

Annual Alumni Newsletter 2008

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Students, Graduates and Employers Make Better Connections

To expand services to students, alumni and employers, PTI introduced **Career Connect**, an online career search and recruiting tool. Now graduates and employers can use this nationwide system to match the best candidates with the right jobs. You can find it under the Alumni tab or the Community tab on www.pti.edu.

Career Connect is a real-time extension of PTI's Career Services department. Associate Director of Career Services, Josephine Smith, states, "This new system is not changing the service we provide or lessening the attention we give our graduates, but it is streamlining our processes. We consider it both a high tech and soft touch approach."

You continue to receive the personal time and attention you have come to expect from Career Services. However, with less required paperwork, the Career Services team can spend more time identifying specific needs, job search proactively, and concentrate on closely matching employers' needs with yours and those of your fellow graduates.

You can identify and peruse millions of job opportunities anytime, anywhere with thousands of companies through national job boards. You can create a personal profile, access a resume builder and post job search documents such as your resume, cover letters, transcripts, and work samples. Additionally, you can review job postings, establish alerts for positions matching your interests, and apply for jobs online. Interviews can be tracked and downloaded with reminders to an Outlook calendar.

After registering and logging in, employers can post a profile, access resumes and communicate directly with desired candidates. Using Career Connect, employers can review PTI announcements and schedule interviews with PTI's graduates at no cost.

According to Denise Robinson, Associate Director of Career Services, "Employers have been very receptive to the new system. There's been no hesitation to register their companies. Across the board, students, graduates and employers really seem to like using Career Connect." Check out Career Connect by visiting www.pti.edu/alumni/career_connect.





Christine (Grago) Douglas
October 2005, Graphic Design

As a Directory Designer for Harris Connect, LLC, Christine designs book covers and CD labels. She enjoys knowing that thousands of people see her work. She also is working on a degree in Art Education and hopes to touch many more lives through art. Perhaps Christine was influenced by her PTI instructors who taught her to think outside of the box even more than she thought possible.

Jason Connor

October 1999, Computer Systems Specialist

Approaching ten years since his PTI graduation, Jason keeps in touch with many friends and teachers from PTI and still works for General Nutrition Inc., the company where he interned. He combines managerial and technical duties as a Client Technology Supervisor, responsible for a team of technicians that provides laptop, desktop, printer and mobile device support. Jason turned 30 this past summer and, with a great family, friends and job, he realized he feels successful rather than older.

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? Contact Christine Ioli at ioli.christine@pti.edu.

Stephen Chabassol
October 2006, Multimedia

As an Assistant Web Designer for Carnegie Mellon University, Stephen is responsible for promoting the CMU brand by creating interest in the school's culture, services and community. He uses many of the skills he learned at PTI and continues to keep in touch with fellow grads, typically via Facebook. Before he retires he hopes to be well-known and respected for both art and music.



Graduate Award
Winners

January 2008

Julie Burnsworth, BA – Safety and Security Administration, Caliguri Award

Michael Beresh, BA – Safety and Security Administration, Caliguri Award

Greg Bergman, BA – Safety and Security Administration, Caliguri Award

Chris Linden, Graphic Design, Caliguri Award

Donald Hardisky, Electronics Engineering Technology, Caliguri Award

Mary Stock, Business Administration, Community Service Award

Corey Walker, IT – Network Security and Computer Forensics, Caliguri Award

John Watkins, Computer Aided Drafting, Caliguri Award

July 2008

Casey Collins, IT – Network Security and Computer Forensics, Caliguri Award

Jocelyn Dickey, Hospitality Management Administration, Community Service Award

David Edwards, Computer Aided Drafting, Caliguri Award

Jason Fisher, Electronics Engineering Technology, Caliguri Award

Nick George, Hospitality Management Administration, Caliguri Award

Brendon Gonzalez, Multimedia Technologies, Caliguri Award

Clarence Harn, Surgical Technology, Caliguri Award and J.R. McCartan Award

Melinda Koslik, Graphic Design, Caliguri Award

Stephanie Kurcina, Medical Office Administration, Caliguri Award

Shawn Meloni, BA – Safety and Security Administration, Caliguri Award

Marquia Meyers, Medical Assisting, Caliguri Award

Jamie Sollinger, BA – Marketing, Caliguri Award

Edward Wonevicz, BA – Accounting Administration, Caliguri Award

October 2008

William Archer, Electronics Engineering Technology, Caliguri Award

Ricky Britner, Computer Aided Drafting, J.R. McCartan Award

Kristy Dobis, Medical Assisting, Caliguri Award

Kari Dornier, Graphic Design, Community Service Award

Heather Grogan, Multimedia Technologies, Caliguri Award

Paige Matics, BA – Marketing, Caliguri Award

Lacy McFadden, BA – Safety and Security Administration, Caliguri Award

Michael McGarry, Computer Aided Drafting, Caliguri Award

Michael McGarvey, IT – Network Administration, Caliguri Award

Laurette Misch, Hospitality Management Administration, Caliguri Award

Sarah Shellaberger, Graphic Design, Caliguri Award

Rich Dolata

June 1973, Electronics

A wastewater plant manager for Woodard & Curran, it's no surprise Rich's motto is "don't be afraid to get dirty, it usually pays better." This past year Rich taught himself the programming of his company's new A&B Scada System that gathers data to help control equipment and conditions in remote locations.

Zac Grace

July 2006, Graphic Design

Zac is a Graphic Design Assistant with Roaring Spring Paper Products where he creates notebooks and folders for colleges and universities across the country. Additionally, he works on projects for several major retailers and started his own graphics business specializing in web design and photography. A musician, Zac is developing a sponsorship with a cymbal company to use its cymbals in his band.

Eric Kapsar

July 2006, Computer Aided Drafting

Eric's days are spent designing concrete form work for Patent Construction Systems. A PlayStation 3 gamer and avid hunter, Eric never imagined he'd be sitting in an office all day. Fortunately he enjoys his work and the fast-paced environment.

Shawn Kelly

January 1984, Architectural Drafting and Design

While his days as a Senior Estimator with Crawford Consulting Services keep him focused on commercial buildings, Shawn spends his nights and weekends working as a residential architectural designer at his own business. Passionate about architecture, Shawn is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), American Institute of Building Design (AIBD) and is studying for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) AP certification.

David A. Lobaugh

January 2002, Computer Aided Drafting

David graduated from PTI at age 35, pleased to discover he still had the ability to learn and amazed by how many different titles CAD operators can hold. As the only CAD guy at the AEC Group Inc., he wears many hats – electrical estimator, project manager, and handles all of its CAD drawings. David has had the opportunity to bid on a \$500K job and is looking forward to bidding on his first \$1 million project. Before he retires, he hopes to be irreplaceable.

Santana Mowris

October 2008, Travel and Tourism

Santana works as a Marketing Representative for Harrah's Casino. She books gaming customers on private charters to casinos across the country, often escorting the flights to places like Atlantic City, Reno and Biloxi. Although the paperwork and details can become stressful, she loves establishing relationships with customers and the opportunity to travel. She is so pleased with her PTI experience, she encouraged her brother, Cody, to enroll in the Safety and Security program.



Ryan Myers

October 2003, Business Administration

Growing up, Ryan had to drag himself to school and had no idea what he wanted to do with his future. Changed by his PTI experience, he pursued a bachelor's in Management Information Systems and is working on a master's degree with the hopes of becoming a college professor. Ryan is working for CGI Federal, an IT consulting firm contracted by the Federal Government – a career that blends his passion for technology with his problem solving and management skills.

Jason Spiker

October 2001, Computer Aided Drafting

Jason spent the past four and a half years working for PanelWrights, a full-service distributor of Structural Insulated Panels (SIP). As Lead Designer he works directly with his clients to design homes, commercial buildings and schools. He has produced more than 300 designs including one for the Cherokee Central School in Cherokee, NC, the largest SIP project in the world. Jason designs because it gives him great satisfaction to know he's a part of making people's dreams come true.



Jordan Roth

July 2006, Information Technology – Network Administration

As the Systems Administrator for Hughes Xerographic, Jordan takes care of the company's daily IT needs and works with customers to incorporate Xerox devices with their existing printing, faxing and scanning networks. He enjoys helping customers by implementing solutions that make their lives easier and their businesses more productive. Jordan also donated his time to a local private school by redoing its entire computer network and telephone systems.

Joe Pekala

October 2008, Information Technology – Network Administration

Very pleased with the doors PTI opened for him, Joe is now a Network Administrator with LIFE Pittsburgh, which provides living independence for the elderly. Joe also loves to travel and hopes to someday take a Caribbean cruise.

Chris Preisendorfer

October 2005, Computer Aided Drafting

Chris began classes at PTI less than a month before his 51st birthday with the hopes of starting a new career. He is now lead 3D design draftsman for Lighthouse Electric where he takes pride in his designs and seeing them turn out exactly as planned. He also is conducting a patent search for one of his designs that will make it easier for his company to install its services. Chris is especially proud of his involvement with the CAD advisory board at PTI.

For more graduate stories, go to www.pti.edu/profiles.

January 2009 edition

The Annual 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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Programs + Campus = Growth in 2008!

A lot has happened at your alma mater. The campus is growing and changing and course offerings are expanding...if you graduated more than a year ago, you'd never know it's the same place.

This past April, the **Pennsylvania Department of Education granted PTI approval to offer an associate in science degree in Home and Commercial Systems Integration (HCSI)**. Students currently enrolled in HCSI receive a certificate upon completion but have the option to complete the degree program. The first degree class starts July 2009.

PTI introduced its six new educational divisions this past May. Associate degree and certificate programs now are grouped by discipline in one of these schools: **Business, Building Technology, Criminal Justice, Design, Healthcare and Technology**. For a breakdown of how the programs align with each School, see the list on page 6.

Also in May, **PTI's Surgical Technology program received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)**. Going forward, students can sit for the national certification test and, upon passing, are Certified Surgical Technologists. PTI became a testing site so students can take the CST exam during their internship. PTI pays for the exam one time; additional attempts are at the student's expense. Past graduates are eligible to sit for the exam and should access www.nbtsa.org for details.

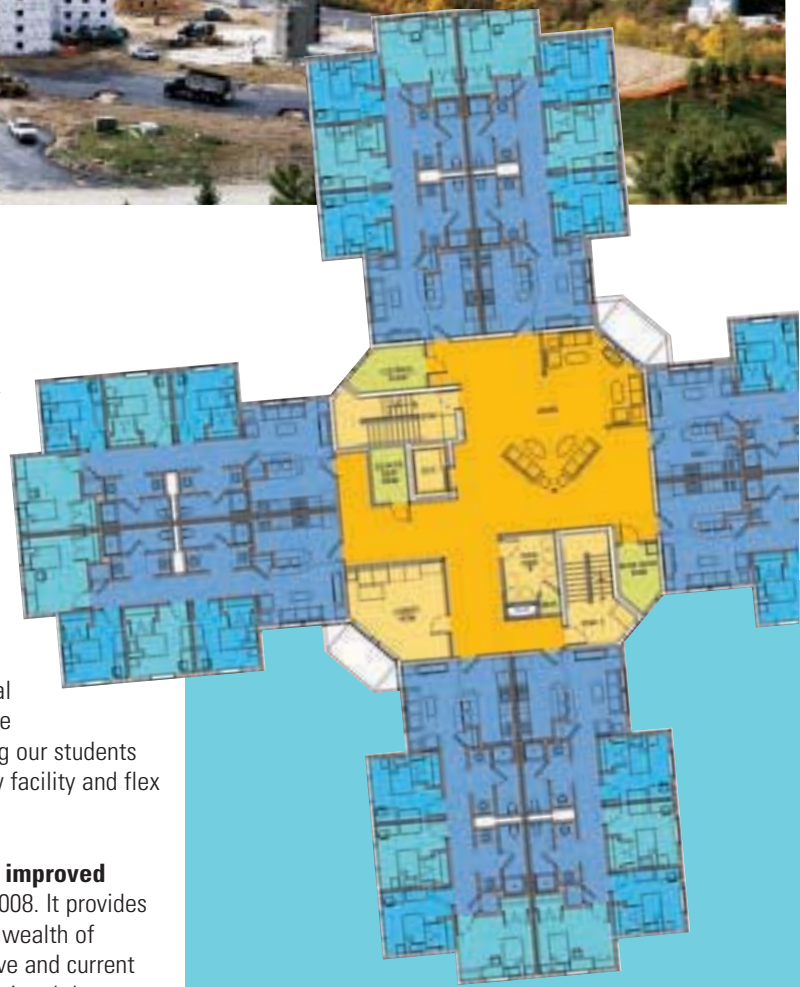
July included a grand opening of special interest to Multimedia students. To support the Video/3-D concentration, PTI opened a 2,400 square foot **multimedia studio** that includes two sound studios, four fully sound-proofed recording booths and a control room. Students have access to state-of-the-industry equipment including high definition cameras, special fluorescent lighting for video production, green cyclorama seamless background, 16-channel audio mixer, high

definition editing system, 50" and 42" plasma display monitors, and so much more. Instructor Mark Dobrowolski, who played an integral role in planning the lab, says working in the studios allows students to focus "on the high-impact visual effects that employers are demanding. I enjoy seeing our students experiment with this new facility and flex their creativity."

PTI launched a **new and improved website** in September 2008. It provides ease of navigation and a wealth of information for prospective and current students as well as alumni and the community. Read "Check It Out" on page 7 or see for yourself at www.pti.edu.

In November 2008, PTI received approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to begin recruiting for its new **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Technology** program. The first class begins July 2009. During this fifteen-month course, students share time between the North Fayette Campus and the nearby Parkway West Career and Technology Center. Graduates will be prepared to enter the field with the skills needed as HVAC repair technicians, installers, mechanics, technical troubleshooters, sheet metal workers, and building maintenance employees. Concern for the environment, fluctuating fuel costs and the increasing demand for high efficiency climate control equipment and refrigeration units support the need for trained HVAC technicians.

Beginning December 2008, students have a place to congregate during breaks and before and after classes. The **Student Lounge** is furnished with tables and chairs for playing games, a big screen TV, and comfortable



New on-campus student housing

July 2008 marked a significant first at PTI – the ground-breaking for **on-campus student housing**. More than 40% of the student body resides in PTI's student housing, so the time has come to start offering residence on site. The initial phase of construction includes three apartment-style buildings designed to house approximately 375 students. Each furnished apartment includes four single bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and two bathrooms. Construction is proceeding on target with completion expected this summer. **Follow the progress with the Live Construction Cam at www.pti.edu.**

sofas and chairs to settle into and relax. In the future, the Student Lounge may include video games, board games, and vending machines.

The next time you visit the Oakdale area, be sure to stop by to see how PTI is growing and finding new ways to help students achieve success.

What PTI's Accreditation Means To You

In 2002 PTI received regional accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, an association promoting educational excellence in colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and surrounding states, plus Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and several international locations. Prior to accrediting an institution, Middle States evaluators examine the institution as a whole and its programs, achievements, facilities and services.

PTI voluntarily sought evaluation and accreditation in order to reinforce our ability to set and achieve institutional goals and acknowledge the quality of our students' education. After earning initial accreditation in 2002, PTI was re-evaluated in 2005 and earned a ten-year accreditation reaffirmation. During its evaluation, the Middle States team could find no areas in which they required improvement.

As a PTI graduate you can be confident your degree is from an institution that has received the highest level of academic accreditation and status shared by colleges. If you plan to return to PTI to pursue another degree or certification, make sure your employer is aware of PTI's Middle States accreditation when considering education expense reimbursement. If you choose to continue your education elsewhere, make sure that institution knows your credits are awarded by a Middle States member institution.

Other local schools accredited by Middle States are Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University and Robert Morris University. For more information about the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, visit www.msche.org.

Aim Higher and Hire PTI PTI's Career Fair

February 18, 2009
10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Meet with employers to discuss career opportunities in:

- **Information Technology**
- **Computer Programming**
- **Electronics**
- **Business, Accounting, Marketing**
- **Safety and Security**
- **Hospitality/Travel and Tourism**

Bring your resume to PTI's Gallery to meet with potential employers or Christine Ioli, Career Services Alumni Coordinator. For more information, visit www.pti.edu and click on Events.

Brush-Up Courses

PTI offers brush-up courses to all PTI alumni, including Boyd School and Penn Technical Institute graduates, at the North Fayette Campus in Oakdale, PA. Brush-up courses are an opportunity to stay current with software and skills that employers value, demonstrate your dedication to your profession, and potentially increase your marketability. There is no charge to attend and a certificate of completion is provided.

Brush-up classes are held each spring and fall and focus on a variety of topics. Course descriptions, dates and registration information can now be found in the **Events section at www.pti.edu**. If you have questions or would like to suggest a topic, contact Christine Ioli, Alumni Coordinator, at ioli.christine@pti.edu or **412.854.1483**.

“I was asked to create a Flash animation for my job. Had I not taken that class the week before, I would have been lost.”

Shannon Woodward,
2001 Graphic Design graduate

Attended the Fall 2008 Designing for Print & Web course

“The course prepared me to upgrade to AutoCAD 2008 with my firm. I have become more productive due to this class.”

Greg Spon,
2000 CAD graduate

Attended the Spring 2008 AutoCAD 2008 course

“I use Word and Excel on a daily basis and don't fully utilize the software. Our instructor was able to show us tips that I didn't know or had completely forgotten about. Thank you!”

Julie A. Valo,
1999 Graphic Design graduate

Attended the Spring 2008 Microsoft Office course

PTI is **LinkedIn!**

Looking for a great way to network with other professionals nationwide and throughout the world? Join PTI colleagues and create a profile at www.linkedin.com. LinkedIn is an online interconnected system of career-minded individuals seeking business opportunities, knowledge sharing, professional advancement, and new contacts. Form valuable connections by inviting trusted contacts to link to your profile and see where social networking can take your career. Check out the PTI-Pittsburgh Technical Institute group.

New Schools Break it Down

PTI offers the following associate in science degree and certificate programs:

School of Business

Business Administration

- Accounting Administration
- Management
- Marketing
- Retail Management

Hospitality Management Administration

- Hotel and Casino Management
- Restaurant Management
- Travel and Tourism Management

School of Building Technology

Home and Commercial Systems Integration

HVAC Technology

School of Criminal Justice

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

Medical Office Administration

Surgical Technology

Therapeutic Massage Practitioner

School of Technology

A+ Service Technician

Cisco Certified Networking Associate

Computer Programming

Electronics Engineering Technology

Information Technology

- Network Administration
- Network Security and Computer Forensics

MCITP: Database Administrator

Microsoft Network Professional

Perks for PTI Alumni

Your degree and the career preparation it delivers are not the only benefits of a PTI education. There are many ways PTI continues to serve you.

Alumni Tuition Grant

PTI associate degree students returning for a second degree or certificate are eligible to receive a grant equal to 30% of the tuition rate in effect at the time of enrollment. Contact admissions at **412.809.5100** if you'd like to return to PTI.

Alumni Family Tuition Grant

Children, grandchildren, spouses and siblings of PTI graduates may receive a grant to attend PTI.

Brush-Up Courses

As technology is ever-changing, alumni have the opportunity to keep their skills fresh by attending brush-up courses at PTI at no charge. See the article on page 5 for more information.

Unlimited Placement Assistance

You may have sought assistance from Career Services for part-time job, internship and first-job placement, but it doesn't stop there. Christine Ioli, Alumni Coordinator, is dedicated to helping PTI graduates find new jobs. Whether you're relocating, seeking advancement or looking for a fresh start, contact Christine at ioli.christine@pti.edu or **412.854.1483**.

Referral Program

Want to refer a student to your alma mater? You can earn a \$75 gift certificate 30 days after your referral starts class. Just click on "Student Referral Program" in the Alumni drop down menu on www.pti.edu.

Online Resources

The Alumni section of www.pti.edu includes links to Career Connect (see article on page 1), Transcript Requests, Frequently Asked Questions, and Information Updates. Click on Contact Career Services to let us know if you're interested in providing a testimonial about your PTI experience or you'd like to be featured in the online Graduate Gallery.

Upcoming Events

Check out the Events section of www.pti.edu for updates throughout the year.

February 7, 14, 21, 24, 28, 2009
Massage Clinics
by appointment

February 18, 2009
PTI's Career Fair
10:30 am – 2:30 pm
(Article on pg 5)

February 28, 2009
Visions & Voices High School Student Show Opening Reception
11 am – 1 pm

February 28, 2009
Art Careers Exploration Day
11 am – 1 pm

March/April
Brush-Up Courses
See www.pti.edu for details.

March 7, 14, 21, 25, 28, 2009
Massage Clinics
by appointment

March 26, 2009
Continuing Education Day
11 am – 4 pm
(Article on pg 7)

April 4, 2009
Massage Clinic
by appointment

April 22, 2009
Class Start

May 1, 2009
Concept Car Competition
6 pm

May 2, 9, 16, 30, 2009
Massage Clinics
by appointment

June 6, 13, 17, 27, 2009
Massage Clinics
by appointment

July 8, 2009
Graduation
6 pm

July 14, 2009
Female Futures in Technology Workshop
8 am – 5 pm

July 28, 2009
Class Start

August 3 – 5, 2009
Summer Academies
3-days/2-nights

October 12, 2009
Graduation
6 pm

October 20, 2009
Class Start



Check It Out!

Saturday Student Massage Clinics

Are you living in the Pittsburgh area and looking for a great massage? Need a gift for someone who has everything? Want to give back to your alma mater and get something wonderful in return? PTI's Therapeutic Massage program now offers Saturday Student Massage Clinics. Students working toward their massage certificate practice their relaxation and healing skills while you enjoy a 45-minute full-body massage in our on-campus, spa-like massage lab for only \$25. Gift certificates also may be purchased. Appointments are available most Saturdays at 10 am, 11 am, Noon and 1 pm. Check out the Events section of www.pti.edu for a current list of clinic dates. To schedule a

Join us for PTI's

Seventh Annual Continuing Education Day

**Thursday, March 26, 2009
11 am to 4 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.lainey@pti.edu.

message or purchase a gift certificate, contact Deanna Markesteyn at markesteyn.deanna@pti.edu or at **412.370.6719**.

PTI.EDU New and Improved

Fall 2008 included the launch of a brand new website for PTI. The address www.pti.edu remains the same, but you'll find a new look and more content: a gallery of student and graduate profiles, videos, student projects and the continuously updated construction cam to watch the completion of on-campus student housing. New features include a quick links menu, search bar, feedback form and 360° Virtual Campus Tour. A great source of information on programs, housing, financial aid, events, student activities, career services, and so much more – be sure to check it out and recommend it to others interested in learning more about PTI. And don't forget to refer potential students using the online form.

More Ways to Stay in Touch with PTI

PTI's very own cover band, **Some Other Band**, featuring **Mike Santaspirt, Eric Joseph, Mark Dobrowolski, Tom Estlack and others**, plays at a variety of local events and venues. Check out the band's website www.someotherband.com for upcoming appearances and plan to meet up with fellow alumni and instructors.

Enjoy a sunny afternoon at **Moraine State Park's annual regatta** and watch PTI students and staff race a home-made float in the "Whatever Floats Your Boat Race." For details about the 2009 regatta, stay tuned to moraineregatta.com.

PTI Goes Global

Wherever your travels take you, take PTI along. Ask a friend or fellow tourist to capture your picture wearing a PTI T-shirt, sweatshirt, ball cap or holding something that says PTI in front of a recognizable landmark, under a famous street sign, or near a unique location and we'll add it to our image photostream on Flickr. To see pictures of a staff member wearing a PTI T-shirt deep in the Gulf of Mexico, a student in Orlando, or a faculty member brushing up on international relations with a Bermudian police officer (*left*), just go to www.flickr.com/photos/ptiedu/collections and click on "PTI Goes Global." To submit a photo, email it with a brief description to rosa.susan@pti.edu.

Love the theater? PTI's **Drama Club** performs at least twice a year in the Gallery. Keep an eye on the **Student Activities Calendar** at www.pti.edu for performance dates.

As you're cleaning out your closets this spring, keep in mind that many PTI students need professional clothing for interviews and new jobs. Each spring and fall, the Business Department arranges a **New to You Sale** for students to purchase gently used clothing. Nothing costs more than \$1 and students receive a \$2 voucher toward their purchases. Donations always are welcome.

PTI's Bookstore Now Online

Interested in purchasing from the bookstore, but can't make it to campus? Access it online at www.pti.edu/bookstore. The new webpage includes a description of the types of products carried in the store, phone and email contact information for questions and order assistance, and a link to the 360° Virtual Tour of the bookstore.

We regret to announce...

The passing of

Vince Criscito, Career Services Placement Coordinator, February 2008

Ben DeSure, General Education Instructor, December 2008