

# Penn College

Fall 2022

GAZINE



## MEET MIKE REED

Penn College's  
new president

SEE PAGE 8



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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## PUSHING THE LIMITS

Penn College's Baja SAE team practices on a test track at the college's heavy equipment operations training site near Allenwood. After 17 years of racing, in 2022 the team captured the top spot at Baja SAE Tennessee Tech and Baja SAE Rochester, topping a 72-car field in Tennessee and 76 cars in Rochester to finish first in the grueling, four-hour endurance race, the events' marquee contest. The quarter-mile test track was built by students in heavy construction equipment technology majors to replicate rugged conditions the team faces at collegiate Baja competitions. The events are conducted by SAE International and attract top schools from around the globe.

Learn more about the track at [magazine.pct.edu/testtrack](https://magazine.pct.edu/testtrack) and more about the team at [www.pct.edu/baja](https://www.pct.edu/baja).



### Meet Mike Reed

On July 1, Reed began his duties as the institution's eighth president. Penn College Magazine's Tom Speicher sat down with Reed to learn about his path to Penn College and his goals for its future.



### Up for the challenge

Opened for Fall 2021, the Fish Real Estate Leadership Challenge Course has become a coveted asset for outdoor team-building adventures on the south side of campus.



### High-stakes travel

Soccer alumna Hailee Hartman '19, Penn College's all-team leader in goals, uses the same mindset she used in the game to adapt to the constant newness of travel nursing.



### Blazing the collegiate trail

With supportive Penn College staff in their corner, first-generation college students thrive.



### Because of you ...

A celebration of the legacy of Davie Jane Gilmour, who retired June 30 after 24 years as the college's leader, prompts an outpouring of support.

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### degrees that work.

#### ON THE COVER

Michael J. Reed, who began his duties as president of Pennsylvania College of Technology on July 1, leads a session on innovation during the annual Summer Teaching Institute for the college's faculty. Learn more about Reed on Page 8.

#### ATTENTION, ALUMNI

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

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## 'Ripple effect' sparks collaborative sculpture

Internationally known welding artist Rae Ripple, encouraged by Penn College student Skyler R. Graver to drop by campus, honored that invitation with an inspiring daylong visit.

Ripple's visit included a "Live With Rae" presentation in the Klump Academic Center Auditorium, followed by a demonstration in the welding lab, where Ripple put her renowned stamp on a 200-pound, 9-foot-long motorcycle sculpture built by members of the college's American Welding Society student chapter.

Ripple, a social media star, has appeared on "Metal Shop Masters" and "Monster Garage," and has been published in Welder magazine.



## College appoints experienced educator, administrator as provost



Neslihan "Nesli" Alp began her duties as vice president for academic affairs and provost, the highest-ranking academic officer at the institution, on Aug. 1.

Alp succeeds Michael J. Reed, who became the college's new president on July 1, following the retirement of Davie Jane Gilmour. (Read more about Reed on Page 8.)

Alp had been at Indiana State University since 2018, where she served as dean and professor for the 2,000-student College of Technology. Previously, she served in a variety of administration and faculty roles at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for 19 years, most recently as associate dean of academic affairs and UC Foundation professor.

Her higher-education experience also includes developing and teaching more than 20 undergraduate and graduate courses.

Alp holds a doctorate in engineering management from the Missouri University of Science and Technology and a Master of Science in industrial engineering and a Bachelor of Science in engineering management, both from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. She also earned a certificate in management and leadership in education from Harvard Graduate School of Education.



## Partnership with Lenfest Foundation yields first graduate

A building construction technology student is the first graduate in Penn College's alliance with The Brook J. Lenfest Foundation Inc., which funded a \$1.8 million scholarship program for underserved populations in southeastern Pennsylvania. The distinction belongs to Isaiah S. Robinson, of Philadelphia, who received an associate degree in building construction technology in May and began working in the field the following week.

Robinson said exposure to multiple areas of construction allowed him to fine-tune his focus.

"Concrete stuck out to me the most, and I grew to embrace it. I never thought about having a career in concrete prior to attending college or this class. This opened the door for me to have a paid summer internship at Forcine Concrete and Construction Co.," he said. "I am proud to say that, upon graduating, I have accepted a full-time position with this company. I look forward to my future endeavors. Thanks, PCT, for all that you have done to get me to this awesome career opportunity!"



## Commission reaffirms college's accreditation

In June, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed accreditation for Pennsylvania College of Technology.

Every eight years, colleges and universities must reapply for Middle States accreditation.

The evaluation includes an extensive self-study and a visit by a team of external evaluators that reads the college's self-study report; examines documents and other information that serve as evidence that the college meets the seven standards for accreditation; speaks to students, faculty, staff and administrators; and makes a recommendation about whether to reaccredit.

Evaluators found that the college met all standards for accreditation and requirements of affiliation, and the team had no recommendations or requirements for the college to fulfill.

The college has held Middle States accreditation since 1970.

## Electrical students serve area nonprofits

Penn College's commitment to hands-on education aided area nonprofit organizations, as two sections of electrical construction students contributed nearly 400 hours of work, saving the YWCA, Sojourner Truth Ministries and the Avis Area Recreation Association labor expenses.

"Students – as a result of this course – receive a true sense of the types of jobs and challenges they will encounter as graduates," said Joseph R. Raup, instructor of the field-experience course. "We're dealing with real jobs for real clients with real deadlines."

At the YWCA in Williamsport, the students replaced fluorescent lights with LED lights and removed wiring no longer in use. A few blocks away, they spent more than 240 hours rewiring a house owned by Sojourner Truth Ministries. The Carl W. Kephart baseball complex in Avis needed upgraded wiring, light fixtures and an electrical panel.

The students also completed work for the college community: installing circuits and transfer switches in labs at the Schneebeli Earth Science Center, outlets and circuits in the Concrete Masonry Building, and panels and circuits at the Clean Energy Center Lab.



**Jon A. Good, of Emporium, wires an outlet in a house owned by Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport. Good was one of 14 electrical construction students who served area nonprofit organizations in the Construction Lab IV: Practical Experience course.**

### Find complete articles on PCToday

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





### Army ROTC cadets receive commissions

Seven graduating Army ROTC cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony for the Bald Eagle Battalion. From left: Joseph L. Elinski, active duty, infantry branch; Jared R. Ward, Army Reserve, ordnance branch; Anthony J. Marturano, Army National Guard, ordnance branch; Carolyn R. Strickland, vice president for enrollment management and associate provost; Davie Jane Gilmour, then-college president; Samuel T. Van Dermark, Army Reserve, ordnance branch; Blake T. Blodgett, active duty, infantry branch; and Ryan A. Godard, Army National Guard, finance branch. Aleah M. Emlet (not available for photo) earned a commission in the Army Reserve, quartermaster branch.

### First group of four-year mechatronics apprentices graduates

The first cohort of Penn College's four-year registered apprenticeship in mechatronics graduated in 2022.

In order to successfully graduate from the full mechatronics program, the nine apprentices completed four one-year modules: mechanical components, industrial electricity, fluid power and programmable logic controllers.

Each module requires 144 hours of related technical instruction and 2,000 on-the-job training hours, the latter of which is overseen by each apprentice's respective employer. Those companies are responsible for paying the apprentices and providing that hands-on learning environment, while Penn College provides the related classroom instruction.

The graduates represented six companies: Dempsey Uniform & Linen Supply, Design Group Americas Inc., First Quality Tissue, Girton Manufacturing, The Hershey Co. and West Pharmaceutical Services.



The first cohort to complete Penn College's four-year registered apprenticeship program in mechatronics participates in a graduation ceremony on campus.

## BRIDAL PATH LEADS BACK TO CAMPUS

Pennsylvania College of Technology's Schneebeil Earth Science Center holds such a special place for **Elizabeth M. Getchen** that, when it came time to arrange her wedding flowers, no other venue could come close to honoring the occasion.

Getchen holds associate degrees in floral design/interior plantscape (2007) and ornamental horticulture: landscape technology emphasis (2009) – and obtained permission to return to the Allenwood-area campus in advance of her nuptials.

She married Ian J. Mowatt on May 21 near Salladasburg.

"When it was time for me to graduate (from South Williamsport Area Jr./Sr.) high school and start college, like most people, I had no clue what I wanted to do. Also, my dad was not well, and I needed to be close to home to help him," Getchen explained.

She flipped through the Penn College catalog "what seemed a million times."

"I am so thankful that I went with the floral design program. The ESC is just what I needed in my life. Who else can go to college and be outside all day long?" Getchen said.

She fondly recalls horticulture faculty members Dennis E. and Christine A. Fink, and Dennis P. Skinner, for their student-centered passion and empathy. Dennis Fink, the college's 1997 Master Teacher, retired in 2012 and passed away the following year; his wife was a part-time instructor. Skinner retired in 2019.

"Like I mentioned, my father was ill, so I had missed a lot of class to take him to doctors' appointments, but they were understanding," she said. "Mr. Skinner was great, always having so much fun in his classes and labs."

Getchen returned to one of those labs, the floral room, over several days in May, along with bridesmaid **Vanessa R. (Atherton) Harman '08**, who she met in floral design class.

"Words will never describe how the ESC actually makes me feel. Life wasn't easy for me while I was going there. It was my comfort blanket, a safe place where I didn't have to think about what was actually going on in my real life.

"I met a lot of wonderful people from the different programs there, and I couldn't have asked for a better college experience."



Smiling through her pre-wedding to-do list, Elizabeth M. Getchen '07, '09 makes a sentimental return to the Earth Science Center to arrange her wedding flowers.





Noah Hunt

### WRESTLING

**Noah Hunt '24** became the fifth wrestler in program history to earn a podium finish at the NCAA Division III Regionals. Hunt earned fifth place at 141 pounds after entering the tournament unseeded. Beginning in 2022-23, Penn College joins the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference. The conference comprises Alfred State, Brockport, SUNY Cortland, Ithaca, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Oswego, Pitt-Bradford, Penn State-Behrend and Rochester Institute of Technology. As part of ECWC, the college's wrestlers will compete for conference championships and all-conference and all-academic honors.

### LACROSSE

Penn College made a return trip to the conference playoffs before bowing out in the semifinals to finish the season at 9-8. **Mason Nester '25** was named to the United East first team, while **James Thatcher '24**, **Cole Spezialetti '25**, **Trevor Soli '24** and **Quinn Caviola '24** received second-team nods.

### GOLF

The Wildcats earned their third top-three conference finish in as many seasons in 2022. **Gavin Baer '25** highlighted Penn College's performance with a sixth-place finish and was named United East Rookie of the Year.

### SOFTBALL

The Wildcats caught fire in the middle of the season with a program-record 15-game winning streak. The team made history when **Kyla Benner '22** tossed two perfect games, and **Mackenzie Weaver '25** hurled a no-hitter. Penn College returned to the conference championship for the third-straight season, finishing as the United East runner-up. Benner earned United East Pitcher of the Year and joined Weaver and **Olivia Hemstock '22** on the United East first team. **Maddie Hurst '23** and **Ivvy Morder '23** earned second-team honors. **Jordan Specht '23**, Hemstock and Benner were also named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region Third Team.

### BASEBALL

The Wildcats reached the conference playoffs for the sixth time in seven seasons and finished third. Penn College wrapped up its season with a 21-18 record and had four players named to the all-conference team. **Jacob Carles '23** was named to the United East first team, while **Cameron Dick '23**, **Shane Price '23** and **Sam Zeigler '22** earned second-team honors.



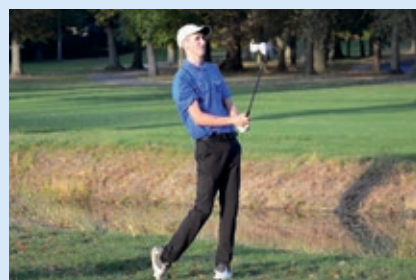
Kyla Benner



Jacob Carles



James Thatcher



Gavin Baer



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAILÉE HARTMAN

As a travel nurse, Hailee Hartman '19 draws on the skills she learned in the classroom and mental preparation she honed as a Wildcat soccer player.

# HIGH-STAKES TRAVEL

## SOCCER TRAINS TRAVEL NURSE IN ADAPTABILITY

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

### IT'S JUNE, AND HAILÉE HARTMAN '19

is in Charleston, South Carolina, beginning a new job at her fifth hospital in 18 months. And while everything

around her is unfamiliar, Hartman is prepared, calm and focused.

The stakes are much higher now, but her preparation and mindset echo the approach Hartman took during her standout soccer career at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

"I think I'm a good travel nurse because I can adapt to new situations," Hartman said. "My soccer background provided me the necessary skills to be able to adapt quickly to changes. When I played, I compartmentalized the game; now I compartmentalize the shift. That's how I get through it."

Hartman's preparation and mindset also helped her become the most prolific women's soccer player in program history. From 2014 to 2017, Hartman helped Penn College to three postseason berths and a conference final appearance. Individually, Hartman collected three all-conference selections and ended her career as Penn College's all-time leader in goals, assists and points.

"The biggest thing that separated Hailee from other players was her desire to be better, her preparation and her self-analyzing to improve every aspect of her game to become a more complete player," said former Penn College head women's soccer coach John McNichol. "That's what made her a special player, and I know that's how she approaches being a nurse."

Early in her senior year of high school at Lampeter-Strasburg, Hartman decided that she wanted to be a nurse. She wanted to attend a school that favored labs over lectures, and she had a desire to continue her soccer career. Hartman found both at Penn College and realized early that soccer was more than a game: It was a support system.

"I realized how beneficial soccer was going to be for me in the middle of my freshman year," Hartman recalled. "It forced me to balance school, a personal life and the sport, and provided a person (head coach) to offer support and encouragement – which is something other students may not have."

Following her graduation from Penn College, Hartman returned home and began working at Lancaster General Hospital.

She was "raised as a baby nurse" in oncology and hematology, first by chance, since it was one of the few open positions, then by choice, when she decided to stay in the unit because she found the work "rewarding and mentally stimulating."

After about a year and a half at Lancaster General, Hartman noticed a trend in travel nursing. Travel nurses typically work for an agency that places them at facilities that are suffering from a staffing crisis. Most placements last two to three months. Nurses can choose their best fit – which can include location, discipline and sometimes even the salary range.

"I noticed that travel nursing was trending in March 2020, right when the pandemic started," Hartman explained. "Obviously it's a quicker way to make a little more money, but there are other valuable reasons to start travel nursing. It really helps prevent burnout because you're only in one place for a short amount of time. You get to change facilities and have to learn new systems and people every few months, and you're able to take a few weeks off in between jobs."

Hartman eased into travel nursing by taking a job at a facility in nearby York and commuting from her home in Lancaster. She later took a position at a facility near a family home in Maryland, then in Pittsburgh, where she had friends and family. Then she traveled farther. She worked for three months in Greensboro, North Carolina, in February and began work in Charleston at the end of June.

At each stop, Hartman puts her well-rounded Penn College experience to use by combining the hard skills she learned in the classroom and the essential skills she developed as a student-athlete.

"I am very grateful that I had my academic and athletic experiences at Penn College," Hartman said. "It provided me so many skills to be successful in my career." ■



Hartman advances the ball during a Penn College match. She ended her Wildcat soccer career as the college's all-time leader in goals, assists and points.



# MEET MIKE REED

On July 1, Michael J. Reed, formerly Pennsylvania College of Technology's vice president for academic affairs and provost, began his duties as the institution's eighth president. Penn College Magazine sat down with Reed to learn about his path to Penn College and his hopes for its future.

*interview by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer*



## **It's obvious from your background that you were drawn to a career in education at a young age. What sparked that interest?**

For as long as I can remember, helping others, competing and working through challenges have inspired me. I was fortunate to have quality teachers, coaches and mentors, and their impact sparked an interest in working in the helping profession. In addition, I spent a great deal of time with my oldest brother and sister-in-law throughout my high school years. My sister-in-law was, and still is, a passionate teacher. Seeing firsthand the impact she had on her students and the satisfaction she had with her career led me to become a teacher.

When earning my bachelor's degree and teaching credentials, I worked at a psychiatric center to offset tuition costs

and gain relevant experience. Facilitating groups and engaging with adolescents and adults working through extraordinary complexities triggered a dual interest in teaching and counseling.

## **You began your career as a teacher and counselor before transitioning to administrative roles. Why did you decide to make that shift?**

I enjoyed teaching and counseling, and my interest in administration emerged by seeing firsthand the larger-scale impact a quality leader, working effectively with a team, could have on students and the community. Administration provided an opportunity to make a greater contribution and stretched my personal development.

## **Prior to joining Penn College as an assistant dean in 2014, you were a well-established secondary school leader and administrator. What prompted you to seek an opportunity in higher education?**

I'm very proud of what we accomplished at Williamsport, SciTech and William Penn and enjoyed my experiences in secondary schools. My interest in higher education emerged through a partnership with Penn College when I served as principal at Williamsport. Our team worked hard to develop relevant partnerships with colleges and industry, and we promoted applied technology education on our high school campus. Penn College became an ideal partner in establishing several dual-enrollment courses for college-ready students and development opportunities for teachers.

The partnership with Penn College provided me an in-depth look at the extraordinary work happening on campus. The culture and mission of Penn College aligned to my personal beliefs, and when an assistant dean position opened, I took a risk – seeing it as an opportunity to make meaningful contributions while enhancing my professional learning.

## **When were you first exposed to Penn College, and what was your initial impression of the institution?**

As a high school leader in the Harrisburg area, I knew that Penn College was a quality institution dedicated to applied technology and boasted an impressive placement rate. When I toured campus for the first time, I was truly blown away by the faculty and staff expertise, the labs, and industry partners used to advance student development.

## **What have been the most impactful changes you've experienced at the college?**

It's difficult to rank because there have been multiple advancements. But I believe three of the more impactful changes have been the development of the Center for Career Design and the creation of College Relations, the reorganization of Academic Affairs, and the evolution of Workforce Development.

Placing Institutional Advancement, Corporate Relations, Alumni Relations and Career Services all under College Relations has created dynamic synergy and has yielded extraordinary results for students, industry and the college.

The three-school model in Academic Affairs has improved collaboration between faculty and staff, enhanced operational efficiencies, and streamlined resources for long-term sustainability planning.

Increasing apprenticeship opportunities and industry training and working collaboratively with faculty have led to expanded reach for Workforce Development – meeting workforce needs and advancing our mission.

## **How have your previous roles at the college prepared you for the presidency?**

I was fortunate to serve in a wide range of roles at Penn College, and the collective experiences will be invaluable as we strategically lead our team forward. Serving as an assistant dean and dean provided a unique opportunity to work closely with a large group of faculty and students to advance a subset of programs and lead a school. It also afforded me the chance to teach a couple sections of upper-level coursework. Being immersed with our faculty and students provided a comprehensive, hands-on understanding of our culture and how our mission and strategic plans are implemented, showing both our strengths and opportunities for growth.

Overseeing academic operations expanded my knowledge of our comprehensive budgets, building project planning and the entire academic portfolio. It afforded me the opportunity to work and learn with additional faculty and staff and understand the necessary interconnections of all college divisions.

Serving as provost extended my engagement with all college divisions and academic programs. Working daily with the president, dealing with assessment and grants, and being involved with corporate partners and our Board of Directors – coupled with the aforementioned roles – have enhanced my understanding of our culture, strengths and opportunities for growth.

## **What appealed to you about becoming president of Penn College?**

The role of president provides an opportunity to make a more impactful difference for our students, community and workforce. The talent density on our campus is exceptional. I look forward to building on our collective strengths and evaluating what systems need to be modified to accelerate our growth and advance our mission. ➡➡

## **PATH TO THE PRESIDENCY**

### **Education Milestones**

Doctor of Education in educational leadership, Drexel University

Post-master certificate in school administration, Penn State University

Master of Education in counseling and education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science in secondary education, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

### **Penn College Posts**

Vice president for academic affairs and provost

Vice president for academic operations and associate provost

Dean, School of Sciences, Humanities & Visual Communications

Assistant dean, liberal arts & sciences

### **Secondary school stops in Pennsylvania**

Head principal, Williamsport Area High School

Principal, SciTech Campus of Harrisburg High School

Principal, William Penn Alternative School

School counselor, Upper Dauphin Area School District

Teacher, Abraxas Foundation



**Reed poses with Davie Jane Gilmour at a gala celebrating her June 30 retirement as Pennsylvania College of Technology president.**





During a Heavy Equipment Rodeo, part of the Earth Science Center's 50th anniversary celebration, Reed picks up an egg before deftly depositing it down a tube.



Reed celebrates his 50th with children Gavin and Cali, and their black lab, Rio.



Reed, the youngest of 10 children, joins his extended family for his mother's 90th birthday party in May.

## What makes Penn College unique in the competitive higher-education landscape?

Our relevance, industry connections, hands-on approach, faculty expertise and alumni success make us truly unique. We offer a full college experience and degrees that are in extremely high demand. Our graduates are placed on a faster trajectory for long-term success. We shouldn't be shy expressing how exceptional we truly are and the positive impact our graduates make throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

## What are the most significant challenges facing the college?

Enrollment, staffing and infrastructure present significant challenges and our greatest opportunities for improvement.

Regarding enrollment, industry needs more highly skilled graduates, and the return on investment from a Penn College education is extremely high. A few steps we need to take to bolster enrollment include:

- Strategically build stronger connections with high school teachers and parents. They are major influencers on higher education decisions, and our successful approach is not on enough radars.
- Strengthen relationships with career and technology centers and career and technical education programs. There are nearly 70,000 high school students in Pennsylvania alone completing CTE/CTC programs, which directly align with most of our degree options. We need to ensure more of these parents, teachers and students are keenly aware of how a Penn College degree can accelerate professional advancement.
- Enhance diversity on our campus. We need to expand recruitment and partnerships within culturally diverse areas. Industry needs a more diverse workforce, and all graduates will benefit from being better prepared to excel in a culturally rich, global economy.
- Increase part-time and weekend/evening opportunities for working adults who want to complete a degree.

- Expand stackable credentials to degree opportunities.

With staffing, there are employee shortages across the nation, particularly within the high-demand fields aligned with our degrees. Our campus experts are routinely recruited to return to industry. Most of our employees choose to work at Penn College to make a difference and develop the next generation of tomorrow makers. We need to ensure we keep our team members actively engaged in thought-provoking challenges and decision-making processes.

We also need to keep working to recruit a more diverse employee population to best prepare our students to enter a global workforce.

As for infrastructure, there are many rapid and radical changes and innovations happening within industry, and we must continually adapt our labs, technologies and equipment to ensure our faculty and students remain on the leading edge. We need to strategically maximize our capital and continue to partner closely with industry.

## How much influence should industry have in shaping the college's academic offerings?

Industry drives our program offerings, and quality industry relationships always have been, and always will be, essential to our success. We will continue to recruit industry and academic experts to teach, revise and advance our programs.

## Can you characterize your leadership style?

Team-focused, collaborative, goal-centered, transparent and transformative. The talent and passion on this campus are extraordinary, and the best ideas emerge when various points of view and data are used to advance opportunities and solve complex challenges. Engaging stakeholders is important to maximize our collective expertise, innovate and modify systems to move our institution forward.

## How do you plan to collaborate with faculty and staff to meet collegewide objectives?

I strongly encourage two-way communication, and I get out of my office as much as possible to purposefully engage with our stakeholders. Interactions through divisional rounds, coffee and conversations, department head/program leader meetings, and shared governance and councils have yielded multiple mission-focused ideas that have helped maximize opportunities and prioritize planning. As president, I will expand engagement opportunities to include a wider range of stakeholder groups.

## What role should alumni play in the college's future?

I have a genuine appreciation for our alumni, and many are extremely successful leaders in their chosen fields. Our alumni offer invaluable input on what worked well on campus to help them advance, and they provide hands-on insight on emerging trends within their respective fields. These direct perspectives are essential for program advancement and recruitment for our next generation of tomorrow makers.

## Let's say you bump into a student prospect during your travels. How would you describe Penn College to them? Why would you tell them to enroll?

Industry needs more Penn College graduates, and we are a direct pathway to success. We are innovative, creative and relevant. We deliver transformative, hands-on education with personable faculty experts, small class sizes and a long list of industry partners. We are what college should be – a full experience to develop highly skilled thought leaders. The result is a 96.2% placement rate with alumni enjoying sustainable careers that include salaries well above the state and national averages. ■



The Reed family on an outdoor adventure.



Christina and Mike take to the outdoors on cross-country skis.



Reed's favorite fishing buddy, Gavin, catches "the fish of a lifetime" – a 50-inch muskie – on a fly rod in the Susquehanna River in early June.

## RUNNING WITH REED

**Hometown:** Glenshaw, Pennsylvania; about 15 minutes from Pittsburgh

**Full house:** Youngest of 10 kids

**Trailblazer:** First-generation college student

**Family facts:** Wife Christina is executive director of BLAST Intermediate Unit 17. Son Gavin is 16, and daughter Cali will be 15 in September.

**First car owned:** A used five-speed Honda CRX

**Pittsburgh pride:** Fan of the Penguins and Steelers

**First job:** Stocking shelves and cleaning floors at Foodland, a grocery store

**Favorite food:** Pizza

**Hobby:** Being in the outdoors, whether trail running, hiking, biking, fly fishing or archery

**Running man:** Competed in several marathons (including the 2018 Boston Marathon) and endurance trail races as long as 31 miles

**Community connection:** Through the Salvation Army, developed and directed the Williamsport Community Challenge, a series of local trail races that has raised over \$100,000 for families and veterans in need



Reed provides final instructions before the Community Challenge trail run to benefit the Salvation Army of Williamsport. Reed is one of the organizers for the annual event, which includes 5K, 10K and half-marathon races on the Williamsport Municipal Water Authority's trails.



# Blazing the collegiate trail

Students, allies shape positive 'first' impressions



Kaylee A. Finan is at home as a student in the physical therapist assistant major at Penn College. "I knew that this was the career I wanted for myself," she says. To achieve her dream, she relies on inner strength and study techniques suggested by faculty, the First Year Experience course, and her LEAP Center adviser. "This has made it easy, to know that I have someone there to help me if I needed it."

by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-PCToday

From birth onward, life is a formative series of firsts, epic milestones and quieter moments that combine to define the human experience.

There's that exploratory switch to solid food, not to mention the wobbly steps between a steadying coffee table and a parent's waiting arms. Oh, and don't forget preschool play dates and kindergarten tears. Or an exhilarating crush on a theretofore-unnoticed classmate, the rush of independence that accompanies a learner's permit and the flush of pride when landing a perfect summer gig at the end of senior year.

The next chapter for some – higher education – can bring a double debut: A student leaves home for an extended time and, in many cases, is the family's collegiate trailblazer.

Equally paved with elation and potholed with hurdles, that path is closely monitored by a vigilant lineup of advocates at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Recently joining the institution's bullpen of resources is the LEAP Center, which holistically helps first-year and transfer

students "learn, evolve, adapt and prepare" for their introduction to campus life.

## COMMON THREADS

Staff at the center, headquartered – both symbolically and conveniently – in the Davie Jane Gilmour Center at the gateway to the college's main campus, provided a sampling of "rock stars" who have navigated the first-generation minefield without losing sight of what initially drew them to Penn College. While each arrived with a unique back story, there are common threads in the tapestry they weave: drive, focus, satisfaction, hope, involvement in student organizations – and the presence of mind to score big when playing whatever hands they're dealt.

"I was always good at school, but it was never something I loved to do for eight hours a day for my K-12th grade years," radiography student Brielle C. Moon said of her attraction to an associate-degree major. "When I was looking at colleges I wanted to apply to, four-year colleges were not on my list. Penn College has so many two-year programs, it made it so easy for me to find a field of study that I was interested in."

Among the challenges faced so far, the Lewistown resident said, are the demanding science-based classes required for her program.

"I took Intro to Physics and Anatomy and Physiological Survey this past year and they were amazing, but also a stretch for me," Moon said. "I love that the Tutoring Center is open and has so many resources to help in any class. The degree that I will get at the end of my years here will help me get a very good job with great benefits."

"Penn College has an amazing reputation when it comes to preparing students for success in the real world. I can honestly say that, so far, I have been thriving here and cannot wait for my next couple of years."

Like so many of the college's tomorrow makers, Melina K. Petrick, a dental hygiene student from Falls Creek, saw the merit of a hands-on learning environment when choosing where to expand her knowledge and skill set. But she also took notice of the school's "friendly and beautiful" atmosphere marked by water fountains, flowers and art, and said she admired the hard-working college employees who make campus such a conducive environment for student success.

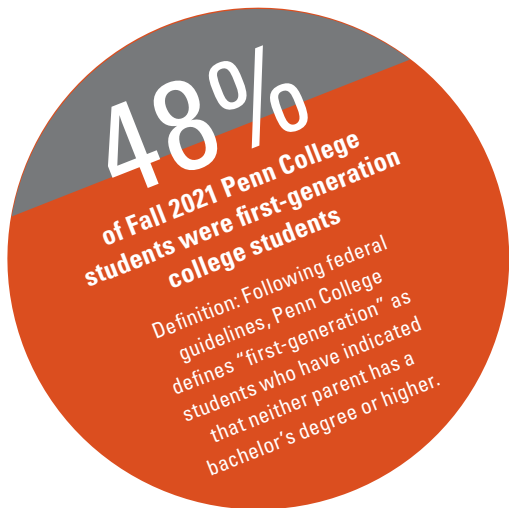
"Although I had a great first year of college, I did encounter difficulties along the way," she said. "As I transitioned from high school to college, I had to adjust my study habits. I learned to make a study schedule so that I had enough time each day to review material. I also

"Being a first-gen college student, you are often beset with feelings of 'Am I good enough to be here?' 'Can I make it?' or 'I have no idea what is going on.'"

Christie A. Bing Kracker, director of Penn College's LEAP Center and a first-generation college graduate







used the ‘active recall’ method to achieve productive studying.”

Among the campus’s “top-notch resources” for students, she said, one site saw more of her than others.

“The Tutoring Center staff is excellent at explaining things in a variety of ways,” Petrick said. “There’s also a broad selection of study materials. For example, I had the opportunity to use the detailed anatomy models and (organs from) cadavers, which helped me learn a lot of information quickly!”

### LIFELINES, HOME AND AWAY

Another first-generation student – Taryn A. Zimmerman, of Lock Haven, who is also enrolled in dental hygiene – points to her parents with pride and gratitude for providing an opportunity they didn’t have, as well as their support “every step of the way.”

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for them,” she said. “I am greatly motivated to make them proud!”

Once she decided to go to college, her selection was an easy one.

“I chose Penn College because it was close to home and I liked the small class sizes. The staff takes the time to get to know you, and you get a chance to know your peers,” Zimmerman said. “I also really enjoyed the thought of ‘hands-on experience,’ and the instructors have real-world experience in your major, so they know what is required for the industry.”

State-of-the-art equipment and an acknowledged high job-placement rate

following graduation – no mere talking points for a national leader in applied technology education – helped to seal the deal.

Rough spots can and do crop up, however, and Zimmerman shares her peers’ ability to power through adversity.

“The main challenge I have encountered in the transition from high school was learning to study and teach myself,” she recounted. “College is more individualized work, whereas, in high school, everyone works together.”

Another stumbling block was learning the importance of time management, and – yet again – a familiar lifeline was manifest.

“The Tutoring Center has helped me significantly and worked with me, day in and day out, until I received the grades I wanted. The LEAP Center and my adviser have also been a huge help. They are always reaching out and looking to help in any way possible. They really take notice of the little things and help the first-year students greatly!”

With the wisdom of someone who’s been there, she offers this advice to other first-generation students: “Stick with it. It gets tough sometimes, but do not give up. Use resources such as the Tutoring Center and reach out to your professors. Your professors are there to help you and guide you. Also, make friends! They are going through the same thing you are, so use one another to your learning advantage.”

Lex R. Yocum, of Watsontown, who already earned an associate degree in architectural technology and is working toward a bachelor’s in building science & sustainable design: architectural technology concentration, knew about Penn College from friends and family (sister Latricia is in the physician assistant program) and attended a summer Architecture Odyssey camp during high school.

“The idea of being able to imagine a structure in my mind, designing those ideas on paper and in various programs, and then having the idea physically created has always been fascinating to me,” he said.

“This concept is always pushing me, as the reward associated with being able to see my idea become a tangible object is incomparable.

“Moreover, sustainability and green architecture are two topics we have delved further into, which has furthered my motivation. This allows me to incorporate new concepts into my design work to ensure modern architecture is ecofriendly, while still being aesthetically appealing. Each semester reinforces the vast impact architecture has on everyone’s lives and the critical role I can play in ensuring designs are safe and sustainable.”



In addition to small class sizes and the instant feedback he gets from the faculty in his major, Yocum has “benefited tremendously” from his Career Services interactions – particularly in perfecting his resume and offering confidence-boosting mock interviews.

“Additionally, I have utilized the makerspace a few times for various class projects, such as the laser cutter and 3D printers. This has been a huge help when it comes to getting projects completed, specifically when the printers or cutter in the architecture lab are occupied. Anything you can think can be done in the makerspace, which is a huge help.”

### ONE GIANT LEAP

Inner strength sustained another Watsontown resident, Kayleean A. Finan, when she determinedly worked through the competitive pre-stage to the full physical therapist assistant program.

“This kept me motivated because I knew that this was the career I wanted for myself,” she said. “I focused on my studies and made sure to keep free time for other

activities, as well. Throughout my first year, I spent a lot of time visiting animals because I feel they help tremendously with stress.”

Some of that stress was attributed to the workload.

“I knew coming in it would be more, but that also means putting more time in and studying differently than I did in high school,” she said. “The LEAP Center and FYE (a required First Year Experience class) helped with different ways of studying. The professors also will give strategies to study for their exams.”

Finan has availed herself of the center, which provides first-year students with an academic adviser and a LEAP adviser to aid in smooth passage.

“This has made it easy, to know that I have someone there to help me if I needed it throughout the first two semesters,” she said.

“Help” also takes the form of knowledgeable and empathetic friends, such as Penn College President Michael J. Reed, the youngest of 10 children who enrolled at Clarion University as an undergrad.

“Like many other first-gen students, it took some time for me to believe in myself – believe that I belonged on campus – and learn how to be most successful,” said Reed, who assumed the presidency on July 1. (See more about Reed on Page 8.) “I was fortunate to have a brother and sister-in-law who lived close to the university, and they served as invaluable mentors, particularly during challenging times. Their insight helped me succeed and discover unique opportunities to maximize my learning.”

Another passionate ally is Christie A. Bing Kracker, director of the LEAP Center, also a first-generation college student, who earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at the University of Memphis before a career that began with a decades-long stint in Student Affairs.

Reflecting on her own adaptation to a new role, a new campus and a new division within higher ed, she was reminded how initial academic experiences can echo

years after graduation.

“Being a first-gen college student, you are often beset with feelings of ‘Am I good enough to be here?’ ‘Can I make it?’ or ‘I have no idea what is going on,’” Bing Kracker said. “During this past year of transition for me, I could occasionally feel those same types of questions floating through my thoughts. It was important to find other first-gen colleagues or those with similar life journeys for me to connect with and find support.”

Working with students to help them transition into Penn College was also a way for her to ease any concerns, she noted.

“I was able to demonstrate that, what I may have been missing in specific knowledge about Penn College processes, I made up for in transferrable skills and genuine desire to help students succeed. Much like my first year of college, I found ways to connect with others, reaffirm my belief that I did belong here, and that I had a lot to contribute to help move this campus community forward.

“I don’t believe we outgrow our first-gen identity and how it shaped us; we continue to integrate it into who we are today and into how we navigate new transitions,” added Bing Kracker, who is brainstorming a number of campus events to raise awareness of first-generation students’ needs – particularly in the admissions process and during that crucial metamorphic period following high school or transfer.

“I think that I am successful in work and in life because of the support I received as a first-gen. It helped develop a sense of resilience in me for all the transitions that life brings.” ■

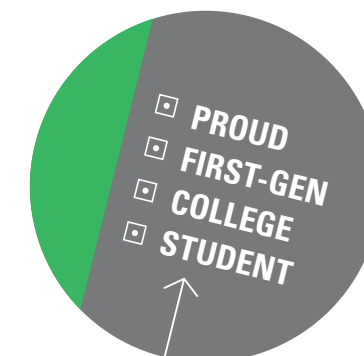


PHOTO COURTESY OF TARYN A. ZIMMERMAN

**Dental hygiene student Taryn A. Zimmerman is motivated to make her parents – who are providing an opportunity to her that they did not have – proud.**



**Brielle C. Moon says that she is thriving, with the help of on-campus resources, despite the demanding science courses required for competitive entrance into the radiography major.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELINA K. PETRICK

**Melina K. Petrick, a dental hygiene student, adjusted her study habits from high school to college, drawing on the Tutoring Center and other campus resources.**



# UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

Leadership Challenge Course  
transforms  
**INDIVIDUALS TO TEAMS**

**Members of the Student American Dental Hygienists Association are led by Rob Cooley, bottom right, who initiated the Fish Real Estate Leadership Challenge Course, through an activity that uses a large “webbing loop” to form a circle. The group begins standing, and first leans back while holding the loop. “The collective balance of the group depends on everyone working together and trusting each other,” Cooley says. Once comfortable with leaning, the group sits and rises in unison. “This is achieved without using anything but the loop to support us.” Cooley is an associate professor of anthropology/environmental science.**

*by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor*

**D**evin Boyd-Joseph says he didn’t really get to know his classmates until he set foot on the Fish Real Estate Leadership Challenge Course. It was the sixth week of classes in Fall 2021, and the Hanover resident joined with other automotive technology: Honda PACT students at the outdoor venue on the south edge of campus.

“Up to that point, it felt like we

barely knew each other, but out there, we got to know each other – more than in the classes. It was nice learning about everybody, communicating, and getting to know about our different lives and backgrounds,” Boyd-Joseph said. “It was different from team building I’d done in the past.”

Nearly 400 students engaged in team-building exercises during the 2021-22 academic year at the new Challenge

Course. A diverse array of academic majors took advantage of the unique offering, as did student organizations, athletics teams and a range of college departments. The current academic year will no doubt see renewed enthusiasm and increased engagement at the hands-on enterprise.

“The course presents an opportunity for members of our campus community to step outside of their comfort zone by engaging in challenging and fun leadership

and team-building activities,” said Brenda Wiegand, associate director of academic operations and a course facilitator.

Featuring nine elements ranging in physical difficulty, the 14,400-square-foot Challenge Course focuses on collaboration and problem-solving, explores leadership and communication concepts, and encourages self-discovery and team growth. Strengthening relationships as well as self-confidence are key outcomes,

“The pressure of a challenge allows you to see a **VULNERABLE** side of people but also highlights their **INNER STRENGTH!**”



and those resulting benefits follow participants off the course into their classrooms, labs and lives.

“I encountered course participants across campus after their sessions and learned that some of the skills they applied during their experience (communication, respect, collaboration, support) continued to influence their work and peer groups long after the challenge course event,” said Rob Cooley, associate professor of anthropology/environmental science.

Cooley initiated and shepherded the Challenge Course after witnessing countless transformational experiences among students on study-abroad expeditions and in his Outdoor Recreation as a Therapeutic Tool course. During a Spring 2019 sabbatical, he researched and consulted with Tony Draus, of EdVenture Builders in Bloomsburg, and the duo brought the vision to life – with the added expertise of faculty and students in architecture and building construction technology and Penn College General

Services employees. Boosting the endeavor financially were Brent and Daria Fish, who generously gifted support to honor the memory of Brent’s father, William H. Fish. It’s been a true team effort that has resulted in a ripple effect of infinite opportunities.

“It was special for me to see participants experience in real time the surprising, unexpected personal insights that come from challenge and team-building experiences,” Cooley said. “I really appreciated seeing groups coalesce during their experience: Individuals would arrive at the course for their program as individuals, standing alone and looking at their phone, or chatting in groups of two or three, but leaving in larger groups, laughing, talking about what just happened.”

Other faculty have taken notice, scheduling Challenge Course sessions for their students.

“It was wonderful watching the students connect outside of the classroom and clinic environment,” said Bridget E. Motel, dental hygiene instructor. “I saw them encourage each other as they worked together to navigate the course obstacles and complete the unique problem-solving exercises. Students developed their leadership, teamwork and critical thinking skills in a fun, friendly environment. Both first- and second-year students truly enjoyed this experience and appreciated the opportunity to interact!”

Joe Tavani, instructor of automotive technology: Honda PACT, says he sought out the Challenge Course for his students as a way to infuse a teamwork component into what is otherwise a fairly solitary career field.

“In the automotive business and, in general, a lot of trades, you’re not in a teamworking situation; you’re doing your job solo. For the most part, you’re alone in your day, and if you lose focus, you make mistakes. I thought the Challenge Course would contribute to their learning, in seeing how other people’s points of view help in solving problems,” Tavani explained. ►►





## ELEMENTS OF THE CHALLENGE COURSE

### WILDCAT WALK

Get your group to safely traverse multiple lengths of cable without falling off. There are trees and poles between the stretches of cable, which help, but moving between trees can be challenging. Communication and trust are key to success here.

### Z STEPS

Similar to the Wildcat Walk, but this activity uses planks instead of rope. The added challenge here is that trees or poles are off limits as supports.

### COMMITMENT BRIDGE

This is a trust-building activity. Team members pair up and stand facing each other at the intersection of two cables strung into a “V” shape. The pair holds hands or locks arms and shuffles outward on the cables as the cables get farther apart. As the participants progress along the widening V, they will lean increasingly on each other.

### TIRE TRAVERSE

A very physical element. The goal is to get your group across the course from one tire to the next without touching the ground.

### TRIANGLE TENSION TRAVERSE

This is a low-profile but challenging station! It begins easily, but the difficulty is increased quickly as participants traverse.

### TEAM NITRO CROSSING

Teams swing across an imaginary canyon using one rope and four platforms. The basic rule of this station is that the hazard will consume the life support tools (rope, platforms) if participants let go or stop touching those items.

### POSTMAN WALK

This tightrope-like activity involves a two-line bridge with one rope as a handrail.

### MULTILINE

This element involves dangling support ropes that are hung at various heights and lengths. Your team will climb these ropes simultaneously.

### PORThOLE

Everyone has to escape a sinking ship via the porthole to the lifeboat. Team members will pass through a tire with some added difficulties.



Human services & restorative justice student Jorden K. Graham, bottom left, and students in various other majors tackle trust-building challenges, including, clockwise from top left: students place a ring onto the sleeping king's finger (that is, they place a tire with 10 handles onto a post without touching the post); complete the multiline; and work their way through the Z Steps.

With the outdoor venue launching during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Challenge Course offered additional healthy benefits.

“The Challenge Course was a place where positivity and fresh air eased the stress from masking, COVID-19 and the world, and allowed people to just be their best selves, pushing boundaries, learning about others, and making authentic connections with people in their major, team or group that they might not have ever really engaged with otherwise,” Cooley said.

Jorden Graham, a human services & restorative justice student from Williamsport, concurred: “I was excited to be outdoors and get to know my peers’ smiling faces. What surprised me was the

experience of learning different working styles. We each applied our unique key strengths as a cooperative force, which was fun and enlightening. The pressure of a challenge allows you to see a vulnerable side of people but also highlights their inner strength!”

The Challenge Course has also adeptly stirred laughter into the learning.

“Everyone worked together through laughter and collaboration,” said Samantha Theriault, a dental hygiene student from Taylor. “Even those who came with apprehension left with a team spirit and enjoyed their time! Taking time to build relationships with my classmates outside of the classroom benefitted our relationships from that point on.”

Starting each session with icebreaker games and evolving into activities requiring physical support between participants, the Challenge Course creates experiences where the individual’s and team’s success and physical safety depends on the participants collaborating directly and intentionally.

“As a facilitator, I have found that one of the most impactful parts of the course is the opportunity to debrief activities with participants,” Wiegand said. “Through these reflection activities, it’s easy to see the value the course provides. Some of the comments I hear participants say are: ‘I can’t believe I just did that!’, ‘No one has ever cheered for me like that before,’ or ‘I didn’t realize I could lead.’” ■

Dominique A. Viola, a May dental hygiene graduate, is spotted by her peers as she reaches for a rope. In its first year, the Challenge Course hosted 34 groups, including academic classes, student organizations, athletics teams and departmental staff.



Fourteen in-demand group study rooms, with a capacity ranging from four to 12 occupants, line the southeastern corner of the first and second floors. Students can check their availability on the library's website.

**Namesakes:** The late Roger Madigan was a state senator and a member of the college's Board of Directors. Peggy, his wife, was a longtime supporter of libraries and literacy.

What else does the library hold? Classrooms; research computers in close proximity to helpful reference librarians; a law collection and alcove; and frequent displays of student work, from wood sculptures to wedding cakes. (Herbie the Love Bug has made appearances, too!)

A 60-seat computer lab is one of two on the library's second floor. It is also the location of the Wildcat Den, home of the college's esports team.

Room with a view: Floor to second-story-ceiling windows in the Logue Popular Reading Atrium create an attractive study space. James Everett Logue, for whom the space is named, was an associate professor of English who died in 2004. He taught at the former Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School in Williamsport before joining the faculty at the college, where he taught for 39 years.

Books remain vital, but the library has other useful items available for checkout. For class, students can borrow laptops, chargers and cables, calculators, drafting tables, cameras, building plans, and such specialty tools as a thermal imager, data logger, and moisture meter. For fun, students can create with the library's markers and colored pencils, unwind with video games and consoles, try robotics using the library's dipole antennae, and even combat the winter blues with light therapy lamps.

### Southeast corner of Hagan Way and College Avenue

When the Roger & Peggy Madigan Library opened in 2006 near the college's main entrance, it became a campus destination. In addition to offering extensive library facilities and collections, the 1,000-seat facility incorporates an art gallery that hosted its 50,000<sup>th</sup> visitor in 2022, college archives, a virtual reality studio, a café, and the Center for Career Design, filling the nearly 105,000-square-foot space.



Because of you, tomorrow is in the making!

# TOMORROW IS IN THE MAKING

LEGACY CAMPAIGN FOR PENN COLLEGE

For more than 100 years, Pennsylvania College of Technology has been empowering students to earn an applied technology education – one that leads to success in the global marketplace. Thanks to alumni, corporate partners, employees, parents and friends, a new generation of Tomorrow Makers with real-world experience will fill industry demand for a highly skilled workforce.

True to the college’s hands-on approach to education, the Legacy Campaign for Penn College was a collective commitment to the future. Upon announcing her 2022 retirement, President Davie Jane Gilmour launched campaign efforts, inviting all hands in to empower students to create the world we want to live in.



“The most memorable experience in Spain was standing in front of Catedral de Granada. It quite literally took my breath away. Architecture has this unique ability to impact people’s emotions. What is it about architecture that allows us to express the beauty of feeling and emotion? That is what inspires me. I want to be able to answer that question with my own design. I want to create a space that drives emotion.”

Diana M. Gaglione '22  
architecture & sustainable design

\$37,187,862  
raised to transform tomorrow

Total campaign commitments during fiscal years 2018-22



\$4,867,137 raised for academics and affinity

- ◇ The Baja SAE team wins two off-road endurance races against other top engineering schools.
- ◇ Athletics teams (golf and softball) win conference championships and compete at the NCAA tournament level for the first time in college history.
- ◇ Student-athletes earn a 3.21 average cumulative GPA – the college’s highest ever.
- ◇ The new Dr. Welch Charitable Trust provides perpetual resources for the Dr. Welch Workshop: A Makerspace at Penn College.



\$14,887,880 raised for equipment and facilities

- ◇ Newly named Foley Hydraulics Lab honors a five-year commitment that will help purchase supplies and equipment for heavy construction equipment technology and electric power generation technology majors.
- ◇ Welding Expansion Project makes Lycoming Engines Metal Trades Center one of the largest welding facilities in U.S. higher education.
- ◇ The Machining Technologies Center is remodeled, re-equipped and renamed for Larry A. Ward '66.
- ◇ An Ss Brewtech brewing system provides new learning opportunities for brewing & fermentation science students.



\$17,432,845 raised for scholarships

- ◇ Penn College Foundation Golf Classic raises a record \$140,360 for student scholarships.
- ◇ A new Global Experience Fund supports student discovery.
- ◇ More than 350 scholarship funds provide \$1.35 million in scholarship awards, allowing for more skilled technicians, engineers, bakers, dental hygienists and business leaders – to name a few.



“Receiving a scholarship has only made me more committed to finishing my degree, using my skills in the software industry and making all the people who took the time out to invest in my future proud.”

Malcolm Lampkin '21  
software development & information management



Learn more about these stories at [magazine.pct.edu/by](https://magazine.pct.edu/by)





1950s

**Norman R. Hope ‘59**, radio and television repair, retired from IBM Endicott in New York, where he was hired upon graduation as a computer/ maintenance technician. He retired after 32 years as functional manager of equipment maintenance. He has been retired for 30 years living in Melbourne, Fla., with his wife of 59 years.

1960s

**Richard Huntzinger ‘61**, electronics, physics, drafting, is retired and resides in Prescott, Ariz.

1970s

**Marilyn (Lundy) Huff ‘70**, practical nursing, is a retired school nurse from the Montoursville Area and South Williamsport Area school districts. She resides in Montoursville with her husband of 50 years, **Frank ‘69**, electrical construction, who is an electrical foreman for TurnKey Electric.

**David R. Heggenstaller ‘72**, diesel technology, is a retired sergeant first class in the Army. He was a maintenance supervisor/platoon sergeant. He resides in Pleasant Gap.

**William M. Sheaffer ‘72**, electronics technology, retired after 32 years with Continental Automotive, where he developed embedded software for driver information systems, including semi-truck data loggers, bus controls and dashboard instrumentation software. In the first 10 years of his career, he developed software tools for electronic circuit testing, followed by software development for phototypesetting machine text processing and control. He resides in McAlisterville.

**Kenneth Bolig ‘73**, civil engineering technology, retired from Geisinger as a senior facilities coordinator. He resides in Winfield.

**John Hinchliffe ‘73**, electronics technology, retired in 2019 as a senior hardware control engineer for TMEIC (Toshiba Mitsubishi-Electric Industrial Systems) Corp. From 1978 to 2019, he held electrical design engineering positions with GE in Erie and Salem, Va., GE Toshiba in Salem and TMEIC in Roanoke, Va. He resides in Buchanan, Va.

**Kenneth J. Ritter ‘73**, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is retired. He resides in Coopersburg, has been married for 43 years and has two children and four grandchildren.

**Michael F. Haussener ‘74**, electrical construction, is retired and resides in Jersey Shore.

**Deborah A. (Bower) Dawes ‘75**, ornamental horticulture technology: floriculture, is a retired elementary school teacher and semi-retired owner of Wildlife Habitat Nursery. The nursery produces wetland and riparian native plants that are delivered to local, state and federal agencies, including the Nez Perce and Coeur d’Alene tribes, for restoration of salmon and native habitat near the Northwest’s rivers, streams and lakes. She operates the nursery with her husband and son, along with six employees. She also has a grown daughter. They have resided in Princeton, Idaho, since 1977.

**Michael Koller ‘75**, automotive mechanics, is owner and president of Atlantic Caisson Corp. and has won various construction project specialty awards. He resides in York.

**Michael J. McNamara ‘76**, floriculture, is a horticulturalist for Spring Lake Golf Club. He holds a certificate from DuPage Horticultural School and a bachelor’s in agriculture from South Dakota State University.

He resides in Toms River, N.J., and is fighting myelodysplastic syndrome cancer.

**Thomas F. Schatz ‘76**, automotive technology, retired on Feb. 28 from Chrysler/ Daimler Chrysler/Fiat Chrysler/ Stellantis after 34 years. He was an area manager for the company. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Pittsburg State University and an MBA from Lake Erie College. He resides in Boonville, Ind.

**Kathy J. Curry ‘77**, forest technology, is a global strategic sourcing specialist for Restek Corp., which manufactures tools to monitor the quality of air, water, soil, foods, botanicals, pharmaceuticals, and chemical and petroleum products. She resides in Clearfield.

**Jim Clauser ‘79**, forest technology, is an agricultural specialist for Northampton County Conservation District. Past positions have included forest technologist for Kort Consulting, soil technician for Northumberland County Conservation District and USDA Soil Conservation District, manager of the Carbon County Conservation District, environmental professional for PPL, and NV5 environmental pipeline inspector in West Virginia. His honors include the Northeastern Environmental Partnership Award. He resides in Jim Thorpe.

**Lonny C. Horst ‘79**, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is a business development manager for Trinity Drilling & Blasting. He resides in Manheim.

1980s

**Alton “Al” E. Glatfelter ‘80**, electrical technology, retired in June as a SharePoint site manager. He resides in Reston, Va.

**David W. Swanger ‘80**, ornamental horticulture technology: nursery management, is vice president, Northern Region, for Davis Landscape. He resides in Hummelstown. He and his wife have two daughters.

**Gregory R. Wentz ‘80**, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is a quality assurance inspector for KME Fire Apparatus. He resides in Lehighton.

**Paul Catalano ‘81**, nursery management, is manager of grounds maintenance for Yale University. He manages 300-plus acres with union staff. He resides in Branford, Conn.

**Donald Chilson ‘81**, forest technology, is a lead software engineer for Wells Fargo. He resides in Concord, N.C.

**Paul W. Hitesman ‘81**, forest technology, is a training manager for Wood Mode LLC. He received a bachelor’s in technology management from Penn College in 2003 and resides in Allenwood.

**Stanley E. Geiswhite ‘82**, forest technology, is a local LTL (less than truckload) driver for Estes Express. He resides in Northumberland.

**David M. Gordon ‘82**, food and hospitality management, is senior vice president of Original Traders Energy USA, a privately owned oil and gas business operating in the U.S. and Canada. After almost 20 years in sales and management positions for Shell Oil, he took on the owner-partner position with OTE, basing his U.S. operations in his “new hometown” of East Lansing, Mich.

**Kurt E. Sweigart ‘80**, building construction technology and ‘82, plumbing and heating, is a self-employed insurance agent. He was named the top agent in Oklahoma for the past two years, and 23rd (out of 800 agents) in the country. He resides in Edmond, Okla.

**Greg Tama ‘83**, automotive technology, retired as vice president of maintenance and engineering, systems and technology for UPS. For 34 years, he administered the UPS fleet maintenance program. He holds a bachelor’s in industrial automotive technology from Indiana State University and a graduate certificate in supply chain management and information systems from Penn State. He resides in Alpharetta, Ga.

**Gary Obert ‘86**, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is a senior regional director, finance, for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. He resides in Arlington, Va.

**Mark E. Keller ‘87**, service and operation of heavy construction equipment, is a general superintendent for Glenn O. Hawbaker. He resides in Turbotville.

1990s

**Deanna (Cooper) Sherman ‘90**, business management, is a customer service coordinator for Corning Inc. and is on a special project for a new plant opening in Pune, India. She resides in Elkland, where she has served on the Borough Council since 2018.

**Todd Mason ‘91**, landscape/ nursery technology, is senior director of sales and development-turf and ornamental, for Sipcam Agro USA Inc. He resides in Easton, Md.

**Chris Holdridge ‘92**, construction carpentry, is a superintendent for Milnes Cos. He resides in Wyalusing.

**Brian Harpster ‘93**, electronics technology: fiber optic/ communication, is a senior quality engineer/laser safety officer for II-VI Inc. He is responsible for worldwide customer engineering support for opto-electronic amplifiers and network devices. He’s also

the laser safety officer for its research and development lab. He holds a bachelor’s in electrical engineering from Alfred University. He resides in Painted Post, N.Y.

**Jeffrey N. Walizer ‘93**, landscape/nursery technology, is a Pennsylvania-certified horticulturalist and a designer for Creative Landscapes Inc. He resides in Loganton.

**Chris S. Weaver ‘93**, diesel technology, is an assistant professor and department head of diesel equipment technology at Penn College. He also holds Penn College degrees in diesel technician and technology management and is a recipient of the Caterpillar Teaching Excellence Award. He resides in Danville.

**Eric J. Burson ‘94**, heavy construction equipment technician, is a materials supervisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He oversees testing of all cement products approved for use by PennDOT, as well as specialized testing for new cement products submitted for approval. He resides in Kulpmont.

**Brent Fraser ‘94**, aviation technology, is vice president of maintenance for Flightcraft, a division of Atlantic Aviation. Its core is corporate jet maintenance in Portland, Ore., and Seattle. He resides in Castle Rock, Wash.

**Frances R. (Sommerfeld) McMahon ‘94**, office administration-executive, is an administrative assistant in the Business Information Systems Department for Sinclair Community College. She resides in Waynesville, Ohio.

**Scott Cummings ‘95**, forest technology, is the president of Cummings Lumber Co. The family business includes a sawmill, dry kilns, flooring plant and pellet plant. He resides in Troy.

**Jeffrey R. Gaston ‘96**, microcomputer specialist, is a senior system administrator for Sourcing Business Solutions, designing customers’ networks and servers. He resides in Hollidaysburg.

**Kathy M. Thompson ‘96**, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a senior recruiter for First Quality Enterprises. She resides in Howard.

**Michael A. Streich ‘97**, manufacturing engineering technology, is a lead project engineer for American Axle Manufacturing. His father, **Gary**, graduated in 1970 in machining. He resides in Emporium.

**Joni M. Merrick ‘98**, technology management, retired from the City of Alexandria, Va., as an occupational safety and health specialist. She designed safety and health programs and trained employees in the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. She received an associate degree in technology studies from Penn College in 1990 and a Master of Science in safety, security and emergency management from Eastern Kentucky University in 2010. She resides in Alexandria.

**Brian E. Scott ‘98**, graphic design, is vice president/general manager of Trone Outdoor Advertising. He resides in Spring Grove.

**Dean Bowley ‘99**, machinist general, is the machine shop supervisor for Alpha Precision Group. He resides in Johnsonburg.

**Gregory Moser ‘99**, diesel technology: Mack emphasis, is a district fleet maintenance manager for FedEx Freight. He resides in Dallas.

2000s

**Paula (Lebiedziewski) Fetterolf ‘00**, occupational therapy assistant, is a licensed, certified occupational therapy assistant for the North Schuylkill School District. She resides in Gordon.

**Tim A. Hornberger ‘01**, landscape/nursery technology, is a resource conservation technician for the Snyder County Conservation District. He resides in Richfield with his wife and three sons.

**Todd Rebman ‘01**, landscape/ nursery technology, is an athletics groundskeeper for Reading School District. He’s also a certified playground inspector and maintains the schools’ playgrounds. He resides in Myerstown.

**Richard V. Baus III ‘02**, construction management, is a construction specialist for Urban Engineers Inc. On Oct. 31, 2021, he completed a Master of Business Administration with a specialization in finance from Holy Family University with a 4.0 GPA. He is pursuing a Doctorate of Education in organizational leadership. He resides in Levittown.

**Karen Ruhl ‘02**, floral design/ interior landscape, is a part-time floral design instructor for Penn College, where she received Alumni of the Year (2016) and Part-Time Teaching Excellence (2021) awards. She resides in Williamsport.

**Shaun R. Slimmer ‘02**, computer-aided product and systems design, is the Mid-Atlantic business development manager-defense & space for Carlisle Interconnect Technologies. He resides in Keymar, Md., with his wife of 20 years, **Sabrina (Lowman) ‘01**, physical fitness specialist, and their two daughters.





**Jason Weber '02**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is an IT lead systems administrator for Fulton Bank. He resides in Lancaster.

**Eric M. Deardorff '03**, construction management, is vice president of operations for Fayetteville Contractors Inc. He resides in Chambersburg.

**Kevin L. Imes '03**, building construction technology and construction management, is a construction project manager for Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health. He resides in Palmyra and received Penn College's 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award.

**Daniel Mroz '03**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, and microcomputer specialist, is a cloud strategist for Dell Technologies. He resides in New Braunfels, Texas.

**Jacob Vough '03**, electric power generation technology, is a field service representative for Kubota Tractor Corp. He helps Kubota dealer technicians with service-related issues on large ag tractors, hay equipment and construction equipment. He resides in Markleton.

**Susanna (Thomas) Storeng '03**, physician assistant, is the chief clinical officer for High Plains Community Health Center. She manages nine medical, three dental and five behavioral health providers. She holds a Doctor of Medical Science and resides in Lamar, Colo.

**Lee J. Gauker '04**, diesel technology, is a mechanic/welder for Levan Machine and Truck Equipment. He resides in Fleetwood.

**Randy Mason '04**, architectural technology, is a senior CAD designer for Perley Halladay associates, a design/build contractor for cold storage facilities. He resides in Kennett Square.

**Andrew J. Miller '04**, civil engineering technology, is director of land development and engineering for Catalyst Commercial Development. He resides in Lancaster.

**Jenna (Wegielski) Baisch '05**, dental hygiene, resides in Waxhaw, N.C., where she is a dental hygienist for Millbridge Dentistry. She has been married since 2012 and has two daughters. She completed her bachelor's in dental hygiene: health policy and administration from Penn College in 2006.

**Travis Ehst '05**, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is the CEO of GO2, a technology solutions firm that has been named on The Philadelphia 100 – a list of the city's 100 fastest growing companies – for the past six years. He resides in Lansdale.

**Rhonda Leech '05**, floral design/interior plantscape, is a cashier for Sheetz. She resides in Montoursville.

**Maureen P. (Benfer) Payne '05**, floral design/interior plantscape, is a senior customer service representative for United Concordia Dental. She resides in Lewisburg.

**Jason D. Praster '05**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a senior welding engineer for the Zachry Group. He resides in San Antonio.

**Kyle R. Rhoads '05**, manufacturing engineering technology, is an operations manager for TE Connectivity. He resides in Harrisburg.

**Benjamin J. Smith '05**, environmental technology management, owns KBS Environmental Services. He resides in State College.

**Sarah A. Tietbohl '05**, floral design/interior plantscape, is a horticulturalist for Smithsonian Gardens. She maintains and designs the gardens around the Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and is

the social media manager for Smithsonian Gardens. She resides in Alexandria, Va.

**Dave Cole '06**, forest technology, is a forester for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. The 2017 Service Forester of the Year, he serves Mercer and Lawrence counties. He resides in Greenville and is studying and working to develop a garlic farm based on regenerative agriculture methods for enhancing soil health.

**John Raymond '06**, business administration: management, is a senior supervisor of operations for UGI Utilities. His staff of 25 maintains all natural gas distribution lines in Lycoming County. He resides in South Williamsport and holds an associate degree in history from Lock Haven University.

**Jason M. Smith '06**, aviation maintenance technology, is the general manager for Sterling Helicopter. He resides in Holland, Pa.

**Sean Stabler '06**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is director of innovation for Sekisui Kydex. He holds a master's in materials science from Drexel University and resides in Bloomsburg.

**Brad M. VanValkenburg '06**, graphic communications management, is a senior sourcing category manager for marketing and print for The Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America. In 2018, he received the CEO Award from Guardian for work on its corporate rebranding effort. He holds a master's in graphic communications management and technology from New York University. He has been married for 10 years, has three boys and resides in Blainstown, N.J.

**Stacy (Cochran) Wolfe '06**, nursing, is an adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, hospitalists, for UPMC. She resides in Carlisle with her husband and three children.

**Andrea M. (Stahl) Featherstone '07**, accounting, is a senior financial consultant for Workday Inc. She resides in Lewisburg.

**Eric Kramer '07**, information technology: security specialist, is a senior information security risk and compliance analyst for Fulton Bank. He resides in Etters.

**Matthew M. Staub '07**, electronics engineering technology, is a senior printed circuit board/CAD design engineer for Google. He is lead designer for the main logic boards that go into Pixel phones each year. He resides in Elmhurst, Ill.

**Steve Bull '08**, manufacturing engineering technology, is a senior engineer for Schindler Elevator. He resides in Hanover.

**Patrick D. Cullop '08**, diesel technology, is an electrical apprentice for Freestate Electrical Service Co. He resides in Monrovia, Md.

**Kevin Hickman '08**, physician assistant, is a PA for Geisinger and an assistant professor for AT Still University. He holds a doctorate in medical science and master's degrees in jurisprudence (health law) and heath care administration. In 2021, he published two peer-reviewed articles in the Journal of the American Academy of PAs (July and November issues). He resides in Dallas, Pa.

**Daniel Hornberger '08**, nursing, is operations director of the Heart and Vascular Institute at Penn State Health Hershey Medical Center. He went on to receive a bachelor's in nursing and a master's in nursing administration. He resides in Seven Valleys with his wife and two children.

**Ashley (Arvin) Knight '08**, business administration: marketing, is a manager for Altus Group. She represents clients for unclaimed property compliance and consulting. She resides in Fallston, Md.

**Ashlyn M. (Hershberger) Benicewicz '11**, graphic communications management, is a debit card disputes specialist

for Navy Federal Credit Union. She resides in Martinsburg, W.Va.

**Benjamin P. Bollinger '11**, computer aided product design, is a senior project building information modeling lead for Southland Industries. He resides in Red Lion.

**Ben Clark '11**, residential construction technology and management, is an assistant facilities manager for Penn College, primarily responsible for Residence Life buildings. He resides in Montoursville.

**Brandon Close '11**, business administration: marketing, is a project manager for the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from City University of New York. He resides in Maspeth, N.Y.

**Greg Dangle '11**, diesel technician, is a technician for Ground Shaker Motorsports. He resides in Williamsport.

**Megan (Waldman) Farnsworth '11**, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a dental hygienist for Rolling Ridge Dental Care. She resides in Boalsburg.

**Andrew Kaminski '11**, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology, is chief operating officer for Atlas Landscape Contractors. While he was head horticulturalist for Glenmaura National Golf Club, Golf Digest ranked it 17th (out of 800 in Pennsylvania) in landscaping design/build innovations. He resides in Moscow, Pa.

**Piotr Kepinski-Kozaczek '11**, automotive technology management, is an Audi Group parts lead for Audi of America. He resides in Reston, Va.

**Lee D. Michels '11**, construction management, is a service manager for Perlectric Inc. and holds a Virginia journeyman electrician license. He resides in Springfield, Va.

**Ashlyn M. (Hershberger) Benicewicz '11**, graphic communications management, is a debit card disputes specialist

for Navy Federal Credit Union. She resides in Martinsburg, W.Va.

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**Ashlyn M. (Hershberger) Benicewicz '11**, graphic communications management, is a debit card disputes specialist

**Joel Steppe '11**, forest technology, is a horticulturalist for Penn College at the Earth Science Center campus. He resides in Jersey Shore.

**Adam J. Yoder '11**, building automation technology, is an industrial technology specialist for Workforce Development at Penn College. He resides in Williamsport.

**Amanda Funk '12**, health arts: practical nursing, is a health room tech-nurse for the Williamsport Area School District. She and her husband, **Tim '11**, diesel technology, electric power generation technology and technology management, and their three children returned to the Williamsport area in 2020.

**Christopher Silverstrim '12**, electrical technology, is an automation engineer for Invata Intralogistics, which specializes in warehouse automation and fulfillment. He designs and programs system controls. He resides in Coal Township.

**Jessica (Korman) Solt '12**, occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Tender Touch Rehab, serving patients in a skilled nursing facility. She resides in Allentown.

**Megan E. Wright '12**, physician assistant, is a PA for University of Maryland Medical Center, where she performs neurerehabilitation consultations. She resides in Towson, Md.

**Ryan M. Enders '13**, aviation technology and technology management, is supervisor of air safety for Lycoming Engines. He investigates serious aircraft accidents involving Lycoming Engines on-scene to support the National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration. He received a master's in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2019 and is pursuing a Master of Business Administration. He resides in Mifflinburg.

**Emily (Vinson) Ferrario '13**, nursing, is a registered nurse and clinical documentation integrity specialist for Guthrie Medical Group. She resides in Troy.

**Jessica Frank '13**, graphic communications management, is a project manager-IT for RR Donnelley. She resides in Ephrata.

**Richard M. Norgard '13**, technology management, is the owner/operator of RN Woodworks LLC. He resides in Toms River, N.J.

**Joshua A. Bonner '14**, web design and multimedia, is executive director of marketing for Mount St. Mary's University. He resides in Gettysburg.

**Katie (Kelley) Ingle '14**, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Westminster Family Dentistry. She resides in Littlestown.

**Casey (Manbeck) Lowe '14**, early childhood education, is a lead teacher for U-GRO learning center. She resides in Ephrata.

**Jesilynn J. (Henry) Oleksza '14**, business administration: management, is an accountant for LSC Environmental Products. She resides in Montrose.

**Matthew A. Bamonte '15**, information technology sciences: gaming and simulation, is a learning technology support engineer for Amazon Robotics. He resides in Camp Hill.

**Cassandra (Mohr) Enders '15**, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a pediatric dental hygienist for Geisinger Health System. She resides in Mifflinburg.

**Kenneth Robbins '15**, on-site power generation, is an EHS (environmental, health and safety) specialist for IMG Energy Services. He resides in Lock Haven.

**Stephen Wozniak '15**, business administration, is a contract specialist for the Department of Defense. He resides in Watsonstown.



**Dustin C. Bailey ‘16**, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is a senior architectural designer for Studio Hillier, working under renowned architect J. Robert Hillier. He resides in Hightstown, N.J., with fiancée **Onolee Oberrender ‘16**, graphic design. Oberrender founded an independent graphic design firm, Kindly Creative.

**Chesnya I. Cherelus ‘16**, nursing, is a travel registered nurse for Aya Healthcare. She resides in Elmont, N.Y.

**Matthew Jurado ‘16**, accounting, is senior manager, fulfillment center optimization, for Chewy. He resides in Forty Fort.

**Jessica (Wiegand) Layre ‘16**, business administration: marketing, is an assistant registrar for the University of Pittsburgh. She resides in Pittsburgh.

**Christopher Rutledge ‘16**, web and interactive media, is a web developer for the Philadelphia Eagles. He resides in Philadelphia.

**Benjamin Thayer ‘16**, residential construction technology and management, is a manager and inspector for National Property Inspections West Branch Valley. He resides in Williamsport.

**Bradley G. Willis ‘16**, heating, ventilation & air conditioning design technology, is a systems application engineer for Johnson Controls. He was president of the Central Pennsylvania chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers from 2019 to 2021. He resides in Harrisburg.

**Chelsea M. Zimmerman ‘16**, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Heartland Dental. She resides in Williamstown.

**Timothy P. Beiler ‘17**, aviation maintenance technology, is a mechanic for Pine Tree Motors. He resides in Ephrata.

**Stephanie M. (Puckly) Biltz ‘17**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a senior weld engineer/weld supplier liaison for BAE Systems. She resides in Felton.

**Kyle D. Bomboy ‘17**, physician assistant, is a pulmonary critical care physician assistant for WellSpan Health-York Hospital. He resides in York.

**Garrett D. Corneliussen ‘17**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a senior manufacturing engineer for Rivian, launching the body manufacturing line for the company’s first all-electric truck and SUV. He is part of the Penn College Mentor program and resides in Fletcher, N.C.

**Noah L. English ‘17**, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, is the owner of Red’s Plant Health Care LLC. He resides in Bloomsburg.

**Cameron Porter ‘17**, heavy construction equipment technology: technician emphasis and operator emphasis, is a field service technician for Komatsu America Corp. He is a member of the Central Mountain High School Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and a volunteer for Penn College’s diesel technology CTE competition. He is married with two children and resides in Mill Hall.

**Brittany Terpstra ‘17**, web and interactive media, is the associate director of web services for Wilkes University. She resides in Wilkes-Barre.

**Mark Dumais ‘18**, heavy construction equipment technology: technician emphasis and operator emphasis, is an equipment operator for Allan Myers. He resides in Aberdeen, Md.

**Madison Januchowski ‘18**, emergency management technology, is a general merchandise and tool specialist/marketing coordinator for The College Store at Penn College. She resides in Montoursville.

**Jonathan R. Norris ‘18**, forest technology, is a graduate research assistant at West Virginia University, where he is researching cross-laminated timber and other mass timber products. He completed a bachelor’s in wood science technology from WVU in 2018 and is pursuing a Master of Science in forestry. He resides in Morgantown, W.Va.

**Andrew Smith ‘18**, aviation technology and applied management, is a lead passenger service manager for Atlas Air. He resides in Wilkes-Barre.

**Logan Tate ‘18**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an engineering program manager for Altrista Plastics. He resides in State College.

**Makenzie E. Witmer ‘18**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a project manager intern for HRI. She is continuing her education toward a Penn College degree in construction management and resides in Bellefonte.

**Rebecca J. (Brown) Anderson ‘19**, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a quality engineer for C&J Industries. She resides in Cochranston.

**Megan Finnen ‘19**, forest technology, is a forest technician for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. She resides in Sweet Valley.

**Eric Grist ‘19**, electrical technology, is a CNC repair technician for Hardinge Inc. He resides in Elkland and welcomed his first granddaughter in July 2021.

**Kyle Remigio ‘19**, automotive technology and applied management, is the service manager for Ciocca BMW of Williamsport. He resides in Watsontown.

**Troy Stair ‘19**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a weld manufacturing engineer for Astec Industries, which manufactures equipment for asphalt road building, aggregate processing and concrete production. He resides in Chattanooga, Tenn.

**Daisy Walker ‘19**, surgical technology, is a surgical technologist for Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and a clinical preceptor. She resides in Middletown.

**Catherine Weatherman ‘19**, engineering design technology, is an extrusion engineer for Cardinal Systems Inc. She works in quality assurance and has a hand in tool design and modification, tool building and development, process improvement, and working with new technology. She resides in Ringtown.

**Jaclyn N. Wolf ‘19**, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, is a landscape supervisor for Liberty Mountain Resort. She resides in Gettysburg.

## 2020s

**Ryan Caughill ‘20**, emergency management technology, is a disaster recovery and business continuity analyst for M&T Bank. He resides in Buffalo, N.Y.

**Kaitlyn M. (Young) Clark ‘20**, health information management, is a health information management coordinator for Privia Health. She resides in Grottoes, Va.

**Artie S. Cohan ‘20**, diesel technology, is a diesel technician for Kenworth of Pennsylvania. He resides in Dingmans Ferry.

**James Patrick Dailey ‘20**, building construction technology and concrete science technology, is a self-employed concrete contractor. He resides in Williamsport.

**Christian Peters ‘20**, business administration: sport and event management, is the assistant team administrator for Major League Soccer team Real Salt Lake. He resides in South Jordan, Utah.

**Kate M. Ruggiero ‘20**, aviation technology, is an aircraft paint specialist for Duncan Aviation. She resides in Battle Creek, Mich.

**Christopher B. Thomas ‘20**, electronics and computer engineering technology, is an automation specialist for MilliporeSigma. He resides in Pleasant Gap.

**Ethan L. Arnett ‘21**, construction management, is a field project engineer for Baker Concrete Construction. He resides in Laurel, Md.

**Hayley Bauer ‘21**, accounting, is a member of the accounting staff of Lea Ann Plessinger CPA LLC in Lock Haven. She resides in Mill Hall.

**Jacinda F. Bonilla ‘21**, heavy construction equipment technology: operator emphasis, is a heavy equipment operator for the Lycoming County Landfill. She resides in Montgomery.

**Eric J. Dahlmann ‘21**, welding technology and metal fabrication technology, is a CNC/robotic programmer for JLG. He resides in Shamokin Dam.

**Evan F. Engelhard ‘21**, aviation maintenance technology, is an aviation technician for Walmart, maintaining, troubleshooting and repairing all company-owned-and-operated aircraft. He resides in Fayetteville, Ark.

**Dottie Habovick ‘21**, individual studies, is a human resources specialist-compensation analyst for Penn State. She resides in Bellefonte.

**David H. Jamison ‘21**, information technology: network specialist, is a junior system administrator for Interclypse. He resides in Baltimore.

**Tyler Kroposki ‘21**, software development & information management, is a software engineering associate for Lockheed Martin, developing full-stack applications. He resides in Westtown, N.Y.

**Blake J. Martz ‘21**, welding technology, is a welder for Mission Critical Solutions, a custom metal fabricator and precision-machining company. He resides in Hyndman.

**Nathan L. Miller ‘21**, forest technology, is a forest technician for WBL Hardwoods, responsible for cruising timber (measuring forest stands) and marking it. He resides in Saltsburg.

**Heather Pfirman ‘21**, human services and restorative justice, is a unit clerk for UPMC Williamsport. She resides in Williamsport.

**Izabel P. Ramer ‘21**, business management, is a teller for M&T Bank. She resides in Selinsgrove.

**Tiana Rawls-White ‘21**, applied management, is a caregiver for Shared Support Inc. She was the Fall 2021 commencement speaker and founded the college’s Black Student Union. She resides in Northumberland.

**Alyssa (Haueisen) Remigio ‘21**, occupational therapy assistant, is an activities director for ProMedica Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation. She resides in Watsontown.

**Dylan Snyder ‘21**, business administration: marketing, is a marketing professional for Horizon Federal Credit Union. He resides in Williamsport.

**Ariel E. Torstrup ‘21**, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC. She resides in Williamsport.

## Marriages & Births

**Kyle R. Rhoads ‘05**, manufacturing engineering technology, married Megan Tharp on July 22, 2021. They reside in Harrisburg.

**Matthew M. Staub ‘07**, electronics engineering technology, and his wife, Leigh, welcomed their third child, daughter Addison, in 2021. They reside in Elmhurst, Ill.

**Ashley (Arvin) Knight ‘08**, business administration: marketing, welcomed a daughter on Aug. 23, 2021. They reside in Fallston, Md.

**Kimberly (Mickle) Curiale ‘10**, baking and pastry arts, welcomed her second son, Tanner Kevin, in June 2021. They reside in Burlington, N.J.

**Nick Rieber ‘10**, automotive technology management, welcomed a son, Rex, on Sept. 10, 2021. They reside in Harrisburg.

**Steph Witmer ‘10**, graphic communications technology, welcomed a daughter, Racelyn, in May 2021. They reside in Liverpool, N.Y.

**Amy (Dibble) Chervinsky ‘11**, business administration: banking and finance, welcomed a daughter, Cambria, in July 2021. They reside in Horseheads, N.Y.

**Ashlyn M. Hershberger ‘11**, graphic communications management, married Jacob Benicewicz on Sept. 25, 2021. They reside in Martinsburg, W.Va.

**Andrew Kaminski ‘11**, ornamental horticulture: landscape technology, and his wife, Jillian, welcomed their second child, Sophie Mae, in September 2021. They reside in Moscow, Pa.

**Sarah (Shott) Yoder ‘11**, information technology: web and application development, and husband, **Adam J. ‘11**, building automation technology, welcomed their first child, son James Stanley Yoder, in October 2021. They reside in Williamsport.

**Jessica (Korman) Solt ‘12**, occupational therapy assistant, welcomed a daughter, Azalea Beck Solt, on June 7, 2021. They reside in Allentown.

**Jessica Frank ‘13**, graphic communications management, married **Dan Hickel ‘13**, heavy construction equipment technology, in October 2019, and they welcomed a son, Eric, in May 2021. They reside in Ephrata.

**Katie (Kelley) Ingle ‘14**, dental hygiene, welcomed a son on Nov. 1, 2019. They reside in Littlestown.

**Casey (Manbeck) Lowe ‘14**, early childhood education, welcomed a daughter, Josephine, in December 2020. They reside in Ephrata.

**Jesilynn J. (Henry) Oleksza ‘14**, business administration: management, and her husband, **Anthony ‘11, ‘13**, collision repair technology and technology management, welcomed their second son, Westyn, in March 2021. They reside in Montrose. ➡➡

WHAT’S YOUR STORY?	Complete the form at <a href="http://magazine.pct.edu/cn">magazine.pct.edu/cn</a> , or call toll-free 877.PCT.ALUM (877.728.2586)
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## CLASS NOTES

**Cassandra Mohr '15**, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, married **Ryan Enders '12, '13**, aviation technology and technology management, on Oct. 2, 2021. They reside in Mifflinburg.

**Casey Weaver '15**, nursing, welcomed a daughter, Mina, in April 2021. They reside in Bloomsburg.

**Stephen Wozniak '15**, business administration, welcomed a son, Brayden, in August 2021. They reside in Watsontown.

**Noah L. English '17**, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, married Becky Duignan on July 9, 2021. They reside in Bloomsburg.

**Brittany Terpstra '17**, web and interactive media, married **Andrew Smith '18**, aviation technology and applied management, on Sept. 25, 2021. They reside in Wilkes-Barre.

**Jordan Courter '17, '18**, applied health studies: occupational therapy assistant, married **Christopher Rutledge '16**, web and interactive media, on June 4, 2021. They reside in Philadelphia.

**Taylor Lang '18**, early childhood education, welcomed her first child, son Jaiyce, in November 2020. They reside in Williamsport.

**Sabrina Toplovich '19**, and **Joshua Maring '19**, both grads of engineering design technology and members of the archery team, got married May 15, 2021.

**Kaitlyn M. Young '20**, health information management, married her high school sweetheart, Grant Clark, on June 19, 2021. They reside in Grottoes, Va.

**Alyssa Hauelsen '21**, occupational therapy assistant, married **Kyle Remigio '19**, automotive technology and applied management, on Sept. 25, 2021. They reside in Watsontown.

## In Memory

**Michael J. DiRaimo**, former member, Board of Directors, age 66, on July 29

**George Walter Reed Jr.**, former member, Corporate Advisory Board, age 89, on Feb. 21

**Steve Sleboda**, member, Foundation Board of Directors, age 79, on Aug. 29

**Robert Schell Ulrich '87**, retired associate professor of English, age 91, on Jan. 31

**Mary Jane West**, retired associate professor of English and economics, age 98, on March 17

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



Students are focused on the learning at-hand in this machining lab photo from the Penn College Archives. Can you identify these Wildcats, or anything else about the image? Email all educated guesses or concrete IDs to [magazine@pct.edu](mailto:magazine@pct.edu).



EXPERT TIPS

How to begin journaling

by Sarah K. Patterson, graphic designer/project coordinator

**Let me be clear:** A journaling practice is something I do every day. I started writing daily in 2011 and have every day since. I am good with routine commitments. I am fine with the mundane practice of recording and reflecting; however, I don’t know if that makes me an expert. But since I have been at it, let me tell you my approach, some of the benefits and methods to keep a journal. There is not one way!

method

WHY

Some reasons for keeping a journal:

> Reflecting on the day.

> Recording events.

> Working out problems.

> Experimenting with writing styles.

> Cultivating a sense of wonder.

> Clearing your mind.

> Being more present for yourself and others.

> Storytelling for yourself.

> Taking a break from screens.

> What we pay attention to grows.

I would describe my own practice as a “record of events” with a smattering of “reflection” and “working out problems.”

HOW

Tools needed:

> blank book.

> pen or pencil.

Find the tools that make you happy. I like a single book that will fit a whole year of daily journal entries.

The size of the book is important. A big, heavy book will be discouraging/inconvenient to pack if you go away.

TIME

Be honest with yourself: How long would you like to devote to your daily journaling?

My daily practice is short: five-10 minutes.

When I draw and journal: 30 minutes.

Choose the time of day you want to write. I write after dinner or close to bedtime.

EXAMPLE

> Date/weather (sun, clouds, breezy, icy, blistering, etc.: conditions and high temp).

> Start anywhere – a chronological order of the events of the day, perhaps.

> Did something funny/ridiculous happen?

> What’s going on with your loved ones or friends?

> Did you witness something beautiful?

> Did you cook, read or watch anything you want to note?

> Rant about what’s bothering you.

*Editor’s Note: As part of her artistic explorations while attaining a Master of Fine Arts in graphic design from Vermont College of Fine Arts, Patterson researched the subject of handwriting. Her 100-day dedication to the practice of daily drawing and handwriting culminated in a 2021 exhibit at The Gallery at Penn College.*

exercises

FREE WRITING

Write about whatever you feel like. This is only for you, and you don’t even need to reread it.

1. Have your journal and pen/pencil ready.

2. Set a timer for five minutes.

3. Warm up your hands by rubbing them together for a few moments.

4. Start writing.

5. At the five-minute mark, close your journal and set it aside.

Your journaling for the day is done.

LIST MAKING

Consider list making as a way of noticing or clearing out thoughts.

1. Have your journal and pen/pencil ready.

2. Set a timer for three minutes.

3. Items can be single words or phrases.

Use your list for future journaling prompts.

PROMPTS

What can go right?

What do you notice?

What’s a knot you want to unravel?

What are you building?

A memory.

What are you releasing?

What’s a new story you can tell?

A recent challenge.

What is your best time of day?

What did you have for breakfast?

A color.

Write someone you know a letter.

Write a letter to someone you don’t know.

Trees.

Describe your ideal day.

Write about your favorite movie or book.

Focus on an object. Describe it.

TRY...

Don’t want to journal every day?

> Once a year on your birthday.

> Every season.

> New Year’s Day.

> First or last day of each month.

> Write one line a day.

Check out my 100-day journaling and drawing practice: *Second Nature*  
sarahkimpatterson.com

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