

PERRY NEWS

what's happening at perry technical institute



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Spring 2015

Mild Winter Puts Project Ahead of Schedule

Construction on Plath Hall has continued on schedule, thanks to mild winter weather in the Yakima Valley.

In December, general contractor Tri-Ply Construction began erecting the steel and decking on the north side of the building. This work continued on the south side of the building in January. Granite Construction excavated and set the bases for the walkway lighting. Electrical students spent January trenching ditches and installing the conduit for the light poles along the walkway.

Workers poured the second floor decking and began framing exterior walls last month. This month, the construction schedule calls for framing of lower and upper interior walls and the installation of the exterior windows and doors. Starting in mid-March, Electrical students will rough in the low-voltage electrical wiring, followed by preliminary work on the fire sprinkler system.

Work on the HVAC system will begin in mid- to late-March. "Students will have the opportunity to observe and participate in parts of the project," says Kaila Lockbeam, Perry's Facilities & Safety Manager.

Roofing will begin towards the end of the month and in mid- to

late-April, the insulation and exterior board will be installed.

"This is an exciting milestone for Perry," says Kaila. "I am grateful to share in the experience."

While crews are busy working on the new building, fundraising continues. Donations and pledges currently total \$6 million toward the \$8 million needed to construct the building. "To be successful, support must come from a variety of people, companies, and foundations," says Erin Fishburn, foundation director. "It truly takes a village."

Erin says she is overwhelmed by the generosity of alumni and friends of the school. Perry's corporate partners have committed more than \$800,000 and more than 100 graduates have contributed to the project. "For those who were waiting to support the project,

now is the time. The end is in sight," she says. "Construction is scheduled to be completed in September and by this time next year, Plath Hall will be busy and full of students learning the skills that have made Perry Technical Institute successful."

To contribute to the Capital Campaign to build Plath Hall, call the Foundation Office at 509.453.0374 or give online at <https://www.perrytech.edu/alumni/donate.html>. •



Plath Hall construction site viewed looking south.

IN BRIEF

Alums Invited to Open House for Mike Smith

Longtime Perry instructor Mike Smith will be honored at a retirement open house on Thursday, June 18.

Mike, an ITCS (formerly Telecommunications) faculty member since January 1996, is retiring at the end of spring quarter. PTI alumni are invited to honor Mike by attending the open house, scheduled for 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Matson Hall.

Perry to Host Employer Expos

If you're an employer looking for workers to fill current or future openings, make plans to participate in one of Perry Tech's upcoming Employer Expos.

The expos are scheduled for April 22 and September 2, on the Perry Tech campus. According to Chelsea Snodgrass, director of Career Services, the expos give employers opportunities to recruit for current and future openings, do long-term workforce planning, and disseminate information about their companies and possible career paths.

The expos are free, but space is limited. For more information or to register, call Career Services at 509.453.0374 or email chelsea.snodgrass@perrytech.edu.

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What Makes Perry Tech Unique?



Christine Coté

Students seeking post-secondary education have many options—community colleges, four-year universities, and for-profit career schools.

The fact that Perry Technical Institute is a non-profit technical school makes us unique. However, there are many other characteristics of our school that set us apart from other institutions. Many of these attributes were established 75 years ago by our founder, Harriet I. Perry, and they are as relevant today as they were when the school opened its doors.

What makes us different? The original model for the school called for practical, hands-on instruction in trades with a high demand for skilled workers. This continues to be a formula for success. Time and time again, we see students who have not been successful in a traditional school setting thrive when they see their lessons in real-life applications.

We treat every day in the classroom as if it is the world of work. Our students develop strong work ethics by punching a time clock and by being held accountable to high standards for attendance and punctuality.

Everything we do both in and out of the classroom is centered on making our students employable. Five years ago, we established a random drug testing policy for students and employees. Random drug testing encourages our students to maintain a lifestyle that

will make them employable.

From the first day of school, students are preparing themselves for the job search. Perry Tech 101, a three-part workshop, teaches students strategies that will help them succeed in school and beyond. The course covers subjects such as time management, learning styles, study skills, and goal-setting.

Perry Tech 101 is one part of our student-centered approach. From the office staff to instructors, from maintenance to administration, all Perry Tech employees know and demonstrate on a daily basis that they are here to serve students. Whether it's asking visitors if they need directions, or offering friendly greetings to students in the hallways, we are focused on providing the best possible customer service. We are here to serve students and we take pride in maintaining an environment where students feel welcome and valued. We also provide support and encourage students to reach out for the help they need to succeed.

Ensuring student success takes many forms – from offering free tutoring to supplying food in The Pantry, our campus food bank. And, we provide a full range of career services including help with cover letter and resume preparation, mock interviews, and job search strategies.

We take a great deal of pride in who we are and what we offer to students. In a day and age when some schools are experiencing declining enrollment and are struggling to retain students, we are growing and flourishing. There's no crystal ball to predict the future, but we believe that by holding fast to who we are and why we're unique, we can confidently face the future. •

Perry Adds Recruiters



Amber Riddle



Andrew Hilyard

Amber Riddle and Andrew Hilyard have joined Perry as student recruiters.

A Yakima native, Amber earned an associate of arts degree from Yakima Valley Community College, attended Washington State University, and

completed the certified nursing assistant program at Spokane Community College. For the last eight years, Amber has worked at Starbucks stores in Yakima, Richland, and Ellensburg. Most recently, she served as manager of a new Starbucks in Yakima.

Andrew was raised near Great Falls, Montana. He moved to Los Angeles and worked as an actor for five years, appearing in a movie and in television series on Nickelodeon and HBO. Andrew moved to Yakima in 2013 and graduated from Perry's Business Technology & Accounting Program.

Perry's student recruiters attend career and college fairs, give presentations in high school classrooms, and participate in community events. The recruiters concentrate their recruitment efforts on Washington and Oregon, but also make trips to California, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska where many Perry graduates are placed. •

PTI Instructors Honored



Dan Henderson



Larry Dagdagan



Forrest Buchmann

Longtime HVAC/R instructor Dan Henderson was honored with the 2014 Faculty Member of the Year Award.

Dan, who joined the Perry faculty in 1994, was singled out in the annual student survey. Students praised him for having a positive attitude, for genuinely caring about students, and for making learning fun.

"I learned more in his class than I ever thought I would know about the HVAC field," said one student. "Even though I am no longer in his class, I can always count on him to help me."

Dan had 14 years of experience in the forestry industry when he enrolled in Perry's HVAC Program. He joined the HVAC/R faculty in 1994.

Instrumentation instructor Larry Dagdagan and Electrical instructor Forrest Buchmann were honored with Outstanding Faculty Member Awards. •

Craig Heckart: Understanding the Why Behind the Answers



Craig Heckart has seen many changes during his 31-year career as an instructor in the HVAC/R Program.

It's a principle of teaching that every seasoned instructor knows is true: No two classes, and in fact no two students, are alike.

This realization, says longtime Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology instructor Craig Heckart, makes every day in the classroom both challenging and rewarding.

Craig was a 26-year-old Perry grad working as an HVAC/R technician when he answered his alma mater's call for an instructor to expand the program from three to four sections. "I had a real hesitation about taking the job. I was working in residential/light commercial HVAC where I was doing different work, in different locations, every day. I wasn't sure how I'd like doing the same thing day after day."

Craig accepted the challenge and soon learned that this notion couldn't be farther from the truth. "As an instructor, I go to work in the same place every day, but no two days are the same."

The flexibility to teach a class in the way that best meets the students' needs is one of the things that Craig likes best about teaching at Perry. "We have the freedom to get through the material the way it needs to be done for a particular class," he says.

While the methods of teaching change according to the needs and learning styles of students, Craig says the goal is always to get students to think rather than to memorize the material. "If they rely upon memorization, they don't retain the knowledge," he says. "It's the same in all the programs. Knowing the correct answers is nearly useless unless students understand the why behind the answers."

As the instructor for HVAC/R's first section, Craig says he sees the biggest transition in students. "I get to see the lightbulb come on more often than in later phases of the program."

Over the years, Craig has witnessed changes in his students' backgrounds, learning styles, and listening skills. "Today's students have much less mechanical ability. Some of them have never turned a screwdriver," he explains. "We live in an information age, but many students have not developed their listening skills. These changes make teaching more challenging."

Most students come in with little or no understanding of what other trades do. "It's increasingly rare to see someone enter the program with an understanding of our trade. We are everywhere. Without the HVAC/R trade, there are industries that wouldn't even exist."

Craig draws upon his own experiences as a student to help his students through the first section. "I was flat scared when I came here as a student. I wondered if I could make it through the first section," he says. "I remember that apprehension and try to use it to put my students at ease."

During his 31 years at Perry, Craig has seen many changes. The HVAC/R program went from its make-do home in the old hangar to the state-of-the-art facility of today. He has witnessed tremendous changes in technology – from a boiler system that didn't heat above 65 degrees until the middle of the week to the high-tech direct digital controls of today. And, he has taught the fundamentals of the trade in small classrooms, preparing assignments and tests by hand. "Today's technology makes teaching so much more productive. Now, less time is spent on preparation and more time is left to teach."

After more than three decades in the industry, Craig is convinced that the HVAC/R trade has a place for anyone who is willing to invest the time to learn the foundation of knowledge and skills upon which the trade is based. "There are more jobs than there are people to fill them," he points out.

Craig says opportunities in the HVAC/R field abound because they are so many avenues for technicians to apply their skills. "You can sum it up best by saying that we condition the air, which is everywhere, and products. Anything from water to pharmaceuticals, computer server rooms to food and much more." •

"We are everywhere. Without the HVAC/R trade, there are industries that wouldn't even exist."

CLASS NOTES

Walter Fahlenkamp, a 1992 HVAC/R graduate, worked in the field for 10 years and now ranches and farms full time. He raises black angus cattle and was named Klickitat County's Cattleman of the Year in 2012.

A 2008 ITCS graduate, **Elizabeth Gossell** is employed by Tenable Network Security in Columbia, Maryland.

Pat Kraft was recently honored by the Oregon Association for Career and Technical Education. The association presented Pat with the 2014 Oregon State Award for Outstanding Leadership in Career and Technical Education. A 1983 Machine graduate, Pat is an instructor and department chairman of the Machine Manufacturing Technology Program at Portland Community College. The award was presented in recognition of his work educating students, partnering with schools, training teachers, and creating pathways to employers for his graduates.

2010 Electrical graduate **Loren Ray** is working as an electrician for the US Navy in Bremerton. He lives in Kingston.

Mark Sanchez, a 2011 Machine graduate, is working as a CNC machinist at the Boeing plant in Auburn. He lives in Kent.

Kelyn Simmons is employed as a cell technician for Union Wireless in Rock Springs, Wyoming. He is a 2014 ITCS graduate.

Randy Speight, a 1983, HVAC/R graduate, started an HVAC business, The Control Zone Heating and A/C Inc. in Everett. He is currently looking for recent graduates who are interested in working in the fast-paced HVAC/R industry in Western Washington.

Gena Wyatt, a 2009 BTA graduate, is the night crew floor manager at OnlineShoes.com. She lives in Everett.

Your Perry family wants to know what you have been up to. Please email any recent news about yourself which you would like to share with fellow alumni to perrynews@perrytech.edu.

Four New Instructors Join Faculty



Perry Tech's faculty has expanded with the addition of four new instructors. Mariane Sugihara and Scott Nathlich have joined the Welding faculty and Josh Jackson and Ray Cyr are new to the Electrical faculty.

Raised on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, Mariane comes to Perry after working for 10 years as a civilian in Navy facilities engineering at Pearl Harbor. Mariane spent two years as a Navy reservist and four years of active duty with the Army. She studied metallurgy as a fine arts major at the University of Oregon and completed the remaining credits for her bachelor of arts degree while in the military.

Scott was raised in Sunnyside and comes to Perry after working as a fabricator in the maintenance department at Graham Packaging in Selah for the past 15 years.

Josh is teaching the third section of the Electrical Program. Born and raised in Yakima, he graduated from the Electrical Program in 2008. While at Perry, he was awarded a scholarship from USS-POSCO Industries for tuition, books, and tools during his second year of training. Josh worked for USS-POSCO at the company's Pittsburg, California, steel mill for five and a half years and then worked at a saw mill in Humboldt, California, for a year before joining the Perry faculty.

A Yakima native, Ray enrolled at Perry through the Dislocated Worker Program when Boise Cascade closed the Yakima plywood mill in 2006. He graduated from the program in 2008 and went to work for Twin City Foods in Ellensburg where he worked until joining the Perry faculty in November as a substitute instructor. He was added to the faculty as a full-time instructor in January and is teaching the program's second section. •

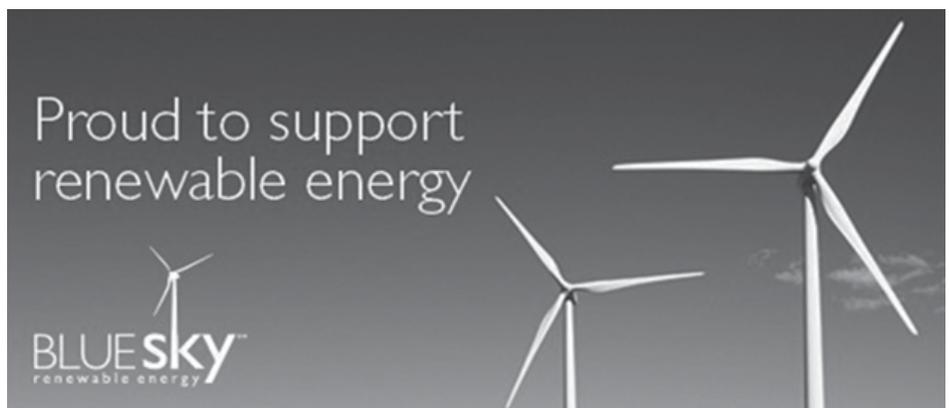
Grant Funds Solar Installment

Thanks to a \$74,000 Blue Sky grant from Pacific Power, Plath Hall will have a solar installment which will provide hands-on training in solar technology to students in the Electrical Technology Program.

Perry Tech is one of 10 institutions in Washington and Oregon to benefit from Pacific Power's Blue Sky renewable energy program. The Blue Sky program is funded by Pacific Power customers who opt to pay a little extra for renewable energy credits along with their power bills.

Approximately 20 Electrical students will work on the installation and Electrical students will receive hands-on experience with the production of solar energy by maintaining the system. The Electrical Program's curriculum covers solar power, but because Perry does not currently have a solar installation, students participate in lab exercises using a trainer.

The electricity produced by the system will be tracked on a monitor in the lobby of Plath Hall allowing Instrumentation students and visitors to the building to see the productivity of the solar system. •



Perry Tech Expansion Becomes a Reality



Plath Hall Named Rooms

BUILDING

Plath Hall

LOBBY/1ST FLOOR STUDY AREA

Emerson Process Management

2ND FLOOR STUDY AREA

AVAILABLE

EDUCATIONAL LABS

The Shields Family

Joyce Roether

Patricia Wade Temple

Pepsi Cola Bottling/Noel Corporation

Rosemount

PCE Pacific/Fisher

Todd Busby/Process Solutions

Micro Motion

CLASSROOM

Wayne & Marilyn Baldwin

Peggy Lewis

Tree Top

TransCanada

Georgia Pacific

3 AVAILABLE

OPERATIONS/CONTROL ROOM

PCE Pacific Inc./Emerson Delta V

INTERVIEW ROOM

Argus Insurance/HUB NW

WORK ROOM

Carolyn Cavin Wirkman &

Vincent C. Wirkman

**For more information on naming opportunities in the new building,
please contact Erin Fishburn.**



Machine Graduate Serves as an Ambassador for PTI



2008 Machine graduate, Michael Douglas, puts his skills to work as a CNC programmer at Genie Industries.

Since he graduated from Perry seven years ago, Michael Douglas has built a solid career as a CNC programmer for Genie Industries.

He has also had the opportunity to work with and hire other Perry grads. "The hands-on nature of Perry's Machine Program results in machinists who know what they are bidding because they understand what goes into making the parts," Michael says.

Michael did his externship for Irwin Research & Development in Yakima and then went to work for International Waterjet Parts in Ephrata. He has lived in Moses Lake and worked at Genie since 2010. Genie manufactures work lifts and platforms, including man lifts, stick booms, articulated booms, light towers, and telehandlers. Genie products are used in a wide range of industries on jobsites and in facilities around the world.

"It is a good company to work for, with a lot of potential for growth."

Michael enjoys his job because each day brings new tasks and challenges. "Even though we are making the same parts, things change from day to day," he says. "I like the challenges that come along with that. I like seeing the improvements that can be made to the process."

Michael serves as a member of the Machine Technology Program Advisory Committee and last year represented Genie at Perry's Employer Expo. Over the last several years, Genie has hired nearly 30 graduates of the Welding Technology Program in addition to two Machine graduates, Michael and Matt Couette.

When Perry grads come to work, they bring a solid set of skills and strong work ethics. For Genie, Michael says this translates into less training and fewer practice runs.

The grad supports his alma mater by sharing information about the school with his son's friends in Boy Scouts. "I tell them that a four-year college isn't the only way to go and encourage them to learn more about trade schools." •

Longtime Instrumentation PAC Member Dies

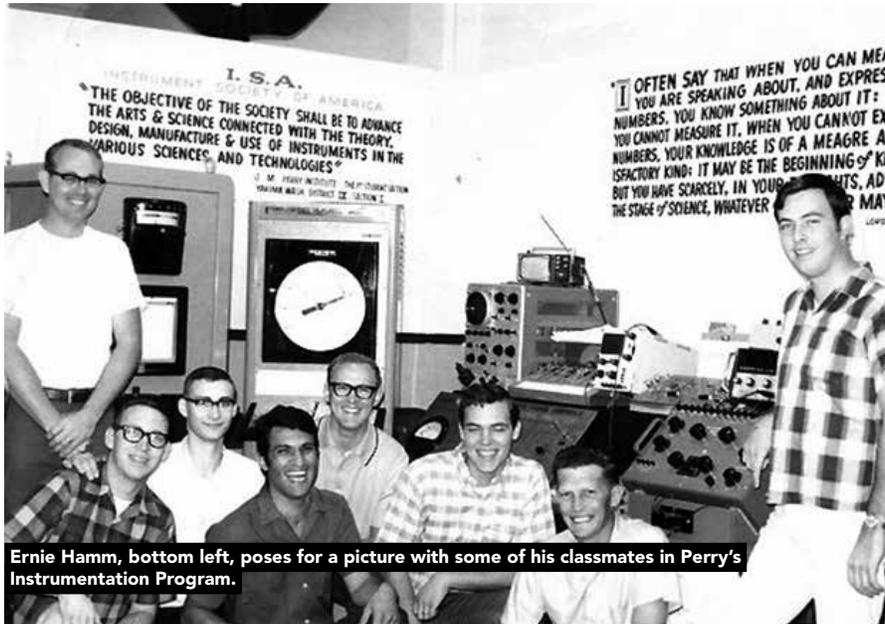
Just before the end of the year, a longtime friend to Perry, Ernie Hamm, passed away at the age of 66.

Ernie was born in Twin Falls, Idaho, and lived in Idaho until the family moved to Benton City. He graduated from Kiona-Benton High School in 1967. Ernie graduated from Perry's Instrumentation Program in 1969 and taught at Perry from 1975-1978. He served on the Instrumentation Program Advisory Committee for more than 35 years.

Ernie enlisted in the Navy in 1971, serving aboard the USS Iwo Jima until he was honorably discharged in 1973. He earned a bachelor's degree from City University, passed the professional engineering exam, and received his engineering license in 2001. Ernie worked on the Hanford site for many years and was the electrical engineering lead at WRPS-Hanford when he retired in 2011. Shortly after his retirement, he founded Hamm Consulting.

Ernie's son, Jason, graduated from Perry's Telecommunications Program in 2000.

Ernie was preceded in death by his first wife, Leandra, in 1988. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Kathleen of Yakima; his two children, Jennifer (Jason) Webber of Bangkok, Thailand, and Jason (Wendi) Hamm of Portland, Oregon; two grandchildren, Ellie and Kate Webber; and his brother, Marvin (Brenda) Hamm.



Ernie Hamm, bottom left, poses for a picture with some of his classmates in Perry's Instrumentation Program.

"Ernie was a dedicated supporter and was enthusiastically working with staff to help secure funding from businesses and alumni for Plath Hall," says Erin Fishburn, foundation director. "We will miss Ernie's forethought, wisdom, and insight on campus.

Ernie's family has chosen to remember him with memorial

donations going to support Plath Hall.

"We look forward to finding a lasting way to remember Ernie in the new facility," Erin says. •

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



December 2014

Derek Floyd

Instrumentation Technology

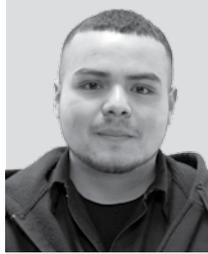
It's all about attitude, the right attitude.

In a word, that's what sets apart Perry's December Student of the Month Derek Floyd.

"Derek has the right attitude. He is always positive which is one of his best qualities," says Gerry Ries, an instructor in the Instrumentation & Industrial Automation Technology Program.

A Selah native, Derek enrolled in the program after completing an associate of arts degree at Yakima Valley Community College. "I like the science and math that are such important parts of the program," he says.

Derek followed in the footsteps of his dad who completed the Instrumentation Program three years ago. Derek, who graduated in December, has accepted a position as an instrument technician with Amgen, a biopharmaceutical company in Thousand Oaks, California. •



January 2015

Rojelio Badillo

HVAC/R Technology

He's a student on a quest for knowledge with a passion to succeed. These qualities earned Rojelio Badillo recognition as January Student of the Month.

"Rojelio is an outstanding student who has all the qualities that employers desire," says Dan Henderson, Rojelio's instructor in Perry's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology Program. "He asks 'how' and 'why' and leaves no stone unturned. He grasps concepts and shares what he learns with the rest of the class."

After graduating from Davis High School in 2011, Rojelio went to work for his brother's employer, Pacific Air Control in Bothell. While working as a driver for the company, his boss, 1982 HVAC/R graduate Ben Chadwick, encouraged him to complete Perry's HVAC/R program. "He told me Perry was the Harvard of trade schools," Rojelio says.

With encouragement from Ben and Rojelio's brother, David, who also graduated from Perry, he decided to enroll. •



February 2015

Eddie Vasquez

Automotive Technology

Automotive Technology student Eddie Vasquez never lets his hands be idle.

"If you're not doing anything, you should find something to clean," he says. Eddie's industrious nature has earned him the honor of being named February Student of the Month.

A month away from graduating, Eddie has already landed a job working as a boat rigger at Valley Marine.

A Los Angeles native, Eddie moved to Yakima when he was 13. He graduated from West Valley High School and went on to earn an associate degree from Yakima Valley Community College. The Automotive Program appealed to him because he enjoys repairing things. "There's a real sense of satisfaction that comes from being able to fix things."

Eddie's instructors describe him as having a strong work ethic. "He shows up every day with a great attitude and he goes out of his way to help fellow students," says Dusty Morrill, head of the Automotive Program. •

In Brief *Continued from page 1*

Perry Benefits from Grants

Perry Tech has benefitted from the generosity of two companies that have granted funds to support Perry's Capital Campaign, scholarships, and the Summer Robotics Camp.

- The local Walmart stores has granted funds to help fund Perry's Summer Robotics Camp. The camp is offered free of charge to 25 students who are entering seventh grade.
- The Gene Haas Foundation donated \$10,000 for scholarships for students enrolled in the Machine Technology Program.

Bank Partnership Provides Resources

HomeStreet Bank is partnering with Perry Technical Institute to provide employees, students, and alumni with a variety of resources for buying a home.

The Hometown Home Loan Program offers services such as:

- Free home-buying seminars
- Budget and credit resources
- Special loan programs
- Access to down payment assistance
- Significant savings on closing costs

For further information on the program, call 509.494.8717 or visit www.homestreet.com/PTI.

IN MEMORY

A 1987 Electrical graduate, **Bradley Beuckman** died on January 9, 2015, at age the age of 54. Bradley had a long career as a journeyman electrician and most recently worked in the Maintenance and Operations Division at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake.

Kyle Crofton died unexpectedly on December 21, 2014, at the age of 30. He graduated from the HVAC/R Program in 2008 and worked for Grub & Ellis until he suffered a shoulder injury and had to resign.

A longtime member of the Instrumentation Program Advisory Committee, **Ernie Hamm**, died on December 28, 2014, at the age of 66.

If you know of a Perry graduate who has recently passed away, please notify us by emailing perrynews@perrytech.edu.

PerryNEWS is a quarterly newsletter for alumni and friends of Perry Technical Institute. Please send address changes to:

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