

CLARION

magazine

WINTER | 2026

THE PEOPLE OF PENNINWEST

PennWest University – Clarion



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Golden Eagles,

Together we are establishing powerful partnerships and lasting connections that define the Power of PennWest. Our shared values — collaboration, innovation, and community — continue to guide our progress and shape a future rooted in possibility.

This year brought new momentum. The launch of our AI Center signals a bold commitment to preparing students for success in a rapidly changing workforce. Across our campuses and communities, we are building a

next-generation university where practical, purpose-driven education opens doors and changes lives.

In all our work, we strive to live the PennWest Way — ensuring every person leaves each interaction feeling heard, respected, and valued. This culture of care and collaboration is essential to who we are and who we aspire to be.

In these pages, you'll meet just a few of the remarkable Golden Eagles making a difference — faculty mentors, Sports Hall of Fame inductees, and students and graduates breaking new ground in their fields. Their journeys reflect the strength, purpose, and spirit embodied by the People of PennWest.

Thank you for the pride, support, and spirit you bring to PennWest. Together, we are building a remarkable future — one story, one student, and one connection at a time.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Dr. Jon Anderson

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CLARION

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After graduating from Clarion in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in communications, Mike Miller put his degree to work as an intern in the front offices of the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Steelers and the Indianapolis Colts. He had no idea how those decisions would alter his career path.

THE DIGITAL

ALUMNI MAGAZINES GO PAPERLESS TO BOOST SUSTAINABILITY AND EXPAND REACH

By Tina Clark

PennWest has transitioned to a digital format for its three alumni magazines – Cal Review, Clarion Magazine and The Boro – delivering more content, greater accessibility and a seamless reading experience right to your inbox.

“We’ve been exploring this option since the COVID pandemic, as have a number of universities across the country,” said Jim Geiger, vice president for PennWest Advancement. “It’s really a trend now, fueled by green initiatives and the rising costs of printing and postage.”

The digital transformation puts the magazines directly at your fingertips, with bonus links to video, photos, podcast episodes and more.

“Alumni will receive the magazine directly in their email inboxes and have easy access via the PennWest webpage,” said Kelly Repinski, vice president for University Communications and Marketing. “The platform we’re using allows us to embed the magazine on our PennWest website for seamless, convenient viewing.”

L E R A

The environmental benefits are substantial. PennWest has more than 165,000 alumni who receive the 40-page magazine twice yearly.

That amounts to 3.3 million pages. Digital magazines reduce PennWest's carbon footprint by eliminating the use of paper and ink, and by eliminating the emissions resulting from the printing process and from physical delivery of printed magazines.

Beyond environmental impact, fiscal responsibility played an important role in the decision. Geiger said the magazine is the division's single biggest expense – about \$200,000 per issue for all three campuses.

“Even publishing twice a year, that's significant,” he said. “We're looking across the university to maintain as much of our money as we can to support students.”

Advancement is responsible for fundraising, donor relations and alumni engagement. It includes teams that raise funds to provide student scholarships and philanthropic support for PennWest and its campuses.

Geiger acknowledges that some readers prefer a printed magazine, but he encourages alumni to explore the many benefits of the digital product.

“The digital format allows us to share more content, including alumni achievements, campus innovations, and faculty and student stories. No more waiting months for the next issue; stories, videos and archives are just a click away,” Repinski said.

“It allows us to engage in real time with alumni,” Geiger said. “Readers can click on a link and send an email on the spot, or click a link and apply to graduate school, or make a gift, should the mood strike.”

Finally, moving to a digital magazine greatly enhances accessibility.

“With more than 200,000 PennWest alumni, we understand the importance of staying connected through mobile devices,” Repinski said. “Our new digital magazine is accessible anytime, anywhere – whether you're at home, on the go, or in a different time zone.”

THE POWER OF PENN

WHERE POSSIBILITY

At every level, PennWest is focused on helping students thrive — on campus, in their careers, and in their communities. Guided by core values of learning, growth, collaboration, and culture, every PennWest experience is designed to foster meaningful engagement and lifelong success.

As we look ahead, we embrace our role as a next-generation university — a place where practical, purpose-driven education meets possibility.

This work is grounded in a shared commitment to a culture where every person feels heard, respected, and empowered to contribute. Known as The PennWest Way, this approach shapes everything from how teams collaborate to how students are supported.

As President Jon Anderson marks his first year at the helm of PennWest, the university is already seeing the impact of a clear, student-focused vision. From the launch of the Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies, to the groundbreaking of a new science center on the California campus, to the expansion of athletic opportunities, momentum is building across the university.

Listen In: The Power of PennWest Podcast

Hosted by President Anderson, this podcast explores the people and stories that shape our campuses. Through conversations with students, faculty, alumni, and community members, we uncover the connections, achievements, and shared spirit that define PennWest.

[TO SPOTIFY PAGE](#)

ER WEST

MEETS PURPOSE

The following updates offer a snapshot of the priorities, projects, and people driving PennWest forward.

Shaping the Future: New Strategic Plan in Development

A university-wide strategic plan is now underway. Through a collaborative process involving faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners, the plan will prioritize student success, academic excellence, operational efficiency, and measurable impact.

Sharpening Focus, Expanding Opportunity

To better align academic offerings with workforce needs, PennWest has launched three new schools: Education, Business, and Nursing. These schools will deliver more focused, career-ready programs in high-demand fields — and serve as regional partners to employers in healthcare, education, and business by providing a strong, local talent pipeline.

Student-First Focus

As PennWest looks to the year ahead, one priority stands above all: creating a stronger, more supportive experience for students. That means improving learning spaces through a new Facilities Master Plan, refining academic programs to better connect students with careers, and continuing to build a leadership team that puts students first.

It also means reaching further into western Pennsylvania — partnering with schools, employers, and communities to expand access and opportunity. A forthcoming capital campaign will help fund scholarships, programs, and the spaces where students learn and grow.

Voices That Inspire: The People of PennWest

At the heart of it all is the people of PennWest — from first-generation students to faculty innovators and alumni leaders. Their stories bring the mission of PennWest to life.

We invite you to read their stories — and to be part of the next chapter.

THE PEOPLE OF PENNWEST



Dr. Kim Schwabenbauer

Exercise Science Professor
Elite Athlete and Expert Educator
Former Pittsburgh Steelers Dietitian

*"I've done 26 (Ironmans).
So, I've seen the world that way
and been able to experience it
as an athlete."*

[READ SCHWABENBAUER'S STORY](#)

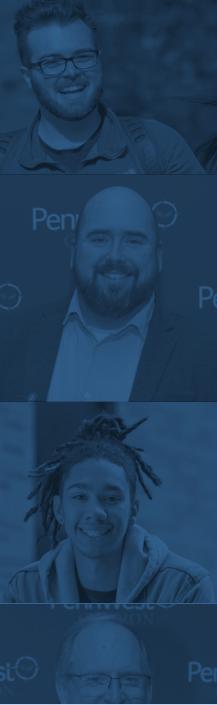


Timothy John

Biology/Pre-Medicine Major
Student Trustee
Navy Reservist

*"I'm going to give my best to
this country. It was a solidifying
moment to realize that this is
where I belong."*

[READ JOHN'S STORY](#)



CeCe Blasdell

Communication Sciences and Disorders Major
Peer Mentor
Mindfulness Practitioner

“I feel like (peer mentoring) was just such a great thing, and I hope that other freshmen and new incoming students can experience that as well.”

[READ BLASDELL'S STORY](#)



Dr. Andrew Turner

Passionate Environmental Scientist
Advocate for Experiential Learning
Mentor with a Purpose

“One thing we talk about a lot is finding your passion, finding something that you really love. You want to be able to move through your career and have enthusiasm for it, not just at the beginning, but in the middle and the end of your career as well.”

[READ TURNER'S STORY](#)



Rachel Kister '24

Communication Graduate
Community Builder
Former Student Trustee

“Growth comes from stepping outside your comfort zone. Whether it’s leading a student organization or traveling to a new place, I want to keep pushing myself forward.”

[READ KISTER'S STORY](#)

Planting seeds for success

PennWest's commitment to regional education

By Kristin Brockett



For more than 150 years, the California, Clarion and Edinboro campuses have been deeply rooted in western Pennsylvania's educational ecosystem. As part of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education, PennWest offers accessible, career-focused education that meets regional workforce needs and supports social mobility.

The true measure of this mission lies in the impact of our Fighting Scots, Golden Eagles and Vulcans who are actively enriching their communities — from the shores of Lake Erie to the hills of southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond. They serve as dedicated social workers, teachers, business leaders, nurses, artists, school administrators, environmental scientists and more, changing lives and proving the power of a PennWest education.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

To enrich the learning experiences of K-12 students and to ensure that the university remains a vibrant and accessible resource for the region's students, PennWest is actively revitalizing its engagement with area school districts.

Casey Beightol, executive director of Undergraduate Admissions, said initiatives include proactive outreach to administrators, updates to the dual enrollment program, customized on-campus experiences and a 39% increase in off-campus events.

"Our recent efforts have centered on strengthening ties with the local high school communities," Beightol said.

"We are connecting high school students, counselors, principals and superintendents with PennWest Admissions staff, students and faculty to have engaging conversations about the education PennWest provides and how we can support their schools."

In addition to regular outreach by Admissions counselors and visits from representatives of the PennWest leadership team, faculty members are contributing their expertise to local schools through seminars, workshops and discussions focused on career pathways.

The Office of Admissions has also introduced unique on-campus visit options like Twilight Tours and is working with cohorts of local admitted students to support them as they transition toward enrollment.

"This keeps them engaged throughout the school year, ensuring we meet each student's unique needs," Beightol said. "We are here to help and support them every step of the way."

DUAL ENROLLMENT: BRIDGING THE GAP

PennWest's commitment to accessibility and affordability extends to high school students through its dual enrollment program. The program provides high school juniors and seniors the opportunity to get a head start by taking college classes while still in high school.

Recent enhancements to the program include a simplified application process, the ability to earn unlimited credits, an expanded selection of courses, and a reduced cost, with nearly 100 classes available for just \$75 per credit hour for Pennsylvania students and \$87 for non-residents.

REVITALIZING ENGAGEMENT WITH AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- 48 bus visits held across the campuses, with 1,160 students participating.
- 28 high school award ceremonies and decision day programs attended to celebrate students committed to PennWest and provide certificates to students receiving scholarships.
- 816 off-campus events, including high school visits, college fairs, community college visits, Instant Decision Days and scholarship awards nights, a 39% increase over the last recruitment cycle.
- Admissions staff visited Ohio, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia and the District of Columbia.



Interest in dual enrollment is soaring, with participation up 66% since spring 2024.

Looking ahead, PennWest’s College of Science, Technology and Business will launch a pilot program this fall, offering dual enrollment courses at Union City High School and Moniteau High School.

ON-CAMPUS LEARNING IN ACTION

A cornerstone of PennWest’s commitment to community engagement is offering immersive, hands-on learning opportunities that bring high school students directly to its campuses. These experiences are often made possible through the support of proud PennWest alumni — many of whom return to campus with their own students to inspire the next generation of learners.

The following are just a few examples of the hands-on learning experiences hosted on PennWest campuses:



BotsIQ

Each year, hundreds of students from western Pennsylvania visit PennWest California to participate in the BotsIQ Finals Competition at the Convocation Center. This manufacturing workforce development initiative, led by the Pittsburgh Chapter National Tooling & Machining Foundation, introduces students to careers in manufacturing. Guided by high school teachers and industry mentors, student teams design and build 15-pound combat robots to battle in gladiator-style competitions. The 2025 event welcomed 595 students from 47 regional schools.



Biology Boot Camp

In this week-long academy, high school students learn how to study wildlife populations, evaluate their habitats and test for disease-causing pathogens. In PennWest Clarion's state-of-the-art labs, students use cutting edge molecular biology tools for DNA extraction, amplification and characterization. Room, board and instructional supplies are covered by a grant from the Pennsylvania General Energy Company and Robindale.



Edinboro Art Day

Edinboro Art Day invites high school students to explore PennWest Edinboro’s diverse art programs. With guidance from faculty and current students, participants engage in hands-on workshops spanning animation, digital film and photography, graphic design, ceramics, drawing and painting, illustration, jewelry and metals, sculpture, printmaking and wood/furniture design.



Mathematics Competition

PennWest Clarion welcomed more than 200 high school students to its 38th annual High School Mathematics Competition. Hosted by faculty and students from the School of Education, the event challenges students with a variety of problem-solving tasks and promotes interest in mathematical fields.



Pi Day

In celebration of National Pi Day (March 14), PennWest's Department of Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics hosts hundreds of local high school students on the Edinboro campus. The event includes interactive lectures, trivia contests, memorization challenges and other pi-themed activities. Students are also introduced to careers in mathematics, actuarial science, statistics and the expanding field of data analytics.

Hear from PennWest students and faculty leading Pi Day activities as they share why math matters and how it shapes future careers. [WATCH VIDEO](#)



Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad tournaments at PennWest's Clarion and California campuses bring together more than 650 high school students for rigorous academic competition. Participants take part in team and individual events across a wide range of scientific disciplines, including biology, chemistry, physics, engineering, earth science and computer science. These events challenge students to apply both conceptual knowledge and hands-on skills in dynamic, real-world scenarios.

PennWest's impact on western Pennsylvania continues to grow through programs and partnerships that open doors for the region's students. By connecting classrooms to campuses, enhancing access through dual enrollment, and providing hands-on experiences that spark curiosity, the university is preparing future leaders while strengthening the communities it serves.

HITTING THE DIRT

CHIEF OF POLICE BRAVES HEAT, RAIN AND MUD IN ATV RACES

By Tina Clark



He was cold and wet, exhausted, both mentally and physically, from slogging through mud on a four-wheeler after a night of torrential rain in Washington, Georgia. It was March 2024, and Jason Hendershot had just completed his first race in 30 years. He thought it might also be the last.

He decided to give it another try. Fast forward a month to Crawfordsville, Indiana.

“We got there, and it’s raining. I said, ‘I don’t know if I want to do this again,’” he said. “About half an hour before the start, I said, ‘I drove all the way out here, I’m going to go ride.’”

On Saturdays from mid-February through late October, Hendershot, chief of police for PennWest’s Clarion and Edinboro campuses, can be found astride his four-wheeler, navigating dirt tracks, as an ATV racer in the Grand National Cross-Country series.

It’s his third year of racing in this season of his life – Hendershot is 51 – but as a nephew of a founder of High Point Raceway, a motocross track near Morgantown, West Virginia, he grew up around motorsports.

“My uncle Carol and his brother Jack started it in 1977. (My uncle) had three sons, and they all raced motorcycles, so I was around it when I was younger. I started riding dirt bikes at age 10,” Hendershot said.

After four-wheelers came out in the mid-1980s, he raced them into his late teens.

“I was focused on college, then work, then all of the other things that come with being an adult.”

With some life changes during the past few years, he has made time to get back on the circuit.

“I went to a couple of races three years ago. I wanted to check them out and see how they were running,” Hendershot said.



He ran into his cousin Mike, who has worked for GNCC for 35 years, and learned that another cousin, Jason Lemley, was still racing.



Lemley and Hendershot had raced together 30 years ago. As teens, they made an annual trek to the Blackwater 100, a famous cross-country race that started in 1983 in Davis, West Virginia.

“We’d go down in the late ‘80s and just ride. It was a national ATV race, but as a spectator, you could show up with your four-wheeler and ride the same track as the pros,” Hendershot said.

He started watching YouTube videos of people riding the GNCC tracks with GoPros attached.

“I saw that (the tracks) weren’t nearly as hard as 30 years ago.

The tracks are rough, but the obstacles aren’t to the point where you’re like, ‘I can’t get up this hill,’ or, if there is a tough obstacle, they give you another route,” Hendershot said.

Six months before the 2024 racing season, Hendershot began conditioning through cardio and strength training. He acclimated himself to the heat – both the outdoor temperatures that soar in the summer and the 160-degree heat from the motor.

He bought an older but well-maintained machine, rode it in his yard, and headed to Georgia for his first race.

“They got 3 inches of rain the night before. These races are in the woods; 3 inches of rain makes it sloppy-muddy,” he said.



“I get on the starting line and make it a half mile into the woods, and I’m exhausted. It was rough.”

“I had raced in the 40-plus C class. I said to myself, ‘There were nine people, you finished eighth, so you didn’t finish last,’” he said.

That day, 160 people had raced in various classes. He was surprised by how many didn’t finish or finished behind him.

Hendershot cleaned up his gear, recuperated, and decided to try another.

“Would I like to be faster and finish first? Absolutely. But it’s more about riding, doing something I used to do, and having a good time. I got through the Indiana race and finished,” he said. “I really just started focusing on enjoying myself.”

Mid-season, Hendershot switched to a faster class, in which he races – and largely keeps up with – retired pros.

“I just show up and ride. I go out, have a little fun,” he said. “For those two hours, it’s like I’m still 19 years old, riding my four-wheeler.”



PENNWEST CLARION COMMENCEMENT



Joseph Feiser
Psychology

▶ [Read Joseph's Story](#)



Liesl Spore
Psychology



Brayden Jones, Secondary Education
Traden Gray, Integrated Business

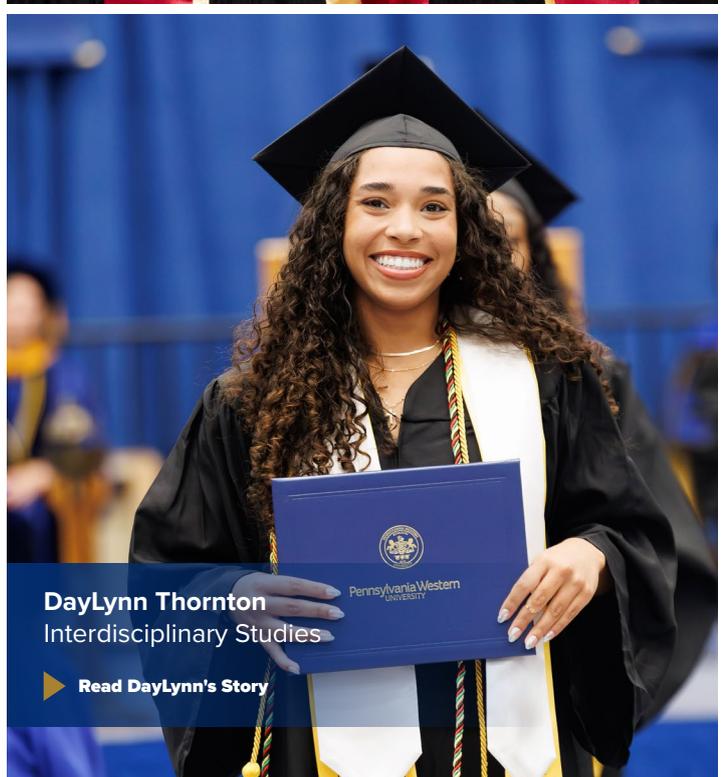


Jacob Kline
Nursing

▶ [Read Jacob's Story](#)



Deion Deas
Sport Management



DayLynn Thornton
Interdisciplinary Studies

▶ [Read DayLynn's Story](#)

CLARION MENT

Spring 2025

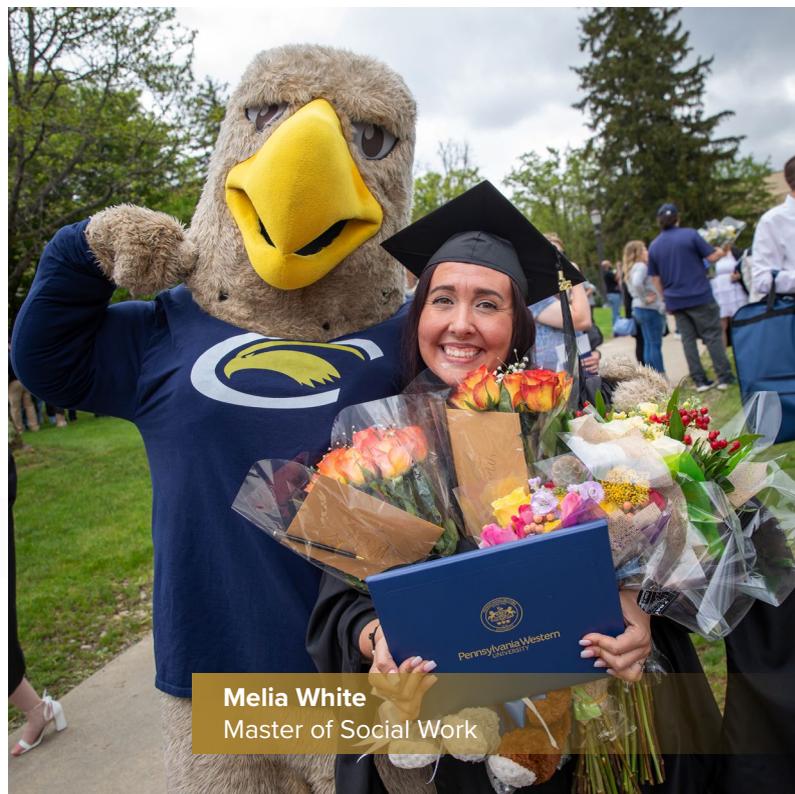


Gage Gray
Biology

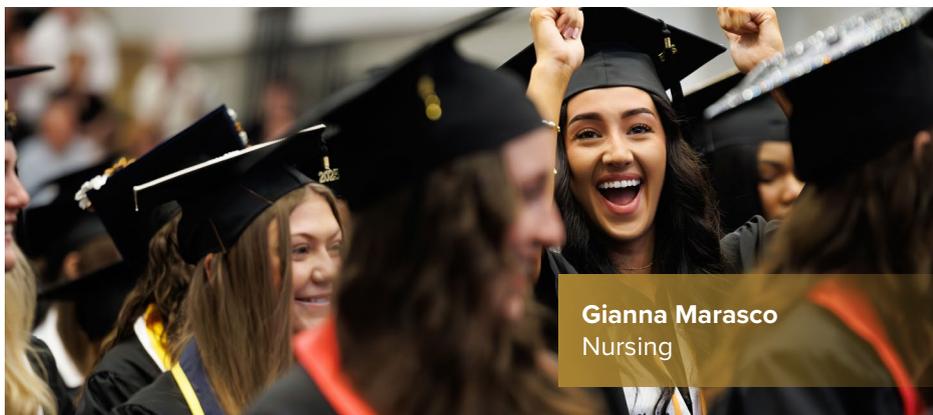


Amanda Corna
Integrative Studies –
Community Services

[▶ Read Amanda's Story](#)



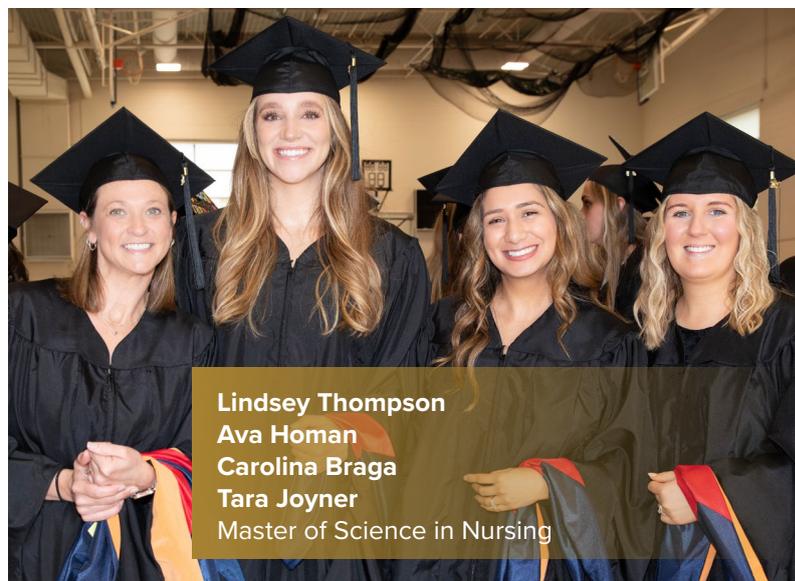
Melia White
Master of Social Work



Gianna Marasco
Nursing



Elijah Wanzo
Psychology



Lindsey Thompson
Ava Homan
Carolina Braga
Tara Joyner
Master of Science in Nursing



Speech Pathology Graduates

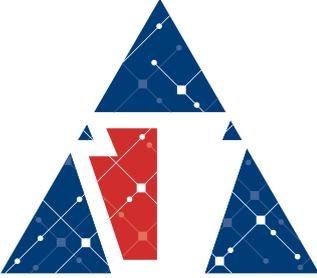
PENNWEST CENTER FOR
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



TRANSFORMING T O M O R R O W

PennWest launches AI center to equip students
and community for evolving workforce

By Wendy Mackall



PENNWEST CENTER FOR
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

WHY WE OPENED IT

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 forecasts that AI-driven disruption will touch 22% of current jobs by 2030, creating about 170 million new roles while displacing 92 million. Employers also expect that four in 10 job skills will change over the next five years.

PennWest University meets this talent shift head-on with our Center for Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies.

"AI is transforming the way we live and work," said Dr. Camille Dempsey, the center's inaugural director. "PennWest has a strong cluster of AI-related talent, and the center will leverage that talent to benefit our community of educators and community stakeholders."

WHAT IT IS

The center is a dynamic and inclusive hub where students, faculty, industry partners and the wider community can encounter and leverage the transformative power of AI and an ever-changing technological landscape. There is a physical location on the first floor of Baron-Forness Library at PennWest Edinboro; most learning and collaboration can occur virtually as well.

OUR PRIORITIES

CAIET's charter sets five goals:

1. Improve institutional effectiveness by integrating AI tools, policies and practices across the university.
2. Equip faculty with training to weave AI into teaching.
3. Graduate career-ready students who are "proficient, adaptable and critical" users of emerging tech.
4. Host thought-leadership dialogues on the economic, ethical, cultural and legal stakes of AI.
5. Partner with schools, nonprofits, governments and industry to tackle real-world challenges in an AI-powered economy.

CENTER LEADERSHIP

Dr. Dempsey is an associate professor of education and nationally recognized AI-in-education scholar. Her résumé includes fellowships with the International Society for Technology in Education, leadership roles in the EDSAFE AI Alliance, and service as a Google Women Ambassador and AI Mastermind. AI and Technology Student Ambassadors will serve as peer educators, event organizers and tech advocates.

WHAT'S NEXT

Following its official launch on April 17, 2025 — a standing-room-only event at Edinboro's Baron-Forness Library featuring President Jon Anderson and a six-member expert panel — CAIET is planning faculty workshops, student micro-credential courses and community roundtables that extend the conversation far beyond campus. Alumni, employers and educators interested in collaborating can reach the team at CenterForAI@PennWest.edu.



Faith, football and fate:

The Journey of Coach Mike Miller

By Tina Clark

It was Feb. 1, 2009, at Raymond James Stadium, Tampa, Florida, in the hours before the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers would face off for the NFL championship in Super Bowl XLIII. Clarion alumni Mike Miller '92, the wide receivers coach, and Reggie Wells Jr. '08, the starting left guard, both for the Cardinals, marveled at the unlikelihood of two guys from Division II Clarion University standing so prominently on professional football's biggest stage, among coaches and players who hailed from big-name schools.

The Steelers won that contest, but it wasn't the last time – or the first time – that Miller had that dreamlike feeling that he – a kid who grew up on the outskirts of Pittsburgh, in Plum Borough, Pennsylvania – was in the big leagues.

The first time was the summer of 1999, and Miller had just been hired as offensive quality control coach for the team he had

idolized for as long as he could remember. He reported to the Pittsburgh Steelers coaches' locker room and looked up. Written on athletic tape with black magic marker was "Miller," alongside the names of the other coaches. His name wasn't yet burnished into a wooden sign, but it would be.



“I was by myself, and I thought, ‘This is the same locker room that Chuck Noll used.’” Steelers coaching legend Bill Cowher’s name was on the other side of the room. “It was surreal,” Miller said.

“Growing up, it was a thrill to even go to a game, and here I was on the coaching staff.”

After graduating from Clarion in 1992 with a Bachelor of Science in communications, Miller put his degree to work as an intern in the front offices of the Pittsburgh Penguins, the Steelers and the Indianapolis Colts. He had no idea how those decisions would alter his career path.

During the internship with the Steelers, Miller handled press releases, interviews, helped run press conferences, held yard markers, helped with laundry and did whatever else he was asked to do. He proved himself to be a reliable, hard worker and made an impression on top franchise people such as the Rooney family and Coach Bill Cowher.

“The day my internship was over, the Colts called. They had asked the league if they could recommend someone (as a public relations/media/operations intern), and they recommended me,” Miller said. “The Colts only paid \$100 a week, but there was a free apartment. That was great; I got a chance to be around some amazing people.”

In Indianapolis, Miller fortified his reputation as someone the team could count on. He made connections with key people in professional football, including Ron Blackledge, the Colts’ offensive line coach.

Miller learned a lot during that time. He was close to the action, and he thought about plays he might have called differently, players he would have kept or cut, and people he would have recruited. He realized then that the front office wasn’t where he wanted to be. He wanted to coach.

Continued on next page ►

That year, the Colts lost to the Steelers in the playoffs, and with the season and internship both complete, Miller returned home to the Pittsburgh area. He had been trying – without success – to get a graduate assistantship with big programs.

“It was that voice in my heart that I knew was God that said, ‘Don’t forget Robert Morris has a program.’”

Intending to simply drop off his resume, Miller drove to Robert Morris University. Dressed in a golf shirt and jeans, he tapped on head football coach Joe Walton’s door, and the coach invited him in. Walton reviewed his credentials, remarked about his experience in media and operations, and asked him why he wanted to get into coaching. Miller replied that he wanted to be part of the action.

“I wanted out of radio and TV. I didn’t want to do sports broadcasting,” he said. “I didn’t want to tell people what was happening. I wanted to be making it happen.”

The coach liked Miller and contacted his references, including Blackledge, who raved about Miller’s work ethic. He said Miller was the first one in and the last one out, and that the coach would be a fool not to hire him. One topic that didn’t come up in the conversation was the position for which Miller was being considered; Blackledge assumed it was a graduate assistantship in sports information, but it was coaching the team’s running backs.

Walton hired Miller, and it was the foot in the door that Miller needed. He seized the opportunities that continued to arise.

In December 1998, Miller took an RMU linebacker to Three Rivers Stadium to help him get Steelers tickets.

“Having already worked there, I was able to walk right in, and I went to the locker room. The linebacker couldn’t believe it,”

Miller said. “We ran into Bill Cowher. Coach Cowher sees me in the hallway and said, ‘Hey, Mike Miller, what are you doing these days?’”

Miller said he had just finished the graduate assistantship with RMU, and Cowher replied he might have something for him at the end of the season.

“I’m gonna give you a call,” Cowher told him.

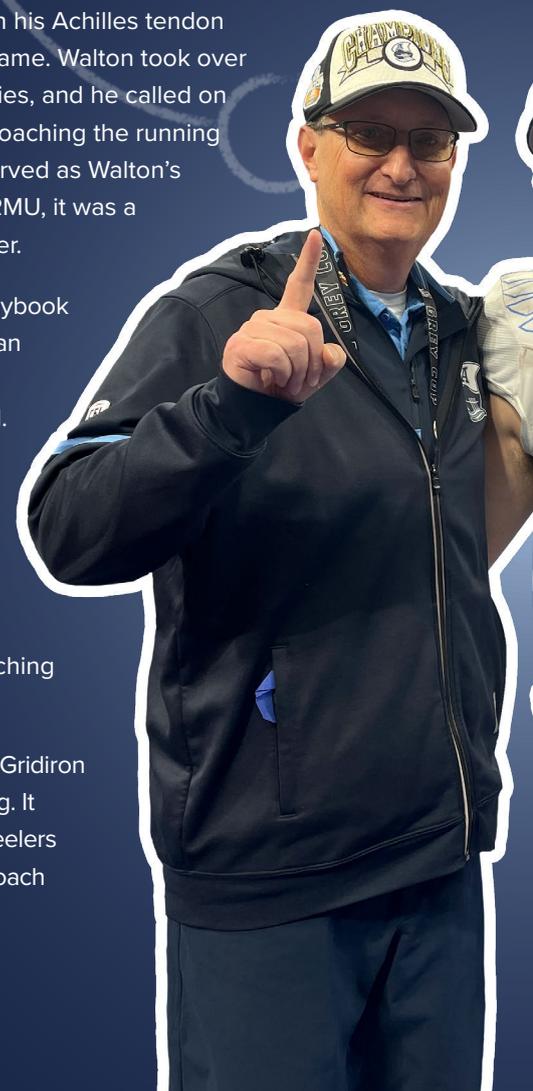
A month later, Miller and another RMU graduate assistant drove through the night to reach Orlando, Florida, for the first Gridiron Classic, a game which pitted college seniors from the state of Florida against college seniors from the rest of the country. Chuck Noll, who had retired in 1991 as the Steelers head coach, was asked to coach Team USA and the running backs, and RMU’s Walton was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

Practice had just ended when Miller arrived and learned that Noll had torn his Achilles tendon and couldn’t coach the game. Walton took over Noll’s head coaching duties, and he called on Miller to replace Noll in coaching the running backs. Already having served as Walton’s running backs coach at RMU, it was a smooth transition for Miller.

“We used Joe Walton’s playbook and the offense that we ran at RMU for that (Gridiron Classic) game,” Miller said.

The scenario caught the attention of a broadcaster, who talked about Miller on air and put the camera on him. Cowher was watching in Pittsburgh.

A couple of days after the Gridiron Classic, Miller’s phone rang. It was a secretary for the Steelers organization who said, “Coach



Cowher wants to talk to you.”

Cowher got on the line and said, “Hey, Mr. Big Time – I saw you on the field at that game and I heard the story that you replaced Chuck Noll. Can you be down here by 10:30 to talk to me?”

Miller raced home, put on a sport coat, and drove to meet the Steelers head coach.

“Coach Cowher hired me,” Miller said. “It was a dream come true. Here I am, coaching for the Steelers. A lot came through. It was God bringing it all together.”

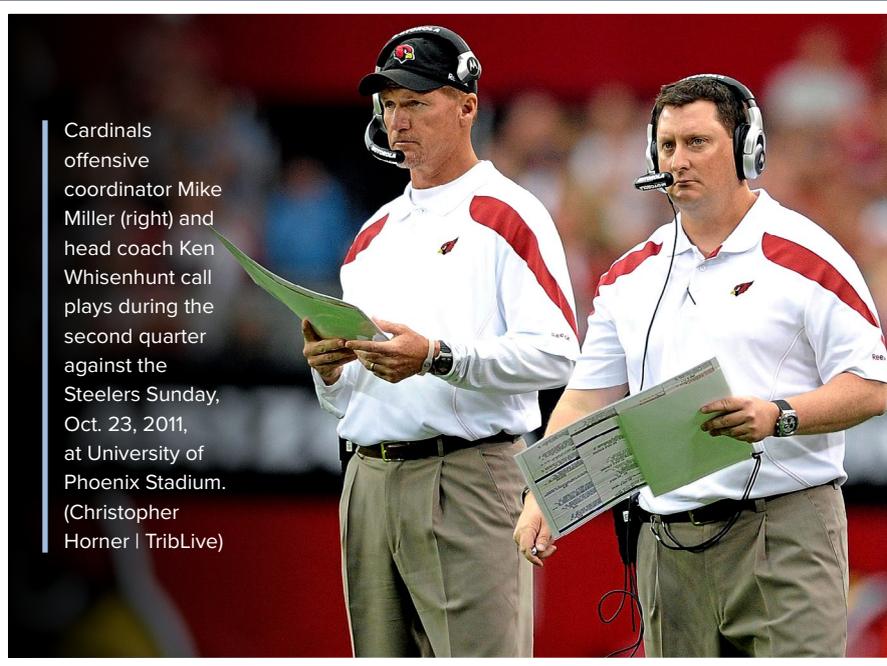
Miller remained with the Steelers as offensive quality control coach for five years, then went to the Buffalo Bills to coach tight ends under head coach Mike Mularkey. In 2006, Miller took the opportunity to coach with NFL Europe for a season, then he returned to RMU to coach defense.

In 2007, Miller was hired by the Arizona Cardinals to coach wide receivers under head coach Ken Whisenhunt, former Steelers offensive coordinator.

“I coached Larry Fitzgerald, Anquan Boldin, Steve Breaston and Kurt Warner. I was just very blessed. For the fifth time in the history of the NFL, we had three 1,000-yard receivers in the same season.”

Miller coached six seasons for the Cardinals (receivers coach 2007-08, pass game coordinator 2009-2010 and offensive coordinator 2011-2012),

Cardinals offensive coordinator Mike Miller (right) and head coach Ken Whisenhunt call plays during the second quarter against the Steelers Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011, at University of Phoenix Stadium. (Christopher Horner | TribLive)



including the 2009 appearance in Super Bowl LXIII. In 2012, following a disappointing season, Miller, along with Whisenhunt and most of the coaching staff, was fired.

He followed with a year-long stint with the CFL's

Montreal Alouettes, then he returned to college football in 2014, working with Edinboro University's Fighting Scots for a year. There, he was proud to coach quarterback Cody Harris, who led the country in completion percentage.

In the summer of 2015, Miller was seriously injured in an accident when another driver crossed the center line and hit his car head-on. His three-month recovery included surgery, using a wheelchair, then using a walker.

After he recovered, his next four years were spent coaching college teams: RMU in 2016 and 2017, and Westminster in 2018 and 2019.

In 2020, Miller returned to professional football as wide receivers coach for the New York Guardians, one of the eight charter teams in the XFL. The COVID pandemic cut the season short, and the league ended. For a while, he couldn't find a job.

On Christmas Eve, 2021, Miller had a conversation with Ryan Dinwiddie, head coach of the CFL's Toronto Argonauts. They had worked together in Montreal, and Dinwiddie expressed his gratitude for all Miller had taught him there.

“If I ever get a chance, I'm going to hire you,” Dinwiddie told Miller.

“I've been told that so many times, but he did. He kept his word. I came up to coach quarterbacks in 2022, and we won the Grey Cup,” Miller said.



Continued on next page ►

Miller is currently in his fourth year as the team's quarterbacks coach. In addition to winning the Grey Cup (the CFL's equivalent to the NFL's Vince Lombardi Trophy) in 2022, they won the Grey Cup again in 2024. Miller's quarterbacks have been awarded the league MVP in '23 and the Grey Cup MVP in '24.

These achievements put Miller into exclusive company with football greats Marv Levy, Bud Grant and John Hufnagel: They are the only four coaches in football history to coach in both a Super Bowl and a Grey Cup, and to win at least one of them.

Riding high on the 2022 championship, Miller entered the 2023 season with the Argonauts, but something wasn't right with his health. Testing revealed he had throat cancer, and he was prescribed seven weeks of intensive treatment. He started radiation and chemotherapy Oct. 1, and he continued to coach for three weeks, until the treatments left him unable to continue. Miller missed the last two games of their CFL-record-tying 16-2 season, and the team lost in the playoffs.

During his fourth week of treatments, Miller suffered a pulmonary embolism and spent five days in intensive care. "I later learned that that kind of blood clot has a very high mortality rate," Miller said. "It really is all God. If I'd never taken this job, I don't know if I'd be here. The medical staff in Toronto was able to cure my cancer."

Healthy, he was back for the 2024 season.

"A year to the date that I had my last treatment, we won that year's Grey Cup."

Not bad for a guy who had never planned on coaching. And not bad for a guy whose first coaching job was the result of a fortunate mix-up.

"My career is all God," Miller said. "It's not common, and some really unique things have happened along the way that can't be explained other than by the hand of God."

Miller hasn't forgotten where he came from. As a communication major at Clarion, he worked with campus radio and TV, which led to his internships. Through Army ROTC and membership in Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, Miller learned to be a leader.

"Clarion was a part of my foundation for sure," Miller said. "We had great teachers in the comms department. I met great friends and had colleagues who were very successful, not just in communications, but others who have gone on to do great things."

His Clarion classmates included Val Porter '91, a prominent voice in Pittsburgh radio, Steve Chenevey '91, morning anchor for Fox News in Washington, D.C., Dan Coyle '92, creative services director for the NBC affiliate in Cleveland, and Chris Horner, lead sports photojournalist for TribLIVE.com.

Miller said he's been blessed not only by having opportunities, but by being with people who really cared about him and his career.

"I'm still the same guy from 3 South Wilkinson Hall," Miller said. "I give thanks to God and am grateful to everyone who has helped me."

GIVING DAY



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CLARION SPORTS

FIVE FORMER STUDENT-ATHLETES AND TWO COACHES MADE UP THE HALL OF FAME'S CLASS OF 2025.

By Sean Fagan



KELLIE (BARTMAN) BIDDLE '12 – VOLLEYBALL

A dominating and intimidating force from 2008 to 2011 as outside hitter for the Golden Eagles volleyball team, Biddle earned All-Region and All-America honors under head coach Jennifer Herron. Her top season easily was the magical 2010 campaign when the Golden Eagles won a school record 32 matches. Clarion won the PSAC West division with a 17-2 record and went on to win the program's first overall conference championship since 1988 as well as its first NCAA Atlantic Region Championship, propelling them to the Elite Eight. A 2012 Clarion grad in environmental biology, she is a nurse practitioner at Cecil Family Medicine, part of the UPMC Health System.

under coaches Mike Brown and Anthony Williams. In the last of those years, he was named the CoSIDA Division II Baseball Academic All-American of the Year. Falk was a multiple-time all-conference selection and was the 2014 PSAC West Rookie of the Year. A 2017 Clarion grad in business (finance), he is part owner at the Centauri Advisory Group in Zelienople.



KIM (HANSLOVAN) MARSHALL '12, M'14 – WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD



TYLER FALK '17 – BASEBALL

A highly talented and Academic All-America baseball player, Tyler Falk was without question one of the all-time great scholar-athletes to don a Clarion uniform in any sport. A three-time CoSIDA Academic All-American, he led the Golden Eagles in batting average all four years (2014-2017) of his amazing career

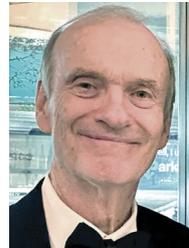
A two-time NCAA Division II All-America in the javelin, Hanslovan has the highest NCAA nationals finish by a Clarion track & field athlete, an amazing feat under coach D.J. Bevevino. After transferring to Clarion from Penn State, she broke the school record in the javelin and qualified for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships, where she set another school record, placing second nationally. Hanslovan redshirted in 2011 but returned in 2012, placing sixth nationally while battling an elbow injury. She earned a B.S.Ed. in 2012 and an M.Ed. in technology education/instructional technology in 2014, both from Clarion. She teaches chemistry at Commonwealth Charter Academy.

HALL OF FAME



MARGARET "GIE" PARSONS – WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (COACH)

Parsons arrived in Clarion for the 1990 season and set women's basketball on fire in the PSAC. Starting in 1991, Parsons led the Golden Eagles on a five-year ride that saw Clarion post a 117-33 overall record, a PSAC West mark of 50-10, five consecutive PSAC West titles, three PSAC Championships, Elite 8 appearances in 1991 and 1994, and Sweet 16 finishes in 1992 and 1993. The program's top 12 career scorers and eight of nine top rebounders played for Parsons. She was named PSAC West Coach of the Year in 1991, 1992, 2005 and 2008, and Atlantic Region Coach of the Year in 1991 and 2005. Parsons was inducted into Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame – "Tick" Cloherty Western Chapter in 2011 and Slippery Rock Hall of Fame in 2021, and in 1992 earned the Lifetime Achievement Award from Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.



RON RIGHTER – MEN'S BASKETBALL (COACH)

Righter came to Clarion in the 1988-89 season. With 402 career wins (402-299), he is the winningest men's basketball coach in Clarion history. He led the Golden Eagles to 18 winning seasons, three PSAC West titles (1997, 2000, 2005) and the school's only PSAC Championship in 2001. He had an amazing span from 1997 to 2005 when the Golden Eagles were 171-79 – a 68.4 winning percentage – and 69-39 in the PSAC-West. When he retired, 15 of Clarion's 29 career 1,000 point scorers had been coached by Righter. He was PSAC West Coach of the Year in 1997 and 2005. The 1975 St. Joseph's grad was a hoops standout there and a 1991 Hall of Fame inductee. He is a member of Bucks County Chapter of Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, C.B. West and Pittsburgh Basketball Club Hall of Fame and Markward Basketball Club "Player of the Past."



JOHN PETERMAN '90 – FOOTBALL

An All-America strong safety who poured his heart and soul into every play, Peterman was a defensive back and special teams player for the Golden Eagles from 1985 to 1988. He finished his Clarion football career as a two-time First Team All-PSAC West selection. As a senior in 1988 he earned Associated Press Second Team All-American and First Team All-District honors. A 1990 grad in education, he was head coach at Leechburg (1992-95), assistant coach at Franklin Regional (2005-06), athletic director at Penn Hills (2007-17), and head football coach at Penn Hills (2012-16). Peterman retired in 2025 after serving eight years as athletic director at Kiski Area.



TOM TOMEO '98 – WRESTLING

Tomeo was an NCAA Division I All-America wrestler at Clarion from 1994 to 1998 under Hall of Fame coaches Jack Davis and Ken Nellis. He won two PIAA Championships for Grove City High School, then put together a collegiate career with an overall record of 98-34 at 134 and 142 pounds. Tomeo's best season was in 1998 when he had a 31-7 record and eighth place All-America finish at 142 pounds. A four-year starter and a two-year team captain, he was a three-time NCAA qualifier, a two-time PSAC champion and an EWL champion at 142 pounds in 1998. A 1998 grad with a degree in biology, he is owner and founder of Tomeo Technologies, Tomeo T3 Wrestling and TNT Tours Travel.



LONDON FULLER

STILL A CHAMPION, HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD!

By Sean Fagan

In the span of a little less than two years, London Fuller went from competing for a Division II volleyball championship in the Clarion Blue and Gold, to contending for the NCAA's top individual honor, before finally winning a championship with a team halfway around the world. In short, it's been an eventful 16 months.

A five-year member of the Golden Eagles volleyball team, Fuller graduated in December 2023 as the most decorated player in program history. A three-time All-American and the 2022 PSAC West Athlete of the Year, she led Clarion to a conference championship in 2021, earning PSAC Tournament MVP honors in the process. The pinnacle of her college career came two years later, when Fuller and the Golden Eagles won the 2023 Atlantic Region championship to reach the Division II Elite Eight for the second time in school history.

In recognition of her accomplishments as a member of the Golden Eagles, Fuller was named one of the final 30 nominees for the 2024 NCAA Woman of the Year award, the highest individual honor granted by the NCAA. She would have been in attendance at that year's awards banquet to be recognized with the other nominees, had it not been for a unique opportunity: the chance to play volleyball overseas.

After the conclusion of the 2024 season, Fuller signed with an agent and began to gauge interest from professional teams. Eventually an opportunity with SK Tirana – a professional team located in Tirana, Albania – materialized, and Fuller seized it.

The greatest adjustment early on was how to cross the language barrier. Head coach Adrian Gorenca spoke no English, and Fuller no Albanian, so the pair had

to rely on volleyball as the universal language.

“There were times early on where he would start having a full conversation with me in the middle of the match, and I literally didn't know a word he was saying,” Fuller said. “So for example, if I was in the front row, he would just call my name, make some hand signals and say things like, “London, block!”

At times, the communication from coaches and teammates was blunt. According to Fuller, the culture of professional sports in general – and in Eastern Europe, in particular – doesn't lend itself to many platitudes.

“There's very little sugarcoating or sympathy when they're explaining a mistake to you,” Fuller explained. “It's a professional level. Coaches and

teammates want to help you out, but at the end of the day, you've got to figure out your own stuff.”

Because of her role as the team's setter, Fuller was also tasked with communicating with and leading a team of athletes from all over the world. She played alongside and against opponents from Brazil, Poland and Venezuela. There was even one opponent with whom Fuller had significant history in her time as a Golden Eagle; Journey Blevins, a star outside hitter at Gannon, competed for a rival club. Despite having to bridge linguistic and cultural differences, Fuller was able to use the skills developed at Clarion to grow and excel.

“Early on, it reminded me mentally of when I was a freshman,” Fuller said. “I was so timid, so shy, and always afraid of letting someone see me make a mistake. Something that coach Jen [Herron] and coach Jon [Strub] would tell me is that it was OK to make a mistake as long as you know it had purpose behind it. It's OK to be aggressive. Failure is going to happen. Don't get upset about it.”

Before long, the leadership skills that Fuller developed at Clarion began to shine in Tirana, as she grew comfortable with her teammates and found her voice.

“There were many matches where our team would be stressed out over simple mistakes, and I had to tell some of the veteran players that same lesson. The other team is going to make plays, and mistakes are going to happen, but you can't let your emotions get the best of you.”

Those lessons eventually culminated in a team championship. Tirana beat Skënderbeu in the third game of the championship final, twice winning on Skënderbeu's home floor, the Tamara Nikolla Sports Palace. It marked another piece of hardware on Fuller's already impressive mantle.

Now, Fuller finds herself at another crossroads in 2025. While she is still considering another chapter to her playing career, she has also begun exploring career options back in the United States, including a potential future in law enforcement.

“I want to serve the community, give back and make the world a better place,” Fuller said.

**“I'M NOT AFRAID OF
A CHALLENGE.”**



@klubisportivtirana

Planned Gift Perpetuates Legacy of Helping Others

By Tina Clark

At the first of the year, Joan Miller vowed that once a month, she would have dessert or dinner for her Brookville neighbors. The 94-year-old said she did pretty well until late in the summer, when she got too busy.

Explaining the myriad activities that fill her calendar, Miller said, “We’ll start with church. I’m Lutheran. I was raised, baptized and confirmed Lutheran. I married Lutheran.”

Her activities there are just the beginning.

“I play a lot of bridge, about 10 times a month. I volunteer every Thursday morning at the food pantry. We have a gathering room, and (the clients) come in there before they go through the line. I serve them coffee and cookies. I belong to WRC Auxiliary, and I go to a study here in town.”

Most of what she does is local, and she cautiously drives herself there and home again, where she enjoys entertaining guests.

“I’ll have someone in for coffee. That’s what I love – someone coming by. I usually have something baked,” Miller said. “I just like people.

As the youngest of seven girls and four boys, she was given advice one day by one of her brothers, who had already graduated college by the time she was born.

“When you’re out, you’ll be meeting a lot of different people,” he told her. “Take the time to listen to everybody, regardless of what they look like or what they’re saying.”

She still lives that way.

“I’m interested. I still am interested in what people do and where they’re at,” she said. “I want everyone to make the best of what they have.”

Like attracts like.

When Miller thinks about the most prominent qualities of her late husband, Ken Miller ’52, his practice of listening to others immediately comes to mind. It was a gift he shared as a husband, a family member, a friend, a neighbor – simply as a human being.

“He was honest. He was interested in people. He listened,” Miller said. “I would hear him with a customer, some just chewing him up and down, and he would listen.”

His way of caring for customers contributed greatly to the success of his business, Miller Equipment, a John Deere dealership in Fairmount City that he founded in 1963, then operated for 40 years.

Her husband’s work ethic is another quality that stood out.

“After he graduated high school, he went into the service. He became an Air Force pilot,” Miller said.

After he was honorably discharged, he wanted to further his education. He had dreamed of going to Penn State, but money for tuition wasn’t there, according to Miller. He was one of five children, raised on a farm. While his family supported him with love and encouragement, they weren’t able to help with higher education.

“In the meantime, he was approached about a business with soil conservation,” Miller said. “He had a ditcher, a grater and a dozer. He and his brother-in-law George bought into it, but he still wanted to go to college.”

He enrolled at Clarion.

“He worked hard through college. He worked all day at his (soil conservation) job, then he fit his class schedule around work,” she said. “He really worked for his education.”

Ken and George did very well on soil conservation, and they were getting to the place where they and their families were fairly comfortable when they were approached by John Deere about starting a dealership. Ken was excited about the opportunity; George, less so. Still, they went to Syracuse to meet with a John Deere executive.

They were told they didn’t have enough operating cash for a dealership. Miller recalled her husband’s response: “I’m going to tell you something. You’re missing the chance of two honest, hard-working individuals who would make a good dealership.”

Disappointed, he and George returned home and continued their soil conservation business, serving the counties of Armstrong, Clarion, Jefferson and Clearfield – until the phone rang one day.

It was the executive, who said John Deere had reconsidered, and they could open a dealership. He and George opened Miller Equipment; George remained with the business for a year, but for Ken, the rest of his work life was spent there.

Together, those qualities of listening and working hard made the business successful, which provided the means for a third beloved quality – being charitable.

“He was charitable, loving – all of the attributes you would want in a husband or a businessman. And of course, education was important to him,” Miller said.

Together, Ken and Joan began to work with then-Clarion University administrators President Diane Reinhard and Harry Tripp.

“Ken had great praise for the university,” Miller said. “He said, ‘I wish I could do something to make it a little easier than what I had it. I just want to do for someone who was in my situation. I want to help them.’ And he has.”

The Millers’ inaugural gift to Clarion was to an existing scholarship started by former Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburg and his wife, Ginny. Miller said they supported the Laurel Leaf Festival and a couple of fraternities. Their generosity extended to their church and Shriners Home for Children.



Ken passed away in 2003, and Miller continues the legacy of helping others, honoring her husband’s preference for quiet giving.

“He never wanted the notability. He didn’t want to be recognized. That’s why he decided to do it all in life insurance,” Miller said. “He would be gone, and I will be gone, too.”

Miller is working with PennWest planned giving director Larry Jamison, who is making sure the Millers’ wishes will be fulfilled. She has designated 20 percent of the gift for creation of a scholarship for PennWest Clarion students who are members or whose parents are members of Zion Lutheran Church, Shannondale, and who live in Clarion, Jefferson, Forest or Armstrong counties. Eighty percent of the funds will be used to renovate Marwick-Boyd Fine Arts Center’s main auditorium, which will carry the Millers’ names.

2025 Distinguished ALUMNI



Distinguished Alumna

Patrice M. D'Eramo-Flack '86

Flack retired as vice president of Americas Marketing and Communications at Cisco. Her leadership was key to delivering experiences that drove Cisco's growth and positioned the company as a true industry leader. Also at Cisco, she was senior director of marketing for the U.S. public sector business, a pivotal role in leading marketing efforts for a \$5 billion portfolio. Flack has been a driving force in addressing mental and physical well-being, food insecurity, and support for veterans and seniors. She has been a tireless advocate for empowering women, serving as executive co-sponsor of Cisco Connected and the Cisco Partner's Empowered Women's Network. She continues to mentor young women and girls.



Distinguished Alumna

Sheilah (Lingenfelter) Gulas '83

A 2017 inductee into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Gulas retired after a three-decade career as head softball coach with a cumulative record of 926-489-1 (.654). From 1987 to 2017, Gulas was head softball coach at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa.; Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio; then Ashland (Ohio) University. Her Allegheny coaching record was 120-39 (.755) and included the 1988 season when the Gators finished as national runner-up and she was named NCAA Division III National Coach of the Year. At Ashland, Gulas' Eagles made 12 NCAA Division II postseason appearances and had five 40-win seasons. She was Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 1998, 2009, 2010 and her last season of 2017. Gulas and her husband, George, have been married for 27 years.



Distinguished Alumnus

Dr. Kwame R. Morton Sr. '94

Morton is superintendent of Cherry Hill (New Jersey) Public Schools, where he previously was assistant superintendent. For his work as principal of Cherry Hill High School West, he was named the 2021 Visionary Principal of the Year/NASSP NJ State Principal of the Year. Morton's approach to school improvement focuses on providing students with access, opportunity, rigor and support while promoting a dynamic, innovative teaching environment. At Clarion, he was a standout men's basketball player and the Basketball Times 1994 NCAA Division II Player of the Year; he holds several school records. He and his wife, April, are the parents of 10 children and have two grandchildren.



Distinguished Young Alumnus

Kevin Brady Jr. '08

Brady is chief financial officer of ANL, Inc., a construction firm specializing in high-profile projects across New York City. He has been pivotal in shaping the company's financial strategy, overseeing budgeting, forecasting, and cost management for multimillion-dollar initiatives. His leadership ensures the financial health and operational efficiency of the organization while delivering sustainable growth. Brady has built a strong career in financial strategy and strategic leadership. He has been key in managing the preservation of New York City's architectural landmarks, including the award-winning Prospect Park Wellhouse Landmark Renovation and the historic Tavern on the Green restoration. As a student, he was a member of the Golden Eagles football team. He lives in St. Augustine, Florida, with his wife, Dr. Kaylan Brady, and their two children, Kyle and Hailey.

Distinguished Faculty

Dr. Kevan M. Yenerall

Yenerall, political science professor at PennWest since 2000, has facilitated 50 Clarion students' participation at nine national party conventions, a presidential inauguration, and seven Inside Washington seminars. He is faculty liaison for The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars and advisor of the Clarion College Democrats. He established the Joseph and Mary Ellen Yenerall Politics & Public Service Scholarship to honor his grandparents and invest in Clarion students' participation in seminars and internships in the nation's capital. Yenerall is co-author or author of several books about politics. Local, regional, national and international news outlets have sought his political expertise. He resides in the Pittsburgh area with his wife, Supanee.



Distinguished Service

John M. Stoner '75

Janice L. (McMinn) Stoner '75

John and Jan Stoner met in fall 1971 at then-Clarion State College. They have forged a life that has enriched many people beyond their own family. John climbed the corporate ladder with Jackson Manufacturing, which eventually was acquired by True Temper Lawn and Garden, where he became president and general manager. Jan taught school until their daughter, Jen, was born. They opened their own sporting goods store, which Jan ran with their daughter in tow. She volunteered with Girl Scouts and fundraising for the band. When John joined the Conn-Selmer musical instrument company as president, the Stoners moved to Indiana. In his 20 years at Conn-Selmer, John led the company to great heights. Jan continued volunteer work with Meals on Wheels, tutoring, and helping at a food bank and a day center for women and children. The Stoners have often said, "We are really thankful to Clarion for everything we have."



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August Domitrovich,
son of Josh '13, '15 MBA and
Alyssa (Katz '13, '14 M.S.)
Domitrovich, born Dec. 7, 2023



Patrick Sean Kelly,
son of Ian and
Alissa (Kelly '08) Kelly,
born Jan. 20, 2024



Greyson Joseph Turnbull,
son of Tommy and
Melissa (Gearing '10)
Turnbull, born April 16, 2024



Griffin Heiser,
son of Jared and
Mallory (Brannon '19) Heiser,
born May 17, 2024



Autumn C. McKee,
daughter of Jared and
Kari (Reda '11, '12 MSLS)
McKee, born Nov. 21, 2024

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1966

John Acklin retired June 30, 2024, after 50 years as athletic director at Conneaut Area Senior High and formerly Linesville High School, where he also was a head coach in numerous sports.

1981



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada has recognized **Maria Scaringi** with the Eve Kassirer Lifetime Achievement Award, which is presented to an SAC member or associate with a long history of distinguished, dedicated service to both SAC and the professions of speech-language pathology. Scaringi is a speech-language pathologist, Canadian Certified Life Care Planner, and International Certified Cost of Care professional.

1987

Lt. Col. George L. Fillgrove, external aerospace education officer and emeritus director of aerospace education of Civil Air Patrol's New York Wing Headquarters at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, received the Frank G. Brewer Sr. Memorial Aerospace Award for Lifetime Achievement. He was

recognized for more than two decades of mentoring and instructing on a variety of aerospace-related subjects. He is an aviation and space subject matter expert.

1992

Rev. Thomas J. Burke is a priest for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and is pastor of Saints Joachim and Anne Parish in Elizabeth/Glassport/Liberty Boro. Burke also is the host of Catholic Education Plus, heard on KDKA Radio 1020 AM and 100.1 Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m.

1998



Julie Eisenman is president and general manager of CBS Pittsburgh, overseeing KDKA-TV, KDKA+ and the stations' digital platforms. Most recently, Eisenman served as general manager and president of WNEP, the ABC affiliate in Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, where she led the station to record-breaking political revenue in 2024 while maintaining local business priorities.

2004

Deirdre Johns was selected to participate in Tupelo Press's 30/30 Project in March.

The 30/30 Project helps poets of all backgrounds grow their confidence as writers and establish a literary community for themselves. She has published two books. "Weathering the Storm," available through Amazon, is a children's book about friendship, courage, empathy and resiliency. "Fallen Love," available through Finishing Line Press, is a book of poetry that captures the immediate and nostalgic landscape of love.

Jennifer Klunk has relocated to Pittsburgh from Dallas and is the assistant registrar of academic scheduling and analytics at Community College of Allegheny County.

2008

Teagan Hayes, DO, has been appointed vice chief of the Ohio East Submarket in the Primary Care Institute. Hayes is a member of the institute's senior leadership team, overseeing the activity of all PCI departments, centers and programs in the Ohio East Submarket. She focuses on practice access, team performance and evolution of the care model to support the submarket and enterprise. Hayes joined Cleveland Clinic in 2019 and is board certified in family medicine. She earned her medical degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her Family Medicine residency at Washington Health System in Washington, Pennsylvania.

2009



Jeremy Womer, assistant principal of Haine Middle School, was named Pennsylvania's 2025 Outstanding Assistant Principal by Pennsylvania Principals Association. He has been instrumental in leading Haine's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program and Multi-Tiered System of Supports framework to provide core instructional support for students. He and his wife Melissa, a library/technology teacher at Seneca Valley's Ehrman Crest Elementary, live in Beaver with their children, Megan and Easton.

2010



Brandy Brady has assumed the role of director of library services and operations at Northwest Missouri State

University's B.D. Owens Library, effective Oct. 1. She joined the library staff in 2015 as an electronic resource manager and advanced to assistant library director for collection development and assistant library director for information services. She also is an adjunct instructor for principles of management in the Melvin D. and Valorie G. Booth School of Business.

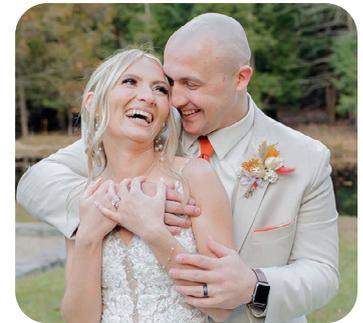
2014



Matthew Good was the 2024 recipient of the American Library Association's John Philip Immroth Memorial Award, which honors notable

contributions to intellectual freedom and demonstrations of personal courage in defense of freedom of expression. Faced with a difficult decision regarding the implementation of a policy that restricted access to books in the area's junior high library at the start of the 2022–23 school year, Good resigned his position to bring the issue to light. Good continues to speak out for intellectual freedom and access to books and school libraries.

Wedding



Kaia Rearick '22, '23 M.S. and **Seth Koleno '23** were married Oct. 26, 2024. The couple met during their freshman year. Koleno was a five-year starter for Golden Eagles wrestling.

in *memoriam*

1950s

Robert H. Shaw '53, April 10, 2024
Ruth Neiger Lines '54, Jan. 8, 2024
Pete P. Caristo '55, Jan. 24, 2025
Pauline I. Case '55, Sept. 20, 2024
Donald E. McCord '56, Oct. 9, 2024
Glenn R. McElhattan '56, March 20, 2024 ~
Patricia M. Hart Fallon '57, May 8, 2024

1960s

William E. Corbett '61, Jan. 5, 2024
Paul T. Siegel '63, Dec. 7, 2024
Gail Levendusky Morgan '65, Oct. 30, 2024
Jerome Edward Steis '65, Oct. 23, 2024
John R. Anderson '66, Feb. 18, 2024
Betty L. Schulte Love '66, Aug. 24, 2024
Dennis D. Raymer '66, Sept. 1, 2024

1970s

Lura Lee Hazen Miller '70, Sept. 18, 2024
Andrea R. Stark '70, July 16, 2024
Kevin E. O'Donnell '71, Dec. 10, 2024
Gary J. Yazwa '71, Dec. 14, 2024
Kathleen M. Giblock Shaw '72, May 12, 2024
Charles A. Hunt '73, Jan. 11, 2025

Dale L. Myers '74, July 14, 2024
James F. Droz '75, Feb. 13, 2025
Randall D. Henry '75, Oct. 24, 2024
Joseph P. Colligan '78, July 30, 2024

1980s

William L. Bobrowski '80, June 22, 2024
Stephen G. Santus '84, April 17, 2024
Scott R. Beck '85, March 6, 2024
Jerilyn D. Kahle Reddinger '85, July 8, 2024
Ronald W. Smith '86, Feb. 10, 2025
Vicki A. DiDominic '88, Feb. 18, 2024
Richard E. McMaster '88, April 26, 2024

1990s

Jerry M. Haslett '91, July 24, 2024
Elizabeth Shirey Rapp '99, Jan. 12, 2024

2000s

Briggett Dianne Main Matson '00, Sept. 3, 2024
Amy M. Greene '02, March 12, 2024
Gregory Michael Host '02, Jan. 18, 2024

2010s

Vincent Charles Bazzone '12, July 29, 2024
Barbara A. Smrekar Wigton '12, Feb. 6, 2024

Troy Garret Wells '13, Nov. 1, 2024
Tammy M. Bickel Zacherl '13, Dec. 14, 2024

Friends

Jacki Marie McLaughlin, Nov. 18, 2024
Diane Still Durbin, April 5, 2024
Ginna Crooks Gemmell, Jan. 6, 2025
Jean Ellen Flowers Graff, May 29, 2024
Carl Hepler, April 20, 2024
Joan Michalski, March 20, 2024
Ronald Nowaczyk, Jan. 31, 2025
Arnold A. Rhodes, Jan. 26, 2024
Vera L. Schreckengost, Feb. 27, 2024
Arthur D. Steffee, Aug. 16, 2024
Arthur Acton, Aug. 15, 2024 ^
John Bodoh, Feb. 9, 2024 ~
Janice Anderson Horn, March 9, 2024 ~
Catherine Joslyn, July 21, 2024 ~
William R. Kodrich, March 2, 2024 ~
Kenneth R. Mechling, April 26, 2024 ~
Randall Potter, Nov. 27, 2024 ~
David W. Fagan, Oct. 26, 2024 #
Geraldine Ortiz, April 25, 2024 #

^ Retired Administrator ~ Retired Faculty
Retired Staff



#WINGSUP

ZOEY BECK

By Tina Clark



a celebration of differences

Zoey Beck is spreading an important message about Down Syndrome.

“I want people to know that individuals with Down Syndrome are capable and full of joy. They bring so much love and positivity to the world and deserve to be included and celebrated,” said Beck, a senior early childhood education major at PennWest Clarion who grew up in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

About 175 people, including Beck’s teammates on the Golden Eagles swimming and diving team, showed their support of World Down Syndrome Day during a run/walk that she organized March 21 at Memorial Stadium. Student-athletes from various Clarion teams, university and community participants, and PennWest President Jon Anderson, whose son Bryce has Down Syndrome, also joined.

WDSO is held annually on March 21, a date chosen for the significance of “3” and “21” to the Down Syndrome genetic disorder. The number represents the triplication of the 21st chromosome.

This year’s run/walk was the third WDSO event Beck has organized. The first two were 321-yard swim challenges for her swim teams, first at Gannon University, where she spent her freshman year, and now at PennWest Clarion, where she transferred last year. The Tippin pool was unavailable this year, so she opted to celebrate with a run/walk.

Beck’s support of people with Down Syndrome began through her mom, Michelle Beck, who graduated in 1996 from Edinboro University with a bachelor’s degree in education, and whom she describes as “the greatest teacher I have ever met.”

Beck has celebrated World Down Syndrome Day every year since she was in middle school. Her first organized celebration of WDSO was a 321-yard swim that her Grove City YMCA swim team coach planned.

“As an aspiring teacher, I know how important it is to teach children the value of kindness, inclusion and celebrating differences. I want every child to feel seen and valued,” Beck said.







CELEBRATE!
CLARION
HOMECOMING 2026

“**SAVE**
...**THE**...
DATE”



October 9-10



For more information, visit
PennWest.edu/clarion-homecoming