

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 27 members were in attendance.

Annual dues is currently \$75 a year. This is an increase of \$15 dollars a year to \$75 and was discussed with the majority of the increase will go to the Torch International organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt our representative to the International organization.

John Dillon announced speakers for next years talks.
Torch Club Program, 2023-2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sept 13	<u>Steve Turns</u>	The Classical Guitar - History & Construction
Oct 11	<u>Dean Snow</u>	The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program
Nov 8	<u>Roger Geiger</u>	Historical Perspective on American Higher Education
Dec 13	<u>Bill Arden</u>	The Star We Live With - Studying the Sun
Jan 10	<u>Ron Smith</u>	The NCAA, Football Concussions and a Multimillion Dollar Lawsuit
Feb 14	<u>Jean Lee</u>	The Washingtons and the Many Worlds of Mount Vernon
Mar 13	<u>Gordon DeJong</u>	Is Demography Destiny? Ten Master Trends
Apr 10	<u>Heather Shoenberger</u>	Artificial intelligence in the Public Space
May 8	<u>Steve Smith</u>	Traditional Farming in Latin America
June 12	<u>Ming Tien</u>	Wolf vs Dog - Genetics and Biochemistry

This year's officers include

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

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Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

THE CLASSICAL GUITAR: Brief History and Construction

The presentation briefly reviews the historical development of the classical (nylon-stringed) guitar. Starting with the musical bow (130,000 years ago), the development follows through the Roman Cithara (origin the of word guitar), the Gittern (13th Century), the Vihuela (15th Century), the Renaissance guitar (1450-1650), the gaudy Baroque guitar (1650-1750), the Romantic guitar (1750-1850) to the modern Classical guitar (1850-present). The second part of the presentation shows, step-by-step, how a modern artisanal Classical guitar is constructed. Details include, among others, the construction of the neck, bending of the sides, installing the rosette in the top panels, bracing the soundboard, and assembling the components. The presentation concludes with Torch Club member Wayne Osgood playing one of the presenter's guitars. Several guitars are available for inspection.

Steve is Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering, retiring after 35 years of service at Penn State. He received his BS from Penn State, an MS from Wayne State University while working at GM Research Labs, and subsequently his PhD from University of Wisconsin- Madison. His research interests were combustion, combustion-generated air pollution, and engineering education. He is the author of three textbooks. His *An Introduction to Combustion* is used around the world and is available in Korean, Chinese, and Portuguese editions. He has received several Penn State teaching awards. Steve has always enjoyed listening to and making music. As an adult, he resurrected his interest in trumpet playing by taking lessons from Penn State professor Rob Howard and performing in a wide assortment of musical groups. More recently he has abandoned the trumpet for the guitar, and fulfills his need to be always making something by building guitars. Steve and his wife Joan have been married for 53 years and have two sons, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.

The next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at the State College Ramada Inn at 5:00. Member Dean Snow will present The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program

Torch Club Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month (except July and August) with a social at 5 PM, dinner at 6 PM and the program at 7 PM. All meetings are hybrid, in person at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 450 S Atherton Street and on Zoom (<https://bit.ly/3P85hmb>). The program begins at 6:45 PM.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 25 members were in attendance.

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The U.S. and the World Heritage Sites Program Dean Snow

There are 1199 UNESCO World Heritage Sites on Earth.

- World Heritage Sites are designated by UNESCO for having cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance, having outstanding value to humanity.
- To be selected, a World Heritage Site must be a somehow unique landmark which is geographically and historically identifiable and has special cultural or physical significance.

They include well known sites such as the Taj Mahal, the City of Paris, Great Wall of China Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA and the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Fallingwater, PA. Every nation state recognized by the UN is invited to form a National Committee to manage nominations.

The U.S. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (World Heritage USA) promotes “the conservation of world heritage and stronger connections to the global heritage community through advocacy, education, and the international exchange of people and ideas.” The US office is in Washington, DC.

- The US National Committee solicits nominations and guides their development and submission.
- US/ICOMOS is now also known as World Heritage USA.
- It is a group of other preservation minded advocacy groups.
- It shepherded the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks nomination.
- The submission must have involved government agencies, universities, and associations.
- The USNC forwarded the nomination to ICOMOS, the International Council on Monuments and Sites

In 2023 there were 17 World Heritage site nominations and included the 8 Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks in in southern Ohio north of the Ohio River valley.

The sites are Newark Octagon, Newark Great Circle, Hopeton, Mound City, Hopewell Site, Seip, High Bank and Fort Ancient. The sites date from 100 BC to 400 CE.

The first men to identify, map and measure the sites are Ephraim Squier (1821-1888) and Edwin Davis (1811-1888). They tested and mapped 200 sites over 2 years and the Smithsonian published their findings in 1847. It was one of first scientific works published by the Smithsonian. The earthen works demonstrated a variety of circles, rectangles and squares with 90-degree corners, equal side lengths and with 4 openings and 4 entry mounds. The works demonstrated a variety of sizes and orientations including a Field Square with 4 mounds in the middle of each of the four sides and the Wright Square with 8 mounds including each corner and the midpoint of each side.

The evidence regarding the uses of large fields by the peoples of indigenous North America indicates that the square Hopewell enclosures were used for Shinny, a game like modern field hockey that intertwined myth, sport, ritual and religion.

How were the mounds constructed?

- Possible with simple tools.
- Required many participants.
 - Periodic regional gatherings
 - Team sports
 - Moieties
- Tools and procedures
 - Fire (cleared area)
 - Cordage and sticks
 - Stone mattocks
 - Deer scapula hoes
 - Baskets
- Construction was possible with very simple tools, but construction required a temporary concentration of many people.
- The number available determined the size of the earthwork.
- We infer that it is likely that the earthwork was used periodically by a similarly sized concentration of people.
- What known activities involved such numbers?
- Racket (\approx lacrosse)
 - Goals sometimes miles apart
 - Accommodated hundreds of players
 - Too many participants for a field square
- Double ball (two balls attached to a rope)
 - Played exclusively by women
 - Goals 100m to over 2000m apart
- Ball races
 - Small field of play
- Shinny (\approx field hockey)
 - Played with ball and curved stick
 - Nearly universal in North America
 - Played by men and/or women.
 - Fields 10-22 acres (4-9 hectares) in size
 - Teams sized for the available space
 - Intertwined myth, sport, ritual, and religion

There appears to be a logical developmental progression from four-mound squares to squares with both eight openings and eight mounds, as is the case for the Wright earthwork at Newark. Two sites show what appears to be the final form in this evolution, octagons with variable openings and eight interior mounds. "Octagon" is not precisely correct, because the interior angles are not the same. They are both squares with bowed sides. Curiously, High Bank has calibrated radiocarbon dates that cluster around a 184CE median probability, very early if this

form is to be considered developmentally late in the span of Hopewell culture. There are only two dates for all of Newark. Their calibrated median probability is 354 CE. Taken together, the radiocarbon evidence does not yet demonstrate that enclosures have eight mounds and overall shapes approaching octagonal are developmentally late, although that possibility remains open.

What accounts for variable orientation?

- Topography?
- Forest cover?
- Random?
- Archaeoastronomy?
 - Serpent Mount is a special case, appears to be serpent with an egg in its mouth.
 - Only Newark has a plausible axis claim.
 - Northernmost moonrise standstill.

What about Radiocarbon Dating?

- Hopewell sites span 100 BCE to 500 CE.
- Squarish earthworks with rounded corners and loss of burial mounds occur throughout that span.
- Field squares span 295-325 CE.
- More elaborate sites like those at Newark are not sufficiently dated.
- As usual, archaeologists want to do more.

The next meeting is Wednesday, Nov 8, 2023 Roger Geiger will present
A Historical Perspective on American Higher Education.

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The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 6 PM

Approximately 35 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year. This is an increase of \$15 dollars a year and was discussed with most of the increase will go to the Torch International organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt our representative to the international organization.

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The next meeting is Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

Bill Arden will present: The Star We Live With, Studying the Sun.

A Historical Perspective on American Higher Education
Roger Geiger

Roger Geiger graduated from the University of Michigan with a [Bachelor of Arts](#) with a major in English in 1964, a [Master of Arts](#) in history in 1966, and a [Doctor of Philosophy](#) in history in 1972.

He was an instructor in history at [Northern Michigan University](#) from 1966 to 1968 and at the University of Michigan from 1972 to 1974. From 1974 to 1987 he was employed at [Yale University's](#) Institution for Social and Policy Studies. He joined the faculty of Pennsylvania State University in 1987.

He is Distinguished Professor of Higher Education Emeritus at [Pennsylvania State University](#). His talk examined the Privatization of Higher Education or the Neo-Liberalization of Higher education in the US.

Roger described the origins of federal student loans and their subsequent expansion as an inherent component of financing higher education. Their exploitation by for-profit corporate universities after 2000 led to \$1 trillion outstanding loans by 2012—a colossal failure of federal policy. In these same years, tuition discounting was adopted by private colleges and universities and steadily eroded a rising share of tuition income.

These trends have fed the current disenchantment with higher education and questions of its return on investment.

Roger divided the current system of higher education into four sectors:

Academic – enrolling most of the top 25% of all higher education students.

Open – enrolling schools with minimal selection of students.

Community Colleges – enrolling the commuter student.

Commercial – online institutions now enrolling 15% of students..

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The meeting concluded at 8:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,
Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

President John Dillon opened the meeting at 7 PM.

Approximately 38 members were in attendance.

Annual dues are currently \$75 a year. This is an increase of \$15 dollars a year and was discussed with most of the increase will go to the Torch International organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt our representative to the international organization.

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Guests include David Little and Doreen Vossen, guests of Bill Arden, Art McGarrity guest of Bob Hendrikson.

Former President Gary Miller has moved to Pittsburgh.

The Star We Live By – A close look at our Sun

About our speaker

Bill Arden holds bachelor's and master's degrees in physics and acquired a master's in astronomy later in life (there's also an MBA in there, but we don't talk about that). After a career in engineering and management, he taught college in Minneapolis for 12 years, teaching astronomy for the last two. He moved with his wife Connie Sherman, to Pennsylvania in 2016 to be closer to family. His studies in astronomy included five years of research modeling the solar corona; that's the origin of the talk at the meeting.

About the topic

Astronomy is, by its nature, an observational science. We don't have laboratories where we can "turn up the temperature on that star and see what happens." The sun is the nearest thing we have to a lab; we can study it up close (well, we consider 93 million miles to be "close" in this business) and investigate aspects of stellar physics that would be impossible any other way. The talk will cover some basic concepts about our star and some of the techniques, instruments and spacecraft we have to explore its behavior.

Overview of the talk

- *Introduction
- *The Sun in context
- *Observing the Sun
- *The Sun – What we observe
- *The Sun – Behind the scenes
- *Space Weather - the Sun's effect on Earth

If it weren't for the Sun, no life would exist on Earth.

The Sun affects us in other ways, too.

On September 24, 2011, at 0940 UT, an X1.9-category flare with an accompanying Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) erupted from an active region of the sun numbered 11302. Two days later the blast reached earth. The Earth's magnetic field **clanged**. The visual effects were dramatic with the appearance of aurora around the world. The magnetic field clang caused wide spread power interruptions.

The Sun in Context

The Sun – by the (rough) numbers

Mass: 1.989×10^{30} kg (333,000 Earths)

Diameter: 875,000 miles or 149,000,000 km equal to 1 Astronomical unit (AU), it takes light from the sun 8.3 light minutes to reach earth.

Temperature: It depends where you measure but the surface we see is about 10,000°F or 6000K.

The corona is about 7 million degrees (why?)

Solar radiation on Earth: about 125 Watts per square foot (1365W/M²)

The sun is an average star on the main sequence and is expected to last 10^{10} years.

Observing the Sun

The Sun looks white to us

It's the light our species grew up with, and our eyes are tuned to see its brightest light. In fact, though, it gives off electromagnetic radiation over the whole spectrum of wavelengths

Sunlight through the atmosphere is a little bit yellow, sunlight in space is white.

How we look at the sun: from Earth as amateurs and as professionals and from space (for everybody) and probes SOHO, SDO, STEREO and other spacecraft.

Amateur viewing with hydrogen-alpha (red, 656.3nm) and other wavelengths

White light or neutral density filters

How the pros do it - from earth:

Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST), Haleakela Observatory, Hawaii. wedish

Solar Telescope - La Palma, Canary Islands

Big Bear Solar Observatory - Big Bear Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California

Viewing from Space

Satellites

SOHO: Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (1996 on)

SDO: Solar Dynamics Observatory (mid-2010 on)

STEREO: Solar TERrestrial RELations Observatory

STEREO A (ahead of earth) and STEREO B (behind)

Instruments

Digital cameras which transmit raw data to Earth

Often “false color,” since we can’t see UV light or magnetic fields.

Missions to the Sun

Some major missions:

SOHO (1996): L1; LASCO; MDI

SDO (2010): Geosynchronous; AIA, HMI, EVE

Hinode (2006): LEO; Extreme UV imager; X-ray telescope

STEREO (2006): Viewing the Sun from both sides

RHESSI (2002): LEO; Physics of particle acceleration and explosive energy release in flares

Parker (2018): Suggested exploring the corona by flying *through* it.

Eugene Parker (1927-2018) was an American solar physicist. He proposed the existence of the solar wind. The Parker Solar Probe, launched in 2018, is the first NASA mission to be named after a living person.

Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO)

Nasa’s STERO sees the entire sun with two space craft spaced 180 degrees apart on earth’s orbit.

Sunspots occur in cycles.

On average, every 11 years, Cycles vary in amplitude (sunspot count) and duration. We are currently in Cycle 25.

Maunder Minimum

~1645 to ~1715 – The time of Bach, Molière and Rembrandt

Corresponded to the deepest part of the “Little Ice Age” 1350-1850. There were almost no sunspots for 70 years. Solar UV varies over the course of a solar cycle, so there probably was a connection to the cold winters.

A painting “The Frozen Thames” by Abraham Hondius, 1677

What is a sunspot?

It’s a place where the Sun’s magnetic field pokes through the “surface” of the photosphere.

The magnetic field cools the gas around it, so the spot is a little darker. Sunspot temperatures 3000-4500 K, photosphere about 5800 K.

They usually come in pairs. At the beginning of a solar cycle, they occur in mid-latitudes; later ones appear closer to the Equator.

Prominences and Filaments

Prominences and *filaments* are masses of dense, relatively cool gas held in place by magnetic fields.

Prominences and filaments are the same thing; a prominence is seen from the side, and a filament from the top.

They're cooler than the photosphere (so a filament appears dark) but hotter than space (so a prominence appears bright)

They can last for weeks to months, and sometimes erupt over hours.

Solar Flares

Can release $\sim 10^{25}$ joules in half an hour – twice the total solar energy that reaches the Earth in a year.

For comparison, total annual world energy consumption is about 5×10^{20} J

A large flare has 20,000 times more energy.

It's a burst of light, and travels at light speed.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

Massive burst of solar wind, plasma & magnetic fields released from corona. Mass roughly 1.6×10^{12} kg. Fast CMEs are associated with solar flares; slower ones with filaments and prominences. They act on the Earth's magnetic field and cause magnetic disturbances, aurora, etc. Near solar maximum, about 3 CMEs / day; near minimum, about 1 every 5 days. "Halo" CMEs are directed along Sun-Earth line (but may travel away from, or towards, Earth)

Flares versus Coronal Mass Ejections

Flares are local on the Sun's surface; CMEs are huge. Flares are primarily photons, which travel at the speed of light; CMEs are bursts of photons, protons and electrons and travel much more slowly. Large flares often give rise to CMEs. Cannon metaphor: The flare is the muzzle flash, seen locally. The CME is the cannonball.

The Sun – Behind the Scenes.

Astronomy is an *observational* science.

We can't say "Let's turn up the temperature of that star and see what happens."

All we can do is observe the Universe.

The Sun is a great stellar laboratory.

It's close, it's easy to see, even in daylight, we can measure its spectrum and estimate its age and we can generalize what we learn to other stars.

Parts of the Sun: The Corona, the Convection zone, the radiative zone, the Sun's core, the Chromosphere and Coronal Streamers

Solar Magnetism

“If not for magnetic fields, the Sun would be as uninteresting as most astronomers seem to think it is. “

The Sun rotates differentially. It's a ball of gas, so there's no requirement that it rotate as a solid body. At the poles, rotation period is about 36 days. At the equator, rotation period is about 25 days. So - the equator rotates faster than the poles. This drags magnetic field lines around the Sun. Solar plasma (ionized gas) follows the magnetic field lines

The Solar Wind

Interacts with the Sun's magnetic field, and together they permeate the Solar System. First proposed by Eugene Parker in the 1950s. Observed in 1962 by Mariner 2 spacecraft. The *solar wind* is a constant stream of particles from the Sun, Not only light, but protons, electrons & ionized atoms.

Fast solar wind ($\sim 750 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). It is relatively steady during solar minimum, it originates in the open field of high latitude coronal holes. Slow wind ($300\text{-}400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) originates at lower latitudes and is more variable.

This two-speed wind was an unexpected discovery!

SPACE WEATHER - THE SUN'S EFFECTS ON EARTH

What is “Space Weather”

Conditions on the Sun and in the solar wind, the Earth's magnetosphere, ionosphere and thermosphere that can influence the performance and reliability of space-borne and ground-based technological systems and can endanger human life or health.

Conditions on the Sun and in the solar wind, the Earth's magnetosphere, ionosphere and thermosphere that can influence the performance and reliability of space-borne and ground-based technological systems and can endanger human life or health.

Some Examples of space weather

On Sept. 1, 1859, R. C. Carrington observed a white light flare on the surface of the Sun. The next night, auroras were observed as far south as Cuba. Miners in Colorado woke up in the middle of the night thinking it was dawn.

Telegraph operators worldwide experienced burn injuries from currents traveling down their wires. That was the most advanced technological equipment of the day.

The New York Railroad Superstorm lasted 3 days, May 13-15, 1921. It was the most intense solar storm of the 20th Century. The CME arose from the region of a sunspot that was 21,000 by 94,000 miles across (the Earth is 8,000 miles in diameter). It caused electrical fires near Grand Central Station and disrupted telegraph communications. Auroras were seen over Times Square

On March 13, 1989, solar activity induced a huge geomagnetic storm on Earth. The power grid servicing Quebec province was completely shut down. The blackout affected

six million people for nine hours. The effects were enhanced by the low conductivity of the rock shield below Quebec.

What causes space weather? The Earth is surrounded by its own *magnetosphere*. The magnetosphere is created by the Earth's magnetic field. It's a complex structure, which interacts with the solar wind and magnetic field.

Can we predict the next storm?

We can't predict very far out and not more than a day or two in advance. So we have to wait until a solar event occurs.

Solar flares travel at light speed – 8.3 minutes from departure from the Sun to arrival at Earth.

CMEs travel much slower – they're particles, so can't travel at the speed of light. Arrival times are hours to days.

Thank you!

Respectively submitted,

Charles W Maxin, Recording Secretary

12/18/2023

Torch Meeting Minutes 1/11/2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA
January 11, 2023

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Approximately 34 members attended in person, Zoom was partially available for this meeting

Announcements:

New members:

Ford Risley, PhD, professor of Journalism, Penn State

Jean Lee, Emeritus Professor, Minnesota

John Dillon reviewed the speakers for the remainder of the year. He also has started a Signup Genius page for members to schedule member presentations for the 2023-2024 meetings starting in September, 2023.

Membership is at 53 for the Torch Group in State College.

Dues are \$60.00 yearly and are due now for the 2022-2023 year.

The dinner is \$22.00 and payable on the meeting date. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

The presentation starts at 7:00 PM and is available live and over the internet with Zoom.

Next meeting is February 8, 2023 by Terry Engender, PhD, professor of Geology, titled Fracking

Today's presentation is by D. Wayne Osgood, PhD, retired professor of Criminology at Penn State.

Delinquency, Daily Life, and the new Adolescence: the Rise and Fall of Teen Culture

The presentation started with the playing of the rock and roll song "School Days" by Chuck Berry.

Wayne reviewed the popular songs and song writers of the rock and roll period, the development of teen culture, and the new economics to include teenagers who bought the records and became an economic force.

The talk focused on the development and evolution of a new teen culture.

Photo: Teenager boys leaning on 1955 Chevrolet (the Maxin family car), a group of teens looking at their cell phones and hanging out together and going to a fast food restaurant in a convertible with the top down.

The field of criminology concerns crime and the functioning of the criminal justice system. We are interested in how much crime there is, when and why it happens, and how the justice system deals with the victims and offenders.

Routine Activity Theory

Dr Osgood introduced the Routine Activity Theory, most closely associated with Marcus Felson. His formulation begins with the idea that, for a crime occur, three elements need to come together: A potential offender who might engage in the crime. A suitable target for the crime, such as something to steal or someone the offender would like to hurt for some reason. And the third is the absence of a capable guardian. By a capable guardian, we don't necessarily mean someone who is armed and imposing. In most circumstances, all that's needed is the simple presence of someone who is likely to notice.

Examples include rates of car theft, and the response of car makers to reduce the rate of theft, the increase in home burglaries after World War 2, and the increase in women working and unoccupied houses during daytime hours making home burglary a low risk crime. In the social sciences, we are especially interested in finding explanations that help us make sense of the broad patterns in society of the phenomena we study.

A comment on terminology:

Delinquency is the legal term for illegal acts by minors or juveniles, and crime is the term for illegal acts by adults. I'll mainly say delinquency, but older teens legally become adults.

Activities conducive to delinquency

Dr. Osgood's main contribution to this perspective on crime and delinquency has been to direct attention to one common type of activity that is especially relevant to how often individuals encounter opportunities to engage in crime. He described the changes in teen culture over time with an eye to how they affect that particular activity.

And this activity is unstructured and unsupervised socializing with peers in public: In other words, hanging out with pals away from home. When doing this, people are far more likely to encounter appealing opportunities for breaking rules and committing crimes.

Abundant evidence

Many studies over the last 25 years have found that unstructured socializing of this sort is associated with crime and delinquency, for lots of groups and places.

The coming of the Super Predators

An article in The Weekly Standard in 1996 by John Dilulio, Jr. predicted an increase in delinquency and crime rate but the prediction later turned out to be false. Rather than an increase in delinquency after 1996, it was the start of a long and steady decline. This was preceded by a large increase from 1960 to 1975-1980. When viewed over a longer period of time from the post war changes, the increase in crime rate from 1975 to 1990 was less impressive.

Post WW2 changes in teenager's lives

Prior to the 1930's most 14-17 year olds were not in school. From the mid 1950's, most 15-17 year old teens were in high school and expected to graduate. This was huge change in teenager's lives. This meant teens were spending most of their time surrounded by other teens rather than with employers, older workers or with their family. And when the school day ended at 3 PM, they were independent and spent time with their peers, creating other opportunities for delinquency.

This coincided with a delay in marriage complicated by an increase of births outside of marriage and in rates of divorce. Teens were dating less and waiting longer to start to date, first sexual intercourse was delayed and the teen birthrate fell by half since 1992.

Teen employment fell 10% from 1950 to 1965. By 2015 teen employment fell 40% compared to 1980. For those teens who did work, they were in service jobs (hamburgers) and were supervised by their peers, further separating them from adults.

Automobiles

Cars became central to teen culture. Teens did not have access to cars till the 1950's. By 1980 there were almost as many cars as people. Teenagers anxiously waited for their 16th birthday to get a driver's license. Now many teenagers delay getting a driver's license. Driving around with friends is no longer a standard part of teen's lives.

Further changes include increased reliance on adults for transportation. In 1969, 42% of middle school age individuals walked or biked to and from school. In 2009, only 12% walked or biked and 42% got rides in cars.

The change isn't just teens, it's throughout schooling back to elementary school. Kids at all ages simply spend much less time "on their own" than they used to.

From the 1930s to 1970s, there was an almost 4-fold increase for driving with friends and being out late on weekends, from 20% reporting that they did so to 80%. By 1960s and 70s we see a teen culture of independence that was not there in 1930s and 40s.

Back to crime and delinquency

Dr Osgood's theoretical perspective about unstructured society as a contributor to juvenile delinquency:

The changes in several life domains surrounding rise and fall of an independent teen culture. Studies have shown a sizable rise then fall in unstructured society as well.

Now let's dig into the question at hand:

Do these changes in unstructured society account for declines in delinquency over the last few decades?

A recent study by colleagues friends in my department at PSU addressed this question directly: Eric Baumer, Kelsey Cundiff, and Liying Luo.

A published study in the journal *Criminology* 2021; 59: 109-136 by Baumer, Cundiff and Leo:

The Contemporary Transformation of American Youth: An analysis of change in the prevalence of delinquency, 1229-2015.

Purpose:

Compare how well several major theories in criminology explain trends over time in delinquency

Data: Monitoring the Future survey

Annual nationwide, school-based, probability samples

8th & 10th graders, 1991-2015

N = 204,621

Findings:

Here are results for how much each variable mediated or accounted for the time trend in delinquency.

Two variables stand out: Alcohol use and unstructured society.

And unstructured society also contributes to alcohol use, so it has an additional indirect effect on delinquency. The graph adds that to show a total for unstructured society and alcohol use. Delinquency time trend explained?

Additional explanatory power for unstructured socializing:

Unstable Society and Alcohol Use and Delinquency, raises total delinquency for unstructured socializing to 20%.

This slide adds info re why unstructured society and alcohol use were more potent mediators of delinquency.

Delinquency time trend explained?

	Explanatory Variable Time Trend	Relationship to Delinquency	Change Explained
Alcohol Use	Strong	Strong	19.3%
Unstructured socializing	Strong	Strong	14.2%
Employment	Strong	Modest	5.8%
Sensation-seeking	Moderate	Strong	5.5%
Parental supervision	Weak	Moderate	2.7%
Attitudes about school	Weak	Modest	0.9%
Community involvement	Weak	Strong	0.8%
Total explained			49.2%

Why has the new adolescence arisen?

Impact of social media

Parenting: active parenting versus leaving kids to act on their own.

Fear of crime

Decline of social trust

All comes together in a greater involvement of parents in teen's lives and a teen having less independence in their movement and involvement with their peers.

Is the new independence a good or bad thing?

3 books:

Coddling of the American Mind: Lukianoff & Haidt

"nowadays kids have their world handed to them on a silver platter and don't take any responsibility for anything. It is their parent's fault"

iGen: Jean Twenge

Twenge's book is quite good for laying out the evidence about how things have changed. She makes a good case that the overall pattern that teens are a lot farther from being adults than they used to be.

Slouching Toward Adulthood: Sally Koslow

Koslow focuses on advice to parents, mainly toward giving kids more independence and responsibility.

Final note: a quote from Anne Dillard

“How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour and that one, is what we are doing.”

Respectfully submitted,
Charles W Maxin, MD
January 17, 2023

Torch Meeting Minutes 2/8/2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA
February 8, 2023

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Approximately 34 members attended in person, Zoom was partially available for this meeting

Announcements:

No new members to announce

John Dillon reviewed the speakers for the remainder of the year. He also started a Signup Genius page for members to schedule presentations for the 2023-2024 meetings starting in September, 2023.

Membership is at 53 for the Torch Group in State College.
Dues are \$60.00 yearly and are due now for the 2022-2023 year.
The dinner is \$22.00 and payable on the meeting date. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

The presentation starts at 7:00 PM and is available live and over the internet with Zoom.

Next meeting is March 8, 2023 with Gary Miller, E-learning and the Future of Higher Education

Fracking - Jargon for Breaking Rocks with a Wedge

Terry Engelder, PhD:

The presentation with Power Point slides began about 7 PM.

The term “fracking” is a shortened and altered form of “hydraulic fracturing” was first used in 1953. It is currently used by activists as a pejorative term for cause of environmental harm by the gas industry. It is slang for any and all operation during the oil and gas production including horizontal drilling.

Fracturing of rocks was first used about 1500 BC by Egyptians to create monuments. The ancient Egyptians followed the natural cracks of the rocks to mine the rock to create Obelisks and other monuments.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Edward Roberts used nitroglycerine with water ballast to tamp the explosions while drilling. Starting in 1947, pumping fluids into wells to break rock and improve access to deep seams of minerals was used. Starting in 2010 fracking was used as a pejorative term with the Hollywood movie Gasland.

Wedges can be any of the three fundamental phases of matter including use of solids (iron), gas (air) and liquid (water and other liquids).

143 years after Roberts first fracked in Pennsylvania, the headline in the Centre Daily Times announced the “Massive Gas Field” in a headline. In 2002 the United States Geologic Service estimated 2 trillion cubic feet (2 Tcf) was present in the Marcellus shale.

The typical Marcellus horizontal well is 8000 feet deep and then multiple wells are drilled horizontally. Liquid is pumped into the horizontal field, pressurized to induce fracturing at right angles to the horizontal well, releasing natural gas.

The Disinformation Era

Christopher Joyce correspondent for National Public Radio said:

“I have been in science journalism for more than 30 years and I have never seen more scientific disinformation on any topic as fracking. I am amazed at the level of both inadvertent misinformation and purposeful disinformation. There is such an agenda on everyone’s mind.”

What can go wrong with fracking: Leaky ponds, faulty wells and fissures

Disinformation: Fracking fluid leaks upward, a possibility that defies physics but was suggested by National Geographic in its “fear” of hydraulic fracking issue.

Fracking shale 8000 feet deep doesn't migrate up. The increased density of fluids at 8000 feet limits any upward movement.

The New Yorker article November 28, 2022
By Elizabeth Kolbert, the author of A Vast Experiment

She wrote "Biden subsequently pledged to the world that by 2030, the U.S. would cut its emissions by fifty percent, compared to 2005. Biden's pledge wasn't quite as ambitious as it seemed. The U.S.'s CO2 emissions peaked around 2005; since then, thanks largely to fracking and the use of natural gas, they have declined by twenty per cent. Still Biden's promise was a reach. To have any hope of making good on it, the President needed to get fracking legislation through Congress.

A 1982 National Science Foundation Proposal:

"A test of the hypothesis that some joints formed as natural hydraulic fractures"
- Terry Engelder.

His thinking was this: as mud rich in organic matter is buried and heated, the organics breaks the rock and creates fractures. He was awarded an NSF grant to explore his insight. This research underpinned the development, 30 years later, of a major natural gas boon.

By 2008 horizontal drilling had matured and hydraulic fracturing techniques were developed. Vertical drilling techniques were adapted to horizontal wells. Suddenly oil and gas were being recovered from shales and other previously unproductive hydrocarbon bearing rocks all across the United States.

New scientific questions arose about how to assess aquifer integrity and how to trace injected fluids, how to evaluate the possibility of induced seismicity and the NSF has awarded grants to additional researchers to explore these questions.

If Elizabeth Kolbert is correct about the effect of fracking on per capita carbon emission, why was there such a concerted global pushback against fracking?

Several reasons:

A gas can exist in two phases, a solute dissolved in a liquid and a free gas exsolved from solution. Carbon dioxide exsolves slowly in beer (about 30

minutes), methane exsolves quickly (in seconds). CO₂ is a bipolar molecule and methane is polar and the difference in structure determines the rate.

The town and residents of Dimock, PA:

Methane in ground water exsolves fast enough to ignite and burn. A dramatic illustration shown igniting tap water.

Brown juggers demonstrate discolored tap water contaminated with methane causes fresh groundwater to become cloudy and discolored. Rusty brown water contaminated with iron and the mustard lemon yellow water contaminated by sulfur.

Bacteria and archaea in the subsurface obtain energy to grow and proliferate utilizing methane produced by the underground "battery" to create energy and respiration. Insoluble Mn(IV) (manganese) to soluble Mn(II) (black), insoluble Fe(III) to soluble Fe(II) (brown rust) and soluble S turns to insoluble H₂S and free sulfur (yellow-rotten eggs)

Conclusion: The global pushback against fracking had to do with neither wedging rocks (fracking) at depth nor upward leaking of fracking fluids and everything to do with surface spills or archaea and bacteria having lunch on methane a non polar molecule bubbling from the shallow portion of uncemented gas wells! The culprits are the inadequate and poor installation of the wells contaminating both surface and shallow subsurface water.

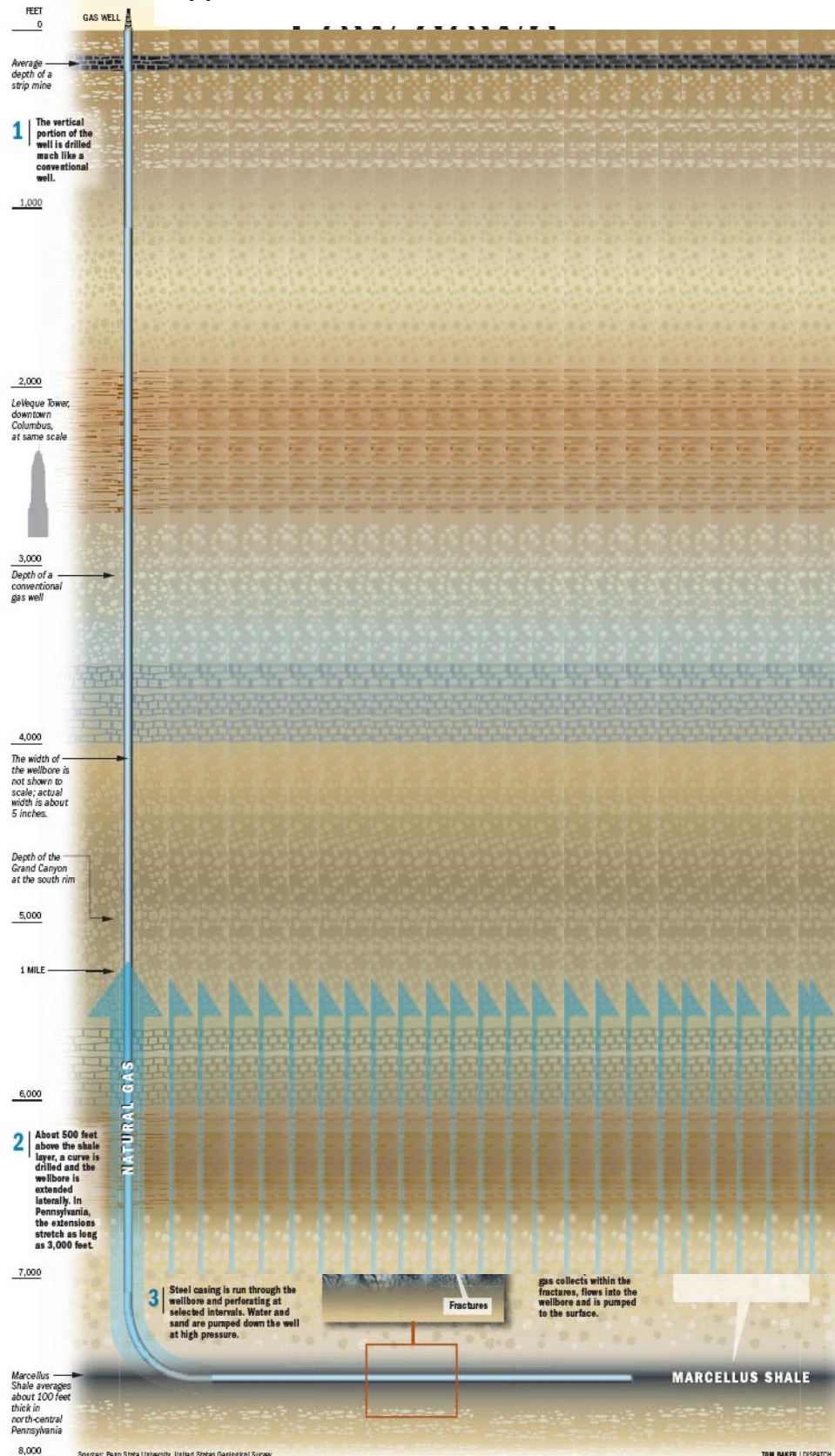
Illustrations:



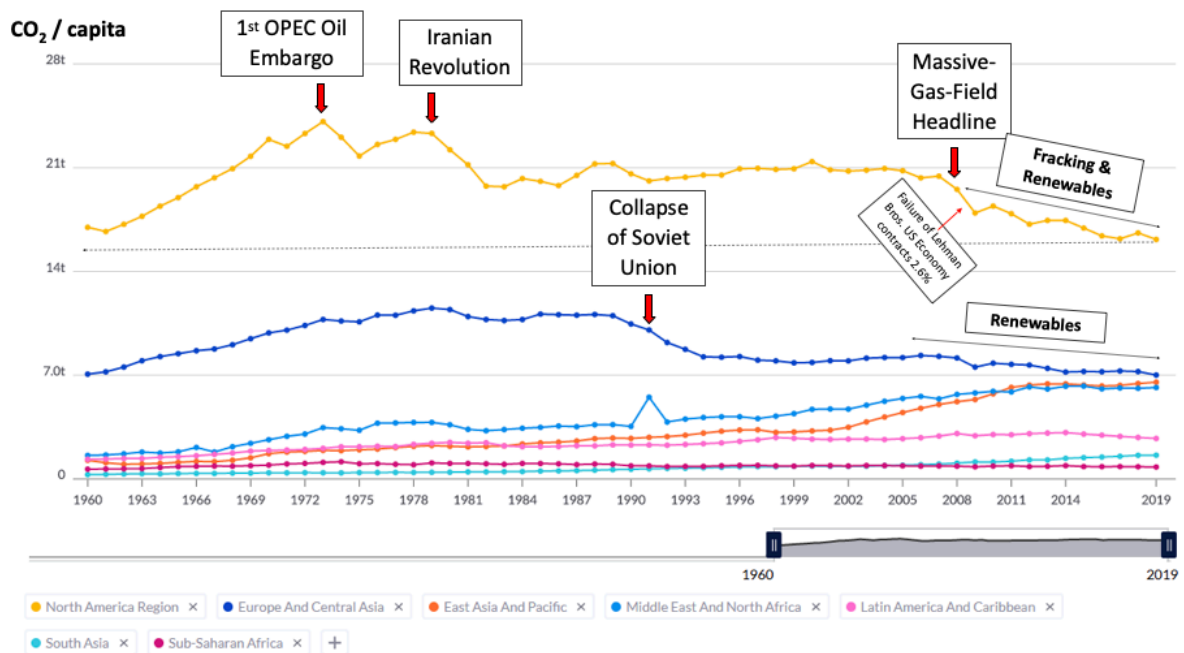
Getting the gas

How a horizontal well works

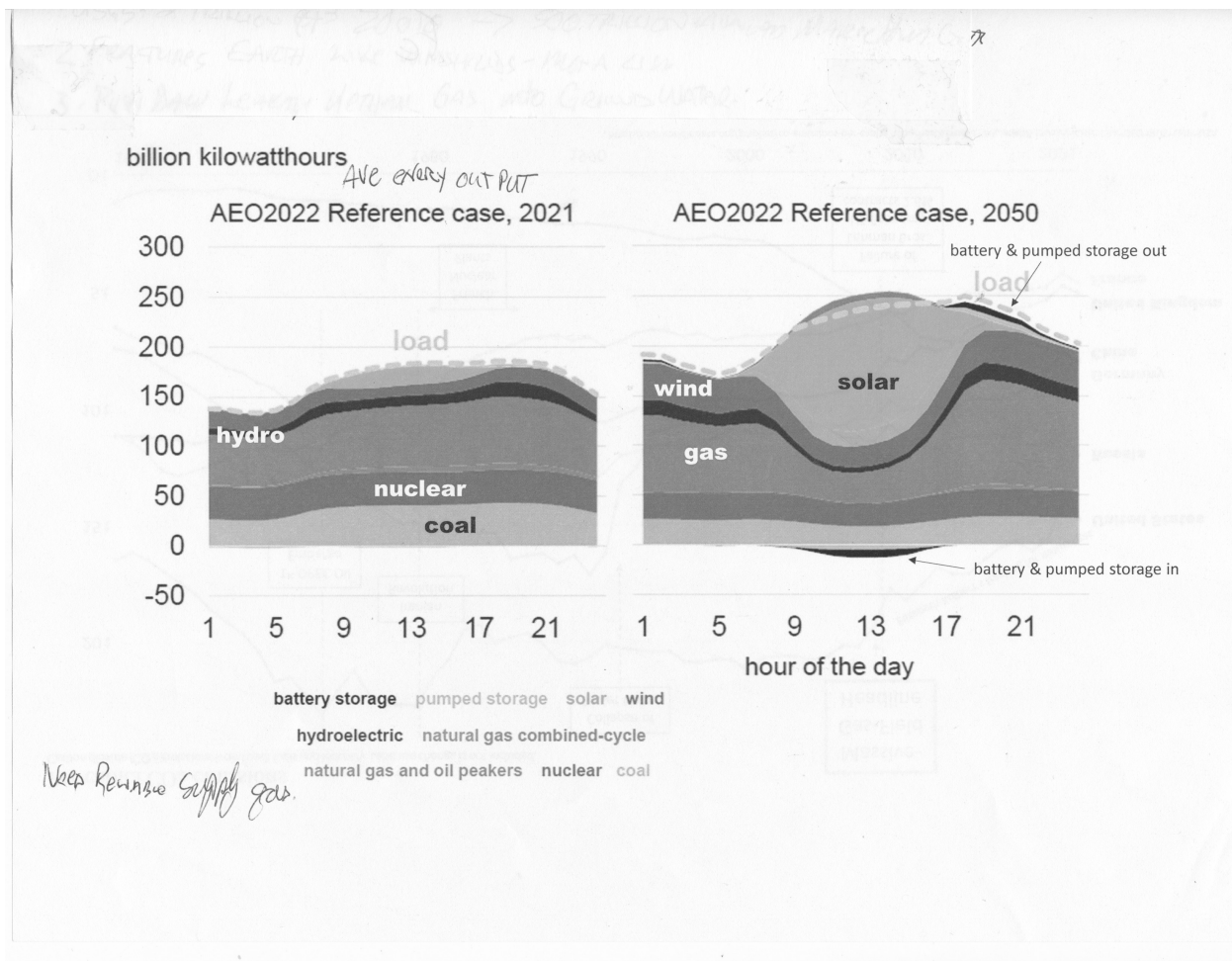
Typical Marcellus horizontal well



Per capita CO₂ emissions



This slide shows the importance of using natural gas to run electricity plants at nights. It is plentiful and easily turned on and off as it is needed.



eLearning and the Future of Higher Education.

Torch Meeting Minutes 3/8/2023 Ramada Inn State College, PA March 8, 2023

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Approximately 30 members attended in person, Zoom was partially available for this meeting.

Announcements:

Guests include Al Turgeon, a previous member who was visiting from Charlotte, North Carolina and Lou Persic, a long-time local member attending today. John Vandenberg was also introduced after a long-time absence and re-voted into the club.

Art Goldschmidt announced the IATC annual meeting will be held in late June, members interested in attending, should contact Larry Ragan.

John Dillon announced next year's speakers are being arranged. He expects the schedule will be completed soon.

John introduced tonight's speaker, Gary Miller. Gary is the retired director of the Penn State World Campus, tonight's title is eLearning and the Future of Higher Education.

Membership is at 53 for the Torch Group in State College.

Dues are \$60.00 yearly and are due now for the 2022-2023 year.

The dinner is \$22.00 and payable on the meeting date. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

The presentation starts at 7:00 PM and is available live and over the internet with Zoom.

Next meeting is April 12, 2023 with James Serene, MD with an Orthopedics Update.

Gary started the session with the observation that technology changes occur fast but sociologic changes occur slowly. The first web browser appeared in 1993, AOL in 1991, Facebook in 2004, and You Tube started streaming video in 2005, 18 years ago. Penn State was an early adopter. With the support of the Alfred P. Sloan initiative, the Penn State World Campus opened online in January, 1998. It is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. That means today's college students and young professionals are the first generation born in the information age.

eLearning and the Future of Higher Education.

Here we are, a generation into the eLearning environment.

When eLearning began in the 1990s, some institutions saw its lack of geographic boundaries as a threat. Some institutions saw every other institution as a potential competitor. Others saw it as an opportunity to collaborate with other institutions in order to better serve learners in their core service areas.

The Great Plains Interactive Distance Alliance (Great Plains IDEA), was founded in 2001 by public universities in the Midwest. It offers fully online graduate and undergraduate coursework and program options in high demand professional fields. GP IDEA includes 19 public universities from Washington State to North Carolina. Institutions collaborate to offer 18 undergraduate and graduate degrees in Human Sciences and agriculture. Other degree examples include Dietetics, Gerontology, Education and other disciplines.

This is how it works:

Member institutions chose to participate in programs that fit their interests and expertise. Students identify a “home” institution, apply for admission, enroll in classes, pay tuition and graduate.

The student’s home institution offers the same core curriculum using that institution’s course title and number.

The student’s home institution awards the academic credit and degrees for programs in which they participate regardless of which institution offers course instruction.

All course and curricula receive a full institutional review and meet the academic standards the participating institutions.

Courses are taught by faculty from each of the partner institutions on a schedule determined by the faculty.

Students pay a common tuition fee per credit hour regardless of which IDEA institution originates the course.

The student’s home institution maintains the student’s transcript and awards the degree to its students. There is no credit transfer between institutions.

Revenue is distributed among the home institution, teaching institution and central alliance management to ensure sustainable programs and a sustainable alliance.

This approach allows academic departments to offer their students academic specialties from colleagues around the world.

Open Educational Resources

Another factor that will help to facilitate curriculum innovation and control cost is the growth in Open Educational Resources, or OERs. UNESCO defines OERs as “learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others.” (<https://www.unesco.org/en/open-educational-resources>) OERs were originally

eLearning and the Future of Higher Education.

conceived as e-books--written lessons or commentaries—that replace traditional texts, which lowers student costs.

At the four-year level, Pressbooks was established to help educators and institutions “working across Canada, the U.S., and beyond” (<https://pressbooks.com/about/>) to develop and share OERs in order to “get accessible educational content into the hands of students.” Currently it lists more than 5,000 open books, including a growing number from Penn State. Penn State has organized its OERs under the acronym “ROAM”—Repository for Open and Affordable Materials. The collection began in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. Today, it is managed by Penn State University Libraries. The ROAM collection “enables departments and individual faculty to provide educational resources free of charge under a Creative Commons license.”

Micro-Credentials

Micro-credentials have long been a way that colleges and universities have packaged continuing professional education for adult learners. Often, they consist of a collection of three or four credit courses that help young professionals keep up with their field or develop new knowledge and skills they need for professional growth. The results are undergraduate and

postbaccalaureate certificates rather than degree programs.

Continuing Education and alternative credentials, will ensure students understand that their degree has high value. Using Continuing Education to build employability skills, whether for a new job or a new position within a current company, will help students reach their goals and expand their learning opportunities. From an institutional perspective, micro-credentials offer an opportunity to build and maintain a connection with students after they graduate and as they pursue their careers.

Artificial Intelligence

Recently, the eLearning news has been dominated by a new development that could have additional—even more dramatic—impact on teaching and learning at all levels. It is called ChatGPT -- an artificial intelligence software package that allows individuals to ask questions and get detailed answers.

Undergraduate Education K-14 Movement

One sign that change is underway is the so-called “K-14” Movement. It is good to remember that, early in the Industrial Age, most students did not go to high school. Free education ended with the ninth grade. By the 1920s, a full K-12 experience emerged as the standard. The K-14 idea assumes that all students should have free access to 14 years of schooling in order to prepare for work in today’s society. Two states—New York and California—have begun to move from a K-12 standard to a K-14 expectation. That change is underway is the so-called “K-14” Movement. There is pretty clear evidence that, while eLearning will continue to serve adult students, the percentage of eLearning students who are recent high school graduates will continue to grow.

eLearning and the Future of Higher Education.

There are other factors to consider, though, when we look at K-14..

One is that eLearning college courses can also present a new opportunity for high school students to take “dual enrollment” courses—courses that give them both high school credit and college credit—online not just from local colleges, but from any institution that offers a desirable course.

A K-14 environment, especially one that supports online dual-enrollment courses, might also prompt planners to take a fresh look at both the high school curriculum and the undergraduate general education curriculum.

How Do We Get There

Consider getting rid of large classrooms and replace them with a distributed classrooms with teaching assistants. Professor Ken Nelson taught Accounting 101 with one way video and two way audio to 26 separate classrooms with 20-25 students and one TA in each of the classrooms. He was able to take and answer questions from the audience and the TA was available to help also. Similar models can be done with distance learning and forming small groups to discuss the lecture along with a TA. The model needs consistent and reliable Information Technology support. IT staff would have dual reporting responsibilities to the academic departments and to institutional IT.

Conclusion

The ELM Learning website posted a piece on what constitutes an eLearning environment.

“An eLearning ecosystem is . . . the collection of people, resources, tools and strategies used to create a practical learning experience for participants. At its core, a flourishing learning environment offers students access to personalized interactions that best meet their individual needs and interests. In other words, it’s like a one-stop shop where learners can find whatever they need to enhance their educational journey – help them understand a concept or suggestion on how they might approach a project.”

Colleges and universities are complex organizations, with multiple academic cultures and a complex organizational and budgetary system that makes it difficult sometimes to innovate at a large scale. Some of the things I’ve talked about-- the willingness to partner with other institutions on curricula and services that meet student needs, creating systems to help faculty develop and make available online and streaming resources, micro-credentials that extend learning to working professionals, exploring how to use technology to improve the educational pathway from high school to college, and the willingness to create new kinds of learning communities—are hard to do in isolation. They are better seen as steps in an institutional evolution.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Maxin, Recording Secretary

Torch Club minutes for meeting of April 12, 2023

Attending at the Ramada: 40

Attending via Zoom: 1

Speaker: Jim Serene, "History of and Changes in Orthopaedics"

Following dinner, President Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 7 p.m., noting that 40 was the club's largest in-person attendance of the year.

Larry said the IATC convention will be held June 25-26 in Baltimore. He asked that the club nominate Art Goldschmidt as our delegate. Art was approved by the members with a show of hands. Larry also said he would attend a Zoom meeting on the IATC's financial report and that the club anticipates that IATC annual dues for members will go up.

Larry also said he is looking for a volunteer to be vice president in the coming club year, starting in September. John Dillon will move up to president, Peter Jurs has agreed to continue as treasurer, and Art Goldschmidt has agreed to continue as corresponding secretary. Larry said he has not yet talked to Charles Maxin about continuing as recording secretary. John Golbeck will continue as the club's tech specialist.

Steve Smith introduced the evening's speaker, Jim Serene. Steve said he has known Jim since he had two carpal tunnel surgeries and one rotator cuff surgery done 16 years ago – all by Jim. Terry Engelder volunteered to introduce next month's speaker, Kim Steiner.

Jim introduced his guests -- his wife, Brucie, and friends Ed and Patty Satalia and Kristian Berg, senior producer at WPSU.

Highlights of Jim's presentation:

-- Jim started medical school in 1970. Since then, orthopedic specializing has grown rapidly. Fellowship training for orthopedic specialists rose from 5% in 1980 to 90% in 2022, as has continuing education, such as through the Orthopedic Learning Center, strategically located near O'Hare Airport for weekend trainings.

-- Jim reviewed important surgery changes, from the first sterile suture process in 1887, following the acceptance of Pasteur's germ theory in 1861, to changes in splints and braces. Casts goes back to 860 A.D., and rolls of cloth imbedded with plaster that set as casts when wetted, to 1852.

-- Imaging also advanced from the first X-rays in 1895. The fluoroscope, which required no film plate and was faster, was introduced in 1955 but was not in operating rooms until the 1970s and was not mainstream until the 1990s. CAT scans, introduced in 1972, went mainstream in the 1980s. The MRI, begun in 1977, wasn't fully functional until 2003. Ultrasound, excellent for soft tissue imaging, was first used in 1950.

-- Arthroscopy, a minimally invasive procedure, began in 1990 and dramatically changed joint surgery, reducing pain and recovery time.

-- Total hip replacements started in England in 1962 but only became common in the U.S. in the 1980s. Artificial knees advanced from a basic hinge in the 1970s to the anatomic knee in 1985.

-- Operating room sterility was advanced with the identification of more deadly viruses, plus safer gowns, masks, and hoods with face masks. Anesthesia improved, leading to more outpatient surgeries; general anesthetics became short-acting, while local anesthetics became long-acting. In the 1970s most surgery was done in a hospital, but by the 1990s most surgery had become outpatient as a result of this change.

-- The business of medicine also has changed. In 1970, 5% of physicians worked for a large organization; in 2020, 70% did. The rise of health care companies and the high pay of their CEOs were also major changes over time, as have been the effects of private equity buying health care businesses.

-- Wrapping up, Jim offered his opinions on changes in the business of medicine: Corporate culture dictates that "money trumps the provision of appropriate patient care," and "physicians and our medical universities have lost control of the business of medicine."

Numerous questions from members followed. The meeting adjourned about 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Dillon, vice president, filling in for Charles Maxin, recording secretary

Central PA Torch Meeting Minutes
5/10/2023 Ramada Inn
State College, PA May 10, 2023

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:50 PM.

Approximately 35 members attended in person, Zoom was available for this meeting.

Announcements:

Guests include Suzy Steiner, wife of tonight's speaker Kim Steiner and Kristian Berg, a new member and a WPSU TV producer. To see a recently completed project Kristian produced visit <https://youtu.be/rgllKu0sUQo>.

Art Goldschmidt announced the IATC annual meeting will be held in late June, members interested in attending, should contact Larry Ragan.

John Dillon announced next year's speakers are being arranged. He expects the schedule will be completed soon. He also recently attended a Zoom meeting and discussed the Centre County issues. An increase in the annual dues is being considered since the group is projected to end the year approximately \$14,000 short. The last increase in dues was in 2008.

Membership is at 56 for the Torch Group in State College.

Dues are \$60.00 yearly and are due now for the 2022-2023 year. Monthly meetings are held at the Ramada Inn, South Atherton Street in State College. The dinner is \$22.00 and payable on the meeting date. Social hour starts at 5:30 PM, dinner is served at 6 PM and the monthly presentation is at 7 PM.

The meeting is available live and over the internet with Zoom.

Next meeting is June, 14 2023 with Lee Stout and on the Archives and the Centre County History Encyclopedia

Terry Engelder introduced Kim Steiner tonight's speaker.

"Kim Steiner retired from Penn State in 2021 as Professor Emeritus of Forest Biology and Founding Director of the Arboretum. In his presentation he briefly summarized the history of abortive arboretum initiatives at Penn State from 1914 to 1980, and in more detail he described the events beginning in 1994 that led to the creation of the H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens and The Arboretum at Penn State. Construction of the first phase was completed in 2009. The Childhood's

Gate Children Garden was added in 2014 and the Pollinator and Bird Garden in 2021. Among the keys to success were broad-based involvement of faculty, staff, and community in planning; an emphasis on quality design and materials, and success in attracting private philanthropy (a total of about \$40 million)."

The meeting concluded at 8:15 PM

Respectfully submitted. Charles W Maxin, secretary

Centre County Torch Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2023
Ramada Inn State College, PA

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:50 PM. Approximately 25 members were in attendance.

Annual dues is currently \$60 a year with \$10 dollars going to the local club and \$50 going to the International organization. An increase of \$15-\$20 dollars a year to \$75-\$80 was discussed with the majority of the increase going to the international organization. Feedback from the group went to Art Goldschmidt, our representative to the International organization.

John Dillon announced speakers for next year's talks are arranged.

Election of officers for next year announced:

President: John Dillon

Vice President: Terry Engelder

Recording Secretary: Charles Maxin

Treasurer: Peter Jurs

Correspondence Secretary and Torch International representative: Art Goldschmidt

Past President: Larry Ragan

Webmaster: John Golbeck

All candidates were elected unanimously.

Dee Stout, wife of Lee Stout, the evening's speaker, introduced her husband Lee Stout. Lee was the Penn State archivist for 27 years retiring in 2007.

Archives and the Encyclopedia of Centre County History

The "Archives" aspect of this presentation addresses the need for primary source research, which is especially pertinent to local history. Unlike historical writing and interpretation on a state or national scale, there are fewer published histories and resources for local history. Thus, we rely on locally created materials: newspapers, amateur historical book and journals, and archival materials. Increasingly this material is being digitized or created online. Centre County lacks a comprehensive history covering the 20th century, and those dealing with the 18th and 19th centuries are less than satisfactory. After several years of examining possible approaches to doing a new history, Lee Stout and Ford Risley decided that an online encyclopedia of Centre County history might be a better alternative to a printed book. It could be gradually released, easily updated, extended, and corrected, and it would be open to multiple authors. Developers of the Centre County Historical Society's new website were able to add the encyclopedia as a new feature and the Encyclopedia was launched in 2021 with 100 articles. We cover the entire county, including Penn State topics. We are making it authoritative, comprehensive, and accessible to students, the public, and scholars alike. Currently, there are 164 articles, written by more than 60 authors, and we are adding about three articles a month. We generally have 10-20 articles in various stages of development at any given time. As a conclusion, Lee gave a "tour" of the encyclopedia, showing how one could follow internal links from one article to another – in this example going from James Potter, who first looked out over Penns Valley in 1764, exclaiming "I've discovered an empire," all the way to Joe Paterno in 15 steps.

The URL for the Encyclopedia is <https://centrehistory.org/encyclopedia-welcome/>.

Thanks to Lee for the above synopsis of his presentation.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 PM.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at the State College Ramada Inn at 5:30.

Respectively submitted

Charles W Maxin, secretary

cwmaxin@gmail.com