ULTRA-IMPRESSIVE
Reagan McCoy ‘20 shares his experience running – and winning – the 100-mile Eastern States 100 ultramarathon.
SEE PAGE 18
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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PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OFF-TECHNOLOGY

ON THE COVER
Reagan McCoy '20 strides across a stream during the Eastern States 100. The 100-mile trail race features 20,000 feet of elevation gain. Read more about McCoy’s experience winning the event on Page 16. Photo courtesy of Kevin Peragine Photography.

REAL-WORLD READY

An Emergency Medicine Lab — with emergency room beds, electrocardiogram machines and other actual or simulated ER equipment — is among the new spaces in Penn College’s Physician Assistant Center. With real-world equipment and furnishings, renovations in the center heighten the level of realism for students before they head out to clinical rotations. Other new spaces include a Family Medicine Lab and a Women’s Health Lab.

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degrees that work.

Out to change the world
Construction management grad Ryan Sokoloski ‘08 is at the center of a $400 million renovation to the National Geographic Society’s headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Big work for Little League
Three graphic design graduates are the guardians of Little League’s enduring visual identity.

Coping in Maui
Lahaina, Hawaii, residents Kristin (Fortney) Patterson ’09, ’14 (shown with her husband, Todd) and Matthew Francis ’98 recount their experiences following the wildfire that devastated their community.

Ultra-impressive
Reagan McCoy ‘20 answers our questions about winning the 100-mile Eastern States 100 ultramarathon.

Penn College, Future Made by Hand® and degrees that work® are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
Penn College earned multiple high rankings – including two No. 1 positions – in U.S. News & World Report’s 2024 Best Colleges rankings. In the annual compilation, Penn College ranked No. 1 both in Most Innovative Schools – Regional Colleges North and Undergraduate Teaching – Regional Colleges North (tied with three other institutions). Penn College earned a No. 4 ranking in Top Public Schools – Regional Colleges North and was No. 6 in Overall Rank – Regional Colleges North (the “Overall” category includes private institutions). Additionally, the college was No. 2 among Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional Colleges North.

**College ranks high in ‘Best Colleges’**

Penn College is the recipient of a $140,792 federal grant to offer free cybersecurity education to secondary school teachers. Awarded through the GenCyber program, the grant will facilitate a weeklong camp on main campus for 25 Pennsylvania teachers of grades five through 12. The program’s goal is to build a strong cybersecurity workforce by sparking interest at the secondary level.

**Grant promotes cybersecurity education**

A new noncredit paramedic certificate that allows participants to build a crucial skill set and sit for the National Registry of EMT’s paramedic exam – all in just one year – was launched in January by Workforce Development at Penn College. Classes take place in the college’s state-of-the-art Paramedic Lab. The new noncredit program replaces the college’s associate degree in paramedic science and two-year certificate in paramedic practice.

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

**12-month paramedic certificate launches**

A vacant lot northwest of main campus will become the site of an energy-efficient home to be designed and built by Penn College students.

The property, on Fifth Avenue in Williamsport, was donated by Penn College to Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity for construction of the single-family home.

The goal is to build a “net zero” structure that can be used as a model for future builds.

“Building sustainably affordable housing is key to addressing the growing housing gap in the U.S.,” said Bob Robinson, executive director of Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity. Houses must be cost-effective for homeowners to maintain.

Planning has included team members from building construction technology; concrete science; electrical construction; heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology; and heavy construction equipment technology; operator emphasis.

Last year, Geoffrey M. Campbell challenged his fifth-semester Architectural Design Studio IV class to design a “passive house” for the property. Passive design emphasizes the use of the sun to heat and light a building.

Jurors chose the work of Sadie S.E. Niedermyer, who earned an associate degree in architecture in 2022 and is working toward a bachelor’s in architecture & sustainable design. Also playing a key role is Andrew J. Hamelly ’05, ’07, Habitat’s construction supervisor. He holds two associate degrees and a bachelor’s in residential construction technology & management.

**An architectural lab assignment challenged students to envision a home at 508 Fifth Ave., Williamsport, for a Habitat for Humanity family. Though likely to be modified, this design by student Sadie S.E. Niedermyer was selected for its efficiency in both layout and energy use.**

**Students design, build Habitat home**

Penn College Magazine

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

**Find complete articles on Penn College News**

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**Degrees added in health care fields**

12-month paramedic certificate launches

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Learn more at [www.pct.edu/paramedic](http://www.pct.edu/paramedic).
Grant will help transform labs

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration has awarded a $2 million grant to Penn College. Its focus is attracting and upskilling the workforce to meet an increasing demand for clean energy, architecture, construction and concrete science professionals.

Penn College is matching the $2 million grant for a $4 million budget to be allocated over 60 months. Initiatives include constructing an 1,800-square-foot Clean Energy Center house to train home-energy professionals, and updating the Carl Building Technologies Center and its instructional labs to improve learning experiences for students in majors related to building construction, service and maintenance.

“This project will literally transform our building construction instructional areas, expand opportunities for integration with industry and enhance the student experience,” said Ellyn A. Lester, assistant dean of construction and architectural technologies.

Baja SAE coming to campus

The four-hour endurance race depicted here will be one of several events during Baja SAE Williamsport, scheduled for May at the college’s Earth Science Center. The international collegiate competition requires schools to design and build a single-seat car to withstand various performance tests.

Penn College will host a Baja SAE competition May 16-19 at its Schneebeli Earth Science Center’s heavy construction equipment operations training site near Montgomery and Allenwood. The international event is expected to attract about 100 teams and 1,000 competitors.

The competition requires schools to design, manufacture and build a single-seat, all-terrain vehicle. Following two days of technical inspections and presentations, the teams compete in a series of dynamic events that challenge their handiwork.

Typical events include acceleration, hill climb, maneuverability, and suspension and traction. Baja SAE concludes with its toughest test: a four-hour endurance race.

Since 2011, the Penn College team has posted 14 top-10 finishes in the endurance race, including wins in 2022 at Baja SAE Tennessee Tech and Baja SAE Rochester.

The college’s heavy equipment operations, forestry and landscape/plant production departments will prep areas for the event.

A $2 million federal grant will help to transform instructional spaces in the Carl Building Technologies Center and construct a Clean Energy Center house.
WILDCAT ATHLETICS

ANNUAL AWARDS
Penn College honored six student-athletes for the 2022-23 year at the sixth annual CATS (Celebrating Athletic Triumphs and Successes) Awards celebration.

Isaac Cory ’26 (wrestling) and Lexi Troup ’26 (soccer) were selected as 2022-23 United East Scholar-Athletes, matching the Wildcats’ previous high mark of 100 selections in 2021-22. Penn College finished third among the conference’s full-time members. Lancaster Bible (15) and Penn State Harrisburg (10) finished in first and second.

In order to be selected, a student-athlete must achieve a combined GPA of 3.4 or higher for the fall and spring semesters and be in good standing on his or her team. A conference-best eight Penn College teams attained the inaugural United East Team Academic Award, which was presented to United East-sponsored programs that achieved a team cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher during the 2022-23 academic year.

Men’s golf, women’s basketball, women’s soccer, softball, men’s cross-country, women’s cross-country and women’s tennis earned the honor for the Wildcats.

Mackenzie Weaver ’25 (softball) and Gavin Barrett ’25 (men’s basketball) took home Athlete of the Year awards. Other nominees included Sam Hills ’25 (lacrosse), Peyton Mussina ’25 (golf), Brian Robison ’23 (baseball), Kaelynn Sheetz ’24 (men’s soccer) and Rachel Teats ’25 (women’s basketball).

Weaver finished the season with 16 wins, including a perfect game and no-hitter. Her efforts led her to a United East First Team selection and a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region Team nod. Barrett became the first player in program history to earn first team all-conference honors. He recorded a pair of triple-doubles last season and led the United East in both points and assists.

Gabriel Kennedy-Citeroni ’24 (wrestling) and Jordan Specht ’23 (softball) were awarded Scholar-Athlete of the Year in a field that also featured nominees Isaac Hernandez ’23 (lacrosse), Will Sulesky ’23 (men’s basketball) and Rosey Thomas ’23 (cross-country).

Kennedy-Citeroni has a 4.0 overall GPA as a civil engineering technology student and is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma national honor society for collegiate athletes. He won 17 matches last season and is a cadet in the Army ROTC Bald Eagle Battalion.

Specht boasted a 4.0 overall GPA in nursing and served with classmates on a medical mission in Guatemala. She is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma and is a two-time all-region selection in softball. Also earning awards were Devon Sanders, Assistant Coach of the Year; Matt Blymier and Britni Mohney, Staff Members of the Year; and men’s lacrosse, Community Service Award.

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP
CROSS-COUNTRY
Penn College captured its first United East Conference title in men’s cross-country. All five Wildcats runners earned All-Conference accolades. Mitchell Campbell ’26 led the team with a third-place finish, Matthew Woolcock ’26 finished sixth, and Alec Reis ’25 finished seventh, all earning first-team honors. Rees was named the Elite 20 award winner. The award is given to the runner with the highest GPA among the top two teams at the conference championship. Holden Furey ’27 and Jackob Parker ’27 finished 17th and 20th, respectively, to earn second-team honors. On the women’s side, Elaina Brady ’27 placed 14th and Skylear Splain ’24 was 19th to earn second-team and third-team honors, respectively. Leading the program in just his second year, head coach Tom Leesser was named United East Coach of the Year.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
The women’s soccer team posted an 11-2-1 overall record en route to the third seed in the United East playoffs and a trip to the Volt Division Semifinals. Five Wildcats were rewarded for their efforts with All-Conference recognition. Kaelynn Sheetz ’24 and Sara Darlington ’25 earned repeat first-team selections. Sheetz broke the program record for career goals and points and finished second in the league with 24 goals and 54 points in 2023. Three Wildcats were named to the second team-all conference: Billie-Gean Hennessy ’25 earned a repeat nod with Nicole Lichtinger ’25 who was second-team goalkeeper after recording six of the team’s nine shutouts and 72 saves, while Makayla Bucks ’27 earned her first career all-conference selection in her rookie season.

MEN’S SOCCER
Men’s soccer made it to the conference playoffs for the first time since 2018 as the Wildcats earned a No. 5 seed in the United East Volt Division bracket. Tommy DeGeyter ’25 was a big part of the Wildcats’ success this season and was awarded his second career United East All-Conference Second Team honor. DeGeyter and Cooper Smith ’26 led the Wildcats with five goals apiece in 2023.

WILDCAT ATHLETICS

HALL OF FAME
Former Penn College women’s soccer standouts Robyn Beddow ’15 and Hailee Hartman ’17 were inducted into the 2023 Penn College Athletics Hall of Fame during Wildcat Weekend.

Beddow, of Lancaster, had a breakout sophomore season in 2013 when she scored 14 goals and earned four assists and was named to the United States Collegiate Athletic Association second team. The Wildcats reached the USCAA Small College National Championships.

As a junior in 2014, Beddow was awarded North-Eastern Athletic Conference and USCAA All-Academic honors, and she capped her career with nine goals and five assists as a senior when she was named to the NEAC second team and received a USCAA honorable mention along with NEAC and USCAA All-Academic honors. Starting in 67 matches during the four seasons she played, Beddow scored 31 career goals and had 11 assists and 73 points.

During her four-year career, Hartman, of Lampeter, played in 78 of the Wildcats’ 81 matches, starting 77, and finished her career with 35 goals, 22 assists and 92 points, with all three totals breaking NCAA-era program records. As a junior in 2016, Hartman led the team with 15 goals – connecting on 78.4% of her shots on goal – seven assists, and a record-breaking 37 points, while earning NEAC second-team honors.

She was awarded NEAC third-team accolades during her sophomore and senior seasons and was an NEAC All-Academic honoree in 2015.

In her senior year, Penn College finished second in the NEAC Championships after reaching the semifinals in 2016 and quarterfinals in 2015.

MEN’S SOCCER

2022-23 student CATS Award winners, from left: Gabriel Kennedy-Citeroni, Isaac Cory, Lexi Troup, Jordan Specht, Mackenzie Weaver and Gavin Barrett.

Kaelynn Sheetz

Tommy DeGeyter

Hall of Fame inductees Robyn Beddow ’15 (second from left) and Hailee Hartman ’17 (third), both standouts on the women’s soccer team, are joined by Penn College President Michael J. Reed (left) and Athletics Director Scott E. Kennell.
A triad of graphic design graduates constitutes the creative team for the world's largest youth sports organization.

Younger eagerly ascends the paved path leading to the mecca of youth sports. She stops at the top of the hill, positioned between two stadiums. To her left is a replica baseball, the size of a gigantic boulder. It's emblazoned with a diamond shaped, multicolor logo. The smiling child is directed to stand underneath the emblem for the inevitable photo. The image will serve as a time stamp for the family's collection of memories from the 2023 Little League Baseball World Series.

That scene is repeated countless times near an array of eye-catching elements that greet the thousands of spectators who flock to South Williamsport every August for the series. The visual design—ranging from bright banners throughout the sprawling 75-acre complex to slick souvenir programs in fans’ hands—is the collective effort of three individuals who never donned a Little League uniform.

Pennsylvania College of Technology graphic design graduates Amanda M. Cropper-Rose (class of 2012), Danielle N. Gannon (2022) and Natalie K. Lincalis (2023) constitute the creative department for Little League International, headquartered above storied Lamade Stadium. Cropper-Rose is creative director, and Gannon and Lincalis are graphic designers for the world’s largest organized youth sports program.

They are responsible for executing the visual features and branding for Little League Baseball and Softball, ensuring all aspects consistently reflect the values and identity of an initiative founded in 1939.

The team’s talent is tapped for much more than the organization’s marquee event, the Little League Baseball World Series for 10-12-year-olds that features 32 nationally televised games over a dozen days. They prepare promotional and marketing pieces for the six other baseball and softball World Series tournaments sponsored by Little League as well as branding earmarked for the local-league level, Little League Official Store, World of Little League Museum and social media platforms. They are the visual gatekeepers for an endeavor played by about 2 million kids (ages 4-16) in every U.S. state and 80-plus countries.

“Our Penn College graduates are employed throughout the country and internationally, holding positions at companies such as X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Disney+, Penn State and the NHL’s Florida Panthers, to name just a few,” said Brian A. Flynn, assistant professor and department head of graphic design.

“To have three of our alumni being instrumental in the overall look of an organization as impressive as Little League International is another indicator of the strength of our graphic design program.”

Cropper-Rose, of Hughesville, is the longest tenured of the trio. For more than eight years, she served in various graphic design positions before assuming the newly established role of creative director last April. Gannon, who grew up in Williamsport, became a full-time graphic designer in January 2023, following five months of temp work for Little League. Lincalis joined the department last June.

The Muncy native was a graphic design intern for the organization the previous summer.

“The three designers excel in different ways in our graphic design curriculum,” Flynn stated. “One may be more illustrative in their approach while another leans toward a type-driven style. Together, the three complement one another.”

Cropper-Rose agreed.

“We all have unique abilities and work best when we come together as a team,” she said. “We try to keep it a free and open environment where we can bring ideas to the table and see what works best. We’re tasked to think quickly on how we’ll communicate, promote or engage our audiences.”

The branding for Little League’s Girls with Game campaign is “hands down” Cropper-Rose’s favorite project. Begun in 2019 to honor the contributions of girls and women to Little League and encourage future participation, the award-winning campaign has grown to include a line of merchandise and stunning stadium signage for the Little League Softball World Series in Greenville, North Carolina.

“New wrinkles have been added this year to commemorate 50 years of female inclusion in Little League and the 50th anniversary of the softball world series. Cropper-Rose, Gannon and Lincalis have contributed design elements for the golden milestones, dubbed the #GWG50 Campaign. “I think seeing women being recognized in this space is an amazing accomplishment,” Gannon said.

“One of the key items our creative team is constantly tasked with is finding a way to keep our historic brand both relevant and modernized in a society that is constantly evolving.”

“I’ve heard so much about how hard people here at Little League worked to initiate the campaign. It’s special that I get to be here for the 50th anniversary. It’s exciting for me,” Lincalis added.

“When you think of baseball, generally it’s male-dominated. I think it’s neat to be an all-female creative team, especially with the Girls with Game campaign. We’re able to put our own experiences and personal traits behind that more,” Cropper-Rose explained. “We’re supported incredibly by our male teammates, but there is a great sense of pride in our female-run creative department, especially in a male-dominated industry.”

The significance of three women collaborating to advance the brand of a worldwide sports organization isn’t lost on their former professor or their current boss.

“Having them be instrumental in the overall visual look of Little League should be inspiring to up-and-coming female designers who are interested in working in the sports industry,” Flynn said.

“To have an all-female creative team is something we are very proud of here at Little League, and we look forward to the work they will continue to accomplish together in hopes to inspire the next generation of talented female graphic designers and creative directors,” Fountain said.

The three designers were inspired by art at an early age.

“Art has been a passion of mine since I was a little girl. I have always loved the process of it, the joy of creating something new and being able to express yourself throughout the art that you get to create in graphic design,” Lincalis said.

Gannon’s mother motivated her to be a graphic designer. “She would paint these large posters that I always wanted to use as gifts for family. Seeing the happiness it brought her and the people she made art for, I think that’s what sold me,” Gannon recalled.

Familial influence also directed Cropper-Rose to the field, thanks to a family-owned-and-operated supermarket in Downingtown, where Cropper-Rose lived until she was 15.

“Some of my earliest memories involve watching my dad set the weekly ads and helping my pop-pop choose the lettering for the vinyl roadside signage. Looking back, I realize I’ve always been a graphic designer,” she said.

The trio followed diverse paths to earning a bachelor’s degree in graphic design at Penn College. Lincalis initially majored in architectural technology.
the history, technicality and situational received covered all the bases, including to manager of creative projects. the past year transitioning from designer graphic design courses at Penn College to social media outlets. she devises graphics for Little League’s organization’s print shop. Like Lincalis, guidelines for the series and oversees the Lincalis. She’s also developed brand events. Little League World Series and related creating environmental signage for the. co-designing the souvenir program and the design community like Behance and professional teams, websites devoted to. Flynn believes there are three fundamental reasons why the graphic design major produces such successful graduates: “It starts with our state-of-the- art computer labs and creative, inspiring open lab spaces. Secondly, our rigorous foundation year prepares students for their success in the upper-level graphic design classes. And lastly, our upper-level design classes are grounded in real-world graphic design practice.” For creative inspiration, Cropper-Rose, Gannon and Lincalis examine “real-world” examples. Sports branding of college and professional teams, websites devoted to the design community like Behance and Dribbble, and even graphics plastered on junk mail are sources to spark their ideas. Transforming those ideas into a colorful reality fulfills them. Watching people interact with their handheld at the Little League World Series Stirs their soul. Little League estimates the 2023 series drew 393,710 fans. That number isn’t surprising considering the event is among the Travel Channel’s bucket list destinations for baseball fans, and Bleacher Report named Lamade Stadium one of the 25 most iconic venues in sports history. The Little League World Series is included among the Super Bowl, the Masters and the Kentucky Derby in the book “The 100 Sporting Events You Must See Live.” During the series, the designers’ duties shift to taking photos, managing photo assets and developing graphics for social media. However, they still have time to enjoy people gazing at the banners, lasting through some of the 10,000 souvenir programs printed for the extravaganza and purchasing Little League-branded merchandise.

“[You] work at headquarters year-round, and it’s peaceful outside. And then for 12 days, you see it come to life,” Lincalis explained. “It was a cool feeling to go out into the gift shop and see people walking around with the program. It’s the first thing I created that was mass-produced.” “Having the little kids go up to your first big project, it’s a good feeling to see how happy they are. It’s what we’re here for,” Gannon said. “When I see people interact with our designs, especially kids, I think of myself as a child and how proud I would be of myself right now to have my artwork seen at such a large level,” Cropper-Rose smiled. And that artwork will endure. The diamond-shaped, multicolor design stamped on the enormous “baseball” that was captured in incalculable photos taken last August? It was the 2023 Little League World Series logo – created by Cropper-Rose.

“That makes me excited for the next generation,” she said, “and how we can inspire them to also go into design and be able to work in an industry such as this.”

Gannon and Cropper-Rose enrolled at other institutions and focused on different subjects – music for Gannon and fine and studio arts for Cropper-Rose – before transferring to Penn College for graphic design. But all three share gratitude for their education, obtained less than 3 miles from the site of the first Little League game. “Penn College does a great job teaching you the software and skills you need to know once you get a job,” Lincalis said. “The professors in this program do as much as they can to make sure you have everything you need for when you graduate.” Lincalis has applied her skills in co-designing the souvenir program and creating environmental signage for the Little League World Series and related events.

Gannon designed the program with Lincalis. She’s also developed brand guidelines for the series and oversees the organization’s print shop. Like Lincalis, she devises graphics for Little League’s social media outlets.

“I use everything I learned from the graphic design courses at Penn College to do my job,” Gannon said. So does Cropper-Rose, who has spent the past year transitioning from designer to manager of creative projects.

“I still rely on my Penn College education every day. The education I received covered all the bases, including the history, technicality and situational case studies that together form a well-rounded designer,” she said. “Penn College certainly set me up for success in the workforce.”

Penn College certainly set me up for success in the workforce.”

“Averaging an overall GPA of 3.31 with amazing team spirit and stellar work ethic, Penn College’s NCAA Division III student-athletes are tomorrow’s industry leaders. We invite you to invest in the Wildcat tradition by joining the Wildcat Club.

www.pct.edu/WildcatClub
by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-
Penn College News

"WE'RE CREATING SOMETHING THAT'S NEVER BEEN DONE BEFORE."

A hyperbolic claim in many quarters, perhaps, but not in the measured and reasonable voice of Ryan A. Sokoloski.

The construction management major at Pennsylvania College of Technology – the institution’s first four-year degree to graduate 30 in 2023. And Sokoloski, a 2008 alumnus of the major, has put his considerable skills to work for half of that period, employed by industry leaders at the highest levels of responsibility.

His track record of accomplishment can’t escape the public eye: a hospital for the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Capitol, the Kennedy Center, the Navy Federal Credit Union, Arlington National Cemetery, and a scattering of educational and multifamily buildings.

Sokoloski’s current project may be the grandest of all: a $400 million themed attraction that will completely transform the National Geographic Society’s Washington, D.C., footprint.

Even the most familiar subscriber to the organization’s iconic magazine, its yellow-bordered covers serving for more than a century as an open invitation to global exploration, may be surprised to know that the society is headquartered in the nation’s capital. Or that there’s even a museum, hidden and unheralded, only several blocks north of the White House.

“We’ve struggled for a long time to get people to notice us,” Sokoloski said. “Not here, I mean Washington. It’s the need to knuckle down. Thankfully, he had his father to help point him in the right direction. (Donald A. Sokoloski is a 1983 construction management major. He was active on campus, winning a leadership role in the Construction Management Association."

Ryan was a good student in class and was a leader among his classmates,” said Sheppard, who invited him back to campus for a 50th anniversary Alumni in the Classroom presentation in late September. “I remember speaking with one of his internship companies, and they could not say enough about his maturity and drive,”

be added. “While fairly quiet, he also was aggressive in learning and doing. As an alum, he has kept in touch and has tried to offer opportunities to the students coming behind him.”

That drive served him well as he built his Base Camp team, crisscrossing disciplines – from the practical to the creative – with no shortage of specialized needs and divergent opinions.

"WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO - WHAT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO DO - IS TAKE RISKS, BREAK BARRIERS AND SAVE THE PLANET."
employing hoses to spray down the dust. The eventual finished project promises so many highlights, who knows where to begin?

Any one of the features will dazzle patrons in the years ahead: A three-story pavilion, an education center in the former library, retail space, a new auditorium, archival presentations from the society’s storied past, a public restaurant on the site of the employee cafeteria, and exhibition space for the perennially breathtaking artifacts of the society’s renowned photography, storytelling and discoveries. Expansions are designed to make the society’s “Base Camp” a destination to immerse visitors in the society’s renowned photography, storytelling and discoveries.

“Aissippi, an LED media wall on diverse, exciting and remote locations. I’m trying to do – what National Geographic – reached out, expressing a keen desire to hire him directly. He was employed for 10 years with a developer of multifamily housing, before his previous client – yup, National Geographic – reached out, expressing a keen desire to hire him directly.

It was through another such relationship that a subcontractor on the Base Camp project was able to quickly pivot, substituting more durable North American ash for the less-desirable oak that was originally intended for the project’s millwork. Sokoloski got word that a family farm in New England was selling its entire stand of trees, which were susceptible to destruction from the emerald ash borer.

Then came a stint with Jones Lang LaSalle and a project for National Geographic. More time went by, filled with high-end luxury apartments for a developer of multifamily housing, before his previous client – yup, National Geographic – reached out, expressing a keen desire to hire him directly.

The rest is history. And science, geography, anthropology, sociology. Botany, too.

It was through another such relationship that a subcontractor on the Base Camp project was able to quickly pivot, substituting more durable North American ash for the less-desirable oak that was originally intended for the project’s millwork. Sokoloski got word that a family farm in New England was selling its entire stand of trees, which were susceptible to destruction from the emerald ash borer.

Some of the lumber that was inevitably affected by the avaricious beetle displays an exposed gelatinous blue dye from just below the bark, which he said can be incorporated into an educational exhibit in part of the museum.

Like raindrops in the cistern, everything is of use and nothing is wasted. “What I’m trying to do – what National Geographic has always tried to do – is take risks, break barriers and save the planet,” Sokoloski says. “How do we educate everyone else on that?”

Sit tight, o fragile and fantastic globe. You’ll soon have your answer.
In August 2023, the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. since 1918 torched Hawaii’s Maui island and touched the lives of two Pennsylvania College of Technology alumni. Both continue to cope with the tragedy that destroyed their hometown of Lahaina, killed numerous neighbors and harmfully transformed their ideal definition of paradise.

Kristen (Fortney) Patterson, a Loyalsock Township native who earned degrees in business administration and management concentration in 2009 and legal assistant-paralegal in 2014, lost her apartment in the center of Lahaina and all of her possessions. She escaped the wildfires with her three cats, navigating her car around downed electrical wires and uprooted trees to a friend’s home, but she was separated from her husband for nearly a week due to road closures. Similar to other displaced residents, they are residing in a Kaanapali hotel, 4 miles north of the main burn area.

“Lahaina as I knew it is gone,” she said. “We were so happy there.” Matthew S. Francis, a 1998 accounting graduate originally from Clearfield, was in his U.S. Postal Service truck, stuck in traffic on Lahaina’s Front Street, when the weather’s worst began bearing down on the historic community of 13,000 residents and countless tourists. He rolled his windows up, donned an N95 mask left over from the pandemic, and texted his wife own was not touched by the fires, but he sees – in his mind – all of the homes no longer on the Lahaina streets where he walked and delivered mail for 16 years. “I can close my eyes and picture all the houses. How I would walk to your front door. All the little details, like how the sidewalk corner lifted up a bit, so I would need to step over it,” he shared. “Lahaina is a close community. Pretty much everybody knew everybody. It (the emotion) comes in waves, and you try not to think about the customers who passed away or everybody who is still missing.”

The official death toll is at 100. Approximately 2,200 structures were destroyed in Lahaina. Sifting through the myriad forms of devastation will take years, if not lifetimes.

When interviewed in late August, Francis and Patterson were keeping themselves busy (and distracted) with work, daily tasks and routines. Francis and his fellow carriers were delivering mail to customers who still had addresses. Patterson, who works as a compliance auditor for a helicopter tour operator, needed to apply for a post office box. While waiting in line, she was uplifted by “the Aloha spirit.” “A man who had lost everything was there with coolers, handing out drinks and snacks to people standing in line at the post office,” she said. “That’s the Aloha spirit – even if you need help, too, you help someone else. You see it in all the little things, all the little ways people are helping. Everybody is doing whatever they can. Even if it feels small, it matters to somebody.”

Patterson points to other examples of the community spirit: an eye doctor offering free replacements for glasses, a small shipping and mailing service providing free mailboxes and notary services.

Help has poured into Maui from all of the Hawaiian Islands and from the mainland. Amid her grief, Patterson finds much to be grateful for. “I’m grateful I left when I did, and that my animals got out, so we are fortunate in that way,” she said, considering all the residents who lost their pets.

Patterson also feels grateful for her support system on Maui and the mainland. “Many here don’t have quite the extensive support system that we have, so we’re fortunate in that way, too,” she added. One of her supporters is her aunt Linda M. Barnes, a longtime, now-retired Penn State faculty member in occupational therapy assistant.

The devastation to Lahaina is so immense, the alumni are uncertain of its future. “It will take so long to rebuild Lahaina,” Patterson said. “I’m sure it will be amazing, but it won’t be the same.” “It’ll be a long process. It’s hard to wrap your mind around it all,” Francis added. “People need to get back to their lives, but it will take a while.”

Patterson continued to itemize the important physical details lost in the fire. Her analytical skills as an auditor coupled with her latest degree – a Master of Professional Studies in criminal justice policy and administration earned in 2022 from Penn State World Campus – certainly help in navigating the immensity of the task. Still, grappling with the emotional shock and an uncertain future are entirely new territory to traverse.

She and her husband, Todd, said goodbye to his brother and family who have moved back to the mainland now that their Lahaina tourism-related jobs are gone. “People keep asking if we’ll stay,” she shared. “It’s hard to say. My work may change; Todd’s work may change. Housing will be the deciding factor. Rates were already so high. So, if we’re financially able to, we’d like to stay. We’ve adapted to life here. This is home. Lahaina was home. We’re just riding the waves, and we’ll see where they take us.”

“We loved Lahaina. It was our little perfect paradise.”
GRAD WINS 100-MILE ULTRAMARATHON

I n a feat that defies the average imagination, Pennsylvania College of Technology grad Reagan McCoy not only completed, but won – by 35.5 minutes over the second-place finisher – the Eastern States 100, a 100-mile ultramarathon trail race that starts and finishes in Little Pine State Park, about 30 miles from Penn College’s Williamsport campus. On the Penn College campus, McCoy ‘20 was part of the cross-country team and prepared for his current work as a process engineer for Advanced Powder Products Inc. by completing a bachelor’s degree in plastics & polymer engineering technology.

At the Eastern States 100, McCoy crossed the finish line in 22 hours, 23 minutes and 58 seconds. He and 130 other finishers from across the U.S. and around the world completed not only a full day and night (and day again, for many, with a 36-hour cutoff to finish the race) on their feet, but steep terrain and rain that made for fast-moving water when the course had them cross Pine Creek.

“T’m glad we didn’t know about that ahead of time,” said his father, Steven K. McCoy, an external records evaluator in the college’s Registrar’s Office, who said he and his wife were battle sleepless even without knowledge of a water crossing.

If ahead of time,” said his father, "McCoy ‘20 was part of the cross-country team and prepared for his current work as a process engineer for Advanced Powder Products Inc. by completing a bachelor’s degree in plastics & polymer engineering technology.

The humidity was intense, and staying on top of nutrition/hydration was a constant battle. The biggest challenge was the sleep deprivation towards the end. I just became so loopy and my morale started to crack. Luckily my crew and pacers kept me motivated.

How do you prepare?
I had to devote every minute of my free time to running. Every day after work I immediately had to stack miles. The weekends called for even longer days on the trails. I would run back-to-back marathons on Saturday and again on Sunday. I also incorporated a lot of speed workouts, hill workouts and strength training.

How do you recover?
Recovery is the best part! After training so hard for months on end, it is very easy to reward yourself by simply doing nothing and eating all the food you heart desires!

How far do you run on a normal day?
On an average weekday I would run 12-16 miles; on a weekend day I would run 18-25 miles.

Tell us about the sites you see as a runner.
I’ve had so many unique encounters with wildlife that some would never believe. I’ve run up on mule deer that I could count, sometimes mothers and cubs. I’ve kicked up bobcats, coyotes, fishers, minks and other unique creatures you seldom get to see. I’ve stood at so many mesmerizing vistas that few people know about and even fewer make the journey out to see. I enjoy running by old foundations from a bygone era, seeing old Civilian Conservation Corps cabins, and running on old logging grades from the turn of the century.
Renovation to the 12,200-square-foot instructional space – another haven of industry support for hands-on education – was sparked by a $1 million grant from the Gene Haas Foundation. The lab is used primarily for classes in the manufacturing engineering technology, automated manufacturing technology and machine tool technology majors.

Work, completed in summer 2023, includes a new, adjacent CNC Programming and Simulation Lab, as well as improved, energy efficient high-bay lighting and anti-skid epoxy flooring. Matching funding from the college supported the purchase of new equipment, including multi-axis milling and turning centers, multi-axis CNC machines, industrial robots, 3D printers and additive manufacturing machines, and tool-fitting systems. The newly designed workstations and equipment layout model Lean Six-Sigma and SS industry standards.

Michael Millow, at the controls of a Haas UMC-500 5-axis mill, transferred to Penn College from SUNY Corning Community College. The manufacturing engineering technology senior from Painted Post, New York, interned at Jabil’s Elmira, New York, location and will begin a full-time job there after he graduates in May. Jabil is a global manufacturing company.

Vincent Anthony Purcell’s late grandfather is one of the brothers who started a machine shop in Hershey in 1968. Today, The Purcell Co., in Palmyra, serves more than 70 small businesses and Fortune 500 companies, including Hershey Foods, Reese’s, M&M Mars Inc., New Holland, Volvo and Johnson Controls. Seeing a future in his family’s company, Vincent is enrolled in manufacturing engineering technology.

Max Chambers grew up in North Wildwood, New Jersey, working in bike rental shops. “I had always enjoyed the metalwork side of bike repairs, which, I guess, led me to a career in manufacturing,” he said. His grandparents moved from Cape May to the Williamsport area after retirement. (“They had always had a cabin in the area and enjoyed the peace and quiet of the countryside,” he shared.) Through them, Max found Penn College and is pursuing degrees in manufacturing engineering technology and automated manufacturing technology.

Catherine Krawiec operates a Haas CNC lathe. A full-time design engineer for Globus Medical, a manufacturer of devices for patients with musculoskeletal disorders, she’s enrolled part time in Penn College’s CNC machinist major “to gain a machinist’s perspective so that I can design parts that are easier, faster and less expensive to manufacture.” Catherine holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology and a master’s in biomedical/medical engineering from the University of Rochester.

The newly designed workstations and equipment layout model Lean Six-Sigma and SS industry standards.
IN THE LAST ISSUE

We were thrilled to hear from several readers who told us about the day a group of machinist general and machine tool technology students – all in the Class of 1984 – squeezed into Bob Decker’s 1969 Volkswagen. “I don’t recall how the topic came up, but for some reason it did,” Decker recalls. “That topic was ‘How many people can you get in a VW?’ – a tradition from the 1960s. I had a great group of friends from the machine shop classes I was in, and we decided to find out.” Memories put the number at either 16 or 18. “I did a lap around the building with most of them in the car and my back tires smoking from rubbing the fenders.” On the driver’s side, leaning in at the steering wheel, is possibly Decker, followed on his right by Kevin Christman in plaid; then Tom Junga. Crawling in on the left is probably either Bob Davis, Bob Kuder II or Roger Byerly, who all sat in the back seat. Waiting at the passenger side door is Vince Radic Jr., followed by Terry Schwalm (with hands in pockets). The blond-haired student behind Schwalm is Jeff Bailey, and behind Bailey is Chris Garzon. The hidden face with a hat may be Tom Baroni or Francis Krug. Some of the group were members of the Old Mill intramural flag football team that won the championship in 1982 or ’83.

Thanks to all who helped provide IDs: Rodney Troutman ’84 (a roommate of Schwalm and a member of the Old Mill team), Kevin Byler ’84, Jeff Bailey ’84, Bob Decker ’84 and David Tafelski ’84 (who was a roommate of Junga at 310 Grier St.).

It’s a Woodsmen’s Meet! Can you help us fill in any other details? Please email your intel to magazine@pct.edu or call 570-327-5527.
1960s

Marvin Ickes ’65, toolmaking technician, is retired and resides in Greencastle.
Tod E. Pennebaker ’65, drafting technology, retired at the age of 55 from IBM East Fishkill, N.Y., where he was a senior printed circuit board designer. He spent 32 years as a contractor then employee of the company. He resides in Bloomsburg.

John E. Hopkins ’68, architectural technology, is retired and resides in Pinehurst, N.C.

1970s

William Snyder ’70, aviation maintenance technician, retired in 2008 as manager of the Federal Aviation Administration’s Harrisburg district office. He attended the Williamsport Technical Institute’s carpentry program as a Warrior Run High School student, graduating in 1960. He joined the Marine Corps Reserve and worked a carpentry apprenticeship before enrolling in Williamsport Area Community College’s aviation program. He worked as an aircraft mechanic for several years before joining the FAA in 1979 and spending eight years with over 40 years in aviation.

Michael Balabaugh ’82, construction carpenter, is president of the Williamsport Technicians Local 308. He resides in Williamsport.

1980s

Kenneth L. Bolig ’73, civil engineering technology, retired from Geisinger Medical Center as a senior facilities coordinator. He holds a bachelor’s in industrial engineering from Pennsylvania State University and is a member of the American Institute of Architects. He resides in Montoursville.

Robert L. Vaughn ’71, Manheim, involvement in mission aviation and remains a part-time teacher. He resides in Coal Township.

George E. Boudman ’85, construction carpenter, is president of the Williamsport Technicians Local 308. He resides in Williamsport.

Amy (Rebar) Bonetti ’93, radiography, is a radiographer/mammographer for Geisinger Shamokin Area Community Hospital. She resides in Coal Township.

Jaron Ritchie ’94, heavy construction equipment technician at the Williamsport Technicians Local 308, is a former co-president of the Pennsylvania Laborers’ Local 1345. He resides in Greencastle.

Nathan D. Davis ’99, heavy construction equipment technician, is a vice president of construction technology for Carat CAT. He resides in Huntsville, N.C.

Brian E. Scott ’98, reading and evaluation RN for Evangelical Health System. He resides in Reading. She resides in Williamsport.

Kevin Cornelius ’05, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is senior vice president of engineering for Trimco LLC. He resides in Lewisburg.

Damia Mika ’01, electronics technology: aviation emphasis, is an air space management design and instructor for Croatiat Control, which provides air navigation services. She married with a daughter and son and resides in the suburbs of Velika Gorica, Croatia.

Michelle (Sulliv) Fann ’01, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a rent specialist for Foot Locker. She resides in Hendersonville, N.C.

Matthew R. Fry ’04, broadcast communications, is a calendar technician for Transcon. He resides in Bardstown, Ky.

Julie R. (Custer) Gottlieb ’04, baking and pastry arts, is a homemaker. She resides in Sparrow Bush, N.Y.

Doug Hunsinger ’04, architectural technology, is a structural designer II for Stellar. He resides in Plainsboro, N.J.

Ramona L. (Heaps) Lunger ’04, accounting, owns RCL Accounting specializing in tax preparation. She resides in Bellefonte, PA.

Tracey (Haswell) Woodring ‘01, hospitality management, is a creative arts director for Zion Lutheran Pre-School. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Michael Balsbaugh ’85, construction carpenter, is a part-time teacher. He resides in Dillsburg. She resides in Millville.

Kevin Cornelius ’05, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is senior vice president of engineering for Trimco LLC. He resides in Lewisburg.

Nicole R. (Roberto) Petro ’03, baking and pastry arts, owns Petro’s Dessert Studio. She resides in Bethlehem.

Kim (Kramer) Wagner ’03, architectural technology, is a faculty assistant and architect for Bucknell University. She resides in Millcreek.

Julia (Redey) Warfle ’03, hospitality management, is a creative arts director for Zion Lutheran Pre-School. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Joseph Oat Corp. He resides in a 100-year-old elementary school that feeds 1,100 inmates three meals every day of the year. He resides in Leland, N.C., has three children.

Doug Long ’00, physician assistant, is a PA for Geisinger Health System. He resides in Lebanon.

Nana M. (Lenhart) Rupert ’00, dental hygiene and applied health sciences, is a dental hygienist for River Valley Dental and a part-time dental hygiene instructor for Penn College. She completed a bachelor’s in dental hygiene in 2009 at the University of the District of Columbia. She resides in Williamsport.

Michael Capuano ’99, computer information technology: computer information systems, is a Penn College Police officer. She holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and remains a part-time teacher. She resides in Coal Township.

2000s

Joel A. Medina ’92, aviation maintenance technician, is a past master electrician for the Williamsport Technicians Local 308. He resides in Danville.

Brian E. Scott ’98, broadcast communications, is a calendar technician for Transcon. He resides in Bardstown, Ky.

Julie R. (Custer) Gottlieb ’04, baking and pastry arts, is a homemaker. She resides in Sparrow Bush, N.Y.

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Julia (Redey) Warfle ’03, hospitality management, is a creative arts director for Zion Lutheran Pre-School. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Matthew R. Fry ’04, broadcast communications, is a calendar technician for Transcon. He resides in Bardstown, Ky.
Cody Wallace ’08, forest technology, is a contract logger. He resides in Acworth, Ga.
Drew Henry ’11, aviation technology, is a start-up technical consultant. He resides in Williamston, S.C.

2010s

Brandon L. Group ’10, construction management, is an instructor or construction management for Penn College. He resides in Muny.
Hannah (Yates) Peacock ’10, construction management, is a manager for production and planning for Lyme Engineering. She resides in Swanton.
Valerie Raines ’10, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a quality manager for Bear Branch Nursery. She maintains ISO standards, training and safety. She resides in Erie.
Joe Walbridge ’10, business administration, is the purchasing administrator for PMF Industries. He resides in Williamsport.
David R. Bailey ’11, technology management, is a category manager for Shell Industries. He is responsible for business development and commercial flooring product management. He resides in Acworth, Ga.
Drew Henry ’11, aviation technology, is a start-up technical consultant. He resides in Williamston, S.C.
Mohammed Alnasser ’13, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a protective- and marine-coating sales manager for Sigma Paints. He resides in Williamsport.

Katie (Hart) Beagell ’13, mass media communications and web design and multimedia, owns The Venue at Beagell Farms. She resides in Port Crane, N.Y., with her husband and their two boys.

Cody Brown ’13, heavy construction equipment and sustainable design: building construction technology, is an operations manager for CHH Site Construction. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Michael J. Johnson ’13, building construction technology and sustainable design: building construction technology, is an operations manager for CHH Site Construction. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Danielle (Carr) Nauman ’13, construction management and management of legal and human resources, is a site manager for PMF Industries. She resides in Locust, N.C.

Stacey (Webb) Paronish ’12, welding technology, is a welder and classroom instructor at Penn College. She resides in Williamsport and has three children, ages 2 and 3.

Chelsea Miller ’15, dental hygiene, is pursuing a doctorate. She holds a Master of Education from Penn State College of Medicine. She is a certified dental assistant instructor for Franklin County Career & Technology Center. She resides in Chambersburg, Pa.

Michael W. Smith ’15, residential construction technology and management: architectural technology, is a construction manager for Contact. She resides in Harleysville.

Patrick Gregory ’17, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is a refrigeration technician for Remco Inc. He resides in Berwick.

Theresa (D’Andrea) Powell ’06, graphic communications, is a research analyst for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. She resides in Harrisburg with her husband, Michael ’06, construction management, and their two children.

Randy Wurtz ’06, electrical technology, is an electrician for Glenn O. Hawbaker. He resides in Hughesville.

Annie (McCall) Bachman ’07, human services, is a clinical mental health therapist for Lancaster Freedom Center. She has married, and two children and resides in Quarryville.

Shawn Bentz ’07, civil engineering technology, is a senior highway engineer for Stantec Consulting Inc. He resides in Palmyra.

Greg Hinman ’08, welding technology, is a welder for General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, which builds Arleigh Burke-class destroyers for the Navy. He resides in South Portland, Maine.

Steve Lis ’08, residential construction management and technology: architectural technology, is a project manager for ez1Construction. He has married, has been married three years with two children. She resides in Lovelips.

Anthony J. Piccari ’08, automotive technology management, is a senior regional sales manager for Porsch of North America, responsible for 11 Porsch dealers in the Philadelphia metropolitan region. He is a member of Penn College’s Automotive Technology Management Advisory Committee. An Alumni Achievement Award recipient (2002), he resides in Murrysville with his “warrior wife,” who beat breast cancer in 2021, and two children.

Valerie Raines ’10, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a quality manager for Bear Branch Nursery. She maintains ISO standards, training and safety. She resides in Erie.

Joe Walbridge ’10, business administration, is the purchasing administrator for PMF Industries. He resides in Williamsport.
CLASS NOTES
Paul M. Lessel '18, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an injection molding process engineer for GAF Inc. He resides in Williamsport.
Cheyenne L. Lynch '18, early childhood education, is a special education paraprofessional for the Montgomery Area School District. She resides in Montgomery.
Timothy L. Pagg '18, welding and fabricating engineering technology, is a welding engineer for Matcor Metal Fabrication. He resides in Kannapolis, N.C.
Kayla E. Rosbach '18, radiography, is a radiologic technologist for UPMC. She resides in Dushore. She earned a bachelor’s in applied health sciences from Penn College in 2022.
Jonathan Shaw '18, mechatronics engineering technology, is a maintenance and polymer engineering technology, is an extrusion technician for security, is a printer coordinator assistant for EVPC. He resides in Millinocket.
Astrid N. Martinez '22, business management, is a sales consultant for Carvision Nissan. She resides in Hazleton.
Jayna B. Wachtmeister '23, business management, is a sales consultant for CIcocc Ford of Soudferton. He resides in Warrington.
Taylor Shaik '29, nursing, is an RN for ShifMed. She resides in Jersey Shore.
Brandon Weirman '22, automotive technology, is a maintenance technician for Ciocca Ford of Soudferton. He resides in Warrington.
Alexis R. Inch '23, nursing, is an RN for University of Kentucky HealthCare. She is a recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nursing and resides in Harrdsburg, Ky.
Ralph H. Johnson '23, forest technology, is a forest technician for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He handles the daily challenges of integrating the training demands of the Army National Guard with truly sustainable ecosystem management. He also holds an associate degree in advertising art from the College (1979). He resides in Avon.
Craig A. Seawholtz '23, electrical construction, is an instructor/trainer (Grade TA) for Penn College Workforce Development and an adjunct instructor for the Information Technology & Society courses. He resides in New London.
Maya A. Quinteros '23, applied health studies: emergency medical services, is employed by Armitage Interiors. She resides in Parkersburg. They reside in Binghamton, N.Y.
Angela (Card) Kendall '15, graphic design, and her husband, Reuben '13, architecture and building construction technology, were welcomed a son in May 2022. They reside in Centre Hall.
Max Bower '16, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, welcomed his first child, Maverick Preston, in August 2023. They reside in Chambersburg.
Hannah Coschman '16, occupational therapy assistant, welcomed a son in 2022 and welcomed a daughter, Kathryn, in early 2023. They reside in Hudson, Iowa.
Andrew Kriebel '17, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, and his wife, Kaylin, welcomed their second child, son Wyatt, in March 2023. They reside in Harleysville.
**In Memory**

Kathleen Baumer ‘20, health information management, married Matthew P. DeVirgilis ‘18, automotive technology management, in September 2021. They welcomed their first son, Luca, in April 2023. They reside in Lebanon.

Clarissa Gingell ‘19, nursing, welcomed her first son, Daymian, in August 2022 – the same month she completed her bachelor’s in nursing, her third degree from Penn College. They reside in Dallas, Pa.


Ashley Hoffer ‘20, baking & pastry arts; ‘22, applied management, married Matthew Hammond ‘23, building automation technology, in May 2023. They reside in Hummelstown.

Seth Wilkerson ‘22, human services & restorative justice, and his wife, Kayla, welcomed a daughter, Kennedy Elizabeth, in February 2022. They reside in Lebanon.

Kimberly M. Smith ‘23, surgical technology, welcomed her first son, Luca, in April 2023. They reside in Harrisburg.

Michelle (Goddard) Hood, a member of the Village Council that created the time capsule 25 years ago, offers a student perspective as her daughter, Madison (seated at left), records the proceedings. At right is Timothy J. Mallery, interim director of residence life and student conduct, who was on hand when the capsule was buried. Hood, a pre-dental hygiene student in 1997-98, resides in Harrisburg.

At a May 1998 dedication ceremony, event committee members gather with the capsule’s stone marker and memorabilia. From left: students Lee Gable, Chad Schleg, Michelle Goddard, Craig Ezzo and Kimberly Behl, and Steve Jacobson, then director of residence life. The time capsule was designed and constructed by James A. Potter II, a now-retired instructor of building construction technology, and construction students.

**Christian Hunter ‘13** was well-prepared for the Appalachian Trail after his surveying technology degree took him up and down the Cascade Mountains and Rockies.

His Penn College degree, paired with his Army service, set him up for a summer appointment as a land survey technician with the U.S. Forest Service – in the Rocky Mountains of western Montana, where he cut trees and marked boundaries. From there, he landed a position at the Gila National Forest in southwest New Mexico, where he set up GPS receivers and post lines. That led to a third Forest Service gig in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, running open traverses with a "total station," an electronic surveying instrument.

"After spending that much time in the forests, the Appalachian Trail felt like home," Hunter says. "The trees, the cold, the heat, the rain, the bugs all felt normal, as I was doing it for 40 hours a week for a long time. Hiking up and down the Cascade Mountains with a tripod and total station strengthened my legs. In Montana, I had to carry a 46.3L chainsaw up and down the Rockies. My Appalachian Trail pack felt lighter than my Forest Service Cascade or Rocky Mountain pack."

He began his hike in Georgia on March 23, 2021, and completed the 2,193 mile trail when he summited Mount Katahdin in Maine on Aug. 9, 2021. While his work prepared him, Hunter says: "I got my start of my momentum by strolling at Penn College."

And he’s not the only one. Shawn Givler ‘14 completed the rugged Appalachian Trail in 2020. Givler earned a bachelor’s in welding and fabrication engineering technology and resides in Tyrone.

** ’CATS IN THE WILD**

A time capsule, buried in May 1998 at the entrance of The Village at Penn College to commemorate the college’s first year of residence life, was opened during Wildcat Weekend in September to reveal items placed inside by students of The Village Council. Among the items were Village construction photos, items from The College Store, a menu from the Bistro (now site of CC Commons), photos of Village residents, a list of popular music and fads, a timeline of the year’s events, and a list of incurable diseases as of 1998.

**UNEARTHED**

As part of his work as a land survey technician for the U.S. Forest Service, Christian Hunter ‘13 carries equipment up and down the Cascade Mountains, in Oregon, to run a traverse.

Christian Hunter’s Appalachian Trail 2021. "I used a total station strengthened my legs. In Montana, I had to carry a 46.3L chainsaw up and down the Rockies. My Appalachian Trail pack felt lighter than my Forest Service Cascade or Rocky Mountain pack."

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*Where has your degree taken you? Send a photo and brief description to magazine@pct.edu.*

(Bonus if you show off your Penn College gear!)
One of these statements is false. Can you guess which?

1. The inventor of the classic Wooly Willy magnetic toy attended classes at Williamsport Technical Institute (a predecessor of Penn College) in the 1940s to obtain a radio operators license.

2. The co-creator of Spider-Man attended classes at Williamsport Technical Institute in the 1940s to obtain a radio operators license.

3. A former Philadelphia Eagles owner attended classes at Williamsport Technical Institute in the 1940s to obtain a radio operators license.

One of these statements is false. Can you guess which?
BECAUSE TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

High school students:
Join us for Summer Camps in a variety of Penn College’s real-world relevant majors. Stay in the college’s residence halls and get hands-on in our highly equipped labs.

SCORE A SCHOLARSHIP
Complete a camp during the summer before entering grades 9-12, attend Penn College and receive $1,000 off your tuition each year. Or get $2,000 off your tuition each year if you join us for two summer programs.