



# The **GA-ZETTE**

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**THE 59th PRESIDENTIAL  
INAUGURATION, 2021**



**SPECIAL EDITION**

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## THE 59TH PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION: HISTORIC & HOPEFUL

### PSUGA professors share visions for new administration

**NATHAN REGA**

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Nearly 200,000 flags dotted the landscape of the National Mall. The Capitol appeared as a fortress, surrounded by fencing guarded by military forces.

Cheers. Applause. The roar of a crowd. All absent in the empty streets where Americans have gathered to celebrate presidents and inaugurations past.

The flags represented the people who could not attend, the 400,000 lives and counting now lost to a pandemic that still rages throughout the nation. The heightened security a response to the threat revealed with the infamous raid on the Capitol, fueled by the anger and hatred of those that sought to overrule the will of the people.

Yet, democracy refuses to die.

Amidst an otherwise dark chapter of United States' history, the 59th Presidential Inauguration was a moment of hopeful optimism for a country that desperately needed it.

On Jan 20., a limited crowd of masked, socially-distanced elected officials gathered on the steps of Capitol Hill to witness the swearing in of Joseph Biden and Kamala Harris as the 46th president and 49th vice-president of the United States.

"So now, on this hallowed ground where just days ago violence sought to shake this Capitol's very foundation, we come together as one nation, under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries," Biden stated during his presidential inauguration speech.

Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA)

history professors noted the significance of Biden's election to the office of president.

"I think that President Biden will strive to be a healer, bridge builder, and transformational leader," said Dr. Anthony Mitchell, associate teaching professor of African American studies.

"I think that he will aim to restore respect, conduct himself with dignity, and display a leadership style worthy of the United States president. As a former vice-president, he is not a newcomer to national and world leaders' visibility and pressures," Mitchell said.

"Overall, Biden's election represents a clear rejection of Donald Trump and Trumpism," explained Professor of History, Dr. Douglas Charles. "Biden has run for president three times. Each time he was



*U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers with the Office of Field Operations stand their posts as they support security operations of the 59th Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C., Jan. 19. Photo by Brian Sowards.*

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not considered exciting enough, I suppose, compared to other candidates.

“After four years of a presidency that was not just out of the ordinary, but clearly anti-democratic, Americans clearly craved a return to normality and to an ordinary president,” he added.

During the ceremony, Harris was first to take her oath, becoming the highest-ranking female-elected official in United States history, as well as first African American and first Asian American vice-president.

“It is my honor to be here. To stand on the shoulders of those who came before,” Harris said later that evening, addressing the nation. “In many ways this moment embodies our character as a nation. It demonstrates who we are, even in dark times. We not only dream, we do. We not only see what has been, we see what can be.”

Charles took note of the significance of Harris’ election. “That a woman was elected to the second highest office in this country is a huge deal,” he said. “Not only that, she is also the first person of color elected to that post. Considering this is a country with significant problems with racism and sexism, this is no small feat.”



**Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Vice-President Kamala Harris in the Vice-President's office at the White House.**

Despite celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women’s suffrage just last year, the United States has lagged behind other nations when entrusting women with positions of power.

“I believe that the U.S. is behind other nations in entrusting women to lead for the same reason that people of color, women and other marginalized groups experience racism, discrimination and lack of opportunities in American society,” Mitchell explained.

“The U.S. is historically dominated and led by white males’ legacies, ideologies, cultural, and institutional formations. In the U.S., white males represent the most powerful, influentially racial, ethnic and gender hegemony. Until this dramatically changes, the progress of people of color, women, and historically margin-

alized Americans will continue to be an issue,” Mitchell added.

Charles reiterated Mitchell’s statement, adding that “perhaps it also lies in the fact that we are still a young country.”

“Other countries have cultures that go back many hundreds of years or even over a thousand years,” he said. “Ours is barely over 200 years and we still have a lot of old notions and biases to overcome.”

“Vice-President Kamala Harris is brilliant, an excellent communicator, and experienced in politics. I believe she will be an outstanding VP,” Mitchell stated. “As a multi-ethnic woman of African and South Asian ancestry, she is an inspiring role model and advocates for girls and women of all races and backgrounds.”

Biden also made history with his swearing in.

Not only is he the second Roman Catholic elected to the office--John Kennedy being the first--Biden is now the oldest person to be sworn into the presidency, at the age of 78.

While Kennedy received criticism for his faith during his campaign in the 1960s, as his opposers claimed it would negatively affect his decision-making ability, Charles doesn’t think that is an issue with most voters today, noting that “those were different times.”

However, Biden’s advanced age was frequently brought up during his campaign, with critics often questioning or even insulting his mental state.

“In our history, we’ve had problems with presidents much younger having health issues that impacted their job as president,” Charles pointed out.

“The problem is people tend to keep their health issues private and there is nothing requiring presidents to disclose anything to us. But it is in our interest, informally, to know these things. I think Biden probably recognizes this inasmuch as he chose as his running mate someone much younger,” he added.

Charles also noted that Ronald Reagan received similar flack in 1981, when he was elected at the age of 69.

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“That issue quickly went away when Reagan took office, however, so maybe it will too, with Biden,” Charles said.

Rather than a reason of concern, Mitchell believes Biden’s age is likely one of his greatest strengths.

“I think that his age will be an asset in his leadership style and decision-making,” he explained. “At 78, if he stays fit and healthy, his senior age should serve him well in possessing wisdom, compassion and humility. These traits are typically associated with elder individuals.”

Just like Mitchell described, Biden’s words displayed wisdom and compassion as he addressed a hurting and divided nation with a message of hope and unity.

“Let us listen to one another. Hear one another. See one another. Show respect to one another,” Biden stated in his address. “Politics need not be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn’t have to be a cause for total war.”

Charles and Mitchell both noted the many challenges Biden will face in his first days in office, including COVID-19 recovery, record unemployment and simply getting things done with the slim margins in

which Democrats control the House and Senate.

Mitchell went on to include Biden’s challenge of unifying the country with “the increasing political and ideological divisions among Democrats and Republications, and Black and White Americans, and the perceptions among millions of predominantly White Americans that the presidential election was stolen from Donald Trump by the Democratic party.”

Biden took the first steps in reaching out to his political opposition by addressing them in his first speech as president:

“To all those who did not support us, let me say this: hear me out as we move forward. Take a measure of me and my heart.

“And if you still dis-

agree, so be it. That’s democracy. That’s America. The right to dissent peaceably, within the guardrails of our Republic, is perhaps our nation’s greatest strength.”

Biden continued...“Yet hear me clearly. Disagreement must not lead to disunion. And I pledge this to you: I will be a President for all Americans. I will fight as hard for those who did not support me as for those who did.”

Biden’s Inaugural Address was followed by the poem, “The Hill We Climb,” written and delivered by the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman. At only 22 years of age, Gorman displayed poise and spoke with great eloquence as she reinforced Biden’s message of unity:

“And so, we lift our

gazes not to what stands between us, but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside,” she said.

“When day comes, we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it,” Gorman concluded.

Moved and inspired by Gorman’s words, Mitchell offered a challenge to PSUGA students:

“Our students are the future leaders of their families, local communities, the nation and the world,” he said. “Now is the time in your young lives to vote and join campus, local and national organizations that advocate for civil and human rights.

“Now is also the time in your collegiate education to take courses on U.S. history, African American history, women’s history and other subjects.

“Taking courses like these will improve your knowledge and understanding of significant historical periods and events that have shaped leadership, governance and struggles in the U. S. for all Americans, particularly freedom and justice for oppressed peoples and groups,” Mitchell stated.



*Amanda Gorman steps to the podium to recite her inaugural poem, “The Hill We Climb.”*

*Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos M. Vazquez II*

## THE PROPHETIC WISDOM OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Associate Teaching Professor of African American Studies, Dr. Anthony Mitchell, noted the significance of Inauguration Day falling just days after the holiday in which the United States commemorates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

President Joe Biden's words are not too dissimilar from Dr. King's.

"In 1967, Dr. King said in probably his most unpopular speech, 'Beyond Vietnam: Time to Break Silence,' that the nation was headed toward a troubled future if it continued down the path of racism, militarism and materialism," Mitchell explained.

"Dr. King called for a revolution of values, a revolution where people are valued more than machines, motives and profit. I believe that Dr. King's wisdom was prophetic. Today, we need more Dr. Kings to espouse humanizing thinking, ideas and values that recognize and respect all peoples' humanity."

Mitchell shared a quote from King's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail:"

"So, the question is not whether we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists will we be? Will we be extremists for hate or for love. Will we be extremists for the preservation of injustice or for the extension of justice?"



*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking against the Vietnam War at St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota, 1967.*

## BIDEN PICKS 1ST TRANSGENDER PERSON, PSU PROF FOR SENATE-CONFIRMED POST

**WILL WEISSERT**

Associated Press

*The following article was obtained via [APNews](#) on Jan. 19.*

WASHINGTON (AP)

— President Joe Biden has tapped Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be his assistant secretary of health, leaving her poised to become the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Levine, a pediatrician who is also a professor at the Penn State College of Medicine, is currently Pennsylvania's top health official.

Levine was appointed to her current post by Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf in 2017, making her one of the few transgender people serving in elected or appointed positions



*PA Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, May 2020. (Joe Hermitt/The Patriot-News via AP, File)*

nationwide. She won past confirmation by the Republican-majority Pennsylvania Senate and has emerged as the public face of the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Dr. Rachel Levine will bring the steady leadership and essential expertise we need to get people through this pandemic — no matter their zip code, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability — and meet the public health

needs of our country in this critical moment and beyond," Biden said in a statement. "She is a historic and deeply qualified choice to help lead our administration's health efforts."

A graduate of Harvard and of Tulane Medical School, Levine is president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. She's written in the past on the opioid crisis, medical marijuana, adolescent medicine, eating disorders and LGBTQ medicine.

"Her nomination is groundbreaking and shows the Biden administration will choose the most qualified individuals to lead our nation regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," Annise Parker, former Houston mayor and president & CEO of LGBTQ Victory Institute, said in a

statement. "Dr. Levine is making history and will transform Americans' perceptions of trans people when she takes office and begins to work on their behalf."

Biden and his transition team have already begun negotiating with members of Congress, promoting speedy passage of the president-elect's \$1.9 trillion plan to bring the coronavirus, which has killed over 420,000 people in the United States, under control.

Vice President Kamala Harris called Levine "a remarkable public servant with the knowledge and experience to help us contain this pandemic, and protect and improve the health and well-being of the American people."

**AP**



*From the Oval Office, President Joe Biden and family watch Demi Lovato perform, via video.*

## STAR-STUDED LINE-UP CELEBRATES BIDEN INAUGURATION DAY

**TROY FERGUSON**

Entertainment Editor

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On Jan. 20, Joe Biden was sworn into office as the 46th President of the United States. His running mate-now-Vice-President, Kamala Harris, was the first African-American and Asian-decent woman ever in that role, adding to the already exciting historic day.

That calls for a celebration, am I right?

Any inauguration called for celebrities who were announced as performing to support the swearing in ceremony and an evening event.

During the actual ceremony on the steps of the Capitol, pop superstar and Academy Award-winning-nominee, Lady Gaga, delivered a show-

stopping National Anthem performance. Not only was her voice so captivating, as expected, but she looked amazing! She came out dressed in an eye-catching red and blue dress with a gold dove pin over her heart.

The dove pin could symbolize peace after the last four years of the past administration or the past year we had mired in the pandemic. It is no secret that Gaga has shown her support for Biden. Gaga made an appearance in Pittsburgh with him the night before the November general election.

Another amazing performance was by the incredibly-talented Demi Lovato. Lovato was featured in Celebrate America, a live evening celebration that was

streamed online on Facebook and YouTube, plus broadcast on five television networks. Due to the pandemic, inaugural balls and dinners and other traditional festivities were cancelled, so the Biden Administration wanted to focus on an evening event that all America could attend.

Lovato performed “Lovely Day,” a song made famous in 1977 by the late, great, Bill Withers. Her powerful vocals did that song justice.

Since we’re in the middle of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Lovato’s performance was videoed with front-line healthcare workers from across the country singing along. A cutaway shot from the broadcast showed President Biden,

live, with his family, and dancing with his wife, Jill and their grandchild.

Other performers during the day at the swearing in were Jennifer Lopez and Garth Brooks. That night, host Tom Hanks stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and welcomed other performers, including John Legend, Jon Bon Jovi, the Foo Fighters, Ant Clemons, Justin Timberlake and Lin-Manuel Miranda.

To close out such a beautiful and inspiring night, another pop diva took the stage--Katy Perry. Actually, her “stage” was on the National Mall, in front of the Washington Monument.

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Perry performed her pop power ballad titled “Firework.” Now this is one of my favorite songs by her. I was so mesmerized by this performance and song.

The lyrics are so powerful and so relatable, especially with the current state of the world right now. Not only were Perry’s vocals on point, but the performance was spectacular. More than 35,000 fireworks illumi-

nated Washington, D.C. It was very alluring especially after recent events with the riots that happened earlier this month.

Inauguration 2021 was one for the books. I am excited to see what the Biden and Harris administration is going to do and wish them nothing but the best and success. The celebration was a terrific start.

*Photos courtesy of the Biden Inaugural Committee*



## PRESIDENT BIDEN & VP HARRIS LAY WREATH AT TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER



**President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Vice-President Kamala Harris participate in a Presidential Armed Forces Full Honors Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), Jan. 20. Biden and Harris visited ANC after Biden was sworn-in as the 46th president of the United States in a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol earlier that morning. The ceremony was hosted by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Omar Jones IV, commanding general, Joint Task Force-National Capitol Region/U.S. Army Military District of Washington. U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser, Arlington National Cemetery.**

# OPINION: REFLECTIONS ON A PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

**SHANNON M. REID**

Guest Columnist

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We all had seen this coming since Nov. 7 and our previous president's constant dissemination of fraud gave us the hunch that this next transition of power was going to be anything but peaceful. The scofflaw he is, former President Trump came close to making no concession speech and he actually surprised us when he left a transition letter for Biden after all.

The only thing he really left behind is the burden of the virus, the recession and a country in tatters for President Biden to inherit on his first 100 days in office.

There was some controversy over how people would react to Trump's refusal to attend his successor's inauguration. On the one hand, even if Biden didn't mind, he really should have cajoled him to attend for his country's sake.

On the other hand, people are blaming Trump and his Republican sycophants for the circumstances under which the inauguration is to be conducted and prefer he did not attend. His old buddy, former Vice President Pence, begged to differ on the subject of attendance



*Former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle.*

which, for Trump, was the unkindest cut. By traditions, Trump had it coming.

But while I am not much concerned about Trump skipping out on the inauguration without looking back on it with a shadow of regret, I am mindful of how he will be remembered. Even a big-time businessman, Trump had pretty much blended in with the political background.

Since taking on the mantle of commander-in-chief, he was determined to pull himself up by his bootstraps. And while he is lucky enough to not be wearing a number, with no barriers left to break, other than being the first President impeached twice over, his name will hardly ever be mentioned again even under a whisper.

So, see you Trump. I hope you had fun tearing the country apart. Meanwhile, our new president,



*Former President George W. Bush.*

determined to govern with brains and a heart, and vice president, the first woman and woman of color, will busy themselves sowing the seeds of a stronger, better America. Just remember that the day Lady Gaga agrees to perform at the same place you are is the day you are no longer there.

What messes with my head though, is with Trump out of the picture and down there right now in Florida at his Mar-a-Lago hotel, probably contemplating a revival of his reality television series, will moving forward with the impeachment process be necessary, if not impossible, even if he does have blood on his hands?

Either that or I cannot help but feel like they are moving too fast. In which case, I second old lemon face Mitch McConnell's emotion: they should hold off on the impeachment trial until February to give Trump some time to suit



*Former President Bill Clinton*

up and book some good lawyers—hopefully lawyers better than William Barr and Rudy Giuliani will have ever been in their miserable careers serving under a would-be glutton for punishment.

Even if Biden were to pardon Trump, given the nature of the incitement, it would somehow be a betrayal to both Congress and his oath. And if the last of 100 million vaccines are not given by the 100th day of his presidency because of the impeachment business, the Biden administration will be the next to have forty acres and a mule written on it.

What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. It is safer just to wait and watch.

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

*Photos by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos M. Vazquez II.*

# 90 SECONDS UNDER THE BLUE UMBRELLA

## TIMELY TOPICS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

TROY FERGUSON | Entertainment Editor | tdf5134@psu.edu

**“It was announced weeks before President Biden’s Inauguration that Donald Trump was not attending. How do you feel about this?”**

**James Fields, Senior, Business**

“I think that shows his character as a person and how he handled the situation... just proves he has no respect for Biden or the country because it is a ritual that every president does after their time in the office is up to attend the inauguration.”



**Kaytelyn Dougherty, Senior, Psychology**

“Well, I personally feel that it was not right that he didn’t attend. You can see in previous inaugurations that all former presidents have attended to hand over the torch to the next upcoming president. It was definitely, for lack of better words, not good sportsmanship of him to not show! He still served for four years and ran the country for four years and should have absolutely attended! I feel that it is just basic decency and respect.”

**Cody Schaar, Junior, Communications**

“I feel that former President Trump not attending the inauguration of his successor, President Biden, was disrespectful. It showed no respect towards our system of democracy, nor did it show any respect to President Biden. Even if you don’t like the man, or you disagree with his politics, you should put aside your differences and come together for the sake of the country, which is very divided at this time.”



**Taylor Coccia, Junior, Business**

“I am not really sure if I care that much, honestly. He knew what he was doing and is very stubborn in his ways, which his presidency taught us. I was too busy watching history being made with the first woman vice-president being inaugurated than to notice if he was there or not.”

**Ebonie Slade, Fall 2020 Biobehavioral Health Graduate**

“Trump deciding to not attend the 2021 Inauguration was no different than a toddler having a tantrum for attention. There will always be disagreements in politics but we as American people have to do better in selecting our presidential candidates and by electing candidates who respect the democratic process and, most of all, the American people. Americans do not need any more bad energy, so I am happy he chose not attend so we can move forward and actually make America great for once!”



# SPRING CLASSES RESUME REMOTELY

## Preparations underway for physical return, Feb. 15



**PSUGA's campus "community" banner.**  
Photo by Riley Perciavalle

### NATHAN REGA

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Spring 2021 classes began virtually Jan. 19 at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA). While students have resumed their studies from home online and via ZOOM, most will not physically return to campus for in-person modalities until Feb. 15 due to the [University's decision](#) to begin remotely to combat the spread of COVID-19.

"I would really encourage students to be sure to engage," Chancellor and

Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, advised.

"Log on to ZOOM and engage in your class so you can learn as much as you can during this remote period," she said.



**The at-home COVID-19 self-test kit by Vault Health**

All current students are required to participate in the [University's COVID-19 testing](#). A negative test result must be

on file before returning to campus. Exceptions will be made for students who have a positive test result on record within the last 90 days.

At-home self-test kits will be provided to students at no cost. Students should [order their test](#) no later than 14 days before their return to campus.

Any student who receives a positive COVID-19 test result should self-quarantine immediately and not return to campus. In these cases, University contact tracers will be in touch with the student to offer guidance during their isolation time.

"If a student tested through PSU, we will automatically be in touch with the student to identify any needs the student might have, as well as an isolation plan," said Lorraine Craven, director of student services and engagement. "If a student tests through another place, like MedExpress or CVS for example, and tests positive, they should

### SPRING 2021 WELLNESS DAYS

#### Tuesday, Feb. 9

Financial & Occupational Dimensions of Wellness

#### Thursday, Mar. 11

Intellectual & Spiritual Wellness

#### Wednesday, Apr. 7

Physical & Environmental Wellness

[upload their results](#) immediately and PSU Student Support Services will be in touch."

Third-party positive COVID-19 test results can be submitted through [myUHS](#).

Edmondson assured that students who cannot return to campus on Feb. 15 will be assisted in order to keep up with their classes and studies.

"All of the faculty members are prepared to help the students access an in-person class through ZOOM or some other technology so that the students don't get behind," she explained.

*(Continued on next page)*



#### WEAR A MASK

On and off campus. And yes, that means over your nose.



#### PHYSICALLY DISTANCE

6 feet apart. Or the length of two Nittany Lion tails.



#### WASH HANDS

For 20 seconds. Or (fun tip) sing one verse of the Alma Mater.

## COVID-19 STUDENT TESTING REQUIREMENTS: SPRING 2021

### Important steps you need to take before you arrive on campus:

1. Log into the "[Know Your Status](#)" Portal to track your test status. You need to complete testing before you return, unless you have a COVID-positive test result from the last 90 days on record in the portal. You can also upload a positive test result from the last 90 days from a third-party polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.
2. [Order your at-home test kit 14 days](#) before your planned arrival. Vault Health will mail your test kit to your current place of residence, along with detailed instructions to complete the test with a Vault Health representative virtually. Begin limiting your interactions at this time.
3. Self-quarantine for at least **seven days** immediately prior to your arrival and before moving in to off-campus housing.
4. Take your test **five days** before your planned return date using instructions provided and mail it back. A pre-paid expedited shipping label is included. You should receive test results from Vault Health within 72 hours of the test arriving at the lab. Test results will be automatically uploaded to the University's portal.

**If your test result is positive:** Isolate at home and do not return to your campus community. Contact tracers from Penn State will reach out to you to offer support and guidance on the time period for isolation.

For additional information, contact the **COVID-19 Response Center** at: 814-865-2121.

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"We did that in the fall. There were some students in-person and some who had to ZOOM. So, we'll continue to accommodate whatever the students' needs are," Edmondson added.

Upon arrival, students can expect to adhere to the same pandemic precautions PSUGA enforced on campus during the Fall 2020 semester, including continued random COVID-19 testing.

"We don't foresee any changes," Craven stated. "Students still will need to wear a mask, hand sanitizer stations will all still be available, grab and go options are still available at the café, and students should continue to socially distance themselves from others."

Although spring break has been cancelled in another effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University has scheduled three non-instructional [wellness days](#) throughout

the semester. [Programs](#) that focus on social and emotional wellbeing will be offered to both students and faculty during these days.

Another event students can look forward to is the continuation of PSUGA's [Crossing Bridges Summit](#) and its discussions on "Pittsburgh's Inequality across Gender and Race." The next virtual panel will be held on Mar. 18 with a focus on the psychological factors that impact black women's health. Panelists

will be announced later in the semester.

Although 2020 was a difficult year, Edmondson is hopeful for a better 2021.

"I just want everyone to get their spring semester off to a really good start," she said. "And as the spring goes on, I hope we can bring more and more people back onto campus. It will be so good to see everyone. I really miss our students."



#### QUARANTINE IF EXPOSED

For at least 10 days. Seek medical attention if you start feeling symptoms.



#### FOLLOW TESTING PROTOCOLS

It'll help stay on top of cases, on and off campus.



#### LIMIT TRAVEL AND VISITORS

The less exposure to people the better.

# FRED ROGERS: THE WORLD'S GOOD NEIGHBOR, FOCUS OF NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING

***“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers.’” -Fred Rogers***

**ALISHA TARVER**

News Editor

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Not a day goes by that someone, somewhere doesn't mention Mister Rogers, the Neighborhood of Make-Believe, or Fred Rogers, the real-life moniker of the kind host of public television's endearing children's program.

In the midst of a pandemic, political divisiveness, and racial inequities and social injustices, “The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers” has a more important place in our lives and a permanent place on our bookshelves.

It is the first book selection for the Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) Book Club Spring 2021 semester, to be discussed on Jan. 27 during Common Hour. The book is written by Maxwell King, former CEO and president of the Pittsburgh Foundation and The Heinz Endowments, two of the country's largest private philanthropies and grantmaking organizations, both based in Pittsburgh.

King was also the editor of the Philadelphia



**Maxwell King, author of “The Good Neighbor.”  
Photo courtesy of the author.**

Inquirer for more than 30 years before he led the two Pittsburgh-based philanthropies. In 2008, he became Director of The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media, located at St. Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA, Rogers' hometown.

King's book is currently the only comprehensive Fred Rogers biography. He submersed himself in the life of Rogers through the archives of the Fred Rogers Center, and in-depth interviews with family members, including Joanne Rogers, Fred's

late widow who passed away on January 15 at the age of 92.

“I had thought about Fred Rogers the way so many people do...that he was a very good person but sort of a simple, grandfatherly type of person,” King said. “He didn't seem on television, not that I watched that much of the program, but what I had seen, he didn't seem that sophisticated.

“I was very surprised the person that I talked to in his office at WQED was very intelligent, sophisticated, thoughtful. It was a wonderful conversation

that I enjoyed quite a bit,” King added.

Before that interview, King only encountered Rogers once at a meeting scheduled to discuss funding for the television show, and then once more on the street in passing.

“I didn't know that much about Fred Rogers when I retired from the Heinz Endowments and went out to Saint Vincent's College to try and help them get the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media up and running,” King recalled. But with this book, he is now seen as one of the most knowledgeable about the life and times of Fred Rogers and his inspirational storytelling of hope and optimism to children and families.



King himself is known for bringing hope and enthusiasm back to Pittsburgh, PA during a ***(Continued on next page)***

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time where the city was worried about attracting young professionals. His time running the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Heinz Endowments enabled him to help carry on Rogers' legacy.

"To do it involved starting programs and raising money," he said. "To do the job, I had to have a better understanding of Fred Rogers, what he represented, and the values of his work. I started doing a lot of studying...and I was so impressed with his importance as an educator, and what an extraordinarily fine person he was. He was an example of the very best values we have in this country and all around the world," King added.

Rogers was a pioneer in early childhood education and human development. He was a champion for utilizing television as an educational tool. In the early years of his work, Rogers testified in front of the U.S Senate Subcommittee on Communications in 1969, seeking \$20 million to help launch public television and expand children's programming. Rogers saw the importance of using technology critically at a time where television was a revolutionary technology.

"I think he would, as he always did, be thinking about how to use media," King said. "When he went into television in 1950, he saw the potential of television to be an instrument for good and a tool for education. He saw that in what was the cutting edge of his time. Remember, television in 1950 was seen as just as radical a new form of communication as social media has been seen in the last 10 or 15 years," King said.

Fred Rogers embraced the cutting-edge technology "of his time to try and figure out how to turn it to good," King added.



Rogers' caring and tactful approach to speaking to people, children specifically, is still sought out today. Videos of his kind words are sought out during times of tragedy. King commented on

Rogers' possible outlook on life, especially on the current pandemic and time of social unrest.

"What Fred would see, as he always did, is the opportunity in the middle of the difficulty. So, he would see the racism, he would see the selfishness, the greed, and he would deplore that. He would be horrified by it," King said. "I don't think he would be pessimistic at all.

"I struggle myself to remain optimistic because I'm just stunned at some of the things that have been happening," he added.

and Heinz Endowments during times of low birth rates for the overall population of Pittsburgh and where both philanthropies also funded past studies into health care inequities, some of the same inequities presented in the University of Pittsburgh's 2019 Inequality Across Race and Gender report.

King said that "He [Fred] could also see it [the earlier report] as an opportunity to develop educational content for the staff of some of the medical institutions," King added. When it came to health understanding, King said Rogers served as an advisor to UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh where he advised personnel on how to interact and talk to children.

A "good neighbor" indeed.

Everyone is invited to attend the Book Club meeting, even if they did not read "The Good Neighbor." The Kelly Library has limited copies of the book available to read. The eBook can also be accessed through the [Universities Library website](https://psu.zoom.us/j/92540674122?pwd=b-3VyKzRPYjVodC9H-dUhsbDRPQ1ZwUT09).

The PSUGA Book Club will meet virtually on Jan. 27 to discuss the book at the link below during Common Hour. <https://psu.zoom.us/j/92540674122?pwd=b-3VyKzRPYjVodC9H-dUhsbDRPQ1ZwUT09>

Rogers knew the importance of the role of parents in the lives of children. He was also very aware that the parent/child wellbeing were interconnected. King led the Pittsburgh Foundation

# PROJECT BRIGHTEN WINTER BREAK

## Professor brings holiday cheer to McKeesport Hall

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Winter break is a nice month's vacation for every college student, after completing fall courses for 15 weeks. However, in the case of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it has ruined vacation and travel-home plans for some students on the Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus. While most students could shelter at home with family, some could not.

Enter one professor and a team of others who helped defeat the horrid strike of hunger for a small group of students who remained in the McKeesport Hall dorm for the four-week winter break.



Dr. Kristal Tucker, associate professor of biobehavioral health, created "Project Brighten Winter Break," an operation of delivering food



**Student removes fresh baked cookies from a baking sheet in Penn State Greater Allegheny's Residence Hall. Photo courtesy: Penn State News.**

and gift items to those students who could not make their way home last month. The project would help feed the students, satisfying their stomachs with food as they remained in their dorms for the break.

"Dr. Megan Nagel and I were discussing plans for winter break. She mentioned there were students that needed to stay in the dorms," Tucker explained. "It broke our hearts that they would be away from family and friends through the holiday season. We decided it would be nice, since the Café Metro would be closed, to take the students home cooked meals or send them pizza delivery from time to time to brighten their winter break," she added.

The plans for this idea

were soon put into action once Tucker brought the idea to the faculty in a December meeting. All agreed that this was a wonderful idea from the start. Tucker was mostly pleased with the idea going further into motion as they continued to put more thought into it.

"I shared a sign-up sheet with the campus and called it Project Brighten Winter Break. After that, it just took care of itself," she said.

"People would sign up and were in charge of delivering something on the day they chose." In addition, it would give the faculty something to do as students are a number one priority on the campus.

The positive reactions from faculty and staff made Tucker pleased to

see the holidays looking better.

"The response was heartwarming," Tucker added. "We were able to provide games, baked goods, food, gift cards, and treats almost every day for about four weeks. It was amazing how everyone came together for our students."

Tucker said that the Project Brighten Winter Break reminds us that students have lives outside of the classroom, "and we never truly know what they are going through, good or bad," she said.

She also wanted to publicly thank everyone who took part to help make a difference. Every small act of kindness can go far.

# FROETSCHEL STEPS AWAY FROM SGA

## Przybylski takes reins as Interim President



**CHEYENNE HENNEN**

Contributing Writer

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After a long winter break, Student Government Association (SGA) held its first meeting of the semester on Jan. 21 during Common Hour, through ZOOM, with President Joe Froetschel welcoming

everyone back to campus, while also announcing his temporary transfer of power to Vice President, Sidney Przybylski.

Froetschel would not elaborate on his decision, simply to say that it “was due to personal matters.”

“I have kind of been going through a whole lot in my personal life right now. I’ve been somehow overwhelmed in the very first week. So I’ll be transferring presidential powers over to Sidney,” Froetschel said.

“I hope you guys are understanding of this. If

you still have any questions, please do email me about this, but email Sidney too.”

Food insecurity and the availability of food for students and others who need it were also on the agenda at the meeting. Froetschel said that he still plans on providing enough food resources for students once they return to campus next month. He also wants to add grocery items to the small pantries located in the Red Lot.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some other services on campus are

currently suspended.

“The Free Store on campus is currently closed due to the process of figuring out how many people could be in there, assigning staff to sanitize it regularly, and not seeing enough students use it to keep it open,” Froetschel said.

The next meeting will be held on Feb. 4 through Zoom during Common Hour. The link is: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/98626689870>



## ACE: WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!

The [Center for Academic and Career Excellence \(ACE\)](#) is committed to enhancing quality of life for students by providing access to services and resources that address food insecurity, housing insecurity and mental wellness. The ACE program is designed to support first-generation college students, low-income students and students with disabilities.

### Contact ACE and Schedule an Appointment:

A member of the ACE office staff will be available by virtual appointment during normal business hours Monday – Friday using Zoom, Microsoft Teams and email. If you are not available to meet during normal business hours, we will make every effort to accommodate your request. **Schedule an Appointment through [Microsoft Booking](#).**

### Virtual Office Information:

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**DeAnna Jakubek, ACE Administrative Assistant**

Zoom Office Link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/5198510425>

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# KEATING RETIREMENT MARKS 52 YEARS IN EDUCATION

**ALISHA TARVER**

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Debbie Keating, staff assistant in Academic Affairs and Advising, is retiring after almost eight years with the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus, and more than 52 years of experience in the education field.

Keating's position at PSUGA involved providing administrative support to the academic advising and student affairs departments. She started with GA in April 2013, but she is a lifelong educator, and her career has consisted of supporting educational institutions in some form.

"I've always worked in the education field. I actually have a Pennsylvania certification to teach. I started out doing some substitute teaching work. I taught at a business school," Keating said.

Keating is an advocate for education and believes the importance of it is what has always driven her career path.

"Before I came to Penn State, I did work at the Woodland Hills School District for 10 years in the HR office. Prior to that I did substitute teaching. I worked at Chatham University for four years



in the Education Department, placing students in their field experiences and (scheduling) student teaching assignments," she said.

"So, again I've always been drawn to education because I think it's so important from the time, you're very young to your college years...beyond that actually!" Keating added.

Keating has been a staff member at Greater Allegheny her entire career working for Penn State.

"What a wonderful experience it was," she said. "They almost had to drag me out of there because I wouldn't leave. My daughters would say 'mom, you've worked 52 years, it's time,'" Keating said. "My daughters would

say to me you're the only person I know who wants to go to work."

She expressed how much she enjoyed the campus culture, and how this made her time at GA enjoyable and fulfilling.

"The students, the staff, the faculty, I love the environment there. I loved how everybody got along so well, how everybody was dedicated to a common goal, whether it was their teaching efforts or the students learning," Keating said.

Her plans post retirement? Keating shared how she is eager to meet her new grandson who should be born soon.

"I would like to focus on what's important to me, that's my family," she said. "I have two daughters. I'm soon to have a

grandson, hopefully in the next 3-4 weeks," Keating said. "My youngest daughter lives in Florida. I don't know if she'll always be there, but once COVID is gone I hope to spend a little more time with her."

Keating said she used to travel and spend long weekends with her daughter in Florida, but she was always eager to get back to PSUGA and to work. Her daughter would want her to stay longer, she said, "so now when she says stay longer, I can say 'be careful what you wish for,'" Keating added.

"I don't have any lofty goals. I think because I'm on a pause because I have a grandson coming. I just want to spend time helping my daughter as much as she'll let me," Keating said.

Keating has some parting words for GA students.

"Take advantage to broaden your knowledge, strengthen your skills, and reinforce your career ambitions. Also appreciate the interactions you have with your instructors and fellow students which will continue to forge your character, your purpose, and your spirit. Really, I just wish all the students good fortune in the months and years ahead." Keating said.

# STEVENS NO STRANGER TO PSUGA

## Now full-time in Biology Department

**CHEYENNE HENNEN**  
Contributing Writer

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Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) welcomes new Assistant Teaching Professor of Microbiology and Lab Tech, Dr. Andrea Stevens. This semester, Stevens' first at PSUGA as a full-time faculty member, she will be teaching courses in microbiology and chemistry. Prior to this position, she worked here on campus as an adjunct, teaching anatomy and physiology.

The experience made her familiar with the campus and the community.

"I really like the cam-



pus; I like the students. I think all of you guys are a great bunch and always work really hard, which always impresses me," Stevens said.

Stevens grew up in McKeesport and she wants to see the surrounding communities be more involved in going to college. "I'm hoping to help bridge that gap, being a professor now within the

community," Stevens said.

Stevens will be coordinating all the labs on campus, including the Ostermayer Building that is currently being renovated. Once completed, there will be several big classrooms that will hold 40-50 people, along with several science and research labs, seating areas, study spaces for students, and windows that bring in light.

"We're hoping to have that lab ready to go, possibly in the summer, definitely in the fall...It's going to be a great contribution to our campus," Stevens said.

She also looks forward to meeting and working

with new students.

Stevens earned her bachelor's degree in biology at Chatham University and then went on to receive her master's in neuroscience, also at Chatham, while completing her thesis research on neuroimaging and Parkinson's Disease at the University of Pittsburgh. She recently completed her doctorate in neurobiology at Duquesne University.

Her office is located in the Mobile Lab on the Frable Building front lawn, although she will be working on and off campus this semester. Her email is: [auj139@psu.edu](mailto:auj139@psu.edu).

## ENDURANCE & A DREAM

### PSUGA history lecturer earns doctorate

Congratulations to Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) own History Lecturer Johnathan White, who earned his Ph.D from the University of Pittsburgh last semester.

White's dissertation examines the plight of black jazz musicians in Pittsburgh before and after integration.

"I wanted to earn this degree because I moved to Pittsburgh in 1997 with a full scholarship to pursue graduate studies. This was the fulfillment of that



*Public Intellectual, Cornel West (right), talks with Greater Allegheny Lecturer in History and Summit Moderator, Johnathan White (left), at the 2019 speaker series. Photo Courtesy: Ya Momz House, Inc.*

goal," said White.

"I was inspired by Dr. Cornel West and Dr. Michael Eric Dyson. I wanted to be them, but in my own skin."

White recounted his struggle to balance his

first full-time teaching job with his graduate studies in the 1990s. He chose to place his studies on hold to teach before returning to graduate school in 2017.

"I had to retake grad courses and comps to

show I was still up to speed," White explained.

"So, you see, the journey is sweeter for me. Endurance. I had to retrieve my dream of finishing after abandoning it on numerous occasions."

White has been with PSUGA since 2007. He teaches courses in history, African American studies, black arts, and leadership development. White also co-founded the Study of Hip-Hop Conference and the African American Male Mentoring Program.

# OPINIONS.. FROM WHERE WE SIT



Image by [Monika Robak](#) from [Pixabay](#).

## TO THE LETTER

**CHEYENNE HENNEN**  
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During this sensitive time, writing letters can bring us emotionally closer to those we care about.

With the switch to on-line learning, we students have struggled to adapt throughout the semester. Because of the pandemic, there has been a major increase in Internet usage, affecting the Internet speeds, and causing connections to fail across the globe. Thus, humans are failing to be with one another, during a time of

crisis, where empathy and understanding are essential.

Throughout 2020, we relied heavily on technology to keep us together, but it is that same thing that is keeping us apart. As a society, we failed to appreciate the beauty that lies within writing to and receiving a letter from someone we care about.

We have become so caught up within the ongoing chaos in our communities that we have forgotten what it feels like to embrace a loved one after a long time without

the protection of a mask or the distance in between.

Unlike a phone call that ends when you hang up, a letter you can always go back to and read whenever you want. Letters are pieces of people we hold on to when we cannot be with them physically.

As humans, we have grown accustomed to quick communication, but there is beauty in sitting down and taking the time to think deeply about someone and to reflect on the things around us.

Organizing your thoughts can lead to

gaining a new perspective on yourself and the person you are writing about. In addition, it can improve your overall mental health, as we often feel overwhelmed with sadness during the current pandemic.

In the world we live in today, human connections are essential. I believe, if you truly take the time to write and send a letter to someone you care about, the outcome is like receiving a hug from a friend after a long time.

That is something we all need this year.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of *The GA-ZETTE* welcome Letters to the Editor by writing to [nrr5191@psu.edu](mailto:nrr5191@psu.edu).

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

Missing contact information will result in non-consideration of your article.

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Send to:

[ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com)

# ATTENTION ARTISTS & PHOTOGRAPHERS!



**THE GA-ZETTE** wants to showcase your talent! We are seeking student artists and photographers to add to our team. Your skills can help to improve Greater Allegheny's campus newspaper while adding to your personal portfolio.



**"We'll be waiting!"**

Those interested should contact **THE GA-ZETTE:** [ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com)

or Professor Rosemary Martinelli at: [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu).



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

# CULTURE, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Image by [Jensie De Gheest](#) from [Pixabay](#).

## THEATERS, CONCERTS & LIVE SHOWS MIGHT RETURN THIS FALL, SAYS FAUCI



“Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., NIAID Director” by [NIAID](#).  
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### NATHAN REGA

Editor-in-Chief

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Out of Netflix shows to binge after social distancing for almost a year? Are virtual events just a painful reminder of what you’ve been missing out

on throughout 2020?

Good news! We could be out enjoying the arts and entertainment again by the end of the year.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease expert in the United States and director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), offered hope when, at a virtual conference held by the Association of Performing Arts Professionals, he suggested that theaters and other venues could possibly open by fall of 2021.

The possibility for this return will require the country to reach herd immunity from COVID-19. Fauci says this could be achieved once vaccinations reach 70 to 85 percent of the population.

“If everything goes right, this is will occur some time in the fall of 2021,” Fauci said, “so that by the time we get to the early to mid-fall, you can have people feeling safe performing onstage

as well as people [feeling safe] in the audience.”

Fauci went on to say that with successful vaccinations, many pandemic restrictions can be lifted from theaters, with the exception of wearing masks. Venues with good ventilation and proper air filters could “start getting back to almost full capacity,” according to Fauci.

“We’ll be back in the theaters. Performers will be performing, audiences will be enjoying it,” Fauci said. “It will happen.”

Pittsburgh organizations, like the Cultural Trust, and other venues have been on hiatus since Mar. 2020, with the hope of reopening later this year.

# THE KARATE KID AT 34: TRANSFORMING INTO COBRA KAI

**ZACHARY  
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Looking for a new series to binge-watch over a weekend or during one of the upcoming Penn State Wellness Days? For all of you 1980s “Karate Kid” enthusiasts, tune into the Netflix series, “Cobra Kai.” This series creates a sense of nostalgia and brings back memories for adults.

This show connects with current generations while the main characters, Johnny Lawrence (played by William Zabka) and Danny LaRusso (played by Ralph Macchio), keep the old movies relevant. Johnny and Danny are longtime rivals who competed against each other in fights and karate matches. This series displays flashbacks from the 1980s to begin to show where the movie series has left off.

Johnny Lawrence is depicted as a failure and a washed-up character as the story begins. We later come to realize Danny is an extremely successful character with a substantial amount of wealth. The symbolization relayed to the audience is Johnny’s life was a failure because of the epic loss he took from Danny.

The script flips and the audience realizes the importance of both characters relating to the rest.

Danny LaRusso lives a life of success since winning the tournament. He owns a big-time car dealership and has a family. He is depicted as if the win of the fight determined the success of his career. He grew up into a less fortunate situation opposed to his opponent Johnny. The lives flip vice-versa as a Johnny is now less successful.

The series, based on the “Karate Kid” trilogy, pays tribute throughout to the late Pat Morita, who played Mr. Miyagi in the original movies. His character is portrayed in the series through flashbacks and lessons passed on to Danny’s new students. This really adds a depth to the storyline and connects Danny to Mr. Miyagi throughout the film.

This series has a decent amount of comedy, yet heavily blends in family drama. The show is enjoyable because of all the twists and turns with characters. We begin to see characters intertwine into each other’s lives. This makes the storyline super entertaining and unpredictable.

The audience can fore- shadow that the families

are centerpieces to the storyline, yet the severity can still shock viewers. The amount of revenge and spite between families creates dangerous hatred and rivalries.

Cobra Kai was always known as an aggressive and perilous dojo (the term for the room or hall where martial arts are performed) for children and their values. The lesson is always to strike first and show no mercy. Cobra Kai transforms from a dojo for kids who do not belong into a dojo of kids with confidence and self-worth.

Johnny Lawrence is the Sensei and creates a family atmosphere within the dojo. This might lead the audience to question who the protagonist is in this series. We see positive behavior from both sides and use our prior knowledge to raise Danny on a pedestal. The more we observe, the more we realize Johnny is changing his reckless ways, not to mention caring more for his students.

This is a very enjoyable series for all, youth to adults.



# SPORTS & ATHLETICS

## PSUAC CANCELS FALL & WINTER 2020-21 SPORTS COMPETITION, CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following article was obtained via [Penn State News](#) on Dec. 18, 2020.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. – Penn State Commonwealth Campuses Beaver, Brandywine, DuBois, Fayette, Hazleton, Greater Allegheny, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, Schuylkill, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York will forego traditional athletic opportunities in men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, and volleyball during the 2020-21 academic year due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) executive committee voted unanimously to cancel all intercollegiate athletics competition for fall and winter team sports during the 2020-21 academic year.

The Conference Office has continuously monitored University, federal, state and national governing body guidelines, as well as national trends in intercollegiate athletics throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of student-athletes, coaches and campus communities has continued to be the most important



aspect of the PSUAC’s attempts to resocialize intercollegiate sports at the Commonwealth Campuses.

Given the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, the PSUAC had previously postponed fall and winter sports competition to the spring semester. This most recent decision cancels regular season and conference championship competition for those fall and winter sports.

“The past few months have created many challenging decisions for our Executive Committee and Council of Athletic Directors,” said Director of Commonwealth Campus Athletics, Maureen Cooper.

“We have looked at multiple options to preserve intercollegiate athletics competition, but the health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches and staff has always been the most important aspect

in our discussion and was the determining factor in this decision,” Cooper added.

The University-established Commonwealth Campus Athletic Safety Subcommittee continues to monitor the University and national landscapes and offer guidance to the campuses so that they may offer meaningful athletic engagement opportunities to fall and winter sports student-athletes.

The Conference Office will immediately begin working with athletic directors to provide opportunities for fall and winter sports student-athletes to participate in athletic-related activities throughout the spring, including strength and conditioning, small group activities, team practices, and scrimmages.

“Our chancellors, athletic directors and the Conference Office have never stopped seeking ways to participate in

athletics during the 2020-21 season,” said PSUAC Commissioner, Ryan Ehrie.

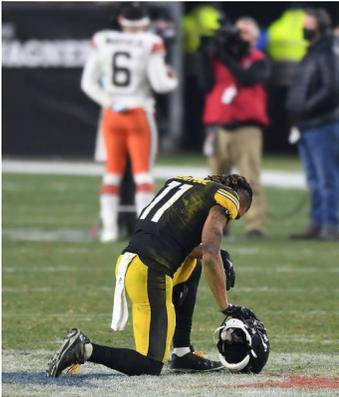
“This decision has not been made lightly, and we empathize with all of our student-athletes and coaches who will miss out on intercollegiate participation in sports they love. However, we look forward to preserving some level of experience for our fall and winter student-athletes through their campus athletic departments.”

The Conference Office, in conjunction with the PSUAC Executive Committee and Council of Athletic Directors, will reconvene in late January to determine intercollegiate opportunities for baseball, cross country, golf and softball.

In August 2020, the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) Board voted to not count seasons of competition for 2020-21 for student-athletes due to the COVID-19 disruptions.

The Penn State community is committed to continuing to advocate on behalf of all its student-athletes that participate throughout the commonwealth.

# COMPLETE COLLAPSE: SLOPPY STEELERS ELIMINATED BY “SAME-OLD” BROWNS IN PLAYOFFS WILD CARD ROUND, 48-37



*Wide Receiver Chase Claypool after the loss at Heinz Field. Photo courtesy of Caitlyn Epes, Pittsburgh Steelers*

**NATHAN REGA**  
Editor-in-Chief

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Fourteen seconds... After going 12-4 and leading the AFC North division in the 2020 season, it only took 14 seconds for the Pittsburgh Steelers to fall behind to the visiting Cleveland Browns in the Wild Card Round of NFL playoffs, Jan. 10.

On the first snap of the game, Pittsburgh center Maurkice Pouncey sent the ball sailing over the head of quarterback Ben Roethlisberger at Pittsburgh's 22-yard line. Both Roethlisberger and running back James Conner failed to secure the loose ball as the Browns' secondary attacked, recovering it in the Steeler's endzone for their first touchdown.

It only got worse for the Steelers as the Browns

humiliated them with three more touchdowns.

The Browns 28-0 lead at the end of the first quarter set the record for most points scored by an NFL team in the first quarter of a postseason game. Two of those touchdowns came after two abysmal Roethlisberger interceptions.

The Steelers finally found the endzone via Conner in the second quarter, but it was not enough to spark a comeback. Cleveland quickly answered with another touchdown, a 7-yard pass to tight end Austin Hooper.

The Steelers continued to trail the Browns in the second half, ending the game, 48-37.

Roethlisberger's four interception performance likely would have garnered "boos" from fans



*An emotional Ben Roethlisberger joined by teammate Maurkice Pouncey after a crushing playoff loss. Photo courtesy of Karl Roser, Pittsburgh Steelers.*

had Heinz Field's stadium not been limited to players' families due to pandemic precautions.

The defense, despite leading the league in sacks for four straight years, failed to register even one in the postseason.

"We blew it," defensive tackle Cameron Heyward said. "I can't sugarcoat it. You look at the score. As a defense, we gave up too many points. And as a leader, as a leader of the

defense, I failed, miserably; and you know, it's tough to lose."

Roethlisberger personalized the disappointment of the loss as he sat alone, visibly emotional, at the end of the game. Long-time teammate Pouncey joined him as other players exited the field. The Steelers enter an uncertain off-season with many key players' contracts ending this year and limited salary cap space.

As Pittsburgh came to terms with its playoff elimination, Cleveland relished in its first postseason victory since 1994 and ending a 17-game Heinz Field losing streak. The game was also the Browns first postseason appearance since 2002, also against the Steelers.

Cleveland moved on to the Divisional Round on Jan. 17, where they were eliminated by the Kansas City Chiefs, 17-22.



*Defensive End Myles Garrett and Quarterback Baker Mayfield celebrate their first NFL playoff victory. Photo courtesy of Matt Starkey, Cleveland Browns*

# Congratulations 2020 Graduates!



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

Penn State Greater Allegheny's Fall 2020 graduates completed their last two semesters in the most unique way. We acknowledge their resilience and are extremely proud of all they have accomplished. We know that each will continue to accomplish great things!

## BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE GRADUATES

### *Psychology*

Marissa Anne Janicki  
Alexis Marie Schwer

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE GRADUATES

### *Administration of Justice*

Jeremy David Cramer  
Killian Philipp

### *Biobehavioral Health*

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