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>Annual Alumni Newsletter

>Distinguished Alumni Make Their Mark

2006



Jason D. Hagg

Traveling throughout the world you might come across work designed, created or produced by this Pittsburgh Technical Institute graduate. His work can be found in Russia, China, India, Australia, South Africa, Poland, the United Kingdom and throughout the United States including Alaska.

As the Senior Graphic Designer for Joy Mining Machinery, he produces corporate identity pieces and sales literature, develops concepts for trade shows, orchestrates multimedia presentations, and provides photography services.

Jason D. Hagg, our October 2006 Distinguished Alumnus, is the sole graphic designer for this one billion dollar a year company which employs more than 4,500 individuals in 40+ locations in eight countries.

A graduate of Eisenhower High School, Jason came to PTI from Sugar Grove, PA, in 1992. He received his Graphic Design degree in the spring of 1994 and accepted a contract position with Joy in Franklin, PA.



Jason D. Hagg

“I owe it all to the PTI instructors and placement individuals for working with me to get my career up and going. PTI placement services put you over the top.”

—Jason Hagg

Just one year later he was hired as a full-time employee by this company which develops, manufactures, distributes and services underground mining machinery for the extraction of coal and bedded materials.

A member of the National Association of Photoshop
continued on next page

Joseph F. Fao

In 1975, our January 2006 Distinguished Alumnus, Joseph F. Fao, earned his Associate in Specialized Technology Degree in Industrial Engineering Technology from Pittsburgh Technical Institute and immediately went to work for Kennametal, Inc. in Bedford, PA. As an Industrial Engineer, he led a cost improvement team that realized a 25% productivity savings while working with both the Product Manager and the MIS department to grow the company's bottom line through the implementation of MRP – Manufacturing Resource Planning.

After a dozen years of climbing the Industrial Engineering ranks at Kennametal and Hedstrom,



Joseph F. Fao

Joe moved to State College, PA, to join C-COR Electronics as the Manufacturing Engineering Manager. There, he managed a \$1 million capital equipment and facility expense annual budget, improved manufacturing processes by implementing lean manufacturing techniques, and led a team to design, layout and construct two new manufacturing plants.

In 1991, his career path took him to Huntingdon, PA. As a Senior Industrial Engineer at Elco, Inc., he was responsible for improving manufacturing processes, launching new products and specifying new equipment. During his tenure productivity grew 35%.

Then in 1996, Joe joined the Industrial Modernization Center, Inc. first as the Manufacturing Business Advisor, then as Manager - Manufacturing & Business Services, and eventually as the Product Manager - Advanced Manufacturing. His responsibilities have included expanding client accounts, managing field client development, and operations, identifying
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The mission of Pittsburgh Technical Institute (PTI), as a degree-granting institution, is to empower its student body to succeed in today's dynamic world by integrating general education, professional skills, and career-focused education. PTI fosters an academic environment that equips students with the conceptual, practical, and life skills necessary to achieve their full potential and realize their career goals.

> Distinguished Alumni Make Their Mark

Jason D. Hagg continued from previous page

Professionals and a student of Professional Photography with the New York Institute of Photography, Jason is a competitive, award-winning walleye fisherman. Along with his brother Darren, he qualified for nationals in both 2003 and 2005.

The husband of Linda and father of two boys, Caden and Devin, Jason also is an entrepreneur. In 1998, he launched J Design and offers layout, design and print services and serves as an advertising resource.

When thinking back over his 11-year tenure with Joy he credits PTI for some of his success. "I owe it all to the PTI instructors and placement individuals for working with me to get my career up and going. PTI placement services put you over the top. I highly recommend the school anytime I am asked."

Joseph F. Fao continued from previous page

various governmental granting streams, and building relationships with state and federal agencies.

Throughout Joe's career, he has proven to be a strong team leader, detailed problem solver, skilled process designer, and an experienced project manager.

Joe earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Leadership from St. Francis University. He is a trained Lean-Six Sigma Black Belt, a certified Professional Business Advisor, past president of the Mid-State Chapter of APICS, president of the Central PA Chapter of IIE, a member of the Industrial Advisory Board of Penn State's Learning Factory, and vice-chair of the College Township Water Authority.

Writers' Center Available to Alumni

Do you need help finding the right words for that big letter you're writing? Does your resume need some attention?

PTI recently established the **Writers' Center**, for students in need of writing assistance. The Center is staffed primarily by English Composition and other general education faculty who are able to assist with a wide variety of writing assignments.

The good news for you is the Writers' Center is available to all PTI alumni also. If you need help sprucing up your resume, developing an effective cover letter, or completing any tough writing assignment, we invite you to take advantage of this PTI service.

The Writers' Center is located at the North Fayette Campus. Typically the Center opens for business the second week of each quarter and remains open until the last day of the quarter.

Hours of operation are **Monday through Friday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm**. Walk-ins are welcome and you are encouraged to stop by. Call if you need an appointment outside normal hours of operation.

If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment, you can contact John Monaco, Department Chair, General Education, at **412.809.5266** or monaco@pti.edu.

> "Hey, Ho, Let's Go! I'm ijustine"

Tom Green proclaimed her "...the Clay Aiken of this competition" but to PTI, Justine Ezarik is our web celeb. A 2002 Multimedia Technologies graduate, ijustine tapped her creative, video and editing skills to make it to the final five of Yahoo's Talent Show. Competing for \$50,000 and the honor of creating a show on Yahoo, Justine is labeled in Round 1, meets 2005 Graphic Design graduate Desiree Cramer at Primanti Brothers in Round 2, and showcases superhero fantasies and Etch A Sketching skills in Round 3 on her way to a #2 finish. Hey, Ho, way to go! To see all 24 of Justine's videos and read viewer comments, visit talentshow.yahoo.com.



> Play's the Thing PTI finds enthusiastic students as it introduces video game design

Reprinted from the Thursday, October 12, 2006, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Written by Brian David,
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In a room lit only by the eerie glow of computer screens, 12 Pittsburgh Technical Institute students are exploring Brett Mackrell's world and trying to stay alive.

Generally, they fail.

weapons-heavy game of Capture the Flag.

"It's pretty fun to watch their reactions," Mr. Mackrell, 21, said while hanging out with several of his self-professed geek classmates in a hallway outside the conference-room-turned-gaming center on the school's North Fayette campus.

The Knoch High School graduate is part of the institute's first-ever gaming design class, which spent a

"They're nice. There are a couple of good maps," agreed Andrew Lynch, 18, of Bedford, another PTI student seeing the class's work for the first time. "I've tried" to build such levels, he said. "Nah, not gonna work."

Making the created worlds work was an essential of the class, professor James Madine said.

"There has to be an indoor aspect and an outdoor aspect, and it has to be playable," he said. From there, grades will be developed through a group critique. The class members will sit down together and talk about what worked and didn't work. "They'll be pretty critical of each other," he said.

Grades aside, though, the very existence of the class will get a dramatic reaction from many parents: Do we really need a college class on video games? We fight daily to pry our kids away from the screens to do their homework, go outside, read a book. Does this make sense? And it hardly seems like legitimate job training. The competition for game-making work is insanely fierce.

But creating online buildings and landscapes has obvious direct applications in fields such as architecture, offering virtual tours of buildings and landscapes that don't exist yet; real estate, offering virtual tours of buildings that do exist; and navigational systems, which could show drivers where to turn instead of telling them.

And the course work offers broad opportunities to teach

basic principles. Whether you're building a game or a business system, to a certain extent, programming is programming. It's all about manipulating information to get the desired results.

"It's kind of like putting a pill in an apple and giving it to a horse," Mr. Madine said. "They're having fun, and we're teaching computer science."

"This has enhanced the educational atmosphere greatly," computer programming department chair Jeff Belsky said. "This makes the principles fun, something you want to do, and once you learn the concepts you can use them out in the field."

Of course, telling these kids that they won't end up working as video game designers is like telling high school football players they won't make the NFL. It's not that they don't believe it, but they're not about to quit dreaming.

"I hope to be a game designer," said Brenton Kovash, of Ebensburg, Cambria County, the acknowledged game-playing master in the class. He sat at the end computer in the darkened room with his computer broadcast onto a large screen, the better for onlookers to catch the carnage. "It would be huge."

"Part of me would like to design games," Mr. Mackrell agreed. "To be able to work for a company making games for people to play." He shook his head. It would be wonderful.

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“They’re having fun, and we’re teaching computer science.”

—James Madine

good chunk of the three-month course using the program Unreal Tournament to build battlefields.

They opened their work for other students last Tuesday and Wednesday, a sort of real-time final exam that will both show off their skills and help them assess the quality of what they've built.

"I think it's pretty amazing that they created their own boards," said one of the other students, Robert Cheatle, 19, of Bradford County. "I've tried it, and it's hard."

"I think the average life span's about 10 seconds," Mr. Mackrell said with a laugh. He purposely created a small, deadly battlefield for maximum action in minimum time.

His world is a moonscape of ridges and valleys, with a waterfall and what looks like an abandoned industrial building. The 12 players are exploring it from their own perspectives, crawling over hills and around blind corners and blasting each other in a futuristic,

>Employer Services & Resources

As a PTI alum you have access to employment resources to help your company find quality candidates. PTI students are available to work before and after graduation.

Part-time Jobs

Many students work part-time while attending PTI. Tap into our pool of enthusiastic students. PTI students are available in morning, afternoon or evening blocks of time.

Industry-led Projects

Bringing the workplace into the classroom makes learning real. If you have a project PTI students can tackle, we'd love to add it to our curriculum. It's a win/win situation.

Internships

PTI associate degree and some certificate students complete industry internships. They provide relevant work experience and a chance for employers to test drive the skills PTI graduates possess. Ask us about internships in and out of state.

On-campus Recruiting

Your company can interview PTI students on-campus. Save your company time and money by interviewing

employee prospects here at PTI while you enjoy an uninterrupted, productive day.

Off-campus Recruiting

Some PTI students are anxious to start a career out of state. Graduate Services can dig through resumes, place calls, screen applicants, and schedule interviews at your company site.

Alumni Network

PTI alumni accumulate years of education and work experience including PTI's free brush-up courses. Contact PTI if your firm needs an experienced employee ready to move on to a new challenge.

PTI works hard to make it easy for employers to find the right candidates. Make one phone call to Graduate Services and PTI does the rest—reviews resumes, matches candidates, prescreens applicants, schedules interviews, and provides directions. It's free to both employers and PTI graduates.

Contact Janice Welch, Employment Development Recruiter, at **800.905.9985 extension 5158** or at welch.janice@pti.edu.

Upcoming Dates

Feb. 24, 2007 Visions & Voices High School Show Opening Reception, 11 am to 1 pm

Feb. 24, 2007 Art Careers Exploration Day, 11 am to 1 pm

Apr. and May, 2007 Alumni Brush-up Classes

Jul. 10, 2007 Female Futures in Technology Camp

Jul. 30 - Aug. 1, 2007 IT/Electronics Camp

Jul. 30 - Aug. 1, 2007 Graphic Design/Multimedia Camp

Aug. 1-3, 2007 CAD Camp, Safety and Security Camp, Medical Camp

Check www.pti.edu for the latest event info and registration forms.

Play's the Thing

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"I'd do anything," said Cletus Powers, 19, of Titusville, Crawford County. "If they just let me put the textures in I'd be happy."

"It's like being a movie star," Mr. Madine said. "Everyone would like to be the next Brad Pitt, but there are only 12 of those, 12 movie stars at any one time. That's the world of computer gaming."

Oddly, the class's acknowledged programming superstar, Tyler Reed, 19, of Kane, McKean County, is among the few without game design aspirations.

"When he puts in a line of code, BAM! It works, while the rest of us are debugging for two hours," Mr. Mackrell said.

"I like the programming aspects of things," Mr. Reed said. "I see making games as more of a hobby."

All of them said the class had given them an appreciation for the work that goes into making games, the work involved in detail such as shadows that look real and objects that move when a virtual character bumps them. "The little things make the difference," Mr. Kovash said. "I understand it better. I can look at other games and see how they were made."

The next step for the next session of the class, launched because of the popularity of the first class, will include manipulating the qualities of the game's characters.

"We decided to change the guns from shooting bullets

to shooting marshmallows," Mr. Madine said.

The third-level and so far top-level class will delve into making physical modifications to the characters and weapons. Or, at least, that's Mr. Madine's plan. As fast as things change in the world of computer gaming, being flexible is key.

And how does a gray-bearded 55-year-old keep up? "I stay up late reading a



lot," Mr. Madine said with a laugh. He also spends a lot of time online reading up on new developments and trends.

"There are a lot of textbooks out there, but all of them are crap," he said. Things change too fast. The two years it takes to get a textbook out renders it out of date.

And while he can stay caught up enough on programming to keep leading his bright group of kids, Mr. Madine acknowledged that he lags badly in another key area.

"If I play against them, they destroy me," he said.

> Email from the President



From: Cynthia Reynolds, President, PTI
Subject: Catching Up

It's been a while – let's catch up. Hard to believe we've been at the North Fayette Campus since 2000.

Change is inevitable; if you look around PTI's classrooms that's certainly true. While jeans remain the order of the day, you also see blue medical scrubs and navy police uniforms.

PTI now offers medical programs – Medical Assisting and Surgical Technology (hence the medical scrubs), Medical Coding, Medical Office, and Therapeutic Massage. And we offer a Safety and Security Administration major – that explains the uniforms and badges. In fact, one of our SSA graduates is now also an Allegheny County Police Academy graduate!



We continually add new programs. Our newest, Retail Management, starts this summer bringing us to 19 different degrees; some in an evening on-site/on-line format. For adult students, there are short-term certificate and certification preparation classes.

We've equipped a medical lab, a surgical technology lab, a hospitality lab, a security/forensics lab, a safety/security lab, an SLS room, and a green screen room.

And wow have we grown! Consider this. Our official in-school count recorded this past October is 1,998 full-time PTI students. That certainly makes the halls buzz and the parking lot hum.

We received regional accreditation from the Middle States Association in 2002 and just completed our reaccreditation self-study and team visit. This past year CAAHEP, the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs, accredited our Medical Assisting program. And soon we expect to complete the accreditation process for our Surgical Technology degree.

PTI is constantly changing, evolving and keeping pace with the world around it. But one fundamental will never change: our commitment to our students and graduates. The relationships we've built continue as we reach out to our alumni. If you need us for a transcript, brush-up classes or help landing that next career position, we're here and ready to do what we can. Just call or stop by.

Cynthia

By the way, that's me riding a hovercraft designed by a team of CAD students. Below are SSA students collecting evidence at a mock crime scene. Check out our new Surgical Technology lab in the pic to the left.

>PTI Programs *Available to You!*

PTI continuously evaluates academic program offerings to ensure we meet the ever changing job market. Currently PTI offers these associate in science degree programs:

Business

Business Administration-Accounting

Business Administration-Management

Business Administration-Marketing

Business Administration-Retail Management

Business Administration-Safety and Security Administration

Computer/Technical

Computer Programming

Electronics Engineering Technology

Information Technology-Network Administration

Information Technology-Network Security and Computer Forensics

Design

Computer Aided Drafting-Architectural Drafting

Computer Aided Drafting-Mechanical Drafting

Graphic Design

Multimedia Technologies

Medical

Medical Assisting

Medical Office Administration

Surgical Technology

Travel/Hospitality

Hospitality Management Administration-Hotel Management

Hospitality Management Administration-Restaurant Management

Travel and Tourism Administration

To serve adult students, PTI offers evening programs through the Center for Certification and Adult Learning. Short-term certificates and on-line/on-site

degrees blend convenience and flexibility.

Evening certificate programs include Medical Coding, Therapeutic Massage Practitioner, and Electronics Technology. IT professionals looking for certification preparation can elect instruction in A+ Service Technician, Microsoft Network Professional, or Cisco Certified Networking Associate.

Alumni Tuition Grant

PTI associate degree graduates returning for a second degree or a certificate are eligible to receive a tuition grant equal to 30% of the tuition rate, adjusted for exemptions, in effect at the time of enrollment.

Contact admissions at **412.809.5100** if you'd like to return to PTI.

Student Referral Program

Reward yourself - help a friend. You are eligible to receive a non-cash gift certificate valued at \$75 when you refer a student. Awards are limited to one per year and are issued 30 days after your student starts school.

Submit your referral online. Visit www.pti.edu, go to "Contact PTI" for the "Refer a Student" link.

Transcript Request

Request your PTI transcript any time day or night. Now you can complete your request online. Visit the "Transcript Request" page under "Contact PTI" on www.pti.edu.

Earn Your *Bachelor's Degree*

Interested in earning your bachelor's degree? Lainey Becker, Coordinator of Articulation and Transfer, can help.

If you are ready to go back to school, she can calm your fears, answer your questions, and simplify the credit transfer process.

Contact Lainey Becker at **412.809.5212** or email becker@pti.edu for help.

Articulation arrangements exist between PTI and the following postsecondary institutions:

Art Institute of Pittsburgh
California University of Pennsylvania
Carlow University
Central Pennsylvania College

Duquesne University
Jones International University
LaRoche College
Mountain State University
Point Park University
Robert Morris University
St. Francis University
Salem International University
Savannah College of Art & Design
Seton Hill University
Slippery Rock University
Strayer University
Touro University International
University of Phoenix
University of Pittsburgh - College of General Studies
University of Advancing Technology
West Virginia University, Parkersburg, WV

Continuing Education Day

Join us for PTI's Fifth Annual Continuing Education Day
Tuesday, March 20, 2007
from 10:30 am to 4:30 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 Becker, at **412.809.5212** or becker@pti.edu.

Distinguished Alumnus Award

Nominee's Name _____
First Middle Last Maiden

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Graduation Date _____ Program _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

E-Mail Address

Career Information _____

Achievements _____

Biographical Information _____

Nominated by _____

Phone (____) _____

E-Mail Address

Recognize Alumni

1 Do you know a PTI, Boyd, or Penn Tech graduate who has achieved outstanding career success?

2 Do you know a PTI, Boyd, or Penn Tech graduate who has at least 10 years of career experience?

If you know someone who satisfies #1 and #2, nominate that graduate for PTI's Distinguished Alumnus Award. Please fax or e-mail information to Andrea Chilleo, **412.809.5169** or chilleo.andrea@pti.edu.

PTI and the PA State Police announce the Citizen's Police Academy, a 10-week experience that takes the ordinary citizen inside law enforcement one night a week. If you want to learn more visit www.pti.edu.



Need the Use of a Computer?

Alumni have access to the computer labs at the North Fayette Campus. Visit Graduate Services in Room 607 Monday through Friday 7 am to 6 pm to obtain a username and password that lets you take advantage of this benefit. Reception can assist you after 6 pm.

The computers in Room 207 are available to alumni from 7 am to 10 pm Monday through Thursday, from 7 am to 8 pm Friday, and from 8 am to 4:30 pm Saturday. The lab is not available on Sundays and there is no printing service during school breaks.

On the move?

> Changing

...your mailing address?
...phone number?
...e-mail address?

Please keep Graduate Services in the know. E-mail Andrea at chilleo.andrea@pti.edu, call her at **412.809.5164**, or visit the Alumni page at www.pti.edu under "Contact PTI."

As an alum, you are eligible to earn a non-cash gift certificate valued at \$75 when you refer a student who starts class at PTI. (Awards are made 30 days after the student you refer starts school. Limited to one award per year.)

Please fill out and send to Andrea Chilleo at: Pittsburgh Technical Institute 1111 McKee Rd. Oakdale, PA 15071-3205



Pittsburgh Technical Institute
1111 McKee Rd.
Oakdale, PA 15071-3205

Change of Address/Information

Date _____

Name _____
First Middle Last Maiden

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

E-Mail Address

PTI Program _____

Date of PTI/Boyd/Penn Tech Graduation _____

Current Employer _____

Your Position _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Work Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work E-Mail

Company Website _____

We'd love to hear from you! What's new? _____

Do you know a friend, a relative, or a neighbor who might be interested in attending PTI?

First Middle Last () Phone

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh PA
PERMIT No 1715