

Torch of State College Meeting
Ramada Inn State College, PA
September 14, 2022

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 6:55 PM.
23 members attended in person, several via Zoom.

Announcements:

The group has 51 active members and we will continue to recruit new members.
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 and the dinner is served at 6:00 PM.
The presentation starts at 7:00 PM and is available live and over the internet.

Guests: Representing the Torch International is Tim Spaeder from the Erie, PA Torch Club.
He is a member of the IATC board. He was introduced by Art Goldschmidt. He spoke briefly about his responsibilities with the organizational leadership.

Two new members were accepted for membership. They are Kevin Alloway and Kim Steiner.

Tonight's presentation is Art Goldschmidt: **Afghanistan: History and Mystery.**

Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the South and East, Iran to the West and Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to the North and a sliver of China to the North.

The land area of Afghanistan is comparable to the area of the state of Texas with 250,000 square miles and has a population of approximately 40 million.

The capital is Kabul with a population of 4,273,000 and there is ongoing animus between Kabul and the tribal rest of the population. The other 5 major cities including Kandahar 615,000, Herat 555,000, Mazar-i-Sharif 469,000, Kunduz 356,000 and Jalabad with 263,000.

The majority of the population is Pashtun (38%) with half of the Pashtun living in Afghanistan and half living in Pakistan. 25% of the Afghanistan population is Tajik, 8% Uzbek, 19% Hazara and 10% other.

The Durand line established in Afghanistan in 1893 was meant to protect the English India from Russian influence.

Much of Afghanistan is mountainous with the middle of country marked by the Paropamisus Mountains and the mountainous Hindu Kush in the eastern half of the country.

There are few rivers in Afghanistan. The Kabul river which is dry much of the year and drains into the Indus River in Pakistan. The Amu Dorya drains into the Aral Sea which is rapidly disappearing.

Roads are few and the major Ring Road was built in the 1950's to connect major cities with the help of the United States. There are few roads in Afghanistan. There are no railroads which limits development.

Leadership

Nadar Shah Afshar was Persian and belonged to the Safavid dynasty (1501-1736). He was assassinated in 1736 which lead to the rise of the Durrani family who ruled Afghanistan up

to 1973. The Durrani family all of whom were distantly related and belonged to the Pashtun ethnic group's Barakzad tribe.

Important leaders include Dost Mohammad Khan (r.1826-1863). Abdur Rahman Khan "the Iron Amir" ruled from 1880-1901. He led successful resistance to the British invasion during the Second Anglo-Afghan war. However the Afghan population continued to view themselves as Muslim members of a tribe and not Afghans. They remained illiterate nomads or peasants.

The next important leader was Amanullah Khan (R.1919-1929). He attempted many reforms and failed in part from opposition of the Afghan tribes and the British in India.

Much of the population were Afghan nomads who were strongly tribal and herded horses, donkeys and camels. Some were subsistence farmers.

Next is leader is Mohammad Zahir Shah who led the country till 1973 when he was overthrown in a coup by Mohammad Daoud Khan, a cousin of Zahir Shah. Mohammad Zahir Shah then became the first Afghan president from 1973-1978. He was overthrown and killed in a pro-communist coup in April, 1978. The University of Kabul was founded in 1976 and strongly supported by Mohammad Daoud Khan. The University played a major role in the modernization of Afghanistan.

Russian Influence

Next leader was Nur Mohammad Taraki, an Afghan Communist leader (r. 1978-1979). He was followed by Secretary General Hafizullah Amin (r. 1979). His short-lived leadership furthered controversies from beginning to end. The Soviets were dissatisfied with Amin. The Soviets invaded the country, intervened and installed Babrak Karmal as Chairman of the Council of ministers (1979-1986).

The Afghan Mujahidin rebelled against the Soviet occupation. The US assisted with the rebellion and gave Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to the Mujahidin, helping to defeat the Soviets. Osama bin Laden, founder of al-Qa'ida joined the rebellion and sought refuge in Afghanistan. After a ten year occupation and rebellion, the Soviets left Afghanistan in 1989.

Mohammad Najibullah was president from 1987-1992.

Mullah Omar founded the Taliban ("students") in 1994. They quickly took over most but never all of the provinces of Afghanistan. Omar was the self styled Amir of Afghanistan and fled the country in 2001 when the Americans invaded. He fled the country to Pakistan where he died in about 2013.

9/11 and the American Invasion

Osama bin Laden plotted and arranged the terroristic attacks on 4 airliners in the US on September 11, 2001. President Bush demanded the Taliban turn over the al-Qa'ida leadership and the Taliban refused.

Bush invaded Afghanistan to hunt the perpetrators of the 9/11 attack (Osama bin Laden) and continued the war.

President Hamid Karzai followed.

Osama bin Laden was found in Pakistan and killed by American Seals on May 2, 2011.

Ashraf Ghani was trained as an anthropologist at the American University of Beirut and at Columbia University. He was elected president in 2014 and reelected in 2019. He was unpopular as president. He escaped Afghanistan on 8/31/2021, the day the Taliban seized Kabul.

The estimated military cost is \$1 trillion for the 20 year war with 2,000 American lives lost. The US withdrew from Afghanistan on 8/31/2021.

The Taliban now rule and Muslim law is instituted throughout the country. Poverty is estimated to affect 90% of the population. Women cannot work and there is not enough food. The population of the educated is shrinking.

The next meeting of the Torch group is Wednesday, October 12, 2023. The meeting is at the Ramada Inn. Social time is 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:00PM and presentation at 8:00 PM.

Peter Jurs will speak on The American Fur Trade of the Far West.

The meeting ended at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W Maxin
Recording Secretary
cwmaxin@gmail.com

Torch Meeting Minutes

Ramada Inn State College, PA

October 12, 2022

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:55 PM.

35 members attended in person, several via Zoom.

Announcements:

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 and the dinner is served at 6:00 PM.

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

Roger Williams introduced guest **Roger Geiger, PhD**, Professor at PSU 1987-2012

Roger Geiger has three degrees from University of Michigan, Research in American Higher Education

John Dillon introduces guests **Gene Tyworth** with degrees in Supply Chain Management, Penn State faculty 1976-2016 and **Ford Risley**, Professor of Journalism Penn State 1995, Interests and work: American Civil War

John Golbeck announced progress on family memberships with three new spouses joining, **Mary Serene**, **Julianne Sills** and **Connie Sherman**

The search is on for the 2023-2024 presentations, contact John Dillon with your interests.

Presentation by Peter Jurs:

The American Fur Trade of the Far West

1807 – 1843

The Mountain Men

Peter Jurs began his presentation with the goal of telling the story of the lesser known part of the westward expansion across the continent. The American fur trade encouraged the exploration and settlement of the Far West.

The story starts with the inauguration of Thomas Jefferson in 1801, the Louisiana purchase in 1803 and the Corps of Discovery 1804 through 1806 with the Lewis and Clark exploration of the Western United States. Prior to the early 1800's little was known of the west. Exploration was limited to the area east of the Mississippi.

With the Louisiana Purchase, Jefferson encouraged the exploration west of the Mississippi River and wanted Lewis and Clark to map the region, explore the headwaters of the Missouri River and map the northwest coast of the Pacific. He wanted to know about the vast new area added to the United States. He was aware of the English visits to northwest coast of the

continent and the discovery of the Columbia River. He was interested in a portage from the Missouri river to the Columbia River. The Louisiana purchase doubled the size of the United States. It also provided access to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Corps of Discovery Expedition as the group was known, was formed in 1803 and wintered 1803-1804 in present day Indiana. They left Saint Louis in 1804 with 40 men traveling north up the Mississippi River. They crossed the area of Missouri and were in the area of North Dakota by late October, 1804. They befriended a French trapper Toussaint Charbonneau who agreed to guide them west. They were joined by Sacagawea, a teenage Shoshone woman who was previously captured at age 12 near the continental divide in present day eastern Idaho. The corps spent the winter of 1804-1805 with the Mandan Indians at Fort Mandan, a fort built by the corps in present day North Dakota. The trapper and Sacagawea agreed to guide the corps west.

They encountered grizzly bears, many new animals, plants and carefully collected and saved samples. They reached the mouth of the Yellowstone River in three months near the present-day border with Montana. They followed the Missouri River and in July arrived at the three forks, named Madison, Jefferson and Gallatin. This was where Sacagawea was captured by the Hidatsa 5 years earlier.

They got horses from the Shoshones and crossed the Rocky Mountains with an 11 day forced march over the Bitterroot mountains. They traveled down the Columbia River in dugout canoes and reach the Pacific in early November, 1805. They wintered in Fort Clatsop built by the Corps near the mouth of the Columbia River.

They spent 3 months at Fort Clatsop and noted only 12 days without rain. The Clatsop and Chinook Indians were essential for survival, trading for food. They became tired of eating salmon every day. They left Fort Clatsop March 23, 1806 and by August 14 were back at the Mandan village and by September, 1806 they were back in Saint Louis, finishing a 8,000 mile trip in 2 years 4 months and 10 days. They drew 140 maps. One man died during the journey and one man stayed in California.

The Rocky Mountain Fur Company was formed in 1822, established by William Ashley and Andrew Henry who advertised for trappers. Jedediah Smith (age 23) and Jim Bridger (age 18) were two of the most famous Mountain Men who trapped for the RMFC.

The men trapped beaver with steel traps and sold beaver pelts to make felt for top hats. The trapping trade was based on groups of trappers, the rendezvous trade nexus, and the overland supply routes to the eastern US and to Europe. The system remained intact for the next ten years. Indians also participated in the trade along with white trappers. There were multiple main rendezvous sites and most were west of the continental divide.

The sites operated and were similar to the great fairs of medieval Europe. The trappers traded beaver pelts for gunpowder (called DuPont), lead to make bullets (called Galena), knives, traps, tobacco, coffee, and lots of liquor. All this was packed in by pack trains from Saint Louis.

Jedediah Smith (1799-1831)

He was the first overland traveler to California, first to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains, first to traverse the Great Basin and first to travel overland to the Columbia River.

Jim Bridger (1804-1881)

Bridger was born in Virginia. He joined William Ashley's group of trappers in 1822. He was one first to see the Great Salt Lake in 1824. He trapped in the 1820's and became one of the owners of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company in 1830's. He established Fort Bridger in 1843 to trade with immigrants. He got shot in the back with an Indian arrow from a skirmish and a missionary removed the arrowhead in 1835.

Kit Carson (1809-1868)

Carson was born in Kentucky in 1809 and became involved in trapping in the 1830's. He met John C. Fremont in 1842 and went on three expeditions with Fremont. He was involved in the Bear Flag revolt in California.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo 1848

The treaty of GH in 1848 ended the Mexican war. The treaty ended with 525,000 square miles transferred to the United States. This included the states of California, Nevada, Utah, and Colorado. It also established the Rio Grande River as the border between Texas and Mexico. The US paid Mexico \$15 million or 4.5 cents per acre for the land

Summary

The legacy of the Fur Trade Era:

Expansion of Geographical Knowledge

The exploration of the country around the sources of the Platte, Green, Yellowstone, Snake rivers and the region around the Great Salt Lake were opened by the mountain men.

The exploration of the western continent.

Mountain men were guides for overland settlers.

Mountain men were guides for Fremont and others.

Mountain men were important for the development of the economy of Saint Louis.

Mountain men were the first wave of Europeans to exploit the natural resources of the west.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles W Maxin, MD

Torch Meeting Minutes 11/9/2022
Ramada Inn State College, PA
November 9, 2022

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:45 PM.
50 members attended in person, several via Zoom.

Announcements:

Larry introduced guest Graham Spanier, PhD

Next Meeting: Wednesday December 14, 2022

Presentation by Graham Spanier:

Dr Spanier was interviewed by Roger Williams regarding Dr Spanier's recent book:
In the Lions' Den: The Penn State Scandal and a Rush to Judgment.

Dr Spanier begins with the observation that he did not expect nor wanted to be part of this story. He offered his resignation to the Penn State Board of Trustees on November 9, 2011. The Board accepted and the story begins.

He was limited in what he could say initially by a gag order from the Board and later by a variety of lawyers. The book was written to clarify what happened. Throughout the events of the next ten years Dr Spanier states nobody was telling the whole story. This book tells Dr Spanier's story.

Dr Spanier and Roger Williams spent an hour with a back and forth conversation. Approximately 30 minutes of comments and questions followed.

The next meeting is December 14, 2022 at the Ramada Inn in State College at 5:30 PM, Dinner is served at 6:00 PM and the presentation is at 7 PM.

John Dillon will present: Sunshine Laws and the Freedom of Information Act.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles W Maxin, MD
Recording Secretary

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Torch Meeting Minutes 12/14/2022
Ramada Inn State College, PA
December 14, 2022

Larry Ragan opened the meeting at 5:55 PM.
34 members attended in person, Zoom was partially available for this meeting

Announcements:

Guests

John Dillon introduced his guest Jan Dillon.
Bill Arden introduced his guest Jean Lee.

John Dillon gave an update on special interest groups (SIG) that are used in other Torch organizations.

John Dillon requests members to consider presentations for the upcoming year 2023-2024.

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The January 11 meeting with Wayne Osgood:

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

Today's presentation is by Jon Dillon

John Dillon is professor emeritus in the College of Communications at Penn State where he taught from 2007 to 2017 and was Norman Eberly Professor of Practice in Journalism. Before coming to Penn State, he worked at the Richmond Times-Dispatch in Virginia for 32 years. John previously presented in 2020 "Ripe for Disruption the Rapid Decline of Local News." John and his wife reside occasionally in State College when they are not on the road visiting family and friends. John is a road warrior bicyclist and has competed in several marathons.

**Sunshine Laws and the Freedom of Information Act
What to Know About Your Right to Know**

All states in the United States have freedom of information acts and sunshine laws to allow the public free and unencumbered access to information created by their governments. Rep John E. Ross, D-CA was a US Representative in the US congress from 1953-1978. He believed there was too much secrecy and his general philosophy was for full agency disclosure. It took 12 years to enact the new law on July 4, 1966 signed by Lyndon Johnson.

Anders Chydenius was a Swedish Lutheran pastor who got the government of Sweden to enact the Swedish Freedom of the Press Act, December 2, 1776. The act allowed citizens to access, except for classified documents, official documents.

The United States Freedom of Information Act was signed by President Lyndon Johnson 200 years later. The vote was 306 yes, 0 nays and the rest (129) of representatives abstained.

- The Act describes a general philosophy of full agency disclosure
- Applies only to agencies under the executive branch
- Make records “promptly available to any person
- Request must reasonably describe the records sought
- There are nine exemptions.

Exemptions

- National Defense and foreign policy classified secrets
- Agencies’ internal personnel rules, practices
- If exempted by another federal law
- Trade secrets and privileged commercial or financial information
- Documents in agency litigation
- Certain law enforcement records affecting fair trial, privacy, etc.
- Personal privacy including personnel and medical files
- Geological/geophysical information involving wells

FOIA use today

The FY 2021 annual report lists

- 119 agencies
- 838,164 requests
- 838,668 processed

The agencies with the most FOIA requests

- Homeland Security - 443,000
- Justice - 98,000
- Health and Human Services - 33,000
- Veteran Affairs - 28,000

The Agencies with the least FOIA requests

- Among the 13 with less than 10 requests:
- Denali Commission - 9
- U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board - 5
- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council - 4
- U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness - 0

Who makes the most FOIA requests

- Businesses
- News media organizations
- Individuals Law Firms
- Nonprofits

The Backlog problem - requests pending for more than 20 days FY 2021

- Requests are up 6%
- Backlog up 8%
- Justice Department - 33% of the total
- Simple requests - averages 33 days
- Complex requests - 80% under 100 days
- FOIA-related costs are \$561 million

Interesting Things we have learned

- 1980s- EPA knew paper mills were discharging dioxin, a toxic substance into rivers.
- 2005 - Wasteful government spending during recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina
- 2013 - Three nuclear trigger switches activated with a B-52 with two warheads crashed in North Carolina in 1961. The fourth switch did not, averting a catastrophic nuclear explosion.
- 2016 - Major U.S. supplier of Parmesan cheese was substituting wood pulp for parmesan in its products.
- 2022 - FBI considered buying Pegasus spyware to hack cell phones and extract their contents.

Odd things we have learned

- FCC complaints about inappropriate “South Park” content
- FBI Twitter sling dictionary
- White House beer recipe
- CIA cafeteria complaints

Filing an FOIA request

- Anyone can, citizen or not
- Is the information area available
- Request made in writing and “reasonably described?”
- Send the request to the agency’s FOIA office
- No special form needed
- No initial fee
- Certain charges are allowed.

In Pennsylvania

- the Sunshine Act describes how public meetings are conducted
- the Right to Know Law describes access to the public records or governmental bodies.

The Right to Know Law before 2008

- presumed records were not public
- A citizen had to prove otherwise

After 2008

- Records presumed open to the public
- Agency has to prove otherwise

The Pennsylvania Office of Open Records

- Quasi-judicial and independent
 - Director is appointed by the governor
 - It is a binding authority on citizen access
 - Makes “fair and open” determinations
 - Trains public officials on the RTK (right to know) and Sunshine laws.
-
- the 2021 annual report lists 2,990 appeals, the most ever
 - 2913 decisions, the most ever and up 35% in the past 5 years

Some things we earned in 2021

- IBM paid the state \$33 million to settle a lawsuit over its failed overhaul of the state unemployment computer system
- Internal PA Turnpike report showed \$104 million uncollected during the switch to all-electronic toll collections
- Philadelphia transferred \$5 million to foster children’s Social Security benefits to the city’s general fund
- Inspections identified 229 smoke detector violations at child care facilities over 19 months

Ernie Lazar, Who Trawled for Secret Government Documents Dies at Age 77

“If there were some prize for ‘Important and Consequential People Who Are Unknown to the General Public,’ Ernie would be the top contender.

Happy Holidays!

Respectfully submitted,
Charles W Maxin, MD

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.

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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.

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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.

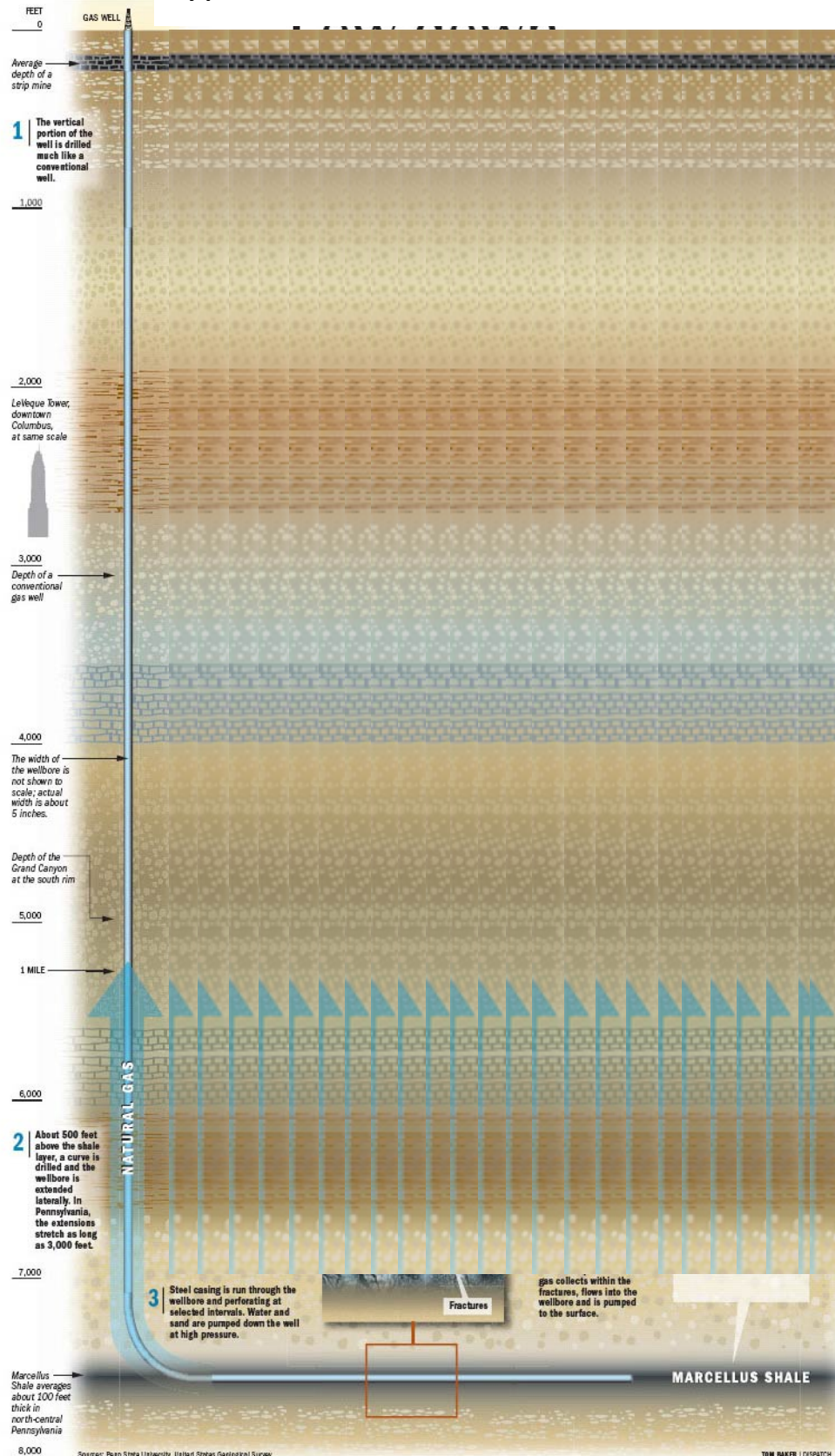
Illustrations:



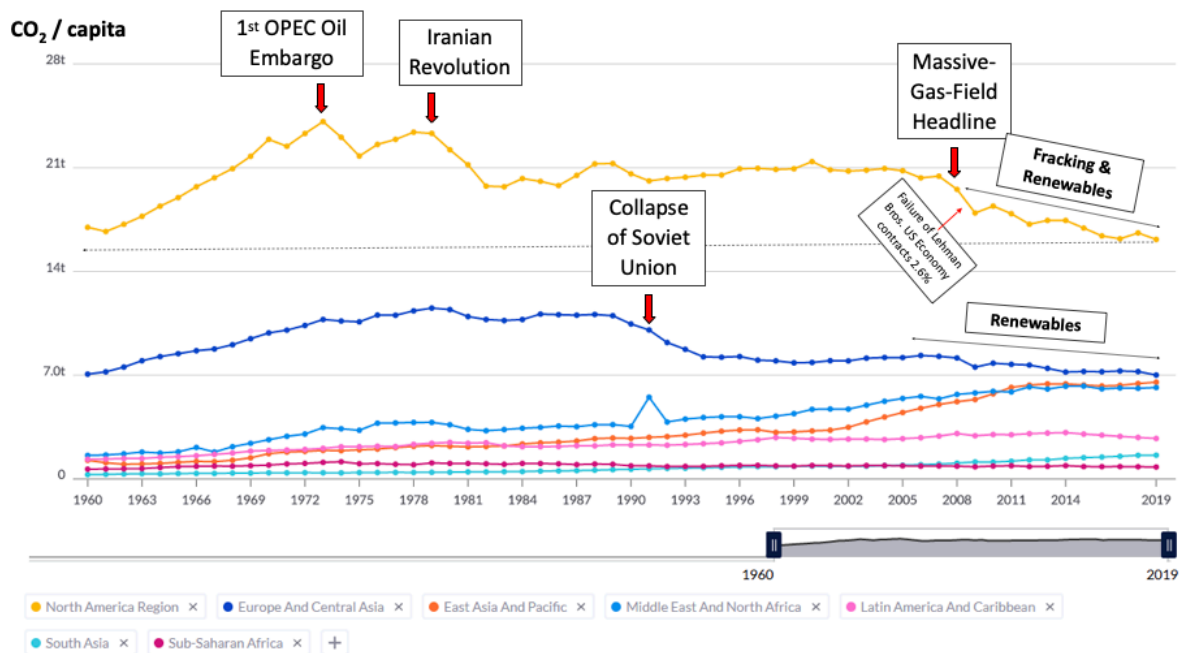
Getting the gas

How a horizontal well works

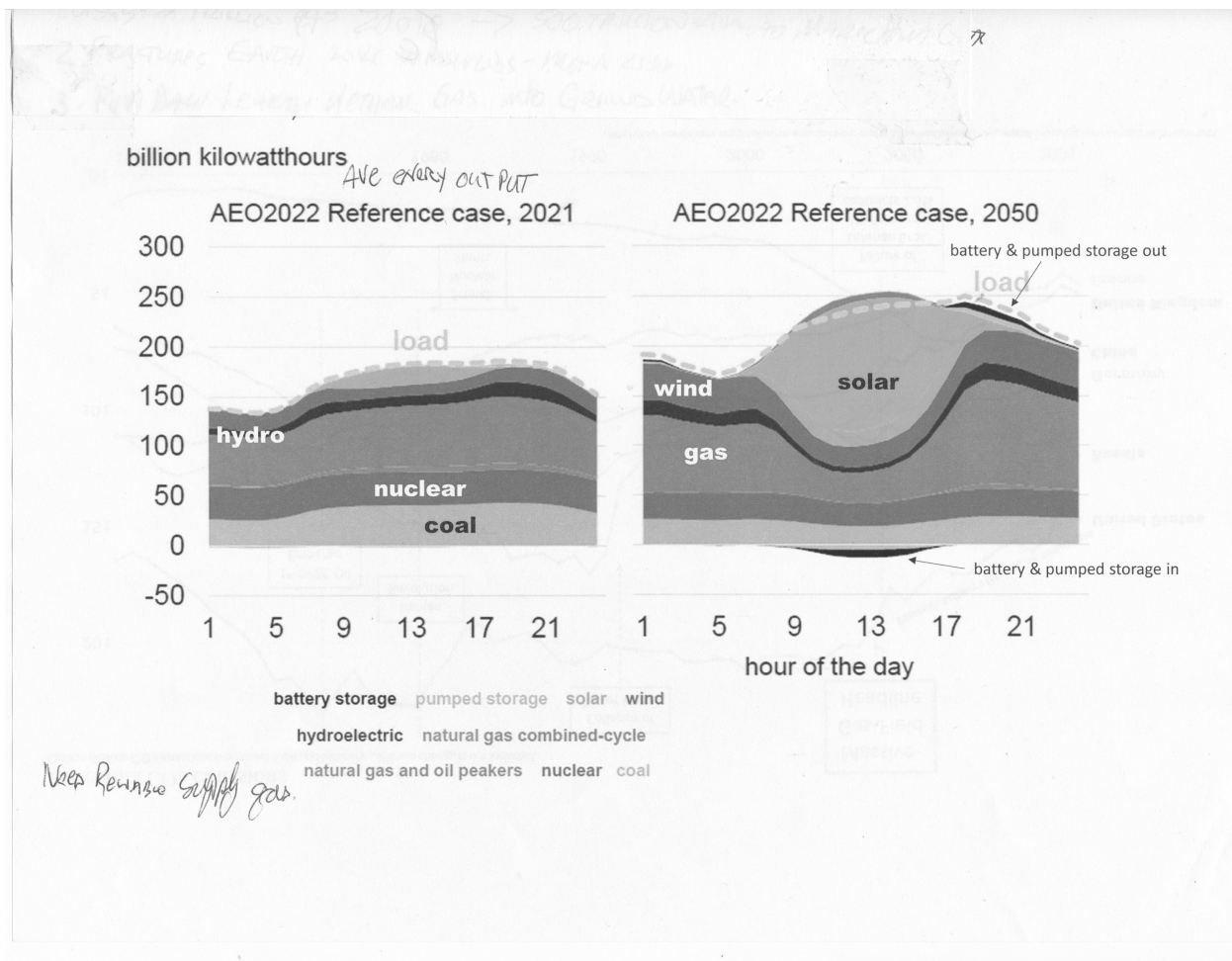
Typical Marcellus horizontal well



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