



The GA-ZETTE

SUMMER 2020

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

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Put on Your Mask, It's Time for Class

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Welcome Back!

SPECIAL EDITION

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Photo courtesy of Officer James Reed, University Police & Public Safety

STATE OF THE CAMPUS: WELCOME BACK PSUGA!

NATHANIAL REGA

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Even during summer break, Penn State Greater Allegheny's faculty and staff were hard at work preparing campus for the fall semester. In-person classes will resume for the first time since the University's transition to remote learning last March in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Returning students will notice several changes made on campus and in classrooms to keep themselves and others safe.

"Our top priority right now is our students' safety and their families' safety," said Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, chancellor and chief academic officer. "Our campus is following all of the CDC, Pennsylvania Department of Health and

University's guidelines for safety."

Chairs and desks in classrooms have been rearranged and properly spaced apart to accommodate social distancing. Construction resumed this summer on the Ostermeyer building, so that space, while unusable, meant other classrooms were needed. Some courses will also be held in areas not traditionally used as a classroom, such as the Ostermeyer Room in the Student Community Center or the classroom in the Wunderley Gym.

Hand sanitizer stations have been placed all over campus, as well as signs posted with reminders to wash hands, socially distance, and to stay home if not feeling well.

Students, faculty and staff will be required to wear a mask anywhere indoors and outside on



Face coverings are now required on the PSUGA campus. Photo courtesy of Division of Student Affairs.

campus and to adhere to proper social distancing. Two branded University masks will be provided to everyone and students are advised to take advantage of the Penn State Go mobile app's COVID-19 Symptom Checker regularly during the semester. Students are also reminded to check their Penn State email regularly to stay up-to-date on changes to campus safety policies and procedures.

Although many classes are being held on campus, Edmondson said that students may find themselves enrolled in a remote or mixed-modality course which will require the use of ZOOM. Mixed-modality courses will feature both in-person and remote learning. Cameras installed in classrooms will allow professors to teach half of their students on campus while the others ZOOM in on a

rotating schedule.

To accommodate student schedules, designated "ZOOM rooms" have been set aside on campus to provide a quiet and safe space with limited occupancy for students to attend their remote classes or for student to use in between classes. Outdoor WiFi has also been made available, as some classes may meet outside during good weather.

Outside of the classroom, other changes have been made to promote student safety and health. Resident students will be given a schedule designed to avoid overcrowding and to limit contact as they continue to move into the dorms. Individuals from areas with high infection rates will need a COVID-19 pre-arrival test before returning to campus.

(Continued on page 12)



The Ostermeyer Room is one of several areas transformed into a classroom to accommodate social distancing during the fall. Photo courtesy of Megan Nagel, Associate Professor of Chemistry.

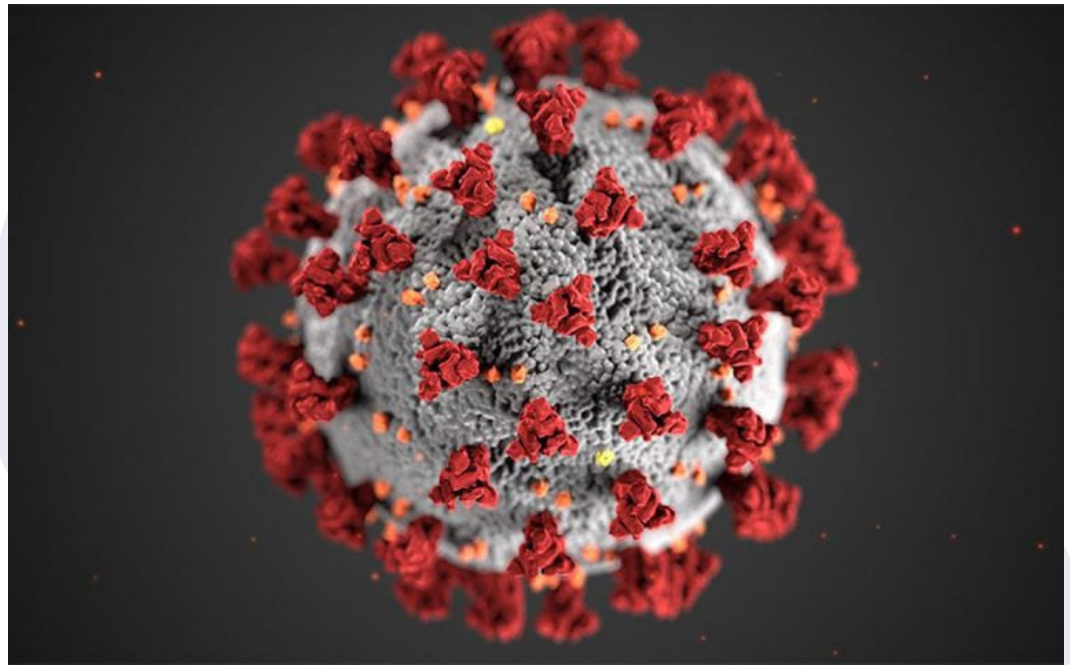
COVID-19 STUDENT COMPACT REQUIREMENT FOR FALL, 2020

Story compiled from University releases and published reports

Students checking their schedule in LionPath will find an additional element as part of their fall semester of classes. A series of pre-arrival campus requirements means all undergraduate and graduate students at every Penn State campus are required to agree to what is being called the Penn State Coronavirus Compact. Students must confirm that they read, understand and agree to the health and safety expectations and requirements for the upcoming semester.

To help protect campus and local communities from the risks posed by COVID-19, the agreement covers a variety of critical topics for students such as testing and contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, face masks, social distancing, travel policies, and flu vaccinations.

According to information from a University news release, by agreeing to the basic requirements and expectations in the compact, students “acknowledge the risks involved and declare their personal determination to do what they must to support a return to in-person



COVID-19 image courtesy of United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Some of the highlights of the student compact include:

- Agree to be tested for COVID-19 throughout the semester
- Participate in University contact tracing process
- Isolate / self-quarantine following University direction
- Always wear face coverings while on campus
- Social distance on / off campus
- Follow guidance from the University / other authorities
- Contact campus health staff if tested positive, on / off campus / out of state
- Follow good hand hygiene practices
- Seek medical care if feeling ill
- Restrict travel to what’s necessary
- Get a regular flu shot

experiences that are safe and sustainable, as possible.”

While the University “expects high participation based on student survey feedback,” the agreement covers potential consequences for failing to abide by the compact in ways that risk others’

health and safety.

Students who are not able to sustain these commitments throughout the semester “may forfeit their ability to continue with on-campus activities, classes and living, including through suspension or expulsion in line with the student conduct process,”

the University said.

In addition, to help reduce the risk of widespread virus transmission, Penn State employees also will be required to wear masks, practice physical distancing, and comply with other health and safety guidelines this semester.

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!



PennState
Greater Allegheny

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE GRADUATES

Communications

Monica Burke
Katie Summer Chuahong
Dylan Finocchi

Jean-Luc James Foster
Jer'Cara Magwood-Jones

Letters, Arts and Sciences

Robert Joseph Strickling

English

Erika Kristine Lundin
Shannon Reid

Psychology

Lexus Adrianna Griffin
Michael R. Iannace
Angela Kij

Genesis Paige Krause
Jiyi Zheng

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE GRADUATES

Administration of Justice

K'Vaught'e Jason DeVaughn
Sydney Rae Fritchman

Lilli Justa
Michael Anthony Kemple

Biobehavioral Health

Ronni Michelle Corbett
Keeyarra Mohammed

Courtney VanHorn
Andre Williams

Business

Nicola's Armando Blacutt
Darwin Christian
Nina Rose Crystol-Santiago
Noah Dudek
Chloe Elisabeth Fine
George Edward Graybill
Jessica Nicole Gronlund
Colby Terrell Hall
Khushi Nimesh Kantawala

Lev Leychkis
Luke Edward Robinson
Nicholas Schiller
Raeann Emily Sleith ♦
Emily Jo Spisak
Clifton Stumme
Megan Vanessa Trunk
Latoya L. Tyree

Information Sciences and Technology

Marc A. Bailey ♦♦
Zachary Craven
Dario Marina

Leela Ram Nepal
Makis K. Rivera
Manuel Rosario

Project and Supply Chain Management

Danial Jalali
John M. Mesco
Delaney Rose O'Toole

Psychology

Megan Brady
Raeann Emily Sleith ♦

*The GA-Zette team
wishes you all the best in
your future endeavors!*



Photo courtesy of Zack Rosen, Strategic Planning & Communications

♦ Cum Laude Distinction Candidate

♦♦ Suma Cum Laude Distinction Candidate



COMM STUDENTS HELP COMMUNITY “BE GREATER” THROUGH NEW AGENCY

Do you know any local nonprofit organization that needs some marketing and communications help, especially during this pandemic period?

“Be Greater Creative” is a campus exclusive marketing services agency that is the brainchild of public relations and marketing students who sought to work on “real life” projects for area nonprofits while also practicing their writing, PR and marketing skills.

“The students worked on a project for an autism-related organization called ‘Band Together’ and the agency was an outgrowth of that work,” said Professor Rosemary Martinelli, the faculty advisor to the agency. “The students developed the name, worked with Victoria Garwood and her strategic planning and communications department to develop the logomark, and they launched the



COMM 471 students, from left to right: (standing) Dylan Finocchi, Emily Spisak, Nathaniel Rega, Monica Burke, (seated) Riley Perciavalle, Troy Ferguson.

agency late last spring, all the while working remotely during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.”

Students added that the best part of the experience was working with the nonprofit, Band Together, the nonprofit that formed the basis for the agency launch. “The cause for helping people on the autism spectrum was amazing,” explained Monica Burke, founding “Be Greater Creative” member and a Spring, 2020 COMM graduate.

“It was very fulfilling to be able to help out an actual nonprofit and see the progress that we helped them make at the same time.”

Anyone on campus who knows of an organization that needs some marketing and communications support can apply to the agency at the “Be Greater Creative” website (<https://greaterallegheny.psu.edu/academics/communications/be-greater-creative>). Martinelli says no project is too small for the students to

review and complete as part of their academic course work this year or as part of their volunteer work that can help them build their professional portfolios for graduation.

“‘Be Greater Creative’ was an amazing experience for me at my time at Greater Allegheny,” Burke said. “It gave me first-hand experience with creating a real-life project while also seeing what it takes to work at a PR agency. It also was a lot fun to work with my fellow classmates!”

Currently, the agency is being promoted through the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and its member organizations.

A community meet and greet to further promote “Be Greater Creative” will be held in spring, 2020 when social distancing and state pandemic health restrictions on large group meetings are lifted.

GA CAMPUS “BEE”-ING PATIENT ON COLONIES’ ARRIVAL

NATHANIAL REGA

News Editor

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Six feet apart...wear a mask...wash your hands...the rules of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But not in the backyard of Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, Galen Grimes. In fact, more than 22-thousand are partying every day!

Well, 22-thousand bees, that is.

Since late April, two nucleus bee colonies have been under Grimes’ watchful eyes at his Pittsburgh home in prep for their transport to the Greater Allegheny campus and their new home near the maintenance building. An extended winter and other priorities for campus facilities staff during the pandemic have changed the bees’ scheduled arrival to campus, but Grimes’ care and the feeding of the bees is keeping them safe until then.

Grimes has more than two years experience caring for bees and has attended multiple classes, seminars and presentations on beekeeping. Earlier this year, *The GA-Zette* talked with Grimes to discover how he could



The colony is in good hands at Professor Grimes’ home.

care for the bees, which are the core of a sustainability program for the campus.

Grimes began feeding them with a 1:1 sugar water solution. In four

months since the bees arrived at his home, the two hives—aptly named the “blue hive” and the “white hive”—have collectively bred more than 22-thousand bees and, in



Grimes using smoke to calm the bees before entering the hive, a common practice among beekeepers.

turn, the bees are making honey. However, don’t expect to get a taste of any of that honey yourself until late spring or summer of 2021.

“A general rule of beekeeping is you don’t harvest honey for the first year,” Grimes explained. “What you want to do is let them build up their stores so they have a sufficient quantity to get themselves through the winter and then check to see what they have left over in the spring. If it’s a sufficient quantity that’s worth harvesting, then you extract it.”

Once the bees are safely housed on campus, students are welcome to get involved and learn about beekeeping. Grimes and another fellow beekeeper, Victoria Garwood, director of strategic planning and communications for the Greater Allegheny campus, will eventually start a bee club to get students interested in beekeeping.

Jean-Luc James Foster, Spring 2020 COMM graduate, also contributed to this story.

Photos courtesy of Galen Grimes, associate professor of information science and technology

THE PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

STILL AT “INTERMISSION”:

Faces first financial crisis, furloughs, in 37 years

Story compiled from Cultural Trust press releases and published reports



“Dancing With The Stars 2020 Tour” was one stage performance that was able to entertain Pittsburghers just before the COVID-19 pandemic shattered the Cultural Trust’s thousands of other scheduled cultural offerings this year.

Just like all non-essential businesses at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust—the region’s premier arts and cultural organization that has been revitalizing downtown Pittsburgh’s arts scene since 1984--closed the curtain on its theaters and venues to keep its patrons safe.

But as the pandemic dragged on, the Trust, like other arts and cul-

ture organizations and nonprofits, had to face hard facts that impacted its bottom line and future performance schedules.

“Everything is up in the air now,” Trust President and CEO, J. Kevin McMahon, stated in a recent press release. “The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust does not have a date set to reopen our theaters, galleries, and venues and given the uncertainty of when it will be safe to gather again, we are

proactively working with national tours and presenters to realign all 2020 season programs into the 2021 calendar year.”

More than 4,000 performances were cancelled since March and the lack of ticket revenue forced the furlough of nearly all employees, except for 50 staff members. The Trust’s Director of Communications, Robin Elrod, said that due to the pandemic, the Trust is facing a \$3 million gap in its 2020 budget.

“There is a fund campaign that we launched to help with the budget: Art Connects Us, where we are challenging our community to help us meet various fundraising goals through the end of the year, to chip away at this large deficit, which is the first in Cultural Trust history,” Elrod said.

“The campaign website (TrustArts.org/CriticalFund) outlines not only how the pandemic

has wreaked havoc on the Trust’s events and financial standing, but the ripple effects of our economic impact on downtown businesses,” she added.

Since the state of the world put a pause on group gatherings, The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust turned some stage performances into virtual events that anyone could “attend” for inspiration. For example, in June The Three Rivers Art Festival took place virtually, where patrons were able to stroll Pittsburgh streets to “see the art.” Elrod said that “you were able to see art and even purchase things from the website like you would in person.”

As the pandemic continues with no immediate end in sight, the Trust will continue to try to offer virtual programs and events to provide entertainment at trustarts.org. The site also provides information on virtual fundraising and the future of the Trust’s reopening in 2021.

Culture and Arts Editor, Troy Ferguson, (tdf5134@psu.edu) also contributed to this story.

Photo courtesy The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.



PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST

OPINIONS... FROM WHERE WE SIT

COVID-19 & THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

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Guest Columnist

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As if death by law enforcement to the prejudice of unarmed African Americans, from Eric Garner to Antwon Rose, was not already a needless guilt for the nation, this hecatomb with the recent death of George Floyd has taken our attention away from the much larger concern of the pandemic.

In the era, following emancipation, there was Joe Turner, who snatched black men from the streets and carried them off to work in his plantation for a set number of years. Turner was the quintessence of the racist mentality to punish the black man for even the most remotely criminal act. The slightest slip up deems him a violent man.

The way we tend to calculate what is in his heart is as inconsistent as it is preconceived. Those Minneapolis police officers obviously did not care if Floyd was unarmed or even subdued. They were taking advantage of the construct that black men have an innate inclination to violence. Most chauvinists will look for almost any excuse to turn their race

into a weapon against them.

Law enforcement does not even admit to these overreactions—departments either keep silent or cover them up. They wanted us to believe that Floyd's death was a result of natural causes. Doctors say that Floyd tested positive for the coronavirus back in April, and if he was on the brink of death while in police custody, we ought to count it a mercy killing. It is these cover ups that hint at our society being compromised by aesthetic and ethical sensibilities.

We colored people are not a violent people. No, but we are very good fighters. I do not speak for Muhammad Ali, with the exchange of fists, but for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with the exchange of words. The only reason chauvinists think otherwise is because they are unaware that black people served in great wars, excluded at first, then accepted, but only as cannon fodder. Then is no different from now because we are still taking most of the flak and because racism coincided with those wars, Floyd's death is what a victory looks like.

I am sorry, but as the second autopsy



Photo: "Black Lives Matter," projected onto the facade of the Washington National Cathedral, June 10, 2020, licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike, 4.0, International License.

shows, what happened to George Floyd was no mercy killing or a victory. It was a first-degree murder by four reckless police officers that hurt us worse than any virus or bombshell could. We do not just need to wash our hands, wear masks or social distance ourselves. We need colorblind law enforcement.

We do not need diversions to space travel

either. We need to bring these Joe Turners to justice. And we need a president who understands that these types of things are at the top of the list of what this country needs. We all know it is not too much to ask.

Shannon M. Reid is a Spring 2020 English graduate of Penn State Greater Allegheny

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GREATER ALLEGHENY'S AUTUMN AFFLICTION OF LEARNING

RILEY PERCIAVALLE

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As we all know, the last six weeks of the spring 2020 semester were hectic. COVID-19 cases were “nesting” in countries, taking down thousands, and changing our everyday student lives to make them even more complicated than they may have been before. It isn’t good or bad, but more complicated, to say the least.

Even after the three-month period of quarantining, it seemed to not help, as more cases sprouted, and yet, it seems to have become a normal occurrence for us. What isn’t going to be a normal day for us is your average day of learning at your local public school or college campus here in Allegheny County, even on our beloved Greater Allegheny campus.

At the beginning of the local lockdown, we had to swap from being in the classroom to being at home on our tablets and computers. It made it easy for some, but harder for the others who did not take to the change. I am among this crowd. A lot of cons can start from this, most being that some of us do not have the best

Internet connection. Other cons: distractions from families and neighbors, house phones ringing, pets bopping all over the owners, and more than one car passing by the “classroom” windows.

Yet the changes that went into effect earlier this month, in prep for the fall, seem to breed more confusion. Fights and arguments and disagreements on both sides have been in the news, all centered on the reopening of classes. This includes what to do for class time at Penn State. From what I gathered, we’ll see a mix of ideas and means for our fall classes. Most could be online. However, it may not work across the board. Some students have to be in person to grasp the learning. In fact, some students must be in class, face-to-face, to continue their work and graduate.

(Continued on next page)

AFFLICTION OF LEARNING (CONT.)

(Continued from page 9)

It's a hard transition, as we do not know if we students can handle it. In fact, some may stress and not keep up without the physical presence of their professors guiding them in class. Then there are other classes that will be half in person and then online and then maybe live through ZOOM.

A prediction I have

this week of returning-to-campus, is that this will be a little bit of a calamity like before. The first few weeks will be hectic, as we are adjusting to new surroundings—with masks and social distancing—and as we try to battle out this new system of different class formats for our education.

As a student who hasn't really fully grasped

the idea of online learning, I will take my chances with in-person or the hybrid classes on our campus.

Let's face it. It is the way professors teach that really will make the differences in learning, as it has been for centuries. Different ways of learning can be taught and I can try to adjust, while some need other methods to

grasp the concepts, while we deal with cases of COVID-19 around us.

It can be easy for some who take their online classes, but I intend to show up to campus, with a mask on my face, as we still try to fight this pandemic.

Welcome back, students.

DIARY OF A MAD ESSENTIAL WORKER

TROY FERGUSON

Culture/Arts Editor

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The COVID-19 pandemic certainly has flipped our worlds upside down. Working in the service industry has many ups and many downs to the job. At the beginning of this pandemic, I was stressed about making enough money to pay my bills, however, I was very fortunate to work take-out to make ends meet. It is very important to keep in mind that your server has no control over the new guidelines or the long waits at a restaurant during this time.

Once we were given the go to serve dine-in, I was excited and nervous all at the same time. I miss the social interaction with my guests and my regulars. It was so great. As usual, there are always a few bad experiences



Photo illustration by The GA-Zette.

with tables, and a few terrible tips.

It is so infuriating to risk your health and serve individuals and get below fifteen percent. It is no secret that servers only make \$2.83 an hour and never really get a paycheck. With taxes taken out of checks, we never see our hourly wages. Servers are already stressed because we are working at 25 percent capacity and that includes the staff!

We do not have a full

staff to accommodate the public demands for dine-in. Unfortunately, because of that, most people take it out on the workers who are doing their best.

Another frustrating thing that always gets taken out on the servers: your server has no control over the pandemic or the rules that the governor has put in place to keep everyone safe. I was yelled by a customer for the amount alcohol he was allowed to consume. It got to the point where

I even had a group of people leave because they couldn't drink before their food arrived. I think that is what some people might be confused about. We as servers are just working to make money to pay for our bills.

Also, tip your server at least 20 percent. Some of us have very limited shifts to make our money. Your \$2 on an \$80 check is not helping or making our day any easier. It just shows that you should not be coming out to eat during a global pandemic.

Everyone in the world is stressed due to everything going on now. I think the most important thing to keep in mind at the moment is be kind to everyone. I think that is what the world needs.

So please wash your hands, wear a mask, and please, for the love of God, tip your servers!

90 SECONDS UNDER THE BLUE UMBRELLA

TIMELY TOPICS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

RILEY PERCIAVALLE | Contributing Writer | rup70@psu.edu

“As the fall semester arrives, how do you feel about wearing a mask as part of your daily life? Any feelings towards this requirement to keep the COVID-19 cases down?”

Connie Surman, *Administrative Coordinator, Academic Affairs*

“I have no problem wearing a mask as part of my daily life. It is something small that I can do to help protect others.”



Jesse Vargo, *Sophomore, Film/Video Major*

“I don’t care about wearing a mask. It’s been part of our lives for months now and is going to be for further months in the future. If wearing masks is the best way to beat this Covid crap then I am all for wearing them.”

Emmy Radich, *Assistant Professor, Energy Engineering*

“I find the physical nature of wearing a mask to be a little frustrating, especially considering the importance of verbal communication and facial expression during instruction. However, my desire to show others consideration and to work together as a team in preventing illness for our campus and surrounding local communities deems it an extremely small sacrifice for our collective greater good...one I’m happy to make.”



Katie Shields, *Senior, IS&T*

“The new norm may feel a bit odd to a lot of students, but wearing a mask is for the protection of the people around me. I care a lot about my campus and community, so if protecting the people I care about requires me to wear a mask, I’ll do so in a heartbeat. It’s uncomfortable but at the end of the day, I’d rather do that than risk the spread of COVID-19.”

Andrew Marshall, *Reference Instruction Librarian, Kelly Library*

“I’m totally fine with the mask mandate if it helps us to minimize infections and get back to ‘normal’ as soon as possible.”



Johnathan Jevon White, *Lecturer, History*

“Our faces are part of our human signature. It’s one of the first things people notice. But, in these times wearing masks is important. It’s a small sacrifice to protect ourselves and those most vulnerable. It’s like a reflex at this point. I grab it before I go out. That being said, I look forward to when we can freely socialize without masks. It’s important that we not let social distancing turn our humanity and love for each other cold.”

STATE OF THE CAMPUS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 2)

Random testing will be implemented shortly after the initial arrival.

Fall semester sports have been postponed, but athletes can still look forward to training individually or in smaller sized teams until it's safe to compete again. Welcome week events hosted by Student Affairs will be held virtually or in small groups on campus.

Edmondson added that

efforts are still underway to continue some of the campus' signature activities. Students can look forward to the Crossing Bridges Summit being held throughout the year.

The focus of this year's Summit, on Oct. 15, will be on black women's health, based on findings from a University of Pittsburgh report that black women in the Pittsburgh region have great disparities in their healthcare when com-

pared nationally to other groups. Panelists will explore the topic from their perspectives in a four-part series of webinars throughout the year.

Townhall meetings and unity talks will be held after sessions where students and staff can participate in the conversation and think of ways to make the PSUGA campus a catalyst for change.

Students are strongly encouraged to contact campus faculty and

staff with any questions or concerns they face throughout the semester.

"Penn State Greater Allegheny has an incredible campus community, and we are here to make sure that students are successful in reaching their educational goals," Edmondson stated, "Reach out if there is anything we can do because we want to make sure that we see everyone safely through this uncertain period."

PSUGA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE



This month marks the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in the United States. The 19th Amendment was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920, in time for the Nov. presidential election. On March 3, at the start of Women's History Month, faculty, staff and students marched throughout the Greater Allegheny campus in what was to be a months-long celebration. Unfortunately, due to the transition to remote learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional events were cancelled. Dr. Veronica Montecinos, distinguished professor of sociology and program coordinator of Teaching International, chaired the celebration.