

**Katie Bell** – Williamsport/Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone, *Coordinator*

It's hard to not be impressed by the enthusiasm and experience of Katie Bell. In her role as the Coordinator of the Williamsport/Lycoming Keystone Innovation Zone at the Industrial Modernization Center, Bell assists clients with product development, the incorporation of new technologies and business start-ups.

Bell's office is currently hosting eight KIZ companies and assisting more than 60 clients

in various stages of a business launch.

In addition to her job duties, Bell is on the board of directors of Technology Futures of Central Pennsylvania. That group is trying to bring together people who have a vital interest in moving the Williamsport region forward through innovation, entrepreneurship, mentoring, agility and collaborative efforts.

Bell was named to *Business Central's* Foremost Under Forty list for 2008.

Outside of work Bell and husband Greg helped to found the Williamsport/Lycoming Young Professionals organization that now has more than 200 networking members. She is also on the Board of Trustees for Leadership Lycoming and is a volunteer for Susquehanna Health Foundation's Keystone Society.

Bell also volunteers for Lycoming College's spring break Habitat for Humanity trips.



**Greg Bell** – Roche Financial, *Employee Benefits Specialist*

Greg Bell was named to *Business Central's* Foremost Under Forty list for 2008. He is an employee benefits specialist at Roche Financial.

As co-founder and current president of the Williamsport/Lycoming Young Professionals, Bell enjoys leading the effort against the brain drain that has often been mentioned as a major problem for the region. Keeping young, well-educated people in the region is a worthy

goal, indeed. Helping them cultivate their entrepreneurial skills may be the key to success.

Bell analyzes health benefit costs and options for his clients to find what will work best for them. "I pride myself in servicing our clients and always being able to get the right answer in a timely fashion. I want to make a difference in our client's lives."

Bell is a big fan of the Williamsport area, which may explain why he works so

hard to help it grow and prosper. "I chose to permanently live in Williamsport due to my love of the area," he said. "I think Williamsport is big enough to provide opportunities to all, while also being small enough for one to get to know many people in the community."

Together with his wife Katie, Bell is very optimistic about the future of the region, and he's working to forge that future.



**Thomas P. Murray** – Mt. Nittany Medical Center, *President & CEO*

Tom Murray, president and CEO of Mt. Nittany Medical Center in State College, has been shepherding a number of major capital improvements this year, including the purchase of Penn's Valley Family Medical Center, a new linear accelerator for chemotherapy, and new digital mammography equipment for the breast care center.

The new Center for Wound Care, with a wound surgeon specialist and two

hyperbaric chambers, opened on Radnor Road in State College.

Three more rooms were added to serve the main facility's busy emergency department – the second time the ER was expanded in seven years.

The big project is adding three stories to the east wing. Because the hospital was fortunate enough not to have the need to borrow money recently (thus no credit rating), the Commitment to Distinction

Campaign was launched, chaired by Joe and Sue Paterno, already with donation commitments of \$8.4 million. The medical center recently earned an A credit rating from Standard and Poors and Fitch, in order to secure loans.

On the patient care side, Murray said, "Our patient satisfaction scores continue to go up. We received our seventh Achieving Patient Care Excellence award from the Volunteer Hospital Association."



**Donald Spence** – Respironics, *CEO*

The Greek god Somnus, god of sleep, must be a friend of Donald Spence, CEO of Respironics, the Murrysville-based manufacturer of sleep aids. In fact, Respironics is the leading provider of innovative solutions for the global sleep and respiratory markets. Sleep disorders are a major health concern and Respironics' products make life more healthful for those who are afflicted.

At the helm of this industry giant is

Donald Spence, who worked to steer the company through its recently completed purchase by Netherlands-based Philips Electronics. The deal was finalized on December 21 for \$5.2 billion, following approval by the European Union. Spence also worked to realign the company so that it could take advantage of growing markets.

In recent months, Respironics has grown substantially. In October, the Pittsburgh

Technology Council named the company the winner in the Advanced Manufacturing category.

Respironics makes medical devices for use in homes and hospitals. It has about 4,100 employees, including 1,440 in western Pennsylvania. The company has worked to broaden its presence beyond its core obstructive sleep apnea market to help anyone who has trouble sleeping.



**U.S. Rep-Elect Glenn Thompson** – Pennsylvania's Fifth District

Glenn Thompson (R) will succeed U.S. Rep. John Peterson as congressman to Pennsylvania's Fifth District. The largest congressional district in Pennsylvania, it stretches across 17 counties.

A life-long Howard Township resident and Centre County Republican Chairman, Glenn Thompson, 48, is a 26-year veteran of Susquehanna Health Rehab Services Manager. He has served as the Centre County Republican Chairman and on the

Republican State Committee for six years, Bald Eagle Area School Board for six years, and as a member of the Republican National Convention delegation in 2004.

He's a past member of the regional Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board and current vice-chair of the Private Industry Council of the Central Corridor. Thompson is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Centre County. He's served nearly 30 years as a scoutmaster and is the current president

of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council.

Thompson was awarded the 60-Plus Association's Honorary Guardian of Senior's Rights Award for his senior-friendly voting record – including support for repealing the 1993 tax on Social Security benefits and repealing the 'death tax.'

"While the challenges are demanding, and the issues facing this country far and wide, I look forward to the opportunity to work for the constituents of the Fifth District."



# P E N N S Y L V A N I A BUSINESS CENTRAL'S

## Choosing "The Top 100" — Some of the region's best

by HARRY ZIMBLER, Editor

Welcome to Pennsylvania Business Central's annual "Top 100" list of some of the top people in our sixteen-county region. We've been compiling this list since the early 1990s and the hardest part is choosing 100 out of the many hundreds of nominations we receive.

This year we have a truly representative sampling of the people who fuel the engines of economic development in central Pennsylvania, our list is — in a word — eclectic.

Consider this: Joe Paterno, one of the most widely-recognized figures in sports is on this list. So is Bishop Joseph Adamec, for his courage in making some gut-wrenching decisions.

We believe that every person on the list made an impact on the organizations, businesses and quality of life here. These 100 individuals were named by at least two nominators and even at that we had to eliminate some deserving candidates.

When this journal was first created, we were told that we'd never have enough material to fill a monthly paper, create lists of businesses and publish Top 100 People and Top 100 Businesses.

Today, we publish twice a month and

have more material than we can ever get in the paper.

By the way, we placed the TOP 100 at random so you have to read them all!

Have a great 2009; hold tight to your dreams and strategic plans.



### Ted McDowell — Ameriserv Bank, *Regional President*

A regional president with AmeriServ Bank in State College, Ted McDowell has worked tirelessly on interrelations between businesses on the local level, as well as the relations between local businesses in State College and the community they serve.

Business has been good for McDowell and AmeriServ — the State College offices posted growth both in terms of deposits and lending this year. AmeriServ is

currently planning to open a third office in State College in the near future.

McDowell, in addition to his duties at AmeriServ, serves on the board of directors for the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC), the Centre County United Way and The Second Mile, a nonprofit organization based in State College that provides support to children at risk.

"There's a great quality of life in this

area, but that doesn't just happen all by itself," McDowell said. "In all the places I've ever been, I've never seen so many good people willing to give so much of themselves back to the community, and I feel a need to be a part of that."

### Mayor Gabriel J. Campana — Williamsport Mayor

Elected in 2007 as Mayor of Williamsport on a platform of lowering crime and increasing investment in the city's downtown area, Gabriel J. Campana has already amassed an impressive record to show for his one year in office.

He hired a new police chief and captains and has overseen the formation of a special operations group, posting a top 25 Most wanted list on billboards throughout the

city and on the Internet, as well as pushing for more lighting on city streets. He has improved the relationship between the city's management, its police force and neighborhood crime watch groups. As a result, violent crime is down by more than 10 percent and drug arrests have risen by 200 percent.

Campana has also done his part to help Williamsport attract more than \$500 million of investments in its downtown

area in 2008, filling vacant storefronts and reviving the downtown scene. He has pushed to resurrect cultural activities such as an Easter egg hunt in Brandon Park and a community variety show.

In addition, Campana is bringing before the city council a zero percent increase in the 2009 budget.

"I'm excited about the changes I've helped to bring about for the city," Campana said. "But this is only the beginning."



### William Hayes — Kish Bank, *President*

Kish Bank President William Hayes has successfully led his company through what has been a treacherous year for the banking industry. He has done so by focusing on the "community" aspect of community banking.

"We're close to local markets and we know our customers, so the high-profile challenges that have faced some of our larger brethren have not really affected us so much here," Hayes said. "A bank reflects

the quality of the market it serves and so far our quality has been high."

Through the third quarter, earnings per share for the bank were up more than nine percent, and Hayes said the bank is looking toward 2009 "very optimistically."

"There's still plenty of opportunities to fill the credit needs of the region and we're going to seek to do that," Hayes said.

Hayes has also taken on a role of spokesman for the banking industry in appearances on

cable television and public radio.

"I see it as a way to serve the public, by reassuring those who may be fearful of the current economic climate," Hayes said. "There have been a lot of prognosticators saying the banking industry is on the verge of collapse. I try to remind people that these types of things tend to happen with some regularity. I hope to give people some peace of mind and help them get to sleep a little easier in a very stressful time financially."



## Carol Rummel – Ebensburg Area Business Commission, *Chairperson of PotatoFest*

It would be difficult to find another person as committed to her community as Carol. The Ebensburg resident Rummel has served as a volunteer in her town in various capacities for the past 35 years.

For the past 15 years, Rummel has been involved with the Ebensburg Area Business Commission (EABC), serving as chairperson of PotatoFest, an annual celebration of one of Cambria County's most important

agricultural products.

The day-long festival takes place during the fall harvest, and consistently draws tens of thousands of people to Ebensburg with its expansive array of food and craft vendors and a busy schedule of live entertainment.

"It's the busiest day of the year for a lot of businesses in town," Rummel said. "But every year we aim to make it better. I'm very proud of this town and I think PotatoFest is an important part of the town. It fulfills my

need to give back."

## Linda Marshall – Centre County, *Senior Planner & Housing Coordinator*

If anyone knows how badly Centre County is in need of more affordable housing, it is Linda Marshall, the county's senior planner and housing coordinator for the past three years. Marshall has worked for the county for the past eight years, originally on long-range planning. After a county-wide assessment released in 2005 pointed out how dire the county's low-income housing situation had become, the county created her current position

and named her to it. This year, Marshall established an estimate that the county will need at least 2,000 new units by 2030 to meet demand. She is currently in the process of developing a plan and a set of regulations that would set the county on the course to meet that need.

Marshall also directs the county's first time homebuyer program and gives numerous talks about "what affordable housing is and why it's important to our

community.

"With the recession, more people are in dire straits than ever before," Marshall said. "This is a serious problem. It's difficult but important to mix patience with persistence. It takes time to get the whole process rolling and gather a powerful coalition that can really make a positive impact."



## Allan Robison – Blair County Community Action Agency, *Executive Director*

While the current economic downturn has left more and more people without jobs, Blair County Community Action Agency (BCCAA) Executive Director Allan Robison has seen his own grow more complicated and demanding. The BCCAA assembles and directs federal and local resources to address the hardships facing low income and socially disadvantaged residents of Blair County.

Robison, who has held his current position since 1997, has overseen expansion of many of the BCCAA's programs, including homeless assistance, housing counseling, utility assistance and housing weatherization. The agency's budget has tripled since the beginning of his tenure, and last year it helped to serve more than 4,000 people.

This year, Robison has seen a "whole new wave" of first time requests for

assistance.

"People who have never asked for anything before are finding themselves in some pretty dire situations," Robison said. "More than ever, our services are necessary."

## Bob Eyer, *Managing Partner* & Joel Valentine, *Certified Public Accountant* – Wessel & Co.

In a disastrous year for many companies' profit margins, Wessel & Co. Managing Partner Bob Eyer helped guide the company to an 11 percent increase in its overall revenues for 2008.

The Johnstown-headquartered accounting firm, in no small part due to Eyer's leadership, also increased its staff size, was named as one of the Best

Places to Work in Pennsylvania and implemented a formalized mentoring program for the firm, which celebrated its 50-year anniversary this year.

One of Eyer's primary responsibilities at Wessel is assisting in strategically guiding the firm. Over the past year, Eyer has focused the company on a track for expansion by replacing national firms at larger companies in central Pennsylvania.

"We've found quality-wise we can compete and our price is at least 50 percent less than national firms," Eyer said.

Eyer has been the major force in driving his firm to extend its already deep commitment to charitable giving and community service. Wessel has had a 100 percent giving rate to the United Way for more than 10 years in a row, and the company has initiated a program to help the service agencies it supports in their

accounting and organizational needs.

Eyer himself serves on the board of directors of The Challenge Program, and has significant involvement in the Greater Johnstown YMCA, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Corporation, the Greater Johnstown/Cambria County Chamber of Commerce and several other non-profit organizations.

Valentine, a certified public accountant at Wessel, is another big reason for the company's success. Named to the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants' Members to Watch 40 Under 40 and Pennsylvania Business Central's Foremost Under 40 in 2008, Valentine's expertise is in governmental auditing. But his real specialty is in founding meaningful personal relationships with his clients.

"I try not to carry that typical accounting stereotype with me. I try to

go beyond the number and be more of a partner to my clients," Valentine said. "And the cool thing is, I really do get more out of it that way, too. It makes the whole process more fulfilling and worthwhile for everyone."



Bob Eyer



Joel Valentine

## Tim Burns – Attorney At Law

Though still early in his career, Johnstown attorney Tim Burns can already boast some major accomplishments. With generations of roots in Cambria County, Burns has established a successful and well-respected practice in the area and recently won a major case that made his name a lot better known around town.

Burns mainly focuses on family law, including divorce and custody, but about 25 percent of his cases are in criminal law.

He also does children and youth work and represents a number of non-profits in both Blair and Cambria counties. In addition, Burns is active in the state bar association and the cultural affairs committee of the Greater Johnstown Area Chamber of Commerce.

Burns' signature case was his work representing the Roxbury Bandshell Preservation Alliance in its successful efforts to save the historic structure, located in downtown Johnstown, from the

wrecking ball. The structure had fallen into disrepair but Burns was key in hammering out an eleventh hour compromise that gave the alliance an opportunity to make improvements and return the bandshell to active functional use.

"Even back in high school school, I knew I would be a lawyer," Burns said. "I like helping people, and being a lawyer allows me to do that. As a lawyer, I can play a direct and important role in people's lives."



## Ian Walsh – Lycoming Engines, Senior Vice President & General Manager

Given that Ian Walsh started flying when he was 14 years old, and earned his flying license before his driver's license, it comes as no surprise that he ended up where he is. Walsh flew helicopters in the Marines for 17 years before entering the corporate sector, first at Bell Helicopters and now at Williamsport-based Lycoming Engines, a company specializing in engineering, manufacture, service and support of piston aircraft engines.

Walsh has worked as senior vice president and general manager at Lycoming Engines for the past four-and-a-half years. In that time, he has brought the company back from mediocrity to the cutting edge. He transformed a once-struggling company into an industry powerhouse, negotiating a new union contract, improving customer service and product quality, winning safety awards and launching the company's first new product in decades.

This year, Lycoming Engines will be awarded the prestigious Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence, a prize given to only a few companies worldwide each year who see marked improvement in their business after implementing changes to their manufacturing processes and capabilities.

"When I arrived here, we were really struggling," Walsh said. "Today, we're considered one of the best. It's very satisfying."

## Stephen Keener – Little League Baseball, Little League President & Chief Executive Officer

In a world whose population is rapidly shedding its sense of place, the image of children organized to play the game of baseball is an enduring and endearing symbol of community and stability. Little League President and Chief Executive Officer Stephen Keener cherishes that image, and has worked hard to maintain and update it in line with the changing times.

Little League Baseball and Softball currently has more than 2.6 million players

in more than 7,000 leagues around the world. The playing season is highlighted by the Little League World Series, which takes place every August. The event, which pits Little League teams from around the world in competition for a world championship, draws more than 330,000 spectators to Williamsport over a ten-day period.

Keener, who played Little League himself when he was a child, has been on staff at Little League International since

1980 and has served in his current position since 1996, had a busy year in 2008.

In addition to another successful world series, the organization moved its southern regional headquarters from Gulfport, Fla. to Warner Robins, Ga. Keener has also overseen an updating of safety regulations throughout the organization and pushed an urban initiative designed to reinvigorate youth baseball in metro areas.



## Lance T. Shaner – Shaner Family of Companies, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer

Lance T. Shaner serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Shaner family of companies, including Shaner Hotel Holdings, L.P., owner and operator of more than 20 properties in 15 states. The State College-based company has completed more than \$1 billion in transactions in its history.

Shaner has established an extensive career in areas such as finance and venture capital. His areas of expertise include

contract negotiation, acquisitions and strategic investment advice. He was a co-founder of several oil and gas production companies with operations in eight states, which is now publicly traded as Rex Energy Company. He also developed the award-winning Williamsburg Square property in State College, a \$32 million development consisting of three hotels, two restaurants and two Class A office buildings.

Shaner serves as a member of the

board of trustees at his alma mater, Alfred University, as well as vice chairman of the board of directors of Graystone Bank. He is a past chairman of the United Way Campaign for Central Pennsylvania, the YMCA Capital Campaign and the Centre County Business and Industry Council. He was the 2005 winner of the Palmer Award for Philanthropy.

In 2008, Shaner oversaw the construction of six new Marriott Hotels.

## Judy Crist – Bucknell University Small Business Development Center, Administrator for Education & Finance

Judy Crist is an indomitable force at the Bucknell University Small Business Development Center (SBDC), where she works as administrator for education and finance. Bucknell's SBDC, founded in 1978, is one of the oldest in the nation, and has programs in six counties in central Pennsylvania. It assists those interested in starting a small business by providing them with resources such as free consulting with Bucknell faculty and staff

members.

Crist, who started her career at Bucknell as an undergraduate, then continued on to receive a master's degree and has been working for the university for the past 23 years, is devoted to the school and its mission with the SBDC. Among other duties, Crist is in charge of organizing business education seminars and symposiums geared towards small business development and adult education.

This year – her ninth working at Bucknell's SBDC – Crist organized around 80 seminars attended by more than 1,800 people. Crist, whose undergraduate degree is in women's studies, has put special attention into arranging business education classes for women. One of her many accomplishments includes arranging a quarterly roundtable for area businesswomen.

"There's a need in the community to educate small business owners," Crist said.





## Sandy & Tom Hood – Hoodco, Co-Owners

Sandy and Tom Hood, co-owners of Hoodco, call themselves “the door people.” Those who order doors for Penn State University tend to agree, based on the amount of business they send Hoodcos’s way.

The Bellefonte-based company, a distributor and installer of commercial doors and door hardware, has been in business for more than 20 years. With its largest backlog ever, it continues to

see success even in the current gloomy economic climate. Hoodco President Sandy Hood attributes the company’s success to what she terms “Q3” – quality people, quality service and quality products.

“We can’t be satisfied just with giving our customer a great product,” Hood said. “We can’t be the same company we were five years ago. We have to constantly change and improve to stay ahead of the competition. We’ve become very into changing things

up and trying to do them differently – and hopefully better – than we did them before.”

In addition to her work at her company, Sandy Hood has also served on the board of directors at Mount Nittany Medical Center, the CBICC and has a committee assignment with the Associated Builders and Contractors Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

“My personal philosophy is that you have to go the extra step in everything you do,” Hood said.

## L. Robert Kimball – L. Robert Kimball & Associates, Founder

Founded in 1953, Kimball offers services in architecture, engineering and consulting. The Ebensburg-based Kimball employs 600 workers and has nearly \$75 million in annual revenue. The company’s founder, L. Robert Kimball, still has a senior role in the company even though his son, Robert, took over as president and board chairman a few years ago.

Kimball said the company has hopes to

grow revenue to in excess of \$100 million in 2010, and to double that by 2015.

“There’s two things working in our favor,” Kimball said. “One, we’re based in central Pennsylvania (Ebensburg), where you can hire people who have a great work ethic. The second is the recent announcement by the federal government of a heavy investment in improving the country’s infrastructure.”

Kimball said he expects his company to

land a healthy portion of the federal dollars to be used in such projects.

“Our type of firm fits right into that plan,” Kimball said. “We do exactly what the incoming administration is thinking about doing.”



## Jim Tunall – Juniata Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, President

Jim Tunall describes himself as the consummate cheerleader of business in the Juniata Valley. As president of the Juniata Valley Area Chamber of Commerce, Tunall is doing all he can to assist local businesses in succeeding.

In his four years as president, Tunall has put several ideas into action that have made the chamber a more dynamic organization. In the last 45 months, he has launched a monthly newsletter, created and expanded

an after-hours program and doubled the total number of chamber members to 450. He initiated a program that brings groups of high school students on tours of various industries in the area to create a better awareness of their potential employment options. And he has recently nurtured interest from several parties into what may become significant investment in various commercial developments in the area.

“We’ve made business networking a

priority. We’ve found it opens so many doors for everyone involved,” Tunall said. “We’re excited for what the future has in store for our area.”

Tunall is focused on continuing to grow the chamber’s membership count, which would allow him to hire more staff, “which would really allow us to open more doors.”

“The Juniata Valley business community is positioned for success and we will be successful,” Tunall said.

## Tom Walker – Penn State Learning Center, County Extension Director

Started in 1990, the Penn State Learning Center in Lewistown filled a vital gap in the university’s outreach into communities outlying the University Park area. It was founded with the goal of serving the region of Juniata and Mifflin counties.

For its first decade of existence, the center saw only mixed results. In 2002, Tom Walker took over as county extension director and applied a plan of emphasizing

the center’s science and health education programs, with the specific goal of training qualified nurses, a profession currently in high demand in Pennsylvania. The idea has been an out-and-out success, as the center has seen burgeoning enrollment numbers.

The center remains a vital resource for community members of all different backgrounds, from high school students hoping to get a jump start on college coursework, to retirees taking classes for

more aesthetic purposes, to those recently downsized and looking for reeducation in a new field of work. The center now has more than 100 students currently in credit-oriented programs at the center and another 50 to 75 non-credit students.

“Our goal was to make this into a one-stop outreach center for the university,” Walker said. “But one of the main reasons for our success has been our focus on nursing – there’s such a need.



to expand participation in both that race and the Hyner View Challenge. He’s also exploring the possibility of a race in Rothrock State Park outside of State College.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” Fleming said. “And that’s the most important thing.”

## Craig Flemming – Haven Shoes, Owner

When Craig Fleming moved to central Pennsylvania and opened a shoe store four years ago, one of his goals was to instill his passion for trail running to other outdoors enthusiasts living in the area. With the creation of the Hyner View Challenge in 2006, Fleming brought the sport a showcase, which has also had the beneficial side effect of helping out his own business, Haven Shoes in Lock Haven.

Last year, in the second year of the race, there were more than 650 participants in the grueling, 16.8-mile challenge that involves a cumulative climb of 4,222 vertical ft. The event has gotten more people outside and engaged in active physical activity, as well as bringing important tourist dollars to the area.

Fleming isn’t resting there. Last year, he organized the first ever Prowl the Sproul 10K, and this year he is hoping



## Joe Paterno – Penn State University, *CEO of Penn State Football*

Come on! Is it really necessary to explain this choice? The fact is that Joe Paterno, as the CEO of Penn State football, and the single most recognizable representative of the university, helps generate more economic impact for this region than anyone else. It's hard to imagine that there will be another such person in our lifetimes.

Let's state the obvious: Home football games bring thousands of visitors into the region. Hotel rooms are at a premium, restaurants are

packed and retail shops—especially those selling Penn State goods—are jammed with crowds.

In addition, the football program's success generates much of the income that supports Penn State's other sports.

With Penn State in the Rose Bowl thousands of fans will book flights. And the great publicity that will be generated cannot be bought. Good feelings bring more donations from alumni and friends. One suspects more support from the state government is possible.

The school can count on a surge in applications next year, not that it really needs more.

Even local charities benefit from home football games with a percentage of the proceeds for food sales going to the volunteer sellers.

We can't forget the generosity of the Paterno family. Joe and Sue have donated millions to Penn State to help fund the library, the All Sports Museum and more. JoePa has signed a three-year contract extension and the region should be happy about that.



## Dr. James Douthat – Lycoming College, *President*

Dr. James Douthat has been president of Lycoming College since 1989.

The college has been recognized both for the quality of its academic programs and for its financial stability and strong management.

“Those two achievements, of course, go hand-in-hand,” Douthat said.

This year, Lycoming College was listed both in Baron's Best Buys and Peterson's Competitive Colleges, as well as a new

publication, Colleges of Distinction. Lycoming's four-year graduation rate continues to be almost three times higher than found at most public universities and 33 percent higher than at the average private institution. The college is one of a small group of 98 institutions of higher education with an S&P rating of A or higher, due to its low debt ratio and conservative management of operations, which allow the school a broader range

of options in responding to challenging financial times such as those facing the country today.

“Lycoming places emphasis on quality teaching, engaged students and successful alumni,” Douthat said. “Providing quality intellectual experiences for our students remains the College's primary mission and responsibility in both good and difficult economic times.”

## Ed & Charlene Friedman – *Real Estate Developers*

Ed and Charlene Friedman have been developing real estate in the State College area for almost 40 years. In that time, they have literally changed the landscape of the town, contributing several significant additions to the infrastructure of the town, including the Hilton Garden Inn.

This year, the Friedmans have teamed with a group of investors to initiate renovations of the famed Carnegie House

in the Toftrees area of State College. The Carnegie House, a 22-room bed and breakfast and restaurant, is the only four diamond-rated lodging and dining in Central Pennsylvania, according to Ed Friedman. The renovation plans call for the addition of a spa, significant work on the building's exterior, and for the restaurant, an expansion of the kitchen area and a new menu and wine list. Work is expected to be finished in April 2009. There will be no

slowdown for the coming year, either: they have several projects in various stages of planning for 2009-2010.

Friedman ascribes the couple's success to a conservative investment strategy, involving painstaking research and staying away from debt as much as possible.

“We make sure our projects are going to work before we invest in them and we don't mortgage very much,” Friedman said. “We believe in keeping risks low.”



## Jon Zimmerman – Downtown Lewistown Inc., *President*

A successful businessman many times over, Jon Zimmerman had a life-altering realization one day ten years ago. Working on improving the financials of a company in California, he had to settle for hearing about his daughter's success in a soccer game over the phone.

“I just didn't want to do it anymore,” Zimmerman. “I realized I was missing out on too much of my kids' lives.”

Zimmerman came home to Lewistown.

Now he heads Downtown Lewistown Inc., a non-profit dedicated to the revitalization of the city center. He helped the organization successfully apply for the Main Street and Elm Street programs, bringing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of investment into the downtown area infrastructure. Another large project Zimmerman had an important role in assisting was the construction of the Community Partner

Allied Service System building, which opened this month. It houses a number of service organizations in one building, allowing greater interaction and sharing of resources.

“I believe Lewistown is at a tipping point,” Zimmerman said, “and I think we're building momentum to move in the right direction.”

## Patrick Illig – Electric & Motor Supply, *President & General Manager*

Patrick Illig, president and general manager of Altoona-based Electric Motor and Supply, together with his talented staff, has managed to do something that has never been done before—create an electric engine that not only uses energy sparingly, but creates energy as it stops. As he said, mass transportation experts have told him a new power system has been sought for years, with companies spending tens of millions of dollars. Where they have

failed, EMS has succeeded.

The project involved creating a vehicle that would be highly efficient and as environmentally responsible as possible, as it moved people from the harbor to the local bus depot.

The EMS solution was an old trolley car that is powered by capacitors rather than batteries. An electric generator on the vehicle uses about 20 gallons of diesel fuel each week, as opposed to hundreds of gallons for

a standard engine. The power is captured by the capacitors and recycled. When the vehicle brakes, it generates more power. Illig sees great things ahead for EMS. “I see no reason that this system can't be used on other mass transportation vehicles,” he said. In particular, he is targeting city busses.

No doubt about it: Illig is an exciting entrepreneur and innovator who sees answers in places where most won't even pose the question.





## Lance Westerhoff – QuantumBio Inc., *General Manager*

Lance Westerhoff, general manager of QuantumBio Inc., is using cutting edge technology to reduce the amount of time and money it takes to develop new pharmaceutical drugs. Westerhoff holds a doctorate in chemistry from Penn State, where he met his advisor and now-business partner Dr. Kenneth M. Merz, Jr., who is widely known for his research in using computational chemistry for drug discovery.

Westerhoff was vital in his company's procurement of several millions of dollars worth of investment in its first few years – vital seed money for a company with relatively high start-up costs. He currently manages a team of engineers and scientists in using computers to sift through massive amounts of data to find probable successful drug formulas. It's important science, considering on average, it takes 15 years and \$1 billion to develop a new drug,

according to Westerhoff.

"It's a very good feeling to be doing work on projects that can have such importance in the world," Westerhoff said.

Westerhoff was named as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008 and is a nominee for the 2008 Outstanding Technology Company of the Year Award from the Chamber for Business and Industry of Centre County.

## Senator Roger Madigan – *Retired Pennsylvania State Senator*

Retiring this year from the state Senate after more than 30 years of public service, Roger Madigan has compiled a long and successful record of representing the people of his district in state government.

A Penn State graduate and former dairy farmer, the Towanda native won election to represent the 110th District, including all of Bradford County, in 1977. He served in that capacity until he graduated to

represent the state's 23 Senatorial District in 1984. In the Senate, he headed the Senate Transportation Committee, was vice-president of the Game and Fisheries Committee, and a one-time chairman of the Labor and Industry Committee and a member of the Appropriations, Agriculture and Rural Affairs committees.

He has been recognized with the Leadership Award from the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association, a Barn Raiser

Award from the PA Farm Bureau and, in 1993, was named as the State Elected Official of the Year by the National Associations of Homebuilders.

Following the end of the most recent legislation session, Madigan, who now lives in Luthers Mills, went on a well-earned vacation.



## Judy Loy – Nestlerode & Company, *President & CEO*

Judy Loy had a great year. Following a distinguished career at Nestlerode and Company, which began in 1992, she was named president and CEO of the company in 2008.

Now known as Nestlerode and Loy, the privately held business has been providing investment advice for many decades and has established a reputation for excellence that extends well beyond Center County.

Judy is an extraordinary woman, willing

to step forward in a leadership position, willing to explore her own notions of what makes a company successful.

In 1996, after just four years, she became the company's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. In 1999, Judy completed a Securities Industry Association three-year institute at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Today, she works as a Registered Investment Advisor, with assets under

management of \$40 million dollars.

Judy believes in community service. She is a member and treasurer of WiNGs, the Women's Network Group, and a member of the Judge Campbell Society of the Centre County Community Foundation. In addition, she is a graduate of Leadership Centre County and currently Treasurer of its board of directors.

## Justin Dunkelberger – Penn Wind & PA Solar LLCs, *CEO*

At 31 years old, Dunkelberger is already a respected and powerful player in the alternative energy business. He is CEO of Penn Wind and PA Solar LLCs, which he helped found in Sunbury in 2006. Locally, Penn Wind and PA Solar participate in developing wind and solar projects as well as helping to educate the community on renewable energies through various community events and meetings.

Dunkelberger worked at several

engineering firms before starting his own business, Window World, which provides efficiency improvements on home exteriors. He passed on his part of the business to his friend in order to become fully involved in his new companies. Dunkelberger's business will further benefit from a mandate put forward by Governor Ed Rendell requiring energy companies to draw at least 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources by 2018.

"The momentum is reaching a crescendo right now," Dunkelberger said. "With rising demand and relatively little competition, we're in a good spot to capture the increasing investment the country is making in alternative energy sources."

Dunkelberger was named as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008 and was recently elected to the board of supervisors in Point Township.



## Dan Schaffer – Rockland Manufacturing, *President*

Who says manufacturing is dead? Dan Schaffer, president of Rockland Manufacturing begs to differ. In fact, Rockland has been growing even as the competition shrinks in the difficult economy.

Dan is an affable man, a true leader whose major concern is the well-being of his people. He is not the kind of leader who enjoys a high public profile, but clearly he deserves recognition for his

attention to excellence and continued growth.

Quoting one of his nominations to this list, "Dan is a quiet leader, one you want on your side. He is on a mission to keep his people employed with safe and steady jobs. He is a Top 100 in my book,"

Based in Bedford, Rockland Manufacturing designs and manufactures construction equipment for dozers, loaders, excavators and motor graders.

The company has been an industry leader for decades. Now, guided by Schaffer, the company is a very proactive organization. Rockland is an eager participant in the I-99 Innovation Corridor initiative, establishing relationships with Penn State on numerous levels. Meaningful student internships are but one example of this new vision.

## Dr. Stephen Fonash – Penn State University, Bayard D. Kunkle Chair in Engineering Sciences

Steve Fonash has seen the future—and it's very, very small: One billionth of a meter, in fact. Dr. Fonash holds a number of positions at Penn State University. In addition to holding the Bayard D. Kunkle Chair in Engineering Sciences, he is director of three organizations that are spreading the word about nanotechnology and the profound impact it will have on the future of the American economy.

On top of all that, he walks the walk as

an entrepreneur himself.

Dr. Fonash is clearly on a dedicated mission: to help American companies open new doors and seek new opportunities by discovering the new properties of materials at the nano level. When materials are that small they behave differently, allowing for new and improved products of all kinds.

Competing in the 21st century is going to require education in, and utilization of, high technologies. And nanotechnology is

among the most promising.

In his role as the Director of Center for Nanotechnology Education and Utilization, Dr. Fonash and his staff are working with school districts and businesses to help them understand the enormous potential of nanotech.

A 2008 grant will help the Center spread the word and establish programs that stretch from high school to two- and four-year schools of higher education.



## Dr. Keith Miller – Lock Haven University, President

Since taking over as the 13th president of Lock Haven University, Keith Miller has dedicated himself not only to academic excellence but also to economic development—job creation and retention—and community service.

Miller wants the world to know that most of LHU's accomplishments have been made possible by the wonderful faculty and staff that work there.

Consider just a few of the initiatives that

have been percolating at LHU.

- The Bentley Hall Art Gallery, a showcase for the work of students, faculty and guest artists was established this fall.
- LHU Received a \$900,000 grant from the State Department of Education to help with its proposed expansion of its Physician Assistant Program in Coudersport and Harrisburg.
- A grant for \$207,000 was received for an Entrepreneurial Leadership Center and

incubator services.

- The Durrwachter Alumni Conference Center opened in 2008.

Perhaps most impressive of all, under Keith Miller's guidance, LHU has been named an All-Steinway School. The designation demonstrates a commitment to excellence in its music program. There are only 65 such schools in the nation.

We look forward to more great things from LHU and President Miller in 2009.

## Congressman John Murtha

Here's a real no-brainer. Elected to the United States Congress in 1974, John Murtha has been Johnstown's strongest advocate and voice for a change. Can anyone in his district even imagine what life would be like without his total commitment to its economic well being? We doubt it.

The western Pennsylvania economy, once based on coal and steel, is transforming into a technology- and information-based economy, in large measure due to Murtha's dedication.

Anyone who knows better knows that the annual Showcase for Commerce owes its phenomenal success to the Congressman's focus on defense.

Workforce development is also a key component to economic growth and Congressman Murtha has not ignored that arena. He helps local industries as much as he can to improve worker skills.

Tourism and agriculture – two of the state's largest business sectors – have also

benefited from funding secured by the Congressman.

We can't forget the many infrastructure projects that the Congressman has helped launch.

We don't know for certain what 2009 holds in store for the local and national economies. We do know this: Congressman John Murtha will work tirelessly on behalf of Johnstown and all of western Pennsylvania.



## Graham Spanier – Penn State University, President

Penn State President Graham Spanier is responsible for the operation of the single largest contributor to the economy in the entire state of Pennsylvania -- billions of dollars in economic impact. Did you know that every dollar invested in Penn State by the Commonwealth generates about \$20 in economic impact?

In our region, Penn State has a nearly incalculable impact on the regional economy. Between Penn State University Park and Penn

State Altoona the outreach programs alone are worthy of all the praise we can muster.

Now, with the I-99 Innovation Corridor, among other initiatives, Penn State is working to help entrepreneurs get started and ongoing companies get better and more competitive.

Dr. Spanier is a visionary leader who has helped transform Penn State from the lower tier of Big Ten Schools into a showcase institution. Is there anyone who hasn't noticed the incredible growth and

improvement of the physical plant, the faculty and the endowments of Penn State?

Graham Spanier may be the most accessible and visible president that Penn State has ever had. When he is asked a question, he provides a direct and honest answer. He makes the tough choices that a CEO has to make in order to keep the enterprise moving forward.



## Bishop Joseph V. Adamec – Altoona-Johnstown Catholic Diocese

Great leaders make tough decisions. Bishop Adamec is a great leader despite the controversies that have swirled around him. The Altoona-Johnstown Catholic diocese "is not a group of churches, it is a single entity, with one way of worshipping, as one in our journey of faith," he said. As the spiritual leader of the diocese, he oversees 90 parishes in eight counties. In addition to spiritual guidance, Adamec makes economic and

logistical decisions that benefit the diocese.

That's not easy with economic challenges, loss of young people taking jobs elsewhere, and the general condition of older churches. Sadly, churches founded on old-world traditions may have to be closed. Not all buildings can be staffed, some are unsafe, and others have dwindling congregations that may be better served in a nearby parish.

Adamec has directed the readjustment

of parishes so that all are better served in the faith. He has helped secure the future of three Catholic high schools. Each is now incorporated with its own local board of directors. A new high school in State College is under review.

"We make sure that all our faithful have a place and a pastor. But it's not an easy job to move to a new church, with so much history and memories," he said. "The next bishop will have to build upon what I have



## Cheryl Johnson – Private Industry Council of Centre County, *Executive Director*

When it comes to workforce training, development and placement, no individual is more dedicated to the cause than Cheryl Johnson. She is the executive director of the Private Industry Council of Centre County and is responsible for general management of operations as well as providing leadership to all the employees in the implementation of effective workforce services.

The guess here is that Johnson knows

Interstate 99 about as well as anyone around. She is on the road a great deal, since PICCC provides workforce services in Blair and Bedford Counties in addition to those in Centre County.

Johnson pays attention to the needs of business and industry in the region and is very proactive in helping to develop the regional workforce. Further, when things go wrong and people are displaced, she is quick to react to the situation with

placement, transitional and training programs that help individuals cope with their personal setbacks. She understands that people lose jobs; families lose income earners, not just numbers.

It would be hard to find an individual in the region who is more passionate about the cause of a well-trained, highly-skilled workforce that is actually working one in the region not being forced to leave it.

## Christene Dahlem – Gantdaily.com, *Owner*

Entrepreneur and newsie Christene Dahlem started Gantdaily.com in 2006 after working for more than eight years in sales and marketing for Goodwill Industries. While at Goodwill, she advanced herself from an employment specialist to director of marketing to vice president of business development. But after becoming a mother, Dahlem decided she wanted to be her own boss.

She researched the movement of

newspapers into the world of the Internet, slowly developing an idea for an online news site covering her hometown of Clearfield and the surrounding area. After more than two years of planning, Gantdaily.com hit the Web. The company now has two full-time, six part-time employees and 20 additional freelancing correspondents. Her reporters update stories and commentary directly onto the Web site from mobile wireless

connections, meaning news can get to the public eye practically as soon as it is made.

The site is currently seeing a steady increase in the number of hits it receives – averaging 165,000 unique visitors and 5.7 million page views per month. Dahlem was named as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008.

“People today want info and they want it now,” Dahlem said. “The business model has been successful.”



## Clifton Clark – Clark Construction, *President*

Cliff Clark helped out at his grandfather's and father's commercial construction company when he was old enough to wield a push broom. Eleven years ago, he joined the company as a full-time employee and a year-and-a-half later, he became the third generation of Clarks to be president of the Bedford firm.

Carrying on the Clark tradition of 56 years, the construction company continues

to grow each year. “We had the same sales growth of about ten percent that we have each year, and a workforce of around 50 people,” he said. “I hope to continue that next year.”

Working on dozens of building and remodeling jobs this year, two standouts were the completion of a project for Captive Air, a restaurant range hood manufacturer, at Bedford Business Park and work at a large funeral home, Geisel

Funeral Home, in Everett.

In addition to constructing for businesses around Bedford County, the Clarks have a sense of community and giving back. For example, they raised \$6,000 in the most recent United Way campaign and Clark serves on the United Way board.

When asked for advice for businesses to weather the coming year of economic challenges, he said, “Keep your overhead low.”

## Ali Stevens – Sunbury Broadcast Corporation, *Talk Show Host & Reporter*

Ali Stevens works as a talk show host and reporter for the Sunbury Broadcasting Corporation, serving as new anchor for WKOK's mid-day news show and as a regular on the Drew and the Crew show on WQKX in the morning. She was named as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008 earlier in the year.

Stevens, in addition to her duties at the radio station – which regularly have

her awake by 4:30 a.m. – is a dedicated philanthropist and mother. She has raised thousands of dollars for a number of local charities including the United Way and the Children's Miracle Network. And she made the decision to stay in central Pennsylvania rather than seek to move up the career ladders elsewhere so her two daughters could grow up in Sunbury, which she calls, “the ideal place to raise your children.”

“I love my job,” Stevens said. “And I'm blessed to have it. Not everyone wakes up and is as happy with getting to work as I am.”



## Timothy Sissler – Reliance Bank, *President & CEO*

The individuals who nominated Timothy Sissler, president and CEO of Reliance Bank, offered high praise for his accomplishments.

Mr. Sissler has completed his term as the President of the Altoona Blair County Development Corporation's Board of Directors.

“He works around the clock in his career to ensure that our community is being invested in,” said one nominator.

“He has made certain that Reliance Bank has grown significantly without losing its integrity. If there is something going on in Blair County you can be assured that he is in the middle of it.”

Mr. Sissler is growing Reliance Bank and serving customers in ways that will never put either in jeopardy.

This Top 100 businessperson has had a distinguished career in banking rising through the ranks to manage a commercial

portfolio of more than \$750 million.

To say that he is active in the community would be to understate the fact that he contributes selflessly to a wide variety of organizations. For example, he is a member of the boards at Aloysius College and the Bellwood-Antis High School Foundation. He is also involved with the Home Nursing Agency and Blair County Industrial Development Authority boards among many other groups.



## Stephen P. Johnson – Susquehanna Health, *President & CEO*

As the president and CEO of Susquehanna Health, Stephen Johnson is responsible for a three-hospital, faith-based integrated healthcare delivery system in the Williamsport region.

In 2008, Susquehanna Health continued to improve upon its already excellent reputation. Under Johnson's leadership the institution has seen nearly unprecedented growth as its Project 2012 continues.

In 2008, much was accomplished:

- The Cancer Center and Medical Oncology area were completed at Divine Providence Hospital.
- The Healing Garden at the Cancer Center was completed.
- The main entrance was completed.
- At The Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center: property acquisition is 95% complete; the Energy Service Center reached the halfway point; the Child Day Care Center opened; and

- the parking area was finished.
- Site visits were conducted to 15 hospitals across the nation in search of information that will add to Susquehanna Health's base of management knowledge.

In 2009, Susquehanna Health has a full list of projects it hopes to complete including a patient tower housing emergency and surgical services, post-partum, labor, delivery and nursery.



## Duane Roberts Jr. & Adam Munko – Global Guardian LLC, *Co-Owners*

Duane Roberts Jr. and Adam Munko were named to *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008 for their work as co-owners of Johnstown-based Global Guardian LLC. Both former Air Force servicemen, Roberts Jr. and Munko met when they moved in down the street from one another in Johnstown. The Air Force was the tie that brought the two together in conversation, which not long after led

to discussions about starting a business together, involving an idea Munko had seen while on active duty in California.

The idea involved the documented destruction of the contents of hard drives and other storage areas of potentially sensitive data, and the proper recycling of the materials left over from the process. The company they formed, Global Guardian LLC, allows companies to rest assured that data stored on thrown-

away computers will not be stolen – a growing threat that can potentially cause irreparable harm to both businesses and their clients. Global Guardian also ensures all electronics are properly recycled, drastically reducing the amount of damage done to the environment from letting them go to landfills.

"It's exciting for us to be working at a business that is doing the world some good," Roberts Jr. said.



## Rob Egan – Altoona Curve, *General Manager*

Rob Egan is in transition, leaving his secretary of communications position at the Johnstown-Altoona Catholic diocese to become general manager of the Altoona Curve. Though the jobs may seem unrelated, they're not. He's a PR and marketing specialist who is passionate about both groups.

Egan is actually going back to his Altoona roots. He worked for the Curve during its first six years as a broadcaster,

marketing, and promotions specialist. The old owners, for whom he worked, just bought back the baseball franchise.

During his four years with the diocese, Egan communicated sensitive issues like the closing or consolidation of Catholic parishes in the eight-county region. "It's never good to have to communicate the need to close a church, whether it's an outdated building, funding issues, or dwindling attendance."

He's proud of the new online presence the diocese is working on, partnering with Intelmarx. "It will provide better communication between us and parishioners, and between diocese offices," he said.

He thinks the Curve has been managed and promoted well during its first ten years by the two owners, "Both did a great job offering family and fun entertainment," he said, "and I hope to continue to build on that – creating more lifelong fans."



## Dan Baronick – S&T Bank, *Vice President of Commercial Lending*

Dan Baronick has been vice president in charge of commercial lending at S&T Bank in DuBois for the past two years. Which is impressive, considering the fact that Baronick is just 32 years old.

Baronick, named earlier in the year as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008, has built a career on going the extra step for his customers. His high-energy personality has served him well in that regard.

"Every bank normally sells roughly the same stuff. To succeed, people have to like you and feel comfortable with you. Most importantly, they have to trust you," Baronick said. "I like to think that if we're close on the rate, we'll get most of the business."

Baronick is active in the DuBois community. He is a former captain and current active member of the DuBois Fire Department, he sits on the board of

directors of the area's United Way and YMCA, serves as a co-chair for DuBois Community Days in the Park, and coaches baseball both for DuBois Central Catholic High School and the DuBois Little League.



## John Hille – Juniata College, *Executive Vice President of Enrollment, Advancement, Marketing & JCEL*

John Hille has worn many hats during his ten years at Juniata College and every one of them was a perfect fit. Right now he's executive vice president, responsible for the Enrollment, Advancement, Marketing, and Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership departments. This year's freshman class count was another record high and the fundraising campaign garnered the most in the Huntingdon liberal arts

college's history. JCEL, located in the old Alfarata school building, is undergoing renovation. Hille says he hopes that they can prepare one or two more floors in order to offer more business incubator space. Some of the funds have already been raised and they hope to get started in the spring.

Hille knows that the economy will affect fundraising in the year to come. Though small donors are at or above the previous

year, larger donors are deferring donations until the markets settle. These large donations are often based on appreciated assets, such as stocks and real estate, which are taking a hit right now.

"We'll also be helping students by providing more support finding loans and on work-study funding," he said.

Always involved, Hille is now the president of the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce.





## Scott Yocum – Re-Max Real Estate, *Owner*

Scott Yocum is a hard-driving, extremely successful Re-Max Real Estate owner. He has become one of the major real estate agents in Centre County by holding to high standards of service, creativity. “He is what I call a player,” said one of his nominators. “He just doesn’t seek publicity.” With this listing in the Top 100, he is getting some, though.

2008 was a pretty good year for Scott Yocum. He closed more than \$20 million

in sales. Consider the following as well:

- He handled more than 70 residential and commercial transactions.
- Facilitated a complex transaction with regard to the O.W. Houts property in State College.
- He worked with a number of developers on project development, planning and sales.
- He worked with state and local agencies on leasing and special programs.

■ He started Nittany Property Management Mr. Yocum is the only listing agent in Centre County to represent a Workforce Housing Project.

A great believer in community, Scott Yocum volunteers his time to a number of organizations, including the Children’s Miracle Network, the Chamber of Business and Industry and State College High School. As a former player, he enjoys supporting the current athletes on the football team.

## David Rynecki & Thor Wasbotten – Blue Heron Research Partners, *Co-Founders*

Friends since childhood, David Rynecki and Thor Wasbotten both ended up with careers in mass media. Rynecki spent 15 years as a business reporter covering Wall Street for Fortune Magazine, The Washington Post, USA Today and Time Magazine. Wasbotten managed several television newsrooms and worked as a professor of journalism at Penn State. Then Rynecki had an epiphany. “I could see where [other journalists’]

research wasn’t going far enough” in investigating private companies, Rynecki said.

Rynecki left journalism in 2004 to found Blue Heron Research Partners, an independent investment research firm, and soon attempted to recruit his old friend Wasbotten to his start-up. Their company has found success in using journalistic techniques of investigative reporting to dig up important details about companies involved in potential mergers

and acquisitions. The firm now has offices in both State College and New York, and the twosome were named to *Pennsylvania Business Central’s* Foremost Under 40 for 2008.

“David has the experience, the contacts, the method. I have the management experience,” Wasbotten said. “But the relationship wouldn’t work if we didn’t absolutely trust each other. And we do – David is like a brother to me.”



Rynecki

Wasbotten



## Greg Krug – Lamire Biological Laboratories, *President & CEO*

Greg Krug, founder, president and CEO of Lampire Biological Laboratories is on a mission: To make Pennsylvania the world leader in biotechnology. As part of that mission, he works tirelessly in Bedford and Cambria Counties to help establish programs that will train a workforce that is up to the scientific and technological challenges of the future.

Locating two sites of his company in Everett, Bedford County, is just one way that Mr. Krug

is boosting the local economy.

Recently, he has worked with the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center to establish programs that will help train the Cambria County workers in bioscience. This initiative built upon his previous work with the Bedford County Technical Center and the Allegany College of Maryland, Bedford County Campus and Penn State.

Greg Krug has been a staunch supporter of the Bedford County Development Association as a

member of its board of directors.

Since 1977, Greg Krug has guided his company’s growth and development, maintaining responsibility for the operation and financial performance of the company.

This man is a true visionary and is among the most highly-regarded people in the biotechnology industry, especially in Pennsylvania. On top of that, he understands that his company saves lives and makes life better for millions.

## Joe Reschini – Reschini Insurance Agency, *Chief Operations Officer*

Joe Reschini has served as Chief Operations Officer at Reschini Insurance Agency in Indiana since soon after Sept. 11, 2001. It was the attacks on the World Trade Center, where Reschini worked in an office on the 21st floor as an assistant vice president for the Hartford Company, which convinced him to return to life in the country. He joined the family business, founded by his grandmother

in 1938, and is currently chief operating officer there.

Reschini was named as one of *Pennsylvania Business Central’s* Foremost Under 40 for 2008 for his work at the company, but his success is the result of years of experience working in agencies including Aetna, Travelers and Hartford.

“I am fortunate to be able to work with smart people who are very good at what

they do,” Reschini said. “As the COO, it is my job to make their jobs easier.”



## Carol Eicher – Penn State Hospitality Services, *Director of Human Resources*

Carol Eicher is Director of Human Resources for Penn State Hospitality Services. In a very real way she plays a critical role in keeping the Nittany Lion Inn and the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center on top of their games. Those facilities are, for many visitors, the front door to Penn State. There is a reputation for service excellence that must be maintained and expanded. Ms. Eicher understands that.

She is very active within her profession,

chairing various industry committees and associations. In addition, Carol Eicher donates a healthy amount of her personal time to helping community service groups. For example, she is the co-founder and chair of the Community Diversity Group and its mission of promoting and inclusive, interactive community.

She is Chair of the Board of Directors for the Private Industry Council of the Centre Corridor.

Other community activities include:

- Member of the board and chair of recruitment, Leadership Centre County
- Human Resources of Centre County Association
- Special Olympics volunteer
- United Way volunteer.

In addition to being nominated to PBC’s Top 100, Carol Eicher is a candidate for a community service award presented in February by the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County.

**Steve Wolfe** – Indiana Regional Medical Center, *President & CEO*

In February Steve Wolfe will mark his tenth year as president and CEO of Indiana Regional Medical Center. Creating an exceptional place to work and delivering quality care have always been his top goals. It shows. IRMC was recently ranked number two in the nation – Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare. They ranked 4th in Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania. Now the hospital is striving for a higher

distinction. The staff there made its first application to the Keystone Alliance for Performance Excellence, the state division of the national Malcolm Baldrige Award. Started in the '80s by Ronald Reagan, this is a leadership and quality practices accolade earned by few.

“We ranked as high as anyone in the state with our first application – a Proficiency Award,” Wolfe said. “We’re on our way in the journey to receive a

national Malcolm Baldrige award for healthcare.” Fewer than 10 hospitals have won it so far.

When asked about upcoming challenges, he said, “We’re proactive and prepared for any downturns. Times like these create great opportunities. We’re well positioned to survive and thrive. It’s good people, at the end of the day, that make the difference, and we have a good group here.”



**Eric Blessner & John Ikenberry** – HigherEdJobs.com, *Co-Founders*

HigherEdJobs.com, a Web site listing open positions at institutes of higher education throughout the country and abroad, is revolutionizing the way faculty and staff search and find the job they want. Eric Blessner and John Ikenberry, two of the three creators of the Web site, are responsible for this revolution.

The site posts more than 10,000 different jobs from 1,500 colleges and universities each month, and attracts almost 300,000 unique visitors and 1.6 million site hits through an average

month. As the site’s popularity has grown, so has the company’s size – HigherEdJobs.com now employs 14 people in offices both in State College and Oak Park, Illinois.

The site’s launch in 1996 was particularly well timed to capture the increasing Internet traffic caused by a growing comfort on the part of most Americans in using the Internet as a realistic option for everything from Christmas shopping to job hunting. And when mega-job sites began to become unwieldy and

overloaded by the sheer number of jobs they posted, job seekers began turning to sites that specialized in their particular field.

“The niche sites were big winners in that shift, and our service did well through that,” Ikenberry said.

Ikenberry and Blessner see that the site continually improves with frequent updates in technology and design. This year, they were both named to Pennsylvania Business Central’s Foremost Under 40 for 2008.



**Congressman Bill Shuster**

When it comes to getting things done for economic development, the region knows it can count on action from Congressman Bill Shuster. While he represents the people of the 9th District at the federal level, he understands the value of regional cooperation. He also works closely with Pennsylvania leaders and municipal authorities if it means getting things done for the health of the local economy.

His work to attract defense contractors to the region is beginning to pay off, especially with his annual economic expo held at the Letterkenny Army Depot.

The Congressman learned well that economic development starts with solid infrastructure. He is always willing to go to bat for the needs of his district in that regard.

Now about to start his fifth term in the U.S. House of Representatives, Bill

Shuster has positioned himself well for accessing the kind of assistance our region needs: he is the Ranking Member on the Transportation and Infrastructure’s subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

As a former businessperson himself, he understands full well the risks that entrepreneurs take each and every day.



**Brenda Pawlowski** – Kotzan CPA & Associates, *Partner*

Brenda Pawlowski had a dream of becoming a partner at an accounting firm since she became interested in the subject in college. In July, she achieved the dream after being named a partner at Johnstown-based Kotzan CPA & Associates.

Pawlowski passed her CPA exam and was licensed in 1995, and soon after started work at Kotzan. After a few years, she moved on to Conemaugh Health

System. This summer, she returned to Kotzan to serve as a full partner. This year, she has also celebrated being named to the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ Members to Watch 40 Under 40 and *Pennsylvania Business Central’s* Foremost Under 40 in 2008.

In addition to her work at Kotzan, Pawlowski serves on the Leadership Council of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In her role

on the council committee’s Passport to Opportunity program, which brings high school students to colleges to show them what an education in accounting would be like.

“I’ve found my niche,” Pawlowski said. “A lot of people go through life not happy with their job, but I am definitely happy with my career choice and where I am with my career.”



**Sandra Brumbaugh** – Bonnie Forge, *Vice President of Marketing*

Sandra Brumbaugh has spent 19 years working at Bonney Forge of Mt. Union and she wouldn’t have it any other way. “I can’t say enough good things about them,” she said. “They’ve been a very positive influence on my life.” And Brumbaugh has been a positive influence on the Huntingdon County manufacturer of forged steel fittings and branch connections. Now vice president of marketing,

Brumbaugh manages the company’s 30-person inside sales team and interacts daily with the outside sales team. She directs, sets goals, and provides advertising materials, forecasting, proposals, and the like. Her leadership has helped Bonney Forge meet or exceed sales goals.

“We’ve got excellent numbers, year-to-date,” she said. “It’s been a record year for market share as well.” Bonney Forge has 60 percent of the forged steel fittings

market. The company’s products are used in industry, mainly gas and oil. End users include big names like Exxon, BP, and DuPont.

Brumbaugh sees reason to be cautious in the coming year, but is not intimidated by the economic climate. “We have a record year planned for capital expenditures and we intend to go through with those investments,” she said.





## Tony Atwater – Indiana University of Pennsylvania, *President*

In February, Tony Atwater, PhD, will have been president of Indiana University of Pennsylvania for four years. What an exciting and productive few years it's been!

The Student Residential Revival project, a \$270 million public-private partnership with IUP's foundation, is one of the largest of its kind in the nation. The 3,900-bed student housing replacement project is underway, with five new student housing

buildings already open. Two new buildings in phase three will be ready for occupancy in fall 2009, with the overall project scheduled for completion in fall 2010.

The Kovalchik Convention and Athletic Complex, a \$53.4 million community-university facility with adjoining hotel is scheduled for opening in 2011 and is projected to generate close to \$360 million in economic impact during its first decade.

There has also been a \$12 million

renovation of the music instruction building, completion of a \$40 million Performing Arts Center, and recent record-high enrollments in graduate students and in freshman and new students. Often recognized in national guidebooks and publications, IUP is creating a legacy of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and student success. Atwater can be assured; he's really making a difference.

## Scott Becker – Conemaugh Health System & Memorial Medical Center, *CEO*

Scott Becker, CEO of the Conemaugh Health System and Memorial Medical Center, believes that excellence takes the commitment and dedication of an entire organization. This has been the case in Johnstown.

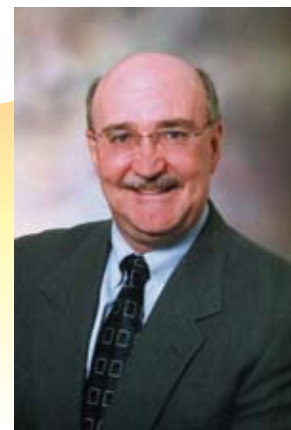
Since he took the helm in 2005, there have been numerous advancements at Conemaugh Health System, including expanded services, numerous industry awards, and enhanced technology.

"I am honored to be part of the Conemaugh Health System," Becker said. "We strive to provide world-class healthcare and extraordinary innovation. I truly enjoy working with the committed boards of directors and the many skilled and dedicated physicians and hospital employees."

Anyone who watches local television stations in the Laurel Highlands region knows how Conemaugh and Memorial Medical have grown and evolved over the past few years.

For example, Memorial Medical Center was named a 2008 HealthGrades Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence, ranking the facility in the top 5% of similar facilities in the nation. There have been other awards as well.

"While we appreciate the awards, it's really about our patients," said Becker. "Everything we do, and by 'we' I mean every single member of the Conemaugh team, is geared to try and ensure that patients have the best experience possible during their stay."



## Amy B. Seltzer – Seltzer Financial Strategies, LLC, *Owner & Managing Member*

Amy B. Seltzer was honored by Governor Ed Rendell as one of the Top 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania for 2008. She was celebrated at a May ceremony in Harrisburg.

Ms. Seltzer is the owner and managing member of Seltzer Financial Strategies, LLC, which is headquartered in Blair County.

In 2001 she co-founded Equity Concepts North, and in 2004 started Seltzer Financial Strategies, LLC. Together with

Equity Concepts of Richmond, Virginia, Seltzer Strategies offer clients a unique approach to financial management. They value process over product.

With more than 20 years of business experience, Amy Seltzer understands the value that a truly independent, objective financial manager can bring to the table when working with a client.

Her duties in the business include overseeing marketing, financial services,

and overall business execution.

In the past few years she has been the recipient of many awards, including Young Emerging Business of the Year from the Blair County Chamber of Commerce in 2006.

But awards are not her focus, nor will they be at any time in the future. "Success is not measured by money, but (by) what you give back to your clients and to your community," she said.

## Heather Fennessey & Denise Bechdel – Penn State University Small Business Development Center, *Environmental Management Assistance Program Specialists*

Heather Fennessey and Denise Bechdel are Environmental Management Assistance Program specialists at Penn State's Small Business Development Center. There, they are affectionately known as "the dynamic duo."

One of their nominators stated that Fennessey and Bechdel "have

consistently been in the top across the country" in assisting companies to take environmentally sound actions.

In fact, a year ago, or so, out of 8 national award nominees, six were the projects of the clients of these two women.

Together the two provide environmental, health and safety consulting to small business owners in a nineteen-county area in Central Pennsylvania.

According to another of their nominators, "The assistance that they provide has saved many business owners thousands of dollars in potential fines for regulatory violations, as well as thousands of dollars in operating expenses by reducing waste and becoming more energy efficient."

Since 2005 Fennessey and Bechdel have helped clients obtain more than

\$500,000 in grant funding to perform energy efficiency and pollution prevention upgrades to their businesses.

In the last year, the EMAP group has increased its service by 13%, a growth rate they hope to surpass in the coming year.



Heather Fennessey



Denise Bechdel

*Congrats to  
Denise &  
Heather  
for being recognized  
on the TOP 100  
from your friends  
at OEWD!*

## Erica L. Shames – Susquehanna Life, *Founder*

In May, Governor Ed Rendell honored Erica L. Shames as one of the Top 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania. The awards were presented at a ceremony held at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg.

Ms. Shames is an indomitable and persistent businesswoman. She would have to be to single-handedly launch a magazine of the quality of Susquehanna Life. She has been its publisher/owner since its creation in 1993. The magazine is a celebration of life

in the Susquehanna Valley. Today she also owns and publishes a sister publication – Susquehanna Business Life – that focuses on the business community in the same region.

A quick study, Shames graduated from college in three years and set sail on a journey that included freelance writing for many top magazines and newspapers. She also worked in public relations in New York before moving to Lewisburg with her husband in the early 1990s.

Today, Susquehanna Life is read by more than 45,000 people in 23 counties in Pennsylvania. It is sold on newsstands throughout the Mid Atlantic states and has subscribers in all 50 states.

An active member of her community, Shames was thrilled to be named one of the Top 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania. She said that her father – a man she described as “an offbeat entrepreneur” – had a tremendous influence on her career.



## Chris Keller & Steve Ramsey – Point of Sales System for Cafeterias, *Developers*

Steve Ramsey and Chris Keller are the co-owners of two successful small businesses, with a third in the final stages of development. This year, Ramsey and Keller were named to *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008. The two met in a computer programming class at Penn State's Altoona campus, became fast friends, and eventually went into business together. They launched Focal Tech Inc. in 2001. The State College-based company

provides IT services, Web hosting and custom application development.

The twosome got a big break in 2005 when they received a contract to develop a point of sales system for the cafeterias of a central Pennsylvania school district. The software allows parents to pay for their child's cafeteria purchases with a credit card over the Internet, thus streamlining the district's accounting methods and providing the added advantage of showing parents what their children are

eating for lunch. LunchTime, as the software became known, is expected to overtake Focal Tech in sales in the coming years.

Encouraged by their success with LunchTime, Keller and Ramsey are pushing forward with development of School Gate Guardian, software that functions as a “visitor management system” for school districts, gathering information on visitors by using scans of state issued IDs.

“There's just huge potential,” Keller said. “We think we've got a winner on our hands.”



## Maureen Mulvihill – Piezo Resonance, *Founder*

After earning a degree in material science from Penn State, Maureen Mulvihill worked for five years for a small business in Massachusetts, and for two-and-a-half years for a tech company in State College. The third small business in her career is her own. Mulvihill founded Piezo Resonance in Centre County two years ago.

As president and CEO, she is developing unique clientele in the medical field,

developing innovative medical devices with an active component. Piezo Resonance devices have been developed for critical care, general surgery, and minimally invasive surgery, to name a few.

She now has seven employees and looks to grow to 12 employees next year. In 2008 Piezo Resonance implemented a design quality system for medical device manufacturing. Next year, she hopes to become certified ISO13485 and registered

with the FDA for medical device design and manufacturing.

Piezo Resonance received two phase-one Small Business Innovation Research contracts in 2008 and hopes to secure additional SBIR funding in 2009.

Mulvihill received guidance from Ben Franklin Technology PAartners to develop this new business. She's proud to say that she won two Ben Franklin awards in 2008.



## Carol Boerio Croft – Cozy Inn Pet Resort & Orchids Spa, *Owner, COO & CEO*

Carol Boerio Croft was honored by Governor Ed Rendell as one of the Top 50 Women in Business for 2008. A ceremony honoring the Top 50 was held in May.

Ms. Boerio Croft is the owner, COO, and CEO of the Cozy Inn Pet Resort and Orchids Spa in Westmoreland County and Pittsburgh. She is clearly thinking ahead of the curve, as the nation has turned the care and nurturing of pets into a multi-billion dollar industry.

Born with Audio/Visual Dyslexia, she

found an affinity for animals. By developing deeper relationships with them she was able to use her so-called handicap to best advantage for herself and every one of us who has a relationship with a beloved pet.

In her business, Carol Boerio Croft incorporates the principles of Feng Shui – which is about living in harmony with the environment.

Clearly, her life's passion is to make the world more comfortable for animals.

Her business provides a wide range of pet services to accomplish just that.

“Cozy Inn's mission is to create and provide a loving, sensitive, healthful, safe, naturally controlled for our guests,” she explained.

While she has garnered numerous business awards and recognitions, one senses that her real devotion is to the animals that she cares for and the principles of love and respect.



## Paul & Nancy Silvis – Restek, *Founder & Co-Proprietor*

The independent, confident, risk-taking spirit of the entrepreneur dwells within Paul and Nancy Silvis. It's what makes them one of the most dynamic couples in the region. This husband and wife team will never be accused of standing pat, of being self-satisfied. Instead they seek new challenges and refuse to give in when the odds of success appear to be a long shot.

Paul founded Restek, the chromatography company and built it into one of the most

highly-respected companies in the region and – frankly – worldwide. Restek was recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of Top 15 Workplaces, and twice the company was listed in Inc. Magazine's list of fastest growing companies.

In 2008, fulfilling a succession plan he and his employees had considered for a long time, Paul turned over Restek to its employees and launched SilTek, a technology company.

Nancy Silvis, a pharmacist by education, is now a co-proprietor at the landmark Mt. Nittany Inn. With an MBA from the Smeal School of Business at Penn State, she handles marketing, communications, financials, processes and HR, among other tasks.

Despite two massive fires, which destroyed the Inn, Silvis and partners decided not to give in. Instead they rebuilt the Inn each time. It opened in 2008 and appears headed to regional success.





## Robert Dietrich – The Pennsylvania College of Technology, *Foundation Executive Director*

The Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport has more than 6,500 students enrolled in courses of applied technology education. The school, which is a special mission affiliate of Penn State, offers education in more than 100 different career fields.

The Pennsylvania College of Technology Foundation operates for the purpose of securing financial and other support for the college. Foundation Executive Director

Robert Dietrich, named to his post in January of 2008, is an important part of the college's fundraising machine. Dietrich was named to *Pennsylvania Business Central's* Foremost Under 40 for 2008.

Dietrich was previously Director of Resource Development and Communications at Lycoming County United Way for three years. Prior to that, he spent five years as sports information director for Thiel College and Lycoming

College. Dietrich is an active member of his community and serves a number of volunteer organizations that he believes add to the quality of life in the region. These include Leadership Lycoming, Williamsport-Lycoming Young Professionals, Centre Presbyterian Church, Planned Giving Council of Central Pennsylvania, and North Central Pennsylvanian Estate Planner Council.

## Linda Thomson – Johnstown Area Regional Industries & Industrial Development Corporation, *President & CEO*

Linda Thomson is president and CEO of Johnstown Area Regional Industries and Industrial Development Corporation (JARI). JARI is a non-profit economic development provider, offering a comprehensive suite of business development services – most at no cost – since 1974.

Thomson has spent a career working diligently and creatively to attract new businesses to the greater Johnstown area.

She is one of the most accommodating economic developers in the region, with a welcoming attitude and a proactive approach to helping companies in expansion and growth. She is in great part responsible for the increasing success of the annual Showcase for Commerce, the region's high-profile trade show.

Thomson is an active member of the community serving on numerous professional boards and volunteering time

for organizations that contribute to the quality of life in the area. She is active with the Westmont United Methodist Church, the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, the Workforce Investment Board and the Mount Alysius College President's Advisory Board, among others.

Earlier in 2008, Thomson was named an entrepreneur of the year in the economic development category by *Pennsylvania Business Central*.



## Colleen Williams – Valpak of Lion County, *Co-Owner*

In 2007, Colleen Williams, along with her mother Kathleen, purchased the Valpak of Lion County franchise. The direct mail company sends coupons to the mailboxes of residents in a seven county region of central Pennsylvania. Their newly developed Web site, Valpak.com, offers additional coupons and listing of services, as well as Google maps, and advertiser links and email.

In the span of a year, she has turned

it into an award-winning enterprise, producing a record amount of sales increases with each mailing sent and earning recognition to the corporate Dean's List and being offered membership in the Valpak Achievement Club.

Williams graduated from Penn State with a degree in marketing and from Saint Francis University with an MBA. She served as the first ever intern at the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County. Prior to

her taking the plunge into running her own enterprise, Williams served as director of marketing and admissions for the Hearthside nursing and rehabilitation center in State College. She is a graduate of Leadership Centre County and maintains memberships in a variety of organizations.

Earlier in the year, Williams was named an entrepreneur of the year in the small business category by *Pennsylvania Business Central*.

## Edie Binkley – Lia Sophia Jewelry Company, *Top Representative*

Edie Binkley is a top performer for the Lia Sophia jewelry company. She recruited, motivated, and trained hundreds of women who are successful representatives as well as in other areas of their lives. Ms. Binkley has helped people become something they never believed they could be—successfully self-employed.

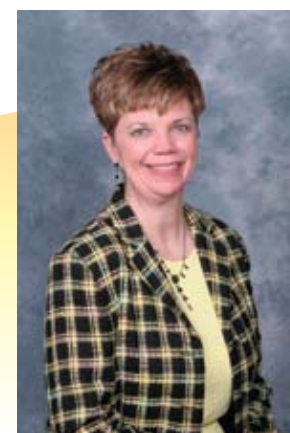
According to one of her nominators, "Edie brings strong hope and opportunity

to women in central Pennsylvania. She has been well-recognized by the company, which was founded by Victor Kiam who used to own Remington Razors.

A State College resident, Edie is living her life's dream. She has been selling Lia Sophia jewelry for 15 years, moving from part-time to big time. Edie's Lia Sophia organization consists of some 700 women achieving things most people never dream of accomplishing.

Working from home allows Binkley the flexibility needed to care for her sick husband. While her husband recovers, Binkley has been able to support the household through growth in her Lia Sophia sales.

Active in the community, Binkley enjoys working with WINGS, the State College American Legion Auxiliary, Happy Valley Networking and the Patton Township Business Association.



## Stephen Brawley – Ben Franklin Technology PARTners, *President & CEO*

Ben Franklin Technology PARTners of Northern and Central PA is a guiding force in economic development – spawning many new technology and manufacturing businesses by offering funding and advice. Stephen Brawley, president and CEO, proudly announced that in 2008, the PARTners funded and assisted a record number of companies. "There's a lot of demand for capital and assistance," he said, "and that's good for

all of us."

They're now in the midst of their first-ever \$100,000 Business Plan Contest. "We've got an incredible amount of applications," he said. "Even though there will only be one winner, we'll look at all of them as possible companies and entrepreneurs that we can assist."

Brawley announced an exciting partnership with Gov. Rendell's office for 2009 and beyond. The PARTnership

has been given the responsibility to manage the R&D and funding for the state's alternative energy initiative. "We'll receive funds to invest in cutting-edge research in alternative energy, clean and renewable energy, and energy conservation innovations," he said. He notes that they could receive up to \$10 million to disperse for early-stage concept development in central and northern Pennsylvania.

## Dr. Lori Bechtel-Wherry – Penn State Altoona, *Chancellor*

The Penn State Altoona campus has long been a major force in economic and workforce development for Blair County and the surrounding region. That has never been truer than it is today. Dr. Lori Bechtel-Wherry, the dynamic chancellor at PSU-Altoona, has been a strong voice for continued partnerships with downtown Altoona. This matches the school's long-term strategic plan. The growth of the campus and its many

programs is especially helpful to the region as that growth serves as a major anchor for those seeking to attract and grow businesses in the area.

According to one of her nominators, "It is Dr. Bechtel-Wherry's continued vision to strengthen the connections between the Ivyside Campus and the downtown, among other initiatives."

In 2008, the Penn Towers project was completed and PSU Altoona classes are

being held downtown. The renovation of the Kazmaier Center was also part of this year's accomplishments. In 2009, the various Altoona partners will explore a bus shuttle service that will bring students from Ivyside to downtown Altoona with regular service.

Penn State Altoona has bought several downtown buildings, including the former Playhouse Theater building, the six-story Penn Furniture building, and the former WRTA building.



## Jane Sheffield – Allegheny Ridge Corporation, *Executive Director*

Jane Sheffield is proud of her work with Allegheny Ridge Corp. – as she should be. As executive director, she's bringing communities and organizations together, sharing the area's heritage, and developing Pennsylvania's great outdoors for recreation and tourism.

This year's highlights include progress on the greenway corridor being developed along the old mainline canal, stretching 320 miles between Pittsburgh and

Harrisburg. The project is progressing nicely thanks to two coordinators who are working together to close the gaps and seek new options and solutions for the trail's completion. These include welcome centers, gateways, mini-grants for murals, historic markers, and other finishing touches. "We're linking communities and sharing our heritage," Sheffield said. "We call it 'New Connections Between Old Neighbors.'"

Sheffield is also president of Heritage PA, a statewide association that brings many groups, communities, and resources together to develop the state's recreational activities, honor its heritage, and provide memorable experiences for citizens and visitors. Best Practices of Heritage PA was published, outlining a dozen examples of such development, including Altoona Heritage Discovery Center and the Lincoln Highway.

## Steve Sliver – Mutual Benefit Group, *President*

Mutual Benefit Group continues to fine tune and innovate its products and services. Steve Sliver, president of MBG, noted that the Huntingdon-based insurer developed a real-time quoting system for their agents for personal lines. "We were able to dramatically improve our ability to provide accurate quotes in minutes."

MGB introduced a new automobile insurance product, PROcision, which offers automobile coverage in real

time, priced around the specific risk characteristics of each individual or family.

"Whereas the industry is realizing a decline in top line revenue for 2008, Mutual Benefit will see growth of close to 4 percent. We have once again been rated the best property and casualty insurance company within Pennsylvania and Maryland by the Insurance Agents & Brokers Association. And perhaps most importantly, Mutual Benefit celebrated its

100th anniversary in June of this year."

Over the next 12 months, MBG will build on its technology platform to provide real-time endorsement service and quoting to its agents, and will also deliver the first installment of a revised commercial-lines rating system.

"This company's success is attributable to our staff's obsessive attention to our customer and agent needs," Sliver said.



## Bob Yoder – IMPACT Pennsylvania, Inc., *Partner* & Al Clapps – Gentry Development Inc., *Partner*

Bob Yoder and Al Clapps are the two main partners in the \$75 million development of a hotel, convention center and parking garage in downtown Williamsport.

Yoder, of IMPACT Pennsylvania, Inc. in Turbotville, has developed several projects in the central part of the state. One of the company's projects has revitalized three city blocks in downtown Meadville, including renovations of the Kepler Hotel. Another development in Warren began after city

officials saw what had been accomplished in Meadville. The development converted formerly abandoned warehouse space into a convention center and hotel. Included in the project was affordable and market rate housing and office space, all built with green technology and sustainable design features.

Clapps, of Gentry Development Inc., is a long-time developer in Williamsport. Clapps saw success in developing the city's Maynard Street in the 1980s and 1990s, including the

building of a bank, hotel and a Burger King franchise. Clapps said he envisioned a similar boon on Basin Street, where the new convention center will be located. Clapps has found success in developing more than 30 Burger King franchises over his career, as well as The Crab House franchise and the Ravenwood Building Complex in Loyalsock Township.

"It will be a complete revitalization of the area," Clapps said. "It's going to enliven that whole part of the city."



## David Hellyer & Terri Breindel – Comfort Keepers Goddard School, *Franchise Co-Owners*

We've all heard that expression, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." But how many people actually set up that lemonade stand? Well, that's exactly what David Hellyer and Terri Breindel did when they lost their jobs at a local manufacturer.

The two purchased a franchise called "Comfort Keepers," a company that provides non-medical elder care, and set up shop in Centre County, to serve clients

from Johnstown to Indiana, Blair County to Clearfield and everywhere in between.

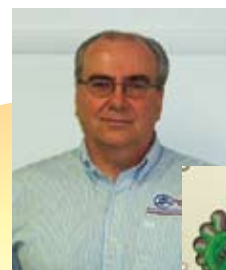
Today, four years later, the partners employ more than 100 people at Comfort Keepers and offer a variety of benefits to everyone, including part-time workers.

In the past 12 months, not content to celebrate their successes in elder care, Hellyer and Breindel opened the Goddard School, a renowned franchise school that provides high quality childcare, as well as

preschool and after school programs. The team plans to offer a kindergarten service in 2009.

Currently the Goddard School employs 28 people with more than 150 children enrolled. The beautiful school facility in State College is exactly the kind of environment that parents are seeking for their little ones.

A third business is in the works and should add to their economic impact in the region.





## Tom Sochacki – Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce, *President*

Tom Sochacki is the county's foremost advocate for business in his role as president of the Westmoreland Chamber of Commerce. In his time at the chamber, he has kept membership steady at around 1,000 and greatly expanded the number and range of services the chamber provides to members.

In response to increasing interest in more networking activities, Sochacki successfully increased how many after-

hours events the chamber organizes each year. About 450 people attended a recent holiday business after-hours event. Sochacki has also taken steps to make the chamber a more efficient unit, consolidating and streamlining operations in order to better serve the large geographic area in the chamber's jurisdiction.

Sochacki oversees chamber involvement with local food banks, the American

Red Cross, and high school education programs. In addition, Sochacki serves on the boards of the Westmoreland County Development Authority and the Jeannette Initiative, which focuses on revitalizing the city of Jeannette both economically and socially.

"We try to ensure we're doing everything we can at the chamber for business in our area," Sochacki said.

## Bonnie Lee Hand – Blair Insurance Services, *Founder & President*

Bonnie Lee Hand is the founder and president of Blair Insurance Services based in Altoona and with an additional office in Pittsburgh. Blair Insurance Services is a full-service, independent-insurance, investment and consulting firm. Hand founded the company in 1980, making her the first female insurance agent in the state with Department of General Services and PennDOT certification. Blair Insurance

Services is an 8-A firm with the Small Business Administration. The company serves the insurance needs of more than 2,400 individuals, families and 800 businesses in Pennsylvania.

Hand was awarded the MBE/WBE Advocate of the Year award for 2007 from the Minority Business Opportunity Committee. She also was one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business for 2008.

"You never do anything alone. It's your employees and customers that make your business," Hand said. "You're only going to get out of the business what you put into the business. It's how hard you're willing to work and what you're willing to sacrifice in order to achieve your goal."



## Jessica Dolan – Room To Breath Home & Office Organizing, *Founder & Owner*

Jessica Dolan is the founder and owner of Room to Breath Home and Office Organizing based in Centre County. A self-confessed "neat freak," Dolan has created a career out of helping to organize other peoples' lives. The company now has four employees and continues to grow.

One of the more popular questions Dolan faces about her business involves the definition of what a personal organizer does. "A professional organizer enriches your

life by helping you to decrease stress, increase productivity, increase efficiency, improve physical environments, save money, and last, but definitely not least, allow you to regain time for yourself," Dolan said. "This is done by designing systems that use simple organizing principles designed uniquely around you and your situation. There is no right or wrong, only what works for you."

In addition to running a successful business, Dolan is president of WiNGS (Women's

Network Group), a member and ambassador liaison of NAPO (National Association of Professional Organizers), a presenter at the Women's Leadership Conference and recently completed her work as a member of Leadership Centre County, class of 2008.

She was named as a *Pennsylvania Business Central* entrepreneur of the year nominee in 2007 and made last year's Top 100 People list, and was one of the Best 50 Women in Business for 2008.

## Ken Moscone, Sr. – The Drucker Company, *CEO*

The Drucker Company of Philipsburg is headed by Ken Moscone and has been in business since 1932. The company manufactures centrifuges for use in a variety of laboratory applications including industrial and medical research. In the medical lab, the separation of solids from liquids, required in various testing procedures, is achieved using the centrifuge's high-speed rotation. Drucker centrifuges are designed without moving

parts, eliminating the likelihood of repairs and reducing the overall cost significantly.

Drucker's patented horizontal rotor design decreases processing time by as much as 33 percent – allowing a relatively small company like Drucker to go head to head with its well known, but higher-priced international competitors.

With national distributors such as Fisher Scientific and Cardinal Health Care, The Drucker Company has experienced

consistent growth over the past five years and now employs 110 people. Their products are used around the world.

QBC Diagnostics, also headed by Moscone, offers hematology equipment such as in-office Complete Blood Count test equipment and analyzers including the ParaLens, AutoRead Plus, and QBC Star. All offer faster, more effective testing, leading to quicker diagnosis.



## Shane Weyant – Creative Pultrusions, *CEO*

It's been quite a year for Creative Pultrusions, the Bedford County-based manufacturer of composite products. Actually, it's been quite a few good years in a row for this firm and its leader Shane Weyant.

Understated and reserved, Weyant would point to the firm's great management team and its superior workforce in explaining all the success. And of course, he'd be right. But Weyant is also a major contributor to the company's success by constantly seeking

ways to expand the corporate vision while taking actions that are in the best interest of his clients and employees.

In 2008, Creative Pultrusions was acquired by Hill and Smith Holdings, PLC, a British firm. Weyant was named the company's CEO, moving up from COO.

Weyant explained that the move would offer strategic advantages to both organizations. In fact, he said, it would enhance Creative Pultrusion's global position in worldwide

leadership of glass reinforced products.

"This acquisition makes our company a lot stronger," Weyant said in September, when the deal was announced. "It will be business as usual, business as is. I have no fears about our future here in Bedford County."

Business as usual? Well, that probably means continued growth as Creative Pultrusions has grown at about 10% per year for while now. Weyant expects that figure to reach 20% in 2009.

## Daniel R. DeVos – Concurrent Technologies, CEO

Though they have dozens of offices in the U.S., Concurrent Technologies started in central Pennsylvania, with headquarters in Johnstown. CTC employs more than 1,400 people, 850 in Pennsylvania. That's significant for a nonprofit, applied research and development organization. Daniel DeVos is at the helm as CEO and continues to garner accolades, clients, and national attention. CTC conducts impartial, in-depth

assessments and delivers unbiased solutions to increase quality and effectiveness – and make for easier transition and deployment of those new solutions. These are in the areas of advanced materials and manufacturing, energy and environmental sustainability, readiness, intelligence, surveillance, and more.

For the eighth year, CTC was named one of the 100 Best Places to Work in Pennsylvania – ranked 27th in the large-

size company category and one of only three to be ranked for eight straight years.

The CTC Foundation was founded in 1998, a nonprofit entity that has done much to promote education, innovation, and community giving. For example, on Dec. 16, the foundation awarded \$5,000 to Overhills Middle School in N.C. as part of their educational mission.



## Dan Leri – Penn State's Innovation Park, Director

Dan Leri is the Director of Penn State's Innovation Park. As such, he is on the cutting edge of technology transfer, helping Penn State faculty become, or work closely with, entrepreneurs. It's all about job creation and maximizing the economic impact that Penn State has on the region and state.

Leri has been a strong advocate for converting Penn State research and technology into viable companies, and is a consummate dealmaker bringing people together who should

be working together. In fact, it would be hard to find anyone who knows more Penn State alumni who are eager entrepreneurs.

Leri's idea for a Penn State network of capital investment and business expertise is called Cool Blue. The Cool Blue Community, Innovation Park and companies within the Park sponsor various social and networking events.

At Innovation Park, companies can find a wide range of options and services including a business incubator, a top-notch conference

center and the power of Penn State's Industrial Research Office, Intellectual Property Office, Research Commercialization Office, and the Ben Franklin Technology Center.

With I-99 complete, the various programs in place – including Keystone Innovation Zones and the I-99 Innovation Corridor, are only going to underscore the importance and power of the Innovation Park. Dan Leri will be ready to pounce on any opportunities that materialize moving forward.



## Bette Slayton – Bedford County Development Association, President & CEO

Bette Slayton, president and CEO of the Bedford County Development Association, is considered one of the most proactive and persistent economic development professionals in the state. Together with her excellent board of directors, Slayton continues to help guide Bedford County into the future with economic confidence.

One of her greatest attributes is her unwillingness to let grass grow under her

feet. Case in point? The 2008 development at Seton in Saxton, when the company announced it was leaving the region. Rather than bemoan the unfortunate situation -- which seemingly ended the hopes of many highly skilled workers, and threw a wrench into a project that Slayton and BCDA had worked long and hard to secure -- she got on the phone and hit the road to organize a quick and decisive response.

Fortunately, Seton decided to postpone its

exit from the area, at least for the foreseeable future. Still, those who understand the process of economic development know that whatever happens, Bedford County could not have a more enthusiastic representative in the marketplace. Landing a new company takes hard work, time, and persistence. Bette Slayton gets that.

With Slayton at the helm, Bedford County has been the most active participant in the I-99 Innovation Corridor.



## Stan Sheetz & The Sheetz Family – Sheetz Corporation, Management

Sheetz Corporation is consistently named as one of the best places to work in Pennsylvania and beyond. It is one of the greatest business success stories in our region and we must celebrate it. We are fortunate to have the Sheetz family in our backyard.

Stan Sheetz and the rest of his family know that people make the difference. Credit for the chain's popularity and success goes to its excellent employees, and management team

Today, the chain operates more than 350 stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio and North Carolina and is in the Top 100 of Forbes Magazine's Top Privately Held Companies.

In 2008, the Sheetz Family was proud to welcome the community into its new kitchen, an incredible facility that Stan Sheetz calls the "largest kitchen in Pennsylvania." Never content to rest on their many laurels, the Sheetz family has moved confidently into the

next phase of its development with "Made to Go" foods. They are prepared in the central kitchen in Claysburg and then shipped daily to all company stores. To accomplish this, a fleet of smaller, leaner, and greener vehicles has been secured.

Also in 2008, Chain Store Age Magazine named Stan Sheetz as one of the Top 25 Most Influential People in Retailing. There's no doubt that he shared this distinction with his family and employees.



## Candy Valentino – Platinum Salon & Spa, Founder

Candy Valentino struck out on her own in business when she founded Platinum Salon and Spa in her hometown of Greensburg. Only 19 years old when she founded the business in 1999, her success has exceeded even her own expectations. The salon, originally 2,500 square feet, has been expanded to 7,000 square feet and Valentino has added a Yoga studio, a health-food café, a sauna and steam showers.

"Timing is everything," Valentino said. "I took a semester off [college] and during that time a building burned to the ground. My father and I talked – and decided, since doing hair was natural for me, I'd start a spa when the property became available; and I now have the whole space."

Valentino is active in her community, serving as president and chairman of Friends of Westmoreland, a non-profit animal shelter. She is also president of the

Youngwood Area Business Association and a committee member of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

She has been awarded as a Rising Star Award nominee in 2007 and 2008 and was honored as one of Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business for 2008.



Photo Not Available



## Davey Jane Gilmore – Pennsylvania College of Technology, *President*

Davey Jane Gilmore has been the president of the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport since 1998. They have been ten great years, and under her leadership the school has not only maintained its position as one of the best workforce trainers in Pennsylvania, it has expanded that reputation.

Each year, it seems, Penn College continues to add value to its Williamsport home. New dormitories and other infrastructure, along

with enhanced programs have made it a serious player in the local economy. And its programs deliver the workers that the region, state, and nation need.

Gilmore understands that the school has a vital role to play by listening to the needs of business and industry and designing, adapting and enhancing programs to meet those needs. Consider her participation in the Technology Futures of North Central Pennsylvania's confab on the impact of the

Marcellus shale drilling. Williamsport is buzzing with anticipation.

Frankly, Gilmore is the CEO of an institution that has a \$500 million economic impact on the state. This is according to Tripp Umbach, Inc., a research firm. In the Penn State System, only Penn State University Park and the Hershey Medical Center have a greater impact. Incidentally, that impact has grown nearly \$100 million in the past 5 years.

## Carlos Cardoso – Kennametal, Inc., *President, CEO & Chairman of the Board*

As President, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Kennametal, Inc., Carlos Cardoso is responsible for a nearly \$3 billion-a-year company with more than 14,000 employees in 60 countries around the globe. Of course, it's the Westmoreland and Bedford facilities that matter most to our region.

The company is headquartered in Latrobe, Westmoreland County and has a strong presence in Bedford.

"Being headquartered in the United States has many advantages," said Cardoso. "And we will continue to grow here. Westmoreland County's talented and dedicated workforce is an aspect that I like most about this area and find to be effective."

Cardoso stated that he plans for Kennametal to be a \$5 billion a year business within the next 5 years. In the five years from 2003, the company grew by \$41 billion, so he sees no reason for not expecting continued growth.

According to industry studies, Kennametal products and services saved clients a cool \$230 million in fiscal year 2008. Also in 2008, new products represented 47% of the company's sales. Now that's leadership.

"We will continue to be the innovation leader in our industry by having at least 40% of our sales from new products, products that are five years old or less, and deliver the customer at least a 20% productivity gain."



## Jason Ufema – Rich Coast Coffee, *President*

Jason Ufema was a deserving nominee to *Business Central's* Foremost Under Forty list for 2008. Currently he is the head of Rich Coast Coffee, a Lewistown-based company founded by his father some 30 years ago.

As he explains it, despite some difficult times in the past few years, he plans to continue building on the foundation of the business put in place by his dad. "My goal is to merge the old school philosophies

that my family has taught me with the emerging technologies that allow a company like ours to compete with the big boys," he said.

At first a tad reluctant to get into the family business, Ufema has now embraced his role.

"I learned all I could about small business marketing. I now do all our graphic design and have invested quite a bit in making custom signs for the stores and restaurants

we supply as well as general point-of-sale materials we use to promote our products."

In addition to his business duties, Ufema takes time to give back to his community whenever he can. For instance he founded YBMC, a group that encourages young professionals in Mifflin County. It has evolved into an active philanthropic, community-based organization. He is also on the board of the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation.

## Chris Joyce – Recreational Equipment, Inc., *Director of Operations, Distribution Center East*

What matters most to Chris Joyce, Director of Operations, Distribution Center East for Recreational Equipment, Inc.? People. A perfect reflection of his company's caring philosophies, Joyce works very hard to ensure that his 250+ employees are given a voice in their jobs and their communities.

But it's more than that. Joyce is also thinking about the people who may one day work for REI, one of the top

companies in America, if the current team does a great job. REI is an outdoor retail co-op with about 2 million members. Its goal is to inspire, educate and outfit its members and the community in general. It currently has 90 retail outlets in 26 states. More are planned now that the company has an eastern presence.

Joyce was named as one of *Business Central's* Foremost Under Forty for 2008.

For ten consecutive years, REI has been

named to Fortune Magazine's list of "100 Best Companies to Work for in America."

In addition to his quiet but strong leadership on the job, Joyce encourages – and makes it possible – for his employees to help improve the local communities and environment. The company has already donated thousands of dollars to improve local parks and trails.

No doubt there's lots more to come.



## Cheryl Ebersole – Allegheny Mountains Convention & Visitors Bureau, *Executive Director*

As the Executive Director of the Allegheny Mountains Convention and Visitors Bureau, Cheryl Ebersole continues to be a force for economic development in the region. As one of her nominators explained, it was her determination and powers of persuasion that led to the creation of the Blair County Convention Center.

The same energy that she used to marshal that project to completion continues to be used to market the region. There is no

escaping the fact that travel and tourism is the second largest industry in Blair County and most of the region. AMCVB is very proud to be the official organization designated by the County of Blair and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to represent this vital and growing industry.

The AMCVB is a non-profit corporation comprised of approximately 500 members representing the breadth of amenities, services, products and attractions that exist in

this region. As Ebersole knows, visitors are coming to Blair County and the Alleghenies for leisure, business, and special events and as part of motor coach and convention, meeting and trade show groups.

Ebersole was certainly on the forefront of the regional concept that has led to the wonderful campaign promoting the Alleghenies, the branding of the region. Under her guidance, we can expect more regional and local efforts in the coming year.





## Linda Bullington – AllQuest Real Estate, Co-Owner

Despite the problems in the housing market – and there are plenty -- Linda Bullington will not be dissuaded from her mission: Serve the Bedford County and surrounding markets with the very best in real estate, mortgage and closing services. She's an optimist who believes that her business can buck state and national trends. She's probably right.

Currently, Bullington wears several hats: She is co-owner of AllQuest Real Estate,

in Bedford and the company's executive vice president; branch manager of Allied Home Mortgage Capital Corporation; and head of Central Pennsylvania Settlement Services.

"We offer a one stop shop," she says.

In addition to running her own successful family business, Bullington mentors and trains all new Allied branch managers in Pennsylvania. She also participates in the recruitment of new branch managers on the local and corporate levels. "My

responsibilities also include the auditing of the Pennsylvania licensed offices along with continuing education and training." Add to that the national seminars she delivers and you have one active woman.

Bullington says she is proud to be a member of the board of directors for the Bedford County Development Association. She has won numerous awards including being named as one the Best 50 Women in Business in Pennsylvania by Governor Rendell.

## Dan Hawbaker – Glen O. Hawbaker, Co-Founder

Seemingly a tireless advocate for this region, Dan Hawbaker is a leader in the heavy construction and highway building industry. He knows the importance of sound infrastructure and its relationship to a vibrant and growing economy.

His parents Glenn and Thelma Hawbaker founded Glen O. Hawbaker at a time when central Pennsylvania was a far more remote and inaccessible area. The company started as a truly Mom and Pop

company, with Mom driving a dump truck and Pop operating grading and excavating equipment. Based on the solid principles learned from the family – hard work, service and fairness -- Dan Hawbaker, his siblings and their children -- and their dedicated employees -- have built one of the most successful heavy contractors in Pennsylvania, if not the entire Mid Atlantic.

Dan Hawbaker is an entrepreneur with a clear vision. From the moment he joined

the company he has been seeking ways to improve processes, cut costs and deliver excellent quality to his customers.

This region simply would not be the same without the many projects completed by Glen O. Hawbaker, Inc. And let's not forget about the many jobs the company creates.

In addition to his business leadership, Dan Hawbaker is a pillar of the community, involved with a variety of groups.



## JoAnne Boyle – Seton Hill University, President

JoAnne Boyle, PhD, has seen Seton Hill University through many transitions, including becoming a university in 2002 and becoming a co-educational institution. As president of the Greensburg university, she's been deeply involved in two major projects in 2008.

The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), based in Erie, will open a location at Seton Hill University. LECOM at Seton Hill will accept 104 students per year in

Greensburg, first enrollment in August 2009.

The affiliation of LECOM and Seton Hill University allowed for a partnership with Excelsa Health System. LECOM at Seton Hill students will be able to earn valuable clinical training during third-and fourth-year rotations at Excelsa hospitals.

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown agreed to be a key clinical education provider for LECOM at Seton Hill and there are another six LECOM affiliated hospitals

within 40 minutes of Greensburg.

Construction is underway for the 73,000-square-foot University Center for the Arts on Harrison Avenue. "The plan for our building has become the center of public and private restoration for the city," she said. "This poorly-used area of Greensburg is being transformed into a vibrant cultural hub – and brings Seton Hill's theatre and music programs into the heart of downtown." Projected completion is spring 2009.



## Robert Poole – S&A Homes, Inc., CEO/Poole Anderson Construction, Chairman & CEO

A Penn State Smeal College of Business Distinguished Alumni, Bob Poole is one of the top homebuilders in Pennsylvania.

Poole is the chairman and chief executive officer of S&A Homes, Inc., a home building and land development company. He is also chairman and CEO of Poole Anderson Construction, a construction management and general contracting firm. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Farrell Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership, The National

Council on Penn State Philanthropy, and the Schreyer Honors College.

S&A Homes is ranked among the top 200 homebuilders in the United States. Poole Anderson Construction generates more than \$50 million in revenue according to the Associated Builders and Contractors, Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

In addition to his busy business schedule, Poole devotes considerable time and funding to local non-profit organizations. Over time he

has served as the campaign chair for the Centre County United Way and co-chair of the State College YMCA's capital campaign. For 12 years he chaired the Second Mile's Board of Directors. Local baseball players appreciate his generous support of the S&A Little League Complex as well as the Shaner Sports Complex.

Poole is also concerned about providing affordable housing and is committed to helping those organizations that are addressing that need.



## Alan Gehringer – Industrial Modernization Center, Altoona/Blair County Field Director

Alan Gehringer, Altoona/Blair County field director for the Industrial Modernization Center, has 25 years experience in manufacturing with a concentration in operations, industrial engineering, process improvement, product costing, production planning, quality systems, product development and much more.

The IMC contributes to economic growth in Central Pennsylvania through an engaged staff that provide the manufacturers of our region

with objective counsel, strategic perspective, high value services and solutions through access to regional, state and national resources.

According to one of his nominators, "Alan is on a mission to restore Pennsylvania's manufacturing power. He has a drive and a passion to help manufacturers thrive by helping them, produce goods more efficiently or to grow market segments and total sales. He is a true player who should be recognized."

Gehringer is a consultant, coach, trainer,

presenter and much more. "One thing you can be sure of," said another nominator. "If he is involved it will be a successful endeavor or he will hit the wall trying to make it so. He does so much and is recognized only by his clients."

Gehringer is a Six Sigma Black Belt. He serves on the Local Advisory Committee for the Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center, is a Member of the Altoona Rotary Club and the Penn State Learning Factory Industry Advisory Board.



## Glenn Steele, Jr. – Geisinger Health System, *President & CEO*

Both a Ph.D. and an M.D., Glenn Steele, Jr. is uniquely qualified to be the president and CEO of Geisinger Health System, one of the region's major health care providers.

He is currently honorary chair of the Pennsylvania March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign. Steele serves on several boards including Bucknell University's Board of Trustees, Temple University School of Medicine's Board of Visitors, the American

Hospital Association's Board of Trustees, Premier Inc., the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute, the Global Conference Institute, and previously served on the Simon School of Business Advisory Board (University of Rochester) 2002 - 2007.

In 2007, Dr. Steele received AHA's Grassroots Champion Award and was named to Modern Healthcare's 50 Most Powerful Physician Executives in Healthcare.

The newest Geisinger clinic opened

this year at Gray's Woods, Centre County. Patients enjoy the spacious and "non-clinical" feel of the interior, waiting areas with self check-in kiosks and moveable registration desks, and a café serving fresh coffee, fruit, or bagels.

Gray's Woods offers a full-service, state-of-the-art imaging center, lab services, and an on-site pharmacy. Family medicine, OB/GYN, and pediatrics from the Patton Forest office are now at Gray's Woods.



## Rep. Dave Reed – Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Dave Reed was named to *Business Central's* list of Foremost Under Forty for 2008.

Reed, who at 30 is serving his third term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, was brought up to believe that with enough hard work anything is possible.

He may be young but Dave Reed fights for the citizens of Pennsylvania's 62nd District.

Reed grew up in Homer City and graduated from Homer Center High School

where he was member of the baseball and football teams. He graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a degree in mathematics and economics. He understands the role that government should play in economic development.

Reed has deep roots in the rural life of Indiana County. His first job was as a strawberry picker at Reeger's Vegetable Farm. He also spent time as an intern for Governor Tom Ridge's Policy Office for

Community and Economic Development. He received a Masters of Governmental Administration degree, with a focus on effective, efficient government.

As a member of the state House of Representatives, Reed focuses on fiscal responsibility, energy independence, and providing families the opportunity to be financially secure.

## Shaun Akers – Akers Funeral Home, *Owner & Funeral Director*

Shaun Akers was named to *Business Central's* Foremost Under Forty list for 2008.

Akers is the owner and funeral director of the Akers Funeral Home in Saxton, and a second location in Everett, that recently opened.

Akers purchased the business four years ago and has already added a second location and new services for the communities he serves.

Akers studied business administration at Penn State and graduated from the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science with a degree in funeral service management.

"I enjoy serving the public," he said. "This business takes a caring and compassionate individual willing to put in awkward and unusual hours. That person must also be community-oriented."

In addition to managing his business,

Akers maintains an active schedule as a volunteer, serving the Broad Top Area Business Park, the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, the local Lions Club, and the Saxton Municipal Authority.

"I think I have been successful because I was born and raised in this area," he said. "I have achieved success pretty early in my career. I think it's due to my personality and my interaction with the community."



## Audrey Liscomb – First National Bank, *Branch Manager*

The next time you hear someone talk about the great quality of life in this region, think of Audrey Liscomb. Audrey is an enthusiastic volunteer who demonstrates what a good corporate citizen ought to be: she donates freely of her time, it's not just about funding.

Liscomb is the Branch Manager of First National Bank in Ebensburg. She is also Treasurer of the Ebensburg Area Business Commission. Her real strength

is in her willingness to support the healthy development of downtown Ebensburg.

One of her nominators stated, "It's absolutely unreal how hard she works as a volunteer for us. Audrey is, by far, our biggest supporter. She represents the business community very well. She is on the committee for every event. She's been on board from day one."

According to the nominator Liscomb lends her energy to the following

events: the April art show; the Car and Truck Show and Wing Off in June; Homecoming; the Potato Fest; Christmas in Downtown Ebensburg; and the annual golf tournament.

The Business Commission oversees all of the events. "Audrey helps out with all the Main Street activities, too," the nominator noted.

## Rob Postal – Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation, *President*

As President of the Mifflin County Industrial Development Corporation, Rob Postal understands that progress is achieved in small steps. Sometimes, he will tell you, a region takes two steps forward and one step back. Despite the many challenges he has faced in

the past few years, Postal remains optimistic and always sees the glass half full.

In the past months there were setbacks – the end of an era with the closing of Case New

Holland, for example. But there have been many reasons to cheer, and Postal believes that the future is bright for Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

For example, there is the astonishing growth of First Quality Products in the Lewistown area, with a million-square foot facility and possibly more to come. No one has been more upbeat about that development than Postal.

The growth of Ames/True Temper, a manufacturer of lawn and garden tools has grown thanks to the dedicated efforts of the

MCIDC and Governor Rendell's Action Team.

Other companies are growing or moving into the region as well, including Asher's Chocolates, Lowe's and Kardex AG. Activity at the MCIDC's Plaza has also been steady.

Postal has been active in the community as a member of the Lewistown Rotary Club. He maintains the positive, upbeat outlook that it takes to be successful in the field of economic development. After all, it is a marathon, not a sprint.

