had national visibility.

“New leadership was required, and Davie Gilmour was the perfect choice,” he says. “She had strong academic credentials, natural leadership skills that understood the importance of effective communication, a very good knowledge of the college and the local community, a desire to serve students, and did not have an autocratic leadership style.”

His job was essentially threefold, he explains: Counteract falsehoods and rumors, and try to get the community to better understand Penn State; help mentor a new president; and keep an appropriate distance between Penn College and the university.

“Davie’s job was to listen to the college community, develop a more collegial style with faculty and begin to think about better academic programs with a strong emphasis on students,” adds Dunham, who retired in 1998 from Penn State as senior vice president. “We both took our jobs seriously and spent many hours together. We even took the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory so that we could understand how to better work with each other.”

Another simpatico companion on that presidential path is state Sen. Gene Yaw, who has served the college since 1984, first as general counsel, then as a member of the Board of Directors from 2009 onward.

“To work with one person in virtually the same setting for that long is pretty unique,” says Yaw, who was appointed board chair in 2013. “In all those years – and this may be even more unusual – we’ve always worked together. Not just side-by-side, but together, in the best interests of Pennsylvania College of Technology.”

Cited as his most satisfying institutional outcomes are the development of academic programs that are responsive to the needs of industry and the community, coupled with the facilities that support them.

“Every building that’s risen on that campus – from back when the railroad ran across Susquehanna Street to today – is something to be proud of,” Yaw remarks. “There’s an old saying: ‘Proper



WHAT HAPPENED IN

1977?

- ◇ The first “Star Wars” film (Episode IV) opens.
- ◇ The first Apple II computers go on sale: base price \$1,298 (up to \$2,638, depending on installed memory).
- ◇ “Roots” mini-series airs on television.
- ◇ Elvis Presley dies.
- ◇ NASA’s space shuttle takes its first test flight.
- ◇ Average annual income is \$15,000.
- ◇ A gallon of gas costs 65 cents.
- ◇ The Atari 2600, the first major at-home video game console, is released in North America and sells for \$199.
- ◇ Davie Jane Gilmour is hired as an instructor for the college’s dental hygiene program.

planning prevents poor performance.’ Having the foresight to actually build something, to further a true campus environment, epitomizes Davie’s triumph.”

That partnership has flowed into his personal life, too. Gilmour is godmother to Yaw’s daughter, a former teacher now practicing as a higher-education attorney in Kansas City, Missouri, and has fulfilled “everything you think of when you think of a godparent.”

“Mackenzie has always looked to her for advice, from childhood and all through college,” he says. “They visit every time she comes home. I’m sure talking to Davie has had some impact on our daughter’s choice of career.”

The senator welcomes the opportunity to assist Penn College’s new president, providing continuity to the institution through ongoing board service.

“This has been a once-in-a-lifetime set of circumstances that I was fortunate to have experienced and participated in,” he says, ►►

QUOTES SHE'D LIKE TO

SHARE

“Don’t believe the first thing you hear.”

“People make the **difference.**”



Gilmour takes the podium at a 2004 city press conference announcing the addition of a Fairfield Inn & Suites across Maynard Street from main campus.

allowing that the next president, Michael J. Reed, will likewise put a distinctive stamp on his administration. “I don’t believe we should ever try to clone Davie Jane Gilmour.”

AN OPEN-DOOR PRESIDENT

As many can attest, she’s been accessible to anyone with a question, dilemma or idea.

“Though not surprising, I came to revere how substantive a role Dr. Gilmour played in the institution,” McKenzie says. “‘Be and not seem,’ Emerson advises, and Dr. Gilmour demonstrates. While some presidents are symbolic figureheads, she had no time

for mere appearances; she was all substance. Intimately aware of and involved in all aspects of campus life, she could answer even my most obscure questions immediately and completely. Were I to mention an initiative in development, she could immediately provide cogent, invaluable advice to steer it to reality.”

Despite countless competing obligations, he adds, students always came first for this president.

“Every request I sent for her appearance at, or support of, a student government event was met with unhesitating acceptance. Following a semester-long student-led advocacy campaign, she even approved a significant proposal for changes to campus housing that we submitted to her administration. The college’s stated value of being a ‘student-centered institution’ lived vividly in her leadership.”

Perhaps no one understands that more than front-line personnel, the gatekeeper seated just a whisper away.

“From day one in the President’s Office, she made it quite clear that she would have an open-door policy. No problem was ever inconsequential to her,” says Valerie A. Baier, coordinator of president’s office operations. “She is here for everyone. It is always amusing to me when people have that ‘deer in the headlights look’ when they need to come up here or work on our floor. We are normal people just like them!”

The Penn College alumna (’87, secretarial office administration) has known Gilmour for about 35 years, since Baier was a secretary in the former School of Business & Computer Technologies and the now-president was director of the Health Science Division.

“I remember walking into the school office, and she looked at me and said, ‘I love that coat,’” Baier says. “I knew then we would get along famously! We both love shoes; some may say we have a shoe obsession. Over the years, we have analyzed the perfect pants, jeans, sweaters, coats, etc. We have, at times, shown up in the same outfit!”

A FIRST-NAME-ONLY PRESIDENT

Relinquishing formality for friendliness, Gilmour believes calling her “Davie” carries far more affection than offense.

Such has been the case since the beginning of her time at Penn College, when Bowers (who then served as division director for math, science and allied health) made what he later characterized as the “best decision I ever made for the successful long-term future of Penn College.”

During Gilmour’s initial year of teaching, he says, “We talked a lot about her frustration with inadequate facilities, instructional support and her continuing quest to provide the highest quality of learning experiences leading to student success. Seeing Davie’s strong commitment to her students and observing her own transition to instructional excellence, I quickly knew we had hired a ‘star.’ I did not know how many additional facets of that star would emerge during her 45 years at Penn College.”

And not only at the college.

Strengthening the institution’s reputation in the global

stratosphere, Gilmour was the first woman to chair the Little League Baseball International Board of Directors in its 74-year history, amplifying a connection between two Williamsport-born phenomena that dates to students' earth-moving work to build Little League's South Williamsport complex in the late 1950s.

"Of course, Davie got that position due to her leadership capabilities, not because of gender," affirms Stephen D. Keener, president/CEO of Little League International. "And there's no question that, during her tenure, she significantly elevated the organization's status in the eyes of the world. We couldn't be more fortunate."

The fruits of that collaboration include the 2009 birth of a pre-World Series campus cookout for all of the teams, annually attended by whichever Major League Baseball legend is headlining the Grand Slam Parade that forms on the northern fringe of campus. In 2014, The Gallery at Penn College and First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania hosted artist Charles Fazzino, who worked with fifth-grade students in creating artwork to officially commemorate Little League's 75th anniversary.

"And most recently, because we do have such a good relationship, Penn College was approached when our business was severely impacted by the pandemic," Keener relates. "Having to minimize expenses, we were without food-service operations for the series."

Professional staff from the college's Le Jeune Chef Restaurant – and a mustered army of baking, pastry and culinary arts students – prepared thousands of breakfasts, lunches and dinners for players and coaches near their fields of play.

With meals from an award-winning, fine-dining restaurant, Keener says, one can easily imagine the unanimous response when he asked, "How is the food?"

His relationship with Gilmour has grown from a business

alliance to a cherished friendship, and occasioned one of Keener's favorite moments. In 2013, he reunited with another longtime friend – the late Tom Seaver – when the legendary New York Mets hurler (and celebrated vintner upon retirement) threw the ceremonial first pitch at the inaugural Little League Baseball Intermediate Division World Series in Livermore, California.

"Davie and I shared so many memorable days in her role as chair, but that one may top the list," Keener recounts. "Just watching Tom Seaver engage her for a couple of hours; seeing her talk for two or three hours with a Hall of Famer about wine and baseball. It was a reflection of all her good work, seeing the value in developing and enhancing relationships."

A CIVIC-MINDED PRESIDENT

Gilmour has restored – professionally, purposefully and personally – a sense of community on and off campus. She has served a number of boards in addition to Little League, including Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, UPMC Susquehanna and the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania.

"Her experience and professionalism are frequently called upon by community leaders," notes William J. Martin, whose dedicated service to the college includes a transformative period as senior vice president. "The same can also be said for her stature in the higher-education community. As she approaches retirement, Davie can certainly look back on a career marked by significant accomplishments at the college, in the community and in higher education."

Jennifer D. Wilson, president/CEO of the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, credits Gilmour with favorably changing the landscape – well beyond the college's boundary lines.

"She formed stronger relationships with her peers at Lycoming College to create a partnership, not just for the Community ▶▶



WHY SHE'LL ALWAYS BE A WILDCAT:

"Bright blue and gray are two of my favorite colors."

"I'm one of the few people who have the alma mater memorized."

The college's 2017 float entry in the city's Grand Slam Parade provides a photo opportunity with the Wildcat.

Arts Center but for the City of Williamsport, which highlights the positive economic effect of our ‘college town,’” she says. “Countless nonprofits have benefited from her leadership, impeccable organizational skills and drive for success.

“While a realist, she believes that anything is possible, and she has the unique ability to make others find that same belief in themselves and in their organizations.”

At FCFP, Gilmour has chaired the board of directors, was the first founding member of the Pearls with Passion Fund (which,

since inception, has inspired 275 additional women to participate), and served on the committee that reimagined and transformed the former Ross Club into the FCFP Philanthropy Center.

“I have had the honor of having a front-row seat to observe her magical leadership style and the results it has produced,” Wilson says. “She has mentored me and countless others in this community. Her schedule is demanding, yet she rarely says ‘No’ to a cause or project that is going to positively impact the lives of others.”

Illustrative of that is Gilmour’s 65th birthday celebration in June 2019, which resulted in the collection of more than 70 children’s dresses for Wise Options (an advocacy organization of the YWCA Northcentral PA) and its Liberty House facility. The president invited the donations as part of a communitywide tie-in to a campus gallery exhibit based on “The Hundred Dresses,” Eleanor Estes’ classic children’s book.

“Upon finishing the book, I ordered a butterfly dress, certainly in honor of your birthday but also in honor of all the little girls who don’t get to pick where they go to school or the clothes in their closet,” Wilson wrote to Gilmour at the time. “Just as you do throughout the entire year, your birthday has reminded me of the most important lessons: to act with kindness and generosity, to stand up for the most vulnerable and to offer a voice for those still searching to find their own.

“Butterflies represent a metamorphosis, and in the context of your 65th birthday, they are symbolic of the many ways you transform lives at the college, amongst your circle of friends and in the community – particularly the little girls about to receive new dresses. While I hope they wear them with pride, I pray that their families find transformation through the Liberty House.”

To Steven P. Johnson, president/CEO of UPMC Susquehanna, Gilmour’s tenure at the college is even more remarkable for her extraordinary gifts of service than its duration, which was more than three times longer than the average college president.

“Davie Jane often describes her students as others would describe their biological children; she loves them all and continues to take parent-like pride in their personal accomplishments and community contributions,” says Johnson, who also sits on the college’s Board of Directors.

“She is a tenacious advocate for faculty and staff and the programs they built, refined and optimized,” he says. “She developed her leadership team and made everyone around her better. Her personal preparation, attention to detail and timeliness are legendary.”

He says UPMC Susquehanna – as well as the chamber and First Community Foundation – confirms her business savvy and resolve to make the community a better place to live.

“For the health system, her commitment to patients is reflected in her chairmanship of the committee that planned and supervised the patient tower addition at Williamsport, the cancer center at Divine Providence and the new emergency department at Muncy,” the health care administrator says. Gilmour chairs the system’s

HER PENN COLLEGE

FAVORITES:



- ◇ students
- ◇ people
- ◇ the beautiful campus
- ◇ learning new technologies
- ◇ hearing how we change lives





ABOVE: 1. Gilmour is officially installed as president during a 1998 convocation ceremony. From left: Robert Dunham, then-Board of Directors chairman; Gilmour; Student Government Association President Kenneth R. Harding Jr.; and Veronica M. Muzic, who would later retire as vice president for academic affairs/provost. 2. Gilmour joins culinary arts students in the prep line during a 2011 dinner to benefit the Tracy A. Garis Memorial Scholarship. 3. The president deftly wields a plasma cutter to sever a metal ribbon during a dedication ceremony for the expanded Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center in 2020. 4. Gilmour connects with student Colin D. McOdrum during a 2017 community peace walk to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day, (5.) dunks herself for the viral ice bucket challenge in 2014, and (6.) meets with students on her first day as president in 1998.

BELOW: The president (7.) reviews plans at the Dauphin Hall construction site in 2010 with since-retired Walter D. Nyman, director of general services, and Andrew M. Richardson, construction manager; (8.) addresses the crowd at the 2014 Little League World Series as chair of the Little League International Board of Directors; (9.) fulfills a 2012 vow to kiss a cow as part of a student fundraising effort; and (10.) reads to youngsters at the Dunham Children’s Learning Center in 2009.





THE GILMOUR ERA

- 1977:** instructor, dental hygiene
- 1983:** assistant professor, dental hygiene
- 1983:** interim coordinator, dental hygiene
- 1984:** acting director of health sciences/coordinator of dental hygiene
- 1985:** director of health sciences and coordinator of dental hygiene
- 1986:** director of health science division/coordinator of dental auxiliary programs
- 1989:** interim associate dean of instruction, academic affairs
- 1990:** dean of instruction
- 1993:** vice president for academic affairs
- 1996:** vice president for academic affairs and provost
- 1997:** interim chief operating officer/vice president for academic affairs and provost
- 1998:** interim president/vice president for academic affairs/provost
- 1998:** president

Commencement, Spring 1998

Governance Committee and serves as the vice chair of the regional board and, he adds, continues to be an unwavering proponent of quality and safety.

“Davie is a woman of enormous intellect, fearless confidence and genuine authenticity, and has the rare ability to demand high performance while inspiring innovative thinking and organizational loyalty,” Johnson remarks. “Pennsylvania College of Technology has been blessed by her leadership, and our community has been blessed by her friendship.”

He’ll get no argument from Vince Matteo, who arrived in Williamsport after serving chambers of commerce in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton.

“When I was hired to become president/CEO of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce in 2001, Dr. Gilmour was chairman of the board,” says Matteo, who retired in 2018. “I started in April, so for the critical first nine months of my 18-year tenure, Dr. Gilmour and I were figuratively ‘joined at the hip.’ In addition to learning the job, I needed to learn who the players were in the chamber and the community at large, and Davie was instrumental to my successful transition.”

During those years, Matteo adds, she remained an important adviser – serving another term as chair, as well as being the first to lead the chamber’s Economic & Community Growth Corp.

“Dr. Gilmour is a leader who understands the importance of having a successful community. In her role as president of Penn College, she has made certain that the college plays an integral role in the success of Williamsport and Lycoming County. She realizes that, without a successful community, Penn College could not thrive,” he says. “I worked with many leaders during my time at the

chamber – and in my 38 years’ total in three chambers – and I can say without a doubt: No person cares more about the community than Dr. Gilmour.

“I know I would not have been as successful without her guidance and support, and for that, I will be eternally grateful to her.”

A TRAILBLAZING PRESIDENT

Dunham, who presided over one of the most fertile periods of the college’s growth – his role was reflected in the naming of the Children’s Learning Center for him and his wife, Maureen, a retired elementary school teacher – acknowledges that a college “does not transform itself ... without superb leadership.”

“In her years as president, she has led and inspired and has brought academic integrity and high standards to the college,” he says. “She fosters an environment in which all people feel genuinely included. She has created a healthy campus community and a sense of pride. Through her excellent leadership, she has contributed greatly to her college and to her community and has made Penn College a unique, national model. Different from Williamsport Area Community College, and different from any Penn State campus.

“I am truly proud of Davie Gilmour. I will continue to be her cheerleader. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her contribution to Penn College and the Williamsport community.”

Ever since Gilmour announced her June 2022 retirement last spring, each event has carried a pensive and poignant reminder of finality. August brought her last Welcome Weekend. Her last Homecoming followed a month later, and May will present her last

OUR

Students enrolled in baccalaureate programs

Fall 1998: 25% of students

Fall 2021: 60%

College-owned housing capacity

Fall 1998: 650

Fall 2021: 1,524

Athletics

1998-99: 11 intercollegiate sports

2021-22: 16 NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports

Master's degrees

Fall 1998: 0

Fall 2021: 2

Library

1998: 288 seats

2021: 1,000 seats



BY THE NUMBERS

Commencement, Summer 2018

A FORWARD-THINKING PRESIDENT

Complementing Gilmour's countdown to departure is a tripartite Legacy Campaign: academics and affinity, equipment and facilities, and scholarships – aspects of Penn College that resound deeply within her.

"The whole concept of international programs, having opportunities to study abroad, is an important one," she explains. "That's not just me talking. Students have told us, time and again, about those life-changing experiences."

The corporate partnerships that have equipped so much of the college's instructional space are also a key component of the campaign, subtitled "Tomorrow is in the making."

"We can only be as effective as the machinery and technology through which our students learn," she says. "Scholarship support is equally important."

Her father, a blue-collar tradesman, and her schoolteacher mom worked "really, really hard" to put her through college, and Gilmour understands how finances can stimulate or stifle a student's aspirations.

Typically, this president would balk at talk of "legacy." She would rather the story be less about her "and more about what we've done collectively." But even if she's not remotely boastful, ascribing to others the attributes that she herself embodies, Gilmour has bragging rights.

A self-compiled playlist of her greatest hits: "Providing the resources for student success; hiring excellent faculty, support staff and resources to assist students; cultivating relationships that allow us to remain current in our laboratories and facilities; streamlining processes and practices to allow us to mitigate ►►

chance to photograph graduates from the Community Arts Center stage.

"It hits me typically as I prepare, right before the event," she says of the accompanying bittersweetness. "Each brings its own memories and stories to my mind."

Instance upon instance of looking back. Reminiscing about good deeds done and, if done right, few regrets.

"My goal has always been to remove the barriers," she says, "so we can all accomplish what we're supposed to accomplish."

And what accomplishments there have been!

"Under her leadership, the academic portfolio has increased and now includes several graduate programs," says Martin, among Gilmour's most faithful colleagues and friends since their Williamsport Area Community College days. "National recognition for the college, including increasingly higher ratings in U.S. News and World Report (Best Colleges), occurred during her tenure, and the college made significant advances in its physical plant while Davie was president." (See "Landmarks of a Legacy," Pages 30-31.)

On all of those projects in all of those years – projects over which Martin had meticulous oversight – Gilmour has seldom done a groundbreaking or a building dedication the same way twice. She has wielded a welding torch and a masonry trowel, climbed aboard a piece of heavy equipment to open a PennDOT truck-wash bay on which students worked, drove an automobile through a checkered "ribbon" to inaugurate a new Honda lab, and illuminated the footprint for the Madigan Library.

Enhanced student life, including NCAA membership for Wildcat athletics, were among other activities that she directed, Martin says.

“Be organized – the key to my survival.”

or remove roadblocks to matriculation, graduation and access to education; putting students first in decision-making; and connecting the college to the community.”

Among the many beneficiaries of that “students first” mindset, McKenzie says he “could fill many pages” with his admiration for this singular president, “but it wouldn’t be enough.”

“I regret my inability – our inability – to repay the profound service Dr. Gilmour paid to the college and the community. Let us honor her legacy by investing in our community as she did: fully and irrespective of any reward.”

A CRISIS PRESIDENT

As she celebrates her substantial imprint during an overwhelmingly positive 45-year collegiate run, Gilmour has been equally present during the lowest lows that life can deal.

“It’s the unexpected that resonates,” the president recalls. “9/11 and the impact on all of us, the deaths of students and faculty, the flooding of facilities, power outages, the pandemic, enrollment declines. The unpredictable has tested us as an institution and me as a leader.”

Baier distinctly remembers Sept. 11, 2001 – “what I was doing and what she was doing.” The office coordinator recalls “knocking on the conference room door that day and telling Davie and the folks with her that they needed to watch the television.”

“What a defining moment for us as a nation and the college. She was a rock,” Baier recounts. “There were so many other instances when we were in ‘crisis’ (COVID, low enrollment, budget), when Davie stepped up to the plate and handled it like a pro.”

McKenzie says his final regret is in not crossing Gilmour’s path until “day’s end,” but suggests that this is no sunset.

“She ends her presidency not with a weary sigh, but with the same vigorous commitment to right for which she has always been known,” he says. “Rather than shy from legacy-threatening challenges, she steered this ship in her final years through its most transformative storms, taking on major rebrands and restructures, an institutionwide recentering on inclusion, and the pandemic, to name a few.”

The college’s response to COVID-19, maintaining hands-on instruction against the smart-money odds, is a clear example of Gilmour’s top-down leadership. Straddling the line between easing anxiety and making often-unpopular choices, she prevented classes from going strictly virtual past Spring 2020.

“Keeping us open and face-to-face through the pandemic were among the most difficult decisions I have faced in my life,” the president says. “The responsibility is more than I could have ever imagined.”

Such challenges soon will evaporate into contentment.

**A RETIRING PRESIDENT**

“Just don’t ask me what I’m going to do next,” Gilmour cautions. Travel with husband, Fred, is definitely in the plans, hitting the road to give her successor an unfettered opportunity to settle in. The rest is negotiable, a work-free work in progress.

Maybe she’ll exercise her lighter side as she exorcises her alarm clock, letting popular culture ease her into more leisurely pursuits. Not that she’s ever been strictly business.

“My favorite movies would probably make people laugh,” she shares, listing the three films that top the list. “‘The American President’ – there’s some great dialogue in that one; ‘Top Gun’ (‘Goose’ is my favorite) and ‘Red,’ another movie with great lines.”

“I also love contemporary mystery and spy novels,” Gilmour adds. “Fiction for fun; nonfiction is confined to work topics for me.”

On her office sideboard, shunted by the day’s calendar, AKA a series of blue-tinted squares that denote an overflowing slate of meetings, is another book awaiting her attention.

Its pages are empty, but only for now, anticipating the itinerary of a retiree with time – finally, time – to spare.

Those resolute community ties will continue, and it’ll be hard to resist the call to mentor new civic leaders. She will, no doubt, relish waking up now and then with nowhere else to be.

Accompanying her journeys “wherever” will be a harmonious chorus of well-wishers, the voices of those still with us and others, such as Gilmour’s late parents – the welder and the educator – and longtime colleague Veronica M. Muzic, who beam from their off-campus vantage.

Their song will echo the words adorning the cover of that beckoning journal, a phrase that evokes both challenge and invitation: “Let the adventure begin.” ■

Perle

A *gem* FORMED FROM *grit*

Michelin-trained chef demonstrates resilience at Perle Restaurant

by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/magazine editor

CHEF DEAN YASHARIAN '03 IS A VETERAN of some of the world's best kitchens. When he dreamed of launching his own restaurant, Perle is the place he envisioned: a small restaurant in the community where he lives and where great food is the focus. A place for "foodies."

But he didn't envision the disruption of a pandemic. Typically, he says, a new owner can expect to spend every day at their restaurant for the first three months. For Yasharian, it stretched to two years as he repeatedly redirected – and fired and rehired staff – to meet public health protocols that seemed to turn on a dime.

Nonetheless, Yasharian and his team have persevered. Perle Restaurant is one of nine Pasadena restaurants – out of 600 – to earn a coveted spot in the 2021 Michelin Guide (it received a Michelin Plate) and food editors from Eater, the Los Angeles Times and others have touted it as one of the LA area's best French eateries. ▶▶





Outdoor dining – enhanced when the city added concrete barriers to block on-street parking – became the restaurant’s “saving grace” for the better part of a year.

OPENING

Perle Restaurant is a 50-seat, upscale casual bistro in Old Town Pasadena, California. It is named for Yasharian’s oldest daughter and was slated to open on his son’s birthday: March 20, 2020.

The timing “couldn’t have been worse,” Yasharian said – but there were reasons behind it.

“As a young chef, you have an idea of your first restaurant – what you might want that to look like, what you dreamt about,” Yasharian explained. “The reality is that raising money for a restaurant if you don’t have it is a daunting experience. That was the first stage of the process. It doesn’t necessarily happen overnight.”

It also took time to find the right property and to navigate a sea of bankers, lawyers and contractors. When they finally got the key to the Union Street, Pasadena, property, Dean and his wife, Pauline, did many of the renovations themselves.

“All of this led to the timing of our opening week,” Yasharian said. “We got about 20 staff trained. We were going to do the soft opening on Friday, and we found out on Wednesday that was the shutdown.”

He knows of other restaurants planning to open around the same time that simply waited another year. But Yasharian needed income. So he watched and, like everyone else, hoped the world would reopen in a few weeks. When it didn’t, he modified his menu for takeout.

“I hated it. I didn’t want to be schlepping food in containers, but that’s what everyone was doing,” Yasharian said.



After a year and a half, Yasharian was excited for his bartender to finally work behind the bar and had plans for intricate food/beverage collaborations.

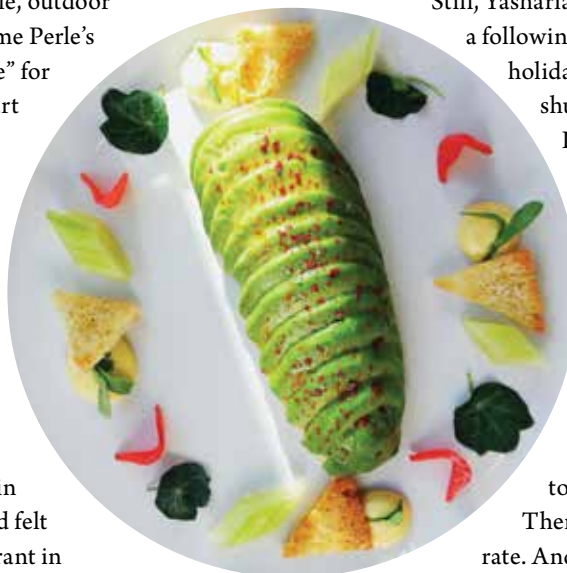
After a series of more changes from local, county and state governments – from takeout-only to limited indoor dining to more shutdowns – Pasadena encouraged its restaurants to place tables outdoors, no permits needed, and blocked on-street parking to provide more space. With 30 seats available, outdoor dining became Perle’s “saving grace” for the better part of a year.

“That literally is the only thing that kept us afloat,” Yasharian said. “That was the first time we got in a rhythm and felt like a restaurant in a way.”

Meanwhile, summer 2020 wildfires nearby created very poor air quality (“It was snowing ash,” Yasharian recalled, but diners kept their outdoor reservations).

“We had a lot of things coming at us,” Yasharian said. “It was just a nutty time.”

Adding to the challenge, because of its newness, the restaurant was not eligible for the government assistance that many other businesses received, since funding was based on financial figures between specific dates in 2019.



Perle Restaurant, outfitted with between-table barriers for the pandemic, succeeded in building a following in a year affected not only by the pandemic, but wildfires and civil protests.

“I fought and fought and fought,” Yasharian said. “It’s kind of sad, because if you’re a ‘mom and pop’ like us, and you’ve got your life savings tied into it, and all of a sudden, the government says, ‘You don’t get any help,’ then you basically lose everything, and I’ve seen it.”

Still, Yasharian and his team built a following. Over the 2020 holidays – when another shutdown arrived – Perle’s premium six-course takeout offerings were popular, as were its specials for Valentine’s (the restaurant sold five pounds of caviar) and Mother’s days. “It’s hard enough to open a restaurant. There’s a 99% failure rate. And then you’ve got this challenge (the pandemic) on top of that, and all these other things that came in. We have this sort of confidence that if we can make it through that, we should be OK.”

ROOTS

Perle’s menu reflects Yasharian’s background in French cuisine and a connection with the surrounding environment that was cultivated in childhood.

Yasharian, the youngest of seven, was born when his parents, Marcella and Dale, operated a dairy farm on Armenia

“You have to be **100% all in**. To be a good chef, you’ve got to **make that commitment**.”

Mountain in Pennsylvania’s Northern Tier. Soon after, his father took a job on a 1,000-acre farm in Harpursville, New York.

“I never would have thought that I would be a chef growing up, but I always had that connection with the farm,” Yasharian said. “We were kind of a meat and potatoes house, but we always had fresh vegetables from the garden. We had a sweet corn stand. We’d gather our own eggs. We’d have our own cow butchered every year. So we always had that connection from farm to table.”

He remembers helping his mother in the kitchen and watching Julia Child cooking shows with her.

But his interest in a culinary career was piqued at age 16, when his family moved back to Pennsylvania to farm his father’s homestead near Wyalusing.

The Hitchkos, the parents of a high school friend, owned a restaurant near Wyalusing Valley Junior-Senior High School that became an after-school hangout for Yasharian. Originally from Connecticut, they brought “very good” Italian and Greek/Mediterranean food to the bucolic town of 600.

Eating was naturally part of the after-school experience.

“We’d walk down into the kitchen and make a big bowl of hot wings and go outside and eat them,” Yasharian said. “Eventually, the old man said, ‘If you’re going to keep eating my food, you’d better start washing some dishes.’”

Yasharian started washing dishes for free, but soon, Mr. Hitchko offered him a job.

“It’s the old dishwasher story,” Yasharian joked. “I started washing dishes, and then I was immediately sort of enjoying it, watching the guys work in the kitchen, and I wanted a taste of what they were doing.”

So he moved from dishwasher to line cook, but he was still unsure what he wanted to do when a Pennsylvania College

of Technology representative visited a career event at his high school.

“Within that presentation, I heard about the culinary program,” he recalled. “I was cooking at the time, and I was enjoying it, so I said ‘Why not?’ and went for it.”

He enrolled in Fall 1999 and “clicked” early on with Chef Michael J. Ditchfield, instructor of hospitality management/culinary arts. The two have remained friends.

“I liked learning about nature’s bounty,” Yasharian said of his classes with Ditchfield, a longtime proponent of local and sustainable foods. “It was my first introduction to supporting local, eating local and learning the classic dishes of the area, wherever you are.”

Following his freshman year, he secured an internship at Chef Stephan Pyles’ Star Canyon restaurant in Las Vegas. Pyles is known as the founder of modern Texas cuisine.

Yasharian now offers similar opportunities to students from a nearby culinary school. Many have remained on his staff.

He tries to instill in them the dedication it takes to succeed in the demanding industry.

“You have to be 100% all in, or you’re going to be miserable, and eventually you’re not going to want to do this anymore,” Yasharian advises. “I think, to be a good chef, you’ve got to make that commitment; you’ve got to really immerse yourself in it.”

“After that (internship) in Vegas, I made that decision with myself, because even the

first two semesters, you don’t know. You don’t know if this is still for you. But after the experience I had there, I was all in. I came back sort of amped.”

Yasharian also decided, upon return from Vegas, to work for one of the best restaurants in town, and with Ditchfield’s

recommendation, he secured a job with Chef Kevin Nash at the Old Corner

Hotel in downtown Williamsport. He then was part of Nash’s opening team at 33 East (since closed) and completed another internship at a high-volume resort in Virginia Beach en route to his bachelor’s degree in culinary arts technology.



CAMBRIDGE

After graduation, he headed to Cambridge, England, where his sister lived, and dropped resumes “everywhere.”

Midsummer House, on the banks of the River Cam, is the only restaurant that responded. It turned out to be the best restaurant in Cambridge – one of the top five in the United Kingdom – and the holder of a Michelin star. Chef Daniel Clifford granted him a one-week trial.

Yasharian compared Clifford’s kitchen demeanor to the likes of the famously fiery Chef Gordon Ramsay, for whom he would later work.

“I think what Gordon does is he represents a generation of chefs with that mentality that he got famous for, but when I see him acting like that, I don’t think of Gordon Ramsay,” Yasharian said. “I think of a lot of chefs that are very similar. It’s an extreme learning environment. The British Michelin chefs are sort of unique. They’re kind of a dying breed now, I think. But I wanted that. I don’t know why I wanted to go get abused, but I did.”

Yasharian survived his trial week and ▶▶



Yasharian travels home to Pennsylvania for a barbecue on the family farm.



Yasharian and his son, Mason, with acclaimed restaurateur Chef Daniel Boulud. Yasharian worked for Boulud for 10 years, climbing from junior sous chef at Restaurant Daniel to executive chef of Bar Boulud London.

stayed for about a year as chef de partie on a kitchen staff of seven.

“It’s like a grueling, 8 a.m. to midnight/1 o’clock in the morning day, and if you’re five minutes late, you’re not allowed in, and if your jacket’s not ironed, you have to get out and come back. If you didn’t order properly for the next day, you’re on a bike flying up to the Cambridge Market. I used to grab the dishwasher’s bicycle in a panic and go get some potatoes or something because I forgot to put it on the order sheet,” he said.

“It’s the hardest kitchen I’ve ever worked in, still, and I’ve been to a few other good ones after that.”

Due to visa complications, he returned to the U.S. In the end, he was relieved to leave but grateful for the experience.

During Yasharian’s tenure, Midsummer House was awarded its second Michelin star. “The chef called me up in New York at the time and said ‘thank you,’ and it was kind of special.”

NEW YORK CITY

From Cambridge, he moved to New York City, where another sister lived.

“I think I walked all of Manhattan and dropped resumes everywhere,” he recalled.

One of the only kitchens to call him was Restaurant Daniel in Manhattan’s

Upper East Side, owned by esteemed French restaurateur Daniel Boulud, who has produced some of the country’s best chefs: the likes of Thomas Keller (of The French Laundry) and David Chang (of Momofuku).

“I absolutely loved it,” Yasharian said. He spent three years at the restaurant as a junior sous chef.

He took a break from Restaurant Daniel when Ramsay opened a restaurant in New York. Again he was hired as a junior sous chef. The restaurant earned two Michelin stars in its first year. Yasharian said it was an impressive operation, but he stayed only a year.

“Stepping away from Daniel’s umbrella, I realized how much more I appreciated him,” Yasharian said. “I respected his company, and I felt I could grow more with Daniel.”

Yasharian helped to open Bar Boulud, near Lincoln Center in New York. It wasn’t necessarily the Michelin-level cooking he thought he’d stay with, but it was a project close to Boulud’s heart because it represented the food of his roots in Lyon, France.

“I felt like I was taking a step back in terms of quality at first, but it was to gain management experience, mostly,”

Yasharian said. “It was my first sous chef gig.”

When the restaurant’s chef de cuisine left, Yasharian was bumped to that position and remained there as the kitchen’s second in command for about three years, until Boulud made plans to open a second Bar Boulud in London.

Meanwhile, Yasharian had met Pauline, and they were married in New York City in 2009. Ditchfield was a guest at the wedding. In the same month, Food Network viewers watched Yasharian win a “Chopped” episode in Season 3 of the long-running competition series.

LONDON

In 2010, the Yasharians moved to London, where Dean was the opening executive chef for Bar Boulud in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. In its first year, the restaurant climbed to top 5 in the U.K. and was included on San Pellegrino’s annual list of the world’s top 100 restaurants.

It also ignited a gourmet burger craze in the city.

“Even the local butchers thought we were crazy because we were using slightly better cuts of meat for our burger,” Yasharian said. “But then, sure enough, everyone started doing the same thing as us.”

The restaurant also reversed a London law against serving burgers cooked to less than medium doneness, inviting the health department into the restaurant for two weeks as Yasharian and Bar Boulud helped to write the protocol for serving burgers cooked rare or medium-rare.

“Then literally every restaurant had to follow suit after this if they wanted to make their own burgers and be able to serve them at the lower temperature,” Yasharian said.

While in London, he received a shoutout from the renowned Chef Keller in a September 2011 interview in *British GQ*, and he appeared with Chef Boulud on NBC’s “Today” show, demonstrating London tailgating recipes, during the 2012 Summer Olympics there.

Yasharian remained with Bar Boulud London until 2015, when he and Pauline, now parents, set their eyes on the Los Angeles area, where Pauline had grown up.

HOLLYWOOD

Coincidentally, Chateau Marmont, an iconic celebrity hangout in West Hollywood, was looking for a chef and recruited Yasharian – not knowing he was interested in moving to the area.

He didn’t necessarily want to be a hotel chef, but he’d learned a great deal about it at Bar Boulud. And Chateau Marmont, with its rich Hollywood history, “is not your average hotel.”

“Literally everybody’s ‘somebody’ in the dining room, and you don’t have to freak out because Jay-Z’s on a table, because literally somebody’s on every table,” Yasharian said.

It is the site of after-parties for the Oscars and movie premieres, and

his kitchens catered penthouse parties and other events.

But the hotel on Sunset Boulevard was not known for good cuisine: “They’re not there for the food; they’re there because it’s the Chateau Marmont, and that’s where they socialize,” Yasharian said.

Among the famous who loved to stay at the Chateau was the late Chef Anthony Bourdain, a food-travel television series host. While working for Restaurant Daniel in New York, Yasharian had helped to prepare an after-hours dinner for the top chefs of New York – the likes of Keller, Emeril Lagasse and Eric Ripert (La Bernadin) – that Bourdain considered one of his favorite meals.

“Probably the most memorable course was the ortolan. That’s the one that Anthony talked about from time to time,” Yasharian said.

Yasharian explained that the since-banned French dish – a small bird eaten whole – and the method of serving it date to medieval times. Since it can be messy, diners place a black cloak over their head.

“So you saw all these guys putting the black napkin over their head, and they just love the whole theater and experience of it. And then we were able to go into the room and have some wine with them.”

Years later, at Chateau Marmont, Bourdain advised Yasharian about what menu items could be changed and what must stay.

“It was great to hear his insight on the Chateau,” Yasharian said. “I took a lot of what he said to heart.”

Yasharian helped to rebuild the hotel’s busy kitchens and, in his first year, saved \$300,000 in food purchasing alone.

“I had my hands full there, but ultimately, I knew my job was just to improve the food a little bit,” Yasharian said. “The whole time, I wanted to get back to doing

things that were more meaningful for me. I wanted to cook for foodies again; I didn’t want to cook for Hollywood anymore.”

He wanted to be in his own community, build relationships, and cook for people who were coming to see him and eat his food.

“Ultimately, I am where I wanted to be,” Yasharian said.

DRIVE

But it’s not his last stop.

In September, when interviewed, Yasharian was regrouping after a long period in crisis mode, strengthening his team to go full occupancy – and finally have a grand opening – at the quality he wants to deliver.

“There’s still a drive to make this restaurant the best it can be,” Yasharian said. “There’s still a lot more we can do to achieve that.”

Repaying his investors and restoring his work-life balance are motivators, too. And he’d like to open another, bigger restaurant.

“If we can get 50 seats right, then maybe we can talk about future projects, and \$3 million openings, and maybe I won’t have to reupholster the chairs and paint the walls for the next one,” he smiled.

From today’s vantage near the top of the industry, he remains as committed as he was when he returned from his Las Vegas internship as a Penn College student. Ditchfield has watched that devotion pay off.

“He was hungry,” Ditchfield said. “He was a kid from rural Pennsylvania, and he wanted to see what was out there. So he got the fear out of the way, and he did it. That’s the hardest thing for me to get through to students. A question for them would be: How bad do you want it, and are you willing to do what it takes to make your dream a reality?”

“Not everyone’s going to be famous,” the chef/instructor added. “Not everyone’s going to be rich. Not everyone’s going to be on TV. But this is still the land of opportunity, and it could be you. We’ve got a lot of graduates doing great things.”

Yasharian is proof. ■



Landmarks of a Legacy

Since being named president in 1998, Davie Jane Gilmour has led physical growth and expansion that represent responsiveness to student and workforce needs, and an aesthetic that instills Wildcat pride.



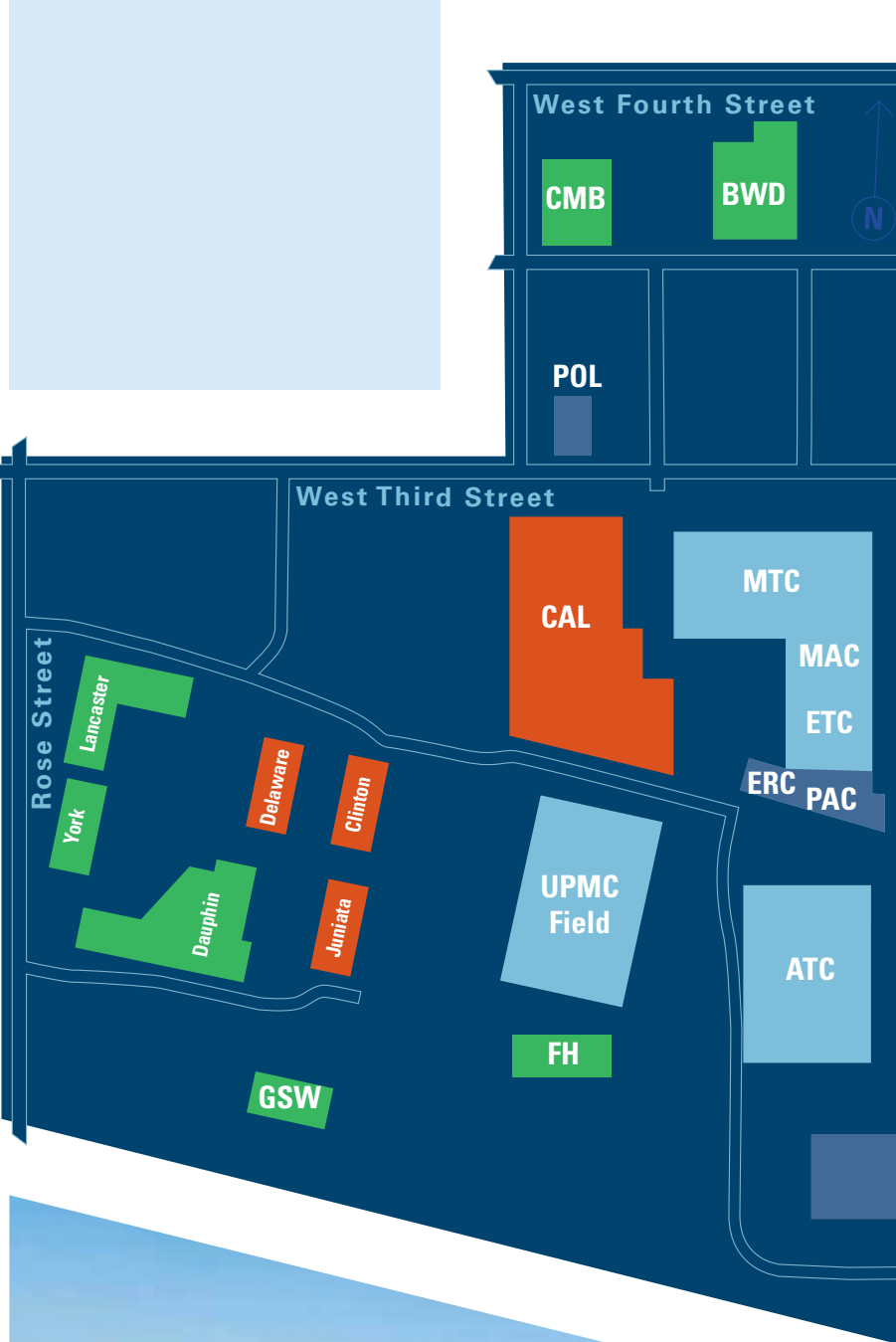
MTC



Dauphin



UPMC Field



SASC



ACC



LIB

- 1999**
FH Field House
Campus Entrance (refurbished 2021)
Schneebeli Earth Science Center
- 2000**
Delaware, Juniata and Clinton halls
- 2001**
CAL College Avenue Labs
- 2003**
York and Lancaster halls
SASC Student & Administrative Services Center
- 2004**
ACC Klump Academic Center
- 2006**
LIB Madigan Library
- 2007**
BWD Center for Business & Workforce Development
- 2010**
Dauphin Hall
ATC Parkes Automotive Technology Center
LEC Hager Lifelong Education Center
MTC Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center (expanded 2020)
- 2011**
CMB Construction Masonry Building
- 2019**
UPMC Field
Penn College at Wellsboro
- 2020**
MAC Larry A. Ward Machining Technologies Center
ETC Electrical Technologies Center
ROTC Army ROTC
- ATHS** Breuder Advanced Technology & Health Sciences Center
- BTC** Carl Building Technologies Center
- CC** Bush Campus Center
- CV** Campus View Apartments
- ERC** Automotive Engine Repair Center
- GSW** General Services Warehouse
- GYM** Bardo Gymnasium
- LJC** Le Jeune Chef Restaurant
- PAC** Physician Assistant Center
- PDC** Thompson Professional Development Center
- POL** College Police
- VH** Victorian House
- VIL** The Village at Penn College

KEY:

- New building
- Renovated/expanded (major)
- Acquired

1960s

John R. LaMorte '63, mechanical drafting, retired as a liaison engineer between manufacturing and development. He resides in Homer City.

Harry L. Wells '67, heavy construction equipment operation, is the managing vice president for American Equipment LLC. He served in the U.S. Navy Seabees (construction battalion), with a tour in Vietnam. He has been married for 55 years, has a daughter and two granddaughters, and over the years has restored and owned many classic cars and sports cars. He resides in Victor, N.Y.

John Sorenson '68, tool design technology, is a self-employed engineering project manager, specializing in the layout, design and implementation of manufacturing process equipment. He holds a Bachelor of Science in engineering technology from Colorado State University. He resides in York.

Norma (McLaughlin) Winter '68, liberal arts, retired in 2007 from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Unemployment Compensation Board of Review, for which she was an appeals referee. She resides in Williamsport with her husband, **David '75**. They married in 1977.

Janis Hofer '69, practical nursing, is retired and resides in Williamsport.

1970s

H. David Kepner '70, business computer science technology, is a part-time network/telephone technician for Penn College, responsible for updating, troubleshooting and maintaining the college's wide data network and phone system. He resides in Montoursville.

Kenneth P. Buchen '71, tool design technology, is retired and resides in Grantsville, Md.

James D. Carpenter '71, journalism, retired to Newport News, Va., in mid-2017 after nearly 46 years as a reporter and editor for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. He's now closer to four of seven grandchildren and enjoying the sunshine, golf and volunteer ministry at church with his wife.

Arthur J. Cianca '71, machinist general, retired from Metaldyne, now American Axle & Manufacturing, for which he was a Class A machinist making tooling for the powdered metal field. He served in the U.S. Air Force 1971-77 and is a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America Bucktail Chapter 720. He is a 23-year member of the Ridgway Fire Department and a 23-year member of St. Leo Cemetery Association. He resides in Ridgway.

Charlie Kohan '71, automotive technology, opened CJ Automotive in 1972 and is celebrating 49 years in business. He resides in Pen Argyl.

Richard Colegrove '72, liberal arts, is retired and resides in Mansfield.

Dennis W. Derr '72, social work, retired after pastoring United Methodist Churches for 40 years. He holds a bachelor's in elementary education from Bloomsburg and a Master of Divinity from Wesley Seminary. He married **Diane Lynn Boyles '73** in 1975. For the past 20 years, he and Diane have been travel ministry tour hosts and directors for Educational Opportunities. Dennis has written several books and many songs and preforms them in senior centers and other venues. They reside in Harbeson, Del.

Clifford Martin '72, automotive technology, is president of Charlotte County Ford, an automotive dealership. He resides in Port Charlotte, Fla. He is married to his high school sweetheart, **Joan Louise Agnor '72**, accounting. They have three children and two grandchildren.

George P. Barrett '73, forest technology, is retired and resides in Ewing Township, N.J.

Stephen Uhl '73, service and operation of heavy equipment, is a technical support manager for Nissan Diesel America. He has spent 33 years traveling, handling warranties, technical problems and training in the diesel truck division. He resides in Ottsville.

Michael A. Fallon '75, construction carpentry, is the construction director for Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County. He resides in Perkiomenville.

Thomas Schatz '76, automotive technology, is an area manager for Stellantis. He resides in Boonville, Ind.

Stephen M. Toroney '76, carpentry and building construction technology, retired from Western MontCo Vo-Tech (now Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center), where he taught carpentry/cabinetmaking. He resides in Pottstown.

Vincent Urick '76, service & operation of heavy construction equipment, retired after 42 years as a diesel engine technician for Cummins Diesel Engines Inc., Freightliner Custom Chassis, Sunbury Motor Co. and Walmart Transportation. He resides in Paxinos with his wife and is enjoying life with their four children and four grandchildren.

Lynda R. (Blankenship) Barrett '79, computer operator, is retired. Married and the mother of seven, she worked in data entry for several years. She has studied as a medical receptionist and medical transcriptionist and received a degree in ministry, along with her WACC certificate, and is now looking into studying accounting. She resides in Lewisburg.

1980s

Joseph T. Jones '82, automotive technology, is a school police officer for the Hazleton Area School District. He resides in Hazleton.

Bart Richwine '83, carpentry and building construction technology, is retired and resides in New Bloomfield.

George E. Boudman '85, advertising art, is a high school art teacher in the Pleasant Valley School District. He holds a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in art education. He was a 2018 teacher of the year nominee and resides in Lake Ariel.

James D. Hollenbach '88, civil engineering technology, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, as a hydrologic technician and collateral duty safety officer. He maintained hydrologic monitoring systems in creeks, rivers, ground water and reservoirs and received several awards. He is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving 1976-80 in intelligence. He resides in Northumberland.

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Sandra (Walizer) Wolford '89, radiology, is an imaging manager for Pioneer Medical Center in Big Timber, Mont., where she oversees the radiology department and manages the facility's in-house education program. "I work in a small critical access hospital, where I go from scanning a patient in CT to assisting put in a chest tube. I have found my niche in rural medicine," she says. She resides in Big Timber, Mont.

1990s

Chad S. Chelius '93, graphic communication, is vice president of training for AbleDocs, overseeing its global customer training initiative. The company provides PDF accessibility services. He has spoken at Adobe MAX, CreativePro conference and Document Accessibility Conference and is an author for LinkedIn Learning. He's also written for CreativePro.com and InDesign Magazine. He resides in Shillington.

Robert R. Ruhl '95, wood products manufacturing, is a quality manager and customer care representative for Conestoga Wood Specialties, a custom cabinetry supplier, at the company's Beaver Springs facility. He resides in Selinsgrove.

Jason F. Cleck '97, aviation technology, is a police officer for Anntown Township Police. He defended his dissertation, titled "Women's Perception of the Police Academy Experience," and received a doctorate in education from Gwynedd Mercy University. He resides in Anntown.

Richard J. Elder '97, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an environmental health director for Rensselaer County. He oversees the county's environmental health division and is an executive board member of the New York State Conference of Environmental Health Directors. He resides in Nassau, N.Y.

Sarah E. (Hoffman) Erdman '97, business administration, is a senior underwriting consultant/team lead for Aetna/CVS Health. She was a candidate on the November ballot for her local school board of directors. She resides in Middleburg with her husband and son.

Robin E. (McMillan) Evans '97, early childhood education, is a professional development coordinator for The Learning Lamp. She resides in Williamsport.

Gaye (Ranck) Jenkins '97, applied human services, retired in June 2020. She resides in Allenwood and spends time volunteering, traveling and reading.

Natalie D. (White) Austin '98, physician assistant, is a PA for Golla Center for Plastic Surgery. She resides in Bradfordwoods.

Michael T. Quinn '98, manufacturing engineering technology, is the owner of MQ Technical Service. He resides in Wytheville, Va.

Dana Taylor '98, occupational therapy assistant, owns a spa, where her employees include massage therapists and an esthetician. She resides in Altoona.

Melissa K. Benfer '99, business administration, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh on April 29, 2021, with a Master of Education in higher education management. She also holds a Master of Business Administration from Hood College. She resides in Pittsburgh.

2000s

John Forestiere '00, electronics technology: communications/fiber optics, is a wireless technician for AT&T. He has field service responsibilities for multiple platforms of cellular equipment, generators and annual inspections in the New York City/New Jersey market. He holds a bachelor's in business administration and resides in Hampton, N.J., with his wife and daughter.

Scott Miller '00, construction management, is a chief estimator/senior project manager for Benner & White Construction, a commercial carpentry contractor in suburban Philadelphia. He also received an associate degree in building construction technology from the college. He is married, resides in Skippack, and has three children and five grandchildren, with a sixth on the way.

Michelle J. (Sullivan) Noll '01, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a rent analyst-Europe for Foot Locker. She resides in Shippensburg.

Ryan D. Snyder '01, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a senior research engineer for Trinseo, a manufacturer of plastics, latex binders and synthetic rubber. He resides in Litzitz with his wife, **Jamie (Boyer) '98**, occupational therapy assistant, and their two daughters.

Erin (Ryczak) Chadwick '02, individual studies, is a recruitment supervisor for the Maryland Emergency Medicine Network. She recruits emergency medicine providers for nine community hospitals affiliated with the University of Maryland. She resides in Odenton, Md.

Brian Hoy '02, plastics and polymer technology, is an outage coordinator for First Quality Tissue, scheduling paper machine downtime for maintenance work. He resides in Lock Haven.

Meagan (Vincent) Wade '03, radiography, applied health studies, is a radiation therapy supervisor for Wellspan Health, overseeing the daily operations of the Radiation Oncology department. In addition to her Penn College degrees, she holds a certificate in radiation therapy from the Community College of Allegheny County and received a Clinical Supervisor Award from Gwynedd Mercy University. She resides in Schuylkill Haven with her husband and children and loves to play softball and coach her kids' sports teams.

Danielle S. (Lavinder) Youtz '03, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Crognale Family Dentistry. She resides in Elizabethtown.

Matthew R. Price '04, technology management, is a construction parts manager for Wengers of Myerstown. He also holds a Penn College degree in diesel technology and completed a Master of Business Administration in September 2021. He resides in Lebanon.

Nathan E. Weaver '04, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a pastor in the United Methodist Church for the Endless Mountains Charge. After graduating, he worked in Virginia, then Hazleton. His journey includes back surgery, the loss of his marriage, addiction, time in a mental hospital, and losing his children. He resides in Wilkes-Barre.

Nathaniel Baum '05, technology management, is director of operations for Apple Retail Properties. He also obtained a Penn College degree in landscape/nursery technology in 2003. He resides in York. ▶▶

CLASS NOTES

Devin Gebhart '05, business administration: management information systems, is the senior logistics and supply chain adviser for U.S. Navy surface ship maintenance and modernization. He resides in Arlington, Va.

Chris W. Frantz '05, business management, is the executive director of marketing and sales for Savoy Contract Furniture. A trained organist, he has been playing in church for 40 years. He is a past member of the college's Business Administration Advisory Committee, is vice president of the Community Theatre League Board of Directors and holds multiple certificates in business and marketing. He resides in Williamsport.

Jason McCrabb '06, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, is a service technician for Hannabery HVAC. He, his wife and daughter reside in North Wales.

William Bescrypt '07, computer aided drafting technology and technology management, is the founder of Bescrypt Product Design Corp. He founded the company in 2017, and his first product has been premium commercial subwoofers under the brand name Sonofinity. He resides in Yardley.

Andrea (Stahl) Featherstone '07, accounting, is a senior financial consultant-education and government for Workday Inc., a financial management and human capital management software vendor. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Shippensburg University. She resides in Lewisburg.

James Riedel '07, automotive technology management, is a national product training manager for Subaru of America Inc. He resides in Westville, N.J.

Stephanie (Poisson) Shaffer '07, graphic design, is the marketing director for Tri-County Community Action Program. She resides in Berlin, N.H.

John Yogodzinski '07, graphic communications management, owns The Graphic Hive, a web design, graphics and marketing firm in Williamsport. He is an Alumni of the Year recipient, Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce Emerging Business of the Year recipient and Central PA Chamber Impact Award winner. He resides in Turbotville.

John Curry '08, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer for Northrop Grumman. He holds a master's degree in engineering and technology management and resides in Palm Bay, Fla.

Cole Peters '08, diesel technology, is a farmer on his family's Spruce Row Farms Inc. Among his duties on the dairy farm, he maintains and repairs all vehicles. He resides in Meadville.

Patrice (Campbell) Thomas '08, business administration: marketing, is a project manager for Fortanix Inc. She resides in Lock Haven.

Keith R. Johns '09, electrical technology, is a lineman for Met-Ed (Metropolitan Edison). He is a service technician in York, troubleshooting electric issues. He resides in Landisville with his wife and two children.

Cates (Girard) Kijak '09, mass media communication, is an operations recruiter for Nabis. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications and media studies from Flagler College and lives in Colfax, N.C., with husband, **Taylor '11**, plastics and polymer engineering technology.

Harry A. Lehman IV '09, welding technology, started his own general contracting business, Flatlander LLC, in 2020, doing residential construction and home maintenance/repairs. He resides in Dover, Del.

Scott H. Madill '09, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a vice president for Dal Dirt LLC, a heavy civil construction contractor. He resides in Waxahachie, Texas.

Elizabeth (Moreno) Montgomery '09, information technology: technician emphasis, is a lab technician for Kellogg Co. Lab technicians conduct periodic product checks to ensure the product is safe to consume and that quality meets Kellogg's standards. She resides in Muncy.

Andrew Rhen '09, construction management, is assistant superintendent/construction layout for Wickersham Construction, specializing in industrial and water treatment projects. He resides in Hummelstown.

Jake Schommer '09, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is director of quality for Ametek's submarine component division. He resides in Ledyard, Conn.

Brian D. Walton '09, technology management, is assistant dean of business and hospitality for Pennsylvania College of Technology. He resides in Williamsport.

2010s

Collin A. Zimmerman '10, information technology: web & applications development, is a principal program architect for Salesforce. He resides in Lititz.

Brittany (Meade) Gansel '11, surgical technology, was the 2018 Employee of the Year for Globus Medical, for which she is senior clinical manager, North America-imaging, navigation, robotics. She manages the North American clinical team for ExcelsiusGPS, Globus' spine navigation and robotics platform. She resides in Phoenixville.

James Walker '11, information technology: information assurance and security, is a cybersecurity architect III for Vidant Health. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Sarah (Shott) Yoder '11, information technology: web and application development, is the coordinator of admissions operations for Penn College. She holds a Master of Science in higher education leadership from Drexel University. She volunteers with the American Rescue Workers and resides in Williamsport.

Nicole N. English '13, applied human services, is an instructional aide for St. John Neumann Regional Academy and is working toward a master's degree in early childhood education at Bloomsburg University.

Tyler J. Frederick '13, information technology: information assurance and security, network specialist, and web & applications development, is manager of the cybersecurity operations center for Security Risk Advisors, overseeing security engineering and advanced response services. In 2017, he received a Master of Science in information sciences and technology from Penn State. He resides in Chalfont.

Stephanie (Keifrider) Hardy '13, legal assistant-paralegal, is a paralegal for Dickson, Gordner & Hess. She resides in Nescopeck.

Ian D. Hoffman '13, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis, is an assistant in landscaping (design, installation and maintenance) and fence installation for Hoffman Landscape & Fencing. He resides in Bradford.

Morgan A. Olbrich '13, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welder/fabricator/lead robot operator/welding trainer for Hampton Machine Shop, a division of Trident Maritime Systems. He is responsible for fabricating structural components, both by hand and with the robot, for the nuclear-powered warships at the nearby shipyard. He also recently was tasked with training new hires. He resides in Hampton, Va.

Jessie (Chronister) Ford '14, hospitality management, and '15, applied management, is an operations associate for Berman McAleer. She resides in Cocksவில், Md.

Whitnie Haldeman '14, applied technology studies, is the design and marketing manager for Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships. She resides in South Williamsport. She earned a Penn College degree in advertising art in 2012.

Ashley Maietta '14, nursing, is the health services director for Portside at Grande Dunes, a 120-bed assisted living and memory care facility. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Penn College in 2017 and a master's degree in nursing administration from Liberty University in 2021. She resides in Murrells Inlet, S.C.

Kevin T. McKeon '14, residential construction technology and management, owns Kevin McKeon Construction. He resides in Williamsport.

David Exelbert '15, on-site power generation, is an inside sales engineer for Danfoss. He resides in Westminster, Md.

Christopher Scheller '15, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is a project engineer for CCL USA Inc. He resides in Sykesville, Md.

Abdulwahed Alnasr '16, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a quality control and mixers manager for Saudi Plastic Products Co., which produces PVC pipes. He was recognized by LyondellBasell for achieving 170,000 safe working hours as a site manager. He resides in Al Hasa, Saudi Arabia.

Max C. Bower '16, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, has had an eventful two years: He was married in October 2019, moved to Chambersburg in spring 2020 and founded a residential remodeling business, Precision Enterprises LLC, in May 2020.

Nicholas S. Choiniere '16, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineering supervisor for General Dynamics Electric Boat. He leads a team of welding engineers that provides support for pipe welding operations during the construction of nuclear attack and ballistic missile submarines. He resides in Oakdale, Conn.

Monica Flexer '16, nursing, is a clinical resource team clinician for UPMC. She resides in Williamsport.

Eugene R. Markowski '16, information technology: network specialist, is a system engineer for Larson Design Group. He resides in Ephrata.

Dylan S. Martz '16, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a projects inspector for Colonial Pipeline in Columbia, Va. He resides in Hyndman.

Chelsea E. Miller '16, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a dental assisting instructor for Franklin County Career & Technology Center. She initiated the center's dental assisting program five years ago and continues to practice as a dental hygienist during the summer. She is completing a master's degree in education at Penn State. She resides in Chambersburg.

Sarah Nestor '16, nursing, is a clinician for UPMC. She resides in Lock Haven.

Julia (Gilchrist) Ridley '16, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a research and development plastics engineer for Auriga Polymers. She resides in Campobello, S.C.

Edward Straub '16, electronics and computer engineering technology: robotics and automation emphasis, is an augmented reality technician for Jones Long LaSelle, a commercial real estate services company. He resides in Jessup, Md.

Stacey French '17, applied human services, is a blended case manager for Service Access & Management, helping people with mental health diagnoses navigate the community services that are available to them. She resides in Montoursville.

Patrick Gregory '17, heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology, is a refrigeration technician for REMCO Inc., providing service, repair and maintenance of supermarket, restaurant and commercial refrigeration systems. He's a multiple-time leak rate leader for refrigerant emissions. He resides in Berwick.

Justin Miller '17, technology management, is a facilities area manager for Qurate Retail Group (the parent of such brands as QVC and Zulily). He resides in Wernersville.

Tynea A. Holloman '18, health arts: practical nursing, is an LPN unit manager for Cornwall Manor. She resides in Palmyra.

Gage M. Hoy '18, engineering design technology, is an estimator for Appellation Construction Services. He resides in Lock Haven.

Rebecca J. (Brown) Anderson '19, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a quality engineer for C&J industries. She resides in Conneaut Lake.

Olivia (Hawbecker) Billman '19, web and interactive media, is an application programmer analyst for the County of Franklin. She resides in Orrstown.

David Gadalla '19, aviation maintenance technology, is the coordinator of theme communities for Washington & Jefferson College. He resides in Washington, Pa.

Cassandra D. Henderson '19, business administration: banking and finance, is a social media specialist for Vanguard. She resides in King of Prussia.

Nathaniel Robinson '19, information technology sciences: gaming and simulation, is an IT support technician for Proconex. He resides in Mont Clare.

LaTricia M. Scutching '19, applied human services, is a therapist for Families United Network. She is co-director of the Lycoming County Democratic Black Caucus and is a member of the Junior League. She resides in Williamsport.

Troy Stair '19, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding manufacturing engineer II for Astec Industries. He resides in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Mary L. Wagner '19, health arts: practical nursing, is an LPN charge nurse for Nationwide Therapy Group. She resides in Mill Hall.

2020s

Emily K. Conklin '20, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for M2 Dentistry for Children & Teens. She resides in East Petersburg.

Zachary J. Kravitz '20, construction management, is a project engineer for IMC Construction. He resides in Berwyn.

Carmen Bates '21, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for North Penn Comprehensive Health Services. She resides in Gillett.

Corrina C. Blose '21, baking and pastry arts, is continuing her education toward a bachelor's degree in applied management at Penn College. She resides in Copley.

Jacinda F. Bonilla '21, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a heavy equipment operator for The Roberts Co. She resides in Montgomery. ►►

CLASS NOTES

Jeremy D. Carlson '21, welding and fabrication engineering technology, relocated across the state in June to begin his career as a welding manufacturing engineer for Case New Holland. He also holds an associate degree in welding technology from Penn College. He resides in Leola.

Madison Clark '21, early childhood education, is an assistant group leader in Penn College's Children's Learning Center. She resides in Roaring Branch.

Charles T. Crawford '21, physician assistant, is an emergency medicine physician assistant for Valley Presbyterian Hospital. He is pursuing a Master of Medical Science from St. Francis University. He resides in Marina Del Ray, Calif.

Shawna-Sue D. Crytser '21, health information technology, is a health information management assistant for National HealthCare Corp.'s. NHC Lewisburg. She resides in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Eric J. Dahlmann '21, welding technology and metal fabrication technology, is a fabrication technician for JLG, a lift and equipment manufacturer. He resides in Shamokin Dam.

Katherine Downes '21, graphic design, is a graphic designer for Atlas Restaurant Group. She resides in Fleetwood.

Karla C. Frank '21, health science, is a lab technician for Green Thumb Industries Inc., extracting terpenes and oil for medicinal cannabis products. She secured the job before graduation and is continuing her education in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program at Wilkes University. She resides in Selinsgrove.

Jill C. Fremberg '21, nursing, is a graduate nurse for UPMC Lock Haven. She resides in Pennsylvania Furnace.

Derek Grose '18, surveying technology; **'21**, civil engineering technology, is a project surveyor for Baron Land LLC in Colorado.

Taylor J. Hurst '21, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is a project manager/architectural drafter for Marrero Glass & Metal. He resides in Langhorne.

Erick Kennedy '21, landscape/horticulture technology: landscape emphasis and plant production emphasis, is a cannabis cultivation technician for Green Thumb Industries, properly growing medical cannabis to a quality consistent with Pennsylvania's medical marijuana program. He holds Pennsylvania Department of Health Medical Marijuana Grower/Processor certification. He resides in Williamsport.

Lisa S. Laubscher '21, nursing, is employed by Geisinger Medical Center. She resides in Milton.

Barbara J. LeGeyt '21, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a weld mechanical engineer for John Deere. She resides in Barkhamsted, Conn.

Matthew T. Leiby '21, civil engineering technology, is a stormwater design engineer for Livic Civil. He resides in Danville.

Ethan M. McKenzie '21, software development & information management, is a college relations fellow for Penn College. He resides in Muncy.

Nicholas Noll '21, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a molding process engineer for Becton Dickinson & Co. He resides in Torrington, Conn.

Connor Peechatka '21, aviation maintenance technology, is an aircraft technician for Gulfstream Aerospace. He resides in Neenah, Wis.

Abigail G. Seebold '21, health arts: practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Geisinger Medical Center. She resides in New Columbia.

Tessa Shutt '21, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC Pinnacle. She resides in Donaldson.

Danielle R. Wesneski '19, baking and pastry arts; **'21**, applied management, is a catering operations supervisor for Ard's Farm in Lewisburg, organizing and managing weddings and other gatherings. She resides in Williamsport.

Michael J. Wollyung '21, building automation engineering technology, is a service controls technician for Trane Technologies. He resides in Minersville.

Jessica L. Yannes '21, applied human services, is a direct support professional for Catholic Charities. She resides in Susquehanna.

Sean Yearick '20, business administration: management; **'21**, accounting, is retired from the U.S. Navy. He resides in Lock Haven.

Gregory M. Zanowiak '21, welding technology, is a welder for Johnson Controls. He resides in Millersville.

Marriages & Births

Michael T. Quinn '98, manufacturing engineering technology, welcomed daughter Bella on Aug. 10, 2020. They reside in Wytheville, Va.

Michelle J. Sullivan '01, computer information technology: data communications and networking, married **Jason Noll '02**, computer information technology: analysis and design, on June 5, 2021. They reside in Shippensburg.

Brittany Meade '11, surgical technology, married Christopher Gansel on Oct. 11, 2020. They reside in Phoenixville.

Stephanie (Keifrider) Hardy '13, legal assistant-paralegal, and her husband welcomed their first son in 2019. They reside in Nescopeck.

Jessie (Chronister) Ford '14, hospitality management; and **'15**, applied management, welcomed a daughter, Adeline, in February 2021. The family resides in Cocksylvia, Md.

Christopher Scheller '15, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, married Rebecca Lane on June 12, 2021. They reside in Sykesville, Md.

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

Maggie Calkins '17, nursing, married **Logan Tubiello '17**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, in June 2021. They reside in Royersford.

Jessica R. (Larson) Lehman '17, physician assistant, and her husband, **Harry Lehman IV '09**, welding technology, welcomed their second daughter, Alice, in July 2021. They reside in Dover, Del.

Rebecca J. Brown '19, plastics and polymer engineering technology, married Kyle Anderson on March 27, 2021. They reside in Conneaut Lake.

Olivia Hawbecker '19, web and interactive media, married **Luke Billman '18**, heavy construction equipment technology: technician emphasis, in October 2020. They reside in Orrstown.

In Memory

Donald B. Bergerstock, retired professor and coordinator of business and computer technologies, North Campus, age 82, on Aug. 13

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Sharpening their foot-eye coordination at the annual Multicultural Lawn Party, representatives of the Wildcat basketball team enjoy every second of their off-court workout with Mika, of Pacific Rhythm, a Polynesian entertainment resource from Warfordsburg. From left: Coach Geoff Hensley, David Brown and Corey Blackwell. Brown and Blackwell are majoring in business administration: sport and event management.

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 master's, bachelor's, associate and certificate majors 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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Penn College operates on a nondiscriminatory basis.

REED NAMED 8TH PRESIDENT

MICHAEL J. REED will lead Pennsylvania College of Technology as its next president, effective July 1.

Reed, currently vice president for academic affairs and provost for the college, replaces Davie Jane Gilmour, who has served as president since 1998 and will retire on June 30 (see more about Gilmour's legacy inside). He was selected following an extensive national search.

"I love our mission, what we represent and the opportunities we create for our next generation of tomorrow makers," Reed said during a special Board of Directors meeting in January to announce the appointment. "I am 'all in,' and I will do everything I can to maximize our collective expertise in order to place our students in the most competitive position for long-term success.

"What President Gilmour has accomplished throughout her tenure is nothing short of extraordinary, and I am grateful for the high expectations and culture of continual improvement keenly established on our campus."

Read more about Reed's appointment at magazine.pct.edu/np.

