

Penn College

MAGAZINE



BIG WINS FOR THE BIG RIG

Diesel Performance Club achieves
a 25-year dream come true

SEE PAGE 10

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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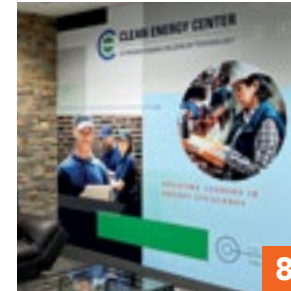
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Dane R. Carpenter, a student in the forest technology major, evaluates a stump after felling a tree. He checks for bore-cut alignment, fiber pull, level cut-back, and more. The college's Schneebeil Earth Science Center houses 200 acres of timber and a fully equipped sawmill. Students learn about everything from GPS/GIS technology and data collection tools to botany and wildlife.

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Clean Energy Center expands

One of the nation's top building-science workforce training providers, Penn College's Clean Energy Center has opened three additional labs to train those who will make homes safer and more efficient.



Collector's item

Eric L. Anstadt is an "electrical ambassador" – and a Hall of Fame collector of Klein Tools. Take a peek inside the assistant professor's storehouse.

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Big wins for the big rig

In September, 26 years after a 1959 Mack B-61 was donated to the college's Diesel Performance Club, the truck finished best in its class during its drag-racing debut. Hundreds of students have contributed to the effort.

degrees that work.

ON THE COVER

The Diesel Performance Club's 1959 Mack B-61, which retired from hauling equipment at the college's Heavy Equipment Operations Training Site in 1998, has new life, boasting a triple compound turbo setup, rear-wheel horsepower over 1,000, and a 106 mph record on the drag strip. See Page 10.

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Community physical therapy clinic planned

Emily N. Dalawy, a student in the physical therapist assistant program at Penn College, practices her skills, measuring knee range of motion on classmate Gabe A. Packer.

Penn College plans to open a physical therapy clinic – staffed by students supervised by licensed professionals, and offering free services to volunteer community participants in need – in Fall 2025.

The clinic is being funded by Penn College President Emeritus Davie Jane Gilmour, whose gift will be used to purchase much of the needed equipment, upgrade the space (the former Occupational Therapy Assistant Lab at the college), and support the first two years of operations at the facility. UPMC will also support the clinic by donating some of the equipment.

Referrals will come from multiple medical and community sources. All services will be provided free of charge.



Penn College Build for Habitat takes shape

Ground was broken in September for a Penn College Build on land donated by the college to Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity. By the end of the Spring 2026 semester, the project, a few blocks north of campus on Fifth Avenue, will incorporate classes from at least six Penn College majors and result in a sustainable, energy-efficient home for a deserving family.

Building construction technology student Shanya M. Allen (left) taps insulated concrete forms into place.



Student-repaired 1948 Tucker garners honor

At the Antique Automobile Club of America's Eastern Division National Fall Meet in Hershey, a 1948 Tucker repaired by students won the First Junior Award, meaning it was ranked the best among all cars judged for the first time in its class: limited production and prototype vehicles through 1998.

Students in Roy H. Klinger's Vintage Automotive Mechanical & Applications I class – with assistance from Penn College Classic Cruisers student club members – worked on the car for about six weeks.

The vehicle, Tucker No. 1013, was one of 51 (including the prototype) designed by Preston Tucker and manufactured by the Tucker Automobile Corp. in 1948. As described by the Automotive Hall of Fame, the Tucker was marketed as the "Car of Tomorrow."



Penn College surgical technology students practice a laparoscopic procedure.

Surgical technology grads achieve 100% board exam pass rate

The college's entire cohort of 2024 surgical technology graduates passed the national Certified Surgical Technologist Examination on their first attempt. The group graduated in August.

Surgical technologists are an integral part of the operating room team and assist in many ways during surgical operations. They prepare operating rooms and equipment, ensure a sterile environment and patient safety, and assist surgeons through a variety of surgical procedures.

The CST credential is required for employment as a surgical technologist in Pennsylvania.



Federal grant aids polymer workforce

The National Science Foundation has recognized Penn College's commitment to the plastics/polymer workforce by awarding a \$594,574 Advanced Technological Education grant.

The Practical Polymers for Students and Industry grant (award No. 2400810) will facilitate the redesign of the college's polymer technology curriculum and support enhanced recruitment activities aimed at high school students, secondary teachers and incumbent workers.

Outreach projects educate K-12 teachers



Brenda Grab, a first-grade teacher in the Montgomery Area School District, applies final touches to the mini-car she made with a 3D printer during Penn College's STEM Careers Re-Imagined externship.

Several groups of educators seized professional development opportunities on campus recently, gaining insight from Penn College's industry-experienced faculty.

The inaugural Diesel Career & Technical Education Teachers Externship attracted 13 instructors from Connecticut, Maryland and Pennsylvania to collaborate with their contemporaries, explore advancements in the field and remain on the cutting edge of instruction.

During a GenCyber Camp, 19 Pennsylvania middle and high school educators received a free education in cybersecurity. Supported by the National Security Agency and National Science Foundation, the program aims to build a strong cybersecurity workforce by igniting interest at the secondary level. The teachers learned actionable

cybersecurity concepts to share in their classrooms.

Seven secondary school teachers became students of STEM during a weeklong STEM Careers Re-Imagined externship. Supported by a PAsmart grant, the program engaged educators in activities rooted in science, math, engineering and technology and supplied them with resources for classroom use.

High school FFA teachers, who are required to teach concrete basics in their agricultural education classes, learned from the college's concrete science faculty at an FFA event in Hershey and at a two-day follow-up workshop on the college's campus. The events, sponsored by Penn State Extension, provided the teachers with foundational concrete knowledge, hands-on experience and class project ideas.

Penn College earns high marks in 2025 'Best Colleges' rankings



Pennsylvania College of Technology is the No. 1 school for innovation – and for veteran students – as well as the No. 3 top public school in the Regional Colleges (North) classification in U.S. News & World Report's 2025 Best Colleges rankings.

Penn College is also the No. 5-ranked school among Regional Colleges (North) when all public and private colleges and universities are considered.

Find complete articles on Penn College News

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

Enrollment rises by more than 6%

Total enrollment at Penn College for Fall 2024 was 4,575 students – a 6.2% increase over Fall 2023 and a 7.9% increase over Fall 2022.

New-student enrollment for Fall 2024 – which includes incoming undergraduate, graduate and nondegree students (new, transfer and re-enroll) is 1,744 – a 7.1% increase over a similarly strong incoming class in Fall 2023.

The college was able to post the increases despite the lingering impact on enrollment from the COVID-19 pandemic in the class cohorts from 2020-23 and the so-called "demographic cliff" – a decrease in the number of high school graduates in Pennsylvania and the Northeast U.S.

"Strong increases in total enrollment and new-student enrollment for Fall 2024 – coupled with more than 60 waitlisted academic programs for the fall semester – clearly demonstrate that our unique educational approach is working, even while many colleges and universities continue to face significant enrollment challenges," said President Michael J. Reed.



AT HOME IN THE HANGAR

When Alicia Martinez enrolled in the Air Force, she told her recruiter that she wanted to be a mechanic because she'd always wanted to work on cars. Shortly thereafter, she found herself stationed in Germany, learning to become an aircraft mechanic. This introduced her to a career she hadn't considered and inspired her to pursue a degree in aviation maintenance from Penn College. She also served as president of the Student Veteran Organization and, with fellow members, introduced the first-ever Aviators Ball, which drew more than 100 students to the Lumley Aviation Center. Ten scholarships, four internships and a bachelor's degree later, Martinez, who graduated in August 2024, is now happily employed by RSG Rotorcraft Services Group in Texas.

Read more about Martinez and other members of the Penn College Family at pct.edu/makers

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

The happiness I feel while doing maintenance inspires me. When I did it for the first time, I felt like it was my calling, where I belonged. The want to feel that again every day: That's what pushed me where I am today. After the military, I worked jobs and felt bored, sometimes depressed. I would get up in the morning and hated going to work. I did not want to live like that for the rest of my life. I remembered how happy it made me when I was in the military and I would put on my uniform to go to work. I would smile from ear to ear and was excited for what I would learn that day. I wanted that feeling back.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR INTERACTIONS WITH PENN COLLEGE'S VETERANS AND MILITARY STAFF.

Having the veteran center was definitely a perk. Meeting other vets always brings that level of familiarity that I felt in the military. They also pointed me to other resources I could use to pay for my studies. Talking with other vets also helped with knowing that you were not alone, especially as a non-traditional student. I was usually the oldest in a class.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE AVIATION PROGRAM?

I enjoyed the lab times. Most of us in the program learn by doing. Getting our hands dirty is always fun.

I also had teachers who pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me believe that I could become a mechanic if I really wanted it. For that, I will be forever be grateful.

ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

In 2023-24, a record 154 Wildcats earned scholar-athlete honors in the United East Conference (136) and Allegheny Mountain College Conference (18 wrestlers).

A department-best 10 programs earned United East Team Academic Honors by achieving a team GPA of 3.25 or higher. Women's basketball, men's cross-country, women's cross-country, men's golf, women's soccer, men's soccer, softball, men's tennis, women's tennis and women's volleyball earned the honor. The Wildcats sponsor 13 UE sports.



Among those honored with CATS Awards for their achievements in 2023-24 are (from left): Grace Lorson '27 (Newcomer of the Year), Matthew Woolcock '26 (Scholar-Athlete of the Year), Kaelynn Sheetz '24 (Athlete of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year) and Gavin Barrett '25 (Athlete of the Year).

CATS AWARDS

NEWCOMERS OF THE YEAR

Grace Lorson '27 (softball) started every game in her rookie campaign for the UE Champion Wildcats. She was fourth on the team with a .339 batting average while collecting 42 hits, nine doubles, three triples and two home runs. Lorson drove in 22 runs, scored 42 times and swiped a team-high 19 stolen bases. She was also a finalist for National Fastpitch Coaches Association National Freshman of the Year and was named to the United East Second Team.

Dallas Griess '27 (baseball) received first-team all-conference and American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings All-Region selections and hit .386 on the season (the conference's 12th best). He racked up 44 hits, seven doubles, four triples and five home runs and scored 38 runs. Griess registered 13 multi-hit games, including six three-hit games.

Kaden Ware '27 (wrestling) posted a 33-12 record at 133 pounds and led the team with seven tech falls and nine major decisions. Ware placed third at the AMCC Championship and was the team's top regional medalist after placing sixth at the Mideast Region Championship.

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Gavin Barrett '25 (men's basketball) repeated as the CATS Male Athlete of the Year after he averaged 16.9 points, 8.4 assists and 5.2 rebounds for the Wildcats in 2023-24. He led the country in assists per game (7.7) and triple-doubles (two) while he tied for second in the nation with a 1.7 assist-to-turnover ratio and was sixth in scoring. He earned D3hoops.com All-Region and UE First Team All-Conference selections.

During 2023-24, **Peyton Mussina '25** (golf) earned individual medalist honors and Golfer of the Year at the United East Conference Championship while leading the Wildcats to their second consecutive team title. He made the PING/Golf Coaches Association of America All-Region Team and received Cobalt/GCAA All-America Scholar honors. Mussina concluded the season at the Division III Golf National Championship, where he shot a four-day total of 286 to finish tied for 17th in the country.

Kaelynn Sheetz '24 (women's soccer) garnered her second First Team All-Conference selection and a spot on the United Soccer Coaches All-Region squad after breaking multiple program records, including career goals (49) and points (113). She finished her final season with a program single-season record 24 goals, six assists and 54 total points – making her seventh in the nation in total points in NCAA Division III. She finished second in the league in total goals and points.

SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Along with her athletic achievements, **Sheetz** was selected to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District and All-American teams and was the UE Fall Senior Scholar-Athlete Award winner – all while holding a 3.94 GPA in nursing.

A UE First Team All-Conference runner and a Fall All-Academic Team and All-Sportsmanship Team selection, **Matthew Woolcock '26** (men's cross country) is a welding & fabrication engineering technology student with a 4.0 GPA. He placed sixth at the United East Championships to help the Wildcats earn the Men's Cross-Country Team Championship.

Also earning awards were: Becca Rohrer (Staff Member of the Year), men's lacrosse team (Community Service Award), Angie Stackhouse (Coach of the Year), Gary Clark (Assistant Coach of the Year) and men's cross-country (Scholar Team Award). Women's basketball earned the Wildcat Cup, which recognizes a team's cumulative performance in the classroom, in the community, on the field and in supporting all athletic teams.

HALL OF FAME

Former Penn College golf, volleyball and softball standouts **Ned Baumbach '19**, **Courtney Gernert '13**, and **Taylor Krow '19** were inducted into the Penn College Athletics Hall of Fame during Wildcat Weekend.

Baumbach, of Elizabethtown, was awarded all-North Eastern Athletic Conference honors. During his time as a Wildcat, the Penn College golf team placed sixth in the NEAC (Spring 2016), fourth in the NEAC in (Spring 2017), and third in the NEAC in 2018 and 2019. Baumbach earned NEAC All-Academic honors twice.

An outside hitter for the volleyball team, Gernert, of Palmyra, finished with more than 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs while helping her teams to the Penn State University Athletic Conference co-championship in 2012, a second-place PSUAC finish in 2011 and a berth in the PSUAC semifinals in 2013. She earned all-conference honors in the PSUAC (twice), USCAA and NEAC. In addition to her on-court achievements, Gernert was named to all-academic teams during all four years.

Krow, an outfielder on the softball team, was a two-time NEAC first-team honoree and two-time second-team selection who had a .379 career batting average. She led the team twice in that category. As a freshman, she also led the team in runs, hits and doubles. As a sophomore, she was the team leader in hits and slugging percentage, and as a junior, she again led the team in hits. During her career, the Wildcats reached the playoffs three times in the NEAC, where they finished second in 2019, and once in the USCAA.

The 2024 Penn College Athletics Hall of Fame class (from left): Courtney L. Gernert '13 (volleyball), Ned W. Baumbach III '19 (golf) and Taylor A. Krow '19 (softball).

FALL SPORTS

CROSS-COUNTRY

Penn College won its second consecutive United East men's cross-country championship and placed a conference-record nine runners on the all-conference team. **Alec Rees '25** led Penn College with a fifth-place finish, while **Mitchell Campbell '25** (seventh) and **Ethan Knapp '28** (10th) joined Rees as first-team all-conference selections. **Matthew Woolcock '26** (11th), **Aaron Guerrisky '26** (16th), and **Holden Furey '27** (17th) were named to the second team, and **Chase Ebeling '27** (21st), **Jacob Parker '27** (25th) and **Noah Bowers '25** (33rd) earned third-team honors.

The women's team finished fourth at the event and had four runners earn all-conference honors. **Elaina Brady '27** (10th place) earned a first-team selection, while **Isabella Kerlin '28** (23rd), **Karleigh Hunter '27** (27th) and **Lillian DePew '28** (32nd) were named to the third team. **Kayleigh Miller '25** received the scholar-athlete Elite 20 Award, which she also earned last year as a member of the women's basketball team.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team went unbeaten in the regular season, reached the United East semifinals and finished the season at 15-1-4 – the most wins in program history. Four Wildcats were named to the United East first team. **Megan Kurian '28** became the first player in the history of the conference to be named both the Rookie of the Year and the Player of the Year in a team sport. Kurian finished her rookie campaign with 26 goals, 15 assists and 67 points – all single-season program records. She tied for the conference lead in both goals and assists and led the United East in points. **Cassie Johnson '25**, **Makyala Bucks '27** and **Ashley Gordon '28** were also named to the first team.

MEN'S SOCCER

The Wildcats reached the postseason for the second-straight year and finished at 11-5-3 – the best record for the program since joining the NCAA. Five players were named to the all-conference team, led by **Tommy DeGeyter '25** (first team). **Scott Goldfeder '28** was named to the second team, and **Logan Stapleton '25**, **Matt Neeson '25** and **Jack Lenosky '25** earned third-team honors.



CLEAN ENERGY CENTER EXPANDS



The lab in Harrisburg is one of the recent additions to the Clean Energy Center's training sites, equipping individuals with the skills to weatherize homes and buildings in their communities.



Penn College and Pittsburgh Gateways Corp. are co-developing a state-of-the-art workforce training and career exploration center at Pittsburgh's 7800 Susquehanna Street facility.



Since it opened in 2021, the Clean Energy Center lab at Westmoreland Airpark in Latrobe has provided training and certifications to more than 500 energy professionals.



Participants gain hands-on training in Penn College's Clean Energy Center in Williamsport under the leadership of Franklin D. Gillis (top left and opposite page), senior program manager-residential buildings.



by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/Penn College News editor

THE CLEAN ENERGY CENTER SEEMS TO BE AT THE CENTER OF CAMPUS CONVERSATION LATELY, BREAKING GROUND AND BREAKING NEWS.

Although it's not new at Pennsylvania College of Technology, having operated at the college since 1985, the Clean Energy Center is commanding the spotlight for a number of novel initiatives.

In 2024 alone, the center announced development of a Pittsburgh training facility; broke ground on a Clean Energy House, to be constructed on Penn College's main campus; deployed innovative career exploration programming for students in career and technical education centers; and launched an Energy Specialist Registered Apprenticeship.

The Clean Energy Center embraces change, including the evolution occurring in the green building sector.

"As the need for skilled workers in energy efficiency and sustainable construction grows, the Clean Energy Center is in a unique position to help meet that demand," said Jason Embick, executive director of the Clean Energy Center. "With new programs, like our K-12-based career exploration and work-based learning initiative and registered apprenticeship opportunities, we're not just keeping up with the changes in the industry: We're helping to shape its future by providing the innovative workforce solutions needed for an ever-evolving field."

Recognized as one of the top building science workforce training providers in the country, the Clean Energy Center is

the premier workforce development and training partner for utility energy efficiency programs and the Weatherization Assistance Program administered through the state Department of Community & Economic Development.

The Clean Energy Center's core mission is to teach people how to reduce energy consumption in their communities and to improve the comfort and safety of buildings. The people trained by the center are on the front line of reducing the energy burden in communities and improving the housing stock for many low-income Pennsylvanians.

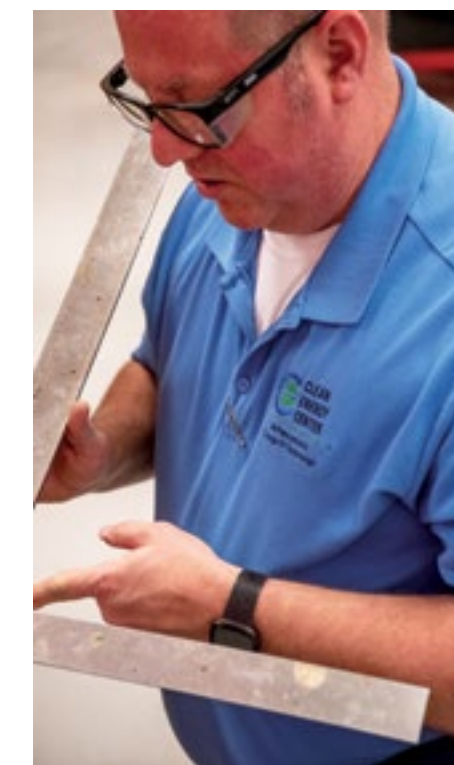
The Clean Energy Center provides the green building sector with workforce training, nationally recognized industry certifications and workforce solutions, with a focus on energy-efficient retrofits, building science and building decarbonization.

The center's accredited Home Energy Professional programs teach individuals how to perform home energy assessments and installation techniques to reduce energy consumption, while ensuring the health and safety of a home.

Since its inception nearly 40 years ago, starting as the Weatherization Training Center and transforming into the National Sustainable Structures Center before adopting its current name, the Clean Energy Center has enrolled more than 22,000 trainees. In the last fiscal year, it logged over 2,800 enrollments in online and in-person courses. Those being trained are adults who are looking for employment in the energy efficiency sector or who are

already employed and seek upskilling, industry certifications, and pathways to educational and career advancement. ■

Since its inception nearly 40 years ago, the Clean Energy Center has enrolled more than 22,000 trainees.



No matter the size of a building or what energy source it uses to power it, the Clean Energy Center has workforce training to meet industry's needs:

- ⊕ Residential Building Performance – focused on single family homes up to five units, as well as multifamily complexes
- ⊕ Commercial Energy Efficiency – focused on facility managers, energy managers and maintenance technicians
- ⊕ Building Electrification and Solar PV – a new program that includes a broad overview of energy efficiency, heat pump technology and solar photovoltaics, and decarbonizing buildings in a way that minimizes or reduces energy consumption

The center operates as part of Penn College's Workforce Development department.

Big wins for the **BIG RIG**



Backed by a quarter century of effort by countless students, the Diesel Performance Club's 1959 Mack makes its drag racing debut.

by Jennifer A. Cline, writer/magazine editor



Accelerated Learning (left) races down the drag strip at Maple Grove Raceway.

AS THE PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY DIESEL PERFORMANCE CLUB'S Gio Barbarossa and TJ Buck rolled into the Maple Grove Raceway parking lot on Sept. 20, they already tasted victory.

In tow was the club's 1959 Mack semi-truck, set to compete in the Big Rig / B1 class at the next day's Keystone Truckin' Nationals – an all-truck diesel-powered drag race and truck show.

"We pretty much went into Maple Grove saying the moment we set foot on that track, we've already won," Buck, the club's vice president, said. "We didn't care if the truck stalled and putted down the line."

It didn't stall or "putt."

The Mack B-61, dubbed "Accelerated Learning," won its first pass and six more until it finished the day No. 1 in its class (semi-trucks faster than 17.5 seconds) and set a personal best, traveling the quarter mile in 13.30 seconds at 106 mph.

In the culminating "King of the Hill" event among the day's five class winners, the truck finished second to last year's winner, Dennis Harnish Jr. and his 2006 GMC Sierra pickup.

It was the B-61's second competition. It was Buck's first behind the wheel. But it was not exactly an "overnight" success.

"For our truck to pull in and park at the Maple Grove raceway has been a goal of the drag truck for over 25 years," Barbarossa said. "As much as winning Maple Grove was a win because it was a national event, it was a win because of what it meant to be there as the Diesel Performance Club."

The truck, which came to the college in the early 1970s to move heavy construction equipment, retired from that job and was donated to the club in 1998.

Since then, hundreds of students have contributed, all with the support of diesel equipment technology instructor and club adviser Mark E. Sones.

"The concept of the drag truck was to serve as a marketing tool for our diesel and heavy equipment programs at the Earth Science Center, putting our unique vehicle and the Penn College name in front of thousands of truck and equipment enthusiasts at each event," Sones explained.

In the same year the truck was donated, Brad R. Conklin began his first year as a student in the diesel technology: Mack emphasis major. Conklin, now an instructor of diesel equipment technology, was interviewed in a local TV news segment about the project in 2000. At the time, the club expected to see the truck competing on the drag strip the following year. "It puts motivation into you," Conklin told the interviewer. Diesel equipment technology instructor Jeremy R. Bell, who graduated in 2008, is also among those who worked on the truck in his student days. ▶▶



Driver TJ Buck, a diesel equipment technology student and the Diesel Performance Club's vice president, shows off the team's Keystone Truckin' Nationals winnings.

"The whole goal of the club was to go out and race, learn from our mistakes and make improvements – accelerate our learning."

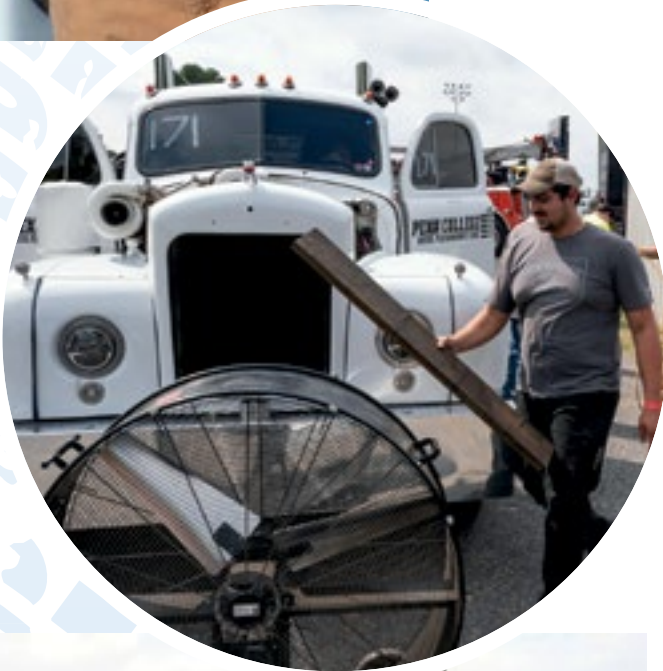


Still showing up for the team! From left, alumni Mike Sormilic '23, Jake Spinosa '24 and Brandy Herron '24. Buck calls their continued involvement a blessing.



Gio A. Barbarossa, Diesel Performance Club president, is among those who have devoted countless evening and weekend hours to making the vintage truck race-worthy. "The truck is now commonly recognized at the drag strip," he says.

Jake Spinosa '24 helps to cool the engine between passes.



A few of the alumni supporters who pitched in on race day (from left): Ben Pennings '23, Brandy Heron '24, Barry Decker '24, Jake Beatty '22, Mike Sormilic '23 and Jake Spinosa '24.

Over the years, interest among students has varied, and for several years, Accelerated Learning sat dormant, until a group showcased the B-model at the Motorama Speed Show at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in 2018. In 2019, it won the event trophy for Top Race Vehicle.

When Michael J. Sormilic, who came to campus as a first-year student in electric power generation technology: diesel emphasis in Fall 2019, learned about Sones' dream to enter the truck in drag races, he took the notion and ran with it, re-engineering the vehicle's electrical and electronics systems.

"I must credit Mike, a young man with boundless ambition and technical skill, for the spark that lit the fire of enthusiasm to put the truck and our club where they are today," Sones said.

Jake Spinosa, who began his dual-degree studies in heavy construction equipment technology: operator and technician emphases in 2021, joined the effort to bring the truck back to life.

Sormilic graduated in 2023, with an additional degree in building automation technology. But before he left, the truck made its first trip down a drag strip during a test-and-tune event about an hour from campus at Numidia Dragway. Sormilic drove.

By then, Buck and Barbarossa were students and had joined the club. "I wasn't even there for it, and it was still an awesome day," Barbarossa said. "It was an untested piece of equipment, and it performed much better than expected."

"Mr. Sones had convinced himself that this truck was going to be a 17-second truck," Buck said. "And it came out and did 15.35, which is slow in the world of drag racing, but for a semi-truck, especially one from the 1950s, it's impressive. Ever since that day, interest spiked. We re-engineer and test it, re-engineer and test it."

"That's where the name of the truck came from," he added. "What you learn in lab – how does the gear ratio change the top speed or the total torque output of the vehicle – you can apply that to the drag truck to see how you can make it either go faster or accelerate quicker. The things you learn in class, you can apply to something practical, and it brings home some of the things you learned."

In fact, the rear gear ratio is one of the first changes the students made in improving their drag-strip performance. Buck and Spinosa spent an hour in front of a white board in an Earth Science Center classroom plugging variables into equations to calculate the truck's optimal speed.

"In our minds, it's so heavy that it shouldn't move that fast," he said.

They also did fuel calculations, exploring the energy of fuel and what they could do to the diesel fuel itself.

"Diesel is already the most energy-dense fuel available," Barbarossa said, even compared with jet fuel. "But people still try to put more into it."

For the Keystone Truckin' Nationals, the team used only a basic additive to improve the fuel's lubricity and stave off wear and tear.

The group faced challenges in getting the truck's 1998 software to "communicate" with the vehicle's other electronics.

"The software is challenging to work with," said Barbarossa, who earned an associate degree in electric power generation technology: diesel emphasis in 2024 and is pursuing a bachelor's in building automation technology. "It's outdated and very proprietary. That in itself was a huge learning curve for us: finding out how to access the correct information." With support from Bergey's Truck Centers' Don Evans

and Kevin Alderfer, the club worked through the communication challenges. On the performance side, they reached out to Antrim Diesel Services in Greencastle, which directed the club to Limitless Diesel Performance, which had the correct hardware and software to help with the off-road tune and find more power.

"That was a lot of work: a chain of phone calls, asking favors of friends of friends, trying to find ancient information, almost," Barbarossa said. "We're working with old equipment, old technology in a modern world, and they are not compatible at all. We just do our best."

They do so in an application a big rig was not necessarily designed for.

"They're designed for pulling loads out of quarries or driving flat on the open high way all day: not accelerating from 0 to 100 in 13 seconds and stopping in the same amount of time," Buck said.

Throughout Fall 2023 and Spring 2024, the club continued testing, improving, and fixing each issue they found.

"Our laptops have made many quarter-mile passes to acquire engine and transmission data," Sones said. "Jake (who was next in line for the pilot's seat) worked endless hours with Mike on improvements in vehicle reliability and safety."

Accelerated Learning was ready for its first competition. At Numidia's East Coast Diesel event in June 2024, Spinosa pushed the truck to 14.16 seconds and 103 mph for a second-place finish.

"That was the whole goal of the club: to go out and race, maybe win some money, support the club and advertise for the college," Buck said. "And to learn from our mistakes and make improvements – accelerate our learning."

"After the June event, Jake Beatty (a 2022 graduate in metal fabrication and machine tool technology) and Jake Spinosa (who graduated in August 2024) spent the next six weeks of the summer working very late evenings and weekends after work and summer classes, as well as many weekends, updating the triple turbocharger system," Sones said. "These upgrades to the engine compartment pushed the rear wheel horsepower over the 1,000 threshold."

That set the club up for Maple Grove and the Keystone Truckin' Nationals.

"What a day," Barbarossa said. "The 60-plus students we had there, sponsors, family and friends from all around. There were a lot of people there supporting us. ... Even when we weren't



Buck accepts congratulations from Barbarossa. Buck says racing, like most challenges, is a mental game: "You need to calm yourself, keep yourself moving forward, keep yourself in the game. That's what works for me. Nothing else matters but what you see in front of you."

racing, it was really cool to see the collaboration between alumni, freshmen, seniors. The atmosphere was indescribable."

By the end of the day, the club had even more supporters.

Harnish, who bested Accelerated Learning in the finale to win "King of the Hill," asked Buck to introduce him to the "Penn College family."

"He said it was awesome that we made it as far as we did. There are guys who've been racing for 30-plus years and have very expensive rigs, and we were running right with them," Barbarossa recalled of the conversation.

A few weeks later, after additional work by Barbarossa, Beatty and Buck to modify the turbochargers and oil-management system for improved reliability, Accelerated Learning again won its bracket and finished second overall at the October Truck Fest at Island Dragway in New Jersey.

"It's neat when you go to an event, and they remember you from prior events," Buck said. "Everyone has a love for racing, and they like to see something unique do well. There's a reason people don't deviate from the path. When you do something different (like modernizing a 65-year-old truck), it shows what you can do if you don't give up."

"In 30-plus years of traveling the nation to promote the college's diesel technology major, the truck has been one of the most effective recruiting tools we've offered," Sones said. Barbarossa has seen high schoolers who asked about the truck at Motorama and other events follow up with college tours.

Many racers are pleased to see the young club members getting involved. ▶▶

Sormilic, credited with igniting current enthusiasm for the project, adds the truck's latest time to the windshield.

“It’s hard to get people to come out and do something instead of sitting behind a screen all day,” Buck said. “When the veteran racers see we’re trying to keep the sport alive, you see a spark in their eye. It makes them happy to see everything they worked for when they were young is going to be continued after they’re gone.”

That includes fellow competitors, like Craig Morris and John Sheppard, powertrain engineering mechanics for Volvo/Mack Powertrain in Hagerstown, Maryland, who have assembled one of the fastest trucks at major events, a 2007 Volvo VT800 that puts down quarter-mile passes in 12.30 seconds at 111 mph.

“We often see them across from us on the starting line, but they are willing to offer advice on tires, pressures and suspension and are eager to introduce our students to the technology in their truck,” Sones said. “Another story of great fellowship is Al Fee, a competitor and the promoter of the Island Dragway event who has competed head-to-head with us and assisted us with a turbocharger issue. The competition is fierce, but we are always overcome with comradery at the racetrack.”

More improvements are ahead for Accelerated Learning.

“If anybody tells you a project is finished, they’re lying to you,” Buck said. “There are always improvements to do. There’s always more to do than just going faster.”

The next step is replacing the engine control module and adding a data acquisition system (that project, which Buck said is completely custom work and “a hell of an undertaking for college students, let alone professionals,” has already begun), as well as

preparing the club’s future leaders. They’ll have help with the ECM upgrade from Spinosa and Sormilic. And like those grads, Barbarossa and Buck plan to help after they graduate, Buck in May 2025 and Barbarossa in May 2026.

“Just like the alumni, we have so much blood, sweat and tears into it, it’s like walking away from a kid,” Barbarossa said.

They see the truck not only as a testament to club members’ persistence, but as a tribute to their adviser.

“Mr. Sones is pretty much a father figure to TJ and me,” Barbarossa said. “He addresses himself as ‘Unkel’ Mark,” and he just will do anything and everything for you. If you have curiosity, he’ll cure it. If you want to learn, he’ll teach you. He loves to see the drive we have for the drag truck and the overall ambition and drive of the students in general.”

The students describe a period when Sones taught at the Mack Powertrain facility in Hagerstown, and instead of a paycheck, he chose to bring home an engine for the B-61. (Sones points out that the vehicle is funded entirely by students’ efforts, fundraising, instructor contributions, and industry support. “We have not utilized college funding to support this project in any way, and this has been a long, expensive road for several of us,” he said.)

“He saw the drag truck’s goal before we were even alive,” Barbarossa said. “Its ability to bring people together, its teaching capabilities, its marketing aspects. The truck is now commonly recognized at the drag strip, and the Penn College name leaves a strong impression on the black top.” ■

Inside the Mack B-61:

The engine is an E7 ETech Mack (728 cui) that started life as a standard 460 horsepower motor. It features a custom fuel system and a Triple Compound turbo setup that is split into two stages and develops over 90 psi of boost.

Mated to the engine is an Allison HD4060 transmission, which then transmits the power to an Eaton 23,000-pound rear axle with a 3.08 ratio.

The truck rides on 11R22.5 tires with polished Alcoa wheels.

The truck features its original cab, front axle, and original frame (although the rear section is double framed with a new inner frame rail for strength).

Inside the cab there is a full roll cage and a racing seat with a five-point racing harness for driver safety.

TJ Buck
vice president, Diesel
Performance Club

Watch a video of Accelerated Learning’s Keystone Truckin’ Nationals performance at magazine.pct.edu/bw



(From left) Jacob Beatty '22, who is largely responsible for the truck’s artwork – that is, its triple compound turbo charger – and Sones, whose wallet is listed among the truck’s sponsors, gather with the club’s vice president and president at the Earth Science Center.





On opposite page: The Klein Tools collection of Eric L. Anstadt, a Penn College electrical technology alumnus and faculty member, includes a glass trophy commemorating Anstadt's induction as the first member of the Klein Tools Hall of Fame.

but four years are represented. "I've got a wild hair to have a pair from every year," Anstadt admitted.

The shelves above and the floor below are cluttered with collectables, all affixed with the Klein name, logo or both. There are hats, mugs, toolboxes and work gloves, complemented by moleskin coasters, grilling accessories and flags. Want a canvas bag given as a wedding favor at the nuptials of Mathias Klein IV? Anstadt is your guy. He's also the source for Klein screwdrivers boasting glow-in-the-dark handles, an Indy 500 pit pass, enamel signs dating back decades, old clocks, a model airplane and a rare keychain from Australia.

"I like to buy anything odd and stuff that was in limited production," he said.

On cue, there's a 125th anniversary toy truck stuffed in a box. And chrome pliers to celebrate the same company milestone. Hanging close by are commemorative pliers for the year 2000. On the floor is a stuffed "Skokie" bear given to employees when Klein closed its original foundry in Skokie, Illinois. And taken from the attic is a four-wheel, remote-controlled cooler in the shape of a box truck. It's usually stored next to two large totes, containing doubles and triples of the 800 or so pairs of pliers that Anstadt owns.

"You have to unpack the totes to move them," he chuckled.

Anstadt became a Klein Tools "snob" during his freshman year at Penn College in 2006. The toolkit he purchased to pursue associate degrees in electrical technology and electromechanical maintenance technology (known today as mechatronics technology) contained the company's products. ▶▶

Among the oddities: Screwdrivers with handles that glow in the dark.



A 125-plus-year-old set of pliers – still in working order.

“I have a duty to the students. That duty originates from a debt I owe to those who trained me.”

COLLECTOR'S Item



Eric L. Anstadt is an “electrical ambassador” – and a Hall of Fame collector of Klein Tools.

by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer



Anstadt shows his brand devotion by using a Klein Tools mug, pen and notepad (while wearing a Klein Tools T-shirt).

Eric L. Anstadt's business card reads assistant professor of electrical technology/occupations at Pennsylvania College of Technology. It could be shortened to electrical ambassador.

The proof is obvious in the positive manner he uses to instruct and encourage his students. The way his eyes brighten when discussing the field's abundant career possibilities. The way he smiles when revealing how the industry has benefited him. The way he spends some of his free time.

Admittedly, the latter piece of evidence is inconspicuous. It requires some detective work and a trip about 40 minutes south of the Penn College campus. The winding country road ends at a partial log home tucked in the woods outside of Mifflinburg. It's the residence Anstadt shares with his wife, Becky, their four kids and three dogs.

After maneuvering past Gibor, Meatball and Groucho – the dogs, not the kids – a narrow staircase awaits. The steps descend to the basement. To the right is a door that Anstadt obliges to open. What's revealed resembles a vault rather than a storage area. The space is a treasure trove of tools.

Not just any tools. These are Klein Tools, some dating to the late 1800s, long before the company became known as the top producer of hand tools for the electrical industry.

"I separate my collection into three categories: lineman tools, commemorative tools and weird stuff," Anstadt said.

Each classification is well-represented.

The orange Klein Tools-branded pegboards that envelop the walls hold the lineman pliers, organized by year from pre-1897 to today. All





Anstadt stands amid his 2,500-piece Klein Tools collection. He has three categories for its contents: lineman tools, commemorative tools and “weird stuff.” Below is an item from the third category: a remote-controlled Klein Tools cooler.



“I had never heard of Klein before,” he said. “I liked the way the tools felt in my hand. You get used to how the handle feels, and if you switch to another company, the tools don’t feel the same. Klein Tools are tough and reliable.”

To back his claim, Anstadt showed still-sturdy Klein pliers manufactured more than 125 years ago. His sleuthing skills determined the age of the tool. The pliers are stamped “M. Klein & Son.” In 1897, the company transitioned to “M. Klein & Sons” and began putting that new name on its tools. Consequently, Anstadt believes anything marked “M. Klein & Son” was made prior to 1897. Since 1917, Klein has imprinted a code on its tools to identify the production year. Of course, Anstadt deciphered the code.

“I like the history of the company. I like the fact that they’re an American company and that they are family owned,” Anstadt said. “They believe in the products they make and will stand behind their products.”

Klein’s origins date to 1857 when, according to company lore, Mathias Klein, a German immigrant, opened a forge shop in Chicago. His repair of side-cutting pliers for a telegraph lineman led to the first Klein pliers. The development of telegraphic communication and

electric power spurred the company’s growth because workers in the fledgling industries required hand tools. Klein’s descendants to the sixth generation own and manage the company, headquartered today in the northern suburbs of Chicago.

Anstadt was 28 when he enrolled in college and became smitten with Klein Tools. About to be married, he desired a profession with regular hours after working for years as a shipping manager at a furniture factory and sales representative/driver for the former Schwan Food Co. Plus, Mike Bower, the owner of Turnkey Electric Inc. in Williamsport and the uncle of Anstadt’s best friend, promised a job if he graduated from Penn College’s program.

“I’d always been interested in electrical work and had done some on my own. I just needed to be trained in how to properly do it,” Anstadt said.

The nontraditional student learned well, making the Dean’s List every semester. After graduating, Anstadt followed his promised path, working at Turnkey Electric. In 2016, he returned to his alma mater when a faculty position opened. Teaching became an avenue to give back.

“I have a duty to the students. That duty originates from a debt I owe to those who trained me,” said Anstadt, who in recent years obtained a bachelor’s in applied technology studies from Penn College and a master’s in education from Wilkes University. “People trained me and invested in my future to help me be successful throughout my career. I like to think that I am doing a little of that with my teaching. I take great pride in the thought that I might be making a difference for someone else.”

He’s meeting that goal, explained Stacey C. Hampton, assistant dean of industrial and computer technologies.

“Eric’s genuine commitment to the electrical field is evident not only by his own technical expertise but also his dedication to fostering the next generation of professionals,” she said. “His enthusiasm for teaching goes beyond the classroom, where he ensures our students are equipped with the hands-on and problem-solving skills they need. He also builds in them the confidence necessary to succeed in their future careers.”

When teaching, Anstadt doesn’t brag about his Klein Tools collection, which now totals about 2,500 pieces and countless types of memorabilia. What started as buying additional tools for school and work morphed over the years into a crusade. “It just snowballed,” he admitted.

More like an avalanche.

Whether through swap meets, flea markets, eBay, or other means, Anstadt loves the hunt for atypical items representing the company he reveres. His favorite tool? That would be a bone-handle knife used to cut zinc off the top of batteries. “I have never seen another one,” he said. The most unusual? That distinction belongs to a metal patent tag from an 1871 Wilson’s “adjustable invalid chair” for which Mathias Klein did the metalwork.

Anstadt has put plenty of miles on his Subaru Outback to support his hobby. Like the time he drove to Richmond, Virginia, on a moment’s notice – with \$2,000 in his pocket – to purchase “a pile of stuff” at an electrical store that was going out of business. Or the occasion he traveled to Southern Ontario – another day trip – to buy limited edition pliers only available through City Electric Supply stores in Canada.

That trek across the border required proof of purchase for Anstadt to return to his homeland.

“The border agent was like, ‘You drove to Canada for 45 minutes to turn around and come back?’ The lady was a little suspicious,” Anstadt recalled. “When I told her I came up to buy pliers, she was even more suspicious! Then I showed the pliers and the receipt.”

When the incredulous border official asked him why he would make such an effort just for pliers, Anstadt had a very matter-of-fact response: “This is the only place you can get them.”

Sometimes an ocean separates Anstadt from coveted collectables. He meets that challenge by relying on other Klein enthusiasts. A friend in Ireland is his source for Klein Tools exclusive to the European market. As for the Australian and Asian sectors, Anstadt relies on “Tommy from Guam” to ship anything on his wish list.

Those and numerous other contacts have been developed through an active online community. A few years ago, Anstadt’s contributions to a Facebook page dedicated to Klein Tools collectors prompted the company to appoint him as the site’s administrator. He later assumed the same role for the Klein Tools fans page. Combined, the two social media groups have over 36,000 members. Anstadt is responsible for approving new members and monitoring the content. He also shares his knowledge. “

Eric manages the groups well. He does a great job of helping others understand and get into collecting,” said Kevin Enke, director of digital technology for Klein Tools. “He is very generous with his time and has made connections across several states and countries. It’s great to see the camaraderie he has with the groups.”

Anstadt also has established a bond with Enke. In fact, the Klein executive visited him and his collection last spring.

“Eric has several unique, out-of-the-ordinary items,” Enke said. “I love his commitment to the sequential pliers collection. He has the largest collection of pliers I have ever seen. The pre-1900 pliers are amazing to me. They’re still usable. To think how much has changed in the world in the last 125 years and to hold something that built



Pliers join canvas bags given as favors at the wedding of Mathias Klein IV.

America over a century ago was really cool.”

Enke spent time with Anstadt on campus, touring the college’s state-of-the-art electrical labs and witnessing them full of aspiring professionals. The associate degree majors in electrical construction, electrical technology and mechatronics technology have been at maximum student capacity for the past couple of years. While there, Enke surprised Anstadt with an engraved glass award, signifying him as the inaugural member of the Klein Tools Hall of Fame.

“The Hall of Fame was put together to honor those who have made contributions to the company and the trades,” Enke explained. “We appreciate Eric for his dedication to trade education and the passion he shares with others in running the Klein Tools Collectors group.”

“It was astonishing that they would recognize me,” Anstadt said.

While humbled by the honor, he takes greater pride in serving as a conduit between the college and the company. Klein Tools is a Penn College Corporate Tomorrow Maker and supports electrical students with tooling donations and educational discounts.

“We are grateful for the support of Klein Tools that has provided help to many of our students,” said Elizabeth A. Biddle, senior corporate relations director. “Because of Eric’s engagement and passion for Klein Tools and his appreciation for the company’s history, he opened the door to a partnership.”

Anstadt doesn’t measure his passion for Klein Tools by the monetary value of his collection. Yes, he believes he could find someone to pay about \$20,000 to buy it “lock, stock and barrel.” If he sold it piece by piece on eBay, he estimates the haul would be about \$60,000. But for Anstadt, neither avenue is an option. The experience of supporting his favorite company by accumulating its tools and memorabilia is priceless.

“I like to sniff around,” he said with a sly smile.

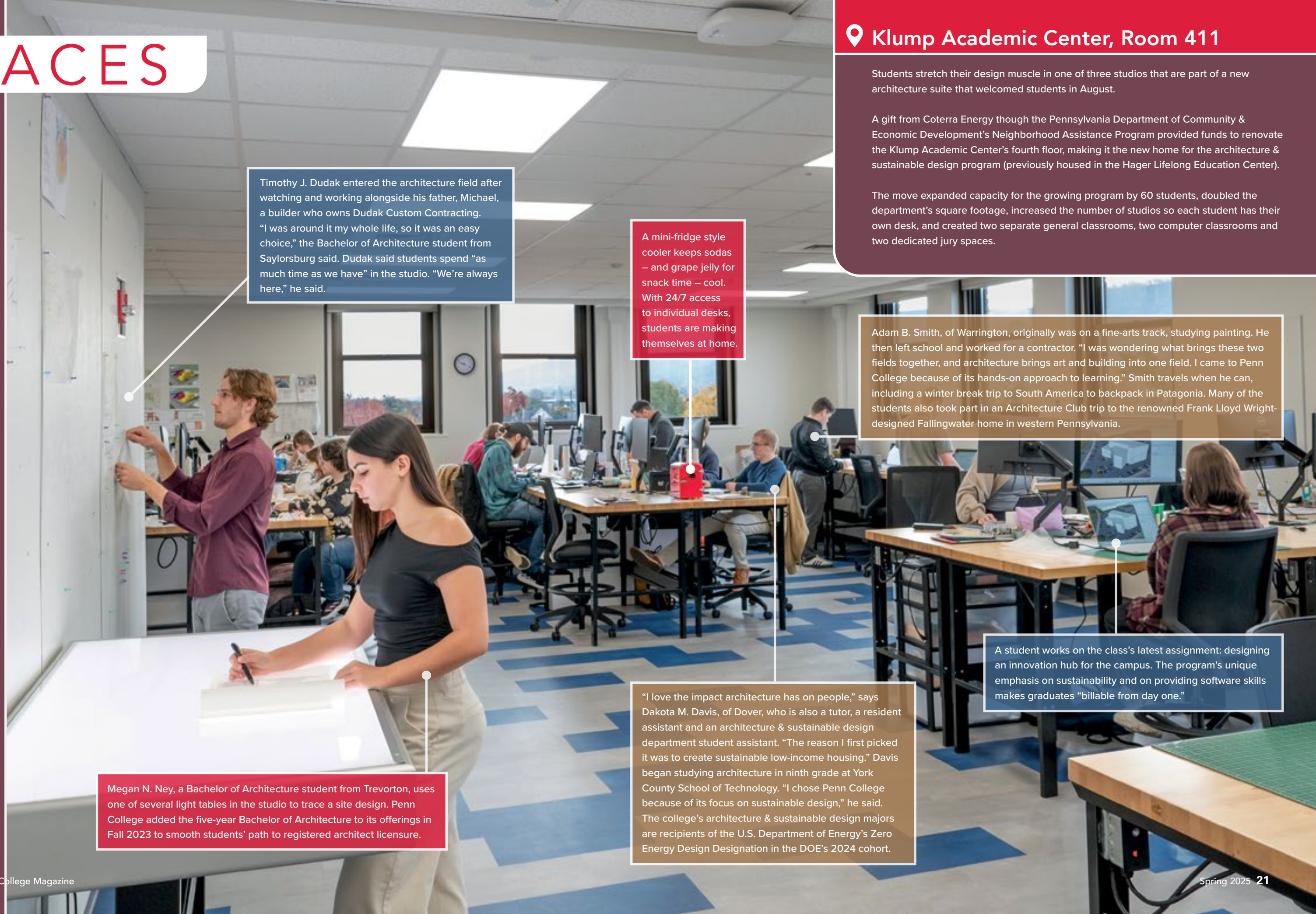
And he has plans to use some of the artifacts as a tool to inspire today’s students. Anstadt hopes to fill a display case in the college’s Electrical Technologies Center with vintage pliers, knives and a lineman torch from the early 1900s.

“I want to show the students what was actually used back then and how lucky they are now that they don’t have to do it that way,” he said.

Electrical ambassador indeed. ■

SPACES

Architecture & Sustainable Design Studio



Timothy J. Dudak entered the architecture field after watching and working alongside his father, Michael, a builder who owns Dudak Custom Contracting. “I was around it my whole life, so it was an easy choice,” the Bachelor of Architecture student from Saylorsburg said. Dudak said students spend “as much time as we have” in the studio. “We’re always here,” he said.

A mini-fridge style cooler keeps sodas – and grape jelly for snack time – cool. With 24/7 access to individual desks, students are making themselves at home.

Adam B. Smith, of Warrington, originally was on a fine-arts track, studying painting. He then left school and worked for a contractor. “I was wondering what brings these two fields together, and architecture brings art and building into one field. I came to Penn College because of its hands-on approach to learning.” Smith travels when he can, including a winter break trip to South America to backpack in Patagonia. Many of the students also took part in an Architecture Club trip to the renowned Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Fallingwater home in western Pennsylvania.

Megan N. Ney, a Bachelor of Architecture student from Trevorton, uses one of several light tables in the studio to trace a site design. Penn College added the five-year Bachelor of Architecture to its offerings in Fall 2023 to smooth students’ path to registered architect licensure.

“I love the impact architecture has on people,” says Dakota M. Davis, of Dover, who is also a tutor, a resident assistant and an architecture & sustainable design department student assistant. “The reason I first picked it was to create sustainable low-income housing.” Davis began studying architecture in ninth grade at York County School of Technology. “I chose Penn College because of its focus on sustainable design,” he said. The college’s architecture & sustainable design majors are recipients of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Zero Energy Design Designation in the DOE’s 2024 cohort.

A student works on the class’s latest assignment: designing an innovation hub for the campus. The program’s unique emphasis on sustainability and on providing software skills makes graduates “billable from day one.”

📍 Klump Academic Center, Room 411

Students stretch their design muscle in one of three studios that are part of a new architecture suite that welcomed students in August.

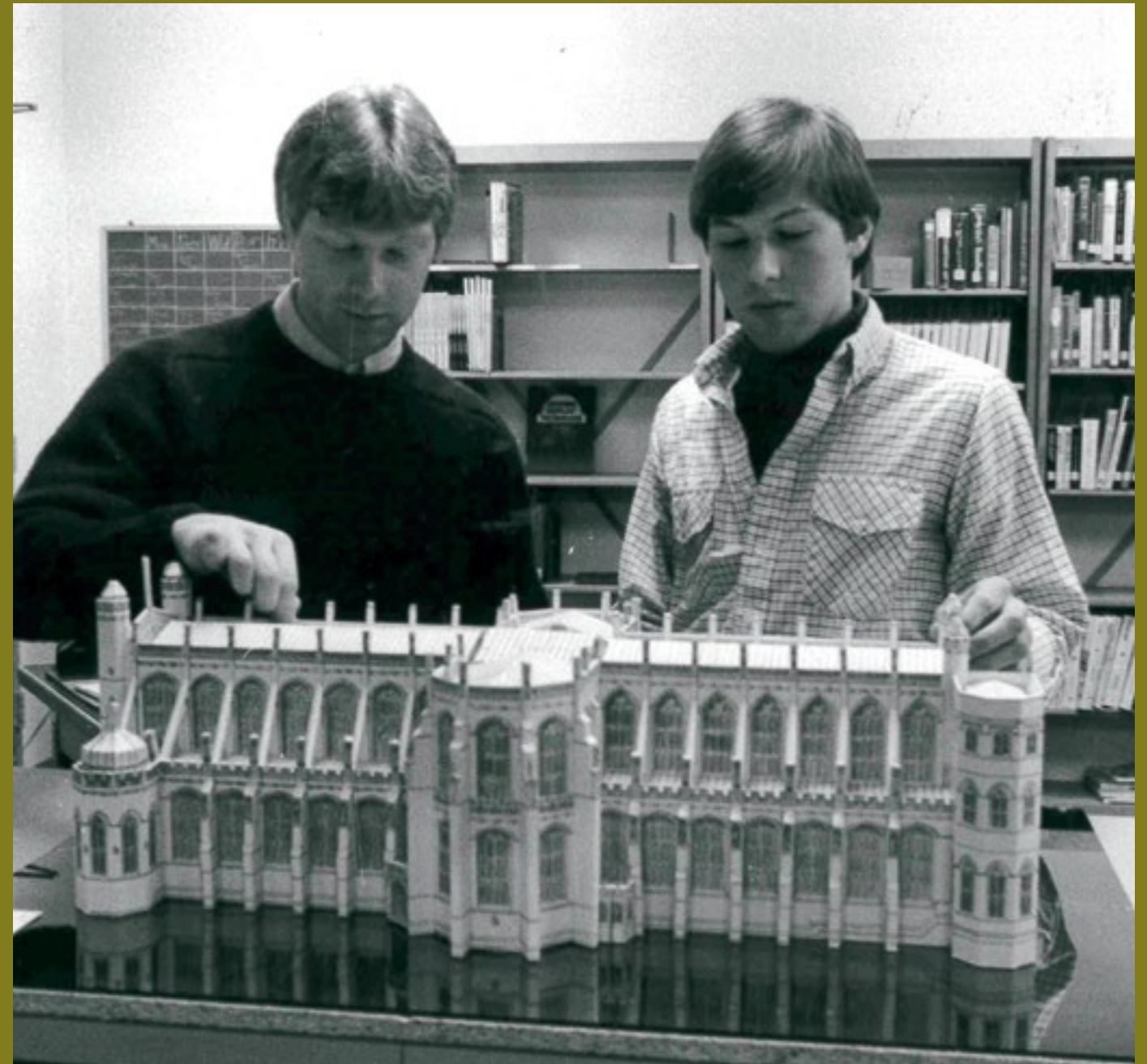
A gift from Coterra Energy through the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development’s Neighborhood Assistance Program provided funds to renovate the Klump Academic Center’s fourth floor, making it the new home for the architecture & sustainable design program (previously housed in the Hager Lifelong Education Center).

The move expanded capacity for the growing program by 60 students, doubled the department’s square footage, increased the number of studios so each student has their own desk, and created two separate general classrooms, two computer classrooms and two dedicated jury spaces.



As the architecture & sustainable design program celebrates a new home (see Page 20) and new Bachelor of Architecture degree (implemented in Fall 2023), we took a look into the Penn College Archives and found these gems from decades past. Can you help us identify the who, what, where and when behind any of these images?

Please email magazine@pct.edu or call 570-321-5527.



IN THE LAST ISSUE

Thank you to readers Jan Twardowski and Aaron Sica, who helped us identify some of the students in this Fall 1995 photo. As an orientation leader from 1994-97, Sica, a 1999 graduate of computer information technology: data communications and networking concentration, got to know many fellow students. This group appears to be walking away from the Breuder Advanced Technology & Health Sciences center, built in 1986 on the southern end of the former Susquehanna Street.



PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

1960s

David Rotz '64, automotive technician, is retired and resides in Waynesboro. After Williamsport Technical Institute, he worked for a Ford dealer for eight years then opened a business with his brother when his brother graduated. They sold the business after 33 years.

John Millard '65, electronics technology, resides in Hamilton, Ohio, and celebrated his 62nd wedding anniversary on Jan. 7, 2024. He served in the U.S. Air Force 1959-63 and has two sons.

Dennis E. Morehart '65, electronics technology, retired as a design and development specialist from General Electric, where he worked 1970-2002. He spent 15 years designing printed circuit boards then wrote real-time software. He was the in-house expert for a real-time operating system called QNX. He resides in Salem, Va., with his wife of 60 years. They have three children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He takes bus trips and plays fiddle, guitar, mandolin and Xbox.

James Douty '66, technical illustration, resides in Mechanicsburg.

John E. Hopkins '68, architectural technology, is retired and recently moved to DuBois.

1970s

Paul L. Gardner '70, technical illustration, retired as senior illustrator and publications coordinator for F.L. Smithe Machine Co., a manufacturer of envelope machinery and narrow web flexographic printing presses. He was offered the job two months before graduation. He illustrated parts manuals, wrote technical illustration manuals, and produced the company's advertising brochures and printing plate graphics for machine demonstrations. He continues to use his graphic design skills to help his church and other nonprofits. He resides in Duncansville.

James C. Leone '70, civil engineering technology, is retired and resides in Lock Haven. Prior to military service, he attended WTI, achieving draftsman rating, and worked for Corning Inc. After his enlistment in the Air Force, he earned an associate degree from Williamsport Area Community College then returned to Guam, where he undertook engineering projects on the islands of Guam, Saipan and Tinian. In 1976, he settled in Phoenix and worked in the sand and gravel industry, then moved to the San Bernardino Valley of California. In 1994, he returned to Lock Haven and married his high school sweetheart.

Joseph Legnasky '71, forest technology, retired from Stanley Engineered Fastening, where he served for 30 years as a purchasing manager for the company's domestic and international plants, senior inventory manager and plant safety manager. He previously was a purchasing manager for MASCO Corp. for 25 years. He holds a bachelor's degree from Gannon University. He has served his local government for 37 years, much of that time as mayor, and for the past nine years he has been treasurer of the Girard School District Board of Education. He resides in Lake City with his wife of 53 years. They have a daughter and two grandchildren.

James C. Zbick '71, journalism, a retired journalist, opened the Faith, Family and Country Heritage Museum in Branson West, Mo., in 2023. He resides in Blue Eye, Mo.

James T. Bodnar '72, mechanical drafting, retired from Bechtel Corp. as a project startup manager. In his 39 years with the company, he worked on the startup of several nuclear, coal and gas-turbine power plants, as well as copper mines in Utah and Arizona, Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and Department of Energy sites in Nevada and South Carolina, and he spent nine years as the manager of the commissioning group at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Since his 2016 retirement, he makes road trips to historical sites and museums across the U.S. He resides in Milford, Del.

Allan Cohen '72, automotive mechanics, is president of Wm. Cohen & Sons Inc., which celebrates 75 years in business in 2025. He resides in Downingtown, has been married for 48 years and has a daughter and a grandson.

Cathy L. (Burns) Bennett '75, practical nursing, retired from Commonwealth Health System in 2017 after 30 years of employment, then worked for three years as a substitute school nurse in Hanover Township schools for Maxim Health. She resides in Mountain Top with her childhood sweetheart, to whom she's been married for almost 50 years. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Richard L. Fetter '75, business management, is retired, resides in San Jose, Costa Rica, and enjoys his grandchildren, the beaches, the mountains and Latin culture.

Susan P. (Groetzinger) Grant '76, architectural technology, is a structural engineer for Keystone Structural Solutions. She holds a bachelor's in civil engineering from Point Park University (1997). She resides in Warrendale.

William C. Long III '76, electrical technology, retired and is keeping busy as a part-time driver for Enterprise. He completed a Bachelor of Business Administration from Penn State in 1978. He resides in New Cumberland.

Jerome P. Perch '76, forest technology, is a senior logistics specialist for Geisinger. He resides in Blakeslee.

Susan K. (Kiodo) Wright '76, business management, is a self-employed real estate agent at Fish Real Estate. She has been named Realtor of the Year, Realtor Emeritus and Top Producing Agent in Closed Transactions and Closed Dollar Volume. She resides in Montoursville.

Tom Isenberg '77, carpentry & building construction technology, is retired after owning Iron Mountain Construction for 33 years. He holds a bachelor's in construction engineering from Spring Garden College in Philadelphia. He worked for Turner Construction in Washington, D.C., then Omni Construction in Richmond, Va., before founding Iron Mountain in New Jersey. He resides in Stewartsville, N.J.

Judson Bailey '78, machinist general, owned and operated Cayuga Tool & Die for 30 years before retiring in 2020. He designed and built assembly automation and final test equipment for most major automotive companies. He resides in Groton, N.Y.

Bret A. Hoover '78, forest technology, is retired and resides in Allentown.

Scott C. Reiter '78, tool design technology, is retired and resides in Spring Grove.

1980s

Michelle B. Fritz '80, individual studies, recently celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary with her husband, William W. Fritz, WACC's first dean of administration/treasurer of the Board of Trustees, with a trip to Yellowstone National Park with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild. She resides in Franklin, Tenn.

William Sanford '80, forest technology, is retiring from Colorado State University after more than 28 years as an associate professor in hydrogeology. After graduating from WACC, he earned a bachelor's in geology, a master's in geophysics and a doctorate in soil and water engineering. He resides in Fort Collins, Colo.

Steven W. Douglas '81, aviation maintenance technician, has enjoyed 50-plus years in aviation. He retired from a consulting firm as vice president, aviation sector, after five years, and from the Federal Aviation Administration as senior executive, service, after 22 years. He was previously director of maintenance for an air ambulance company. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a C-141 flight engineer and a B-52 aircraft mechanic. He resides in Babcock Ranch, Fla.

John J. Frentz '81, aviation maintenance technician, is a quality control senior inspector for AAR Corp., which provides aviation maintenance, repair and overhaul. He resides in Indianapolis.

Christopher D. Garzon '84, machine tool technology, is a project manager for Cargill. He leads bottling-and-packaging-related capital projects. He completed a tool design technology degree from the college in 1985. He earned a bachelor's in manufacturing engineering technology in 1988 from Rochester Institute of Technology and a Master of Business Administration from York College of Pennsylvania in 1997. He resides in York.

Timothy J. Hayes '84, machine tool technology, is a retired journeyman electrician. He resides in Coatesville.

Susan K. (Erney) Jones '84, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Brookpark Dental Arts. She resides in Allenwood with her husband, **Harry '85**, nursery management. They have three grown children and eight grandchildren.

Peter McMackin '84, electrical construction, retired in May 2024 after over three decades working for West Penn Power. A father of three adult children, he resides in St. Marys with his wife.

Andrew Slovensky '85, technical illustration, works for Parsons Corp. as a quality assurance officer/auditor for Pennsylvania Emissions and State Inspection Stations across southeastern Pennsylvania. He worked for Lockheed Martin for 26 years as an illustrator, manager of the proposal development center and creator for process improvement and training. He resides in Fort Washington.

Rich Hoffner '87, graphic arts, is the print and mailing services manager for the Dauphin County Library System. He relocated the print shop to a larger space and converted the system from offset printing to an all-digital platform. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Dennis W. Renaud '89, aviation technology, is a crew chief/aviation maintenance technician for American Airlines. He resides in Owasso, Okla.

1990s

David Boehm, '91, construction carpentry, is a weapons detection specialist for Penn Medicine. He checks purses or persons for weapons after a machine alarms. He resides in Ephrata.

Pennie (Call) Billiot '91, business management, is supervisor of case administration for the Office of the Chapter 13 Trustee for the Western District of Louisiana, Alexandria Division. She has held the position for 24 years, has been married for 10 years and has three sons and a daughter. She resides in Woodworth, La.

Gregory Corbin '92, construction carpentry, is a maintenance worker for Penn State. He resides in Huntingdon.

Frank J. Dyer '92, HVAC technology, owns Dyer Housing, renting to 100 Penn College students, and retired from UGI after 27 years. He resides in Trout Run.

Richard L. Newton '92, culinary arts, is a systems engineer for T-Mobile. He resides in Grandview, Mo.

Ryan Swartz '92, forest technology, is deputy chief for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Great Basin Smokejumpers. The team responds to emerging wildfires by parachuting from an airplane. He resides in Boise, Idaho.

Melissa (Gortva) Cromer '94, practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Penn State Health. She resides in Dillsburg.

Matthew Miller '95, building construction technology, is a project manager for Quandel Construction Group. He resides in Whitehall.

Matthew Smith '97, heavy construction equipment technology, works for Cleveland Brothers equipment company. He resides in Etters.

Michael J. Tucker '98, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is a service technician for K&D Factory Service. He provides service and repair for commercial cooking equipment. He resides with his wife of 21 years in Three Springs.

Christina (Drumheller) Welsh '99, human services, is an office manager for Tri-County Mechanical. She resides in Bally.

2000s

Shawn Strohman '96, architectural technology; **'01**, construction management, is a project executive for Roebbelen Contracting. He resides in Escalon, Calif. ▶▶



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

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Anthony L. Nedinsky '02, construction management, is a director for Secretariat. He analyzes and quantifies schedule delays and damages for complex construction disputes and provides expert witness testimony. He manages a team from the company's Washington D.C., office. He resides in Leesburg, Va.

Brandee J. Krall '03, business administration: management, is a full-time high school substitute teacher in the Milton Area School District. She resides in New Columbia.

Susanna (Thomas) Storeng '03, physician assistant, is a clinical coordinator/principal faculty for Central Michigan University's PA program, focusing on the area's rural, medically underserved population. She resides in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Thomas Bartholomew '04, computer information systems: networking and technical support, is a welding instructor for Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center. He resides in Palmerton.

Amy (Dougherty) Bruno '04, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a biology and forensic science teacher for the Loyalsock Township School District. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Becky M. (Snauffer) Emerick '04, floral design/interior plantscape, works for Helminiak's Greenhouse & Landscaping. She resides in Linden.

Shelly Harding '05, business administration: management, is a registered nurse for Geisinger. She resides in Muncy.

Michael Merlino '05, floral design/interior plantscape, is a general manager for florist Daniel Vaughn Designs. He resides in Blandburg.

Gregory Shawver '05, electrical technology, is a maintenance supervisor for Clayton Homes. He resides in Lewistown.

Dustin A. Yocom '05, building automation technology, is a service manager for The Tustin Group, a building systems firm. He is married, has a daughter and resides in Douglassville.

Chad M. Gray '06, graphic design, is employed by Carel. He resides in Lititz.

Marley Sampsell '07, baking and pastry arts, works for Wegmans. She has a son and resides in Port Matilda.

Michelle Beggs '08, early childhood education, is a special education paraprofessional for the Williamsport Area School District. She resides in Williamsport.

Erin A. Karpich '08, accounting, is an accountant for River Valley Regional YMCA. She resides in Williamsport.

Zachary R. Mazur '08, manufacturing engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineering manager for Busch Vacuum Systems. He resides in Suffolk, Va.

Michael K. Pollock '08, collision repair technology, is a quality control technician for Pennsy Supply, which manufactures aggregate, asphalt, sand and concrete products. He resides in Sugarloaf.

Joel Ifill '09, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is chief technology officer for Solideon. An engineering entrepreneur and consultant, he holds six patents and sold his first startup to Aerovironment. His award-winning work as founder of DASH Systems garnered media attention, including a feature in Fast Company. He resides in Los Angeles. He is married with two children.

Nicholas J. Klein '09, aviation technology, is a liaison engineer for Aerospace Quality Research & Development. He resides in Centerburg, Ohio.

Brandon Seymore '09, information technology: network specialist, is an information security officer for Bucknell University. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Bloomsburg University and resides in Watsontown.

Brandon Taylor '09, electric power generation technology, is a field technician for Michigan CAT. He resides in Howell, Mich.

Christopher Tilton '09, business administration: management, owns Mid State Truck & Auto Service in Wall Township, N.J. He resides in Brick Township, N.J.

Jesse W. Vornhold '07, welding technology; '09, technology management, is a welding inspector for Local 520 Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVACR. He resides in Williamsport.

2010s

Christopher W. Bunda '10, construction management, is a superintendent/site manager for James D. Morrissey Inc., overseeing heavy highway/civil projects in the Philadelphia area. He resides in Levittown.

Cody Kanouff '10, forest technology, is a conductor for Norfolk Southern Corp. He resides in North Bend.

Derek Kepner '10, information technology: web & applications technology, is co-founder and chief technology officer for Choice Tracker, a 501(c)(4) organization. He resides in Reedsville.

Carrie (Taylor) Stephenson '10, baking and pastry arts, owns Little Bears Childcare & Preschool Learning. She resides in Hughesville.

Christopher D. Berilla '11, civil engineering technology, is a program manager for AECOM, providing program and project management for major West Coast transit projects. He resides in Oakland, Calif.

Kayla (Shultz) White '11, baking and pastry arts, is employed by Weis Markets. She resides in Sunbury.

Robert J. Barbera '12, building automation technology, is founder and president of Conscious Mechanical, a heating and air conditioning business. He resides in Valhalla, N.Y.

Toni L. Hill '10, computer aided drafting technology; '12, technology management, is a project manager II for Construction Specialties. She completed a Master of Science in project management and operations in 2020. She resides in Williamsport.

Dylan Murdick '12, welding technology, is a millwright for Millwrights Local 443. He's also an exterior firefighter with Firefighter 1 certification. He resides in Indiana, Pa.

Ryan Newman '12, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a lead process engineer for PolyProcessing, a manufacturer of large, rotational-molded chemical storage tanks. He resides in Winchester, Va.

Brittani (Phillips) Schwartz '12, emergency medical services, is an emergency room registered nurse for Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Kelsey (Young) Steinmeier '12, graphic communications management, resides in Elizabethtown. After 10 years in marketing and advertising, she chose to quit and stay home with her preschool children. She plans to eventually study diagnostic imaging.

Kelly (Bensinger) Wagner '12, early childhood education, is the director of Cura Bella Childcare Center. She resides in Pine Grove with her husband.

Briana Walker '12, nursing, is a certified school nurse in the Williamsport Area School District. She holds a Master of Education in school health services. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Nicole N. English '13, applied human services, is a long-term substitute for St. John Neuman Regional Academy. She resides in South Williamsport.

Caitlyn (Knode) Norman '13, nursing, is a registered nurse for WatersEdge Cosmetic Plastic Surgery. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Kyle Scheid '13, computer aided product design and computer aided drafting technology, is a project manager for Pyramid Construction Services. He resides in Manheim.

Hailey Brunk '08, hospitality management; '14, technology management, completed a Master of Business Administration: event leadership concentration from Johnson & Wales University in 2023. She is a family and consumer science teacher for Manchester School District and resides in Richmond, N.H.

Whitnie (Mays) Haldeman '12, advertising art; '14, applied technology studies, is a senior associate, product marketing, for Textron Aviation. She resides in Wichita, Kan.

Gary J. Murdock Jr. '14, on-site power generation, is a technician for Northeast Energy Systems. He maintains, rebuilds and troubleshoots Jenbacher engines. He resides in Morrisville, where he bought a home in 2024.

Spencer Pehonsky '14, building construction technology, is a carpentry instructor for Bradford Area School District. He resides in Bradford.

Katie (Arthur) Tobin '14, baking and pastry arts, is a customer service support representative for Labcorp. She resides in Hughesville.

Katie L. (Ward) VanNoy '14, business administration: management, is a human resources assistant for PennDOT, where she is a two-time employee of the month. She resides in Williamsport.

Loyal R. Beiler '15, nursing, is a registered nurse in the post-anesthesia care unit (recovery room) at Evangelical Community Hospital. In May 2024, he received a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. He resides in New Berlin.

Ethan G. Kline '15, electronics and computer engineering technology: robotics and automation, is an electronics technician for Eaton. He resides in Drexel Hill.

Alicia Maines '15, dental hygiene, is a traveling dental hygienist through GoTu. She resides in Philipsburg. She also holds a Penn College bachelor's in dental hygiene: health policy and administration (2016).

Ron A. Marquette '91, automotive technology; '15, applied management, is a major gift officer for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. He resides in Estero, Fla.

Brian Pernot '15, manufacturing engineering technology, is a quality engineer for Lockheed Martin. He resides in Gaffney, S.C.

Breanne L. (Brelsford) Wentzel '15, business administration: management, is an administrative assistant for Merck Cherokee. She resides in Hughesville.

Erin R. Bannon '16, health information management, is a quality assurance coder for UPMC. She resides in York with her wife, **Brittini Fennell '17**, manufacturing engineering technology.

Elizabeth (Hill) Glunk '16, business administration: banking and finance, is the assistant director of advancement operations and gift management for Lycoming College. She resides in Cogan Station.

Rebecca J. Schweikart '16, nursing, is a registered nurse in Geisinger's emergency department. She was nominated for a nurse excellence award. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Charles Stankye IV '16, residential construction technology and management, is a builder second class petty officer for the U.S. Navy. He is the builder shop supervisor for Marine Corps Base Hawaii, where he is set to be stationed for the next three years. He has received the Good Conduct Medal with bronze star and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star. He completed Builder advanced training school. He is stationed in Hawaii.

Keegan D. Sonney '17, baking and pastry arts, is a cook for Penn State Behrend. She resides in Erie. She also holds a Penn College bachelor's in applied management (2018).

Nicholas Bruce '18, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a field sales representative for Fronius USA, a leading manufacturer of solar inverters and welding power sources. He resides in Troy.

Chloe DeVillars '18, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC Williamsport. She resides in Williamsport.

Logan Garvey '18, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a strategic operations manager for BAE Systems Inc., where he is responsible for the daily fabrication process of combat vehicles. He received the company's Top Gun award for maintaining safety and quality on the fabrication line with an influx of newly hired welders. He resides in York Springs.

Collin Shableski '18, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an assistant molding manager for Plastek. He resides in Erie.

Amanda N. Suda '18, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, owns Helianthus and Lace, a wedding and event floral design company. She resides in Harrisburg.

Kassie (Garris) Williams '18, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, is a senior grower for Longwood Gardens. She is the lead grower for poinsettias, hydrangeas and bulbs. She resides in Oxford.

Kimberly J. (Strunk) Wolfe '18, business administration: banking and finance, is an accounting representative for Jersey Shore State Bank. She resides in South Williamsport.

Amber (Kreitzer) Zechman '18, baking and pastry arts, is a pastry chef supervisor for Compass Group at Bucknell University. She also holds a Penn College bachelor's in applied management (2019) and resides in Port Trevorton.

Thomas Berkey '19, software development & information management and information technology sciences - gaming and simulation, is an applications developer for Geisinger. He resides in Hagerstown, Md. ►►

Caitlin A. Dauberman '19, applied health studies and radiography, is a diagnostic radiologic technologist for Geisinger. She resides in Muncy.

Autumn Farrell '19, emergency management technology, is an IT adviser for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. She advises IT on matters of resilience, reliability and business continuity. She resides in Spring Mills.

David Gadalla '19, aviation maintenance technology, is a campus recruiter for Dick's Sporting Goods. He resides in Pittsburgh.

Kristie L. Hill '19, health arts: practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for UPMC. She resides in Williamsport.

Sabrina S. (Toplovich) Maring '19, engineering design technology, is a manufacturing engineer II for Matco Tools Corp. She procures and installs machinery, writes programs for the machines and designs jigs and fixtures. She resides in Russell.

Stevie (Peterson) Mezzetti '19, business administration: sport and event management, is an inside sales support specialist for Trane. She resides in Philadelphia.

Gavin P. Seip '19, diesel technology, is employed by Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad. He resides in New Ringgold.

Nicholas Witherite '19, engineering design technology, is a drafting engineer for GE Vernova. He resides in Pittsburgh.

2020s

Alexa D. Scatamacchia '20, culinary arts technology, is a cook for Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center. She resides in Fleetwood.

Shannon Wescoat '20, applied human services, is a case manager for Dauphin County Department of Drug & Alcohol Services. After working in Colorado for three years, she resides in Mechanicsburg.

Mariah (Brouse) Bastian '21, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC. She resides in Montoursville.

Ryan Korutz '21, automation engineering technology: mechatronics, is a programmable logic controller technician for Dairy Farmers of America. He resides in Manchester.

Rochelle (Hetrick) Stanley '21, nursing, is a registered nurse for Bayada Pediatrics. She provides medical care and assistance with the activities of daily living in the home setting. She resides in Bethlehem.

David B. Arias '22, welding & fabrication engineering technology, is a manufacturing engineer II for John Deere. He resides in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Bryan Bilbao '22, physician assistant studies, is an urgent care and family medicine physician assistant for Geisinger. He resides in Old Forge.

Shelby R. (Lanyon) Eash '22, allied health, is a patient access representative for UPMC. She resides in Gallitzin.

Caila N. Flanagan '22, business administration: management, is a senior residence life coordinator for Penn College. She completed a Master of Education in higher education from Penn State World Campus. She resides in Williamsport.

Dylan Godinez '22, engineering design technology, owns Dylan Godinez Motorsports LLC, where he is an engineer, driver and team manager, actively competing on track in kart racing and virtually in sim racing, and providing engineering and at-track services. He resides in Conover, N.C.

Ashley (Hoffer) Hammond '20, baking and pastry arts; '22, applied management, is a food safety supervisor for Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. She resides in Hummelstown.

Peter H. Kane '22, manufacturing engineering technology, is a tool engineer for Bihler, a leading industrial automation equipment manufacturer. He resides in Annandale, N.J.

Lacey Potter '22, business administration, is a physical education teaching assistant for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. She resides in Virginia Beach.

Nicole M. (Smulligan) Smith '22, human services & restorative justice, is a family advocate for STEP Head Start. She resides in South Williamsport.

Samantha S. Theriault '22, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Sprout Dental. She completed a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene from Penn College in 2024. She resides in Taylor.

Brandon Weirman '22, electrical technology, is a maintenance electrician for Oneida Health Care. He resides in Oneida, N.Y.

Amber M. Goodbrod '23, applied management, is a contract analyst for QorTek. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Ralph H. Johnson '23, forest technology, is a forest technician for the Pennsylvania Game Commission. He resides in Ashland.

Nicholas Semon '23, electronics & computer engineering technology, is a field service engineer for Westinghouse Electric Co. He resides in Pittsburgh.

Lauryn Stauffer '23, automation engineering technology: robotics & automation, is a mechatronics instructor for Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School – where she attended as a high school student. She resides in Bath.

Sydney M. Telesky '23, human services & restorative justice, is a long-term care planner for Steinbacher, Goodall and Yurchak, an elder care law firm. She's also a public notary, certified end-of-life doula and certified dementia practitioner. She resides in Williamsport.

Barry Decker '24, heavy construction equipment technology: operator and heavy construction equipment technology: technician, is a heavy equipment operator for A.M. Logging. He resides in Spring Mills.

Krystal Delfenthal '24, automotive technology, is an automotive technician for Matthews Motor Co. She resides in Williamsport.

Mia Demas '24, brewing & fermentation science, is a brewer for New Trail Brewing Co. She resides in Ulster.

Allison A. Enders '24, surgical technology, is an operating room surgical technologist for Penn State Health. She resides in Halifax.

Olivia A. Fessler '24, human services & restorative justice, is an instructional production specialist for Penn State. She resides in Williamsport.

Marshall Fowler '24, engineering design technology, is a mechanical design engineer for Geissele Automatics/Gwynedd Manufacturing. He resides in Sellersville.

Kassie R. Guthrie '24, radiography, is a multi-modality radiology technologist for UPMC Lock Haven. She resides in Williamsport.

Zachary E. Johnston '24, architecture & sustainable design, is a drafting technician for A.P. Williams. He resides in Derry.

Owen D. Knepp '24, automation engineering technology: robotics & automation, is a controls engineer for First Quality Tissue. He resides in Jersey Shore.

Megan R. Kresovich '24, human services & restorative justice, is a paralegal/legal assistant for RobertsMiceli. She resides in Bellefonte.

Adam C. Moyer '24, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, is a service technician for Moyer Total Indoor Comfort. He resides in Kutztown.

Loris Norella '24, individual studies, is a steel detailer for Reuther+Bowen. He details steel beams and column connections for commercial buildings. He resides in Carbondale.

Shelby Pyatt '24, nursing, is a registered nurse for Hunterdon Health. She resides in Frenchtown, N.J.

Brielle Rearick '24, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Boulder County Smiles. She resides in Levittown.

Devin (Shellhammer) Smith '24, brewing & fermentation science, is the head brewer for Clarion River Brewing Co. She resides in Clarion.

Laura E. Welshans '24, allied health, is a patient access rep for Geisinger Jersey Shore Hospital. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Morgan Wood '24, automotive technology management, staffs the parts counter for Pillar Automotive Group. He resides in Greenville.

Noah M. Yost '24, welding & fabrication engineering technology, is a joining engineer for R&E Automated. He resides in Beech Creek.

Marriages & Births

Richard L. Fetter '75, business management, married Ana Victoria on July 14, 2022. They reside in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Christopher Tilton '09, business administration: management, married Nicole in September 2023. They reside in Brick Township, N.J.

Christopher D. Berilla '11, civil engineering technology, welcomed his first son, Mason, in February 2023. They reside in Oakland, Calif.

Brittani (Phillips) Schwartz '12, emergency medical services, and her husband, **Timothy '16**, emergency medical services, welcomed their first child in April 2024. They reside in Jersey Shore.

Katie Arthur '14, baking and pastry arts, married Matthew Tobin on Feb. 22, 2024. They reside in Hughesville.

Bradley G. Willis '16, heating, ventilation & air conditioning design technology, and his wife, Ashley, welcomed a daughter, Charley Reece Willis, in February 2024. They reside in Shermans Dale.

Kiersten Betz '18, radiography, married **Logan Garvey '18**, welding and fabrication engineering technology, in September 2022. They reside in York Springs.

Collin Shableski '18, plastics and polymer engineering technology, married Michelle Armendariz in February 2023. They welcomed their first daughter in March 2024. They reside in Erie.

Kassie Garris '18, landscape/horticulture technology: plant production, married Ron Williams in April 2024. They reside in Oxford.

Kimberly J. (Strunk) Wolfe '18, business administration: banking and finance concentration, and her husband, **Mel '15**, building science and sustainable design, welcomed their second daughter in 2022. They reside in South Williamsport.

Amber Kreitzer '18, baking and pastry arts; '19, applied management, married Dylan Zechman on Sept. 14, 2024. They reside in Port Trevorton.

Sabrina S. (Toplovich) Maring '19, engineering design technology, and her husband, **Josh '19**, engineering design technology, welcomed daughter Juliet in September 2023. They reside in Russell.

Stevie Petrisson '19, business administration: sport and event management, married **Dylan Mezzetti '20**, building automation technology, in June 2024. They reside in Philadelphia.

Micayla Meckley '20, radiography, married **Ryan Korutz '21**, automation engineering technology: mechatronics, on Sept. 14, 2024. They reside in Manchester.

Mariah (Brouse) Bastian '21, nursing, got married in September 2023 and welcomed a daughter in November. They reside in Montoursville.

Gabriella Nowakowski '21, radiography, married **Brandon Weirman '22**, electrical technology, on June 22, 2024. They reside in Oneida, N.Y.

Bryan Bilbao '22, physician assistant studies, married Alyvia Guariglia on June 15, 2024.

Michaela R. (Maynard) Bressler '22, emergency management & homeland security, and her husband, **Jared '21**, individual studies, welcomed a baby, Charlee, in July 2023. They reside in Milesburg.

Serenity Hamlin '22, human services & restorative justice, welcomed a daughter, Gabriella, in July 2023. They reside in Williamsport.

Nicole M. Smulligan '22, human services & restorative justice, married **Conrad Smith '18**, heavy construction equipment technology: Caterpillar equipment emphasis, on Sept. 21, 2024. They reside in South Williamsport.

Brittney Smith '24, applied health studies, welcomed a daughter, Kennedy, in April 2024. They reside in Lehighton.

In Memory

Grant M. Berry Jr., retired dean of grants and contracts, age 81, on Oct. 6, 2024

George F. Blett, former coordinator of disability services, age 76, on Nov. 23, 2024

Stanley G. Boler, retired associate professor of electronics, age 78, on Dec. 15, 2024

Ben Eldred, retired assistant professor of heavy construction equipment technology, age 77, on Oct. 2, 2024

Patricia J. Rambo, retired professor of business administration, age 85, on Nov. 19, 2024

Michael J. Stanzione, retired athletics director, age 70, on Oct. 15, 2024

'CATS IN THE WILD

As the sun rises, Andy Zimmerman '00 (on left) and friends cross the bridge into Picture Rocks. Zimmerman and his Lewis Lumber colleague Ed Pry ran 34.3 miles to honor the 343 firefighters who lost their lives responding to the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center.

ANDY ZIMMERMAN '00

holds a great deal of respect for those who serve. For the past six years, he has put that veneration into action, climbing the 104 stories of One World Trade Center in New York City to raise funds for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. (In 2024, he finished the annual Tower Climb in 22 minutes and 2 seconds – finishing 46th among more than 800 participants.) The event memorializes New York City Firefighters who died in the Sept. 11 attacks.

This year, the four-time marathon and three-time ultramarathon runner – along with his Lewis Lumber colleague Ed Pry – devised another way to honor first responders. At 11 p.m. on Sept. 10, they left Zimmerman's home in Lewisburg and ran 34.3 miles to their Picture Rocks workplace.

The timing and the distance were significant: They ran overnight before working a full day to honor the New York firefighters who had just finished a night shift when they heard the news of an airplane hitting the World Trade Center and headed to the scene. On their run, Pry carried an American flag,

and Zimmerman a First Responder flag, along with a list of the 343 firefighters – with their ranks and units – who lost their lives that day. During breaks, when lighting allowed, they read each of the names.

Zimmerman hopes to make the run an annual event, opening it to the community (and likely moving it to daylight hours) to raise funds for the volunteer fire companies that cover the stretch from Lewisburg to Picture Rocks. Most of the area's firefighters, Zimmerman points out, get paid nothing for the round-the-clock service they provide.

"Those volunteer departments, a lot of them rely on chicken barbecues and bingo nights," he said. "I think sometimes they get taken for granted."

Zimmerman, who plans to continue his annual participation in the Tower Climb, holds a degree in landscape/nursery technology.

WHERE HAS YOUR DEGREE TAKEN YOU?

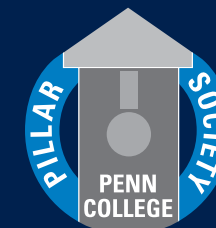
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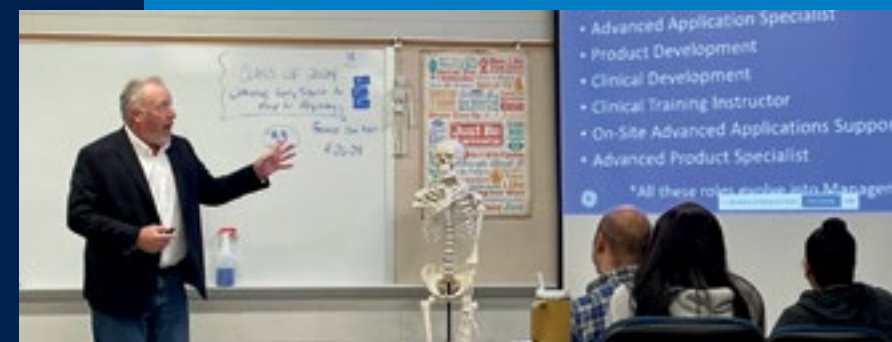
Zimmerman (left) and Pry (center) are greeted as they arrive at Lewis Lumber Co. to begin their workday.

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"My father was a minister, and his work affected many lives spiritually. My work in MRI affected many lives, as well, but physically. Our work made a difference in people's lives. This scholarship will continue our legacy in making a difference in people's lives."

David Stanley '82, Pillar Society member

PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS

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EXPERT TIPS

How to mentor a Penn College student

provided by the Penn College Center for Career Design

THE WILDCAT ALUMNI CAREER MENTOR PROGRAM

was created to help connect Penn College students and alumni, providing students with opportunities to interact with industry professionals, grow their knowledge of potential career paths, and develop professional networks.

The program is available through the Center for Career Design, located in the Madigan Library Suite 321. Alumni interested in formally joining the program can contact careerservices@pct.edu.

However, you don't have to be a part of this program - or even be an alum - to mentor a current student. Anyone can be a mentor and serve as a role model to someone with similar educational and professional goals.



Mentor Carlene Cabot '92, '11 meets with physical therapist assistant student Griffin Dunn in the college's Center for Career Design.

SET EXPECTATIONS

- ◆ Work with a student mentee to develop a meeting schedule that works for you both.
- ◆ Be open to answering all types of professional questions.
- ◆ Establish the goals of your student mentee and develop an action plan.

Consider the variety of needs a current student may have as they prepare to enter the workforce.

BEST PRACTICES FOR MENTORS

- ◆ Share your talents, real-world experiences and professional wisdom.
- ◆ Teach and advise a student on how best to make professional connections and contacts.
- ◆ Serve as a resource for career readiness questions.
- ◆ Provide feedback on resumes and cover letters.
- ◆ Help students practice answering interview questions.

You can go above and beyond in your mentorship approach by engaging in additional professional development practices to help prepare your student mentee to enter the workforce.

SUGGESTED MENTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Watch the same webinar or LinkedIn Learning video and discuss afterwards.
- ◆ Create a list of potential professional organizations to join and discuss the pros and cons of joining.
- ◆ Have your student mentee job shadow you.
- ◆ Discuss books to read to prepare for the real world.
- ◆ Discuss the soft skills needed in the workplace and how to handle difficult situations.
- ◆ Explore a job-seeking search engine (such as Indeed) together; discuss potential job possibilities and the skills needed for each.
- ◆ Attend campus activities together, such as Etiquette Dinners, Career Fair, etc.

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- Mr. Christopher M. Gayman '09, '10
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- through March 5** **Rewriting the Streets 2.0: The international language of stickers**
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- March 1** **Open House**
for prospective students | www.pct.edu/visit
- March 4-5** **Career Fair**
for Penn College alumni and students | www.pct.edu/careerevents
- March 9-15** **Spring Break**
- March 19-April 17** **Mayuko Ono Gray: This Too Shall Pass**
The Gallery at Penn College | gallery.pct.edu
- April 6** **Open House**
for prospective students | www.pct.edu/visit
- April 25** **WTI/WACC Alumni Reunion**
- May 1-9** **Graphic Design 2025 | Senior portfolio exhibition**
The Gallery at Penn College | gallery.pct.edu
- May 16-17** **Spring Commencement**
- May 16-19** **Architecture & Sustainable Design | Senior capstone projects**
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- July 19** **Open House**
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- Aug. 9** **Summer Commencement**
- Aug. 13-17** **Welcome Week**
- Aug. 18** **Fall 2025 classes begin**

For information, call toll-free 800-367-9222.

Pennsylvania College of Technology became an affiliate of Penn State in 1989 after establishing a national reputation for education supporting workforce development, first as a technical institute and later as a community college. Today, as a special mission affiliate of Penn State, Penn College is the home of hands-on learning for in-demand careers. Across a diverse lineup of majors, from master's and bachelor's to associate degrees and certificates, our tomorrow makers are training to transform their futures - and the industries they go on to lead. Whether it's in nursing or welding, culinary or IT, students are building the skills and confidence to make a difference on day one. They're also enjoying the full college experience thanks to on-campus leadership opportunities, a calendar of engaging events, 60-plus student clubs and organizations, and NCAA Division III athletics. With so many pathways to explore, career-driven support and a 97.7% graduate placement rate, the future is here.

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**REUNION FOR ALL
WTI AND WACC
ALUMNI**

Friday, April 25

**Honor the history of WTI and celebrate
the 60th anniversary of WACC**

- ◆ Catch up with friends and faculty
- ◆ Tour campus
- ◆ Hear from current students