OPEN HOUSE Scheduled For Prospective Students, Industry Professionals

On Saturday, May 2, Precision Manufacturing Institute will host a Spring Open House. The event is open to all prospective students, industry professionals, and other interested community members.

During Open House, those in attendance will tour the school, see live demonstrations done by students, and have the opportunity to speak with instructors about industry trends in the machining field. Representatives from admissions and financial aid will also be present to answer any questions about enrolling at the school.

In addition to prospective students, PMI encourages industry professionals to attend the Open House as well to learn about the opportunities available for their employees. PMI currently works with a number of manufacturing companies in the area and provides customized hands-on industry specific training programs designed specifically to meet their company’s needs.

“We’re very excited to be hosting this event. It’s a great way for individuals interested in the manufacturing industry to come in and see what we have to offer,” said PMI’s Director Jim Shore.

Open House is set to begin at 9:30 a.m. and will run until approximately 1:00 p.m.
To register, please call (814) 333-2415 or visit http://www.pmioline.edu/open-house/

JUMP START Your Future With a Career in MANUFACTURING!

SPRING OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, May 2, 2015 9:30 AM

To register call (855) PMI-8787 or visit www.GoPMI.org.
CALL (855) PMI-8787 FOR MORE INFORMATION
There’s the old saying that states one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. To this day, this saying still remains accurate. After their Cincinnati Sabre 750 Vertical Machining Center stopped working, Starn Tool & Manufacturing Company needed to find a way to dispose of the worn piece of machinery. While many do not see much value in a broken piece of equipment, PMI saw this machine as a treasure.

Thanks to Starn Tool’s donation of the used CNC machine, PMI has gained a new educational tool for its mechatronics program. Students will gain valuable experience tearing apart and repairing the broken machine, which will prepare them for future maintenance technician positions in the manufacturing industry.

“This machine brings a wealth of learning opportunities for our mechatronics students,” said PMI’s Director Jim Shore. “We’d like to thank Starn Tool for their generosity in providing us with this donation.”

PMI’s mechatronics program is a 9-month program that provides students with extensive hands-on training that will allow them to work with industrial systems. The curriculum focuses on a broad spectrum of subjects, such as robotics operations and programming; hydraulics and pneumatics; electrical troubleshooting; maintenance welding; mechanical drives; blueprint reading; and industrial mechanics.

“As stated by the U.S. Department of Labor (Bureau of Labor Statistics), “as demand increases for engineers to design and build new equipment in various fields, employment of electro-mechanical technicians should also increase.”

To learn more about PMI’s mechatronics program, call (814) 333-2415 or visit http://www.GoPMI.org

Phase One Welding Expansion Nears Completion

The first phase of construction on PMI’s welding lab is nearing its completion. Two classrooms as well as additional space for storage have replaced what used to be an old gymnasium for the Meadville YMCA satellite facility. The tasks that still remain in this phase of construction include filling the spaces with furniture, state-of-the-art smartboard technology, and storage units.

After the rooms have been furnished, the welding classes will begin to utilize the newly renovated space.

Upon completion of the classrooms, the second phase of construction will begin. This phase of construction will include removing the old classrooms and instructor offices and converting them into a space where 14 additional welding booths will be added, totaling 28 booths in the lab. As stated in the last issue of Shop Talk, the construction of the welding lab is in response to the growth of enrollment the program has begun to see recently.

Welding instructor John Adams is pleased to see the enrollments rising and the expansion taking place at the facility. Since 2009, John has been teaching at PMI’s Meadville campus and has seen the program evolve.

“It’s great to see where the welding program has grown to be,” said John. “Since starting at PMI, we have been able to take the students that were just welding T joints to welding the five basic joints. We have developed over 50 projects that the students now have to complete throughout their duration at PMI. Early on, students did not receive any tools, and now they receive a complete tool box with all of their appropriate hand tools as well as welding jacket that are required on the job site.”

Marketing Update

2015 has been a busy year so far for PMI. Here’s what’s going on:

• PMI launched its new website, which includes fresh content, new pictures and testimonials from graduates, as well as information on the school’s industry training program. Check out PMI’s new website at www.GoPMI.org.

• A new radio ad campaign has been launched on Froggy Radio

• PMI’s social presence has expanded to Twitter! Follow us at @PMIschool

For up-to-date information on PMI, “Like” us on Facebook (Precision Manufacturing Institute), follow us on Twitter (@PMIschool), or visit www.GoPMI.org.

Stay Connected with PMI!

For the latest news and information on Precision Manufacturing Institute, make sure to “Like” us on Facebook and Follow us on Twitter (@PMISchool).
Congratulations and best wishes to each one of our graduates!

CNC Machinist (Jan. 13, 2015)
William Bishop
Phil Jackson, Jr.
Mike Patterson
Eric Reagle

Mechatronics Technology (Jan. 14, 2015)
Al Kolan
J. R. Lindsey
Phil Terrill
Lynn Walker
Rick Waters

Electric Arc Welding (Feb. 10, 2015)
Christian Greer
Joe Hawkins
Hunter Keppel
Colin Link
Mike Weaver

CNC Machinist (Apr. 2, 2015)
Jessie Barnes
Jason Durish
Hunter Ford
Levi Jones
Dustin Kelly
Bret Marrs
Derrick Weber

Mechatronics Technology (Apr. 9, 2015)
Ryan Bartley
John McClintock
Jacob Proper
Doug Yurkanin

A total of 25 students have graduated this year from PMI’s diploma programs. Each program was honored by faculty, staff, family and friends during ceremonies held at the school.
Awards & Recognition
PMI would like to congratulate the following students on their efforts in the classroom, who demonstrate quality performance in attendance and academics.

Perfect Attendance
For the term October 20, 2014 through January 18, 2015
Ryan Bartley (Mechatronics Technology / Clarion Venango)
David Bish, Jr. (Mechatronics Technology)
Garrett Dennis (Mechatronics Technology)
John McClintock (Mechatronics Technology)
Jacob Proper (Mechatronics Technology)
Doug Yurkanin (Mechatronics Technology)
Eric Bonanno (CNC Machinist)
Mark Darby (CNC Machinist)
Jason Durish (CNC Machinist)
Hunter Ford (CNC Machinist)
Jacob Grove (CNC Machinist)
Brett Marrs (CNC Machinist)
Taylor Dart (Electric Arc Welding)
Corey Stainbrook (Electric Arc Welding)

Instructor’s Choice
Cumulative attendance through January 18, 2015
Ryan Bartley (Mechatronics Technology/Clarion Venango)
David Bish, Jr. (Mechatronics Technology)
Garrett Dennis (Mechatronics Technology)
Jacob Proper (Mechatronics Technology)
Doug Yurkanin (Mechatronics Technology)
Mark Darby (CNC Machinist)
Hunter Ford (CNC Machinist)
Jacob Grove (CNC Machinist)
Brett Marrs (CNC Machinist)
Taylor Dart (Electric Arc Welding)
Corey Stainbrook (Electric Arc Welding)

ACE Award
Cumulative 4.0 GPA through January 18, 2015
Mark Darby (CNC Machinist)
Brett Marrs (CNC Machinist)
Taylor Dart (Electric Arc Welding)
Joe Hawkins (Electric Arc Welding)
Hunter Keppel (Electric Arc Welding)
Colin Link (Electric Arc Welding)
Joe Roose (Electric Arc Welding)
Corey Stainbrook (Electric Arc Welding)
Mike Weaver (Electric Arc Welding)

Extra Effort Award
Students who have gone above and beyond without being asked by an instructor
Jacob Grove (CNC Machinist)
Brian Ives (CNC Machinist)

Project Management Workshops
Provide Local Leaders With Enhanced Skillsets

PMI hosted two project management workshops on March 10 and 11. The workshops were presented by Chuck Frampton and Stan Sabin of Westvale Consulting, LLC. Each workshop introduced participants to the critical knowledge needed to be a successful project manager. The goal of the workshops was for the participants to leave with an improved skill set on how to manage any size project, for any initiative. The workshops concentrated on both the technical and the management skills required to be successful and served as an introduction to the full range of topics needed to pursue a certification in Project Management.

A total of 17 participants attended the workshops. The results were so positive that PMI is planning to schedule additional workshops in the near future. Presenters Frampton and Sabin each have over 20 years of project management experience. The projects have been completed for start-ups, family businesses and Fortune 100 firms in a variety of industries.

Contact PMI to get on the list for the next workshop!

The Heartwood of Project Management
Learn the technical and managerial skills required for successful execution of each of the critical segments of any project.

Initiation
Planning and Design
Executing
Monitoring and Controlling
Closing

“Chuck Frampton has been our Business Consultant since 2007. His impact on my company has been nothing short of revolutionary. His continued involvement through ongoing consulting and implementation training has allowed us to continually expand at double digit rates.”

Ronald Peik, President Alpine Environmental

Project Initiation
- How a project is initiated with a Project Charter (Defining assumptions, risks, and change management concerns)

Project Planning
- Plan a Project with Scope, Time, Cost, HR and Risk Management Concerns
- Plan a Project using deadlines, work breakdown, and time tested Management Skills

Project Execution
- Understand how to execute the Projects: Managing Resources & Time
- Introduction to MS Project — How to set-up and use a simple plan

Project Monitoring & Controlling
- Understand controls timelines, cost & scope of the project along with managing stakeholder expectations

Project Closing
- How to close a project with performance appraisals, contract close etc.
Industry Partner,  
**Honored At Pittsburgh Times’ Manufacturer Of The Year Ceremony**

PMI’s industry partner, Channellock Inc., recently was awarded the 2014 Pittsburgh Business Times’ Premo J. Pappafava Excellence Award as part of the annual Manufacturer of the Year award ceremony. This was the first time the family-owned and operated company won the award.

In a recent news release issued by the company, Channellock Inc.’s president and COO Jon DeArmont stated, “This award is a testament to the dedication of our associates and the CHANNELLOCK Nation. We want to thank everyone for supporting our commitment to American manufacturing.”

Channellock Inc. was nominated for this award by PMI. Understanding the value Channellock Inc. has on the local economy, PMI’s Director Jim Shore knew they were a perfect candidate to nominate.

“For over 130 years, Channellock Inc. has been a juggernaut in the region not only for producing quality products, but also for maintaining a solid reputation in the community they serve. We are thrilled that the Pittsburgh Business Times recognized these great qualities of Channellock and are proud to work with them for years to come,” said Jim.

The Premo J. Pappafava Excellence Award recognizes multigenerational, family-owned manufacturers for overall excellence, innovation, ethics and philanthropy. One winner is selected in this category, General Carbide Corp., a company founded by Pappafava, who died in 2002, established the award in his honor.

In addition to receiving the Premo J. Pappafava Excellence Award, Channellock Inc. was a finalist for the Overall Excellence Award in their category (200-399 employees).

For many years, PMI and Channellock Inc. have maintained an education partnership offering industry specific training for the Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification in the Mechatronics field. In addition, Jon DeArmont has served on PMI’s board of directors for over 11 years.

Channellock Inc. received their award on December 4 at an awards ceremony held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA.

For more information on Channellock Inc., visit http://www.channellock.com

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**Student’s Passion And Determination Leads To Remarkable Accomplishment**

Garrett Dennis has always enjoyed working with his hands. Throughout his four years of high school at Corry, he went through the technical program spending two years in the carpentry program and the remaining two years in the machine maintenance program. During his time in the maintenance program, he participated in a co-op with Viking Plastics, located in Corry, PA. Garrett enjoyed working at the shop and obtained many skills in the maintenance field. He had such a great experience that he knew going into the maintenance field was what he wanted to make a career out of.

Garrett enrolled in PMI’s mechatronics program in October 2014. With a passion for learning, he quickly dove into his studies and has since remained focused and determined on his overall career goal.

In January, Garrett started the Robotic Programming and Operations course. On his first day of class Garrett and his classmates were provided with some of the basics of programming that are necessary to get a robot to operate. Garrett was so fascinated by the lecture that he took it upon himself to go home and read ahead in their class textbook.

Garrett returned to class the next day anxious to begin working with the robots.

While the class was programming robots to do basic back-and-forth movements, Garrett went ahead and took the programming many steps further. The results were astounding – what Garrett programmed the robot to do was something that has never been seen in the mechatronics class, especially by a student on his second day of class! The program Garrett completed included operations that moved the robot through a series of cones as well as around a sphere shape. To see the complete operation, visit PMI’s YouTube channel.

While Garrett doesn’t graduate until July, he hopes to continue to further advance his hands-on skills that will advance him into a maintenance position.

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**Family Roots Bring Machinist Back To Northwest PA**

For CNC Machinist student Levi Jones, machining is in his blood. Raised by a family of machinists, he knew he was destined for a career in the field. Levi was born in Meadville, but when he was about four years-old, his family moved to Montana to seek new opportunities. In 1999, his family opened a tool & die shop, Bitterroot Tool & Machine, Bitterroot Tool & Machine (formerly Wild West Machine), which serves the dental, ammunition, gun, security and aerospace industries with innovative machine and die designs. Since the shop’s inception, Levi has been working for his parents at the shop.

With 15 years of work experience in his family’s shop, Levi had a very one-minded perspective of machining. Knowing that his son’s industry training has only been from what he has learned at Bitterroot, Levi’s father asked his son if he would be interested in going to school. Intrigued by the idea of learning new concepts, Levi agreed to the opportunity. With family ties still in Meadville, Levi returned to Northwest PA.

Levi enrolled in PMI’s CNC Machinist program in the summer of 2014. Since graduating high school, this is the first time 27-year-old Levi will be returning to school for post-secondary education. While he does not enjoy the idea of returning to the “school” atmosphere, he is pleased with the environment PMI provides.

Outside of school, Levi works at Bra-Vor Tool & Die Co., Inc. in Meadville, PA. While the concepts at Bra-Vor are very similar to those used at Bitterroot, Levi said that he has picked up some new skills at the shop.

Blue skies and the breathtaking mountain scenery are what Levi misses about Montana. Since he has started school, he has not traveled home. Despite his longing to be back in the Mountain State, Levi will return home to his family and job this spring with some new work experiences when he graduates from the CNC Machinist program in April.
offers new beginnings for CNC graduate

Welding graduate Hunter Keppel has always enjoyed working with his hands. During his time at Eisenhower High School, Hunter attended Warren County Career Center for machining, where he also participated in a co-op with Drake Manufacturing in Sheffield, PA. While he was fascinated with the manufacturing field and gaining a great deal of experience, Hunter wasn’t quite sure machining was the right fit for him. He then started hearing about welding and career opportunities available in the field.

“Welding is a hands-on field to get into and there are lots of opportunities available. There is always going to be a need for repairing and building things,” he said.

After graduating high school in 2014, Hunter immediately began working at a lumberyard. Still interested in pursuing welding, he started looking at schools in the area that offered the program. Hunter remembered when Admissions Director Doug Nelson visited his CTC to discuss the programs offered at PMI. In addition, he had friends who attended PMI and received positive feedback about the programs.

In September 2014, Hunter enrolled at PMI. Because of his previous education at Warren County CTC, Hunter said the transition to PMI was very simple.

Nearing the completion of his program, Hunter discovered a job opportunity at Corry Manufacturing Company in his Resume & Interviews class. Outside of class, he even began to see ads for the company in the newspaper. Intrigued by the opportunity, he decided to apply for the position.

With the help of PMI’s Student Services Coordinator, Sara Gehr, Hunter submitted his resume and was called for a formal interview. Impressed with his experience, the company offered Hunter a job as a TIG welder two weeks before he graduated from PMI. Since starting the position, Hunter is very happy with his position at Corry Manufacturing Company. He credits PMI for their efforts in preparing him for a career.

“I would recommend PMI’s welding program to anyone. I learned a lot and it’s a short program so I was able to get trained and start a career quickly. The instructors are knowledgeable and always available to help,” he said.

March Advisory Board Meeting

In March, PMI hosted advisory board meetings for the CNC Machinist and Electric Arc Welding programs. During the meeting, representatives discussed current practices and ideas for further growing the programs.

The following representatives attended the meeting for the CNC Machinist program on March 20, 2015:
- Bryan Cramer – MSC
- David Price – MacLean Fogg
- Jody Roess – MacLean Fogg
- Jason Hall – Ellwood City Crankshaft
- Jeff Choffel – Channellock
- Chip Kelsey – Maloney Tool & Mold
- Carol Donahue – Franklin Bronze

The following representatives attended the meeting for the Electric Arc Welding program on March 27, 2015:
- Bob Bragan – DonJon
- Jim Masi – DonJon
- Rick Heffern – Channellock
- Dennis Harris – The Warren Company
- John Fediniz – McShane Welding
- Kevin Keisel – Excalibur Machine

If you are an industry professional interested in attending an upcoming advisory board meeting, please call (514) 332-2415.

Welcome New Students

December 15, 2014

Electric Arc Welding:
Taylor Dart  Joe Roose
Ian Haux  Corey Stainbrook

January 19, 2015

CNC Machinist:
Matt Pagliari  Brandon Scarborough
Paul McCune  Brett White, Jr.

February 16, 2015

Electric Arc Welding:
Aaron Franz  Theo Terwillinger

Just Hired

William Bishop
Michael Patterson
Eric Reagle
Phillip Jackson Jr.
Thomas Craine
Lynn Walker
Quinton Jonas

CNC Machinist
CNC Machinist
CNC Machinist
CNC Machinist
CNC Machinist
CNC Machinist
Welding

Acute Precision Machining
Time Machine
G.E.
G.E.
Acute Precision Machining
Welding

Donohue Railroad Equipment, Inc.

Hunter Keppel
Mike Weaver
Milan Kostolnik
Corry Newhard
Ken Fentem
Al Kolan

Welding
Welding
Welding
Welding
Welding
Mechatronics

Corry Manufacturing Company
Roser Technologies Inc.
Billson Towing
Sales & Engineering Inc.
Industrial Tank and Container

Mechatronics
Claron Industries
Former Student Hired As NEW WELDING INSTRUCTOR

Dean Koseff was recently hired as the new Welding Instructor. With eight years of experience, Dean joins veteran instructor John Adams and is excited to help continue growing the welding program.

While Dean is new to the instructor position, he is not unfamiliar to PMI’s campus. Looking to further his skills and learn a new trade, Dean decided to enroll in PMI’s Mechatronics Technology program. When the position opened at his alma mater, Dean was thrilled to be considered for the position.

“I never thought I would become an instructor, but the more I thought about it the better I felt,” he said. “I’m really enjoying my new position and hope to change lives like this place has changed mine.”

A Guys Mills native, Dean enjoys outdoor activities, such as boating, fishing and hunting.

Get to Know Dean
I can’t live a day without: Coffee
What is your favorite sports team? The Pittsburgh Steelers
What is one thing most people don’t know about you? I like to draw
What is your favorite food? Any kind of seafood

WELCOME Chris Hartman

Christopher Hartman was recently hired for an instructor position at PMI. With 23 years of experience in electrical, mechatronics and CNC fields, Chris will be an integral asset to the school’s distinguished faculty.

Chris’ primary instructor role will include teaching courses for PMI’s growing Industry Training program, which serves local manufacturing companies in the region. In addition, he will offer assistance by filling in for instructors when needed.

Prior to joining PMI’s team, Chris was working for Time Machine, Inc. in Polk, PA as a CNC Machinist. In addition, he had received years of mechatronics and electrical experience in Temple, TX. While Chris is new to the instructor position, he is not unfamiliar to PMI. In 1999, Chris graduated from PMI, which at the time was still known as H.T. Kerr Technology Center. He is happy to be back at his alma mater and see the improvements.

In his new position, Chris hopes to pass on his knowledge to allow for students to pursue the same types of career opportunities that he got to experience.

A Franklin resident, Chris enjoys spending time with his wife and three children. Chris also serves as a freemason and has been an active member for seven years.

Doug Nelson NAMED DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

In January, Admissions Representative Doug Nelson was promoted to Director of Admissions in a move Director Jim Shore stated was a necessary progression towards the next phase of management growth at the school.

“With enrollments increasing, PMI needs more levels of management to create a natural progression in operations. Doug has worked hard to build a presence in the community for PMI and was a perfect candidate for this managerial position,” said Jim.

Doug joined PMI’s staff in September 2013 after board members from sister school, Rosedale Technical College, led a restructuring of the management of the Meadville-based higher education institution. With 37 years of experience as a tool & die maker, he understands the importance the manufacturing industry has on the U.S. economy and has dedicated himself to recruiting a younger generation of skilled workers to fulfill the demand.

In his new management role, Doug will work to grow the admissions department with skilled individuals as well as continue to drive enrollments into PMI’s programs.
On Saturday, March 28, crowds from the Northwest PA area packed into Meadville Area High School’s gymnasium for the annual RoboBOTS competition, sponsored by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Tooling & Machining Association (NWPA NTMA).

RoboBOTS is geared towards inspiring student interest in technical careers in STEM-related fields. Each participating team works with an advisor or team mentor to build a 15-pound robot geared towards battling other robots in an arena-style competition.

38 teams from 17 schools took the stage this year to compete for the title and move on to the national RoboBOTS competition. Participating schools include Cambridge Springs Junior/Senior High School, Central Tech, Cochranton Junior/Senior High School, Commodore Perry High School, Conneaut Area High School, Conneaut Lake Middle School, Conneaut Valley Middle School, Crawford County Career and Technical Center, General McLane High School, George Junior Republic Vocational School, Maplewood Junior/Senior High School, Meadville Area High School, North East High School, Parker Middle School, Union City High School, Venango Tech Center and West Middlesex Area Middle School.

This year, PMI worked with a team from Meadville Area Senior High School. The team, Arm-Ageddon, worked together to build their robot, Prototype.

The 1st and 2nd place teams receive funds from the NWPA NTMA to participate in the National (NRL) contest at Baldwin Wallace College in Cleveland, OH on May 15-16, 2015.

**Here are the results of this year’s competition:**

1st Place: Regicide, Cochranton High School
2nd Place: Mr. Fuzzworth, Meadville Area High School
3rd Place: Flatliner, Union City High School

**King of The Ring:** Liftoff, Venango Technology Center

**Coolest Bot:** Kouti & Kliski, Maplewood Jr-Sr High

**Best Documentation:** Punisher, Cochranton Jr-Sr High

**Best Sportsmanship:** Shell Shock, Conneaut Area Senior High

**Best Engineer:** Liftoff, Venango Technology Center

**Congratulations to all of this year’s participants!**

The team Arm-Ageddon’s robot, Prototype, gearing up to battle in this year’s RoboBOTS competition.

RoboBOTS isn’t just for the boys. This year’s competition showcased a larger number of female participants than seen in years past. Pictured above is team *Little Drummer Girls* from West Middlesex High School. Team members include Faith Morelli, Alexis Langdon, Angela Flores, Karlissa Richmond, Julianna Hansley, Crysta Barndts, Charlotte Barton, Lydia Hemminger, Alasuk Kelsey, and Kylie Bruner. The advisors for the Little Drummer Girls are Alan Hough, Chris Anderson, and Dan Astey. Their robot’s name is The Drum Roll. The team is pictured with advisor Dan Astey who also serves as a substitute instructor at PMI.