

THE

WINTER 2023

JOHNSONIAN



FROM THE MARINE CORPS. TO CARPENTRY & CABINETMAKING

Ken Stucker, a current Johnson College Carpentry and Cabinetmaking Technology student, was listening to a refugee of the Syrian Civil War share her experience when he decided that he wanted to aid in the efforts to stop the violence. Prepared for a life-changing experience, he enlisted in the Marine Corps. in 2012. "I joined to put my mind, body, and spirit to the test in service to our nation, to become part of something larger than myself, and to lay the foundation for my future," Stucker said.

He served in the Marines as a 2671 Arabic Cryptologist Linguist, specializing in signals intelligence and ground electronic warfare. At the time, when religious extremists spilled out of Syria and into Iraq as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), he was part of the coalition formed to degrade and eliminate them. During his participation in this alliance, Stucker was a tactical signals support team member that provided indications and warnings in Iraq, produced reports to help the coalition fighting ISIS, and supported interpretation needs.

As he served, he faced some of the most challenging situations he had ever encountered. "I was in Iraq as internally displaced Iraqi citizens fled for their lives from the ISIS advance," he said. "I was there to see those same people return to their homes to rebuild as coalition forces pushed ISIS back." Stucker and his team were on the job when Mosul, the ISIS capital, fell, and control of Iraq was given back to its people.

Five years later, when Stucker was satisfied with his accomplishments, he retired from his position as a corporal and watch chief of a virtual signals intelligence operations center to Northeastern Pennsylvania to start something new. After hiking the first 1,100 miles of the Appalachian Trail, he decided to pursue a degree in Carpentry and Cabinetmaking at Johnson College.

Following the completion of his first semester, Stucker is thrilled with his decision to attend the College thanks to the support of its community. "I'm confident that the skills I'm learning here won't just land me a job in the industry – they'll prepare me for tons of exciting opportunities to make and do great things in my everyday life," he said.

Stucker has big plans for his future. "I want to continue my education indefinitely while operating my own business and building my homestead," he said. "I hope to branch out into forestry to supply local makers with renewable materials while carefully managing our precious natural resources."

The Marine Corps. values of honor, courage, and commitment are serving him well as he pursues his academic and career goals. "If I could graduate from recruit training at Parris Island, learn Arabic at the Defense Language Institute, deploy to a combat zone, and run a watch floor of highly-skilled Marines, I can succeed at Johnson College and in my future career," Stucker said.



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

There is always something new and exciting going on at Johnson College and this fall semester was certainly full of groundbreaking moments. The construction of Ideal Saldi Hall has officially begun and we are counting down the days in anticipation until we set foot in the newest addition to our campus. Earlier this fall, we held our first RISE Commencement. I am always proud of our students for the hard work and perseverance that they put into accomplishing their academic goals. We also witnessed the launch of the College's new Community Hub, a space where students will find access to community resources, and hosted many new events including Fall Fest and a Women in Industry interactive event!

Our students are getting the most out of their education and learning what it means to be a member of the Johnson College community. After a packed and successful day of

networking and talking shop with our industry partners at the career fair, many of our students have accepted internships and are excited to get real-world experience in their desired fields of study. They have also stepped up and participated in many of the drives and volunteer opportunities offered through campus to give back to the community and support those in need.

While this semester has been thrilling, the academic term is not over yet. As we embark on a new year, I know that together, our students and our community will continue to hit new milestones and make Johnson College history. How do I know this? Well, because together, We Work!!!

Thank you,

Katie Leonard

KATIE LEONARD, ED.D. PRESIDENT & CEO



COMMUNITY HUB LAUNCH

On November 15, the Special Programs department invited students and Johnson College employees to celebrate the launch of the new Community Hub. Located in the Moffat Student Center, the Hub will serve as a space where students can meet with College staff members or local agency representatives to discuss support services that are available to them within the community. Services include but are not limited to child care, transportation, housing, nutrition, utilities, employment, and social services. This one-stop shop is meant to alleviate the potential stressors of visiting multiple agencies.

The project is funded in part by Robin Hood Mobility LABs and the Commission on Economic Opportunity.

RISE COMMENCEMENT

History was made on campus as members of the first-ever RISE (Readiness in Skilled Employment) cohort completed their academic journeys together. On September 15, Dr. Katie Leonard, President and CEO of Johnson College, conferred nine academic certificates to graduating RISE students. The students were honored for the hard work and determination that they displayed in their classes and labs. RISE is a unique partnership between Johnson College, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania, The William G McGowan Charitable Fund, and The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development.

Candy J. Frye '94, Business Development Executive at LR Costanzo Construction, gave the commencement address while degrees were presented by Liz Finley, Program Director at RISE NEPA.





WOMEN IN INDUSTRY INTERACTIVE EVENT

On November 16, like-minded women gathered in Woolworth Hall to celebrate their role in industry by participating in an interactive event. The afternoon began with a workshop about mindfulness hosted by Lisa Rigau, owner of Healthy Lifestyle Management. Afterward, attendees talked shop and networked while enjoying light fare in the Mechatronics and Advanced Manufacturing lab. The event concluded with an opportunity to work with a computer-aided design to create a three-dimensional object using 3-D printers.

SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

After a two-year absence due to COVID, Johnson College hosted its annual Scholarship Breakfast in person at Fiorelli Catering in Peckville. Attendees enjoyed a delicious spread, followed by a presentation recognizing the scholarship recipients and the generous donors who make scholarships possible. Devin Walsh, a student in the Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning program, served as the student speaker. He was followed by keynote speaker, David Hawk, founder of the Hawk Family Foundation and contributor to the College's Innovation at Work Capital Campaign, specifically for student scholarships and campus projects. The breakfast concluded with the presentation of awards to 42 students by Dr. Katie Leonard, President and CEO of Johnson College, and Jeanine Engelmann, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer of Johnson College.



ALUMNI & STUDENT CAREER FAIR

Johnson College students, alumni, and industry partners filled the Moffat Student Center and other spaces throughout campus to meet and discuss career opportunities at the College's most recent fall career fair. With over 250 student and alumni participants as well as over 70 regional employers in attendance, the event was the largest that it has been since 2020. Many of the students who participated in the career fair have since received internship or job opportunities.





VETERINARY NURSING STUDENTS GAIN SPECIALTY EXPERIENCE

Our Veterinary Nursing students attain hands-on, in-field opportunities with local veterinarians at small animal clinics through our internship and clinical lab programs; however, it's not often they gain firsthand experience in a specialty clinic.

Jamie Laubenstein '07, one of our Veterinary Nursing instructors, has spent countless years working alongside veterinary specialist Dr. Paul Mallonee. Outside of teaching, she expands upon her industry experience by assisting him. "Dr. Mallonee is an amazing supporter of veterinary nursing, Jamie said. "When he offered to allow our students to participate in equine anesthesia and surgery, we knew this would be a great opportunity for them to gain unique industry experience."

When Jamie presented this opportunity to her Surgical Rotation students during the fall semester, Kayla Ross and Cassidy Weber jumped at the chance to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience. "I've always been interested in large and small animal mixed practice," Kayla said. "I thought it would be a great opportunity to see how equine surgery is performed and what my role would be as a veterinary nurse if I decide to pursue that path."

Kayla and Cassidy traveled with Jamie to Kokinos Equine Services in Vernon, New York. Under the supervision of Jamie and equine veterinarians Dr. Mallonee and Dr. John

Kokinos, the students helped prepare horses for castration and closure of an inguinal hernia.

As they dove headfirst into their roles, the students assisted in anesthesia induction and monitoring, intubation, inserting IV and arterial catheters for both fluid therapy and intravenous blood pressure monitoring, and much more. According to Cassidy, many of the steps they took were similar to the small animal surgery methods they learned during their on-campus classes and labs. Following the operations, they aided in the recovery process of the horses by monitoring their vitals and assessing for pain.

"We see cats and dogs under anesthesia quite often, but horses are a whole different story in terms of depth and vital norms," Kayla said. Both students appreciated the opportunity to expand their knowledge within their field of practice alongside industry professionals. "The surgery itself was incredible," Cassidy said. "It was also amazing to see my instructor, Ms. Jamie, being an anesthetist – she's a very skilled veterinary nurse."

"I think it's so important to offer opportunities like this to help students like me decide what we want to do with our future in veterinary medicine," Kayla said. With this industry experience under their belts, Kayla and Cassidy learned that their Johnson College education can lead them to many different career paths.



FOOD DRIVE

Students and employees of Johnson College participated in the annual food drive, sponsored by the College's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The drive was held in celebration of National Coming Out Day and International Day for Eradication of Poverty. Donations were collected throughout campus from October 3 to October 17 before they were transported to the NEPA Youth Shelter to provide LGBTQ teens with food and resources.

SAVE THE DATES

ALUMNI NIGHT: WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS HOCKEY GAME | Saturday, February 25

ALUMNI & STUDENT CAREER FAIR | Wednesday, March 22

OPEN HOUSE | Saturday, March 25

COMMENCEMENT | Saturday, May 13

30TH ANNUAL JOHNSON COLLEGE OPEN | Friday, May 19

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