

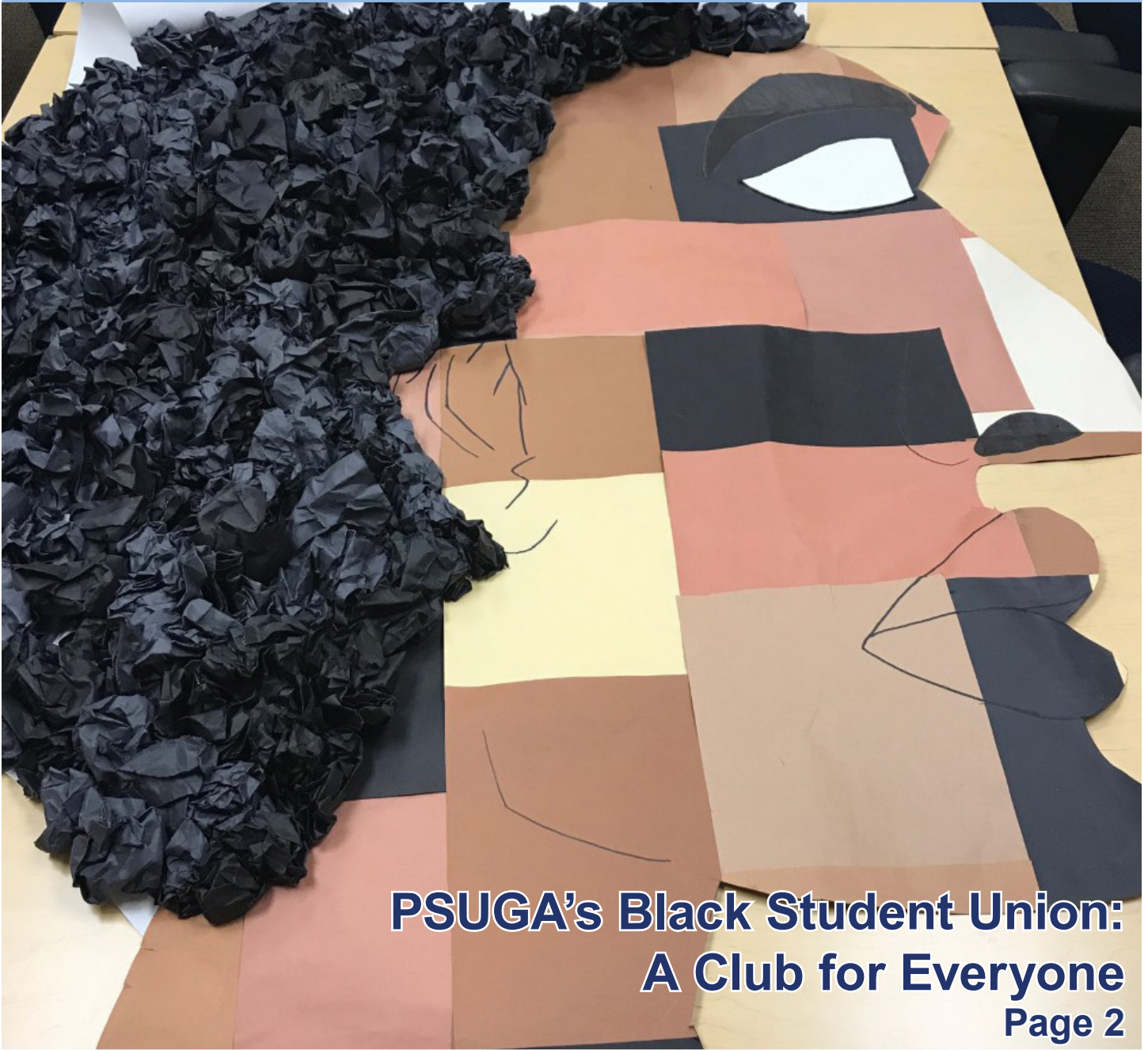


# The GA-ZETTE

FEBRUARY 2021

*The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny*

VOLUME 6



## PSUGA's Black Student Union: A Club for Everyone

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AND CULTURE**

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# PSUGA'S BLACK STUDENT UNION

## Black History Month 2021 celebrated virtually

**ALISHA TARVER**  
News Editor

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A virtual series of events marked how Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) Black Student Union (BSU)—one of the longest standing organizations on campus--celebrated Black History Month. The organization hosted a unity talk on Black mental health and concluded their series with a poetry slam and another unity talk on Black mental health.

The Black Student Union has been a part of student life off and on the Greater Allegheny cam-

pus for the past decade. The organization was created to establish social and educational support to the Africana community at Greater Allegheny.

Just ask BSU President, Armani Isaac, a junior biobehavioral health major, who still sees that mission, but sees a greater connection between campus and community now a vital role of the organization.

Isaac welcomes all races "to join as allies" to create greater understanding with each other.

"When I initially came in, Imani Blakely was the [BSU] president at the



**Armani Isaac, Black Student Union President**

time, and she was getting ready to transfer over to Penn State Main," Isaac said. "I was very passionate about the club when I first came in and she saw that. She thought I would be a good person to step in for her."

Isaac has served as president for the past two years and will continue, for consistent leadership, until she graduates because she said the "club had been interrupted in the past due to no transfers of power by former presidents."

COVID-19 has impacted on-campus activities, and engagement with student activities has been low despite knowing there would be a return for in-person learning on Feb. 15. Isaac has struggled to engage current and prospective members

in club events. She believes student engagement has declined due to the low number of students in-person on campus, and remote learning. She expressed how most students would participate when they would see an event going on and would become intrigued.

"The biggest challenge that I face with engaging students is the fact that we are currently in a pandemic and both students and staff are now working and learning from home," she said.

"With this in mind, student engagement has significantly decreased with activities and events are now being done via ZOOM or other digital formats.

"It seems that students are not as motivated to  
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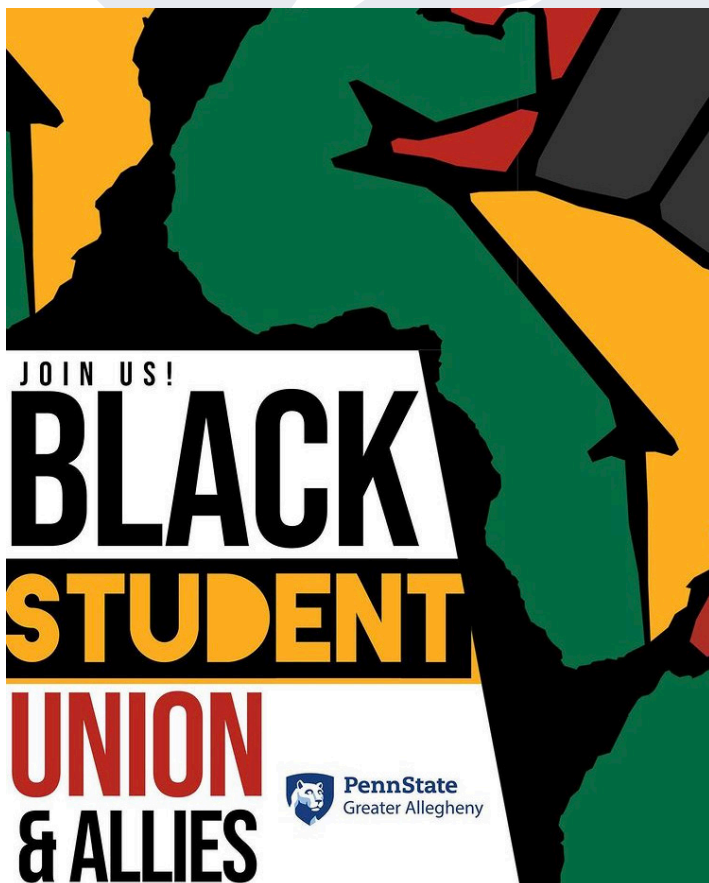


Image courtesy of the Black Student Union via [Instagram](#)

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attend because of these circumstances but I am confident that student engagement will increase after virtual promotion and advertisement is increased,” she added.

“I truly understand what it is to be in a position where you’re trying to accrue people. Student participation matters,” Isaac said. “Students aren’t participating in events, and it puts a halt on the process,” she added.

Isaac believed that this past month’s Black mental health theme was a pressing topic due to the current pandemic and the focus on civil unrest. She also expressed concern about the mental state of all of Greater Allegheny’s students due to the lack of in-person social interactions. She hopes this theme will also bring awareness to the mental health resources the campus has to offer.

“I think it’s always a good thing to read up on your history, but if you’re not trying to help and better the current community and yourself, 30 years down the road this will be our history.”

Isaac is a native of McKeesport and she has a deep connection to the campus’ surrounding community. She plans in the future to use the Black Student Union more as a

platform to promote community engagement and giving back to the city that PSUGA calls home.

“My hope for BSU is to extend to community services. In my eyes, BSU has been lacking in that department. Most of our activities are student focused. That’s the most important thing, but if you look right outside of its campus, we’re living right dab in the middle of McKeesport, one of the most impoverished cities in the nation.” Isaac said.


The Black Student Union has volunteered in the past with the McKeesport chapter of the NAACP with its annual pancake breakfast, which is also done in collaboration with McKeesport High School.

“I really want to start extending that outreach to our community,” Isaac said. “I think where we fault in this is not seeing our community as our community and distinguishing one as Penn State Greater Allegheny and one as McKeesport,” Isaac said.

The Black Student Union will begin meeting virtually bi-weekly on Thursdays, starting March 4.


To become a member of Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Black Student Union, and for more information, email Armani Isaac, at [axi49@psu.edu](mailto:axi49@psu.edu).

# How Allies Can Celebrate Black History Month




**Focus on cultivating skills of awareness, communication, and accountability**

How Allies Can Celebrate Black History Month offers free LinkedIn Learning courses taught by experts on unconscious bias, anti-racism, inclusion, equity, and belonging




**Engage meaningfully in allyship and anti-racism**

Learn how to spark constructive dialogue about race; identify bias, prejudice, discrimination, oppression; and advocate for a more inclusive environment.




**Create diversity, inclusion, and belonging for all**

Address the challenges and opportunities that may come up when working in a diverse organization.



Dr. Carter G. Woodson  
December 1875–  
April 1950

Known as the father of Black History; In 1926 Woodson established Negro History Week. It was then established as Black History Month by President Gerald Ford in 1976. Woodson was an author, editor, publisher and historian.



Black History Month is every month!

Celebrate BHM by learning skills that can make you a stronger ally, and celebrate Black history every month!

Design Concept: Alisha Tarver (Ait5274@psu.edu)  
Information Provided Courtesy of LinkedIn Learning

**Newspaper Cover: Mural created by PSUGA Black Student Union during Black History Month 2020.**

# HYBRID EXPERIENCE BRINGS BEST OF BOTH WORLDS To PSUGA students, faculty, staff

**RILEY PERCIAVALLE**

Staff Writer

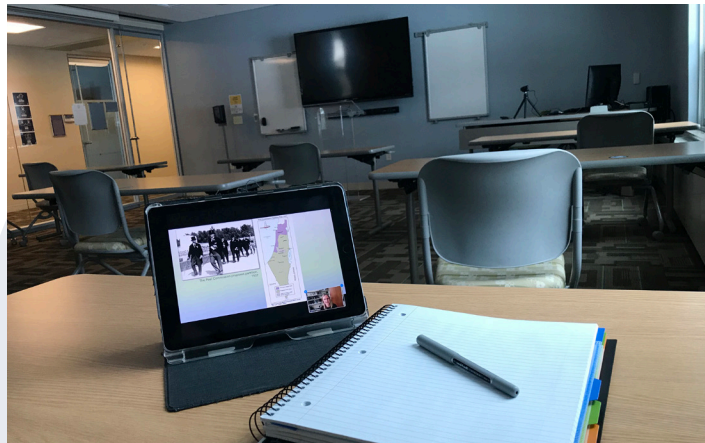
rup70@psu.edu

Since March of 2020, students and faculty have retreated to their homes, thanks to the soaring COVID-19 pandemic. What started a year ago like a normal semester turned into a ZOOM meeting session for all classes. After the lockdown last spring, most of the classes for the summer and fall semesters—and the start of this semester—were hosted through ZOOM.

No one was more excited to see students back on campus than Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jaqueline Edmondson.

“Penn State itself is a very strong community, with many wonderful people overcoming many obstacles such as the pandemic,” Edmondson said. “Hopefully, this virus soon comes to an end... as many people return and make their way through this Spring Semester and into the fall to complete their degrees.”

A vast majority of students were excited to return to campus, too, in some form or fashion after being cooped up in their homes in almost a full



**Attending class via the Frable ZOOM Room**

year of ZOOM. However, faculty are more excited to return to campus as each had their own stories of ZOOM meetings over this year of quarantine. The use of in-person and remote learning—often called hybrid learning—has been used effectively on the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus.

Students of course play a role at the University to keep safe, but the faculty are critically important, too, helping students remain safe while also helping them succeed in their studies.

Associate Professor of Energy Engineering, Dr. Eric Lipsky, said he has managed well with his science classes and hands-on labs. Special precautions are always a feature in science labs, but now more were added to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

“It was easier to pull

off labs with smaller classes I had,” Lipsky explained. “With the small classes, everyone was wearing their face mask and shields with distancing also added.”

Along with being remote and physical for classes, Lipsky also had no struggles during the class period with the students in-person.



“I had no labs during the spring of 2020, but I did during the fall of the previous year,” he said. “I missed the interactions with students, as it also lowered the idea of working together as well.”

However, given the

ZOOM meetings during that time, Lipsky managed to have everything presented and everyone was ready to work in-person.

Now that we are back in-person in 2021, Lipsky said he expects no issues for him and the lectures he will have.

“Lectures for me will be fine with the digital content...the only issues being the small classrooms and sitting with each other,” he added, “The point of the classroom is for your students to work well in the class space. There might be stress on the situation, but we’ll see how it plays out.”

Yet not all the professors had their classes going on through ZOOM. As some may account, ZOOM can usually give out a few predicaments and make for some technical issues.

Last fall, Professor Carol Howard, lecturer in business, taught MGMT 401--Contemporary Issues in Management. She said she had an excellent time with her students in-person and through ZOOM. The course offered students the opportunity to learn how businesses stay afloat and open, especially during a pandemic.

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From the beginning to the end, all students were there, alternating physically and remotely, between weekly class meetings. Howard said, "It really helped my students evenly since I had sixteen in general, it was a fifty-fifty who wanted to be on ZOOM and the classroom. I made sure the schedule fit on both sides."



The class also gave students the "Do's and Don'ts" of how to keep businesses going, even during a pandemic. Along with the meetings in the classes, simulations were also added in Management 401 to see the many ways a business works.

"The idea of simulations made it easier for students to firmly grasp the working world... helping to see both sides of in-person and ZOOM classes, accordingly," Howard said. "Everyone brought their laptops and iPads to the classroom, still making the experience worth the time needed."

It's not only the teaching staff who get all the issues and opportunities on campus, as PSUGA Head Librarian, Andrew Marshall, knows.

"The obvious challenge is not having a physical space to connect with students face-to-face," Marshall said. "We've done what we can with tools like ZOOM to make ourselves available, but it's not quite the same as being able to pop into my office at the library between classes."

Since last August, the Kelly Library has been open for limited use, but it has been very quiet on

campus for sure. Marshall is eager "to see the library full of students as soon as we can do that safely." He has an intern this semester who is working on some "new strategies to help us reach students more effectively, and I'm looking forward to seeing what she comes up with."

According to Marshall, "Actually, ZOOM works very well when I'm helping individual students and faculty members with their research projects. And I will continue to offer that option even after we're able to have more face-to-face contact."

He added that talking with a class over ZOOM is a "totally different story," and Marshall said that he "hands it to those instructors who have adapted well to the medium. I'm very much looking forward to getting back to meeting with students in person."

However, it doesn't seem too bad for Marshall, as he claims that

working from home isn't that much of a big deal as he and his family remain safe.

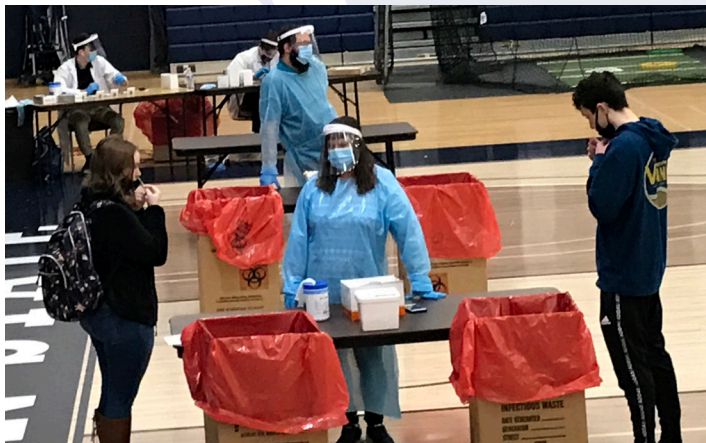
"My stress levels haven't been too high, all things considered. It has been challenging at times to work from home much more often while sharing space with my son's virtual fourth grade classroom, especially when I'm trying to talk with a class," he said. "But it's also nice to be able to take a break and watch a show, play a video game, etc. when I start to feel overwhelmed."

"I think it will be a while still until we're back to whatever 'normal' is going to look like," Marshall said.

Overall, this past year Marshall has had a positive experience.

"I do believe that the chancellor and other administrators around campus have done everything they can to provide and maintain a safe environment for students and staff."

## PSUGA'S UNIVERSAL COVID TESTING



Students participate in campus Universal COVID Testing process in the Wunderley Gym, Feb. 23.

# ACE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

## Providing aid for PSUGA students, community



*Students shopping at an ACE sponsored GA Pop-Up Market during the Fall 2019 semester. Photo courtesy of Zack Rosen, Strategic Planning & Communications.*

### NATHAN REGA

Editor-in-Chief

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As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a source of stress and uncertainty for the United States, as well as the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) community, the Center for Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) has been hard at work to relieve the burden of student food insecurity.

Unlike other ACE services that have certain eligibility requirements to meet, such as the textbook loan program, ACE's Food Security Initiative is available to all PSUGA students.

"If you have a need and we have the resources to help you, we're going to help you," stated ACE Program Director, Erica Willis.

ACE began distributing Giant Eagle gift cards back in March of 2020, after the initial lockdown and quarantine procedures began in response to COVID-19. Willis noted that ACE assisted roughly 30 students a month in the Fall 2020 semester.

"In this COVID world, basically the way we're offering support is gift card assistance," Willis explained. "We have a limited number of gift cards we're able to help students with."

ACE was able to pur-

chase the gift cards thanks to donations from the local community.

"We had donations from Jefferson Regional Foundation...the organization that helped us really start this food security program, and then we've had alumni make donations," Willis said. "I think it was in the fall, they had Giving Tuesday and there were donations that were given for food security."

PSUGA faculty and staff volunteer through ACE to deliver food to students in the local area. ACE also works in collaboration with the [Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank](#) which enables them set up food delivery services to

students.

Another benefit ACE receives by working with the Food Bank is the ability to purchase foods at a discounted price. Before the pandemic, ACE would purchase and distribute this food to students primarily through scheduled campus pop-up markets throughout the semester.

"That's at no cost to us because that's a service they offer to the community anyways," Willis said. "[ACE] is just the conduit to get the food from the Food Bank to the students.

Unfortunately, the popular pop-up markets--where students could receive food and other household items--that  
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ACE has been running during Common Hour the past several years, likely won't return until the fall due to pandemic safety precautions.

"It will be nice to be able to get back on campus and do the pop-up markets because we were able to impact so many more," Willis said. "It was like 75 students a month and now we're probably down to about 30ish with the gift cards and the drop off."

However, Willis and ACE are working on safe, alternative methods to get food out to students in need.

"We would really like to expand our food delivery service to do some type of shipping of dry goods to students," Willis explained, adding that this would also enable ACE to reach students in need who aren't currently

staying on campus or in the Pittsburgh area.

With ACE staff returning to campus, Willis is hoping to reinstate the various Grab and Go Stations located around campus where "students would be able to just grab quick things, granola bars, packaged nuts and crackers."

Campus Grab and Go Stations are located in the Frable Building main lobby and Registrar's office, the Student Commuter Lounge and Nurse's Office of the Student Community Center (SCC), and in the ACE office and Learning Center of the Kelly Library, Lower Level.

ACE is also responsible for the campus' Little Food Pantry, a small house-shaped box located near the Red Commuter Lot. Stocked with non-perishable foods and under the philosophy of "take what you need, leave what you can," the



PSUGA's "Little Food Pantry," freshly stocked for campus and community. Photo by Nathan Rega.

Little Food Pantry is a resource available to the McKeesport community as well as PSUGA students on their way to class.

Any student who is having difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat is encouraged to fill out the [Foodshare Delivery Form](#). DeAnna Jakubek

([dmf404@psu.edu](mailto:dmf404@psu.edu)) will be coordinating food deliveries through the Greater Pittsburgh Foodbank and will follow up with students who submit a form. All food requests are kept confidential.

Students are encouraged to reach out to Willis ([elc147@psu.edu](mailto:elc147@psu.edu)) or any ACE staff member for information and support.

## 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:

**Erica Willis, ACE Director**

Zoom Office Link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/2962192280>  
Email: [elc147@psu.edu](mailto:elc147@psu.edu)

**Shelly Brown, ACE Academic Counselor/Instructor**

Zoom Office Link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/7253901684>  
Email: [srb323@psu.edu](mailto:srb323@psu.edu)

**Sarah Fresch, ACE Math Coach/Instructor**

Zoom Office Link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/7036922851>  
Email: [szf10@psu.edu](mailto:szf10@psu.edu)

**DeAnna Jakubek, ACE Administrative Assistant**

Zoom Office Link: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/5198510425>  
Email: [dmf404@psu.edu](mailto:dmf404@psu.edu)

# DISABILITY SERVICES AT PSUGA

## Ensuring student success



**Siobhan Brooks, Gruskin Learning Center Coordinator.**

### SARA PAYO

Contributing Writer

sap5403@psu.edu

There are many resources available for students to be successful at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA). The Center for Academic and Career Excellence (ACE) Program, study skills workshops, and academic advising are a few well-known services on campus. Even with a variety of support programs in place, students may encounter other obstacles, such as a disability, that prevent them from achieving their goals.

Siobhan Brooks has worked at PSUGA for 11 years as the Gruskin Learning Center Coordinator. Most students might never meet her unless they

need tutoring support and have visited the Learning Center in the lower level of the Kelly Library. Some students do not know that Brooks is also the campus disability services coordinator and has held that role for the past five years. She ensures students with disabilities are able to achieve their educational goals by offering additional assistance through the university's Student Disability Resources.

Before starting at PSUGA, Brooks worked in the social services field. "I've done in-home therapy in my past. I've done clinical administration. I've done a lot in the therapeutic field, so I had some background knowledge of disabilities that students may come in with, more on the psy-

chological spectrum than the physical spectrum," Brooks said.

That background has been helpful and informs her work by providing the best solutions for students with disabilities. "My whole thing is how can we eliminate the barriers that may be in place in traditional education, and knowing that you need to treat each individual case separately," Brooks said. Examples of barriers might be no ramps or elevators in buildings for students with physical impairments and mobility aids.

Brooks emphasized not all disabilities are physical and it's important for students to let the appropriate people know so invisible barriers can be removed.

"Everybody's symptoms are not the same, so I think it's important to make sure you're not grouping, but looking at each person as an individual and seeing what they need to be successful...it can be different for each student."

Brooks says a majority of students self-identify as having a disability. Sometimes faculty and staff think that a student might need additional assistance and refer them to disability services. "It's up to the student in a college

environment to come and request the accommodations, because you don't ever want to assume or imply that a student has something they're dealing with, and it may not be the case," Brooks added.

The process for a student to request academic accommodations at PSUGA is to make an appointment with disability services. Brooks tries to identify what students feel their difficulties are, determine students' history and background, and conduct an intake interview.

"We figure out which paperwork the student needs to get completed in order to be able to see if they can get the accommodations they are requesting," Brooks said.

Once all the forms are approved, Brooks gives the student an accommodation or academic adjustment letter based on the student's barriers and what the university can provide. It is then the student's responsibility to give the letter to each of their instructors.

"With certain accommodations, there may need to be some consultation with the instructor," Brooks said. "The point of giving accommodations is to make sure the students are able to perform the  
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same as other students in their classroom. It's not to give them an advantage over students."

In regards to students with physical disabilities, Brooks says that the campus provides accommodations that allow them to safely navigate the physical campus, as well as be successful in their courses.

Students may not have been born with their disabilities. They may not read Braille or know American Sign Language, so offering those accommodations to deaf or blind students would be inappropriate. Brooks identifies the barriers and works to figure out what tools would be the most helpful for each student based on their individual needs.

Over the years, Brooks said the campus has provided text-to-speech software for students with visual impairments. Students who are unable to read or see their textbooks and handouts are able to load those into speech software which makes that information accessible.

For students with hearing impairments who are unable to hear their instructor, the campus can provide closed captioning and transcription services for audio and video.

"Those are barriers that students have that can be removed," Brooks said.

"You put the things in place that makes it accessible for them and now they're able to perform at the same level as other students."

Brooks mentioned that colleges are not required to offer individual tutoring, but if the service is available on campus, then it has to be accessible for all students. Brooks said that the learning center went "above and beyond" to make sure students were accommodated.

For example, a student with a vision impairment needed a different approach to tutoring. Brooks said, "We created boards because they can't see the graphs, so we had to figure out 'How can we bring this to life for the student?' We've done things where they can touch and feel, being creative in those ways.

"Access is everything, and I think you want everybody to have an opportunity to thrive and flourish in any environment, regardless of any type of ailment or disability, whether it be physical or psychological impairment," Brooks said.

Students who wish to learn more or request disability accommodations, should contact Brooks by email at [snb106@psu.edu](mailto:snb106@psu.edu).

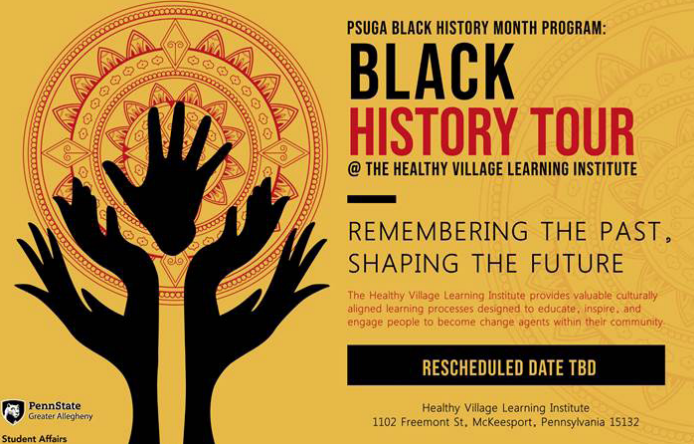
*Editor's Note: Next month, Sara Payo reports on the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).*

## CLUB ADVERTISING

Does your organization want to promote its event or program in this newspaper?

The GA-ZETTE offers complimentary, no-cost display ads to any university sanctioned club or organization.

**Space is limited!** Contact the campus newspaper at [ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com)



PSUGA BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM:  
**BLACK HISTORY TOUR**  
 @ THE HEALTHY VILLAGE LEARNING INSTITUTE

REMEMBERING THE PAST,  
 SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Healthy Village Learning Institute provides valuable culturally aligned learning processes designed to educate, inspire, and engage people to become change agents within their community.

**RESCHEDULED DATE TBD**

Healthy Village Learning Institute  
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PennState Greater Allegheny  
 Student Affairs



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SUMMER 2021 VIRTUAL GREATER ALLEGHENY NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION LEADERS NEEDED!

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**NSO**  
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SCAN QR CODE TO APPLY!

## SPRING 2021 WELLNESS DAYS

Thursday, Mar. 11 Intellectual & Spiritual Wellness

Wednesday, Apr. 7 Physical & Environmental Wellness

# DIS: Disability Inclusion Series

## Event Schedule

**Thursday, March 4**  
"Disability 101"

**Friday, March 12**  
"Disability & Diversity"

**Friday, March 19**  
"Advocacy & Accessibility"

**Mental Health Week**  
"Neurodiversity"  
...and more!

Hosted virtually over Zoom  
during Common Hour

12:15pm - 1:15pm

Events are open to all  
students, staff & faculty!

Posters and Zoom links  
coming soon!

For more information, check out  
[sites.psu.edu/DisabilityInclusion](https://sites.psu.edu/DisabilityInclusion)

DIS events are part of a student-led multimedia research project, created to inform and educate the campus community about Disability and Mental Health.

The goal is to promote awareness, encourage dialogue, and improve accessibility, services, and policies at Greater Allegheny and throughout the university.

### ~ Kick-Off Virtual Discussion ~

**"Commemorating More Than 30 Years of the ADA"**  
with Judy Heumann, Disability Rights Advocate

**Wednesday, March 3 at 3:30pm**

Sponsored by PSU Student Disability Resources

View the Live Stream at:  
<https://www.watch.psu.edu/diversability>

Please register in advance!  
Events will be recorded.  
Closed Captioning  
(CART) will be provided.

For questions, feedback, or to request  
accommodations, contact Sara Payo  
at [sap5403@psu.edu](mailto:sap5403@psu.edu).



*THON Reveal Photo: Patrick Mansell for THON*

## MCALLISTER TWINS' THON EFFORT NO SMALL "FEET" IN PANDEMIC TIMES

It was not the floor of the Bryce Jordan Center that played host to Greater Allegheny THON Co-chairs Rebecca and Riley McAllister this past weekend for THON, but to hear Rebecca tell it, their home in North Huntingdon, PA was just as important a venue in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

And for the McAllister twins, the dancing was only part of the weekend. The 46-hour marathon was something they had been working on the past year and nothing was going to stop their efforts to raise monies for the cause.

"THON goes farther than the BJC (Bryce Jordan Center). THON can happen anywhere, and students are willing to put in just as much work to raise the money for the Four Diamonds," Rebecca noted Monday after the weekend netted more than \$10.6 million to fund pediatric cancer research and support chil-

dren and families fighting childhood cancer.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, THON Weekend 2021 took place virtually to help safeguard the health of all families, participants, volunteers, spectators and the 600 dancers. The virtual platform--livestreamed all weekend through the student production team called 46Live--brought together Penn Staters from across the world with dancers each participating remotely from their own homes.

This year's theme of "Rise and Unify" epitomized the efforts of all who participated, and "what we did to engage in THON this year by being the chair and co-chair was create the ideas for the fundraisers that took place to donate to THON for the grand total," Rebecca added.

The generosity of the Greater Allegheny Community netted approxi-



*(Left to right) PSUGA THON Co-Chairs, Riley and Rebecca McAllister, at THON 2021, from their North Huntingdon, PA home. Photo Courtesy Sharon McAllister (proud mom).*

mately \$2,000 contributed through pepperoni and pie sales and a donor pledge website.

"We arranged the meetings for club members and advertised our online donor drive page which was crucial in raising money due to the coronavirus," she said. "THON can happen anywhere, and students are willing to put in just as much work to raise the

money...we are extremely glad that we did this, even in a pandemic," Rebecca added.

As the world's largest student-run philanthropy, each year THON raises millions of dollars for Four Diamonds, the organization that has helped more than 4,000 children and supported pediatric cancer research at Penn State Children's Hospital.

# PENN STATE PRESIDENT ERIC BARRON ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT, JUNE 2022

Story compiled from University press releases and various news and wire service reports.

At a virtual meeting of the Board of Trustees on Feb. 19, Penn State President Eric J. Barron announced his retirement in June, 2022, as the 18th president of Pennsylvania's flagship public university. Barron was appointed president of Penn State in 2014, returning to the University where he previously spent 20 years, including serving as dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences.

"President Barron's outstanding leadership and support for the ongoing success of our students, faculty and staff have helped make a great public university even greater," said Board of Trustees Chair, Matt Schuyler. "President Barron's stable guidance, successful management of critical challenges, and drive to innovate will have a lasting impact and have prepared Penn State to lead the future of public higher education. As we look toward the future, the University is well-positioned for our next leader."

Barron, 69, and a career academic and scientist, took the helm of the school three years after Jerry Sandusky, a former football assistant coach, was arrested and later convicted of sexually as-

saulting boys — a scandal that rocked the university and focused national attention on how organizations handle issues of child sexual abuse.

In the years since, Barron oversaw endeavors that tackled access and affordability, student success, and diversity and inclusion, along with leading a philanthropic campaign with a focus on opening doors for students financially, creating transformative educational experiences, and impacting the world.

There have been ongoing cost-savings efforts to save millions annually and through various initiatives, the University has invested resources in fostering economic development and job creation across Pennsylvania.

The University has implemented a strategic plan that provides a vision for Penn State's future and for achieving goals in areas such as transforming education, enhancing health, stewarding resources, advancing the arts and humanities, and driving digital innovation.

Over the past year, Barron has led the University through the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on protecting the health and safety of the



University community and preparing for the future.

According to a listing in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Barron receives total compensation of \$1.1 million, including base pay of \$845,000. Barron, who will have served eight years upon his retirement, said the presidency has been his greatest career honor.

"It has been my greatest professional honor to serve as president of Penn State and to be able to collaborate with and learn from our amazing faculty, staff and students every

day. Together, we have elevated Penn State as a leader in higher education poised to meet the future and to attract the best and brightest students," Barron said during the meeting.

"In the next 16 months, even as we continue to weather the challenges of the pandemic as a community, we cannot pause in our efforts to provide the highest quality education, contribute knowledge to society, and support Pennsylvania communities, the nation and world," Barron said.



## THE CHURCH IN THE HEART OF PENN STATE

**JAMES PLEZ**

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If you have ever explored the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus, then you have noticed the First Evangelical Free Church (FEFC) centered on the campus.

Former PSUGA student, Jalen Bolger, who is now a junior graphic design major at University Park, states “When I came to PSUGA for my freshmen orientation, I thought the church was part of the school.”

Many people, especially new faces to the campus, have thought, that as well. “When I was informed that the church had no affiliation with the school, I wondered why

and how the church was built in the middle of a university,” Bolger said.

For years that question has surfaced among the PSUGA community. It all started more than 100 years ago with a prominent McKeesport family named Buck and the founders of the First Swedish Evangelical Church.

The First Swedish Evangelical Free Church was established in 1882. Services were in Swedish, so the church started on Jenny Lind Street in McKeesport, a street named after the famed Swedish opera singer, Jenny Lind.

According to Alex Ielase, pastor of student and young adult ministries, “The church is about 137 years old. We

were the first evangelical church in the state of Pennsylvania.”

Pastor of Children and Family Ministry, Joel Rishel, said that as the church grew exponentially, in 1907, a new building was built “up the street” from the original location. Religious services were held in Swedish until 1946. Once services were held in English, then the church was renamed First Evangelical Free Church of McKeesport and moved to its current location in 1967.

It is still unclear on how the church even got the land centered in PSUGA’s campus or who owned what land first, but there are thoughts on how each came to be, Rishel said.

“I think this whole plot

of land was originally a farm, and the owner sold it to Penn State with the stipulation that a church would always remain on the property.”

PSUGA’s Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Jacqueline Edmondson, added to the history.

“As I understand it, a local realtor named William Buck donated land to the church and then he donated land to Penn State. It just happened that the land for Penn State surrounded the church.”

The Buck family owned a grocery at the corner of Pacific Avenue and Finn Street in McKeesport.

William L. Buck (1896-1974), a truck driver  
*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

during World War I, who drove troops and supplies to the frontline, went into real estate after the war. He accumulated land within the city of McKeesport.

In honor of his father, Meyer Buck, in the 1950s, William donated 10 acres of land to PSUGA. The Main Building was the first building on the site. As the campus enrollment continued to grow, more buildings were constructed, such as the science building (now Crawford) (1959), The Buck Union Building (BUB), now known as the Student Community Center (SCC) (1961), and then the Frable Building (1969).

Later, the Buck family donated another 100 acres of land to PSUGA to allow the campus to expand to build a residence hall and food service building.

In 1973, three buildings were built in honor of the campus benefactors: Ostermayer Building, Wunderley Gymnasium, and Kelly Library. In 1976, the Maintenance Building for physical plant was added.

In 2003, the BUB was torn down to become the SCC and the home for food services.

A fitness center, now known as the Fitness and Cultural Center (FCC) is where the food services used to be located.

And the campus and the church remain on their respective properties to this day.

Although PSUGA and FEFC are not affiliated with one another, they have become great neighbors throughout the years.

“The church property is not part of the campus, but the pastors and congregation are wonderful neighbors and do a lot for our students throughout the year,” Edmondson added.

Ielase agrees with Edmondson that the church and school are good neighbors even complimenting Edmondson, stating “Dr. Edmondson is so tremendous. She wanted to meet with me and the pastors...that openness was always there,” he added.

Rishel believes the two

are mutual partners. “We have always allowed Penn State students and faculty to park in our parking lot during the week, and the campus allows our people to park in the Yellow Parking Lot on Sunday mornings,” said Rishel. “We have contributed significantly to the on-campus food pantry. We have distributed snacks and goodie bags during finals week.”

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, every Tuesday, the church hosted a free dinner for students living in the dorms, part of the “Tuesday evening college-age bible study called Alive,” Rishel said. Since 2017, the church’s deacon board decided to host a welcome back picnic for the campus, except for this past fall due to the pandemic. “We invite the

students and staff and give out give-a-ways,” Ielase said.

Pre-med major, Kristina Sequeira, a junior who now attends University Park, was one who attended.

“I went to PSUGA my first two years of college. I never really wondered why the church was there, I just knew it was there. I parked in the church’s parking lot often because it was across from the Frable Building which made it more convenient to me because that’s where most of my classes were held,” Sequeira said.

But she has fond memories of the church. “I remember going to one of their picnics in the beginning of the semester. There was music and games...and good cookies too,” she added.



**PSUGA students attend First Evangelical Free Church’s annual Penn State Picnic, August 2019. Photo courtesy of First Evangelical Free Church on [Facebook](#).**

# “PITTSBURGH’S WIRELESS PIONEERS”

## National Museum of Broadcasting becomes next Be Greater Creative client

On November 2, 1920, in nearby Turtle Creek, not far from where the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus now stands, a group of men made history when they harbored in a small shack on the roof of the Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Company and took “to the air” for the first commercial radio broadcast of what would be the results of the 1920 Harding-Cox presidential election. It marked the start of KDKA Radio.

That historic broadcasting moment and the history that followed is what Pittsburgh native, Rick Harris, hopes to memorialize with his vision for a Pittsburgh-based National Museum of Broadcasting (NMB).

It is also what a group of PSUGA communications majors hope to help him with in their real-life, integrated marketing communications campaign launched in the spring of 2021 through the campus’ new, student-based PR and marketing services agency called “Be Greater Creative.”

“Sometimes it takes a fresh look from creative people outside a project to see opportunities that



*Rick Harris in “the shack.”*

those working on it day-to-day have not seen,” Harris said. “I’m looking forward to the ‘Be Greater Creative’ team to come up with some unique ideas for the museum that no one has ever considered before,” he added.

The museum is not yet built and the plans are still on paper, but the students’ project may help to provide ideas and strategies for the NMB to raise the needed funds to start construction somewhere in the region in the future that would “commemorate the past, explore the present and peer into the future of the entire scope of electronic communications.”

Through the museum, Harris looks to increase tourism and provide educational opportunities and economic growth in the greater Pittsburgh area.

This past November,

on the night of the centennial anniversary of KDKA, Harris and his NMB board members, local legislators and Pittsburgh radio personalities socially-distanced and met for a live-stream celebration from the rooftop of the building in Turtle Creek where the original broadcast emanated.

The building, now part of the Regional Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC) that owns the land and former Westinghouse site, played host to a reenactment of the 1920 broadcast from a reproduction of the studio “shack,” as it is fondly called.

Following a discussion of the future of the NMB and the broadcast, Harris was able to celebrate, albeit virtually, the centennial, while also publicizing his vision for the museum.

“We believe that Pittsburgh, more than any other place in the world, played the key role in the development of radio and television,” Harris said. “There are broadcasting museums in other cities across the country and around the world but in Pittsburgh, where so much development in radio and television occurred, we have none.

“Our mission, you might say, is to rectify this. We want the world to know what happened here and that if any place should have a museum of broadcasting, it should be Pittsburgh,” he added.

Radio technology is more important today than it has ever been. Harris said that without it there “would be no smartphones or other wireless communication devices that we are so dependent on today.”

Harris believes if we learn about the history of wireless technology, we can better understand where it is today, and where it’s headed.

“Pittsburghers were the pioneers of wireless 100 years ago and we believe a museum can inspire the Pittsburghers of today to be the wireless pioneers of tomorrow,” Harris said.

# OPINIONS... FROM WHERE WE SIT

## MY EXPERIENCE WITH A BLACK PHYSICIAN

**ALISHA TARVER**

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The Washington Post reported recently that research shows that Black patients receive better care from Black nurses and doctors. This fact isn't new but is extremely important in a time where the country's overall Black maternal mortality rate is significantly higher in comparison to white women.

I was 25 years old the first time I ever experienced a Black female M.D. I always saw them on television, but I had never been treated by one.

I live in the west side of Pittsburgh and I had to make the trip to the east side of Pittsburgh to the city of Braddock. It was almost a 45-minute commute, but it was worth it.

The office was busy, so I waited almost an hour. It was just an introductory appointment, so I don't know why I wasn't in and out. I was slightly irritated but still able to remain patient. After meeting with her I knew it was because she didn't rush and took her time with each patient, including me.

A medical assistant took my vitals and then she placed me in a room to wait on the doctor. Dr.



Beseka came in shortly after with this huge grin. I immediately felt at home.

She remained distant but asked me to remove my mask so she could see who she was treating. I removed my mask and smiled back at her.

We put our masks back on, and she sat down on the stool in front of me. I immediately felt relaxed. She sat next to me, and despite the pandemic, she had no fear.

I'm sure she's a professional, and she knows her risks. I've had previous doctors always stand so far away from me even before the pandemic, so it was nice that she was so affectionate.

She asked about me, my mom and other siblings. She asked about my background and was even interested in my academic career. She let me know

she cared, and I could tell she genuinely did.

She spoke to me like she was just as invested in my health as much as I should be. She not only told me what I should do but expressed it with concern.

I always look for guidance from Black women, and until I met Dr. Beseka, I sought comfort in my Black friends who were nurses. I always want to avoid the insurance company, so I always make a quick call or send a text to my friend Nurse Bria. I like to think of her as an innovator in the telehealth field.

However, this type of

care as I get older is not going to suffice. It feels good to know that there is someone who has been in my shoes, as a Black woman, who is now my health care provider. I'm extremely grateful for her.

I encourage all Black people to seek out care from Black physicians. I know there may appear to be a shortage of them but I was able to find my PCP through the blog, Brown Mamas. They have all the Black physicians in the Pittsburgh area listed by specialty.

The directory can be accessed at <https://brown-mamas.com/black-doctors-pittsburgh/>.

### 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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Join our Saturday Summit Talk as we take up questions from the panel  
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# THE BLACK COMMUNITY'S INFAMOUS HISTORY RELATING TO SYRINGES



Doctor drawing blood from a patient as part of the [Tuskegee Syphilis Study](#), 1932. National Archives, Atlanta, GA (U.S. government).

## SHANNON M. REID

Guest Columnist

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The epiphenomenon related to the COVID-19 pandemic is not the fear of catching the disease but the growing mistrust in prophylactics. When the long-awaited Pfizer BioNTech vaccine became available in the United States, there was some controversy about its use even when coronavirus cases were through the roof.

Some people started rolling up their sleeves right away and lining

up for their inoculation. Other people thought the vaccine had side effects more severe than the virus it's meant to treat.

The majority of people for the latter were African Americans. Ironically, the Black demographic, along with the Latino, had suffered far more infections and deaths from the spreading virus than the white demographic.

This knee-jerk paranoia is a consequence of the 1932 Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment which was a study conducted to test untreated STDs, using African Americans

as guinea pigs, adding the new vaccine being given gratis as was the case in the Experiment. They are fearful of the virus but they are even more scared of the vaccine

That was then, this is now. History is not science. But when people know about the bad, horrible things that have been done in the past, they cling to them. As long as it is factual, they accept it as a merit in why they cannot trust anything almost similar. Likewise, the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine is just the occasion that the de-

scendants of the African Americans experimented on would be taught to abstain from.

When I was a student at Penn State Greater Allegheny, I often attended one of several campus meetings. There, I listened once in on a student engage everybody in issues of misinformation connected to subliminally racial messages that are misplaced in African American pop culture.

The student talked about how Black youths grew up believing that the n-word was actually a  
*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from page 18)

compliment without being taught its derogatory meaning and that old story of George Washington's fake teeth being made of wood when really they were teeth extracted from the mouths of slaves.

A campus leader who was at the meeting made it out like it had to do with what they were taught as part of their schooling only to be taught the truth when they reached college-age.

I think the argument the both of them were trying to make was that the K-12 education system needs readjusting. We need to stop filling young black heads with these fables and start teaching them the actual history and meaning behind them. Otherwise, it is the same as addressing that the truth does not matter anymore and needs to be canceled.

As quoted by George Santayana in his 1905 book, *The Life of Reason: The Phrases of Human Progress*, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Given all that has gone down last year, when we read up on African American history, we can always expect to come

across some gruesome stories.

Some tend to be so traumatizing we lose sight in what good a similar prospect in a different circumstance can do.

However, African Americans are just a special case. There are other people who are refusing to get the vaccine for different reasons.

I like to think, for instance, that the vaccine was thought to be rushed and had not been through enough testing. So, they want to see other people get vaccinated before they do (and God knows how many they have to see).

So far, there have been a few reported side effects.

Right now, the new vaccine is in short supply and rollout is slow. While its distribution is being prioritized in order to save it for those who are closest to contraction of the virus—from frontline workers to the elderly—we also need to gather enough momentum to get the Black community to participate in the vaccination.

We need to teach them to let go of the past and take the needle in the arm.

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

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# IN-CLASS & REMOTE LEARNING: PERSPECTIVES OF A PENN STATE STUDENT

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Well, here we are!

Some Penn State students such as myself have returned to the grounds of the Greater Allegheny campus after a four-week remote learning to start the semester.

The only thought that ran through my head as I arrived there this week was “It is very quiet here...Not much seems to be happening as a few students come and go from Frable to the Student Community Center... It’s like a ghost town with not many people here.”

However, I cannot really blame the fact that because the pandemic continues, some changes need to be accommodated here. Yet, I feel as if this whole place feels a little deserted even with some in-person classes in session.

Many classes from science to economics to history, among others, are still going online via ZOOM. I feel many students who commute from around the Pittsburgh area, not near the Greater Allegheny (GA) campus, can approve of this since the drive isn’t a nightmare in the snow.

The cafeteria as well



has changed with most of the tables and chairs vanishing to keep the six feet rule, but there have been a few students socializing around the designated tables, which is good.

However, I’m sure faculty and some students like myself usually prefer the big loud sound of the TV playing and students gathering together making their voices heard throughout the Student Community Center.

I miss that feeling of walking into the GA’s most popular place as the cafeteria where friendly staff help everyone with satisfying food while giving a smile with the

service they provide. Yet what can you do with how the world is still dealing with an issue like this virus since we began this remote learning nearly a year ago?

I think most can agree with the fact that not everyone is on the side of online classes. The idea of facing the screens from one to three hours of class time is not something I believe most students want. Unless you did have some troubles facing you when you were a child or more, then it seems reasonable to have online classes.

Yet for the vast majority of us, it was a daily

routine of getting up at six in the morning, getting dressed, entering the school building, doing your seven hours of education, and then leaving: a routine for five days.

Not everyone was prepared to NOT do this as it was quick change of pace for a whole year as we never knew when we would return to campus.

As I sit here with only about forty percent of my classes in person, while the other sixty percent are via ZOOM, I think: Is it really a bad thing?

For me, it really is a down-the-middle conversation as it provides a pro and con for most. The pro being not to worry about the issues of the pandemic going on outside of our homes, while a con is missing the feeling of the classroom.

Sooner or later, we’ll have the normal we once had and be back in a classroom with a normal experience without the use of ZOOM being there.

Yet who knows? I think it’ll be interesting to see how and when we will all be back on campus, making the best out of our days and classes as we enjoy each other’s company in person...again.



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

# CULTURE, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## “MA RAINEY’S BLACK BOTTOM:” A MUST SEE FILM

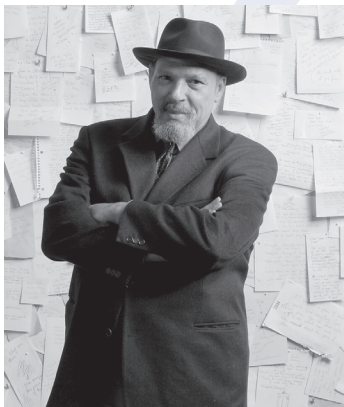
**TROY FERGUSON**

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“Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” is a play written by Pittsburgh native and Pulitzer-Prize-winning-author and playwright, August Wilson.

Wilson, whose stories are written against a 20th century Pittsburgh Hill District backdrop—including “The Piano Lesson,” “Gem of the Ocean,” and his most-known “Fences”—has captured the heart of Hollywood. Now, his work comes to a new generation of audiences as films for theater and television.



**August Wilson**

Academy Award-winning actor, Denzel Washington, who directed, produced and starred in the acclaimed and award-winning movie, “Fences” in 2016—a film adapted from one of



**Viola Davis as Ma Rainey. Photo by Netflix.**

Wilson’s plays—has plans to adapt and produce for the screen all of Wilson’s “Pittsburgh Century Cycle” of plays.

The “cycle” was Wilson’s way of capturing the Black experience in Pittsburgh during each decade of the century, thus 10 plays, one for each decade. This is the second film adapted from those 10 plays. Washington is only the producer on this one, but he has scored another success with “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom.”

Unlike all of Wilson’s “cycle” of plays which are set in Pittsburgh, “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” is set in Chicago in the 1920s. Washington and the cast filmed in Pittsburgh, but the city was a stand-in for Chicago. This is the only one of Wilson’s plays to

feature a city other than Pittsburgh.

Tony Award-winner, George C. Wolfe, directed the film, which stars multiple-award-winning actress Viola Davis as Ma Rainey; veteran actor, Glynn Turman as a pianist named Toledo; and the late Chadwick Boseman as trumpeter, Levee Green.

I love Wilson’s works. As a thespian in high school, I studied August Wilson’s works for my drama studies classes. I continued to study and analyze his work in a theatre class offered here at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Out of all the plays I read, “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” was my favorite and the movie, like the play, is a favorite with me.

Studying August Wilson was always important to me, obvious-

ly because I liked the Pittsburgh connection, but Wilson’s plays show the everyday struggles of African Americans in 20th century America and that helped me better understand the trials and tribulations throughout the history of Black America.

Wilson’s writing gives a voice to the Black experience throughout the decades, and his characters experienced everything from racism to family issues to the lives of marginalized individuals. His plays make us think and from that, we garner a greater perspective.

In “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” the story is part fact and part fiction. Wilson focuses on the legendary, dynamite blues singer, Ma Rainey, and the story centers around a  
*(Continued on next page)*



**Chadwick Boseman as Levee Green. Photo by Netflix.**

**(Continued from page 21)**

fictionalized account of the charged afternoon of her Chicago studio recording of her version of the song, “Black Bottom.”

A bit of history to set the stage: the “black bottom” was a dance that originated among African Americans in the rural South in the early 20th century. It became a national dance craze when it was eventually adopted

by mainstream American culture in the “Roaring 20s.”

Ma Rainey has been discovered by white music producers to record an album in Chicago. Now what I really loved about Viola Davis character was that she was such a strong vocal powerhouse. Obviously, there were many trials and tribulations surrounding her character.

The film depicted the white producers capital-

izing on her only for her voice. Davis executed her role as Ma Rainey perfectly. You had to be a strong African American woman especially in that time period. The white producers treated her like a money machine.

One theme that was present during the motion picture was Levee Green’s questioning of the existence of God. Green was a trumpeter in Ma Rainey’s band, and so masterfully portrayed by Boseman. The treatment of African Americans in the country was terrible. Boseman’s character felt hopeless and did not think things would ever get better. Just like Ma Rainey, he had to be strong with all the trouble from the

producers that he worked with...again, treated like a money-making machine.

Because of Davis and Boseman’s extraordinary performances in this film, they racked up two Golden Globe nominations, Best Actress and Actor, respectively. The 78th annual ceremony is set to take place in New York and Los Angeles, on Feb. 28, at 8pm and broadcast on NBC.

The Golden Globes are always seen as a predictor of Oscar winners, so this is so exciting that the Golden Globes has a Pittsburgh connection!

Take a look at the movie trailer [here](#) before you sit down and watch the film on Netflix. You won’t be disappointed.

## “JUDAS & THE BLACK MESSIAH:” TIMELY, THOUGHT-PROVOKING, TRAGIC

**NATHAN REGA**

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“Judas and the Black Messiah,” starring Daniel Kaluuya (“Get Out,” “Black Panther”) and LaKeith Stanfield (“Sorry to Bother You,” “Atlanta”), is a drama inspired and based on true historic events that are too often ignored in most classrooms.

Set in a late-1960’s Chicago still reeling from the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcom X, Kaluuya plays



**(Top) Daniel Kaluuya as Fred Hampton and (bottom) LaKeith Stanfield as William O’Neal.**

21-year-old Fred Hampton, the charismatic chairman of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense’s (BPPSD) Illinois chapter.

Under Hampton’s leadership, the Black Panthers establish several services for Chicago’s Black community, ranging from

free breakfast for school children to armed watch of police activity aimed at protecting the community from police brutality. Kaluuya does a phenomenal job in his portrayal of Hampton, especially in matching the energy and intensity of his revolutionary speeches.

Penn State Greater Allegheny’s (PSUGA) Associate Teaching Professor of African American Studies, Dr. Anthony Mitchell, commented on the historical accuracy of the film.  
**(Continued on next page)**

(Continued from page 22)

“The movie correctly depicts Fred Hampton as a charismatic young revolutionary thinker and leader,” he stated. “His leadership in the Illinois Panther Party expanded the party’s food and literacy education programs and sought to unite the Chicago gangs.”

Early in the film, Hampton’s popularity and activities attract the attention of the Federal Borough of Investigation (FBI). Led by Director J. Edgar Hoover (played by Martin Sheen), the FBI labels Hampton a radical security threat. Through their covert and illegal COINTELPRO projects, the FBI attempts to sabotage the Black Panthers and “prevent the rise of a Black messiah.”

Stanfield plays the role of 17-year-old William O’Neal, the “Judas” of the story. O’Neal is arrested after attempting to hijack a car while impersonating a federal officer. FBI Agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons) offers O’Neal a choice: infiltrate the Black Panther Party as an FBI informant or face prison time.

Through Stanfield, the viewer can feel O’Neal’s constant inner conflict as he’s torn between his own self-preservation and greed by helping the FBI and his growing sympathy and admiration for

Hampton and the Black Panthers.

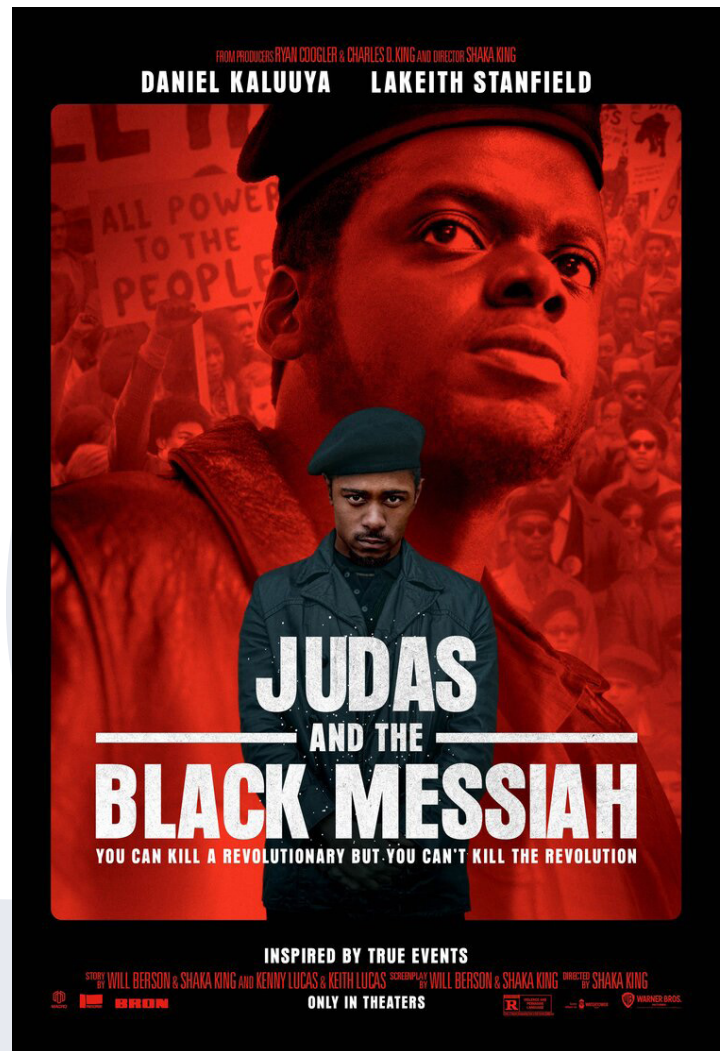
“In my opinion, the title of the movie, ‘Judas,’ and focus on O’Neal’s role distracts away from the fact that the FBI sought to eradicate the BPPSD using confrontational, aggressive tactics and methods,” Dr. Mitchell said. “Scores of African Americans from this period still are in jail today.

“In my view, O’Neal’s role...is secondary to how J. Edgar Hoover obsessively sought to eradicate Hampton and all members of the BPPSD in the name of law and order,” the PSUGA professor said.

For many viewers, “Judas and the Black Messiah” will be their first exposure to the history covered in this film. Ajuja Njeri (formerly Deborah Johnson, played by Dominique Fishback), Hampton’s girlfriend, and their son, Fred Hampton, Jr., served as consultants in the movie’s production and significantly influenced the presentation of the story.

There are so many important events highlighted in the movie that deserve a deeper look, like Hampton’s founding of the Rainbow Coalition, but there is only so much that can be explored in the movie’s two-hour run time.

However, the film will serve as a launchpad for those who are inspired to learn more. Dr. Mitchell



suggests starting with O’Neal’s interview on the documentary “[Eyes on the Prize II](#)” and the book, “The Assassination of Fred Hampton: How the Chicago Police Murdered a Black Panther” by Jeffery Haas.

“Judas and the Black Messiah” is by no means an easy watch. Even those unfamiliar with its history can already guess the tragic ending of the film based on its name alone. Violent scenes that depict police brutality against Black men and women may be too much for some viewers to stomach.

“Movies like this are

difficult for me to watch, as they rekindle memories of these traumatic, violent times,” Dr. Mitchell said.

However, those who can watch will be rewarded with a timely and thought-provoking story. The movie challenges viewers to learn more about Fred Hampton and the civil rights movements of the 60s and offers a rare depiction of the Black Panther Party as nuanced and sympathetic.

“Judas and the Black Messiah” is now streaming on [HBOmax](#) through March 14.

**HBOmax**

# THE KELLY LIBRARY'S RECOMMENDED MOVIES FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

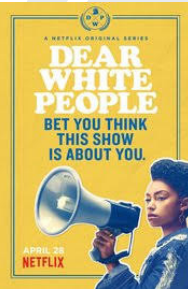
ALISHA TARVER | News Editor | ait5274@psu.edu



## BlacKkKlansman

A black detective sets out to infiltrate the Colorado chapter of the Ku Klux Klan with the help of his Jewish colleague. In the midst of the 1970s civil rights movement, they risk their lives to obtain insider information on the violent organization (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/EC37CA71C46D0462>



## Dear White People

A biracial college student hosts a controversial radio show that sparks an epic media frenzy at a predominately white university. Later elected president of an all-black residential hall, she becomes the subject of a racially-charged reality program (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/AC8E423C170EB80B>



## Do the Right Thing

Directed by Spike Lee. On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone's hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence (IMBD).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/3831E212C82B1647>



## Free Angela and All Political Prisoners

Profiling political activist Angela Davis, who was accused and later acquitted of murder and kidnapping (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/E53CF231C1992053>



## If Beale Street Could Talk

A young black couple in Harlem is ripped apart by the scheme of a racist cop. The sweethearts must rely on the strength of their community while seeking justice. Based off the James Baldwin novel of the same title (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/74EF6C57905F94DE>





## Just Mercy

World-renowned civil rights defense attorney, Bryan Stevenson, works to free a wrongly-condemned death row prisoner. One of his first, and most incendiary, cases is that of Walter McMillian, who, in 1987, was sentenced to die for the notorious murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite a preponderance of evidence proving his innocence and the fact that the only testimony against him came from a criminal with a motive to lie (IMBD).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/18502D9DA95CE5D1>



## Miss Evers' Boys

A 40-year government study in which blacks with syphilis were monitored---but not treated. Based on actual events (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/FECA4BD82BA94256>



## Moonlight

The tender, heartbreaking story of a young man's struggle to find himself, told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain, and beauty of falling in love, while grappling with his own sexuality (Swank).

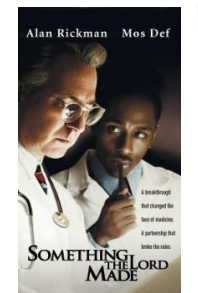
<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/E83C519A1FB4E618>



## Selma

Civil-rights activists march from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery to secure voting rights for black Americans in this docudrama, which focuses on the actions of Martin Luther King Jr. (Swank).

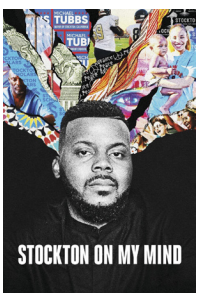
<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/C4C94081D1BE02CA>



## Something the Lord Made

In the Jim Crow South, a white surgeon takes on a Black research assistant, and together they develop a procedure to save children with congenital heart disease. But the man of color cannot get recognition for his contribution to the project (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/D2CF9D79DFDD0696>



## Stockton On My Mind

HBO documentary "Stockton on My Mind" is the multi-layered story of millennial mayor Michael Tubbs, whose own experience growing up amid poverty and violence inspired him to create innovative change in his beleaguered hometown of Stockton, California. The film follows Tubbs' efforts to reverse the fortunes of a city known as one of the poorest, most violent, and least literate in the nation (Swank).

<https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezaccess.libraries.psu.edu/psu279437/play/80B106735FA584DC>

To see more of the library's streaming movie collection, go to <http://bit.ly/psumovies>.

# SPORTS & ATHLETICS

## NEGRO LEAGUES TO MAJOR LEAGUES: Pittsburgh Slugger Josh Gibson, records, now recognized by MLB

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Josh Gibson, often called the “Black Babe Ruth,” and one of the power hitters of the Negro Leagues, will now be known as one of the greatest Major League Baseball (MLB) players of all time.

A December 2020 announcement from the MLB means that Gibson and the approximately 3400 men who played in segregated baseball from 1920 to 1948, will now be recognized and their Negro Leagues statistics will retroactively be part of MLB records and its history.

Over a 17-year baseball career—including playing for two Pittsburgh teams, the Pittsburgh Crawfords and the Homestead Grays—Gibson established himself as “one of the greatest power hitters,” batting a .461 average and hitting 800 home runs while leading his teams to multiple first-place finishes.

Even though it has been a long-overdue recognition, Josh Gibson’s great-grandson, Sean Gibson, was shocked to hear the groundbreaking



news from MLB during a phone call last December.

“It was a nice surprise because we didn’t know it would happen as soon as it did...2020 was a bad year, you could say because of the pandemic so, to get the announcement two weeks before the end of the year was very exciting,” Gibson said.

Exciting, yes, but a long-overdue recognition

for his great-grandfather and the other players.

“It was unfortunate that they couldn’t play in the major leagues, and it’s sad because...the players are dead so, they will never know. MLB will include the stats. And now it’s up to the families to carry on the legacy and make sure that the stories are told correctly,” Gibson said.

Josh Gibson and others were never able to play in the majors because of an old, so-called “unwritten gentleman’s agreement” that prevented non-white players from participating in the MLB, even though Gibson’s skills on the field are considered second to none.

In 1972, Josh Gibson was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, only the second Negro Leagues player after pitcher Satchel Paige to earn this honor.

But for Sean Gibson, Josh Gibson will always, first and foremost, be his great-grandfather. He has advocated and given life to his great-grandfather’s legacy for over 20 years through the work of the Josh Gibson Foundation.

His grandfather, Josh Gibson Jr.—son of the baseball great—started the foundation in 1994 to memorialize his father’s legacy.

Sean has now dedicated himself to his great grandfather by growing the Foundation to an area nonprofit that supports and provides educational and athletic programs to over 300 kids per year in *(Continued on next page)*

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the Pittsburgh area while also telling the Josh Gibson baseball story.

The MLB announcement is a breakthrough in baseball history and it will place Josh Gibson as one of baseball's top five players. This breakthrough nomination will also allow for Negro Leagues' players to have the equality that was rightfully theirs.

"That's the key part about it, for the MLB to announce that they will include Negro Leagues' stats into the records," Gibson said. His

great-grandfather will no longer be considered "one of the best Negro Leagues players but one of the greatest baseball players of all time."

"That's a great thing for MLB to include Negro Leagues' stat because it doesn't separate the Blacks from the whites," Gibson added.

But Sean Gibson has one more goal to memorialize his great-grandfather: Rename baseball's MVP award to the Josh Gibson Trophy.

Kenesaw Mountain Landis was MLB's first commissioner who was

credited with cleaning up Major League Baseball following the Black Sox game-fixing scandal of 1919, although he did nothing to integrate the majors. The MVP Landis Trophy was named for him until last summer when, as Sean said, "Several baseball players, Black and white that were MVP winners, felt that his [Landis] name should be removed from the award...and because of social injustice and the Black Lives Matter movement, it is helping push for equality," Gibson said.

"Kenesaw Mountain

Landis was a racist and denied African Americans (the right) to play baseball," Gibson added. He has solid support of modern-day players to rename the trophy for Josh Gibson.

Sean is honored for the MLB to recognize the Negro Leagues players' talents even though he always considered Josh Gibson and all the Negro Leagues players to be major leaguers. That makes Sean Gibson proud of his family's legacy.

"So many good things have happened, and if the MVP award gets named after Josh, that will be a huge deal. That is my goal because it will solidify the legacy for the Gibson family," Gibson said.

"After all, that will last forever, and we will also have that piece of history. Every year the award would be called the Josh Gibson MVP award," he said.

Information about the legacy of Josh Gibson can be found through the Josh Gibson Foundation: [joshgibson.org](http://joshgibson.org). Photos courtesy of the Foundation.

*Editor's Note:*

*The writer of this story, Madason Porter-Gibson, is the daughter of Sean Gibson, and the great-great-granddaughter of Major League Baseball's Josh Gibson.*



Sean Gibson with his great-grandfather's statue at PNC Park.

# NUNN EARNS HIS SPOT IN THE HALL OF FAME

**TERESA VARLEY**

Pittsburgh Steelers

*The following article is an excerpt from the Pittsburgh Steelers via [Steelers.com](http://Steelers.com) on Feb. 6.*

When you make a difference, when you have a huge impact, when you are a trailblazer who opened doors for others, the door deserves to be opened for you.

And finally, the door has opened for Bill Nunn.

Nunn, the legendary scout who served in multiple roles in the Steelers personnel department beginning in 1967 in a part-time role, and then in a full-time role from 1969-2014, was voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a Contributor as part of the Class of 2021.

"I am thrilled that Bill Nunn has been elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as a contributor," said Steelers President Art Rooney II. "He was not only a special friend and advisor to me, my father, my uncle Art Rooney Jr., but also Kevin Colbert, Mike Tomlin and everyone he worked with during his 46 years with the Pittsburgh Steelers."

Nunn becomes the first Black Contributor in the 100-year history of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"It's especially ex-



*Bill Nunn photo is courtesy of Steelers.com*

citing because he never changed," said his daughter Lynell Nunn. "He was always so concerned about diversity with the players, coaches and front office.

"That goes back to the time I was young. He was always looking for that, during his pre-Steelers time and after that. It was always important to him and he instilled that in us. To see the progress that has been made, and he had a fairly big part in that, means a lot. I am really proud of the legacy that he left."

Nunn, who died in 2014 at the age of 89, joined the Steelers organization in the scouting department after a career in the newspaper business where he started as a sports writer, then a sports editor, and then managing editor of The Pittsburgh Courier.

"Bill Nunn has done so much for the league over the years, not only for the Steelers but also when he was a reporter by going to the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and finding all of the talent there and letting the NFL teams know about that talent," said Donnie Shell, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2020. "And what he did for the Steelers. Look at how many players he brought to the Steelers to help build those championship teams."

Starting in 1950 he selected the newspaper's annual Black College All-America Team, developing relationships that benefited his scouting career and opened the door for Black players who weren't getting a lot of attention from profes-

sional teams.

"Bill was a very smart, intelligent guy," said Hall of Fame Wide Receiver John Stallworth. "He knew what to look for in the scouting area. He did a great job writing reports and talking about specifics for individual players.

"Bill in my mind was a game-changer for guys in my era who went to Black colleges.

"He paved the way for a lot of guys with the Steelers and other teams to have an opportunity to come in and show what they could do. It opened the door for a lot of guys who came after us."

Nunn, a member of the Inaugural Class of the Black College Football Hall of Fame and a 2018 Steelers Hall of Honor selection, helped the Steelers find talent from HBCUs that other teams largely ignored.

Nunn is one of the few people to earn six Super Bowl rings with the Steelers, after coming out of retirement to return to the team.

"You can't write the history of the Pittsburgh Steelers without Bill Nunn," said Hall of Fame Cornerback Mel Blount. "When you look at the Steelers of the 1970s, none of that would have happened without Bill Nunn."