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NO MASKS NEEDED, CAPS, GOWNS REQUIRED

Edmondson, Campus Celebrate Commencement 2022, End of Semester, Look Ahead

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Just ask Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, chancellor and chief academic officer at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) how this academic year went and she will tell you that she believes everything that happened this year went as well as it could have.

“I don’t think there is anything that I would have changed,” she said, noting that this is the first full year of all in-person classes, something that ceased in March of 2020 when the pandemic struck. Last academic year, there were multiple course modalities of in-person, hybrid, remote, and asynchronous.

The year was the first in-person graduation without any restrictions—mask requirements or social distancing—although Edmondson did say that everyone had to have a ticket to attend and that they could wear a mask if those chose to do so.

Looking ahead to the Greater Allegheny campus, Edmondson’s goals are to continue to improve the work that is being done with racial equity and justice, while also seeing the first class to enroll in the new social work degree program this coming next year. In addition, she and faculty and administration are working to become an “Apple Distinguished School.”

An Apple Distinguished School is a school that has been officially recognized by Apple for “innovation, leadership and educational excellence.” This also aligns with the campus’ digital fluency program where every student, faculty and staff member receives an iPad.

Edmondson noted that things are going to be happening on the Greater Allegheny campus throughout the summer, including renovations for the fall semester. The first renovation, planned to start later in May, is a

sport court, which is next to the residence hall.

This renovation will be followed by the rework of many sidewalks on campus, along with the parking lots, which will be resurfaced. Also, the third floor of the Frable Building will be renovated to match the look of the second floor.

There has been talk about a baseball field being put in nearby Renziehausen Park, but nothing is confirmed yet, Edmondson said.

Something important to Edmondson is to make sure the campus continues to grow. One of the most important examples is student retention.

“We need to make sure we are doing all that we can to serve our current students so that they come back,” she said. Also, the university is trying to become more visible in the region to increase the number of students. “People know about the good work that is happening here and we provide a welcoming environment for students who want to come to Penn State,” Edmondson said.

Something that might help the campus grow is the addition of new degrees that will allow students to stay here on campus to graduate, such as



Senior, Namy-Paul Kihonia Makiese, speaking as the student speaker for Penn State Greater Allegheny’s (PSUGA) Spring 2022 commencement.

the new degree in social work. “We want to make sure we have degrees that are relevant and that are of interest to students,” she said. “Also, we want degrees that would serve our region well. Rather than doing a 2+2, students could do all four years at Greater Allegheny,” Edmondson added.

The first year of college can be scary for some students, but Edmondson mentioned a few things that will make it less so at Greater Allegheny.

“People will know your name and greet you all around the campus,” she said. “Also, the professors here care about their students and want them to succeed and the climate here is very welcoming. We also have lots of activities for students to engage in,” she added.



Greater Allegheny Graduates 35 in 12 Different Degrees

The Wunderley Gymnasium was the site for the 2022 Spring Commencements for Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), a ceremony that recognized 35 graduates in 12 different degree programs, ranging from associates to bachelors degrees. While the spring of 2021 saw an in-person and virtual ceremony,



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this was the first year since 2019 that there was no social distancing and masks were not required inside the gym during the ceremony.

Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, chancellor and chief academic officer, welcomed the crowd of family, friends, faculty, and staff, and she acknowledged that this graduating class made it through the past 2.5 years of pandemic, remote and asynchronous learning, amid a society of challenges and ongoing struggles.

“Your presence here

today proves that there is hope,” she told the graduates.

Senior IST major, Namy-Paul Kihonia Makiese, a native of Congo and a Pittsburgh Promise scholar who graduated from Taylor Allderdice High School, was the student speaker who saluted what he called the “beautiful class of 2022” with inspirational words of encouragement, while calling upon his fellow classmates to go out into the world “and make things better.”

Edmondson noted that due to unforeseen

circumstances, commencement keynote speaker, David “Mr. McFeely” Newell was unable to attend, but that she “looks forward to the day when he comes to campus” for a future commencement ceremony.

Edmondson noted that Newell, much like his TV persona that he portrayed for 40 years on public television, is the same kind person he is in real life. She encouraged all the graduates to embrace the eternal messages of Mcfeely and Newell: “To be kind, be generous and be humble.”



WAR IN UKRAINE CONTINUES, WESTERN SUPPORT REMAINS STRONG



History Illustrates Similarities With Previous Russian Invasions, says PSUGA Professor

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This is part two of a multi-part report on the war in Ukraine, its impact around the world, and what it means for Americans.

In the early morning hours of this past weekend, the New York Times reported that First Lady Jill Biden made an unannounced visit to western Ukraine, just hours before her husband, President Joe Biden, and other

western leaders were to meet virtually with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The events, no matter how different, served to demonstrate the depth of ongoing support for Ukraine that has continued by the United States and other nations in the face of Russia's nearly three-month-long continued invasion.

In those nearly three months, not a moment of nightly TV news or an article in the newspaper goes by without an update on Ukraine. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reported that there have been 5,718 civilian casualties in the country, up from 1,123 when the last article was written in February. Of these casualties 2,665 are deaths and 3,053 are injuries.

One can track the reasons for the current war between Russia and

the Ukraine as far back as the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, which occurred during World War I, which was a disastrous time for Russia. As with other wars and invasions, one only need to look at the history, according to Dr. Douglas Charles, professor of history at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA).

"As communists, they [the Bolsheviks] were ideologically against an empire," he said. "They also expected communist evolutions to expand around Europe and the world, but that didn't happen."

Charles asserts that Russia is always the last to develop, a trend that has been consistent since the industrial revolution of the 1700s. Development began in Europe and then spread eastward, reaching Russia at the very end. This trend continued throughout the Cold War in the mid 20th century.

During the beginning of the Cold War, Russia was surrounded by capitalist countries, so it resorted to creating a sort of empire of its own in order to bolster its defenses. Ukraine was one of the countries Russia ended up controlling, being a part of a union of "communist" countries, though Ukraine was far from an independent nation, Charles said.

During the Cold War, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed as a security measure against the Soviet Union. Charles explained that in the early 1990s, prior to the fall of the Soviet Union, NATO made a promise to Russia not to expand further eastward. When Soviet Russia fell, however, several countries, including former Soviet Baltic and Balkan countries, joined NATO almost instinctively.

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NATO cited the notion that the Russian Federation was not the same as the Soviet Union as a justification. Russia viewed this as a betrayal while some claim that NATO has served only to increase tensions since the fall of the Soviet Union, and asserted that it should be disbanded.

“I was a college student at the time,” Charles said, “and I still remember one of my professors at Penn State commenting about how NATO still exists, asking ‘Why does it exist when the reason it exists – the Soviet Union – no longer exists?’ But it continued on, and grew with many of the former Soviet Union countries joining it.”

He added that there were economic incentives to joining NATO, as it would be more beneficial to associate with a wealthier group of European countries than a “kleptocratic Russia.” There were also defensive incentives, as Russia was still somewhat powerful after the fall of the Soviet Union, and it still posed a significant threat.

Charles also remembers witnessing the events of the Cold War in his college years. “You used to always see on TV during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union was there, images of Russian stores

with long lines and nothing on the shelves, all framed as the failure of communism. After the Soviet Union went away, suddenly money and wealth were seen in Russia, but it was all tied to mobsters with expensive cars and such. Russia was becoming a corrupt, criminal, mob-like state with a hint of democracy,” Charles added.

Military power and



Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy

repression kept these countries “in the Soviet Union and under control,” Charles said.

“This all failed by the 1980s, as the Soviet Union was failing. It couldn’t hold it all together by force of its military. These countries, with the Cold War over, began seeking independence. The Soviet Union then failed and went into the dustbin of history, replaced by a so-called Russian Federation,” he added.

In response to the assertion that NATO is outdated, Charles said, “Well, given that we’re seeing a very assertive, authoritarian, corrupt, dangerous, election-meddling Russia, probably not. Look at what Putin attacked: a non-NATO country, but one interested in joining NATO that also historically had been under Russian domination. He didn’t attack Poland,

greatness when it controlled all its neighboring territory like in the past.” Charles also added that while neighboring countries were upset by the new Russian government, “over the years, Putin would consolidate power and become an autocratic dictator.”

In 2014, the “Revolution of Dignity” took place, in which the pro-Russian

also historically dominated by Russia, but then Poland (and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia which were always dominated by Russia) are part of NATO. He wouldn’t dare,” Charles added.

Charles also explained that “Putin replaced Boris Yeltsin as president of the Russian Federation in 1999...he was a former KGB officer, and viewed Russia as a failure, wanting Russia to return to

president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted, alongside several other pro-Russian government officials. This ended up prompting the Russian annexation of the Crimean Peninsula shortly afterwards, providing Russia with access to the Black Sea.

Following the ousting of Yanukovich, pro-Russian groups in cities in eastern Ukraine

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that have historically consisted of a primarily Russian-speaking population, seized government buildings and ousted Ukrainian government presence.

The Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) were born, claiming sovereignty and independence from Ukraine. They received support from Russia in the form of military veterans directing their militias and operations. According to Human Rights Watch, the DPR and LPR captured and tortured several pro-Ukrainian activists and journalists.

In response, Ukraine launched its Anti-Terrorist Operation in order to combat the insurgency. Due to Ukraine's weakened state and divided military, the government employed paramilitary groups to assist in the conflict. Some of these groups, such as the Azov Battalion, have been, and still are, strongly affiliated with ultra-nationalist and neo-Nazi ideology.

Then came the 2016 presidential election of Donald Trump,

Charles said, and Russia meddled in that election.

"Trump won, of course," he said, "and then as president, was blatantly pro-Putin and pro-Russia. Trump took every opportunity to criticize NATO. This no doubt convinced Putin he could maintain influence over these various areas, like Ukraine, with minimal effort – not needing to invade, in other words," Charles added.

A failure to maintain ceasefires caused both civilian and military death tolls to rise. Over the years, tensions would rise until Feb. 21, when Russia officially recognized the DPR and LPR, before authorizing military force to secure the region.

According to Charles, on some level, it seems that Russia's conflict with Ukraine "has its roots over a thousand years ago.

"There are different periods of Russian history," he said. "The first 'Russian' state dates to the 800s at, of all places, Kyiv. That one fell to the Mongols, who had perhaps the largest empire in the world. The next Russian state was centered in Moscow in the

late 1400s, led by Ivan the Great, who broke from the Mongols and then took over neighboring territories as his own. He started calling himself Czar, a title stemming from 'Caesar' and harkening back to the Roman empire, as if Russia was similar," Charles added.

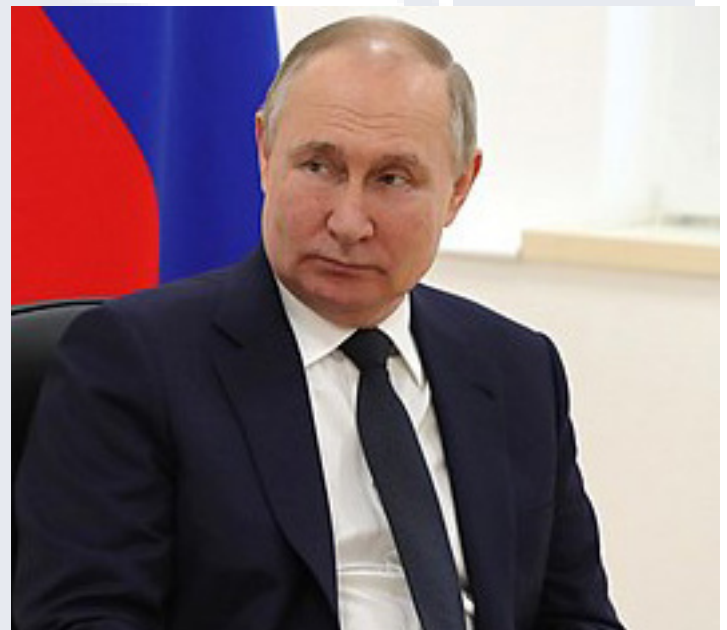
"From the early to late 1700s, Russia continued to expand and formally became an empire, controlling the Crimean Peninsula and land by the Black Sea (the area of Ukraine). The czars spent money to maintain their empire," Charles added.

Ukraine's history as a part of Russia was cited by Putin in his speech on

February 21, 2022 as one of his many justifications for his invasion, indicating that returning Russia to empire status may be one of his long-term goals.

Charles asserts that a failure to properly respond to Putin's actions in Ukraine would only encourage other authoritarian governments to engage in similar actions.

For example, China's relationship with Taiwan slightly resembles the current situation in Eastern Europe, but Charles understands that this situation has a different history and circumstances.



President of Russia, Vladimir Putin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of *The GA-ZETTE* welcome Letters to the Editor by writing to rum31@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.

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Mitchell Recognized with Teaching Award

Dr. Anthony Mitchell, associate teaching professor of African and African American studies at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), cofounder of the Stewart and Jones Scholar Leadership Program, and a pre-eminent Black scholar, received the 2022 Dr. James Robinson Equal Opportunity Award.

The award, sponsored by the Penn State Alumni Association, recognizes a full-time faculty or staff member from throughout the University, with at least two years of active service, who has promoted equal opportunity through affirmative action and/or contributes to enhancing the educational environment of the University through improving cross-cultural understanding.

Throughout his more than 37 years at Penn State, nominators noted Mitchell's dedication to the fight for social justice, equity, and inclusion, both in and out of the classroom.



Mitchell teaches a variety of classes related to African American history and culture and he has been instrumental in diversifying the curriculum.

In 2009, Mitchell teamed up with colleague Dr. Johnathan White, assistant teaching professor of history, to establish the Stewart Jones Mentoring Program, which mentors African American students. In partnership with Dr. Jennifer Croyle, associate professor of psychology, they established a new course related to the historical, sociological, representational and psychological effects of racism on African Americans in the U.S.

Mitchell has also been integral to Greater Allegheny's Crossing Bridges, the campus' signature program that pairs the campus and residential communities to address racial divides in the region.

Mitchell also served on the campus task on Racial Equity and has worked with the Pittsburgh Public Schools on a variety of equity initiatives. Additionally, he has served on the planning group of Penn State's Equity Pedagogy Network.

Editor's Note: Contents of this article came from a variety of University press sources.

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THE BEES ARE COMING!

Greater Allegheny's UnBEElivable Surprise

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Spring is a magical time for all northeasters as the warm sun finally frees many from the cold winter endured by all states. However, for all Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), there is one club that is coming to the campus.

PSUGA's own Galen Grimes will be adding to his teaching duties as an associate professor of Information Sciences and Technology when he works with the campus' physical plant to bring to campus, bees, while he also shares the miracles of beekeeping with students, staff and faculty.

Beekeeping (also known by the official

name of apiculture) is educational and interesting to many who wish to know about bee colonies and harvesting honey from the hives, Grimes acknowledged. When it comes to this hobby, the professor leans to the educational side to teach individuals about how effective one bee colony can be to nature.

"I think it is important that people know about bees and the role they play in helping to produce most of our food," Grimes said. "By showing the actions of a bee's pollination to others, there will be a greater appreciation to every bee colony across the world." One advantage to Grimes' bees is providing honey to the campus.

Upon Greater Allegheny's campus,



Grimes also is starting a beekeeping club for students. As these students accept their role in beekeeping, they learn the responsibility of taking care of bees as they make honey and pollinate nearby fruits and vegetables.

To others this is a hobby, but to these students it will be a new educational experience.

"We haven't gotten very far with the bee club now," Grimes explained, and the COVID-19 pandemic did not help matters. "Hopefully, we'll change that once the bees are on campus for others to see."

The Penn State professor is hopeful that with spring here and summer soon around the corner, progress will be made for the bee club and to show others what it is like to take care of the colony.

In spite of Pittsburgh's inconsistent weather,

Grimes has everything he needs when time comes to bring the colony to campus. When asked about where his colony is located now, Grimes said he has been keeping them at home since he started with one group of bees in the spring of 2020. The number of bees is now into the thousands. They are making honey, too.

"I recently spoke with the new business and finance manager and he's supposedly working on that project," Grimes said. "I hope the campus will be excited to see the bees arrive."

For those interested in beekeeping and the new bee club, contact Professor Grimes at gagrimes@psu.edu and learn how to help keep these new inhabitants to the campus safe, alive and well.



BARRON RETIREMENT MARKS ERA OF INNOVATION, CHANGE, CHALLENGES

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Editor's Note: This article was compiled by News Editor Carlin Whalen, with information from a variety of Penn State news sources and reports

All good things come to an end. After eight years at the helm of the largest institution of higher education in the state, Eric J. Barron retired on May 8 as the 18th president of the land-grant institution.

In reflecting on his time at Penn State, he expressed his thanks and gratitude to all the students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and supporters who have contributed to the University's success.

When he first interviewed at Penn State, he said he saw a place that had a vision and put that vision into action. He felt that the university community was motivated to do more and become better. "The time I spent here, particularly as president, has only amplified that feeling for me," Barron said.

"What you see is a tremendous community of students," he continued. "There are over 50,000 Pennsylvania residents taking the opportunity to

earn a world-class Penn State degree. Also, many students are from outside the states and from 120 countries, which provides a richness to our education environment and it's really unparalleled," Barron added.

The faculty and staff at Penn State always examine experiences in and out of the classroom, as well as deliver a transformative experience for all students across Penn State, which ultimately ensures the students' success. "This is an institution which is able to cross boundaries from different disciplines and in the process, is developing excellence across all of those different disciplines," he said.

Barron is especially proud of the faculty and

graduate students who have done research. "They will get up and cross to another field because what they are really trying to do is solve problems."

He did not think that Penn State would grow to be as big as it is today. The Commonwealth Campus Launchbox program was just one example of growth. "I thought we would have five or six innovation hubs, but we ended up with twenty-one. And where I thought we would have hundreds of students, staff, and community members entering, we ended up with thousands. Where I thought we would end up with ten companies, we ended up with hundreds and they started right here in Pennsylvania," he said.

The Mon Valley Launchbox is an example of one of the 21 innovation hubs and Barron was on hand in September of 2019 to cut the ribbon on its downtown McKeesport site. He also was on campus last September for the ribbon-cutting on the renovated Ostermayer Lab building.

"It doesn't matter where you are in the world. If you say, 'We Are,' you get an emphatic reply and makes me really proud that our alumni are so passionate about this institution, which helps promote our success," Barron said.

"I consider it a tremendous gift that I've had the opportunity to serve in this role."



President Barron was awarded the Penn State Medal during his final Board of Trustees meeting. (Penn State/Patrick Mansell)

ENTERTAINMENT

CHRISTINE

Car Crash of Classic Carnage by Stephen King

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As many readers of literature will mention, Stephen King has written interesting stories and created miniseries adaptations based on the stories penned by him. They range from killer clowns, obsessed fans, girls covered in pig's blood, and haunted hotels to send shivers down our spines.

Since his start in 1974 after writing "Carrie," he has been giving us short stories to read or other stories over 1000 pages. Now, he is even making cars sound too scary to buy.

NETFLIX

"Christine" is just one of Stephen King's many book adaptations to the big screen. Originally released in theaters in 1983 and receiving good reviews by critics and audiences, the film is now available on streaming



services. It was directed by the award-winning John Carpenter, well known for other horror classics like "Halloween" and "The Thing." In addition to also directing, Carpenter also composed the music, making an interesting score for the movie, as well.

Taking place in California in 1978, "Christine" focuses on Arnie Cunningham (played by actor Keith Gordon) who buys himself a 1958 Plymouth Fury that would otherwise be gathering dust. After taking it home and spending time repairing the car,

Arnie starts to change from the typical high school nerd to a full-on bully. A few deaths begin to occur, and all are centered from the old car itself.

It's up to Dennis Guilder (actor John Stockwell) and Leigh Cabot (actress Alexandra Paul) to work together to put an end to Arnie's new car.

At first, it seems to be a cheesy horror film with a car having supernatural powers, but with King's writing and Carpenter's directing, it helps make it believable. The characters are believable, as well,

with good acting and cinematography that works for the film.

Each time the car is on the road ready to take revenge, you can believe that it's a terminator on wheels as it kills off many of Arnie's enemies from school.

The supernatural factor is there for the mysterious background behind the car, which is something both the book and movie show in the difference between the literature and the film. A lot of King fans will tell you that differences between the books and films are there, which do make an interesting debate as to which one is better.

I give Christine four stars for the great work and as a warning next time you buy a car. Look for it on Netflix, Amazon Prime and other streaming services to cruise into for movie nights this summer.

prime video

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

PSUGA Relay Team Makes Mark on Pittsburgh Marathon

The 2022 Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon was back in full-force on May 7 for the first time since 2019 and this year, Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) had relay runners in the throng of 30,000 participants.

Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, chancellor and chief academic officer; Dr. James Jaap, teaching professor of English and assistant chief academic officer; Dr.

Megan Nagel, associate professor of chemistry and associate chief academic officer; Dr. Kuei-Nuan Lin, associate professor of mathematics and; Dr. Jennifer Breese, assistant professor of information science and technology and cybersecurity, took to the Pittsburgh streets and the 26-mile race to help raise money for PSUGA's Digital Fluency Project.

Each runner ran a portion of the course in relay fashion, with monies donated from alumni and

other campus supporters for each leg of the race. Their efforts helped to raise nearly \$5,000 for the PSUGA project.

"This was sincerely one of the best experiences of my life," Breese told *The GA-Zette* in an e-mail. "I had no idea what to expect...I planned to just draw from the energy of the crowd. The streets were lined with revelers standing in the cold rain the entire way. They were cheering, providing encouragement and I

could not have done this without their energy," she added.

Breese and the relay team noted that all of the donors to the team were very generous to support such an "amazing cause for our students." The team also hopes to expand the relay with more students, faculty and staff next year.

Get those race shoes ready now!



The relay team, from left to right: Dr. Kuei-Nuan Lin, Dr. Jacqueline Edmondson, Dr. Megan Nagel, Dr. Jennifer Breese, and Dr. James Jaap, with their marathon medals. (Photo by Connie Serman)

LOVE OF SPORT, DEDICATION, EXCELLENCE

Morton-Rozier and PSUGA Athletics

Korie Morton-Rozier will tell anyone who asks that it is her favorite picture...the one where she is standing beside her father and sister, Quinn, just after the Woodland Hills High School Wolverines won the 1997 WPIAL Women's Basketball title. To this day, Morton-Rozier's record is still at the top of all the athletic awards won by the district.

Now, she keeps that photographic memory close to her mind and heart while she makes new memories cheering on not just basketball but soccer, golf, baseball, and volleyball for the 130+

young men and women who call Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) their athletic home. Morton-Rozier is just one of six women who hold the title of athletic director at Penn State's Commonwealth Campuses, a role she has held for nearly a decade.

"My father was a war hero and a very well-known high school football coach around the area and he also played professional baseball for the Cincinnati Reds," Morton-Rozier recalled.

"Growing up, my sister and I were at all the football practices at Central Catholic and I saw how much time and dedication goes into being

a good coach/player. We saw him touch so many lives and change so many lives for the better through sports...I believe this is where I learned my work ethic...from watching him coach and prepare for games," she added.

Morton-Rozier found that she had a love for being a part of all sports, rather than just one. She took part in softball, basketball and soccer, although basketball was by far her favorite.

She was extremely talented on the court and became the lead scorer at Woodland Hills for both men and women, with a total of 1,964 points, in addition to receiving numerous accolades for points and rebounds at other levels, too.

"I had a Division I basketball scholarship to Robert Morris University," she said, but injuries cut short her collegiate career there and "I transferred to Edinboro University where I finished out my career," Morton-Rozier said." She had no regrets. "We had a great run...I loved every minute of it."

While in college, she earned a degree in management, later becoming one of the youngest Quad A head basketball coaches in the WPIAL at the time,



then was promoted to assistant athletic director at Woodland Hills, where she said she "found her 'niche.'"

Her legacy in athletics—as a coach and administrator—at Woodland Hills includes the girls basketball team for 11 seasons, where she helped lead the Wolverines to seven WPIAL Class AAAA playoff appearances.

"It was then that I realized I could reach student athletes and gain their respect with my accomplishments on the court and I could relate to their struggles on and off the field," she said. "I love the opportunity to watch student athletes grow and become successful young men and women and I really enjoyed the relationships made with the coaches, the other teams, and their parents."

Then came the opportunity to head the athletic program at PSUGA.

(Continued on next page)



Morton-Rozier (left) with her dad and sister

(Continued from page 12)



Morton-Rozier during her Edinboro days

She grew up in the Mon Valley and loved the community and she recalls, as a child, playing basketball on the courts at the campus through the

AAU (American Athletic Union) program. When this opportunity to become athletic director was presented to her, Morton-Rozier knew she could not pass it up because, she said, “Who wouldn’t want to be a part of Penn State!”

This past fall semester, the PSUGA women’s volleyball team became PSUAC (Penn State University Athletic Conference) champions and placed fourth in nationals for the first time. The men’s soccer team also made a playoff appearance.

“I think we are setting ourselves up for a good couple years ahead of us with all the new kids we brought in,” Morton-Rozier said.

Sometimes, there are also difficult decisions to make, such as the demise of the campus track and

field program last year. Morton-Rozier said it was a budgetary decision. “Our athletes were great and we thank them for all they did for the program.”

The student athletes on campus now comprise approximately 30% of the entire student body. As an athlete, motivation is a key part of the sport.

Morton-Rozier said the administration believes that the athletic program is vital to help the students grow as adults and become leaders on and off campus. It also helps that they are not just a team, but a family, she added.

“At Penn State, we believe that our athletic programs are vital parts of the total educational system,” Morton-Rozier said. “A lot of our athletes have become leaders on campus as well as positive role models in the community. The impact you can have

in education and sports is amazing,” she said.

“Sometimes you never know the impact you have on others until they see you years later and tell you ‘thanks for believing in me...you changed my life,’” she added.

While Morton-Rozier does not engage in sports actively due to her previous injuries and surgeries, she also sees the future through her twin daughters who are following in their mother’s and grandfather’s footsteps with their interest in basketball.

“Now I work with them and coach their 5th grade team at Gateway!” she said.

News Editor, Carlin Whalen (cjw6426@psu.edu), also contributed to this story.

JUNETEENTH

FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

The Homecoming

June 17th - June 19th, 2022

Pittsburgh, PA

BLACK & GOLD IN THE NEWS

Penguins' Success in the Playoffs

After a hard fought season, the Pittsburgh Penguins ended up placing 7th in the Eastern Conference, clinching a playoff birth with a total of 103 points.

The Penguins ended up facing the New York Rangers, who were 4th in the Conference, in the first-round, and at press time, the Pens were close to winning the series.

LET'S GO PENS!

*(Pittsburgh Penguins/
Getty Images)*



Pirates Charities Set to Host Family Walk in Support of Mental Health

The Pittsburgh Pirates are set to host the annual Pirates Charities Family Walk, presented by Allegheny Health Network. The event will take place on Sat. May 14, at

PNC Park, and will benefit Pirates Charities mental health programming and initiatives, in addition to helping reduce stigmas surrounding mental health.

According to a team press release, "the unique experience will allow participants to take a leisurely, non-competitive stroll throughout the best ballpark in America, where they can take in unparalleled views of the Pittsburgh skyline before finishing the approximately one-mile course on the field at home plate."

Everyone will be able to interact with Pirates players and mascots, and can enjoy a post-walk carnival. Located on PNC Park's newly enhanced Riverwalk, the carnival will include food and beverages, family-friendly activities, music, and surprise guests.

Fans of all ages can register at pirates.com/familywalk. All registrants will receive a commemorative t-shirt and a voucher for two free tickets to any Pirates home game between May 14 and May 25.



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Photos courtesy: Penn State Greater Allegheny Facebook Page



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