



Outstanding Alumni
2009

Stephen G. Hunter



Cara Ricci-Challen



Kenneth Metzger



William Slane



Becky Pegorsch



Mark A. Travis



Ronald J. Porter





Ronald Matter

From the Superintendent

Dear Outstanding Alumni and Friends of Penta:

Welcome to our first Outstanding Alumni ceremony to take place in the new Penta Career Center!

We are pleased that our Outstanding Alumni event represents the 17th year of recognizing successful former students who completed programs at Penta. Since we initiated this event in 1993, 98 former students have been honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

This year we are proud to recognize seven former students who have demonstrated excellence and success in their careers. Each recipient has their own interesting story to share about how their career-technical education at Penta helped them reach their personal and professional goals.

As you review this booklet you will see how our alumni share similar perspectives about how their Penta training provided them with a firm foundation to prepare for their futures. Our alumni frequently mention that the staff at Penta helped them build self-confidence, develop communication skills and prepare for further education and/or employment.

Many of our alumni believe in the importance of pursuing additional training and education beyond high school. They recognize that in order to keep pace with the global economy, education needs to be a life-long process. As educators, we are always pleased to see our former students continue their education, whether it is through college, apprenticeship training, joining the military, earning industry certifications, or by completing continuing education programs.

Another common characteristic of our outstanding alumni recipients is their commitment to community service. Many are involved in volunteer experiences that benefit their communities and others enjoy participating in professional organizations and charities.

At Penta, we are always happy to see our alumni achieve excellence. Their success validates the goal of our institution that we do make a difference in the lives of our students.

Congratulations to the 2009 Penta Outstanding Alumni!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald W. Matter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ronald Matter
Superintendent
Penta Career Center

Stephen G. Hunter

As new retiree Steve Hunter looks back on his 35-year career, he has fond memories of his job experiences and how Penta Career Center helped set the stage for his success. Steve retired in January 2008 after working in hospital management for 23 years and as an educator for 12 years.



Steve proudly acknowledges that he was one of the first students to attend Penta during the late 1960s. He mentions that his high school training helped him earn a living and find his career path. "Penta showed me that I could do something well and succeed," says Steve.

After successfully completing the Welding program in 1967 and graduating from Bowling Green High School, Steve used his training to work full time at Formed Steel Products in Toledo. Steve's job as a welder enabled him to attend college and, at the same time, support his family.

After earning his bachelor's degree in education (majoring in industrial technology) from Bowling Green State University, Steve became a vocational teacher in the Port Huron Area School District in Michigan. He taught welding for 12 years in the high school. He also taught welding and blueprint reading classes to adults at St. Clair County Community College.

In 1984, Steve had the opportunity to change the direction of his career. Although he enjoyed teaching, he decided to move back to Bowling Green. He was offered a job with the Wood County Hospital and became the director of plant operations.

Within a few short years of obtaining his first job at the hospital, he was elevated to vice president for support services. In this position, his responsibilities were numerous. He supervised maintenance services, environmental services, biomedical services, and dietary services. In addition, Steve served as a risk manager, safety and security officer, construction and project manager, and as a liaison with the medical office building tenants.

With such a responsible position in hospital management, Steve still made time to participate in professional and community organizations. Steve held memberships in: the American Hospital Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Society for Hospital Engineering (past president), and the National Fire Protection Association. He also served as a member and past president of the Ohio Society for Healthcare Facilities Management.

Steve enjoys participating in community activities. He has been a member and officer in: the Exchange Club of Bowling Green, Woodlane Industries and the Bowling Green Elks Club.

Steve lives in Fremont, Indiana with his wife, Becky (*Green*) Hunter, who also attended Penta. In his spare time, he enjoys boating and spending time with his family. He and his wife have two adult sons, Shane and Jason, and three grandchildren.



Class of 1967

**Career Program
Welding**

**Member School
Bowling Green**

**Current Occupation
Retired Vice President
of Support Services**

**Company
Wood County Hospital
950 W. Wooster St.
Bowling Green, OH 43402
419.354.8930**



Class of 1982

**Career Program
Electronics**

**Member School
Northwood**

**Current Occupation
President**

**Company
Universal Controls Group
26202 Glenwood Rd.
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419.872.2364**



Kenneth Metzger

For Ken Metzger, studying Electronics at Penta provided him with the important skills of problem solving and teamwork to launch his career in the field of industrial controls.

After completing his Penta training and graduating from Northwood High School, Ken went to work for AutoTronics Control where he built industrial control systems. From 1985 to 2002, he worked in management, sales and product development for Innovative Controls in Toledo. Ken's career aspirations took him away from Toledo for a short time when he moved to Atlanta, Georgia and worked for a company in the same industry.

In 2005, Ken's experience in the industrial control industry gave him the confidence to take his career in a new direction. Ken created Universal Controls Group in Perrysburg where he is the owner and president. The company manufactures flying cut off systems for the tube pipe and roll forming industries.

Ken is proud of his company's success. He currently has five employees and they annually achieve \$1.5 million in sales. Ken's company has developed two control systems, U-Trak and Haventrak, which have earned industry trademarks. The company serves customers worldwide and their control products are located in plants in Brazil, Mexico, England, Italy, and Venezuela.

Ken believes Penta provided a firm foundation for his career success. "The hands-on experience I gained at Penta, allowed me to build my career. Penta also taught me how to interact with others and share ideas in a team environment," adds Ken.

Ken has taken electronics and accounting classes at Owens Community College to keep updated in his career field and to assist him in operating his company.

Ken is active in the Toledo Antique and Classic Boat Show having served as chairman of the event for seven years. He owns some classic boats and enjoys boating through the Harbor View Yacht Club. Ken also likes to support the athletic events in the Anthony Wayne School District.

Ken is married to Kimber and they have a daughter Emily, age 10. They reside in Waterville.

Becky Pegorsch

For Becky Pegorsch, working in the artistic and creative field of floral design is something she has enjoyed since high school. As a student in Penta's Horticulture program in 1977, she gained valuable experience to prepare for her career.



"I had a well-rounded education at Penta," says Becky. "The hands-on training in the lab and the career guidance from the staff were helpful in pointing me in the right direction for my future."

After completing her training at Penta and graduating from Maumee High School, Becky attended the Ohio State University Agriculture Technical Institute (ATI) in Wooster, Ohio. She graduated from ATI in 1979 with an associate degree in horticulture.

From 1979 to 1981 Becky worked at Lavilla Florist in Napoleon. In 1981 she took a floral design job with Lee Winters Florist and ended up purchasing the business that same year. She has owned Lee Winters Florist for 28 years.

In 2003, Becky expanded her floral business and opened a second location on South Detroit Avenue in Maumee. A few years later, she moved the original Lee Winters Florist from Broadway to the Spitzer Building in downtown Toledo.

Operating two flower shop locations presented some challenges. When difficulties occurred with the building owner at her downtown location she decided it was time to downsize. She recently closed the shop in Toledo to focus on the shop in Maumee.

Today, Becky's life is a little less hectic with one business location and four employees. She still works 70 hours per week, but she has more time to participate in other activities.

Becky is extremely involved in the community. She is currently active with: The Ability Center Auxiliary; Your Florist Association; Teleflora Northwest Ohio Unit; FTD, Northwest Ohio Unit; Women's Entrepreneurial Network; and Business Network International. She has held board member positions and served as an officer in several of these organizations.

Becky also enjoys giving of her time to Penta. She has been a substitute teacher in the Floral Design/Greenhouse Production program since 1988 and she has taught floral design classes through Penta's Adult Education division.

In the little spare time she has available Becky enjoys quilling (*a paper craft*), sewing, quilting, and making greeting cards.



Class of 1977

**Career Program
Horticulture**

**Member School
Maumee**

**Current Occupation
Floral Shop Owner**

**Company
Lee Winters Florist
2352 S. Detroit Ave.
Maumee, OH 43537
419.893.3220**



Class of 1976

**Career Program
Automotive Technology**

**Member School
Lake**

**Current Occupation
Shop Manager**

**Company
Dunn Chevrolet-Buick
3000 Dustin Rd.
Oregon, Ohio 43616
419.693.3000**



Ronald J. Porter

For more than 30 years, Ron Porter has enjoyed working with cars. As a teenager he worked at a Union 76 service station in East Toledo. While studying Automotive Technology at Penta, Ron obtained an early job placement position as a technician which helped him gain more experience in his career field.

After completing his training at Penta and graduating from Lake High School in 1976, Ron decided to enter the Marine Corps. He was in the service for four years at Camp Pendleton in California. In the Marine Corps, Ron focused his interests in the automotive field. He attended the Motor Transport School and served as the school's academic chief. Ron is proud to have earned the Commanding General's Letter of Appreciation from the Marine Corps.

Upon his return to Toledo, Ron obtained a job with Marko Wholesale Tire as an automotive technician. This job allowed him flexibility to attend classes at Owens Community College where he graduated in 1982 with an associate degree in automotive technology.

Over the last 20 years, Ron has worked as an automotive technician for car dealerships in the Toledo area. He first worked at George Ballas Buick for seven years. Ron joined his current employer, Dunn Chevrolet-Buick in 1995.

Ron believes hard work and a commitment to education are keys to success in his industry. He has earned many important master technician certifications including: Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), GMC, Buick, Olds, and Chevrolet.

One of Ron's crowning achievements is his certification as a General Motors World Class Technician. He is one of only three automotive technicians in the Toledo area to have earned this important industry credential. To earn this certification, Ron attended classes at the GM training center, completed online training courses and participated in one day of certification testing.

Ron's days are quite busy at Dunn Chevrolet-Buick where he has a broad range of duties. Not only does he manage the majority of the shop activities but he also supervises the auto technicians. In addition to these responsibilities, Ron continues to work as a technician. He is the main diesel technician and the Corvette specialist. His other duties include writing up work orders and training the automotive technicians and the sales staff.

Ron enjoys passing on his knowledge and expertise to others. He serves on the Automotive Technology Advisory Committee at Penta and he has been a mentor for the Automotive Youth Educational System (AYES).

Ron is married to Pamela and they have four children Angie, Brad (*who completed Penta's Automotive Technology program in 2000*), Lauren (*who completed Penta's Small Animal Care program in 2007 and works at Penta*), and A.J. (*a current student in Penta's Automotive Technology program*).

Cara Ricci-Challen



Cara Ricci-Challen was a busy high school student back in 1996. Not only did she learn about food management and production through her classes at Penta, but at the same time, she gained important hands-on experience working in the field. While in high school, Cara worked one year as an assistant pastry chef for the Catawba Island Country Club and also gained experience working as a line cook for the Maumee Bay Brewing Company.

Cara credits her career training at Penta for giving her an advantage in college. “I was able to test out of several classes plus I had knowledge of all the basic skills that made a big difference in my transition from high school to college,” says Cara.

After completing her culinary training at Penta, Cara enrolled in the College of Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University (JWU) in Providence, Rhode Island. At JWU, Cara earned an associate degree in Culinary Arts and in 2001 she received a bachelor’s degree in Food Service Management.

To gain more experience during college, Cara worked at one of the premiere restaurants in Providence – the Trinity Brewhouse. She worked for the restaurant for three years gaining a wealth of knowledge and experience. She eventually became a kitchen manager at the restaurant. It was a tremendous opportunity for Cara and provided a great foundation for her career.

While in Rhode Island, Cara also was the recipient of a culinary award. In 2001, she competed in the Rhode Island Pasta Challenge and placed first in the vegetarian category.

In 2003, Cara decided to move back to Northwest Ohio. She worked briefly for The Avenue Bistro in Sylvania when the owner asked her to consider working for his catering company. Cara accepted this challenge and became the head chef for Premier Catering in Perrysburg. In her current position, Cara is responsible for preparing all hot food and pastries for client events.

Cara says she enjoys her current job because of the challenging responsibilities, but also because she is able to end her work day by mid afternoon. She has most evenings and weekends free which is quite unusual for the food service industry.

In her spare time Cara has volunteered for the Maumee Valley Chef’s Association, area shelters, soup kitchens, and is a member of Penta’s Culinary Arts Advisory Committee.

Cara enjoys spend time with her family. She is married to Brian and they have a four-year old son, Milo.



Class of 1996

**Career Program
Food Management
& Production**

**Member School
Oak Harbor**

**Current Occupation
Head Chef**

**Company
Premier Catering
25601 Fort Meigs Rd.
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419.873.3463**



Class of 1994

**Career Program
Job Training**

**Member School
Woodmore**

**Current Occupation
Customer Service Clerk**

**Company
Kroger
27386 Carronade Dr.
Perrysburg, Ohio 43551
419.874.1981**



William Slane

Billy Slane believes Penta provided him with the right skills to work in a job he loves doing everyday. After completing a successful job training experience at Kroger while still in high school, Billy continued to work for the company after he finished his program at Penta and graduated from Woodmore High School.

Billy is a 16-year employee with Kroger in Perrysburg. He works full time as customer service clerk. He performs the typical tasks of a customer service clerk and his employer says he does so much more. Not only does he bag groceries and collect the grocery carts from the outside, Billy constantly helps customers with whatever needs they may have.

Darlene Pomorski, Billy's supervisor at Kroger, says that he is counted on by the employees in all areas of the store operation. "Billy is an efficient and productive employee with great attendance and a friendly attitude," says Darlene. She adds that Billy's helpful attitude contributes to his success on the job because he is always willing to take on additional tasks at work.

Billy displays these same qualities through his volunteer experiences. Most people in the Woodmore School District community know and appreciate all that Billy does for the athletic programs. For many years, Billy has been a volunteer with the 8th grade football team as an assistant coach. He also volunteers as an assistant coach for the

Woodmore High School track team.

Billy is also a good citizen and a great help to his family. He enjoys assisting his neighbors with projects such as snow shoveling and grass cutting. Billy frequently helps his mother with her craft business. He helps out by loading and unloading the craft materials, setting up the craft booth and working the craft shows. He also spends time with his father working in the vegetable garden.

When Billy isn't working or helping others, he loves spending time with his family on vacation. He has been on cruises to Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

Billy lives with his parents Ruth and Ed in Woodville.

Mark A. Travis

When Mark Travis completed his training at Penta in Construction Electricity he never imagined that nuclear physics would be the focus of his career.

For Mark, career flexibility and continuing education was the key to his success. This is the same advice he recommends to current students, “Never stop learning and take every opportunity to further your education to help improve your opportunities for advancement in your career,” says Mark.

After successfully completing his Penta training and graduating from Genoa High School, Mark worked for Guardian Industries, a glass manufacturer in Millbury. In 1986 he had the opportunity to join the company that he dreamed of working for – Toledo Edison (or First Energy) at the Davis Besse Nuclear Power Station.

Mark has been a First Energy employee for 23 years. He first worked as a nuclear physics serviceman and within a few years he was promoted to radiological control technician. Mark credits additional training and job experience for helping him obtain this promotion. In 1999, Mark was promoted to supervisor of radiation protection operations and in 2005 he accepted another promotion and became a senior nuclear specialist, the position he currently holds.

In his current job, Mark is a training instructor for the First Energy-owned nuclear power stations. He instructs technicians in the area of reactor physics at the Davis Besse, Beaver Valley and the Perry nuclear power plants. Mark’s area of instruction includes radioactive surveys, radiation and airborne surveys, environmental sampling, and emergency response procedures.

Keeping updated in his field has always been a priority to Mark. In 1996, he became certified through the National Registry of Radiation Protection Technologists (NRRPT). To earn this certification, Mark prepared for six months to pass an intense credentialing exam.

Mark proudly mentions that he still uses his Penta training in Construction Electricity. In addition to his job with First Energy, he also owns a residential wiring business. Through his company, Mark Travis & Sons Electric, he accepts projects involving the electric wiring of new homes and rewiring of existing homes.

Mark enjoys helping in the community. He has been a football coach for eight years in the Woodmore School District where he helped coach his son. In addition, he is a board member for the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of Brush Wellman, a beryllium company in Elmore.

Mark and his wife Lynn live in Oak Harbor and have three sons, Matthew (*a senior in Penta’s Public Safety/Criminal Justice program*), Michael, age 15 and Luke, age six.



Class of 1982

**Career Program
Construction Electricity**

**Member School
Genoa**

**Current Occupation
Senior Nuclear Specialist**

**Organization
First Energy
5501 North State Route 2
Oak Harbor, Ohio 43449
419.321.7108**

Previous Outstanding Penta Alumni

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

2002 Recipients

Jennifer E. Glassford - Woodmore
Deborah S. (Tober) James -
Rossford
Bonny (Peske) LaPoint -
Anthony Wayne
Synthia L. (Cox) Mahler -
Elmwood
Kathy (Woodruff) Powers -
Maumee
Scott Sevenish - Rossford

2003 Recipients

Nancy J. Gerwin - Woodmore
Richard Gross - Perrysburg
John K. Hughes - Lake
Robert E. Landolt - Rossford
Lee Powell - Perrysburg
Mary J. (Pfaff) Schroeder -
Swanton
Frank I. Zygela - Anthony Wayne

2004 Recipients

Lynne (Mullen) Burch - Maumee
Carole A. (Hughes) Brennan -
Lake
Chris Cufu - Northwood
Edward J. Gonzales -
Adult & Continuing Education
Jeffery W. Hamons - Woodmore
Gerald O. Herman - Northwood
Thomas G. Overmyer -
Grand Rapids (Otsego)
Mike Smith - Otsego

2005 Recipients

Bryan A. Christy - Bowling Green
Yvonne M. (Kieswether) Fey -
Maumee
Frederick L. Kubitz - Maumee
Rose Mock Scott - Springfield
Wayne A. Strayer -
Anthony Wayne
Rebecca L. (Cooper) Stutz -
Anthony Wayne

2006 Recipients

Thomas Berkebile - Perrysburg
Patrick O. Curtin - Maumee
Steven W. Curtis - Otsego
Jarrad C. Egert - Woodmore
Patricia K. Hyland - Perrysburg
Lisa (Ackley) Mattin - Maumee
Danilynn M. Miller -
Anthony Wayne

2007 Recipients

Deric C. Frisch - Perrysburg
Matthew E. Herrig - Elmwood
Frederick C. Lange - Perrysburg
Edward J. Stribrny - Lake
David W. Terry - Rossford
Kewyn Louis Williams -
Springfield

2008 Recipients

Tony J. Anteau - Rossford
George C. Byington Jr. -
Oak Harbor
Benjamin L. Croley - Northwood
David Gillette - Springfield
Diane S. (Asmus) Hemminger -
Otsego
Robert J. Osstifin -
Anthony Wayne
Jennifer L. (Byington) Wilkins -
Oak Harbor

Penta Career Center

Board of Education 2009

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

Kathy Limes, Vice President
Wood County Educational Service Center

William Green
Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center

Timothy Meyer
Wood County Educational Service Center

Robert Righi
Maumee City Schools

Joseph Rutherford
Lucas County Educational Service Center

Judith A. Sander
North Point Educational Service Center

Mark Schoenlein
Perrysburg Schools

Ken Sutter
Rossford Schools

Administration

Ronald Matter, Superintendent
Carrie Herringshaw, Treasurer
Jeffrey Kurtz, Career-Technical Director
Kevin Whitlatch, Adult & Continuing Education Director
Tim Davis, Operations Director
Monica K. Dansack, Public Information Coordinator

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 is a high-performing school that provides:

- Options and opportunities
- Real-world learning
- Partnerships with business and industry
- Productive citizens

Our Commitment

The staff at Penta Career Center is committed to:

- Achieving excellence
- Delivering results
- Responding to our communities
- Creating an environment for success



Touching Lives – Building Futures

Accredited by the North Central
Association of Schools and Colleges

9301 Buck Road
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419.666.1120

www.pentacareercenter.org