



SPRING 2024

Penn College[®]

MAGAZINE

ULTRA-IMPRESSIVE

Reagan McCoy '20 shares his experience running – and winning – the 100-mile Eastern States 100 ultramarathon.

SEE PAGE 18

Penn College Magazine, a publication of Pennsylvania College of Technology, is dedicated to sharing the educational development, goals and achievements of Penn College students, employees and alumni with one another and with the greater community.

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REAL-WORLD READY

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

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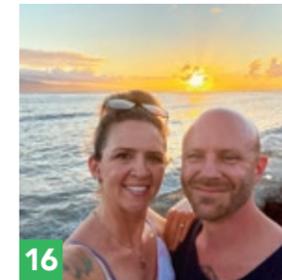
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degrees that work.

ON THE COVER

Reagan McCoy '20 strides across a stream during the Eastern States 100. The 100-mile trail race features 20,000 feet of elevation gain. Read more about McCoy's experience winning the event on Page 18. Photo courtesy of Kevin Peragine Photography

ATTENTION, ALUMNI

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Grant promotes cybersecurity education

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

Students design, build Habitat home

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jurors chose the work of Sadie S.E. Niedermyer, who earned an associate degree in architecture in 2022 and is working toward a bachelor's in architecture & sustainable design.

Also playing a key role is Andrew J. Hamelly '05, '07, Habitat's construction supervisor. He holds two associate degrees and a bachelor's in residential construction technology & management.

Degrees added in health care fields



Nicole B. Cowperthwait (right), an August 2023 graduate of the college's Master of Science in Nursing: nursing education concentration, leads undergraduate students in a Penn College nursing lab. The college is accepting students into a new post-master's certificate in nursing education.

College ranks high in 'Best Colleges'

Penn College earned multiple high rankings – including two No. 1 positions – in U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best Colleges rankings.

In the annual compilation, Penn College ranked No. 1 both in Most Innovative Schools – Regional Colleges North and Undergraduate Teaching – Regional Colleges North (tied with three other institutions).

Penn College earned a No. 4 ranking in Top Public Schools – Regional Colleges North and was No. 6 in Overall Rank – Regional Colleges North (the "Overall" category includes private institutions).

Additionally, the college was No. 2 among Best Colleges for Veterans – Regional Colleges North.



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

12-month paramedic certificate launches

A new noncredit paramedic certificate that allows participants to build a crucial skill set and sit for the National Registry of EMTs' paramedic exam – all in just one year – was launched in January by Workforce Development at Penn College.

Classes take place in the college's state-of-the-art Paramedic Lab. The new noncredit program replaces the college's associate degree in paramedic science and two-year certificate in paramedic practice.

Learn more at www.pct.edu/paramedic.



Paramedic students receive immersive instruction in the college's state-of-the-art paramedic facilities.



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

- Bachelor's in healthcare leadership & administration:** Classes begin in Fall 2024. The new option replaces the bachelor's degree in applied health studies. Built upon credits already earned through a health care-related associate degree or certificate, the bachelor's degree is offered online and can be completed in two years of full-time study or on a part-time schedule.
- Post-master's certificate in nursing education:** Classes begin in Summer 2024. The 12-month post-master's certificate is available to registered nurses who hold a Master of Science in nursing in another specialty. Aimed at increasing the number of nurse educators available to teach the next generation, the certificate prepares those nurses who have a passion for education and mentoring to teach in academia or staff-development roles.

Baja SAE coming to campus



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

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

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

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

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

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

Admission to the endurance race is free. Interested in volunteering? Contact Maria Weisser at mew9@pct.edu.

Grant will help transform labs

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

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

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



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

DREAMING OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Samir K. Pringle dreams of owning a business. Until then, he's determined to seize every opportunity to get involved across campus, develop his leadership style, and learn as much as he can from those around him. Samir is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration. He is a Lenfest Scholar, a student ambassador, a resident assistant, a member of the Penn College Business Club, president of United Campus Ministry and an orientation leader. He was selected as the student speaker for the Fall 2023 commencement ceremony, where he received an associate degree in business management and the President's Award for leadership and service to the college.



Describe Penn College to someone unfamiliar with it. Penn College can be tough to adjust to, especially if you come from a big city like Philadelphia like me, but the welcoming community and support from students make that adjustment much easier.

Why business administration? Since I was a kid, I was fascinated by the idea of business. I grew up around people who were involved in business. My aunt took me to her office plenty of times and allowed me to see what she does as an accountant. My parents both run their own businesses. Seeing how they conduct business and manage everything and stay

on top of the day-to-day operations was always cool to me. During my teenage years, I began teaching myself about business, finance and management to get a better understanding of business prior to coming to college. When I decided to come to Penn College, choosing the business administration program was obvious.

Favorite faculty. My favorite professor is Dr. Tammy Rich (associate professor of business administration/management/event management). She has been nothing but amazing. She is also my academic adviser. The amount of support I have received

from her academically and personally really made me feel welcome. This has really helped me succeed not only in college, but in my personal life, as well.

Learning to lead. Being a resident assistant has shaped my leadership style in multiple ways. Every resident that you have is different from the next, so there is no one right leadership style that works. Everyone needs different things, and some require more attention than others. So the way I lead is being personable and being strategic in how I interact with each of my residents.

Future. My post-graduation plan is ultimately owning my own business. Until then, I want to find a job more focused on the management part of business. I want to learn as much as I can about that organization and how they do business, so I can be better educated and equipped with the skills and strategies needed when it's time to run my own company.

CONFERENCE ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

Penn College student-athletes continued to excel in the classroom during the 2022-23 academic year. Wildcat Athletics matched its record for United East Conference scholar-athlete selections and topped the conference with eight team academic honors.

Penn College had 23 student-athletes with perfect 4.0 grade point averages, and a school-record 100 student-athletes were selected as 2022-23 United East Scholar-Athletes, matching the Wildcats' previous high mark of 100 selections in 2021-22.

Penn College finished third among the conference's full-time members. Lancaster Bible (115) and Penn State Harrisburg (102) finished in first and second.

In order to be selected, a student-athlete must achieve a combined GPA of 3.4 or higher for the fall and spring semesters and be in good standing on his or her team.

A conference-best eight Penn College teams attained the inaugural United East Team Academic Award, which was presented to United East-sponsored programs that achieved a team cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher during the 2022-23 academic year.

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

ANNUAL AWARDS

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

Isaac Cory '26 (wrestling) and **Lexi Troup '26** (women's basketball) earned Newcomer of the Year honors in a field of nominees that included **Mitchell Campbell '26** (cross-country), **Alec Cooper '26** (men's basketball), **Camden Elmo '26** (lacrosse), **Lexi Snyder '26** (softball), and **Brooke Klingler '26** (soccer).

Cory became the first wrestler in program history to qualify for the NCAA Tournament after taking silver at the NCAA Midwest Regional. He was the only freshman in the 184-pound bracket at nationals and was named to the national d3wrestling.com all-freshman team. Cory was regionally ranked for most of the season and won the prestigious Ned McGinley Invitational.

Troup led the women's basketball team in points with 249, averaging 9.6 per game. She started in 22 games and played in all 26, averaging 28.9 minutes a game. Her game highs included 25 points, nine rebounds, four assists and six blocks. She scored double digits in 14 games.



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

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

Weaver finished the season with 16 wins, including a perfect game and a no-hitter. Her efforts led her to a United East First Team selection and a National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region Third Team nod.

Barrett became the first player in program history to earn first team all-conference honors. He recorded a pair of triple-doubles last season and led the United East in both points and assists.

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

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

Specht boasted a 4.0 overall GPA in nursing and served with classmates on a medical mission in Guatemala. She is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma and is a two-time all-region selection in softball.

Also earning awards were Devon Sanders, Assistant Coach of the Year; Matt Blymier and Britni Mohney, Staff Members of the Year; and men's lacrosse, Community Service Award.

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

CROSS-COUNTRY

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

WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team posted an 11-2-7 overall record en route to the third seed in the United East playoffs and a trip to the Volt Division Semifinals. Five Wildcats were rewarded for their efforts with All-Conference recognition. **Kaelynn Sheetz '24** and **Sara Darlington '25** earned repeat first-team selections. Sheetz broke the program record for career goals and points and finished second in the league with 24 goals and 54 points in 2023. Three Wildcats were named to the second team-all conference: **BillieGean Hennessy '25** earned a repeat nod. **Nicole Lichtinger '25** was named second-team goalkeeper after recording six of the team's nine shutouts and 72 saves, while **Makayla Bucks '27** earned her first career all-conference selection in her rookie season.

MEN'S SOCCER

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



Men's cross-country



Kaelynn Sheetz



Tommy DeGeyter



Hall of Fame inductees Robyn Beddow '15 (second from left) and Hailee Hartman '17 (third), both standouts on the women's soccer team, are joined by Penn College President Michael J. Reed (left) and Athletics Director Scott E. Kennell.

HALL OF FAME

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

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

As a junior in 2014, Beddow was awarded North Eastern Athletic Conference and USCAA All-Academic honors, and she capped her career with nine goals and five assists as a senior when she was named to the NEAC second team and received a USCAA honorable mention along with NEAC and USCAA All-Academic honors.

Starting in 67 matches during the four seasons she played, Beddow scored 31 career goals and had 11 assists and 73 points.

During her four-year career, **Hartman**, of Lampeter, played in 78 of the Wildcats' 81 matches, starting 77, and finished her career with 35 goals, 22 assists and 92 points, with all three totals breaking NCAA-era program records.

As a junior in 2016, Hartman led the team with 15 goals – connecting on 78.4% of her shots on goal – seven assists, and a record-breaking 37 points, while earning NEAC second-team honors.

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

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

Big work for Little League

A trio of graphic design grads constitutes the creative team for the world's largest youth sports organization



by Tom Speicher, writer/video producer

Little League International's Creative Department features three Pennsylvania College of Technology graduates (from left): Natalie K. Lincalis '23, Danielle N. Gannon '22 and Amanda M. Cropper-Rose '12. Cropper-Rose is Little League's creative director, and Gannon and Lincalis are graphic designers.

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

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

Pennsylvania College of Technology

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

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

"One of the key items our creative team is constantly tasked with is finding a way to keep our historic brand both relevant and modernized in a society that is constantly evolving," said Kevin Fountain, Little League's senior director of communications. "The work that Amanda, Danni and Natalie have achieved

in such a short time together is not only an inspiration for what's to come, but also a testament to the tremendous professionalism, skill and creativity they all have, both individually and collaboratively."

The team's talent is tapped for much more than the organization's marquee event, the Little League Baseball World Series for 10-to-12-year-olds that features 38 nationally televised games over a dozen days. They prepare promotional and marketing pieces for the six other baseball and softball World Series tournaments sponsored by Little League as well as branding earmarked for the local-league level, Little League Official Store, World of Little League Museum and social media platforms. They are the visual gatekeepers for an endeavor played by about 2 million kids (ages 4-16) in every U.S. state and 80-plus countries.

"Our Penn College graduates are employed throughout the country and

internationally, holding positions at companies such as X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Disney+, Penn State and the NHL's Florida Panthers, to name just a few," said Brian A. Flynn, assistant professor and department head of graphic design. "To have three of our alumni being instrumental in the overall look of an organization as impressive as Little League International is another indicator of the strength of our graphic design program."

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

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

Cropper-Rose agreed.

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

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

New wrinkles have been added this

year to commemorate 50 years of female inclusion in Little League and the 50th anniversary of the softball world series. Cropper-Rose, Gannon and Lincalis have contributed design elements for the golden milestones, dubbed the #GWG50 Campaign.

"I think seeing women being recognized in this space is an amazing accomplishment," Gannon said.



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

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

"When you think of baseball, generally it's male-dominated. I think it's neat to be an all-female creative team, especially with the Girls with Game campaign. We're able to put our own experiences and personal traits behind that more," Cropper-Rose

explained. "We're supported incredibly by our male teammates, but there is a great sense of pride in our female-run creative department, especially in a male-dominated industry."

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

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

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

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

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

Gannon's mother motivated her to be a graphic designer. "She would paint these large pieces for our church or as gifts for family. Seeing the happiness it brought her and the people she made art for, I think that's what sold me," Gannon recalled.

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

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

The trio followed diverse paths to earning a bachelor's degree in graphic design at Penn College. Lincalis initially majored in architectural technology. Both



Samples of the branding work devised by the Penn College graduates include signage and banners that are prominent during Little League World Series events.

Gannon and Cropper-Rose enrolled at other institutions and focused on different subjects – music for Gannon and fine and studio arts for Cropper-Rose – before transferring to Penn College for graphic design. But all three share gratitude for their education, obtained less than 3 miles from the site of the first Little League game.

“Penn College does a great job teaching you the software and skills you need to know once you get a job,” Lincalis said. “The professors in this program do as much as they can to make sure you have everything you need for when you graduate.”

Lincalis has applied her skills in co-designing the souvenir program and creating environmental signage for the Little League World Series and related events.

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

“I use everything I learned from the graphic design courses at Penn College to do my job,” Gannon said.

So does Cropper-Rose, who has spent the past year transitioning from designer to manager of creative projects.

“I still rely on my Penn College education every day. The education I received covered all the bases, including the history, technicality and situational

case studies that together form a well-rounded designer,” she said. “Penn College certainly set me up for success in the workforce.”

Flynn believes there are three fundamental reasons why the graphic design major produces such successful graduates: “It starts with our state-of-the-art computer labs and creative, inspiring open lab spaces. Secondly, our rigorous foundation year prepares students for their success in the upper-level graphic design classes. And lastly, our upper-level design classes are grounded in real-world graphic design practice.”

For creative inspiration, Cropper-Rose, Gannon and Lincalis examine “real-world” examples. Sports branding of college and professional teams, websites devoted to the design community like Behance and Dribbble, and even graphics plastered on junk mail are sources to spark their ideas.

Transforming those ideas into a colorful reality fulfills them. Watching people interact with their handiwork at the Little League World Series stirs their soul.

Little League estimates the 2023 series drew 393,710 fans. That number isn’t surprising considering the event is among the Travel Channel’s bucket list destinations for baseball fans, and Bleacher Report named Lamade Stadium one of the 25 most iconic venues in sports history. The Little League World Series is included among the Super Bowl, the Masters and the Kentucky Derby in the book “The 100 Sporting Events You Must See Live.”

During the series, the designers’ duties shift to taking photos, managing photo assets and developing graphics for social media. However, they still have time to enjoy people gazing at the banners, leafing through some of the 10,000 souvenir programs printed for the extravaganza and purchasing Little League-branded merchandise.

“You work at headquarters year-round, and it’s peaceful outside. And then for 12 days, you see it come to life,” Lincalis explained. “It was a cool feeling to go out into the gift shop and see people walking around with the program. It’s the first thing I created that was mass-produced.”

“Having the little kids go up to your first big project, it’s a good feeling to see how happy they are. It’s what we’re here for,” Gannon said.

“When I see people interact with our designs, especially kids, I think of myself as a child and how proud I would be of myself right now to have my artwork seen at such a large level,” Cropper-Rose smiled.

And that artwork will endure. The diamond-shaped, multicolor design stamped on the enormous “baseball” that was captured in incalculable photos taken last August? It was the 2023 Little League World Series logo – created by Cropper-Rose.

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



SUPPORT THE WILDCAT TRADITION JOIN THE WILDCAT CLUB



Stephanie and Colten Hajicek



Stephanie
proud parent
Wildcat Club member

Sending her son from Washington to Pennsylvania wasn’t easy, but Stephanie had peace of mind.

“Colten was a starter on the lacrosse team and even scored his first goal as a freshman. He was put in charge as the operations section chief for Penn College’s first Rotorfest (an amazing event where Black Hawk, medevacs, police and military helicopters landed on the lawn). To hear the excitement in his voice, how proud he is, and the success he is having both in school and on the field makes us so proud.”

STEPHANIE HAJICEK

Colten
emergency management
& homeland security
Lacrosse

Colten is a 2022-23 United East Scholar-Athlete and earned a spot on the All-Conference Second Team.

After a teammate went into cardiac arrest on the lacrosse field, Colten sought a career that would allow him to care for those in need. His desire to make a difference, coupled with his love of lacrosse, landed him at Penn College, where he found like-minded leaders committed to transforming tomorrow.

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

www.pct.edu/WildcatClub



OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD



Ryan Sokoloski '08, director of building operations for the National Geographic Society, is overseeing a colossal transformation of the society's museum space in the nation's capital. Renderings show a future retail space (below) and auditorium (opposite page).



by Tom Wilson, writer/editor-
Penn College News

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

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

The construction management major at Pennsylvania College of Technology – the institution's first foray into baccalaureate degrees – turned 30 in 2023. And Sokoloski, a 2008 alumnus of the major, has put his considerable skills to work for half of that period, employed by industry leaders at the highest levels of responsibility.

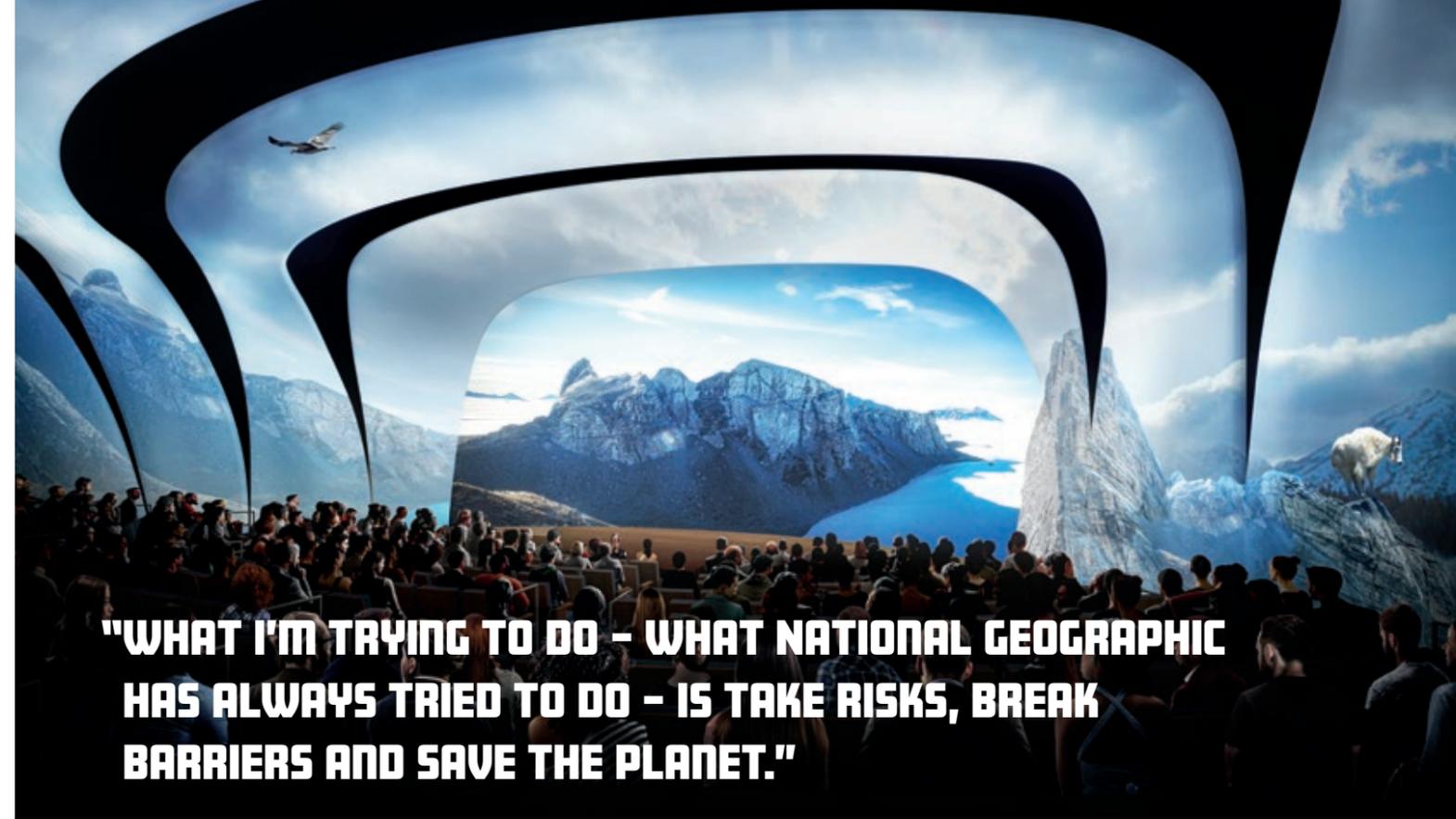
His track record of accomplishment can't escape the public eye: a hospital for the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Capitol, the Kennedy Center, the Navy Federal Credit Union, Arlington National Cemetery, and a scattering of educational and multifamily buildings.

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

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

"We've struggled for a long time to get people to notice us," Sokoloski said, "to get them away from the Smithsonian Institution and the Metro stops."

That will all change in 2026 with the opening of Base Camp, the latest development in the society's long-standing mission to protect and illuminate the wonders of our natural world. The repurposed space will include a state-of-the-art lobby, theater, photo gallery, immersive experience, archives, exhibition



"WHAT I'M TRYING TO DO – WHAT NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO DO – IS TAKE RISKS, BREAK BARRIERS AND SAVE THE PLANET."

space, a one-of-a-kind outdoor nighttime show, and so much more.

As National Geographic's director of building operations – and no stranger to bringing the spectacular and the near-impossible into his daily life – Sokoloski is in the center of it all.

Not bad for someone who claims he wasn't always the best student.

He loved hanging around his father's construction sites and learning how to pour concrete at Cumberland Valley High School in his Mechanicsburg hometown.

But it wasn't until the later part of his senior year of high school that he realized the need to knuckle down. Thankfully, he had his father to help point him in the right direction. (Donald A. Sokoloski is a 1983 building construction technology graduate of Williamsport Area Community College, Penn College's immediate predecessor.) Knowing his son's passion for building, he nudged Ryan to look into Penn College's construction management major. He quickly applied during a campus visit.

"If it weren't for that specific moment, I honestly have no idea where I would be in life," Sokoloski said. "Not here, I

know that."

His gratitude extends to faculty – primarily Wayne R. Sheppard, the program's current department head – for helping to focus his career perspective.

"He was tough," Sokoloski says of the assistant professor. "Freshman year, we started with 34 students, and we ended with nine graduating. Shep told me, 'It's what you want to put into it,' and I knew it was time to get serious."

Despite his assertion, Sokoloski's abilities were nowhere near as borderline as he remembers.

He was active on campus, winning a seat as a Student Government Association senator and becoming a founding member of the Sigma Pi fraternity. He also took a leadership role in the Construction Management Association.

"Ryan was a good student in class and was a leader among his classmates," said Sheppard, who invited him back to campus for a 30th anniversary Alumni in the Classroom presentation in late September.

"I remember speaking with one of his internship companies, and they could not say enough about his maturity and drive,"

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

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

"It's like 11 different projects in one," he explained. "Four existing buildings, all built in different decades. We're actually working between two buildings and on top of another, so you can imagine how much 'fun' we're having on the structural side."

Sharing half a city block are Hubbard Hall, built in 1904; the administration building, completed in 1913 and twice renovated; a headquarters completed in the early 1960s; and an M Street office and auditorium added in the mid-1980s.

Not wishing to disrupt the day-to-day operations in an occupied complex, Sokoloski said crews are conducting a "selective demolition" – including containment of asbestos and lead in some of the oldest spaces – and frequently



Renderings show the future of the National Geographic Society’s public space – now closed for renovations – underway under the helm of Ryan Sokoloski '08. Since 1888, the Washington, D.C., headquarters has been the place to which explorers have returned to share their experiences. Expansions are designed to make the society’s “Base Camp” a destination to immerse visitors in the society’s renowned photography, storytelling and discoveries.



VISUALIZATIONS COURTESY OF NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



employing hoses to spray down the dust.

The eventual finished project promises so many highlights, who knows where to begin?

Any one of the features will dazzle patrons in the years ahead: A three-story pavilion, an education center in the former library, retail space, a new auditorium, archival presentations from the society’s storied past, a public restaurant on the site of the employee cafeteria, and exhibition space for the perennially breathtaking work of renowned photographers.

One of the most-anticipated attractions on the second floor of the 17th Street building – what Sokoloski calls “a walking Disney ride” – will allow visitors to experience exploratory fieldwork in diverse, exciting and remote locations.

And then there is the nighttime extravaganza, an LED media wall on which audiences will watch super-sharp

rear projections – with mouths agape, one expects – of sharks, endangered turtles, whales and other digital denizens of the evening air.

All being built with a green mindset, using sustainably sourced materials: recycled and recyclable content when possible, with minimal waste of energy, water, food and other resources. Among the first legs of the project, for instance, was construction of a 45,000-gallon cistern to collect rainwater that will be used for restrooms and to irrigate plants.

Sokoloski tantalized his campus audience with details of the work and arranged for members of the student club to visit the job site. He also gave them some real-world pointers on assembling the best possible team when faced with such an overwhelming assignment.

“Think of all these different people you meet as you move through your career,”

he advised during his September visit. “You’re constantly acquiring facts and information, cataloging other people’s skills. I call it ‘natural networking,’ building a supportive system without having to attend those awkward conferences, exchanging business cards with someone who may never call.”

The world of big-city construction is a small one, he said, and – with quality professionals gravitating toward one another – it doesn’t take long for casual relationships to grow into a career-boosting list of contacts.

That doesn’t even count the expertise of his spouse, Hilary J. (Allegetto) Sokoloski, a LEED Accredited Professional with Nestlé USA, whom he met when both were Penn College students. She was a dual major, earning an associate degree in architectural technology and a bachelor’s in residential

construction technology & management.

“I owe her a lot of credit, as well, always pushing me,” he said. “We each do our best to make sure the other is as successful as we can be. She’s absolutely crushing it out there; I often ask her for advice!”

In what could be Exhibit A in an imaginary construction management course titled “Don’t Burn Bridges,” Sokoloski owes his current job to an accumulation of professional contacts.

He was employed for 10 years with Gilbane Building Co. in Washington, D.C., alongside fellow Penn College alumni (and brothers) Corey A.’97, Jamie ’03 and Matthew R. ’04 Sarver, who he characterizes as “historical landmarks for the construction management program.” (Sokoloski and Jamie Sarver, whose degree is in building construction technology, worked together on an Arlington National Cemetery project.)

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

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

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

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

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

Sit tight, o fragile and fantastic globe. You’ll soon have your answer. ■



Coping in Maui

by Cindy Davis Meixel, writer/photo editor

IN AUGUST 2023, the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. since 1918 torched Hawaii's Maui island and touched the lives of two Pennsylvania College of Technology alumni. Both continue to cope with the tragedy that destroyed their hometown of Lahaina, killed numerous neighbors and harshly transformed their ideal definition of paradise.

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

"Lahaina as I knew it is gone," she said. "We were so happy there."

Matthew S. Francis, a 1998 accounting graduate originally from Clearfield, was in his U.S. Postal Service truck, stuck in traffic on Lahaina's Front Street, when the weather's worst began bearing down on the historic community of 13,000 residents and countless tourists. He rolled his windows up, donned an N95 mask left over from the pandemic, and texted his mom in South Carolina, advising of his status, surrounded by smoke. His second message, letting her know he had arrived safely at the main post office north of



Four days before a wildfire destroyed their hometown of Lahaina, Kristen and Todd Patterson savor a sunset along the town's historic Front Street. The Pattersons lost their apartment and all of their possessions in the fire on Hawaii's Maui island. Kristen is originally from Loyalsock Township; Todd is a native of Milan, Bradford County.

town, never arrived due to cell service outages; after hours of uncertainty, she heard from him the following day. Luckily for Francis, the Napili condo that he and his wife own was not touched by the fires, but he sees – in his mind – all of the homes no longer on the Lahaina streets where he walked and delivered mail for 16 years.

"I can close my eyes and picture all the houses. How I would walk to your front door. All the little details, like how the sidewalk corner lifted up a bit, so I would need to step over it," he shared. "Lahaina is a close community. Pretty much everybody knew everybody. It (the

emotion) comes in waves, and you try not to think about the customers who passed away or everybody who is still missing."

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

When interviewed in late August, Francis and Patterson were keeping themselves busy (and distracted) with work, daily tasks and routines.

Francis and his fellow carriers were delivering mail to customers who still had addresses. Patterson, who works as a



The proximity of the encroaching flames to the Pattersons' home is dramatically illustrated in this photo, taken by a neighbor as Kristen fled with her cats.



Matthew S. Francis poses outside his U.S. Postal Service truck near Lahaina on Hawaii's Maui island. Originally from Clearfield, Francis has delivered mail in Lahaina for 16 years.

compliance auditor for a helicopter tour operator, needed to apply for a post office box. While waiting in line, she was uplifted by "the Aloha spirit."

"A man who had lost everything was there with coolers, handing out drinks and snacks to people standing in line at the post office," she said. "That's 'the Aloha spirit' – even if you need help, too, you help someone else. You see it in all the little things, all the little ways people are helping. Everybody is doing whatever they can. Even if it feels small, it matters to somebody."

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

Help has poured into Maui from all of the Hawaiian Islands and from the mainland.

Amid her grief, Patterson finds much to be grateful for.

"I'm grateful I left when I did, and that my animals got out, so we are fortunate in that way," she said, considering all the residents who lost their pets.

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

The Friday before the fires, the Pattersons walked to Lahaina's famous Front Street with friends who were visiting.

"We got gelato and watched the sunset," she reminisced. "I'm so thankful we did

that, that we took the time to do that. We didn't always. You get in the grind and don't always take the time to enjoy the things the visitors do. That was the last time we got to walk down Front Street and watch the sunset. We were so fortunate to be where we were. We loved Lahaina. ... It was our little perfect paradise."

The devastation to Lahaina is so immense, the alumni are uncertain of its future.

"It will take so long to rebuild Lahaina," Patterson said. "I'm sure it will be amazing, but it won't be the same."

"It'll be a long process. It's hard to wrap your mind around it all," Francis added. "People need to get back to their lives, but it will take a while."

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

She and her husband, Todd, said goodbye to his brother and family who have moved back to the mainland now that their Lahaina tourism-related jobs are gone.

"People keep asking if we'll stay," she shared. "It's hard to say. My work may change; Todd's work may change. Housing will be the deciding factor. Rates were already so high. So, if we're financially able to, we'd like to stay. We've adapted to life here. This is home. Lahaina was home. We're just riding the waves, and we'll see where they take us." ■

"We loved Lahaina. It was our little perfect paradise."

ULTRA-IMPRESSIVE

interview by Jennifer A. Cline,
writer/magazine editor

In a feat that defies the average imagination, Pennsylvania College of Technology grad Reagan McCoy not only completed, but won – by 35.5 minutes over the second-place finisher – the Eastern States 100, a 100-mile ultramarathon trail race that starts and finishes in Little Pine State Park, about 30 miles from Penn College’s Williamsport campus.

On the Penn College campus, McCoy ’20 was part of the cross-country team and prepared for his current work as a process engineer for Advanced Powder Products Inc. by completing a bachelor’s degree in plastics & polymer engineering technology.

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

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

The elder McCoy recalls, with humor, his son’s first venture into running: a 2-mile route to earn a Boy Scout badge. After some teasing from a passing car, he told his father, “I’m never doing that again.”

Turns out, he loves it. Here, McCoy explains why.

How did you start running?

During my senior year of high school, I used to lift weights with one of my friends after class. He was an active runner and one day talked me into going for a run. It was rough, but after a few months I was able to run a couple of miles at a time. I went out for track that year, which was unconventional to start a new sport as a senior, but I loved it. I continued to run for the next few years and had friends that introduced me to trail running. I signed up for the cross-country team at Penn College to improve upon my trail running and learned how to train smart and effectively, and it totally transformed my running abilities.

Why do you love it?

For one, it’s the easiest and most effective way to get exercise. The world is your gym and no membership is required. Additionally, it gives me mental clarity, focus and relaxation. If something is bothering me at the start of a run, chances are I’ll forget about it by the end. I greatly enjoy all the scenery and experiences running in the mountains, from the scenic vistas to the encounters with wildlife. I love the trail running community, which is full of kind, determined and likeminded people.

What made you want to run a 100-mile race?

The idea of running 100 miles just sounded so outlandish that I couldn’t help but be enthralled with the idea. The biggest trail races in the world are generally 100 milers, and they are the focus of some of the world’s most elite runners.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY SHAFER

Tell us about the challenges of the Eastern States 100.

The course features 20,000 feet of elevation gain through extremely technical terrain – amid August, no less. The humidity was intense, and staying on top of nutrition/hydration was a constant battle. The biggest challenge was the sleep deprivation towards the end. I just became so loopy and my morale started to crack. Luckily my crew and pacers kept me motivated.

How do you prepare?

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

How do you recover?

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

How far do you run on a normal day?

On an average weekday I would run 10-12 miles; on a weekend day I would run 18-25 miles.

Tell us about the sites you see as a runner.

I’ve had so many unique encounters with wildlife that some would never believe. I’ve run up on more bear than I can count, sometimes mothers and cubs. I’ve kicked up bobcats, coyotes, fishers, minks and other unique creatures you seldom get to see. I’ve stood at so many mesmerizing vistas that few people know about and even fewer make the journey out to see. I enjoy running by old foundations from a bygone era, seeing old Civilian Conservation Corps cabins, and running on old logging grades from the turn of the century.

What is your favorite place to run?

My favorite places to run are at Zindel Park in McElhattan or in Pine Creek Valley.

Tell us about the community surrounding these events.

The community is the best part of trail running. Whether you are in first or last place, you are guaranteed thunderous applause during your race. People are so devoted to clearing trails and volunteering at aid stations – sacrificing so much of their time just to see these events continue to thrive. The community is just full of like-minded people who enjoy nature, work hard and love to have fun!

What other events have you run?

I’ve run the Worlds End 100K and Oil Creek 100K trail races, as well as a couple runs at Hyner, the Frozen Snot, Call Of The Wilds Mountain Fest, and Boulder Beast. I also ran a 50 miler in the Finger Lakes.

What are you most proud of?

Definitely my run at Eastern States.

What’s next?

I’d like to find some way to make it out to Western States 100, which is the biggest trail race in the United States. It will take years to gain entry, but I’m ready to start working now. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN PERRAGINE

PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY SHAFER

DAY JOB

McCoy also answered a few questions about his work for Advanced Powder Products Inc., a metal injection molding and metal 3D-printing company in Phillipsburg. Metal injection molding uses powdered metal with a polymer binder.

Is metal injection molding unique?

Metal injection molding is an industry that really began emerging as recently as the 1990s. While not nearly as common as plastic injection molding, it has grown to be over a \$1.5 billion industry, as of 2015. While there are many contenders in the industry, APP separates itself by standing in the top ranks.

What are the advantages of this type of manufacturing?

Metal injection molding technology is able to deliver small, complex geometries that are mechanically superior to casted metal components, and nearly equal to that of parts machined from raw stock. Both processes mentioned are very expensive and time consuming, while MIM is able to produce hundreds of parts per hour.

What is your role?

I am responsible for injection molding development on every new mold that comes into the shop. With each new project, I am also responsible for designing and writing a corresponding robotic automation program. I am also responsible for installation and validation of all new injection molding and robotic equipment when it arrives.

What is cool about what you do?

APP grows by leaps and bounds annually and is always ahead of the curve with its technology. It’s amazing to look back at where we were just a year ago and see how far we’ve grown and developed in such a short time. You are never locked into just one role and have the opportunity to learn new skills daily. We also make a wide range of extremely interesting products that cater to the defense, sporting goods, medical, dental and numerous other industries. It is very rewarding to walk into the sporting goods store and see components that you’ve developed on the shelf.

How did Penn College help you prepare?

Penn College is famous for its lecture-to-lab ratio. All of the time spent in class physically working with equipment gave me strong confidence and competency to start handling equipment on my first day of work. My time spent in lecture and learning the theory behind polymer processing gives me the ability to understand our process on a molecular level and solve complex problems that are not immediately apparent on the surface.

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

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

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

Replicating industry standards, cabinets at each workstation house all of a machine's tooling.

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

College Avenue Labs, Room 140

Renovation to the 12,200-square-foot instructional space – another haven of industry support for hands-on education – was sparked by a \$1 million grant from the Gene Haas Foundation. The lab is used primarily for classes in the manufacturing engineering technology, automated manufacturing technology and machine tool technology majors.

Work, completed in summer 2023, includes a new, adjacent CNC Programming and Simulation Lab, as well as improved, energy efficient high-bay lighting and anti-skid epoxy flooring. Matching funding from the college supported the purchase of new equipment, including multi-axis milling and turning centers, multi-axis CNC machines, industrial robots, 3D printers and additive manufacturing machines, and tool-fitting systems. The newly designed workstations and equipment layout model Lean Six-Sigma and 5S industry standards.



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

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



IN THE LAST ISSUE

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

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



1960s

Marvin Ickes '65, toolmaking technician, is retired and resides in Greencastle.

Ted E. Pennebaker '65, drafting technology, retired at the age of 55 from IBM East Fishkill, N.Y., where he was a senior printed circuit board designer. He spent 32 years as a contractor then employee of the company. He resides in Bloomsburg.

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

1970s

William Snyder '70, aviation maintenance technician, retired in 2008 as manager of the Federal Aviation Administration's Harrisburg district office. He attended the Williamsport Technical Institute's carpentry program as a Warrior Run High School student, graduating in 1960. He joined the Marine Corps Reserve and worked a carpentry apprenticeship before enrolling in Williamsport Area Community College's aviation program. He worked as an aircraft mechanic for several years before joining the FAA in 1989 and spending eight years in England. He served on the Penn College Aviation Advisory Committee and remains involved in mission aviation organizations. He resides in Manheim.

Robert L. Vaughn '71, machinist general, works part time and resides in Orange City, Fla.

Kenneth L. Bolig '73, civil engineering technology, retired from Geisinger Medical Center as a senior facilities coordinator. He holds a bachelor's in engineering from Penn State Harrisburg and a master's in planning from Johns Hopkins University. He is a veteran of the Navy Seabees (Construction Battalion), through which he received several awards. He resides in Winfield.

Ann M. (Waltz) Bowersox '73, food service management, is retired and resides in Muncy.

Thomas Schatz '76, automotive technology, who retired from Stellantis, moved to Montgomery, Texas, and welcomed a new grandson.

Ron Burger '78, nursery management, is a past co-owner of George Burger & Sons Inc. Garden Center and a Penn College Alumni Mentorship Award winner. He resides in Drums.

Scott Reiter '78, tool design technology, is retired after 36 years with SKF USA Inc., where he served as a tool designer, manufacturing engineer, reset reduction coordinator, manufacturing supervisor and inventory management supervisor. He has umpired for Little League, American Legion leagues and high school in Pennsylvania and Georgia, including five All American Amateur Baseball Association tournaments and four Little League Baseball state tournaments, as well as the 2019 Junior League Baseball East Region tournament. He has two grown children and resides in Jefferson, Ga., with his wife.

Marty Slautterback '78, aviation maintenance technology, retired as a senior aircraft technician for FedEx with over 40 years in aviation. In retirement, he is a part-time instructor of aviation for Penn College. He resides in Dillsburg.

1980s

Michael Balsbaugh '82, construction carpentry, is president of Balsbaugh Insurance Agency. He resides in Schaefferstown.

George E. Boudman '85, advertising art, is the director of innovation & entrepreneurship for the Wayne Economic Development Corp. in Wayne County. He directs The Stourbridge Project, a restored 100-year-old elementary school converted into a coworking space, prototype lab and entrepreneurial incubator. He holds a bachelor's in art education (Keystone College) and a Master of Education in classroom technology (Wilkes University). He resides in Honesdale.

Pam (Schurer) Keefer '85, accounting, owns Gift Baskets by Pam. She is a former member of the Junior League and chaired its Cinderella's Closet event for a year. She resides in Williamsport.

Tina (Day) Myers '85, food and hospitality management, is a team leader/finishing manager for Dunkin' Donuts. She resides in Danville.

Eric Herr '88, building construction technology, owns Lighthouse Real Estate. He resides in Gap.

1990s

Joel A. Medina '92, aviation maintenance technician, is a help desk analyst for Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, where he was named a Tech of the Month in 2022. He resides in Laurel, Md.

Lisa (Wright) Bass '93, nursing, is a review and evaluation RN for the state Department of Human Services: Office of Long Term Living. She reviews skilled nursing facilities for compliance with Preadmission Screening

Resident Review and Minimum Data Set requirements. She resides in Cogan Station.

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

Jason Ritchey '94, heavy construction equipment technician, is a vice president of construction technology for Carolina CAT. He resides in Huntersville, N.C.

Catherine (Dershem) Farr '95, computer information systems, is a Penn College Police officer. She holds a vocational education teaching certificate and resides in Trout Run.

Shelly (Mase) Clokey '96, graphic design, is the graphic designer/owner of Concepts Design, an advertising agency. She resides in Williamsport.

Loren M. Bruckhart '97, auto body technology, is a collision repair instructor for Penn College. He holds a bachelor's in workforce education and development from Penn State and resides in Turbotville.

Josh D. Heimbach '97, building construction technology, is president of Josh Heimbach Construction. He resides in Boyertown.

Robert Santor '97, electronics technology: computer automation maintenance, is an IT manager for TransCore. He resides in Hummelstown.

Rebecca (Hafer) Moncavage '98, radiography, is a CT technologist for Tower Health-Reading Hospital. She resides in Stevens.

Brian E. Scott '98, graphic design, is vice president of Trone Outdoor Advertising. He resides in Spring Grove.

Jason E. Swartz '98, culinary arts technology, is an assistant food service administrator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons,

responsible for a department that feeds 1,100 inmates three meals every day of the year. He resides in Lewisburg.

Nichole (Heckman) Yost '98, human services, is a secretary for Faith Baptist Church. She resides in Beavertown.

Nathan D. Davis '99, heavy construction equipment technology: Caterpillar equipment emphasis, owns Davis Diesel, a marine diesel repair company in eastern North Carolina. He has two locations and nine employees. He holds a bachelor's in diesel technology from Montana State University. He resides in Leland, N.C., has been married for 18 years and has three children.

Todd M. Fetzer '99, broadcast communications, is the midday on-air radio disc jockey for Seven Mountains Media's Froggy Valley 100.1 in Lebanon. He resides in Lebanon.

Karen K. (Eliason) Hodas '99, advertising art, is an art teacher for Fort LeBoeuf High School. She teaches fine art, graphic design and photography. She is married, has two children and resides in Erie.

Stacy (Fiore) Kerins '99, dental hygiene, is a dental hygienist for Joel Wagoner, DDS. She resides in Mebane, N.C., and is married with a daughter and twin boys.

2000s

Doug Long '00, physician assistant, is a PA for Geisinger Health System. He resides in Mountain Top.

Nina M. (Lenhart) Rupert '00, dental hygiene and applied health studies, is a dental hygienist for River Valley Health & Dental Center and a part-time dental hygiene instructor for Penn College. She completed a bachelor's in applied health studies in 2022. Her daughter **Keri** is a current Penn College student. They reside in Muncy.

Kevin Cornelius '01, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is senior vice president of engineering for Tramec LLC. He resides in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Damir Mika '01, electronics technology: aviation emphasis, is an air space management designer and instructor for Croatia Control, which provides air navigation services. He is married with a daughter and son and resides in the suburbs of Velika Gorica, Croatia.

Michelle (Sullivan) Noll '01, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a rent specialist for Foot Locker. She resides in Mechanicsburg.

Heather Taggart '01, graphic design, is a communications coordinator for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit and recipient of the organization's 2020 Kevin P. Singer Innovation Award. She holds a master's in integrated marketing communications from West Virginia University. She resides in Milton.

Rick Conrad '02, welding technology, is a process improvement specialist for ITW Welding. He resides in Selinsgrove.

Jenny (Cranmer) Myers '02, early childhood education, is a head teacher at Little Friends Day School. She resides in Hughesville.

Nadera (Yancey) Hoyt '03, early childhood education, is a first-grade teacher for Williamsport Area School District. She holds a bachelor's in elementary education and a master's in curriculum and instruction. She resides in Williamsport.

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

Kim (Kremer) Wagner '03, architectural technology, is a facilities project architect for Bucknell University. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Julia (Redcay) Warlow '03, hospitality management, is a creative arts director for Zion Lutheran Preschool. She is married with two children. They reside in Palmyra.

Tracey (Haswell) Woodring '03, accounting, is a market center administrator for Keller Williams Realty. She is married and resides in Hendersonville, N.C.

Matthew R. Fry '04, broadcast communications, is a calibration technician for Transcat. He resides in Bargersville, Ind.

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

Doug Hunsinger '04, architectural technology, is a structural designer II for Stellar. He resides in Spring City.

Ramona L. (Heaps) Lunger '04, accounting, owns RCM Accounting Solutions LLC. In addition to her associate degree from Penn College, she holds a bachelor's in accounting from Southern New Hampshire University. She resides in Lititz.

Danny E. Magruder '04, radiography, is a CT technologist for Evangelical Community Hospital. He resides in Selinsgrove.

Jenna L. (Wegielski) Baisch '05, dental hygiene, is a registered dental hygienist for Millbridge Dentistry. She resides in Waxhaw, N.C.

Isaac R. Bragunier '05, civil engineering technology, is a district geotechnical and pavement engineer for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. He resides in South Williamsport.

Terri (Karns) Lawton '05, early childhood education, is an administrative assistant for the Millville Area School District. She resides in Millville and is the mother of a first-year Penn College student.

Kyle Rhoads '05, manufacturing engineering technology, is an operations manager for Fry Communications. He resides in Harrisburg with his wife and daughter.

Olivia A. (Horn) Bower '99, mass communication; '06, technology management, is an IOT technical trainer for UPMC. She develops curriculum and mentors 25 trainers in the Implementation, Training and Development department. She resides with her husband in South Williamsport.

Chris Cosgrove '06, computer information technology: data communications and networking, is a client services manager for Silverline. He resides in Powhatan, Va.

Kayla (Machamer) Michaels '06, business administration: management information systems, is a senior business operations analyst for Capital Blue Cross. She resides in Harrisburg.

Nathan M. O'Brien '06, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a director of manufacturing for Joseph Oat Corp. He resides in Thornton.

Shannon (McElroy) Perrotta '06, early childhood education, completed a bachelor's in elementary education in May 2023 and is pursuing a master's. She resides in Montoursville.

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

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

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

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

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

Steve Lis '08, residential construction technology and management: architectural technology, is a project manager for eciConstruction. He has been married for 13 years with three children. He resides in Loysville.

Anthony J. Piccari '08, automotive technology management, is a regional aftersales manager for Porsche Cars North America, responsible for 11 Porsche retailers in the Philadelphia metro region. He is a member of Penn College's Automotive Technology Management Advisory Committee. An Alumni Achievement Award recipient (2011), he resides in Furlong with his "warrior wife," who beat breast cancer in 2021, and two children.

Cody Wallace '08, forest technology, is a contract logger. He resides in Blain.

Joshua Bengel '09, information technology: network specialist, is a converged voice and data engineer for UPMC Hamot. He resides in Erie.

Rose A. Larsen-Mumbauer '09, technology management, is a sales analyst for Tura Inc. She received a 2022 Employee Excellence Award and completed a Master of Business Administration from Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business in 2020. She resides in Montoursville.

Shelia M. (Delaney) Nye '09, radiography, is a radiology manager for Bucktail Medical Center. She resides in Renovo.

Melissa Rake '09, early childhood education, is an employment specialist for SUNCOM Industries. She resides in Danville.

2010s

Brandon L. Group '10, construction management, is an instructor of construction management for Penn College. He resides in Muncy.

Hannah (Yates) Peachey '10, accounting, is a senior manager for production and planning for Lycoming Engines. She resides in Muncy.

Valerie Raines '10, legal assistant-paralegal studies, is a quality manager for Berman Bedding. She maintains ISO standards, training and safety. She resides in Erie.

Joe Simon '10, business administration, is the purchasing administrator for PMF Industries. He resides in Williamsport.

David R. Bailey '11, technology management, is a category manager for Shaw Industries. He is responsible for business development and commercial

flooring product management. He resides in Acworth, Ga.

Drew Henry '11, aviation technology, is a start-up technician for Kappe Associates Inc. He resides in Rockwood with his high school sweetheart and their 9-year-old child.

Alex Lombardi '11, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, owns United Mechanical Solutions LLC. He resides in Leland, N.C.

Corey Lutz '11, information technology: network specialist, is deputy director, division of end user services, for the Health Resources and Services Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He resides in Odenton, Md.

Anthony Oleksza '11, collision repair technology, is an assistant manager for Hillcrest Collision Carstar. He resides in Montrose.

Shea O. Reiley '08, heavy construction equipment technology: operator; '11, technology management, is an operating engineer for International Union of Operating Engineers Local 66. He operates cranes and other heavy equipment and resides in Oakdale.

Khristian R. Ward '11, heavy construction equipment technology: technician, is a site manager 3 for Designed Conveyor Systems. He is married, has four children and resides in Warren.

Kelly (Rein) Young '11, surgical technology, is a surgical assistant for Associated Oral Surgeons. She resides in West Milton with her husband, **Josh '12**, welding technology. They have been married since 2014.

Megan (Russell) Araujo '12, nursing, is a certified rehabilitation registered nurse and nurse supervisor for Encompass Health. She was named Employee of the Year

in 2019. She has been married over 10 years and is the mother of three girls. They reside in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Steven M. Bartz '12, graphic communications management, is a director of sales project management for Taylor Corp., a printing company. He is married and resides in Philadelphia.

Samantha (Catlin) Bruinooge '12, graphic design, is a graphic specialist for Mondelez International. She resides in Roaring Brook Township.

Kristina (Kopitsky) Depew '12, baking and pastry arts, is a volunteer/event coordinator for Bethesda Mission. She resides in Enola.

Tyler J. Harry '11, architectural technology; '12, residential construction technology and management, is a survey manager for CH+N Site Construction. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Michael J. Johnson '12, building science and sustainable design: building construction technology, is an operations lead for Lithko Contracting. He oversees projects that range from \$5 million-\$40 million. He resides in Locust, N.C.

Stacey (Webb) Paronish '12, health arts: practical nursing, is a licensed practical nurse for Geisinger. She is an educational leader/staff LPN in the emergency department. She resides in Williamsport.

Ethan Troup '12, automotive technology, is a commercial producer for the Sholley Insurance Agency. He has been married since 2015, has two daughters and resides in Allenwood.

David VanDoren '12, building science and sustainable design, is an emergency services specialist for Hopewell Township Fire District, where he developed a process to help fire departments with apparatus-

design planning. He has received multiple CPR Life Saver and Fire Life Saver awards. He resides in Ewing, N.J.

Mohammed Alnasser '13, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is a protective- and marine-coating sales manager for Sigma Paints. He resides in Williamsport.

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

Cody Brown '13, heavy construction equipment technology: Caterpillar equipment emphasis, is a heavy haul driver for Warren CAT. He transports heavy equipment in excess of 120,000 pounds. He is married, has one child and resides in Luther, Okla.

Jeffrey T. Feeman '13, industrial and human factors design, is a scenic production artist for Sight & Sound Theatres. He resides in Lancaster.

Danielle (Carr) Nauman '13, graphic communications management, is a consultant for Pink Zebra. She is married and resides in Howard.

Alissa (Harris) Wood '13, applied health studies: occupational therapy assistant, is a certified occupational therapy assistant for Willow Point Nursing Home. She resides in Binghamton, N.Y.

Deborah A. (Ketchem) Kerstetter '14, health information technology, is a coder for Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Lewisburg.

Amy (Hill) Liddick '14, practical nursing, is an LPN/team lead for Geisinger. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Benjamin M. Schappell '14, computer aided product design, is an engineering

assistant manager for Andritz, where his team designs industrial equipment for the feed and biofuel industries. He completed a Master of Engineering from University of Idaho (2023) and is a certified professional engineering manager. He resides in Williamsport and has three children.

Cassandra (Mohr) Enders '15, dental hygiene: health policy and administration, is a site manager for Geisinger. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Zachary Graybill '15, collision repair technology, owns Certified Shine Detailing. Previous jobs have included body technician, paint technician, assistant manager of body shop and material damage adjuster for Erie Insurance. He resides in Salladasburg and has two children, ages 2 and 3.

Ashley (Strouse) Marino '15, nursing, is an RN for Geisinger in orthopedic medical surgical. She completed a bachelor's in nursing from Penn College in 2018. She resides in Selinsgrove.

Chelsea Miller '15, dental hygiene, is pursuing a doctorate. She holds a Master of Education from Penn State and is the head (and founding) dental assistant instructor for Franklin County Career & Technology Center. She resides in Chambersburg.

Michael W. Smith '15, residential construction technology and management: architectural technology, is an operations manager for Contrast, a communication and IT company. He is married, has two children (a boy and a girl) under age 2 and resides in Mifflinburg.

Max Bower '16, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is a foreman for Burkman Electric. He resides in Chambersburg.

Nathan E. Kline '16, automotive technology and automotive service technician, is enrolled in the college's building construction technology major. He resides in Montoursville.

Sara (Smith) Mull '16, nursing, is an RN for Methodist Health System. She earned her bachelor's in nursing from Penn College in 2019 and resides in Midlothian, Texas.

Hannah (Cochran) Niedert '16, occupational therapy assistant, is a clinical assessor for CareBridge Medical Group. She resides in Hudson, Iowa.

Bradley G. Willis '16, heating, ventilation & air conditioning design technology, is a 2023 recipient of the Chapter Service Award from Central Pennsylvania American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. He resides in Shermans Dale.

Stephanie M. (Puckly) Biltz '17, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a principal weld engineer-weld supplier liaison for BAE Systems. She manages the processes and procedures for BAE Systems Combat Mission Systems weld suppliers. She holds a master's in management and organizational systems. She resides in Felton.

Michael Cramer '17, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is head of sales, Southwest U.S., for Fronius. As part of his work, he oversees weld tests for clients and provides quotes and technical proposals. He resides in Tustin, Calif.

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

Garrett Hillenbrand '17, construction management, is a project manager for Richard E. Pierson Construction. He resides in New Tripoli.

Hayden Keener '17, forest technology, is a utility forester for Asplundh Tree Experts. He plans maintenance on power lines for PPL and determines which trees need to be trimmed or removed near power lines. He resides in Dover.

Andrew Kriebel '17, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, is an operating engineer for Utility Line Services. He resides in Harleysville.

Garret Miller '17, manufacturing engineering technology, is an industrial engineer for MSA. He resides in Latrobe.

Alicia (Ross) Young '17, nursing, is a registered nurse for UPMC Susquehanna. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Ciara Bond '18, nursing, is a registered nurse for Fresenius Kidney Care. She resides in Allentown.

Matthew P. DeVirgilis '18, automotive technology management, is a manager-vehicle diagnostic communication systems for Penske Truck Leasing. He is a member of two American Trucking Association/Technology & Maintenance Council study groups to drive transportation industry innovations. He is pursuing a Master of Business Administration. He resides in Lebanon.

Shaun Hack '18, automotive technology management, is a collision repair instructor for Penn College. He resides in Orangeville.

Paul M. Lasell '18, plastics and polymer engineering technology, is an injection molding process engineer for GAF Inc. He resides in Williamsport.

Cheyenne L. Lynch '18, early childhood education, is a special education paraprofessional for the Montgomery Area School District. She resides in Montgomery.

Timothy L. Pegg '18, welding and fabrication engineering technology, is a welding engineer for Matcor Metal Fabrication. He resides in Kannapolis, N.C.

Kayla E. Rosbach '18, radiography, is a radiologic technologist for UPMC. She resides in Dushore. She earned a bachelor's in applied health studies from Penn College in 2020.

Jonathan Shaw '18, mechatronics engineering technology, is a maintenance lead for Great Dane Trailers. He has a daughter and recently purchased his first home. They reside in Catawissa.

Jacob C. Snyder '18, engineering design technology, is a design engineer for Bova Corp. He resides in Zelenople.

Andrew Volpe '18, construction management, is a superintendent for J. Fletcher Creamer & Son. He resides in Hackettstown, N.J.

Elisha Arantowicz '19, web and interactive media, is an email project manager for SEI Investments. She resides in Pottstown.

David Gadalla '19, aviation maintenance technology, is a process specialist-university relations in human resources for Dick's Sporting Goods. He resides in Pittsburgh.

Clarissa Gingell '19, nursing, is an emergency room RN for Geisinger and a three-time Daisy Award recipient. She is enrolled in the college's Master of Science in Nursing. She resides in Dallas, Pa.

Thomas E. Gorski '19, collision repair technology, is an associate for Amazon. He recently bought a house in Wallington, N.J.

Raymond Long '19, building automation technology, is a controls technician for Conexus. He resides in Allentown.

Rachael Noss '19, business management, is an accounting associate for the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. She resides in Port Royal.

Daniel Sproviero '19, electrical technology, is an electrician for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 164. He resides in Township of Washington, N.J.

2020s

Alexander J. Kosylo '20, residential construction technology and management, is an estimating and purchasing assistant for Weaver Homes. He resides in Pittsburgh.

Regina Peluzzo '20, civil engineering technology, is a structural engineer for RPA Engineering. She earned her Engineer in Training certificate during her senior year at Penn College and has since been working toward her Professional Engineer license. She resides in Reading.

April Yancey '20, general studies, is a college relations event assistant for Penn College. She resides in Williamsport.

Gloria F. Boronow '19, baking and pastry arts; '21, applied management, is a pastry chef for The Stonehouse Wood Fired Pizza & Pasteria. She makes

its pizza dough, bread, pasta and desserts. She resides in Williamsport.

Elizabeth S. Hummel '21, nursing, is a staff development nurse for Mountain View Nursing and Rehabilitation. She develops education programs for staff, teaches CPR and other competencies, and trains new staff. She resides in Sunbury.

Izabel (Ramer) DiRienzo '21, business management, is a mortgage customer service representative for M&T Bank. She resides in Ridgefield, Conn.

Timothy J. Schafer '21, automotive technology management, is a service consultant/dispatcher for Bobby Rahal Lexus of Lancaster County. He resides in Lancaster. He is an advisory committee member for the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center.

Taylor Shaak '21, nursing LPN-RN, is a registered nurse in Geisinger's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. She resides in Seltzer.

Katelin M. Tressler '21, nursing, is an RN for ShiftMed. She resides in Jersey Shore.

Bryan M. Bilbao '22, physician assistant studies, is a PA for Children's Service Center and ApolloMD. He resides in Old Forge.

Dennis M. Barton '22, engineering design technology, is an engineering technologist for Los Alamos National Laboratory. He resides in Los Alamos, N.M.

Jack W. Graham '22, diesel technician, is a diesel technician for B&C Diesel, where he reports to a fellow Penn College grad and loves his job. He resides in Sterling, Va.

Ashley (Hoffer) Hammond '22, applied management, is a concessions area manager for Hershey Entertainment and Resorts. She oversees around 200 employees in seven food

and beverage locations in Hersheypark. She also holds a Penn College degree in baking and pastry arts (2020). She resides in Hummelstown.

Jennamarie Jones '22, physical therapist assistant, is a physical therapist assistant for Evangelical Community Hospital. She resides in Mifflinburg.

Astrid N. Martinez '22, business management, is a sales consultant for Carvision Nissan. She resides in Hazleton.

Joseph C. Mauchline '22, manufacturing engineering technology, is a CNC machinist for Chiz Bros. He resides in California, Pa.

Jorge O'Hanlon '22, automotive technology management, is an automotive technician for Ciocca Ford of Souderton. He resides in Warrington.

Nathan Tabon '22, construction management, is a field engineer for Insituform Technologies. He resides in Baltimore.

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

Kelly Williams '22, civil engineering technology, is a survey crew chief for McClure. She resides in Ankeny, Iowa.

Jacob Anderson '23, automated manufacturing technology, is a toolmaker apprentice for JST Corp. He resides in Mechanicsburg.

Cierra N. Beatty '23, welding & fabrication engineering technology, is a construction engineer for the Army National Guard. She resides in Dornsife.

Carson J. Brubaker '23, electrical technology, is a controls system tech for Johnson Controls. He resides in Mifflinburg.

Dillon J. DeWitt '23, engineering design technology, is a mechanical drafter for Storyteller Overland. He resides in Oakland, Md.

Lydie Fornwald '23, nursing LPN-RN, is an operating room RN for Geisinger. She resides in Bloomsburg.

Gabrielle R. Fries '23, physician assistant studies, is a PA for UPMC. She resides in Williamsport.

Zachary J. Geffre '23, plastics & polymer engineering technology, is an extrusion engineer for Terumo Medical. He resides in Williamsport.

Dimitri Greco '23, software development, is a software engineer for Scrub Daddy (America's favorite sponge). He resides in Aston.

Benjamin Heinrich '23, construction management, is a project manager/estimator for Dohl General Construction. He resides in Hughesville.

Alexis R. Inch '23, nursing, is an RN for University of Kentucky HealthCare. She is a recipient of the Daisy Award for Extraordinary Nursing and resides in Harrodsburg, Ky.

Ralph H. Johnson '23, forest technology, is a forest technician for the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. He handles the daily challenges of integrating the training demands of the Army National Guard with truly sustainable ecosystem management practices of prescribed burns and timber sales at Fort Indiantown Gap. He is certified as a Firefighter Type 2 for wildland fire. He resides in Ashland.

Kassidy Krammes '23, radiography, is a radiologic technologist for Tower Health. She resides in Auburn.

Harrison Kutz '23, machine tool technology, is an associate model maker for Globus

Medical, where he prototypes medical devices and implants and makes surgical device modifications. He resides in Audubon.

Clinton J. Leberknight '23, information assurance & cyber security, is a printer coordinator for UPMC. He resides in Pleasant Hall.

Jackson M. Ligon '23, brewing & fermentation science, is a brewer for Ecliptic Brewing in Portland, Ore., where he resides.

Ryan S. McCrickerd '23, aviation maintenance technology, is an aviation maintenance technician for GoJet Airlines. He resides in St. Louis.

Chandler B. Bolivar Orbita '23, automotive technology: Honda PACT, is a technician for Pohanka Auto Group. He resides in Clinton, Md.

Kathryn A. Plankenhorn '23, physician assistant studies, is a PA for UPMC Family Medicine at Pine Street. She resides in Montoursville.

Jacob M. Reitz '23, electrical technology, is an engineering technician for the woodworking machines of RT Machine. He resides in Lewisburg.

Craig A. Seasholtz '23, electrical construction, is an instructor/trainer (Grade T4) for Penn College Workforce Development and an adjunct instructor for the Information, Technology & Society course. He also holds an associate degree in advertising art from the college (1979). He resides in Avis.

Noah Shafer '23, civil engineering technology, is a field engineer for Allan Myers. He resides in Wyalusing.

Taylor Shuman '23, practical nursing, is an LPN for White Deer Run Treatment Network. She resides in Cogan Station.

Kimberly M. Smith '23, surgical technology, is a surgical technologist for Lancaster General Hospital. She resides in Dauphin.

Lauryn Stauffer '23, automation engineering technology: robotics & automation, is a technical support technician for Coty, whose 77 beauty brands include Covergirl and Gucci. She resides in York.

Grant I. Walters '22, landscape horticulture technology: landscape emphasis; '23, forest technology, is a landscaper for Walters Landscaping Services. He resides in Dover.

Sophia G. Wiest '23, landscape/plant production technology, is a residence life coordinator for upper-level students for Penn College. She resides in Butler.

Emily Witherow '23, building construction technology and concrete science technology, is employed by Armitage Interiors. She resides in Perkasioe..

Amanda F. (Ritter) Zimmerman '23, building science and sustainable design: architectural technology, is head architectural technician and project manager for JENA Engineering. She resides in Bethlehem.

Marriages & Births

Amy (Rebar) Bonetti '93, radiography, married Christopher Bonetti in Kauai, Hawaii, on April 19, 2023. They reside in Coal Township.

Danny E. Magruder '04, radiography, married Stacy M. Harman on Sept. 9, 2023. They made a honeymoon cruise to Alaska. They reside in Selinsgrove.

Corey Lutz '11, information technology: network specialist, welcomed a son, Everett, in 2023. They reside in Odenton, Md.

Samantha (Catlin) Bruinooge '12, graphic design, and her husband, **Chad '13**, construction management, welcomed a son, Dominick, in December 2022. They reside in Roaring Brook Township.

Kristina (Kopitsky) Depew '12, baking and pastry arts, welcomed a daughter, MaryAnn Elizabeth, in May 2023 (after a 12-year struggle with infertility). They reside in Enola.

Morgan Olbrich '12, automotive technology; '13, welding and fabrication engineering technology, married Jordan (Matthews) on June 3, 2023, on the Outer Banks in North Carolina. They reside in Newport News, Va.

Alissa (Harris) Wood '13, applied health studies: occupational therapy assistant, welcomed a son in June 2022. They reside in Binghamton, N.Y.

Angela (Card) Kendall '15, graphic design, and her husband, **Reuben '13**, automotive technology, welcomed a son in May 2022. They reside in Centre Hall.

Max Bower '16, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, welcomed his first child, Maverick Preston, in August 2023. They reside in Chambersburg.

Hannah Cochran '16, occupational therapy assistant, married Nick Niedert in 2022 and welcomed a daughter, Kathryn, in early 2023. They reside in Hudson, Iowa.

Andrew Kriebel '17, heavy construction equipment technology: operator, and his wife, Kaitlyn, welcomed their second child, son Wyatt, in March 2023. They reside in Harleysville.

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

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

Amanda Brodecki '21, dental hygiene, married **Steven Birkmire '16**, heating, ventilation & air conditioning technology, on Sept. 3, 2023. They reside in Croydon.

Ashley Hoffer '20, baking and pastry arts; **'22**, applied management, married **Mathew Hammond '23**, building automation technology, in May 2023. They reside in Hummelstown.

Seth Wilkerson '22, human services & restorative justice, and his wife, Kayla, welcomed a daughter, Kennedy Elizabeth, in May 2023. They reside in Bloomsburg.

Kimberly M. Smith '23, surgical technology, welcomed a son, Eric, in February 2022. They reside in Dauphin.

In Memory

Roger E. Davis, retired associate professor of mathematics, age 82, on Nov. 14, 2023

Sara F. Gifford, part-time instructor of English, age 35, on Dec. 22, 2023

Ronald L. Rock, retired professor of business administration, age 87, on Dec. 17, 2023

Richard J. Weilmünster, faculty emeritus, horticulture, age 79, on Dec. 4, 2023

UNEARTHED

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



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



A 25-year-old mascot stares back from the past, seemingly quizzical and a bit worse-for-wear – but still Wildcat-worthy!

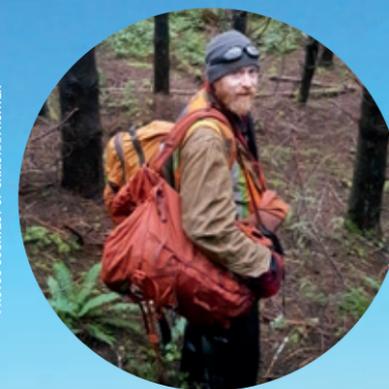


At a May 1998 dedication ceremony, event committee members gather with the capsule's stone marker and memorabilia. From left: students **Lee Gable**, **Chad Schleig**, **Michelle Goddard**, **Craig Eozzo** and **Kimberly Behe**, and **Steve Jacobson**, then director of residence life. The time capsule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



Among the mementos: An ode to the day when "the Village People" would toss a disc or two in the complex's courtyard.

'CATS IN THE WILD



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



Hunter operates a total station.



Hunter makes a stop on his 2021 Appalachian Trail through-hike at the iconic McAfee Knob in Virginia, overlooking the Shenandoah Valley.

Christian Hunter '13 was well-prepared for the Appalachian Trail after his surveying technology degree took him up and down the Cascades and Rockies.

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

"After spending that much time in the forests, the Appalachian Trail felt like home," Hunter says. "The trees, the cold, the heat, the rain, the bugs all felt normal, as I was doing it for 40 hours a week for a long time. Hiking up and down the Cascade Mountains with a tripod and

total station strengthened my legs. In Montana, I had to lug a Stihl 463L chainsaw up and down 'em Rocky Mountains. My Appalachian Trail pack felt lighter than my Forest Service Cascade or Rocky Mountain pack."

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

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

Where has your degree taken you? Send a photo and brief description to magazine@pct.edu. (Bonus if you show off your Penn College gear!)

One of these statements is false. Can you guess which?



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

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

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

1. It's true! Woolly Willy creator Jim Herzog, who died in 2021 at the age of 93, was working with his father, Ralph, and brother Donald at the R.W. Herzog Co. in Smethport, a leading manufacturer of magnetic toys and games, when, in 1955, Herzog found that the dust that resulted from grinding could be used for magnetic drawing. According to his obituary, he attended WTI classes with neighbor Bob Alderfer in the summers of 1943 and 1944, while still in high school, to obtain his radio operators license. He completed a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Penn State in 1949. Now produced by PlayMonster, more than 75 million Woolly Willy toys have been sold.

2. We're lying. While Spider-Man co-creator Stephen Ditko was born and raised in Pennsylvania, he attended what was is now known as the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

3. True! According to the Feb. 27, 1945, edition of the Shenandoah Evening Herald, Jerry Wolman, who owned the Philadelphia Eagles from 1963 to 1969, qualified for work as a U.S. Merchant Marine radio officer after studying in WTI's Radio Communication Department. After serving two years with the merchant marine, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked in a paint store and was inspired to start his own real estate and development business. In 1963, at age 36, the Schuylkill County native became the youngest NFL owner up to that time when he purchased his favorite team for \$5.5 million. Wolman died in 2013 at the age of 86. Read more about him at magazine.pct.edu/Wolman.

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