

# THE JOHNSONIAN

2019

**“A DESK JOB IS NOT FOR ME,”** Torie Evans said when asked why she chose to pursue welding as a career. Evans is one of three women forging their path through Johnson College’s Welding Technology certificate program. At 24 years old she was ready to pursue a career, and a Johnson College billboard gave her a sign. She was inspired to come to an open house in the summer of 2018, and ready to hit the ground running in a new field.

She began the program in the fall of 2018 and quickly created a bond with two other students, Kristina “Mittsy” Kaminski-Wagner, and Kelly DeBree. All three of these students traveled different paths to get to Johnson College, but had the same goal - develop skills that could allow for high earning potential.

The first challenge was proving to their male counterparts that, they, too, are capable of success in an environment requiring steel-toe boots and fire-retardant apparel. DeBree said, “There was definitely a ‘that’s a girl, what’s she doing here’ kind of mentality.” However, once they were able to show their abilities, they quickly became viewed as leaders in the class. They left the others awestruck at their ability to learn quickly and progress to new welding methods and techniques beyond the basics. This led to many classmates seeing them as mentors.

Being slightly older than the typical college student, Evans, Kaminski-Wagner (33) and DeBree (25) has also helped to give them an edge in the classroom. Anthony DeLuca, chair of the Welding Technology program, said, “They are all at an age where this is what they want to be and this [certificate] is one of the factors for their success.”

DeBree pointed out that, “There are a lot of people who know how to causally weld” but they may not have all the skills to translate into a successful career. Fortunately, she and her classmates are on an upward trajectory. Evans and Kaminski-Wagner recently received their Shielded Metal Arc Welding Certification in vertical position, also known as 3G. DeBree received her Shielded Metal Arc Welding Certifications in both vertical and overhead as well as Flux Cored Arc Welding in vertical position. Evans, Kaminski-Wagner, and DeBree are the only women in their class, and the only students to earn these advanced certifications. Certifications like these prove the quality of the welder’s skills and helps them become more desirable to employers. DeBree said that some employers “won’t even look at you if you don’t have certifications. So it opens a lot of doors for higher paying welding jobs.” The certification tests take place in the welding lab on campus and are administered by Mr. DeLuca who is certified through the American Welding Society.

When talking about Mr. DeLuca’s teaching style, Kaminski-Wagner said, “He’s super attentive to everyone’s needs and he’s a great professor. He gives everyone the time they need.” Evans said that she likes how he teaches and loves how much she has learned so far. Mr. DeLuca helps students work at their own pace and gives them opportunities to be successful.

Advice that they have for potential future students, especially young girls who might want to weld, is to “Do it.” They suggest starting as young as you can and come willing to learn because the possibilities in a career like this are endless.



(L-R): Torie Evans, Kristina “Mittsy” Kaminski-Wagner, Kelly DeBree



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter the midway point of the 2018-2019 academic year, I want to reflect on the year so far.

Our students are eager to learn and truly embody our motto of "We Work." Seeing their enthusiasm and desire to succeed inspires me. I've spent much of this semester going into classrooms and visiting our industry partners. Talking to industry leaders first-hand about the changes they are seeing in the field and where technologies are headed assures me that we're on the right track in training the workforce of tomorrow. I am so proud of all that we've accomplished so far and can't wait to see all that we will achieve.

*Katie Uemel*



## 2018 PTA CLASS PINNING CEREMONY

The Physical Therapist Assistant Class of 2018 was recognized at a pinning ceremony on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> to signify that the students have completed all requirements in preparation for the National Physical Therapy Exam for Physical Therapist Assistants. The ceremony was held in the Health Science Technology Center where students took the PTA oath and celebrated with faculty, family, and friends.

**Back Row (L-R):** Melissa Cencetti PT, DPT, MS, Chairperson of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program; Zoe Evans; Joe Stefursky; Thomas Armillay; Olivia Mendo; Nicole Fabricatore, PTA, BS, Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education. **Front row (L-R):** Ashley Ditchey; Julia Solomon; Krystyna Novak



## GRANT AWARDED FROM APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

On October 18th, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance (NEPA) presented Johnson College with a \$76,974 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant. NEPA, in coordination with Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, assisted Johnson College in preparation of the grant and recommended the project to ARC for approval. The goal of this project is to update the technical training systems that Johnson College students utilize in obtaining an educational experience that reflects the latest developments in materials, tools, machinery, equipment, methods and techniques; ultimately allowing for quicker response to industry labor needs.

## VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON

On Friday, November 9th, the Student Engagement department and the Veteran's Task Force, along with the Student Veterans of America, hosted a luncheon for our veteran students and faculty to honor them for their service. A short ceremony was led by Harry McFarland, '18, and included readings from President Leonard, Mr. Campbell, and Student Veterans of America Student Leader, Joe Minzak.



## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED

On Wednesday, November 7th, Johnson College held its Annual Scholarship Breakfast for donors and recipients at Fiorelli Catering. Student speaker, Miranda Jones, '20 Radiologic Technology, spoke about her transfer experience and how she felt right at home coming to Johnson College. Thank you to all of the donors, staff, faculty and families who came out to celebrate the students!

## STUDENT TRIP TO DORNEY PARK

Student Engagement organized a trip to Dorney Park for Johnson College students and alumni on Sunday, October 7th. Students were able to participate in the park's annual Halloween "HAUNT" attractions.



## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

The 5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat was held on Tuesday, October 30th. Students and staff from Johnson College as well as community members decorated car trunks and passed out candy to hundreds of trick-or-treaters.



# SAVE THE DATE

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** - Open House - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

**April 27<sup>th</sup>** - Golden Alumni Society Reunion and Induction Ceremony

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** - 27th Annual Johnson College Open



## LOGISTICS GRAD GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND AT NEIMAN MARCUS GROUP

Like so many people, Austin Caramanno, '17, did not end up where he thought he would when he started his college career. The Mid-Valley High School graduate and Olyphant native originally attended a small college just outside of Philadelphia and planned on getting his degree in Graphic Design. However, the promise of hard work with only a slight chance of finding success in his career was not enough to satisfy him. "I would work hard and might get somewhere, but for me, it was go-big or go-home. So, I decided it was time to go back home."

While back home, he decided to do some research on opportunities in the trades. "I knew I was looking for something that would work for me in the future but would be fun to learn in the process," he says. "I wanted to do something completely new and logistics kept popping up as something in the trades for those who were less inclined to do something like fixing cars." The option of majoring in logistics and supply chain management and the culture at Johnson College was just what Austin was looking for. "It didn't click [at his previous school], but everything at Johnson felt natural. Everyone was so personable."

Caramanno graduated from Johnson College in 2017 with a degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. He started working at the Neiman Marcus Distribution Center in Pittston in 2015 as a shipping assistant and was quickly promoted to Human Resources Assistant in 2016. By November 2017, he was promoted to his current position of Shipping Supervisor where he now manages those he used to work with as a Shipping Assistant. Caramanno was also a recipient of the "Neiman Marcus Group Best" award in 2017 because he consistently went above and beyond in his work and he displayed the company's core values of being "memorable, trustworthy, and bold."

He credits much of his success in his position to the leadership skills and professionalism he learned while at Johnson College. "It's funny because students complained all the time about writing papers but, I have to submit a 'Goals and Objectives' report often, so learning those skills really helps," he says. "The technical skills you learn and your demeanor will help you move past just being an entry-level employee. Things like group projects, which seem silly at the time, help you because when working- you don't get to pick your group and you have to make do."