As Pennsylvania faces a widening gap between workforce demand for skilled trades and available job candidates, Rosedale Technical College President Dennis Wilke is taking the helm of an advocacy group for the state’s technical colleges. “Pennsylvania is experiencing significant growth in several sectors, notably natural gas exploration and construction — yet due to an aging population and the exodus of many younger workers following the decline of the steel industry, we currently lack enough skilled workers to fill these jobs,” Wilke said.

“The schools represented by PAPSA are ideally positioned to solve this problem with specialized, industry-specific training. I look forward to serving as their voice during this critical juncture in our state’s economy.”

Wilke was named the new president of the Pennsylvania Association for Private School Administrators (PAPSA) Board of Directors, a two-year term. The announcement was officially made at the organization’s annual conference held July 26-27 in King of Prussia, PA.

The appointment comes at a time when Pennsylvania is experiencing a skills gap across multiple industries, particularly in fields hungry for workers in skilled trades. The Pennsylvania Chamber Educational Foundation’s 2016 Workforce Development Survey found that 56 percent of the employers surveyed reported difficulty filling jobs for technical and skilled workers.

Nationally, a 2016 Talent Shortage Survey conducted on 42,300 employers by ManpowerGroup found that skilled trade workers were the hardest jobs to fill for the fifth consecutive year. At the same time, career colleges and programs that are designed to train workers to fill those gaps are facing significant regulatory burdens, including gainful employment laws, which require schools to meet minimum debt-to-income rates among their graduates. Programs that don’t meet these thresholds risk losing their students’ federal financial aid – or worse, closing completely, further fueling the skills gap.

Wilke, who studied economics at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, joined Rosedale Tech in 2005 and assumed its presidency a year later. He has served on PAPSA’s Board of Directors for four years and was its treasurer in 2016.

Founded in 1967, PAPSA is a non-profit organization that serves about 140 career training schools across the state of Pennsylvania. Its role includes advocacy in state and federal government affairs, professional development sessions for faculty, important partnerships, and more.

PAPSA’s membership includes both private non-profit and private for-profit schools, along with some adult education programs associated with public CTCs.

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“As Dennis is recognized by colleagues throughout the state for his leadership at Rosedale Technical College. His strong leadership ability and his successful student-focused approach to education are why Dennis was unanimously elected by the Board to serve as the next President of PAPSA,” said Aaron Shenck, Executive Director of PAPSA.
An Inside Look into Anthropomorphism

At Rosedale Tech, many know Josh Conley as an automotive technology graduate who has returned to school and is attending the collision repair technology program. Many know that Josh is a military veteran who participated in two deployments. But what many do not know about Josh is his artistic talent for anthropomorphism.

What is anthropomorphism you say?

Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human characteristics to nonhuman beings and objects. The Anthro community consists of a number of people: first, those individuals, like Josh, who see it as an artwork; second, those individuals who just like the costumes; and third, those who use Anthropomorphism for non-profit and charitable work, such as visiting children’s hospitals in their costumes. Josh even explained that some members of the Anthro community do not even have costumes.

Josh became fascinated with anthropomorphism when he found an interest in sketching and drawing in high school. What began as sketches of comic book characters evolved into anthropomorphic creatures he imagined in his head. Upon graduating and entering the United States Army, Josh continued his sketches to pass time. While Josh considered his works of art to simply be a hobby, Josh realized it was something more when his squad mate acknowledged his talent in tech school and encouraged him to pursue it further.

Throughout daydreams, Josh would imagine his characters living a life as if a movie was playing in his head. He began to write this story he was imagining down and eventually ended up with a couple of chapters.

“My sketches and writing were very helpful while I was deployed. It kept my mind off of what was going on around me,” said Josh.

After writing a few chapters of his story, Josh decided to share them online with the anthropomorphic community. He said that many read his chapters and were very helpful with edits and advice.

“As an incentive to read my chapters, I would give them a chance to be their own character in my story,” said Josh.

The action/suspense story, which currently consists of 58,000 words, follows the life of Shadow Fox, a name inspired by an old nickname Josh received, which was based off of two video game characters. Throughout the story, Josh has tied in a lot of his military experience through the characters to create a more realistic feel.

“Each character has a call sign, just like the military does,” he said.

Although the book is not complete, Josh knows how the story will end, and continues to work through what happens in between, throwing out and rewriting many chapters. He is happy to be part of the Anthropomorphic community and introduce people to it.

Juggling a full-time job and school, Josh has not had a lot of time to dedicate to his sketches and the book, but hopes to find some time to continue on with it.

To read some of Josh’s chapters and to see some of his sketches, visit https://shadow-fox13.deviantart.com

Some of Josh’s earlier sketches.

Join Us for ROSEDALE TECHNICAL COLLEGE’S OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 10:00 AM 215 Beecham Drive, Ste. 2 Pittsburgh, PA 15205

TO REGISTER: VISIT www.RosedaleTech.org or CONTACT Kim Bell at (412) 855-8522 (call or text) or Kim.Bell@rosedaletech.org

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3rd Annual Car Show

Rosedale Tech’s 3rd Annual Car Show took place on Saturday, August 26. It was another beautiful day for attendees and spectators to check out a wide spectrum of spectacular vehicles. Over 150 vehicles attended this year’s Car Show. Children had the opportunity to leave their artistic mark on a donated van as well as get their faces painted by Ray Masters Air Brush and Temporary Tattoos. Delicious ‘dawgs were served up by Twisted Dawgs Food Truck/Cart.

Rosedale Tech would like to thank the group of vendors who attended this year’s car show: Wright Automotive, Jim Crivelli, Lincoln Electric, Butler Gas, Klein Tools, Eastern Fasteners, PPG Paints, Parkway West CTC, Holy Trinity Church, Army National Guard, Beverly’s Birthdays, NAPA, GPADA, and Fram Group.

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**Rosedale Tech Alumni Picnic**

Rosedale Tech held its 3rd annual alumni event on Saturday, September 16. This year, we enjoyed some fun in the sun at an afternoon picnic, located at Fairhaven Park in McKees Rocks.

Alumni and their families along with some of Rosedale Tech’s faculty and staff enjoyed great food, music, and conversation amongst the group.

*Thank you to all those who attended this year’s alumni event!*
Instructor Matt Gaetano Joins Daytime Diesel Faculty

A familiar face from our evening program is now here during the day. We are pleased to welcome Matt Gaetano to the daytime diesel faculty. In August, Matt began teaching the Transmissions, AC and Refrigeration class. He will continue to teach automotive classes in the evening.

Matt began teaching at Rosedale Tech in September 2013. Matt is a 2006 graduate of Rosedale Technical College and earned an AST degree in Automotive Technology. He has over 16 years of work experience as technician.

Meet Jami Marken

Jami Marken joined Rosedale Tech’s Admissions team in early August. An Akron native, Jami pursued a career in education at Edinboro University of PA where she earned a B.S. in Secondary Education and her Master’s Degree in Counseling on the Secondary Education track. For the past five years, Jami has been teaching English at the middle school level, four of those years spent at J.W. Parker Middle School in Edinboro, PA and one year spent at Southaven Middle School in Southaven, Mississippi.

Jami has a great respect for the trades and understands the importance and need for skilled workers in America’s economy. As a matter-of-fact, her father is a master welder. When she saw the job opening at Rosedale Tech, she thought it would be a great way to combine her background in education and counseling with the ability to help people better themselves and their lives by working in a high-demand field.

One of Jami’s goals in her new position as an Admissions Representative is that she would like to develop relationships with the students and be a mentor to them. As an avid learner, she is excited to learn more about the programs Rosedale Tech offers.

In her free time, Jami likes to stay busy by kayaking, playing the ukulele, reading, watching movies, exercising, and traveling (she used to work for People to People). She just recently moved to Scott Township with her boyfriend, David, and her dog, Max, a three-year old Australian Kelpie.

Welcome to the team, Jami!

Welcome Maria Gigliotti

Rosedale Technical College would like to welcome a familiar face to its team! Maria Gigliotti has accepted a position as the new evening receptionist. While she is new to the Rosedale Tech staff, Maria is not new to the building. In fact, she works during the day as the Food Service Supervisor of AVI Food Systems, the food provider for our cafeteria, Steel Toe Station.

Maria has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Slippery Rock University. With an interest in the hospitality industry, Maria also earned a Cook Certificate. Since August 2016, Maria has worked for AVI at Steel Toe Station. She will continue to work for AVI during the day and work the evening hours at the front desk. What attracted Maria to the position was that she enjoys interacting with people and was interested in getting more involved with the school.

Currently a Robinson Township resident, Maria enjoys playing tennis, baking, cooking, and reading in her spare time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT, PLEASE CALL NATALIE OLUP AT (412) 855-2760 OR EMAIL NATALIE.OLUP@ROSEDALETECH.ORG

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