

# The GA-ZETTE

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

FALL 2019



Blue Ribbon Initiative for Mon Valley's Future - Page 2

My Holiday Apocalypse - Page 6

SGA's Fresh Start Page - Page 9

The Dynamic Lady Lions - Page 14



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

# Mon Valley Launchbox “Blue Ribbon Initiative” for Career Opportunities

Photos and Story by Shannon Reid

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McKeesport, Pa—More than 130 people gathered at the former YWCA headquarters on Sept. 4 for the grand opening of the Mon Valley Launchbox. The event was to honor the efforts and dedication of the Penn State Greater Allegheny staff and faculty members involved in Invent Penn State, the university-wide initiative to drive job creation, economic development, and student career suc-



cess within the local community.

Invent Penn State was the vision of University President, Eric Barron, to redefine the university’s land grant mission. Barron was on hand for the official ribbon-cutting.

“Well, as you’ve seen, the Mon Valley Launchbox provides educational and technical support for aspiring entrepreneurs,” Barron said.

“It connects faculty and professionals and students who are passionate about building a vibrant

community in downtown McKeesport and surrounding areas.”

The Mon Valley Launchbox is the latest installment in Invent Penn State’s franchise of 21 Launchboxes, each owing allegiance to their respective campuses and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

This Launchbox serves as a conduit for the economic development compact between Penn State Greater Allegheny and the city of McKeesport as an apparatus to restore economic equity to the Mon Valley communities.

“The Mon Valley Launchbox is about commitment, vision and resilience,” Penn State Greater Allegheny Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Jacqueline Edmondson, said. “It’s about making a difference in the lives of people who have been left behind by a post-industrial economy that lavished this region over three decades ago.

“This space is about realizing social and economic change, and most importantly, it is about hope”, she added.

Through the Mon Valley Launchbox’s training and mentorship, new entrepreneurs meet a wellspring of

intensive research on business administration, career development, business funding, and legal, financial, and entrepreneurial advice.

All this is tied together by the Launchbox staff’s dedication to facilitate the sometimes-difficult process of transforming research discoveries into viable products and services.



State Rep. of the 35th District, Pennsylvania Legislator Austin Davis, served as master of ceremonies during the event.

President Barron has counted more than 5-thousand faculty, staff, and university-wide students active in entrepreneurial administration from 2016 to 2018. He also noted that there are 325 newly developed products and startups, 45 new companies and 500 new internships statewide as a result of the Launchboxes.

Six local businesses in the Mon Valley owe their

success to the Launchbox, including Vicky’s Soul Grill, Granny’s Kitchen, Unique Boutique, Simplicity Event Planners, KL Experience, Cobbler World, and the Diversity Moving Company.

Invent Penn State raised over \$6-million to offset the budgets of its Launchboxes, including \$150-thousand in seed grants to Greater Allegheny to develop the Launchbox with the Mon Valley as a pillar for social and economic change.

Two grants, worth \$85-thousand, to the Launchbox, came from the Jefferson Regional Foundation.

“Dr. Barron really put his money where his mouth is,” Manager of Strategic Initiatives Aaron Whigham commented. “In university money, where their mouth is, by doubling down and saying that ‘we’re gonna back this with \$50-thousand seed grants for three years’ and then by saying, ‘if you’re able to raise \$1-million,’ we’ll match it dollar-for-dollar.”



**On the cover:** Joining Chancellor Jaqueline Edmondson (third from left), and PSU President Eric Barron (fourth from left), at the Mon Valley Launchbox are (left to right): Eric Ewell, Director of Continuing Education; McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko; Edmondson and Barron; Vice President of Penn State Commonwealth Campuses Madlyn Hanes; Aaron Whigham, Co-coordinator of the Mon Valley Launchbox; State Representative Austin Davis; State Senator Jim Brewster; and Penn State Street Team members: Siobhan Brooks, Erica Willis, Erica Tachoir, and Jonathan White.

Whigham and Director of Continuing Education Eric Ewell of Penn State Greater Allegheny are co-facilitators of the Mon Valley Launchbox. Ewell and Whigham are also members of the Penn State Street Team, a group of full-time faculty and staff representing the campus in the Greater McKeesport area. Each member of the Street Team is connected to a local group or organization—churches, community centers, school districts, and institutions of higher learning—that each works with to analyze the voids in the community and agree on a resolution to fill those voids.

Their job is to go out into the communities and talk with people about what the Launchbox could do to help them save the economy.

Other Street Team members include Lecturer of History, Jonathan White; Program Director of Academic Center for Excellence, Erica Willis; Coordinator of Guskin Learning Center, Disability Services, and Academic Affairs, Siobhan Brooks; Staff Assistant of Continuing Education, Mylisha Burns and; Manager of Academic Advising and Career Education and Development and founding Street Team member, Erica C. Tachoir.

“Specifically, in my role,” said Tachoir, “I was working with some of the local churches, as well as working with some of the local schools to find out what specific educational needs there were in the community and how we could align our programming to meet some

of those educational needs for people here. We didn’t want to create programs that we thought were beneficial but that nobody in the community thought were going to be beneficial.

Tachoir added, “And so, we thought it was really important for us to ask people what they needed and then to try to meet those needs with our programs.”

The Mon Valley Innovation Hub on the third floor of the Launchbox, has a conference room, a computer lab completes with 16 Apple Mac desktop computers and several workstations.



A commercial kitchen is on the first floor and it will be reserved for food vendors. The Innovation hubs were set up at each different Launchbox across the state so that by being more openly exposed to the communities, the people can develop a much stronger economic frame of reference.

Also, in this way, the Innovation hubs will always be open to community members who want to participate in the discussion meetings.

“And I think when we talk about working together for a better McKeesport,” said McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko, himself a Penn State alumnus, “we look at it as more than a slogan. It’s not

a slogan, it’s an invitation... an invitation that’s open to anyone that wants to be part of what we have here in the city, where we’re moving in the city, and to be part of McKeesport rising.”

Combined with his own experiences with the high-quality education of his alma mater, Mayor Cherepko knows what Penn State could do for the Mon Valley communities, as well as everybody who lives there.

“Mayor Cherepko’s vision of McKeesport rising is inspirational and some may say against the odds, but I know he will never give up on his city, its great people, and the potential that is here, and neither will we,” Edmondson said. “Mayor Cherepko knows the power of Penn State and how linking arms with our greater university advances his vision to affect real change.”

“We’ve really had a downhill spiral,” Cherepko said, “we’ve gone downhill. We wanted to climb it and then years ago, thanks to our senator (Senator Jim Brewster), who was mayor at the time, and I think Senator Brewster put that great foundation in place for us; to where we hit rock bottom, he put that foundation in place for us; to where we hit rock bottom, he put that foundation for us in order for us to grow,” Cherepko concluded.

The audience got some nourishing time in near the end of the ceremony to enjoy the southern soul food served by Vicky’s Soul Grill. In addition to the opening of the Mon Valley Launchbox, it was the opening day of her catering business.

Vickey Giddens, the own-

er, long dreamed of working in catering. Ewell and Whigham helped shape that dream. They gave her advice on a brand identity, a standard customer service policy, and helped her to build a client base.

The Mon Valley Launchbox is sure to fulfill its purpose out of which it was entirely built: to connect Penn State Greater Allegheny with the Mon Valley communities, to win the trust of aspiring entrepreneurs in assisting them in their startup ideas, bringing their businesses to fruition and transforming new products into viable goods, and to reestablish the Mon Valley.

Individuals interested in learning more about starting a business through the Mon Valley Launchbox, can go to [psu.edu/innovation-hub/launchbox/GA](http://psu.edu/innovation-hub/launchbox/GA)

*This story is part one of a three-part series on Penn State Greater Allegheny’s involvement in the revitalization of the Mon Valley. Next edition of The GA-Zette will feature part two: a retrospective of the industrialization of the Mon Valley, its fall, and the plans for its resurgence.*

## Safety Corner with Lt. Diane Grimm

Story and photo by Troy Ferguson  
tdf5134@psu.edu

During all shifts, campus police officers “routinely random patrol” around campus. They check buildings and provide a uniform pre-sence on campus, at events, and respond to all types of reported concerns, whether it is a possible crime, medical issue, or safety issue,” according to Lt. Diane Grimm, Penn State Greater Allegheny police commander.

Students also have a responsibility on campus to ensure safety by reporting anything that just doesn’t seem right, she said. The proper way to report an emergency is to first call 9-1-1.

Grimm said, “Our non-emergency number is 412-675-9130, and that number can also be used for any concern on campus. We have a responsibili-

ty to report crimes.”

Campus police have some tips to ensure a safe Greater Allegheny:

- Study the campus and surrounding neighborhood with respect routes between your residence and classes.
- Know where emergency phones are located.
- Survey the campus, from parking lots, gymnasium, residence halls, classroom buildings, and anywhere where people gather. Make sure you know

where emergency exits are located.

- Know the campus!
- Don’t let anyone into a dorm building unless you know for sure they live there.
- Use the buddy system and always travel in groups—especially after a dark.
- Share your class /activities schedule with your parents and close friends on campus, so people know where you are.

Grimm concluded, “Safety is on all of our shoulders. We all have to take ownership of it and take care of each other. We all want to have a safe campus, and reporting suspicious situations (even anonymously), can make lifesaving differ-



PSU police always patrol the GA campus

# Campus Re-dux, Buildings and More

Story and photos by Dylan Finocchi  
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Fall 2019  
The GA-Zette  
Pg. 5

Campus renovations are happening at Greater Allegheny. Many locations around campus are being changed, fixed or improved, as the fall 2019 semester is well underway.

First on the list is the Ostermeyer Building, which was built in 1972. It is being remodeled. People wondering what the new building between Frable and Main is, it is a moveable temporary lab for use during construction. Dave Denardo, the business and facilities director on campus, said, “This temporary lab was recently used at other Penn State campuses, like Hazelton and Berks. It will be here for at least two years.” This lab is used during renovations so that classes can continue, uninterrupted, Denardo added.

Another improvement that was recently finished was the extension to the sidewalk leading from the Main Building, down to the brown parking lot. Prior to that, students had to walk in the street.

“Student safety is an important driving factor when it comes to these types of renovations,” said Denardo. “The roads crossing through campus get busy with cars and they can get dangerous, especially in the winter months.”

Finally, faculty office renovations on the second floor of Frable were completed in October.

Funds for these projects come from many different areas, but one specific way Denardo emphasized was the Student Facility Fee Committee. This committee is run by students who determine how the money is used. “It is your money, you decide,” declared Denardo. “The next renovation voted by students is the renovation of the gameroom in the Student Community Center and that will begin in the winter.”

Another renovation on the Greater Allegheny campus’s scope is the Kelly Library, which was built in 1972. Denardo says it is “due for renovation and is currently on the five-year capital plan.” He finalized about the renovations as a whole by saying, “Our Greater Allegheny campus strives for giving each student the same great Penn State experiences as at all of the other campuses.”



This non-descript building between Frable and Main is the Ostermeyer Lab. It will be here for two years while the Ostermeyer Building undergoes renovations.



A new sidewalk along University Drive was part of summer campus renovations, as were rooms and offices in Frable.

# OPINIONS... FROM WHERE WE SIT



As I walked into most stores for usual necessities, I started to notice an odd holidayland with Halloween and Christmas decorations surrounding me. Not only was it September and October, but also apparently, we were riding a one-horse open sleigh driven by the Headless Horseman with his pumpkin head lighting the way.

Is it me or do holidays come way too early? Going into stores, you see Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day displayed in January. There are several stores around Pittsburgh that seem to push out holidays way before the due date of their actual month. Even after Halloween passes, we seem to kick Thanksgiving to the curb, We give Halloween and Christmas the bigger love, and other, minimal.

Marketing is a good reason why companies can easily push out products. since adults of this day and age can relive the glory days of their childhood.

My theory of the big push is the nostalgic feeling: adults can see costume and decoration to make them feel like a kid again. Kids back then were dressing up, now adults are fully dressed up as characters and making Christmas decorating with their families in October.

Leaning towards this possible theory, it's why companies have also pushed out a lot of these holiday-themed candies and decorations. They want to have extra profits from their products, while also getting more than just kids in costume.

We as humans may be obsessed with these happy times, but we should consider how long to keep it going, not when it starts. Celebrate with costume parties whenever, not just in October. Have a family get together, not just



## Self Care... WE CARE!

By Troy Ferguson  
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On Wednesday, Oct. 2, Susan Klebold, came to speak to our campus. Klebold is the mother of Dylan Klebold, a perpetrator in the 1999 Columbine Massacre. After the attack, Dylan and his friend Eric Harris ,committed suicide. Mrs. Klebold spoke to us on mental illness and suicide.

As expected, Klebold was a powerful speaker. She wasn't excusing her son's actions, which I think is powerful. Her purpose was to shine a light on suicide and mental illness.

Klebold said, many times throughout her speech, that she had no idea that her son was struggling with depression. There were a few outbursts in his last year of life. She said, however, that only after she found his writings in a notebook that was in his locker, that he was suffering from mental illness. It is so important to talk about mental health.

A huge warning sign is any change in behavior. It is vital for everyone to talk about mental health and well-being because we all have a brain. It is also very important to prevent tragedies, such as sui-

cide.

But how?

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But how?

I think people in the limelight such as Demi Lovato, Lady Gaga, and Logic do a great deal of mental health advocacy. When people in the public eye talk about these issues, it really helps to remove the stigma that surrounds mental illness. However, we must still talk about it more. We must always remember that the brain is just as important as your heart. I think the more we talk about mental health, the better society will be.

Today, I feel that men tend to feel ashamed to seek help and that can be very dangerous. We live in a society where

## Going Global—Your Classroom Around the World

Story and photo by Raenn Sleith  
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*Business Major, Raenn Sleith, is spending this fall semester in Vienna, Austria, where she is taking classes in her major, thanks to Penn State's Global Program. In this first of a two part report, Raenn introduces us to the program and how anyone with drive and interest can earn course credit anywhere in the world.*

Researching where it is that you want to move to for a few months, where you want to be based for your time abroad, where to explore the most, and of course, take courses that will count toward your degree, can be quite intimidating.



*Raenn Sleith says "We Are" from Zagreb, Croatia.*

The Global Penn State website([global.psu.edu](http://global.psu.edu)) is a great resource for locating programs which have a relationship with the University. This means that the courses offered by those programs might have a better chance at counting toward your degree and Penn State has had a good experience with those programs. The Global Penn State website might be the best place to filter out your options.

You will also want to talk to your advisor to see what types of courses you need to take while studying abroad. Some students can take courses that do not go toward their degree because they have room for it in their schedule.

Other students have specific course requirements and even some programs can be accommodating of your requirements.

My program was very understanding and allowed me to get priority on the waitlist for a course that I needed. The course equivalency process can take time to process.

I am still waiting to hear if two of my courses will transfer and count towards my degree.

If you have any questions or would like to hear more about my personal experience abroad, feel free to reach out to me at [res5584@psu.edu](mailto:res5584@psu.edu)!

*Next Time: In part two of her report, Raenn explains how studying abroad builds an understanding of other cultures.*

## Job Search “Boot Camp” Gives Students Advantage

By Riley Percaivalle  
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On Oct. 5, Penn State Greater Allegheny hosted its third annual Resume Boot Camp. The event is a way to let students experience how life will be after graduating from Greater Allegheny.

According to Dr. Erica Tachoir, manager of academic advising and career education and development, “The idea came three years ago to replace the career fair. It wasn’t working out for many reasons, with setup being one of them. It was for the students to come here and talk to employers.”

Students could register for the boot camp and receive a better time than the previous event, she added.

The Boot Camp displays a way to inform students about the work experience each one will face in the future. This event ran from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for students to gather five hours worth of information.

“The importance of this event is networking, choosing to be here, learn good information,” stated Tachoir, “Students have to follow through coming to this event, or they’re going to miss out on the opportunity to learn what to do. You have to go to the job here, the job isn’t coming to you.”

Students seem to miss out on most of these offers as, the events are seen as inconvenient or not worth the drive to others.

Tachoir makes a humorous statement, saying, “It’s like we’re bring employers to the backyard without them leaving the campus.”

This event showcases the importance to a student’s career. “It shows students’ initiative, like they’re dedicated,” stated Tachoir. She proves this to be a valid point, as events focusing on jobs are a reason why students get a better understanding of employment.

“I can bring the job fair here with speakers and if you are not using this to an advantage, then it is your fault for missing out what these events offer,” she said.



College events are centered for students commuting or living on the campus, and with devoted students coming to them, it is no surprise the determination they share. Penn State student, Sabrina Yushinski, arrived at the event and was properly ready for the excitement happening at the boot camp.

“I can gain better networking, make a better resume, and have better professional experience,” Yushinski explained. Her expectations were standard as she believes this will all have a big advantage to help make a difference in her career field down the road.

Other ways this will help she stated, “With interviews, speaking professionally, and help with work experience.” Yushinski’s determination shined through that early Saturday morning as she was formally dressed with resume in hand.

Students at Penn State can learn the importance of the boot camp as they are leaving their campus and heading into the real-world.

The Resume Boot camp is always welcoming students as it helps them to, make their resume better, and their performance excellent when the time comes to find a job.

### Penn State’s Job Search/Resume Guide

- **Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss your chosen field.**
- **Set up social media accounts, keeping them clean while following organizations under you field.**
- **Type 1 or 2 pages of your resume, depending on the career you choose.**
- **Use actions words to make your resume to stand out (Achieved, Guided, Recommended, etc.).**
- **Approach 3-5 individuals, ask each of them if they’re willing to reference you for the interview.**
- **Write out questions that will be anticipated for your interview.**

**Credit: [www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/](http://www.studentaffairs.psu.edu/)**

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The GA-Zette thanks the campus community for participating in the survey that helped to name this paper.

**THANK YOU!**



# Student Government Association (SGA) Revitalized for Academic Year

Story by Shannon Reid

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Fall 2019  
The GA-Zette  
Pg. 9

The first Penn State Greater Allegheny Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of the year was called to order at noon on Sept. 1, starting with the introduction of a new president and new members, as well as a review of rules of conduct. The meeting was to set up a series of sessions where members meet regularly to represent students and to make propositions on behalf of improving the campus.

First order of business was the swearing in of new SGA President, former SGA Secretary, Lion Ambassador, Senior Communication major, Katie Chuahong. Chuahong and SGA advisor and live-in staff member, Louise Anne Whyte-Aravich, have worked together to bolster SGA for the coming year.

"It's our job to advocate and represent the voices of the students which I think is incredibly important," Chuahong explained.

Whyte-Aravich and Chuahong have also been working on and reviewing an updated SGA Constitution that was out-of-date since 2015. The revision of the Constitution calls for volunteers at the SGA meeting who are interested in policy to form a Constitutional Review Committee to assist in its revision.

Second order was the swearing in of new SGA members. The Executive Board is as follows:

- SGA Vice President, Sophomore, and Biobehavioral Health major, Kristina Sequeira;
- SGA Secretary, First-year student and Biomedical Science major, Tara Barnes;
- Treasurer, Senior, and Biobehavioral Health major, Ronni Corbett;
- PR Director, Junior, and Business and Computer major, Jessica Gatti;
- Chief of Staff, Freshman and Bio-engineering major, Joe Froetschel.

The names of the campus representatives and senators are:

- Representative of Academic Affairs, Sophomore and Corporate Innovation Entrepreneurship major, Yuri Bogatyrev;
- Representative of Student Affairs, Freshman and Psychology major, Hailey Barna;
- Representative of Commuter Student, Senior, and Psychology major, Ebonie Slade;
- Representative of Residential Commuter, First-year student, and Business major, Taylor Cross.

As for club representatives, Whyte-Aravich states that all clubs of Greater Allegheny—ABSENCE, Asian Student Club, Black Student Union, Blue and White Society, Drama Club, Environmental Club, Greater Allegheny Pep Band, LGBT Allies, Psychology Club, Rotaract Club, THON, and WMKP Radio—have opportunities to obtain SGA-funding for things such as parking, events and food.

To request funds, clubs will have to fill out paperwork which Whyte-Aravich placed onto Penn State's online platform, Student Engagement Network (EnGage). [www.engage.psu.edu](http://www.engage.psu.edu)

Penn State EnGage is a statewide platform, launched in 2017, that connects students with curricular and co-curricular opportunities such as research, student organization involvement, community leadership, study abroad, internships, arts and performances, etc.

Whyte-Aravich also added that the website allows the students to discover their talents, realize their goals and interests, engage in clubs and organizations and departments, and also helps them advance their learning in and out of the classroom.

Students can apply for SGA senator positions through the enGage app on iPads or online.

"I already feel excited about this group and I'm feeling good energy with it. I'm excited to see what everyone can do and how I can be a part of that for campus, so I think it's going to be a good year," Whyte-Aravich said.



President of SGA, Katie Chuahong, invites students to attend SGA meetings on Wed, Nov. 20, Wed, Dec. 4.

All at 12:15pm in the Student Offices in the SCC, lower level



Veterans Day is Nov. 11. Thank a veteran for his/her service. The GA-Zette salutes our students, staff, and faculty for their service.

## Doing Business with China: The Trade War Defined

Story by Shannon Reid

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All the way from Washington, D.C., American Sociologist and Chinese Scholar Doug Guthrie, came to Penn State Greater Allegheny to host a talk in the Ostermeyer Room on Sept. 9. His aim was to educate the students on the ongoing trade war between the US and China and the increasing impact of China on the global economy. His visit was the first of this year's Teaching International Program at Greater Allegheny.

Discussing the trade war, Guthrie stated that nobody can "win the trade war." But the US Census Bureau in 2011 indicated that the US imports from China more than it exports. The more a country imports, the higher its trade deficit rises.

A high deficit means that a nation's dollar will depreciate, interest rates will rise, and its economy will suffer.

Moreover, Guthrie noted, that the US is "tapped out" on its resources, while China still has most of its resources.

The high deficit's negative effect on the American dollar could make the US more depen-

dent on China to appease its debt.

Therefore, there is no way the US can win the trade war.



"We live in an era of globalization," Guthrie noted, "and there has been a whole process that has unfolded over the course of 40 years that has taken us down the road so that nobody wins."

The trade war began in 2001, when China entered into the World Trade Organization (WTO). It was just a year after the Clinton Administration agreed to make China's Most Favored Nation (MFN) status permanent. MFN, now known as Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), status means that a nation is granted the most favorable trading conditions available by another nation, such as low tariffs and high import shares.

Throughout the 1990s, there was a "Most Favored Nation" debate.

Guthrie said that the debate was a "theory on engagement." The debate was to find out if the US and China would be compatible trade partners and whether or not economic ties and global capitalism were the solution to influencing a totalitarian region, like China, to convert it to democracy.



Doug Guthrie

"The basic idea was if you have economic and trade relations with people, you are ultimately going to be able to change them (the people)," Guthrie said. "If we are engaged with China, we are going to change China. It's through economic and trade relations that this is going to transform this country (China) from an authoritarian system to a liberal democracy."

It did not happen.

The most populous nation in the world, China's significance in recognizing the affairs of other countries, such as North Korea and Russia, caused the Bush Administration in the early 2000s to overlook China's flawed human rights record and avoid pressuring the nation to revamp its civilian legislation.

President Bush recommended renewal of China's MFN status. However, its renewal was jeopardized with hesitancy in Congress. Legislation was introduced six times to terminate China's MFN status, while sixty members wanted to impose conditions so China could improve its human rights status.

Bush explained to a White House news conference that as long as the US maintained relations with China, the US will have the leverage it needs to augment the democracy in China.

The debate paved the way for China's MFN status being made in 2000 and its admission into the WTO in 2001. Thus, began the trade war, Guthrie said.

## Season of the Flu

Story by Riley Percaivalle  
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The flu is one problem a citizen of Pittsburgh faces every day in public places. It begins in fall and ends in early spring.

People call in for sick days for work, while students stay home from school. However, college students are the biggest worry as their courses are fast paced. Students, staff and faculty have to be healthy or be at risk to miss an entire day.

The signs of the flu are:

- Fever over 100.4 F (38 C)
- Aching muscles
- Chills and sweats
- Headache
- Dry, persistent cough
- Fatigue and weakness
- Nasal congestion
- Sore throat



Penn State Greater Allegheny's own nurse, Jennifer Ross, stated, "Students getting sick here on Greater Allegheny's campus are approximately 10 to 20 students out of the 400-student body."

As Nurse Ross explains, a lot of key tips help students in their battle to fight the flu:

- Hand washing is the main key to keep germs away.
- Get plenty of rest, while drinking fluids.
- Dress accordingly for the weather- wear jackets to keep warm.
- Ask the doctor for other medical help to aid in the flu battle.

One recommendation is a flu shot. A flu shot can be used to help boost immune systems against the disease. However, Penn State does not have any flu shots for students on campus. Nurse Ross said, "Our campus is down the street near a Giant Eagle pharmacy so students can go there for yearly flu shot. On the other hand, there are also the commuters who are the majority here. They can automatically get in their cars and drive to their family doctors to acquire shots, if necessary."

People should not take it too early or too late as the shot works for a limited time. "The best option for everyone is late October, early November," stated Nurse Ross.

Other people who can help aid in the fight against flu are local pharmacists and personal physicians. For years, local pharmacies and doctors have been helping to battle illnesses to make others healthy again.

# The Lion King Roars Into Pittsburgh with Sensory Performance for All

By Troy Ferguson  
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Pittsburgh—After being on hiatus from Pittsburgh for six years, Disney’s “The Lion King” returned to The Benedum Center in Sept.

“The Lion King” is a musical about a young lion named Simba, who loses his father, learns to live through life’s challenges, and eventually becomes king. The theme of happiness and positivity was evident in a sensory-friendly performance on Sept. 14.

The matinee was for individuals with special needs, disabilities, and for those on the autism spectrum.



More than 1,700 people were in attendance. Spencer Plachy, who plays “Scar,” the antagonist lion, explained that the show’s effects are adapted to this special audience.

In other words, the sound effects and music are not as loud, the audience is not in a fully darkened theater, and “special” special effects all help to tell the same story.

Plachy also states his love for the show.

“The Lion King” itself is the one that incorporates everything theatre can be ...sound, lighting, and even puppetry. Not every show is like that.”

Therefore, “The Lion King’s” story needs to be told for everyone to enjoy. Not only does “The Lion King” have music and dance elements, most of the stage show uses puppets. Michael Reilly, puppet master for the traveling production, said puppets “go back thousands of years in every culture.”

He added, “It is universal... puppets are something everyone accepts... it is something we tell stories with.”

Out of those 1,700 attendees, WTAE TV News Anchor, Kelly Frey, was also in the audience. Frey was there with her daughter, Marena, age 8, and her son, Bennett, age 10. Bennett was diagnosed with Dandy-Walker Syndrome.

Dandy-Walker is a rare group of congenital human brain malformations that manifest into a series of disabilities.

Frey and her family

make a point to go to sensory friendly performances, like “The Lion King”, for Bennett.

“It’s amazing what they [The Cultural Trust] have done for cognitive and accessibility,” Frey said. Frey goes on to say that everyone who worked on that performance was trained to help the families.

Frey was concerned that at the beginning of the show that they wouldn’t make it through the performance, Bennett was riveted by it and enjoyed it immensely.

“This allows parents to breathe, to have your loved one enjoy the show.”

Frey also wants to encourage anyone to go to a sensory-friendly performance because it is a great lesson for people of all ages.

“This helps us bring everyone together,” Frey concluded.



Kelly Frey  
(Photo courtesy of WTAE)

Cultural Trust partners with Greater Allegheny Campus--Discount tickets to shows and events!

Go to [trustarts.org](http://trustarts.org) and click on “University Tickets” and select Penn State.

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# 90-Seconds Under The Blue Umbrella

Timely topics from around campus

By Dylan Finocchi  
dtf5090@psu.edu

Fall 2019  
The GA-Zette  
Pg. 13

**“Recent news reports indicate an increase in lung disease, and even deaths, resulting from e-cigarettes and vaping. What are your thoughts on the use of e-cigarettes and other vape products?”**

Kaylee Holtzman  
Junior, Education

“I have severe asthma, so to see someone who is choosing to damage their lungs infuriates me when I never had a choice.”

Alexa Martell  
Freshman, Business

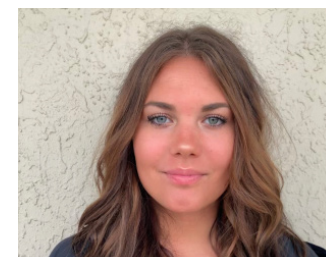
“They have become such a social norm at this point that it has even been normalized for kids in middle school to use them. Starting this at such a young age is leading them to a long road to addiction that can eventually lead to what they are meant to prevent...cigarette smoking.”

Sarah Kish  
Biobehavioral Health

“I think Juuls and vapes are toxic to both smokers and non-smokers. They were originally created for cigarette smokers to help fight addiction and stop smoking, but they started a new type of addiction for non-smokers. The only thing that came from them was a multi-billion dollar company and lung diseases.”

Tyler Care  
Men’s Head Basketball Coach

“Juuls and vapes are supposed to be a safe alternative to cigarettes. However, there is no science to back up these claims since they have not been around for very long. Fifty years ago, no one knew the true effects of smoking and I am afraid that we won’t know the true effect of vaping for many years and by then, it may be too late.”



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# LADY LIONS SEASON FULL OF HARD WORK, SURPRISES

Fall 2019  
The GA-Zette  
Pg. 14

Story by Zack Zeigler

Sports Information Director, Penn State Greater Allegheny, zlz3@psu.edu

In a year where the Penn State Greater Allegheny Volleyball team captured their first trip to the Penn State University Athletic Conference playoffs, the excitement continued when the volleyball team clinched the #5 seed in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Tournament. The announcement marks the first time in school history that PSUGA Volleyball has made the tournament adding to the accolades for this year's team.

PSUGA had one of the best seasons in recent history, finishing the year 18-10 overall and 8-4 in PSUAC play. After just missing the Penn State University Athletic Conference playoffs in each of the last two seasons, they earned the number three seed this season and made the playoffs for the first time in five years.



PSUGA would unfortunately drop their quarter-final match up with Penn State Beaver 3-, ending their playoff run. Clinching the number five seed in the National Tournament keeps their season alive as they compete for the USCAA national championship.

Leading the way on offense for PSUGA is sophomore Alix Ellis (Derry, PA./Derry Area HS) who earned PSUAC First-Team All-Conference Honors for the second season in a row. She leads PSUGA with 302 kills this season and is just 14 kills away from setting the single-season record.

*Captain Alix Ellis helped Lady Lions jump to a 3-1 victory over Penn State New Kensington on Sept. 24. (Photo by Eronn Hammond)*

Sueriah Timsah (Mesquite, TX./West Mesquite HS) has been a leader on both sides of the ball finishing second on the team in both kills and digs while serving as a team

captain in her sophomore year. Ellis and Timsah have been set up by freshman Andrea Ghiloni (Granville, OH./Granville HS) who leads the PSUAC with 683 assist this season while Juliana Brill (Mount Jackson, VA./Stonewall Jackson HS) leads the defense with 367 digs.

The USCAA National Tournament features two different pools of teams with each team guaranteed to play two games in the tournament. The winner and runner-up from each pool will then move on to compete for the USCAA national championship on November 8th and November 9th.

The PSUGA volleyball team kicks off their USCAA tournament play on Thursday, November 7th when they face the University of

## Letters to the Editor

The staff and management of the GA-Zette welcome letters to the Editor by writing to smr96@psu.edu.

Please include your full name, PSU email, address, and phone number.

Missing contact information will result in absence of your article.

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