

# THE Johnsonian

FALL 2016



## ALUMNI EMPLOYEES INFLUENCE STUDENT SUCCESS

For 104 years, Johnson College has been graduating students who work in technical fields creating, fixing and maintaining our communities. The College puts great emphasis on the quality of students it produces, but the success of our students can be directly attributed to the quality of our instructors - the men and women who made their mark on industry before pursuing careers in education. Currently, 23% of Johnson College employees are alumni, representing a long history of graduates who've returned to their alma mater to help shape the workforce of the future. From long standing programs in the building trades to more recent science division additions, our desire for alumni to return to campus to inspire our current students has remained constant.

Stephenie Vergnetti, Senior Director of Organizational Development, said there are significant advantages to hiring alumni for positions at the College. "For one," she said, "they are familiar with our culture. Alumni really know what our students need to succeed." She also cited advantages including knowledge of our campus and familiarity with industry partners who can provide jobs or internships to the students. "We have faculty who are not only alumni, but they have been here for decades," she said. "They're so great at what they do, they have students who come back to teach or work right beside them. I think that's what makes the alumni-employee relationship so special here." When doing assessments on employees, Ms. Vergnetti said her department has come to realize that the College is truly a family.

Among alumni employees are both faculty and staff. Kimberly Konopka, BC, CVT, '07, is the Program Director

of Veterinary Technology, graduating from the College with her Associate of Science in Veterinary Technology in 2007. After spending nearly five years at the Wyoming Valley Veterinary Emergency & Hamlin Veterinary Clinic, her former teachers reached out to her and she could not pass up the opportunity to return to teach. She cites the strength of the program as one of the reasons she took the job and "one of the best moves" she has made in her career.

Similarly, Greg Race, '04, is an Academic Affairs Associate. Mr. Race was part of the third graduating class of the Computer Information Technology program. "I was a dislocated factory worker, and my counselor at the PA CareerLink office highly encouraged me to go back to school at Johnson College," he said. "As a student, I was offered a part-time position, not realizing that because of my focus and work ethic, I'd be offered a full-time job after graduation. It has been an amazing experience and I'm constantly learning."

There are many avenues for alumni to get back on campus. From guest speaking to tutoring to becoming a lab assistant, no gesture is too small when it comes to alumni putting their quality education to work. Johnson College thrives on the knowledge and experience that alumni bring to current students in the classroom.

If you, or an alumnus you know, are interested in becoming reconnected with Johnson College through employment, please check out [Johnson.edu/employment](http://Johnson.edu/employment) today!

### 2016-17 ALUMNI EMPLOYEES

Patrick Appel.....	2007
Gerard Barone.....	2011
Todd Campbell.....	1982
Matthew Cirba.....	2009
Timothy Sean Critchley.....	2014
Joshua Diehl.....	2015
Rick Fornes.....	1994
David Hopkins.....	2013/2014
Dominique Marie Horrocks..	2014
Brian Johnson.....	2006
Mark Kisel.....	2010
Kimberly Konopka.....	2007
Mark Kozemko.....	1979
Jolynn Lawler.....	2007
Jodi Leuthe.....	1996
Amanda Melnyk.....	2009
Frank Mickavicz.....	1990
Cody Mowry.....	2015
Joseph Musheno.....	1978
Greg Race.....	2004
Ronald Stiltenspole.....	2009
Anthony Summa.....	2009
Pasco Tomaino.....	2015
Michael Volz.....	1992
Andrew Zwanch.....	1982



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2016 has been a year of new beginnings. I am very pleased to announce that after a site visit was conducted and a readiness report was accepted, the College was designated as a candidate for Accreditation Status from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. This new accreditation will allow the College to more easily transfer student credits, improve the program development process, and allow for accessibility to more grants. Regional accreditation is very respected in higher education, and we look forward to continuing in the process as the year continues.

We're also developing the next strategic plan which will map out the path to success for the college into 2020. With all of our departments working collaboratively toward a common goal, we have no doubt that the 2016-2017 school year will be our most successful yet.

*Ann L. Pipinski*

Ann L. Pipinski, Ed.D.  
President & CEO



## Trunk Or Treat

Johnson College invited the community to a Trunk-or-Treat event on Thursday, October 27th. Students and staff from Johnson College, as well as the community, were invited to decorate car trunks by theme and hand out candy on the front lawn of campus. The weather moved the party inside, but the food, entertainment, and fun made for an awesome Halloween-themed event.



## InstaJag!

Students are getting involved with social media this semester by participating in #InstaJag, a way to share photos of the Johnson College community using the social media platform, Instagram. Do you have photos of the Johnson College campus or events you would like to share? Tag us using @JohnsonCollege and #WeWork!



## Career Fair

The Fall Career Fair was held on October 26th. The fair had 70 employers to speak with more than 200 students and alumni about job and internship opportunities.



## PTA Junior Achievement

The Physical Therapist Assistant Program participated in Junior Achievement's JA in a Day for the third year at Robert Morris Elementary in Scranton. To help celebrate Physical Therapy Awareness month, the students chose Junior Achievement as their community service project. Volunteers delivered Junior Achievement's enrichment programs in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Students spent the morning exploring money matters and the "world of work."



## Villa Capri

The Villa Capri Cruisers Car Club, Inc. awarded \$1,000 to be given to a Johnson College Automotive Technology student. This is the fifth year for the scholarship by the club, which raises funds through donations, volunteer work, sponsorships, and annual calendar sales.



## NATEF Training

The Automotive Technology Program at Johnson College hosted nine instructors to conduct a National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) Evaluation Team Leader (ETL) Training on October 18th. The day-long training prepared instructors to utilize accreditation standards to improve the quality of their programs.



## Scholarship Breakfast

On November 9th, the College celebrated scholarship donors and recipients at a breakfast that is held annually at Fiorelli's in Peckville. More than 50 students received scholarships from 36 different funds and donors.



## Veterans Day Activities

The Johnson College Student Engagement Department recognized student veterans in many ways this year. A lunch was held for student veterans, the Mobile Vet Center was on campus to provide services to student veterans, and the student group, Social Force, held a clothing drive for local veterans in need.



## Ben Franklin Grant Collaboration

The College has completed an educational consulting project that was funded by Ben Franklin Technology Partners of NEPA and Pleasant Mount Welding. Each contributed \$20,000 to create an aluminum grating swaging machine, so Pleasant Mount Welding could begin manufacturing grates in-house as opposed to purchasing from a supplier. The grates contribute to the products the company provides to the wastewater and sewer industry. The overall goal of the project was to create a product that will create or sustain jobs in our area, while also sharing knowledge between industry and the College.



## December Commencement

On December 16th, Johnson College held its second December Commencement Ceremony. Seventeen students from ten program areas graduated with Associate of Science or Associate of Applied Science degrees, or a program certificate. David F. Boniello, '84, Chair of the Board of Directors, delivered the keynote address.





Johnson College &  
Johnson College Alumni

## Upcoming Events

### ALUMNI WINTER EVENT

WBS Penguins vs. Binghamton Senators  
February 11, 2017: [Johnson.edu/hockey](http://Johnson.edu/hockey)

### OPEN HOUSE

March 4, 2017: [Johnson.edu/openhouse](http://Johnson.edu/openhouse)

### GOLDEN ALUMNI REUNION & INDUCTION CEREMONY

April 1, 2017: [Johnson.edu/reunion](http://Johnson.edu/reunion)

### 25TH ANNUAL JOHNSON COLLEGE OPEN

May 19, 2017: [Johnson.edu/golf](http://Johnson.edu/golf)

For more Johnson College campus  
events visit [Johnson.edu/event](http://Johnson.edu/event)

### STAY CONNECTED!

Update your information with us at  
[Johnson.edu/alumni-services](http://Johnson.edu/alumni-services)

