Activities and Sports Enhance Campus Atmosphere

One day it is softball playoffs. The next day it is the kickoff for Humans vs. Zombies, or Speed Networking, or a bonfire. Whatever your particular interest, PTI’s Student Activities Director and Intramural Coordinator provide a long list of activities, sports, and events for residential and commuter students. Here’s some of what happened in 2010.

A six-hour painting party known as Monster Mash Up resulted in 80 monster-themed works of art created by students and staff. During the event students participated in activities like Rock Band and Wii Sports. Pizza and snacks kept everyone fortified.

July’s Welcome Week debuted the Gong Show and performances, both funny and serious, by students and staff. While enjoying the acts, students forged new friendships, made PTI connections, and eased into life on PTI’s campus. Judges selected an original guitar solo, two vocal performances and a flutist as the show’s most outstanding.

The very first on-campus “Carnival” included more than 300 students participating in events like a climbing wall and bungee trampoline, bumper cars, tattoo artist, DJ, and games.

Other Welcome Week activities included jumbo soccer, dodgeball, a part-time job fair, the Backyard Bash with its slip-n-slide and bonfire, and North Fayette Community Days.

October’s Welcome Week activities featured an Oktoberfest, haunted house trip, a screening of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” and the annual Halloween Bash including haunted PTI rooms, costume contest, and tarot card and palm readings.

The Gift of Christmas filled the Gallery with the sounds of the season. Instrumental and vocal music, poetry and narratives, and a performance by PTI’s Drama Club added a few hours of relaxation and reflection for students, faculty and staff who attended the program.

Continued on page 2
Students Star on Camera
Information Technology
Anticipating the release of the latest Metroid video game, the Nintendo.com program Nintendo Week, interviewed PTI student, Lee Garasich, former world record holder for fastest 100% completion of Super Metroid. Lee’s record time of one hour and 22 minutes was broken this summer but he plans to reclaim the title. Lee, who graduates from the ITNA program in April 2011, says, “People like problem solvers and that’s what I got from video games. It makes me a better student and employee.” Check out his August 23, 2010, Nintendo Week appearance on YouTube. For more on Lee, read his interview on ShineSparkers.net released September 14, 2010.

Multimedia Technologies
In preparation for the annual STEM (Science, Technology, Education and Mathematics) Summit in Pittsburgh, local multimedia company, PMI, created an opening video. While interning with PMI, Multimedia - Video/3-D Design graduate Becky Foertsch starred in the video chronicling a woman’s education and career. The video calls on members of the technology industry to invest in our youth by encouraging change within education to address a looming shortage of prepared workers in STEM fields. The video was completed with the help of 2007 Multimedia graduate, Ian Momyer, as Camera Assistant for PMI.

Carnival gave students the chance to bump into old friends and make new ones while enjoying this slamming campus activity.

Students and PTI faculty and staff paired up across tables at PTI’s first-ever Speed Networking event. A quick-moving session, it is an exercise in concise, to the point conversations. First the faculty or staff member took 30 seconds to provide a personal introduction and professional background. The next 30 seconds belonged to the student for a personal introduction that included major, reason for selecting PTI, and plans for the future. Then it was time to move on to the next table, the next introduction and the next speedy conversation as students learned how to effectively and efficiently present themselves. Participants had the opportunity to mock interview with employers also in attendance and received a Guide to Success featuring interviewing facts, tips and techniques, and a list of dos and don’ts along with navigating the career jungle pointers.

Intramurals hosted “Humans vs. Zombies: Beware the Pitechin Virus,” the first ever Humans vs. Zombies game at PTI. For one week 140 participants fought a zombie outbreak caused by the Pitechin Virus (Pitechin – Pittsburgh TECHnical INstitute). Humans and zombies battled with NERF guns as weapons until ten human finalists remained and all zombies were extinct. In December, a second round known as “Humans vs. Zombies 1.5: The Missing Pieces,” drove 75 players to brave chilly temps and resulted in six “human” survivors. Round three, “HvZ 2.0: Better, Faster, Stronger,” is planned for February 2011.

Other intramural sports and activities throughout the year included 3-on-3 basketball tournaments and skills competitions, volleyball tournaments, softball, soccer and jumbo soccer, ultimate Frisbee, kickball, dodgeball, deck hockey, cornhole, cross country road race, home run derby, and a weekly poker league, with new opportunities added all the time.

Alumni Newsletter 2011
The Alumni Newsletter is published each January to highlight news of the previous year and upcoming events. It is a publication of Pittsburgh Technical Institute’s Career Services Department in conjunction with the Public Relations Department.

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Alumni Newsletter 2011
Education Extends Beyond Our Walls

PTI students spent time this past year increasing and sharing their knowledge outside the classroom.

School of Technology

Members of the International Society of Automation, Pittsburgh Technical Institute Student Section (ISA PTISS), accompanied by faculty advisors Jeff Dinkel and Dave Becker, toured the manufacturing and testing facilities at the Pittsburgh-based world headquarters of Aerotech. The company designs and manufactures motion control and positioning systems for clients worldwide. During the visit students identified various components they’d studied in class, worked hands-on with Aerotech equipment and practiced writing basic code. The day closed with a Q&A session with company representatives who shared what it means to be an electronics technician at Aerotech.

An Electronics student and faculty Jim Mueller and Mark Bellemare took our students’ SumoBots to the science fair at a local elementary school and allowed the children to use the robots in competition and learn about electronics.

School of Healthcare

Instructor Mike Dorich took students from the Medical Assisting, Therapeutic Massage, Surgical Technology and Medical Office Administration programs to a career fair at South Fayette High School to present clinical skills, show tools of the trade and answer questions for the high school students.

Third quarter Therapeutic Massage students and instructor Jennifer Boal provided chair massages for more than 40 employees on staff appreciation day at the Bradley Center youth home.

School of Criminal Justice

PTI continues its annual partnership with the PA State Police and hosted the Citizen’s Police Academy (CPA) of Allegheny County. PTI staff and students as well as the general public participate in the free twelve-week program exposing citizens to the world of the police officer. Classes include speakers from county police and field trips to Night Court, the County Jail and the Medical Examiner’s Office. The most recent academy included twelve Safety and Security Administration students.

Instructor Published in Industry Text

A project developed by veteran Hospitality Management instructor, John Nagy, for PTI’s Resort Management course was featured this year in a textbook published by the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (EI).

His project requires each student to create a design for a new resort including resort type, name, location, image, target market, space layout, entertainment, restaurants/eateries, room amenities, front-of-the-house and heart-of-the-house operations, security plan, plus ADA and environmental/green considerations.

John and other PTI instructors have used the project successfully over five years. Encouraged by the reaction of their students, John contacted Jim Purvis, EI writer and editor, to see if there was interest in offering his project to Hospitality instructors at other schools. After several email exchanges, Jim informed John that the project is featured in the latest edition of the “World of Resorts: From Development to Management” textbook.

In one of his emails thanking John, Purvis said, “We really appreciate your willingness to help us with class activities. It’s rare to find an instructor who is so generous.”

Don’t Forget!

Career Services offers graduates unlimited placement assistance. If it’s time for a change, call 412.809.5155, or log in to Career Connect using the Alumni section of www.pti.edu.

Aim Higher and Hire PTI

PTI’s Career Fair
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Wednesday, February 23, 2011
Students and graduates from all programs welcome.

Bring your resume and portfolio to the Gallery at PTI’s North Fayette Campus to meet with potential employers. Contact Christine at ioli.christine@pti.edu in advance if you’d like to schedule time to meet individually with someone from the Career Services team. For more information, visit www.pti.edu and click on Events.

www.pti.edu
Mike Metheny
July 2005, Information Technology – Network Administration
January 2010, Microsoft Network Professional

Mike has worked for Mountaineer Racetrack and Gaming Resort since graduating. Initially an IT Specialist, he has been promoted four times, most recently to MIS Systems Manager. He says the hands on opportunities he received at PTI have especially helped in real-world situations. While he’s thrilled with how far he’s come in his career and hopes to someday be a CIO, he laughs that he is now at the point where he no longer feels like spending time on computers after the work day is complete.

Corey Walker

A Senior Datacomm Specialist with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Corey loves networking and tackling the challenges that come with working for a large company. While his focus is UPMC’s Datacenter maintaining Cisco and Alcatel-Lucent devices, he helps support the entire infrastructures network.

Aaron Armagost

Working for CA Technologies since graduating from PTI, Aaron was promoted this year to Senior Support Engineer and assists clients with troubleshooting and bug resolution. He hopes to one day teach in his field. Persistence is the part of his PTI training that has proven most useful. As he puts it, “it doesn’t matter what you know, it matters if you can find it.”

Crystal (Guzniczak) Taibi
July 2003, Graphic Design

Crystal never thought Graphic Design would lead her to a career in radio, but as webmaster and office manager for Priority Communications (106.3 The River and Sports Radio 1430 WEIR), she’s found her niche: full control of the company’s two websites. With a background in advertising and design for both small and large companies, she has been able to continually build on what she learned at PTI through each step of her career.

PTI Honors

PTI was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. PTI earned the 2010 Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators (PAPSA) Community Service Award for the Bradley Center Mentoring Program. PTI has won PAPSA’s award five times in the past 10 years.

Graphic Design instructor Darrell Bruno was honored as PAPSA’s Instructor of the Year, PTI’s seventh instructor to earn this recognition in the past 11 years. Previous awardees are Tim Ankeny (Graphic Design), Mark Bellemare (Hospitality), Michael Dorich (Surgical Technology), Mark Malecki (Computer Aided Drafting), John Sargent (Graphic Design), and Vince Vasco (Electronics).

G.I. Jobs Magazine again designated PTI a Military Friendly School in 2010, repeating the 2009 honor.

Where Are They Now?

Catch up with fellow PTI grads and their latest employment adventures. Want to be featured in a future issue of the alumni newsletter or on our website? Contact Christine at ioli.christine@pti.edu.

Alumni Joe Pekala and Keith Sabo created a PTI Alumni Facebook page. Check it out and become a member. And if you haven’t already, friend Pt Edu on Facebook.

Award Winners

January 2010
Christopher Clark, Information Technology – Network Security/Computer Forensics, Caliguiri Award
Sarah Flannery, Graphic Design, Caliguiri Award
Amanda Hartzell, Medical Assisting, Caliguiri Award
Shane Moran, Computer Aided Drafting – Mechanical Drafting, Caliguiri Award
Scott Snider, Surgical Technology, Caliguiri Award, J.R. McCartan Award
Jennifer Wobert, Business Administration – Management, Caliguiri Award

July 2010
Matthew Abell, Electronics Engineering Technology, Caliguiri Award
Justen Bowser, Therapeutic Massage Practitioner, Caliguiri Award
Brandon Carlson, Business Administration – Management, Caliguiri Award
Shawn English, Safety and Security Administration, Caliguiri Award
Conrad Hooge, Computer Aided Drafting – Mechanical Drafting, Caliguiri Award
Billie Jo Hoyt, Information Technology – Network Administration, Caliguiri Award, J.R. McCartan Award

October 2010
Brittany Anick, Medical Office Administration, Caliguiri Award
Mathew Birch, Business Administration – Marketing, Caliguiri Award
Samantha Brooks, Therapeutic Massage, Caliguiri Award
Gail Cooper, Surgical Technology, Caliguiri Award
Daniel Drzik, Computer Aided Drafting – Mechanical Drafting, Caliguiri Award

November 2010
Natalie Manning, Medical Assisting, Caliguiri Award
Amy Moore, Graphic Design, Caliguiri Award
Paul Nauman, Multimedia Technologies – Web/Interactive Design, Caliguiri Award
Elizabeth Reed, Surgical Technology, Caliguiri Award

December 2010
Corey Walker, Information Technology – Network Security and Computer Forensics, Caliguiri Award

January 2011
Brittany Anick, Medical Office Administration, Caliguiri Award
Mathew Birch, Business Administration – Marketing, Caliguiri Award
Samantha Brooks, Therapeutic Massage, Caliguiri Award
Crystal (Guzniczak) Taibi, Graphic Design, Caliguiri Award

April 2011
Brittany Anick, Medical Office Administration, Caliguiri Award
Mathew Birch, Business Administration – Marketing, Caliguiri Award
Samantha Brooks, Therapeutic Massage, Caliguiri Award

PTI Newsletter 2011
Michael Hreczkosiej
July 2002, Computer Aided Drafting
Once a temp for Maronda Homes, Michael’s PTI education led him to a self-created permanent position as Wall Production Manager. He’s teaching others, including his boss, the programs and procedures to create detailed drawings for the manufacture of framed walls for each lot including the position of every nail, staple and cut line.

Tom Coulter
October 2000, Electronics Engineering Technology
Tom rolled the dice when he moved to Las Vegas and hit the jackpot when he landed a job as a hotel engineer with The Signature at MGM Grand. He maintains and repairs lighting, televisions and more on this luxury property. Tom recently became a licensed pyrotechnician and helps with shows including the Lady Gaga concert. With many fond memories of his PTI days, Tom says it was his internship that really made the difference, teaching him to do the right thing no matter how difficult it may be.

Misty (Mellott) Erdner
July 2007, Hospitality Management
The Front Desk Supervisor at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry Township, PA, Misty enjoys meeting new people and finds that the hands-on experience she gained at PTI continues to be valuable in her career. She was married in May 2010.

Johnny Austin
July 2007, Multimedia Technologies
A Web/Graphic Artist with Image Time, Johnny is designing illustrations and personalized artwork for neon clocks – like those seen in bars and restaurants. His role includes photo manipulations and preparing files for print. He hopes to become a digital media professor to share his knowledge with students.

Philip Light
October 1999, Computer Aided Drafting
July 2000, Systems Management
An architectural illustrator with IKM Incorporated, Philip models, lights and renders static and animated images of buildings, manages the website, and produces professional development videos. A fisherman, he runs a fly fishing website and started a conservation fund for endangered fish in Asia.

Joseph Pekala
October 2008, Information Technology – Network Administration
Joe is a network analyst for Point Park University, in charge of all Cisco networking equipment. He dreams of starting his own consulting business. An avid hockey fan and player, Joe coaches the freshman team for Montour High School.

Crystal O’Brien-Magdich
June 2007, Business Administration – Accounting Administration
A VIP Team Leader, Crystal has worked with Landslide Technologies since her PTI graduation. She assists customers in learning to better use the software programs provided by the company. In addition, she handles accounts receivable, schedules board meetings and sets up for presentations. This year Crystal accompanied a group from her office on her first sky diving excursion.

Subscribe to Seventeen magazine? Check your August 2010 issue for a full-page PTI ad featuring Crystal and three other recent graduates. To learn more about the young women, go to www.pti.edu/17.
**2011 Events**

**February 5**  
ServSafe Training  
8 am – 5 pm

**February 5, 15, 19, 26**  
Massage Clinics  
By appointment

**February 10**  
Alumni Mixer – CAD, HVAC, Interior Design  
5 – 7 pm  
All Star Sports Bar & Grill, Robinson Twp.

**February 16**  
New to You Professional Dress Sale  
11 am – 2 pm  
5 – 7 pm  
Donations accepted year-round

**February 23**  
PTI Career Fair,  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm  
(Article on page 3)

**March 1, 5, 19, 26**  
Massage Clinics  
By appointment

**March 3**  
Alumni Mixer – IT, Computer Programming, HCSI, Electronics  
5 – 7 pm  
Brothers Grimm, Coraopolis

**March 12**  
Visions & Voices High School Student Show Opening Reception  
11 am – 1 pm

**March 24**  
Continuing Education Day,  
11 am – 3 pm  
(Article on page 6)

**April 2**  
Massage Clinic  
By appointment

**April 7**  
Alumni Mixer – School of Healthcare  
5 – 7 pm  
Mad Mex, Robinson Twp.

**May 4**  
Concept Car Competition  
6 pm

**May 19**  
Alumni Mixer – Business, Travel, Hospitality, SSA  
5 – 7 pm  
Damon’s Grill & Sports Bar, Robinson Twp.

**June (TBD)**  
New to You Professional Dress Sale. Donations accepted year-round.

**July 7**  
Graduation, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall  
6 pm

**July 20**  
Female Futures in Technology Workshop  
8 am – 5 pm

**August 1 – 3**  
Summer Camps  
3-days/2-nights

**October 10**  
Graduation, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall  
6 pm

**January 13, 2012**  
Graduation, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall  
6 pm

* All events are held at PTI’s North Fayette Campus unless otherwise noted. Check [www.pti.edu/events](http://www.pti.edu/events) often for opportunities to return to campus including Drama Club presentations and special holiday productions.

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**Programs That Meet Industry Demands**

PTI strives to offer students the preparation they need to succeed in today’s ever-changing job market. The following associate in science degree and certificate programs are currently offered.

**School of Building Technology**  
HVAC Technology  
Smart Building Technology

**School of Business**  
Business Administration  
Accounting Administration Management  
New! Online Management Marketing

**School of Criminal Justice**  
Safety and Security Administration  
New! Online Safety and Security Administration

**School of Design**  
Computer Aided Drafting  
Architectural Drafting  
Mechanical Drafting  
Graphic Design  
Multimedia Technologies  
Video/3-D Design  
Web/Interactive Design

**School of Healthcare**  
Medical Assisting  
Medical Coding  
New! Online Medical Coding  
Medical Office Administration  
Patient Care Technician  
Surgical Technology  
Therapeutic Massage

**School of Nursing**  
Practical Nursing

**School of Technology**  
A+ Service Technician  
Cisco Certified Networking Associate  
Computer Programming  
Electronics Engineering Technology  
Information Technology  
Network Administration  
Network Security and Computer Forensics  
Microsoft Network Professional

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**Join us for PTI’s Ninth Annual Continuing Education Day**

**Thursday, March 24, 2011**  
11 am to 3 pm in PTI’s Gallery

Take advantage of this opportunity to speak to a wide variety of colleges and universities about continuing your education and transferring your credits. No appointment needed.

For further information, contact Lainey at 412.809.5212 or Becker.lainey@pti.edu.
Brush-Up Courses

Brush-up courses are available to all PTI alumni and are offered at the North Fayette Campus. They are an opportunity to stay current with software and skills that employers value, demonstrate dedication to your profession, and increase your marketability. There is no charge to attend and a certificate of completion is provided.

New beginning Fall 2010: Brush-up classes now are held year round. Topics vary, so be sure to check the Events section of www.pti.edu for course descriptions, dates and registration. If you have questions or would like to suggest a topic, contact Christine at ioli.christine@pti.edu or 412.854.1483.

I learned so many things that I am implementing at my job. The course had the perfect balance of beginner and more advanced techniques.

Chris Duranko, 2009 Multimedia – Video/3-D Design graduate; attended the Web Overview course

It helped me write a better resume.

Gary Craig, 1975 Electronics graduate; attended the Career Development course

Haiti Relief Project

After a devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010, PTI students and staff teamed with Brothers Brother Foundation and Weirton First Church of the Nazarene to raise nearly $11,000. Students and staff purchased and assembled 311 buckets of supplies containing toiletries, household items, hardware and medical necessities. The church’s Missionary Project raised money for shipping costs and assisted with the sorting and assembly of supplies.

Student Soldiers

When PTI students are called to active duty, they must withdraw from their studies, but may re-enroll upon return. This departure from campus doesn’t mean they forget about their PTI family and vice versa. This year care packages including PTI accessories, letters, snacks, and baby wipes were sent overseas to two Safety and Security students and one Electronics student who are serving our country. We anxiously await their safe return.

Service Projects Extend Beyond Our Community

In 2010 PTI embraced some timely issues outside our immediate community and focused service efforts to assist with earthquake relief in Haiti and soldiers in Afghanistan.

Haiti Relief Project

New Opportunities For Career Training – Onsite and Online

PTI’s School of Healthcare program options increased in 2010 with two additions: a nine-month Patient Care Technician certificate and a twelve-month fully online Medical Coding certificate. A new School of Nursing featuring a twelve-month Practical Nursing certificate was added to PTI’s line-up.

Classes for Practical Nursing and Patient Care Technician students are primarily in the Nursing Lab added to Level 1 of the North Fayette Campus academic building. The facility features state-of-the-industry, interactive manikins to simulate various patient situations. Practical Nursing students receive an iPod touch complete with medical software to help them assess patients during training simulations and their clinical experience throughout the twelve-month program.

In early 2011, PTI received approval to offer all programs in the schools of Business and Criminal Justice fully online. Associate degrees in Business Administration – Management and Safety and Security Administration start in April and July with additional online programs to follow.

For details about any of these programs, visit the What We Teach section of www.pti.edu.

Freelance Design Support

Freelance work plays a significant role in the lives of design professionals like graphic artists, web designers, and videographers. PTI’s School of Design now features a Freelance Support Center for graduates who want to build flourishing freelance careers working for clients. For some, it is a way to supplement other employment and, for others, it becomes their primary source of income. Students and graduates can tap into online articles and links, network with colleagues, and benefit from the advice of the experienced freelancers who make up our School of Design faculty using the Freelance Support Center.

Register online at www.pti.edu/fsc. You can schedule a consultation with a support center advisor and access resources for equipment, legal documents and business forms.

www.pti.edu
Alumni Mix It Up

This year Career Services is “mixing” things up with program-specific alumni mixer events held off-campus. The first mixer held November 4, 2010, at the Mad Mex restaurant in Robinson Township brought together 33 alumni and 11 PTI faculty and staff from the Graphic Design and Multimedia programs. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to mingle, network, and reconnect. Four more mixers are scheduled for 2011. Check out the 2011 Events list on page 6 for details.