



Arts program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Focusing on art and craftsmanship, they both taught classes at the Center for Metal Arts in Florida, N.Y., where Quinn took over running the school in 2015.

When Quinn toured the blacksmith shop in Johnstown, the site for the school in New York was experiencing growing pains, but he wasn't sure how to make the move to Johnstown, and shifting the equipment seemed monumental.

Burkhart introduced him to Johnstown's Korn's Galvanizing Company CEO Kathleen Ortel, who advised Quinn on managing the move. They secured a grant from the Waters Economic Development Fund at the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies. Today, Ortel is the chairman of the board for the non-profit Center for Metal Arts and refers to the move of the school to Johnstown as "the project that ate her desk."

Quinn and Neville borrowed funds to buy the machinery at the New York shop, packed it onto two flatbed and two

enclosed trailers, and drove it to Pennsylvania. Today, the Center for Metal Arts uses four buildings at the Johnstown site; it leases three and owns one, an old church rectory, which serves as a dormitory for up to 10 students.

A World-Class Forging School

UPON MOVING INTO THE restored blacksmith shop, Quinn's first focus was reviving the massive old power hammers, which hadn't moved in years. In 2019, his team completely dismantled a 3,000-pound hammer and put it back together, spending hours cleaning, scouring and



(above) Each year, the school offers a six-week workshop, teaching forging techniques at an anvil and with a power hammer. (below) Tools from the shop's 150 years of service have been gathered on pallets, awaiting possible refurbishing and use.

CINDY ROSS (2)

oiling the seized valve and lever until the jammed parts were moving freely. Then, for two weeks, while using a rented air compressor, Quinn experimented with the powerful hammer.

When I visited the school last year, he was in the middle of teaching a six-week workshop called "Forging Focus: Tool Making, Joinery and Applied Forgings," which begins with foundation work at the forge and anvil and moves to more complex work with power hammers as the weeks progress. Students start the day with formal instruction from Quinn, Neville or a guest instructor before moving into an open studio, where they are free to practice.

Quinn takes me on a tour of the facility,