

# Penta Career Center

## 2003 Outstanding Alumni



Nancy J. Gerwin



Richard Gross



John K. Hughes



Robert E. Landolt



Lee Powell



Mary J. (Pfaff)  
Schroeder



Frank I. Zygela

*Who's Who...*



# From the Superintendent



*Fred Susor*

## Dear Outstanding Alumni and Friends of Penta:

Since the inception of the Penta Outstanding Alumni Award in 1993, we are proud to have honored 57 former students who represent excellence and success in their chosen careers.

This year we honor seven former students with our annual outstanding alumni award. Each former student has his or her own unique story, however they all share a common characteristic that their education and training at Penta helped them reach personal and professional success.

Our outstanding alumni recognize that education is a lifelong process. Whether it is through additional training leading to a certificate, a license, or a college degree, they know how important education is to improving or upgrading their skills in the work world.

This year's outstanding alumni recipients frequently mention how Penta had a positive influence on their careers. Not only did the training and guidance from instructors provide skill training and instill a positive work ethic, but their confidence was boosted as a result of their education at Penta.

Another common characteristic of our outstanding alumni recipients is their commitment to community service. By participating in professional and community organizations, volunteering for school district activities, or serving on a board, our alumni do not hesitate to get involved in their communities.

As educators, our hope is to see tangible evidence that we have made a difference in the lives of our students. Penta's outstanding alumni are exceptional examples that our hope has become reality.

Congratulations to all of our outstanding alumni!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Susor".

Fred Susor  
Superintendent  
Penta Career Center



## Previous Outstanding Penta Alumni



**2002 Recipients** (l to r): Deborah S. (Tober) James – Rossford,  
Synthia L. (Cox) Mahler – Elmwood, Scott Sevenish – Rossford,  
Bonny (Peske) LaPoint – Anthony Wayne, Jennifer E. Glassford  
– Woodmore and Kathy (Woodruff) Powers – Maumee

### 1993 Recipients

Dianne (Steindam) Bochi  
– Oak Harbor  
Major Constance Gaiser-Phillips  
– Anthony Wayne  
Joseph Murray, Jr. – Lake  
Gary J. Muswick – Springfield  
Wanda (Gentry) Snyder  
– Woodmore  
Randy Wax – Woodmore

### 1994 Recipients

Nicholas Espinoza, D.O.  
– Springfield  
Jim Kasch – Eastwood  
Peter Kolan – Bowling Green  
Thomas Kretz – North Baltimore  
Suzanne (Boyer) Myers  
– Anthony Wayne  
James Lennox – Lake  
Major Daniel Tack – Oak Harbor

### 1995 Recipients

Brent Bomer – Bowling Green  
Brenda (Carrol) Hoot  
– Perrysburg  
Michael K. Ott – Otsego  
Susan (Vidra) Reamsnyder  
– Rossford

### 1996 Recipients

Joe W. Gargac – Genoa  
Nicholas B. Getzinger – Otsego  
Jason Romer – Anthony Wayne  
David Sawicki – Anthony Wayne  
Robert Torres – Swanton

### 1997 Recipients

James L. Barnes – Bowling Green  
Craig A. Bauer – Anthony Wayne  
Claudette R. Davis – Perrysburg  
Cindy Goodman-Eckel  
– Eastwood  
Paul R. Grimm – Otsego  
Christopher S. McIntire  
– Woodmore  
Ben Richmond – Lake

### 1998 Recipients

Tony E. Castillo, Sr. – Perrysburg  
John R. Colley – Maumee  
Cheryl L. (Hirzel) Fitzpatrick  
– Rossford  
Sharon Roman – Rossford  
Nicholas K. Shultz – Lake

### 1999 Recipients

Tina (Etchison) Dowling  
– Anthony Wayne  
Jonathan Hart – Clay  
Martin Sniadecki – Maumee  
Robert Steinline – Perrysburg

### 2000 Recipients

Rhonda (Delphous) Bliss  
– Genoa  
Pamela (Recker) Buck – Eastwood  
James R. Dahms  
– Adult & Continuing Education  
Cynthia (Hart) Millinger  
– Maumee  
John F. Spilker – Anthony Wayne  
Richard Young – Lake

### 2001 Recipients

Marty Almester – Rossford  
Barbara Ceculski – Genoa  
Mike Chiarelli – Perrysburg  
William E. Harris  
– Bowling Green  
Teri Lynn (Gearig) Murphy  
– Swanton  
Wayne R. Nault – Northwood  
Duane Roach – Bowling Green



# Outstanding Alumnus 2003



*Nancy J. Gerwin*

**Graduated**  
1978

**Career Program**  
Executive Secretary

**Member School**  
Woodmore

**Current Occupation**  
Director's Secretary

**Organization**  
Penta Career Center  
30095 Oregon Road  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
419-666-1120

**A** dedicated Penta staff member" is perhaps the best way to describe Outstanding Alumnus Nancy Gerwin. Not only has she earned perfect attendance awards at Penta, but she will be completing 25 years of service in June, 2003.

Nancy began her career at Penta when she was hired as a clerk-typist in the Skill Center six weeks before her own graduation. Her duties included attendance and secretarial support for the Skill Center's job placement coordinator and the school psychologist. Two years later, she was promoted to the position of director's secretary in the Skill Center. During her career in the Penta Skill Center, she worked for three directors – Louise Fought, Chuck Gibbons and Jim Calderone.



In 2000, Nancy took on yet another challenge at Penta and became the Director's Secretary for Ron Simon, career-technical director of the high school. In addition to her regular duties in the career-technical director's office, Nancy is also responsible for

the challenging job of coordinating all the substitute teacher assignments for the school district.

Nancy has been very satisfied with her career choice and offers advice to current students. "Follow what interests you because it's more important to be happy in your lifelong career than it is to make more money than your neighbor," says Nancy.

When she's not busy at the computer or scheduling substitute teachers at Penta, Nancy has found time to be active in her community. She is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Stony Ridge where she participates in choir and as a Sunday school teacher. She also is a member of the Stony Ridge Civic Association. Through membership in this group she has served as the secretary of the association and a committee chairperson for many events like the Annual Flea Market, Easter Egg Hunt, and Halloween parties.



# Outstanding Alumnus 2003

It is clear after reading the application of Outstanding Alumnus Richard Gross that his career-technical training at Penta contributed greatly to his successful career. When Richard was a student at Penta, his cooperative work experience at Hueter Manufacturing Company in Toledo helped set the stage for a career in the plastic injection molding industry.

"The co-op during my senior year helped me gain early practical experience and on-the-job knowledge in the field which would become the foundation of my career," says Richard. He worked for Hueter until 1979, when he accepted a job as a design draftsman in Lincolnwood, Illinois at the Ethyl Molded Products. After just one year at this custom injection molding company, he was promoted to the position of project engineer where he was responsible for the design, development, engineering, and project management of new products.

In 2001 he wanted to try something different so he started his own consulting company, Arrow Development Group, LLC in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. His company develops and engineers packaging and plastic products for some of the largest personal care and food companies in the world (e.g. Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson, and Nestle). His company is the North American representative for KTW, a large injection mold builder located in Austria.

Continuing his education was a priority for Richard. "Penta not only prepared me for immediate employment, but it also gave me the confidence and encouragement to pursue higher education opportunities," adds Richard. While working full-time in Toledo, he attended Bowling Green State University and studied photojournalism and fine arts. He also studied mathematics at Northwestern University.

Richard's professional accomplishments are impressive. He has been recognized as the inventor of 35 patents and he currently has four applications under consideration for patents. Richard is proud that he was a member of the team that developed the first approved plastic closure for carbonated beverage bottles.

In his spare time, Richard is a history enthusiast and enjoys participating in Civil War reenactments. He also has been a soccer and basketball coach and a den leader for his local Cub Scout pack. He is the father of three children, Sarah, age 21; John, age 19; and Alex, age 18.



*Richard Gross*

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**Graduated**  
1972

**Career Program**  
Commercial Art

**Member School**  
Perrysburg

**Current Occupation**  
Executive Director

**Company**  
Arrow Development Group, LLC  
34191 Lost Woods Court  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066  
(262) 646-7329

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# Outstanding Alumnus 2003



*John K. Hughes*

**Graduated**  
1975

**Career Program**  
Carpentry

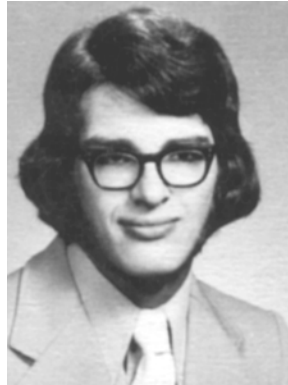
**Member School**  
Lake

**Current Occupation**  
President/Owner

**Company**  
Maumee Bay Enterprises, Inc.  
(dba Northwood Tax Service  
& dba Maumee Bay Sand & Stone)  
2665 Navarre Avenue  
Oregon, OH 43616  
419-697-7777

The natural transition for John Hughes after completing his career-technical training at Penta Career Center and graduating from Lake High School, would have been to obtain employment in the carpentry industry. However, for John, his career took some interesting directions after high school.

John enjoyed working as a carpenter in the home construction industry for two years after high school. Unfortunately the industry was hit by a recession and he decided to work as a machine set up specialist at Libbey Glass, a position he held for 19 years.



John's interest in working with numbers, led him on another career path. While he worked at Libbey Glass, he began a small tax preparation business out of his home. After nine years, John's tax business became very lucrative which enabled him to leave Libbey Glass.

In 1996, he moved his home-based tax business to a permanent location in Oregon, Ohio. His tax business is currently the third largest in the

Toledo area serving more than 2,600 clients.

During the non-tax season, John drove construction dump trucks and became interested in the trucking business. He enjoyed this industry just as much as his tax business so in 1999 he decided to start his own dump truck business. John is a successful businessman as the president/owner of Maumee Bay Enterprises, Inc. which includes his two companies – Northwood Tax Service and Maumee Bay Sand and Stone.

John owes much of his success to the training he received at Penta. "Penta gave me a start in the working world with a skilled trade," says John. "Penta taught me to take pride in a job well done and I use that work ethic today in running my companies."

In his spare time, John is active in the community. He has coached youth baseball for the City of Northwood and has coached football for the local YMCA. Some of the many roles he has undertaken include: member of the City of Northwood Recreation Board; founding member of The University of Toledo Lady Rockets Fan Club; member of the Toledo Better Business Bureau; and member of the Downtown Coaches Association.

John has two children, Robbie, age 17, who attends Penta Career Center and Kevin, age 14, a freshman at Anthony Wayne High School. John is married to Candace and they reside in Woodville.



## Outstanding Alumnus 2003

For Bob Landolt, his career training in Carpentry not only prepared him for immediate employment and apprenticeship training in his field of study, but it also helped him begin a successful career in the electrical industry.

"The basic construction skills I learned at Penta and the work ethic that my teachers instilled in me, was the foundation for my career success," says Bob.

Bob worked in the home construction industry before the 1970s building slump forced him to transfer his skills to a different industry. He joined the electrical apprenticeship program through Toledo Edison in 1973 and has remained with the company for the past 30 years.

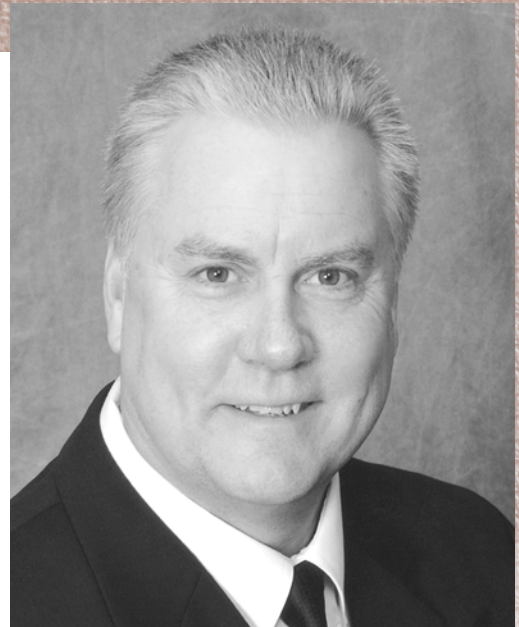
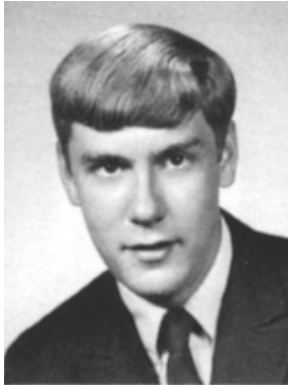
During his career with Toledo Edison, Bob has excelled in his job at every level of responsibility. His previous positions have included: journeyman, senior journeyman, and maintenance specialist. Bob is currently a power systems leader where he oversees a crew of workers who build high voltage substations, and install, repair, test, and troubleshoot all equipment.

Bob's professional accomplishments are impressive. He has been consistently evaluated as the top employee in his current position as a power systems leader. He takes pride in the fact that he and his crew recently constructed a \$1 million transformer, one of the largest and most expensive transformers ever constructed by Toledo Edison. He also teaches apprenticeship classes for Toledo Edison in the areas of transformers and circuit breakers.

Bob has another remarkable accomplishment – he was recently credited with saving the lives of two men who were in danger of being electrocuted. Bob's quick thinking and fast response helped secure a "live" cable after it was dangling near the two men who were working on a 300-foot communication tower. After he secured the cable, he helped bring the men to safety.

Bob has earned his CDL driver's license and has taken the Seiman Allis course in circuit breaker repair. In addition, he has returned to Penta as student in the Adult Education Division's Welding program.

Bob and his wife Pam have been married for 31 years and they have two adult children.



*Robert E. Landolt*

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**Graduated**  
1970

**Career Program**  
Carpentry

**Member School**  
Rossford

**Current Occupation**  
Power System Leader

**Company**  
Toledo Edison  
900 Lemoyne Road  
Northwood, OH 43619  
419-640-2750

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# Outstanding Alumnus 2003



*Lee Powell*

**Graduated**  
1976

**Career Program**  
Marketing

**Member School**  
Perrysburg

**Current Occupation**  
Senior Pastor

**Organization**  
CedarCreek Church  
29129 Lime City Rd.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
419-661-8661

When Lee Powell decided to attend Penta, he was looking for a way to shorten his school day. Instead, he discovered that Marketing Education was an area that he enjoyed and so he devoted more time than he anticipated to making the most out of his senior year.

"Penta helped build confidence in myself," says Lee. "Through participating in various school activities, I learned that I had leadership skills."



After high school, Lee enjoyed a successful career in the retail industry. He was a manager of several departments for Sears at Woodville Mall. He moved quickly up the corporate ladder at Sears and was promoted to the regional marketing and buying office of Sears in Detroit, Michigan. His career took him to the corporate offices of Sears in Chicago, Illinois. In 1989, Lee left Sears and became the national advertising manager of the Auto Express Division of Montgomery Ward in Chicago.

Throughout his successful career in the retail industry, Lee's real devotion was to his religion. In 1990, Lee decided to leave the corporate world and move back to Northwest, Ohio where he accepted a job as a youth pastor at Grace Evangelical Church in Oregon.

Lee loved the ministry so much that his dream was to form his own church. In 1995, Lee along with Steve Korn, co-founded CedarCreek Church in Perrysburg. The church started out with 25 members, holding its first public service at the Holiday Inn French Quarter. In 1996, the church moved its services to the auditorium of Perrysburg Junior High School.

Today, Lee's dream has become reality. CedarCreek has a new 54,000-square-foot facility on Lime City Road in Perrysburg. The church has an average weekend attendance of nearly 3,600 people.

Lee holds an associate's degree in Marketing from Owens Community College and received his religious training through Trinity Christian College in Dearborn, Illinois. In addition he has completed 48 hours of graduate training at the Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio.

Lee is married to Joi and they have four children Jennifer, age 21; Melody, age 19; Katie, age 16; and Steven, age 14.



## Outstanding Alumnus 2003

**A**s a 33-year employee of The Andersons, Inc., Mary Schroeder attributes the foundation of her career success to the training she received at Penta in the High Skill Stenography program.

"Because of the skills I learned at Penta, I was always confident in my abilities and that I would be able to meet or exceed the desired expectations," says Mary.

Mary began her career with The Andersons, Inc. in 1970. She held various positions in the grain division where her responsibilities included: marking the grain board, assisting the grain purchasing and grain marketing managers, budgeting, and generating statistical reports.

After 15 years with The Andersons, Inc., she accepted a new challenge and began working in the company's treasury department. Her job titles have included secretary to the treasurer and credit analyst. Mary's current title is treasury/credit analyst and her duties are impressive. She assists with the company's cash management, approves and establishes commercial credit accounts for customers, assists with SEC filings, and assists with investor relations' activities.

Mary is an advocate of lifelong learning. Throughout her career, enormous changes have occurred, especially in the area of technology. Mary has embraced these changes and continues to grow with them through continuing education programs and higher education. Mary attended The University of Toledo and received her bachelor's of arts degree, with a specialty in business, from University College in 1997.

With a successful career in progress, Mary still has found time to participate in community organizations. She has been a member of the Woodmore High School academic boosters, athletic boosters, and the After Prom committee. She is also an advisor to the Woodville Buckeyes 4-H Club. She has been an active member of several church committees where she has served as a treasurer, executive board member, and as a school board member for the Christian Day School.

Since 2000, Mary has served as a board member of the Sandusky County Educational Service Center. This year she is currently serving as president of the board.

Mary enjoys spending time with her husband Bob and their children, Kimberly, age 21 and Alan, age 18.



*Mary J. (Pfaff) Schroeder*

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**Graduated**  
1969

**Career Program**  
High Skill Stenography

**Member School**  
Swanton

**Current Occupation**  
Treasury/Credit Analyst

**Company**  
The Andersons, Inc.  
P.O. Box 119  
Maumee, OH 43537  
419-893-5050

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# Outstanding Alumnus 2003



*Frank I. Zygela*

**Graduated**  
1968

**Career Program**  
Distributive Education

**Member School**  
Anthony Wayne

**Current Occupation**  
Managing Attorney

**Company**  
Petroff & Associates  
3838 Oaklawn Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75219  
(214) 526-5300

Frank Zygela attributes his success as a lawyer, businessman, and leader to the challenging training he received at Penta. As a student in Penta's Distributive Education program, Frank was exposed to methods and ideas involving the marketing of products and services.

"Penta prepared me for the real challenges of life as a businessperson," says Frank. "I believe the positive attitudes of both teachers and students helped encourage and motivate me to learn and experience more."



Frank continued his education after Penta and has earned two degrees. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from The Ohio State University and earned his law degree from The University of Toledo in 1989.

Frank has held several positions in the legal profession in Toledo. During law school he worked as a law clerk at the firm of Gallon, Kalniz & Iorio. In 1990 he opened his own private practice in Toledo and Waterville.

In 1997 his career took him out of the area when he accepted a position with Goldberg & Osborne in Phoenix, Arizona. While at this law firm, Frank was the managing attorney of the pharmaceutical litigation division growing it from one employee to over 100 employees in a matter of five years.

Since 2002, Frank has worked for Petroff & Associates in Dallas, Texas. He is the managing attorney and shareholder of the firm where he organizes, manages and runs one of the largest consortiums of law firms from across the United States in diet drug litigation. His group has handled nearly 100,000 clients in the current round of diet drug litigation.

Even with managing a busy career, Frank has still found time to give back to the community. He has been a guardian ad litem for abused and neglected children and has served as a volunteer for various bar association committees. He also serves on the board of directors for a non-profit credit union.

Frank has been married to Lori for 13 years. He is the father of three adult children. In his spare time, he and Lori love to travel to Tahiti.



# Penta Career Center

## Board of Education 2003

**Penelope Getz**, President  
Wood County Educational Service Center

**Judith A. Sander**, Vice President  
Erie-Huron-Ottawa County Educational Service Center

**Sandy Bringman**  
Sandusky County Educational Service Center

**Pat Curtin**  
Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center

**Judy Hansen**  
Lucas County Educational Service Center

**Kathy Limes**  
Wood County Educational Service Center

**Eric Myers, Ph.D**  
Bowling Green City Schools

**Rex Palmer**  
Maumee City Schools

**Joseph Rutherford**  
Lucas County Educational Service Center

**Mark Schoenlein**  
Perrysburg Schools

**Michael Spahr**  
Rossford Schools

## Administration

**Fred Susor**  
Superintendent

**Pat Schultz**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Carrie Herringshaw**  
Treasurer

**Kevin Whitlatch**  
Director, Adult & Continuing Education

**Ron Simon**  
Career-Technical Director

**James Calderone**  
Career-Technical Director

## Member Schools

**Anthony Wayne Local**

**Benton-Carroll-Salem Local**

**Bowling Green City**

**Eastwood Local**

**Elmwood Local**

**Genoa Area Local**

**Lake Local**

**Maumee City**

**North Baltimore Local**

**Northwood Local**

**Otsego Local**

**Perrysburg Exempted Village**

**Rossford Exempted Village**

**Springfield Local**

**Swanton Local**

**Woodmore Local**



## **Our Mission**

Penta Career Center's mission is to educate high school and adult students in their chosen occupational programs to:

- Make informed career decisions
- Transition successfully from school to work
- Advance in the changing world of work
- Recognize the necessity of continuous education

### **Penta Career Center**

Accredited by the North Central  
Association of Schools and Colleges

30095 Oregon Road  
Perrysburg, OH 43551-4594  
419-666-1120  
[www.pentacareercenter.org](http://www.pentacareercenter.org)