



The GA-ZETTE

SEPTEMBER 2021 *The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny* VOLUME 9



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FALL 2021 EDITION

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STATE OF THE CAMPUS: FALL 2021



Faculty, staff and New Student Orientation (NSO) leaders sharing a meal and conversation with new students at the Café Metro. Photo courtesy Penn State Greater Allegheny on Twitter [@PennStateGA](#)

College Life Returns to PSUGA Campus, Despite Lingering Pandemic

NATHAN REGA

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New and returning students, faculty and staff arrived at the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus on Aug. 23 for the first day of the Fall 2021 semester. While class modalities have largely returned to in-person learning, safety precautions regarding the lingering COVID-19 pandemic still remain.

“While we look forward to a fall experience that’s closer to what we use to have, we must remember that we are still in the midst of a pandemic,”

stated Penn State (PSU) President Eric Barron during a [University Town Hall](#) held on Aug. 3.

“We’ve seen the spread of a more aggressive and more transmissible Delta Variant and an uptick in infection rates around the world and within the United States, including Pennsylvania,” he said.

During the Town Hall, Barron announced that the University was implementing an indoor masking requirement for all employees, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, when a county with a PSU campus reaches a substantial or high transmission

spread per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID Data Tracker](#).

Currently, Allegheny County is in the red with high COVID-19 transmission rates. The masking requirement will remain in place until Allegheny County returns to a moderate transmission level for at least seven days.

Unlike past semesters, the masking requirement does not extend to outdoors on campus, where students and faculty may remove their mask if they choose. Students may also remove their masks while eating and drinking in indoor dining areas. Faculty

members are not required to wear a mask if they are alone in their personal offices.

While PSU has not issued a COVID-19 vaccination mandate, Barron still “strongly encourage[s] everyone to receive a vaccine.”

“Penn State is not impartial when it comes to getting vaccinated,” Barron continued. “The University’s stance is that everyone who can get a vaccine should do so as soon as possible to attain very high vaccination rates on all Penn State campuses. Getting vaccinated is the single best *(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from page 2)

way to protect yourself and our community from serious illness.”

Students are encouraged to upload their vaccination records through [myUHS](#). Those who have not shared their status or choose to remain unvaccinated will be subject to [weekly COVID-19 testing](#). Significant consequences will be dealt to students who do not comply with testing, up to, and including, separation from the University.

“Commuter students who are unvaccinated will receive a weekly email from University Park indicating that they need to order a test kit from Vault via mail,” explained Lorraine Craven, director of student services and engagement. “Mail kits are sent directly to the student’s address that they use when registering for a test kit.

“Students that are unvaccinated that live in the residence hall receive a weekly email to schedule an appointment on Tuesdays or Wednesdays with Nurse Jen to complete the Vault testing on campus,” Craven continued. “Unvaccinated athletes - commuter or residential - test on Tuesdays or Thursdays at the Wunderley Gym.”

According to Craven, PSUGA has a 55% student

vaccination rate on file as of Aug. 31.

Symptomatic testing is still available for all students. Any student experiencing symptoms can reach out to Health Service Coordinator Jennifer Ross at jur396@psu.edu. Additionally, opt-in testing is still available for any student who would like to be tested.

The COVID-19 Dashboard had already recorded two positive tests for PSUGA students in the first weeks of the semester. The PSUGA community can stay up to date on campus COVID-19 information and the dashboard by visiting [virusinfo.psu.edu](#). The dashboard will be updated regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“We’re continuing to monitor the course of COVID-19 and we will make adjustments to our plans as needed,” Barron stated.

“I just want to encourage students to check their Penn State email on a regular basis,” Craven added. “All information, including test results, will be sent to a student’s PSU email address.”

Contact tracing is in place for anyone in contact with someone testing positive and quarantine and isolation have already been implemented this semester. Students will not be permitted to attend

in-person classes, but they must contact their professors and continue to complete their coursework

At one point at the start of the semester, according to the dashboard, the PSUGA campus had an 86% use capacity of campus quarantine and isolation spaces by students either testing positive or isolating due to possible exposure. Commuter students testing positive could quarantine and/or isolate at home.

Despite ongoing pandemic precautions, students can still look forward to a closer-to-normal campus experience this fall.



Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson expressed how pleased she is to have students back on campus and looks forward to meeting both new and returning students.

“I enjoy getting to know the students and what their hopes and dreams are,” she stated.

This fall semester

will also see the return of PSUGA’s [Crossing Bridges Summit](#). The first panel entitled “Voices of Activists and Scholars” is scheduled for Oct. 14.

“There was a report that was issued from the City of Pittsburgh on police reform,” Edmondson explained. “We’re taking that report engaging in conversations with people about how that report and its recommendations might be taken up in the Mon Valley.”

The panel will be moderated by Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, Dr. Katherine McLean.

“I’m really excited that the Crossing Bridges Series is focusing on policing this year,” McLean stated. “It’s impossible to approach racial disparities in the United States without discussing the criminal justice system as a core engine of inequity.

“I hope the series will speak to a diverse group of individuals who see themselves as social justice scholars, activists, allies and future criminal justice practitioners,” she added.

The first panel will again be a live broadcast through Penn State’s public media station, WPSU, although Edmondson is optimistic that future panels may be held in person this spring.

PASSING COURSES TO SUCCESS

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Penn State has many events and activities for students joining its many campuses. However, the Greater Allegheny campus is devoted beyond activities when, each summer for the past several years, it has provided the program known as PaSSS-Pathway to Success: Summer Start- to help get first generation students prepared for college.

Starting back in 2019, the goal of PaSSS has been helping prepare first-generation college students for classes while also learning time management skills and more before the official start of the fall semester.

One of the PaSSS students, Stalin Oaks, is from Maryland. He came to Greater Allegheny as a business major and a basketball player. He explains: “The PaSSS program was a great opportunity and helped me learn a lot before going into the fall semester. We were able to meet other professors, counselors, and even the chancellor during our time in the PaSSS program, not to mention getting more familiar with the campus.”

The PaSSS program has prepared students to get prepared and comfort



their thoughts of anxiety and worry. In addition to other benefits besides the early college access, the six-week program provides a scholarship to help students get that extra boost at Penn State.

Oaks at first was not sure about the chance to join PaSSS after graduating high school, but after some time thinking about it, he was more than convinced.

“Penn State GA became my ideal place to study because of the quiet, small community,” Oaks explained. “GA also had a great reputation of great professors and a very strong business department, which I plan to major in. I have never heard of PaSSS before attending GA, but I’m glad I was able to learn about it.”

However, it is not all just students who are enjoying the PaSSS program. The faculty of Greater Allegheny enjoy it, too. This summer two courses were offered: CAS100A--Effective Speech, taught by Communications and Marketing faculty member, Rosemary Martinelli, and BBH102S—Values, Health and Academic Success, taught by Associate Teaching Professor of Biology, Kristal Raylone Tucker.

“I feel like the students who came this summer had a chance to be in a physical classroom and were able to learn a lot,” Tucker said. “I was very excited to help teach them...they were very willing no doubt to sit there and...get a crash

course in science to help aid them in the fall.” Tucker also included campus specifics in her course, including tips on meeting with professors and knowing of the help provided by the Learning Center.

When classes started on June 30, Penn State did not require masks/ facial coverings inside the classroom, but that quickly changed on August 4 and throughout the rest of the PaSSS session, due to the rise in the COVID-19 Delta Variant. So, for in-person PaSSS courses, it was mask off and then mask on! That aside, for both professors and the students, overall said, it was a wonderful experience.

“We had no issues helping them (the students) achieve a better understanding of college,” Tucker said.

Anyone knowing of a high school student who may qualify for the 2022 PaSSS class at Greater Allegheny, is invited to contact the campus’ PaSSS Coordinator, Dr. Erica Tachoir, manager of the division of undergraduate studies, advising and career services, at eecl6@psu.edu.



PennState
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PARKING PERMITS REQUIRED FOR STUDENT VEHICLES PER CAMPUS POLICE



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With more students of Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) attending in-person classes this academic year since the start of the pandemic, University Police and Public Safety has reinstated the campus' parking program. All commuters and student residents with

vehicles must obtain a parking permit from University Police.

“In order to serve you all better, we are getting back to the swing of things with many on campus initiatives,” Station Commander Lt. Diane Grimm explained. “You should know that parking on our campus is free, but you need to register your vehicle and obtain a permit.”

To obtain a permit, vehicle owners should complete the PSUGA Vehicle Registration Form online (https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_390Jke1ZhVU8dnL). Students will need to provide their nine-digit Penn State User ID number and driver's license number.

Upon completing online registration, students must bring a valid driver's license, Penn State ID card, vehicle registration and proof of insurance to the University Police Office, located in Frable 108. If no officers are available in the office, students can contact them through their non-emergency number at (412) 675-9130.

Students, faculty and staff with proper parking permits can park in any lot on lower campus where there is a valid parking stall. Residents of McKeesport Hall can park

in the Residence Lot 24/7.

Students who fail to obtain a physical permit and/or display it properly in their vehicle will be subject to parking violations on campus. Grimm noted that there have been occasional accidents and incidents in the past that require campus police to contact a vehicle's owner.

PSUGA campus parking permit requirements were waived for the 2020-2021 academic year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



Scan the provided QR code with a smartphone to be directed to the online vehicle registration form

Parking is available all-around campus with the following restrictions:

- Commuters can park in the large Residence Hall lot for two (2) hours only to use the Fitness Center or visit the McKeesport Hall
- Do not park in visitor spots or reserved spots
- Do not park in handicap spaces without proper permits
- Avoid parking in the First Evangelical Free Church parking lot

SOTO LAYS PLANS FOR BRIDGING STEM, STUDENTS, CULTURES

Non-STEM majors may not find courses in engineering and the environment or introduction to materials sciences to be of interest. For new faculty member, Assistant Professor of Engineering Fernando Soto, he hopes to change all that. From his office in 213C Frable where he is already meeting with students, to his classroom in 206 Frable, Soto said he believes that learning comes from building “meaningful relationships with students and helping them learn.”

“One cannot teach in a vacuum,” he adds. “Therefore, student feedback is one of the key elements that allow faculty to grow and evolve. I want the students to feel comfortable approaching me during and outside student hours. I believe that these interactions can help mold the course throughout the semester and ensure that each student is engaged and learning,” Soto said.

Soto was born in Tegucigalpa, the capital and largest city of Honduras, in Central America. After high school, he came to the United States for college. After two years in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he moved to Louisiana, earning undergraduate and graduate degrees. Soto earned a



Ph.D. in engineering (with a concentration in micro & nanoscale systems) all from Louisiana Tech University.

Prior to his coming to Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), he was appointed a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Texas A&M University (TAMU), where his work, “focused on using computer simulations to unravel phenomena at the interface of materials” and, based on this understanding, “propose solutions to problems that affect the performance of rechargeable batteries,” he added.

How does he plan to adapt to PSUGA, a smaller campus from a larger sized campus?

“I had several enriching and rewarding

teaching and mentoring experiences with students and high school teachers early in my academic career,” Soto said. “These unique experiences left a lasting impression on me and made me realize that I wanted to follow this path. I applied to PSUGA because I saw the opportunity for greater interaction with the students and having a positive influence in the community,” he added.

Soto is also excited about working with current engineering faculty who have already set the bar very high—Professors Eric Lipsky and Alandra Kahl—to expand the energy engineering program.

“Working with faculty committed to teaching and learning was a big draw for me,” Soto said.

“I believe that to engage students in science and inculcate a passion for their classes and future profession, meaningful relationships with them are necessary.”

His recent work in the materials electrochemistry frontier has allowed Soto to “work closely with collaborative research environments at national and international research institutions.”

These experiences are key to shaping Soto’s vision of incorporating research into learning and education. “I am still shaping this vision, and it is ever-evolving,” he said. However, the students can expect that his preparatory and interdisciplinary background will “allow me to help them learn and transfer the research vision to them in a passionate way that leads to inclusion, ownership, and success,” he said.

Outside of the classroom, Soto hopes to engage in some of the many things that interest all Pittsburghers and western Pennsylvanians—sports. He said a visit to PNC Park is certainly in the offing, and to hear Soto describe it, “it is one of the nicest ballparks in the U.S. (the view must be incredible at night!)”

PENN STATE MARKS 20TH COMMEMORATION OF 9/11 WITH EVENTS & MEMORIALS

The following article is an excerpt from [Penn State News](#), Sept. 2, 2021



A number of events recognizing the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, have been planned across the Penn State campuses. Image by Pat Mansell.

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA—In remembrance of those who lost their lives during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and their tragic aftermath, events and resources are being offered for Penn State campus and community members across the commonwealth for the 20th commemoration.

“Each year, as the Penn State community and nation mourns this tragedy, we are reminded of our strength and resilience as a nation and as a society,” said Penn State President, Eric J. Barron.

“We must continue to collectively stand together and do our utmost to provide mutual support and comfort during this time. We deeply miss our loved ones and should continue to act with honor and dignity for their legacies.

I hope all Penn Staters take time this week, and on the day itself, to reflect, remember and look to the future.”

The University community understands that the event and its remembrance may be painful for many individuals. As a reminder, Penn State offers various health and wellness resources, including the [Center for Ethical and Spiritual Development, Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), the [Employee Assistance Program](#), and the [Penn State Hotline](#) (1-800-560-1637).

At Greater Allegheny, anyone can contact Ann McCurdy, for counseling services, at (412) 675-9034, or at amm8809@psu.edu.

A number of events recognizing the 20th

anniversary of attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, have been planned.

Penn State Law and the School of International Affairs will host “A Reflection on 9/11 and its Impact on Law and International Affairs” at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 10, via ZOOM. The event will cover 9/11 and its aftermath from the perspectives of immigration, national security, surveillance and veterans’ affairs.

The panel features James W. Houck, retired vice admiral and interim dean of Penn State Law at University Park and the School of International Affairs; Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion; Margaret Hu, associate dean for non-JD programs and co-hire, Institute for Computational and Data Sciences; and Michele Vollmer, associate dean for clinics and experiential learning and director of the Veterans and Service Members

Legal Clinic.

Event registration is available via [Penn State Law](#).

“America Attacked: Flight 93” will be hosted by Gregory Zaborowski, education specialist for Flight 93 National Memorial, live via ZOOM from the Flight 93 monument from 1-2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16.

This course focuses on the events related to United Airlines Flight 93, the plane that did not strike the terrorists’ intended target on Sept. 11, 2001. Attendees can learn about the FBI’s role and what happened aboard Flight 93.

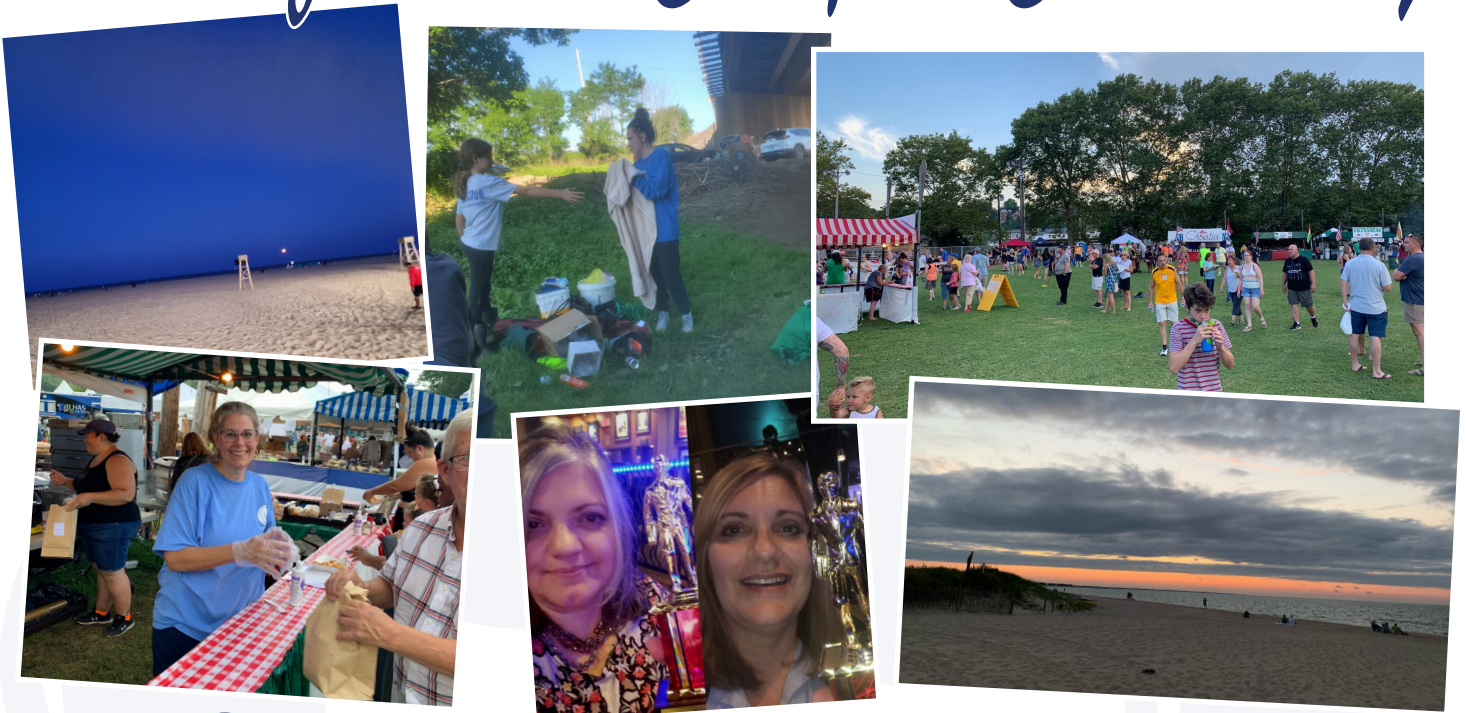
The instructor will share the transcript of the cockpit voice recorder, Flight 93 seating charts, phone calls from those aboard the flight, and photographs of the crash site.

Fees for courses are \$15 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. More information is available via [Penn State Outreach](#).



Mementos continue to be left along the wall of the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA

Photos from our Campus Community



Enjoying a well deserved summer break...



Reuniting with old friends and welcoming new ones...



From Greater Allegheny...



WE ARE PENN STATE



...All the way to University Park!

OPINIONS... FROM WHERE WE SIT

THE END OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR

SHANNON M. REID

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Afghanistan.

While the takeover of Kabul was to be expected, the whole project was a boondoggle from the beginning because this was an ordeal between the Afghan government and the Taliban and America really had no business fighting in another country's war.

It was never about protecting the rights of women and children. We were basically just hunting for the people behind what had happened in our own country. And just when we had finally gotten a valedictory to America's longest war that had lasted under three administrations for two decades now, we witness the Taliban succeed in one day where the Trump insurrectionists had failed.

So, it would seem almost selfish that we would abandon a government that has come to depend on a portion of our military for all that we had done for them and we were the ones that had started the war in the first place. Since we had no business in getting involved in another country's war anyway, it was the necessary thing to do.



Taliban fighters patrol Kabul streets in a Humvee, 17 August 2021.
 Photo courtesy Voice of America News via [Wikimedia Commons](#)

During President Biden's address on the issue at hand, in a rare instance, Biden placed the blame on the Afghanistan leaders for not being prepared for the takeover when they knew that the American troops were going to be evacuated. It took me by surprise that he would say that, but, in a way, I think he was right.

Why were they not prepared? Why were they scared off like all the other Afghan people? Did the

violence unfold so quickly that they were caught off guard?

I really shouldn't argue. It was just a reconnaissance mission after all. Once the troops had succeeded in doing what they were sent there to do, it would likely have been a good point to bring them back to America.

Still, it seems equally selfish for Biden to place the fault of a humanitarian problem that we are partly responsible for on the government's own head. It's

not enough for me to lose respect for him. Besides, the evacuation actually started a month before he took office. It started under Trump, but it was Biden who advanced it.

Be that as it may, it really shouldn't have disheartened anybody, but it did. We've seen how deathly afraid the Afghan people and some of the soldiers who assisted American troops against the Taliban are of the resurgence. We've
 (Continued on next page)

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seen them clustering around in panic at the Kabul Airport en-route out of Afghanistan. And we've seen what appeared to be bodies tumbling from the plane during its takeoff.

I find that the withdrawal of the troops being our singular objective is the same as telling the world that America was acting selfishly on its behalf the whole time during a war that really should have ended when they succeeded in killing Osama Bin Laden.

But we ended up keeping them there for about eight more years. People are like, "We don't care. They're our soldiers. The Afghan people shouldn't have become so dependent." It doesn't change that they're in this crisis because of us.

Don't get me wrong. We're not one to pull the wool over anyone's eyes. If we were going to evacuate the troops, we should have done it years ago. That's just it. Again, this was never about securing the freedom of the Afghan people. It was about securing our own safety. So why are we just now turning our backs on the Afghans if a peace negotiation was all it took?

Here's an important question: does the withdrawal of the troops from Afghanistan mean that we

had won the war? The answer is no. As a matter of fact, nobody wins. Twenty years of fighting and no victor. We're practically leaving Afghanistan with a big burden and doing nothing about it.

While I don't think Biden a Trump-lite for it, I believe the mistake was deliberately downplaying the likelihood of the Taliban regaining control of Afghanistan by overthrowing the capital. Maybe we could have done more to counteract the resurgence. Maybe we could have brought the troops back at anytime. There is much blame being thrown around. But nobody wins.

Right now, the soldiers are just being forced to flee like cowards bringing along the Afghan people who assisted them and leaving the rest behind fearing for their lives. If we had planned in advance on exactly when we would evacuate the soldiers, we just might have been spared a sloppy withdrawal and not have been so ill-prepared for a possible contingency.

It's a good thing we did succeed in killing Bin Laden and reaching a peace deal with the Taliban or this whole war would have been for nothing.

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To Our Readers: The GA-Zette welcomes your letters, poems and guest opinion columns. All submissions are subject to editing and may appear in both our print and digital editions. Submission does not guarantee publication. To be considered, please include e-mail and phone number for verification.

Send to:

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DON'T FEAR WHAT YOU THINK YOU SEE

CARLIN WHALEN

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Ever since freshman year of high school, I lost all my hair. Many people don't know why this happened to me. Most people assume that I have cancer. That is, however, far from the truth.

I actually have a condition known as alopecia. Alopecia is an autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks my hair follicles causing hair loss on the scalp and elsewhere on the body. This caused me to feel extremely insecure about how I looked.

It started off with small patches where there was no hair, but those patches began to grow larger, day by day. Eventually, it got so extreme I was able to pull out chunks of hair from my head. I do not mean for that to sound so harsh or awful, but it was true. At that point, I decided to shave the rest off my head which felt like a weight off my chest.

After a while, I finally felt comfortable with it.

There are actually



three types of alopecia which include alopecia areata, alopecia totalis, and alopecia universalis. I have alopecia totalis which consists of the loss of all hair on the scalp. Alopecia areata is when patches of hair fall off of the scalp and alopecia universalis is when all the hair on your body falls off.

There is no cure for this condition, but it is possible to grow hair

back. It can either be through treatments or could occur on its own. If you want to do treatments, there are two options to choose from, systemic or topical.

Systemic is a treatment that travels through the bloodstream while topical is a treatment applied on the body's surface. I had the option to try out topical treatment, but it caused scarring, so I de-

ecided to stop.

Recently, I started to grow back some patches. This happened out of nowhere and there was no treatment involved. It just started to happen. This is making me feel super insecure, just like it did when my hair fell out. I have been shaving my head every two or three days before it gets too long.

When it gets longer, it's very noticeable and it feels like there are people staring at me again. I am sure they are not, but sometimes you just never know.

Even though this has caused me a lot of trouble and insecurity throughout my experience, I have learned a lot about myself and alopecia. I also have been able to teach people about alopecia based on my experience.

So if you see me walking around on campus, don't be afraid to come up to me and say hello. I am still the same person I was when I had a full head of hair. No need to fear what you think you see.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of *The GA-ZETTE* welcome Letters to the Editor by writing to nrr5191@psu.edu.

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

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

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



"Play Ball! at Renzize Park." Photo by Riley Perciavalle.

A SATISFYING SUMMER VACATION

RILEY PERCIAVALLE
Staff Writer

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A whole year of the pandemic has passed around the world, letting most businesses and restaurants begin regular services, with some masks still required. In many ways, I am among the people of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania with and without masks.



Stage Performances at McKeesport's International Village

Many concerts, amusement parks and more are back into full-swing operations, with most starting in late June and early July, as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) has started to lift mandate guidelines. Let's see what

happens when people actually wash their hands for once and cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing!

When I first heard of the lift on mandatory masks, it was weird. Now walking around the local Walmart, my face never before felt so naked! From the time in March of 2020 to this summer, I never thought we would have such a common norm in a little over a year while also trying to keep others safe in that time-span.

Many were trapped at home since the pandemic shut down usual public hangout spots, but many, like the essential workers, were needed and we salute them for their bravery and service.

Now that many are free to leave their homes, here's a bit of observation.

Did the summer still show signs of precautions in case of another outbreak? Yes, but that is also important to show how far

we came from this predicament last year when the pandemic was still fresh in our minds.



Scotty's Ice Cream delights customers

That is far behind us as well, as we slowly start to get back into the swing of things. Many restaurants are opening back with full houses like Primanti Brothers in Homestead, as patrons gather around the bar and drink to the local sport games. I enjoy the local pizza nights with my father, given how we both enjoy the Waterfront every other Friday night.

In addition, the 2020/2021 academic year

was over and we were given enough time to see what mental relaxation was really needed. It was a constant struggle for most students, in school or in college, to finally feel free as the mental stresses of online classes.

The months of May, June and July, with most of August, were a time of relaxation as most students forgot the struggles of schoolwork.

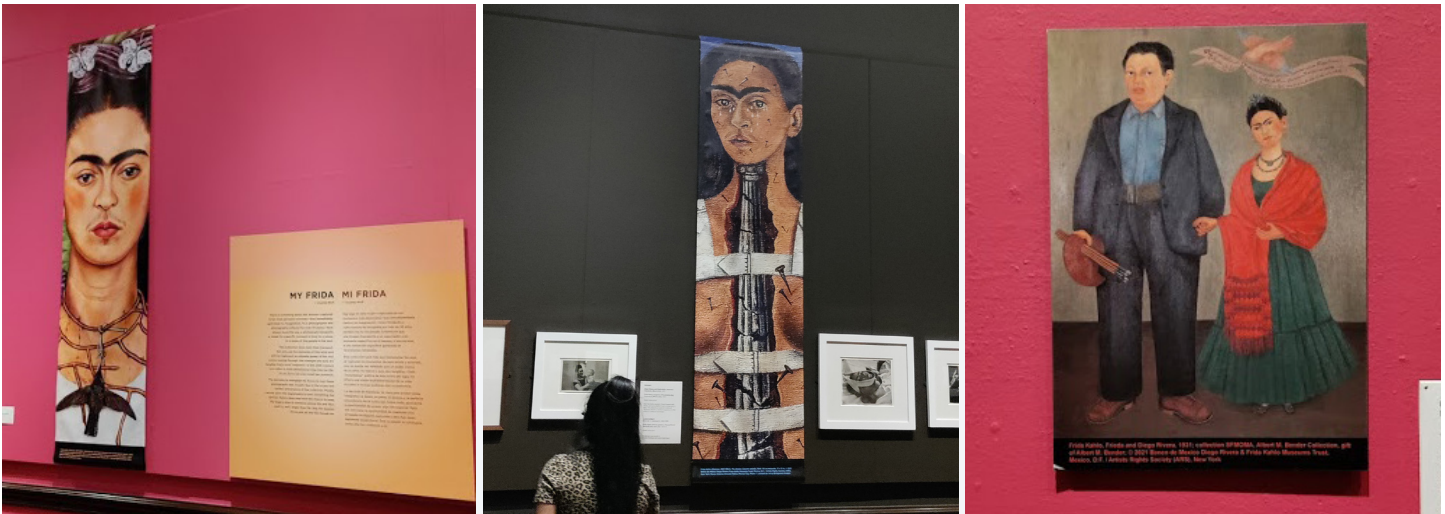
For me? Well, I was in the majority--pleased to be out for the summer and having the ability to have some leisure and see faces again with no masks. It was a struggle enough to keep going after a battle with many events of 2020 and some showing in 2021, but we managed to handle it and make it through another year.

What else can be said, but summertime was the best time of the year.

*Photos by
Riley Perciavalle*

CULTURE, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

KAHLO EXHIBITION MARKED REOPENING OF FRICK MUSEUM IN PITTSBURGH



Frida Kahlo paintings exhibited at The Frick Art Museum. Photos by Cheyenne Hennen.

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Throughout the summer COVID-19 restrictions slowly began to lift and people could once again engage with the arts.

Earlier this summer, The Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh presented two concurrent exhibitions: “Frida Kahlo - An Intimate Portrait: The Photographic Albums” and “Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray,” both of which helped to define the talented and complicated life of one of the 20th century’s most iconic artists.

“Frida Kahlo - An Intimate Portrait” is an introspective exhibition composed of 115 photographs originally from

Mexican painter Frida Kahlo’s (1907-1954) private albums, which offers rare and moving insight into her life, through the eyes of her friends and family, as well as other noted photographic artists.

“Frida Kahlo: Through the Lens of Nickolas Muray” comprises a collection of color photographs of Kahlo taken by Nickolas Muray (1892-1965), a Hungarian-born Jewish celebrity photographer whose long-standing and complicated relationship with Kahlo colors these portraits with distinct perspective.

The exhibition of 115 photographs gave the viewers a glimpse into Kahlo’s life. Each photo tells a story while illuminating her personality through the eyes of those she cherished the most,

including her father, Guillermo Kahlo, a professional photographer.

Not only did Frida Kahlo have a passion for crafting her most beautiful self-portraits, but she enjoyed spending time with her husband, muralist, Diego Rivera (1886-1975) whose paintings were part of the exhibit. She also loved sharing laughs with friends while simultaneously enduring chronic pain from being injured in a bus accident at the age of 18.

This injury was the inspiration for most of her work, as it focused on “death, decay, and the brokenness of the human body.” Many of her most paintings were created while she was bedridden. Her work, “The Broken Column,” resembles her connection with pain re-

lating to the human body. This portrait was displayed within the exhibition, amongst the various photographs.

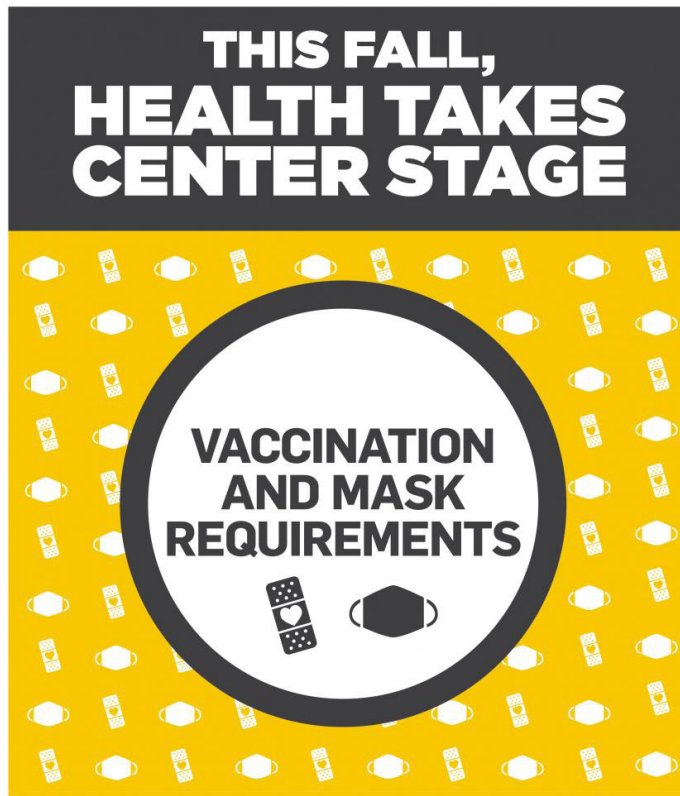
From visiting the exhibition, you can feel the beauty that lies within the pain that she suffered throughout her life. As I roamed, I overheard the chatter from others around me, talking of Kahlo’s life and the impact she had on the art world.

Despite the pain she endured, she channeled that energy and created some of the most memorable pieces of the 20th century. Thus, she became an inspiration, not only for me, but for many young female artists around the world.

As Kahlo once said: “I paint my own reality.”

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The following article was obtained via [The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust](#), updated Aug. 19, 2021



As we return to theaters and events this fall, Pittsburgh's Cultural District organizations outline layers of defense against COVID-19 and the safety practices for guests, staff, volunteers, and artists—the latest of which is a vaccination and mask requirement.

These policies begin Sept. 17 and are in place at least through Nov. 30, 2021; they will continue to be regularly evaluated based on community health data, and public health and government guidance. An up-to-date

plan will be shared with you prior to your performance. Thank you for your cooperation as we prioritize the safe return of our guests, staff, volunteers and artists.

All guests ages 12 and older will need to be fully vaccinated with the Moderna, Pfizer or Johnson & Johnson vaccine and must show proof of vaccination at their time of entry into the theater with their valid ticket.

“Fully vaccinated” means on the day of the performance date as

shown on the valid ticket, a guest is: at least 14 days after their second dose of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or at least 14 days after their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Proof of vaccination must come directly from the healthcare provider that performed the vaccination. Guests may display proof on a smartphone or present a physical copy. Use of a Digital Vaccination Passport App is also acceptable.

The only exceptions are guests under the age of 12, who must be tested and accompanied by an adult that meets our venue's vaccination requirements; or guests who need reasonable accommodations due to a medical exception or a sincerely held religious belief

For guests who are not able to be vaccinated for one of the reasons listed above, they must provide one of the following instead of evidence of vaccination: negative COVID-19 antigen test taken within 24 hours of the performance start time, or negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of the

performance start time.

Together with the proof of vaccination, all guests 18 years or older must also present a government-issued photo ID such as a driver's license or passport. Guests younger than 18 may use a government-issued photo ID or school photo ID. Guests under 12 must be tested and accompanied by an adult who meets the above requirements.

Entry will be denied for guests who do not provide the documentation as required above.

Masks are required to be worn by all if Allegheny County is in the “substantial” or “high” transmission rate of community spread on the day of their performance.

For Allegheny County's community spread status, visit the [CDC website](#). Some events are subject to exception from this rule requiring audience members to remain masked regardless of community spread. Ticket buyers will also be contacted to confirm attendance requirements prior to event.

LOKI: MARVEL'S DEVIOUS CINEMATIC SHOW

RILEY PERCIAVALLE

Staff Writer

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Thirteen years of success of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) began since its start with "Iron Man" in 2008. Actor Robert Downey, Jr., along with several other Hollywood celebs, got the ball rolling for a series of movies centered in the fictional world created by none other than the incomparable Stan Lee.

Lee was an American comic book writer, editor, publisher, and producer who rose through the ranks of a family-run business to become Marvel Comics' primary creative leader whose creativity brought a list of memorable characters.



However, amongst Lee's creative heroes that are known, the cinematic villains are also getting their fame as one stands out. Out of all the villains,



Loki, of Thor fame, has gotten his own show on the small screen, streaming on Disney+, and it is making himself quite an interesting hero.

Award-winning British actor, Tom Hiddleston, reprises his role as Loki, the God of Mischief, taking a step out of his brother's shadow and trying to fix time after Marvel's biggest box office score, "Avengers: Endgame." Along the way he is aided by Mobius M. Mobius, played by Hollywood funnyman, Owen Wilson, and his female "variant" Sylvie, played by British actress, Sophia Di Martino.

The whole show plays into a Men-in-Black-meets-Doctor-Who-style, where the matter of time is important to fix as all science fiction series go. It

does not play as a normal Marvel movie, but it is its own story with the God of Mischief taking center stage of the show.

Performances of the main three--Hiddleston, Wilson and Di Martino--really sells the show as Hiddleston himself balances back between the other two characters. Wilson tries to keep Loki on a path of good, ignoring the past and ongoing mischievous acts of Hiddleston's character.

However, in the mind of Di Martino's character, Loki must be the level-headed man seeing how his own actions can even annoy himself, not to mention trying to connect with that of his own variant.

In every work of superheroes or science

fiction, there's always a possibility of multiple worlds with different variants of protagonists and antagonists. "Loki" makes a tribute to this, like Marvel's "Into the Spider-Verse" with similar comedic jokes about each of the variants presented. It has its dramatic scenes, but what can you expect from a god whose whole was shadowed by his older brother?

"Loki" is that perfect spinoff of the MCU, providing its funny moments and serious tones that fit the God of Mischief and how he's redeeming himself throughout the small screen. If you don't believe me, then sit down and view it yourself and see how time is a very important matter with your mischievous partner.

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

DISAPPOINTMENT & CONFUSION: SPRINTERS REACT TO PSUGA TRACK & FIELD TEAM CANCELLATION

NATHAN REGA

Editor-in-Chief

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Namy-Paul Makiese will always remember July 12, 2021.

“I was in my living room talking to my track teammates on group chat about the season and how excited I was,” Makiese, senior information science and technology major recollected. “My phone rang, and it was Korie, the GA athletic director. She called me to announce the cancellation of the [Track and Field] program.

“I was very shocked and speechless, Makiese continued. “At that moment all I could think about was my senior year and teammates...how we prepared off-season and worked out during this off-season. I did not say a word until she hung up the phone.”

Makiese, a sprinter who currently holds the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus record for both the 60-Meter and 200-Meter Dash, was not the only former team member that was left speechless by the news of its cancellation.

“I received an email from the athletic director



saying to call her when I got the chance, said Senior Corporate Communications Major and former Team Captain, James Plez.

“Once I received that email I already knew something wasn’t right but I didn’t expect it to be what it was. When I called her and received the news about track being canceled, I was just completely shocked. No words to utter,” Plez added.

While disappointed, Senior Administration of Justice Major and former Women’s Team Captain, Eladia Kennedy, did not feel the same sense of shock when hearing the news.

“My reaction was actually pretty calm,” Kennedy explained. “I always felt like GA did the track team kind of dirty, if I’m being honest. There was always an issue

with money for whatever reason, yet they wanted us to keep recruiting people but claimed they didn’t have enough money for it. That’s just one of the several things that doesn’t make sense to me,” she added.

Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jaqueline Edmondson, explained that lack of competing schools factored into the program’s cancellation.

“The competition for the track team primarily had to be with institutions outside of Penn State because there’s only one other [Penn State] campus that has a track program,” Edmondson stated. “And then there were just some tough decisions we had to make because of budgets.”

Kennedy disagreed. “I felt like out of some of the other sports we have

at GA, we shouldn’t have been cut. We went to nationals our first year. We had champions individually and we had our relay team medal as well. We had several students who wanted to join the team and when they found out it was canceled, they were either very confused or upset,” she stated.

Plez, who qualified for four different events at the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) National Tournament during his freshman season at PSUGA and brought home a silver medal, transferred to Penn State Fayette for his senior year where he can continue to compete in track and field.

“The cancellation of track played a great role in me not returning,” Plez explained. “I was recruited to run for the team coming out of high school. I am a track and field student. Outside of academics, being recruited to run was what kept me at Greater Allegheny.”

The GA-ZETTE reached out to Athletics Director Korie Morton-Rozier for comment, but has yet to
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 17)

receive a response.

PSUGA's sprinters reflected on what attending a campus without a track and field team meant for them.



"It's just made me be a regular student instead of a student athlete," Kennedy said. "I've done sports along with school my whole life. Now for them to take it away for my last year is just sad."

Kennedy became the first PSUGA USCAA National Champion and set the Women's Program record when she took home the 100-Meter Dash crown at the 2019 National Championships. She also took home the bronze medal in the 200-Meter Dash.

However disappointed the former teammates are with the removal of the track and field program, they still look back fondly on their time sprinting for PSUGA.

"My favorite memory

would probably just be the whole first season," Kennedy exclaimed. "We had fun going to meets even if we didn't do well. I loved cheering my teammates on and seeing them get faster times."

Makiese agreed. "My favorite moment while doing track was my first race as a college track starter, knowing that I am competing with a different school and seeing myself rock the GA badge felt very good."

After winning the 400, Makiese ran the 200 right after and placed second. He was very excited to share the news with his family, especially his mother.



"The things I will miss the most about competing are the motivation of my teammates before the race, meeting new people during the race, and the joy that you see on people's faces when they are watching races," Makiese concluded.



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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

HOME	AWAY
MAINE FORT - KENT 8/26	WCCC - 8/30
PITT GREENSBURG/ WAYNESBURG UNIV- 9/11	BCCC - 9/1
*PENN STATE	USCAA TIP OFF - 9/3, 9/4
DUBOIS - 9/14	CARLOW - 9/7
CCAC - 9/17	CHATHAM - 9/9
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
NEW KENSINGTON - 9/18	BEAVER & MONT ALTO - 9/25
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
FAYETTE - 9/22	SHENANGO - 9/30
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
DUBOIS - 10/3	NEW KENSINGTON - 10/6
*PENN STATE	PSUAC CROSSOVER - 10/9
BEAVER - 10/13	*PENN STATE
*PENN STATE	FAYETTE - 10/16
SHENANGO - 10/21	*PENN STATE
	MONT ALTO - 10/18

JOIN THE GA GOLF TEAM

Contact Coach Valko 412-737-5449 or mzv188@psu.edu

The Penn State Greater Allegheny Golf Team is looking for experienced players or those interested in learning.

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MENS SOCCER SCHEDULE

HOME	AWAY
INTRASQUAD (FRIENDLY) - 8/21	PITT GREENSBURG - 9/5
WCCC - 8/25	CENTRAL PENN - 9/9
THIEL (FRIENDLY) - 8/26	WCCC - 9/15
CARLOW - 9/1	*PENN STATE
VILLA MARIA - 9/12	NEW KENSINGTON - 9/21
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
HAZELTON - 9/18	LEHIGH VALLEY - 9/25
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
YORK - 10/2	SCRANTON - 9/26
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
BEAVER - 10/5	BRANDYWINE - 10/9
*PENN STATE	*PENN STATE
MONT ALTO - 10/13	FAYETTE - 10/19
*PENN STATE	
WILKES - BARRE 10/23	



WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL OVERCOMES HEAT & MAINE FORT-KENT IN SEASON OPENER

The following article was compiled from various AthleticsGA.com reports

MCKEESPORT, PA - It's not the heat, it's the humidity, right?

Wunderley Gym on the campus of Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) was a hot and steamy venue on Aug. 26 for the season opening match up between Maine Fort-Kent and PSUGA's Women's Volleyball.

The visitors raced out to an early lead winning the first set 26-24. GA rebounded with a strong performance in games 2 and 3 winning both sets 25-16 and 25-17 respectively. Maine Fort-Kent won the 4th set 25-17 forcing a 5th set.

Behind a strong performance from Junior Outside Hitter Alix Ellis, who recorded 19 kills, the blue and white pulled out

game 5 with 15-11 to win the match 3-2.

Sueriah Timsah, senior outside hitter, added 11 kills and Jenna Gralowski, sophomore defensive specialist and libero, added 14 digs in the season opening win.

It was the first win of the season for GA as they prepare for what will hopefully be a successful campaign.

It had been 656 days since PSUGA Women's Volleyball played a match that counted towards their win/loss record. Their last appearance was in the USCAA National Championship third place game with a defeat to University of Cincinnati-Clermont in 2019.

MEN'S SOCCER DROPS CLOSE ONE AGAINST CARLOW

The following article was compiled from various AthleticsGA.com reports

MCKEESPORT, PA- On a glorious Sept. 2 late summer afternoon, Greater Allegheny (GA) Men's Soccer played Carlow University at home for their first competitive contest of the season. Carlow pulled out a 4-3 victory despite a late push from GA to make it almost level.

The game started well for GA. Freshman Forward and Midfielder Caleb Johnston scored the opening goal just over a minute into regulation on an assist from Freshman Forward Donovan Woytsek and GA was off to the races.

Carlow quickly equalized making it 1-1.

Woytsek came up big again scoring the second goal of the game for GA and the first of his career.

Carlow pushed for a late goal in the first half

and equalized on a nice counterattack making it 2-2 at the half. Carlow was the better side in the second half, scoring 2 to make it 4-2.

Stuart Dare, freshman midfielder and forward, found the back of the net for GA with less than a minute left in regulation but was just a little too late.

Eighteen new players for GA made their debuts. Some of those players lost a season due to the pandemic and others are new to the program.

The regular season was supposed to get under way on Aug. 25 with a match against Westmoreland County Community College, but the opponent asked to reschedule for a later date in the season.



FLU & COVID VACCINE CLINIC AT GA

The following message is from an email sent by Director of Student Services & Engagement, Lorraine Craven, to Penn State Greater Allegheny students on Sept. 7, 2021

On Thursday, Sept. 16, Penn State Greater Allegheny will be hosting a Covid and Flu Vaccination Clinic in the Ostermayer Room within the Student Community Center.

A pharmacist will be on campus administering the Pfizer Vaccine as well as the flu vaccine. If you would like to get either vaccine, please complete the registration form by Monday, Sept. 13, 2021, 5:00PM. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Campus Nurse, Jennifer Ross at jur396@psu.edu or 412-675-9490. The vaccination clinic is available to all PSU students at no charge.



To register visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/KUxpUE10wT>

Chancellor Jacqueline Edmondson
invites you to join

Penn State President Eric J. Barron,
members of the Penn State Greater Allegheny campus,
and other distinguished guests for the

Ostermayer Laboratory Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thursday, September 9, 2021
2:30 p.m.

4000 University Drive,
McKeesport, PA 15132

Contact:

Laura King, Director of Alumni and Stewardship
412-675-9047 or lck20@psu.edu

For more information about the event
and to RSVP, please visit:
www.greaterallegheny.psu.edu/ostermayer-lab



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FALL 2021

FITNESS CENTER HOURS

Monday	9:00AM-11:00PM
Tuesday	12:30PM-11:00PM
Wednesday	9:00AM-11:00PM
Thursday	12:30PM-11:00PM
Friday	9:00AM-11:00PM
Saturday	12:30-11:00PM
Sunday	1:00PM-8:00PM

Penn State COVID-19 guidelines require masking in all indoor spaces, including the Fitness Center.