



# The GA-ZETTE

AUGUST 2022

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

VOLUME 15

## THEN - 1972 -- 50 years ago



VS.

## NOW - August 2022

# WELCOME BACK!!!

## FALL 2022 EDITION

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# Nagel Takes Helm of Campus During Time of Consistency and Change

**CARLIN WHALEN**  
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Classes are now back in session and, sometimes, things change with the start of a new semester. That includes Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) new Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, associate chief academic officer and associate professor of chemistry. She was appointed to the role in May, following the departure of Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Edmonson, who left Penn State and moved to Portland to take on the presidency at the University of Southern Maine.

Nagel will remain as interim chancellor for one year, until June 2023, when it is expected that the University will name a

permanent chancellor and chief academic officer.

"I truly love Penn State Greater Allegheny," Nagel said. "The more that I'm here, the more I want to be involved in making changes and improving the lives of students and our community and this position gives a bigger stage to fulfill that vision." Nagel said that with these excitements, there are also some setbacks.

Unfortunately, Nagel said she will not be able to teach chemistry to PSUGA students like she did in previous years, as she will not have the time due to the responsibilities of the interim chancellor role. "I'm really invested in the students and the gap grows between your day-to-day interactions with students and your job duties," she said.

However, Nagel intends to keep up with and

expand her student interaction as she will provide several opportunities for students to meet with her. She will have interim chancellor walk-n-talks throughout the campus every Wednesday from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m.

She also plans to visit the Café Metro when it's busy to meet and talk with students and she wants to volunteer for guest lectures in other faculty classes when she has the chance, saying that by guest lecturing, it gives her "a chance to get back in the classroom and connect with students."

Nagel also established an interim chancellor Instagram account @psugainterimchancellor where she plans to connect with students, post announcements of "stuff happening on campus" and highlight student and faculty stories.

Another thing that has changed with the start of this semester is the COVID-19 masking policy. "We are no longer tracking with the Allegheny County level," Nagel said. "Penn State, as a university, is now following the guidance of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) where masks are recommended, but not required." She added

that anyone with an office, however, can ask anyone to wear a mask in that office, so Nagel advised that everyone should always keep one mask with them, just in case.

A highlight to the fall semester is that PSUGA is introducing a brand-new social work degree, the first ever by any Penn State campus. Nagel said from the initial reaction, it appears that students and community members are very excited this is being offered in the Mon Valley.

"Social work is a really broad field that can do a lot of things," she said. "This degree is going to be taught by two full-time faculty members: Dr. Christopher Robinson, assistant professor of social work, who is also the program's director, and Ms. Kiera Mallet, a new addition to the full-time faculty, who will serve as field director in social work."

Nagel mentioned that they are excellent at what they do and she believes students will be drawn to them.

Some unfortunate news happened to the PSUGA campus recently when the old YWCA building in downtown McKeesport—the building on 9th Street

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**Dr. Nagel, Penn State Greater Allegheny's interim chancellor**



(Continued from page 2)

where the campus' Mon Valley Launch Box was housed--was destroyed by a natural gas line explosion. The Launch Box—part of the Innovate Penn State program—officially opened in 2019 and it encourages economic development to improve the quality of life throughout the Mon Valley.

While no PSUGA employees or clients of the location were injured in the blast, Nagel said that the search is on for a new location for the Launch Box, “but nothing is set stone yet.” PSUGA is using campus space to temporarily relocate some of the clients while it looks for other community spaces for them to use.

“The mission of the Launch Box has not stopped, despite this huge setback,” Nagel added.

Also, the topic of Crossing Bridges has been on Nagel's mind recently. Crossing Bridges started in 2017 and it was a multi-faceted program that featured internationally-acclaimed speakers and local community advocates, paired with campus unity talks and discussions on topics from police reform, social justice and health.

Nagel said that the program will continue, although it is going to be a little different from here on out.

“There's a life cycle to any program,” Nagel said. “Crossing Bridges is at a point where it needs to rebrand.” Compared to previous years, it will now focus more on action, community engagement and trying to weave the program's work into Penn State's curriculum.

As far as renovations to the campus go, Nagel stated that “things are looking good on campus, both inside and out.”



Within the last five years, most of the classrooms have been renovated and there will be more renovations soon, including the first floor (lower level) of the Student Community Center (SCC), as well as the sport court, both of which are paid for by the students' activity fees.

Nagel is very excited for the fall semester. “I have been telling people that I am a chemist...and this is a year of experiments, so I want to try things that have been on my mind and interesting to me.”

## Jacqueline Edmondson becomes 14th President of University of Southern Maine (USM)

*This story was derived from a press release from the University of Southern Maine.*

A first-generation college student and accomplished faculty member, academic administrator and author at Penn State University became the 14th President of the University of Southern Maine (USM) on July 1.

“I am thrilled to be joining USM as its 14th President,” Edmondson said. “USM is a wonderful institution that is well positioned for an even greater future. I want to acknowledge and thank President Cummings for his success, and I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students and communities to build on USM's strengths, confront challenges and realize new opportunities that will expand its impact and reach in the University of Maine System, the great state of Maine and beyond.”

Edmondson brings to USM more than two decades of collective service and progressive leadership experience



at Penn State. She was a tenured professor and associate dean in the College of Education and later associate vice president and associate dean for undergraduate education, where she worked across 20 campuses to develop curriculum and programs to advance college access and affordability.

Her research has focused on education policy, rural education, teacher education and popular culture. In addition to publication in numerous academic journals, she has authored eight books on subjects ranging from education policy to Jesse Owens to Jerry Garcia.

Edmondson will serve as USM's president for three years.



**UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN MAINE**

# COMM Degree Program to “Sunset” at PSUGA, New Degree Option Considered

**CARLIN WHALEN**

Managing Editor

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Earlier this month, Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) administration was notified that the campus will no longer offer a four-year-degree in communications due to declining enrollment numbers in the program. The decision was made at the University level through the Office of the Vice President of Commonwealth Campuses (OVPC). The program, which is also offered at other Penn State campuses, will also “sunset” at the Beaver campus.

academic officer, “COMM has been one that has been declining in its enrollment.”

“Specifically, for this campus,” she said, “it was based mostly on numbers. We don’t have enough students to support the four-year degree option.” Nagel wanted to stress that this does not affect any students who have already enrolled for the fall semester of 2022. “What they will experience in their four-year degree program is not different than what they were told they would have,” Nagel said. Additionally, PSUGA will always be able to support students who partake in the 2 + 2 plan—two years

different campus to finish their degree. The last two years would include more courses in the COMM major,” Nagel said.

The first group of students impacted by this change will be the students who apply for the fall semester of 2023. In fact, COMM will not be a four year degree option for them at PSUGA. The campus is currently evaluating a multidisciplinary option that combines elements of a liberal arts education to which students can design their course of study. Communications courses could be part of that degree.

Dr. Zack Furness, COMM program director and associate professor of communications, and Dr. Michael Vicaro, also an associate professor of communications, were both sad to see the program cease.

“It’s unfortunate that this happened, but I can understand the University’s position, given our numbers,” Furness said. “I think the major is an important one in both content and how it engages with what liberal arts education was supposed to be.”

Similarly, Vicaro, in an e-mail, said he is saddened that PSUGA will no longer offer the

full degree on the Greater Allegheny campus.

“I’ve so enjoyed working with our majors and I’ll miss the work of seeing students through the entire process from entrance to major through to graduation,” he said, although he is excited for what’s to come to Greater Allegheny.

“I am excited about the prospects of developing a new multidisciplinary major,” Vicaro said. “It will allow me to continue to teach interesting and innovative classes and to join with other faculty in English, history and philosophy.” The new major—MDS—is currently being developed for the campus.

At press time, *The GA-Zette* did not have information on what future plans are for offering another and/or different degree at the Beaver campus.

Furness still plans to offer a mix of courses he is currently teaching or has taught in past years. “They will just have a wider audience than communications itself,” he said.

Both professors love it here at PSUGA and have no intention of leaving,

**(Continued on next page)**



The last seven editions of *The GA-Zette*

The OVPC has been evaluating degree programs across all Penn State campuses and, according to Dr. Megan Nagel, PSUGA interim chancellor and chief

at a campus and then two years at University Park.

“Students doing this 2+2 plan are going to take mostly general education classes for their two years here before they go to a



(Continued from page 4)



**Dr. Zack Furness, COMM program director and associate professor of communications**

even due to this change. “This is my home and I enjoy my students and colleagues,” Furness said. “Also, being in Pittsburgh is important to me, as well.”

Vicaro thinks similarly. “I love GA and I’m committed to staying here and

continuing to teach on our campus and serving our campus community for a long time.”

Because of declining numbers in COMM, there are some unpredictabilities involving the campus newspaper, “*The GA-Zette*” and campus radio station, WMKP.

“We are finding ways to maintain the award-winning newspaper’s presence on campus, as well as giving life back to the campus radio,” Nagel said.

Rosemary Martinelli, lecturer in business and communications, who also teaches journalism and public relations courses in COMM, is the faculty advisor to *The GA-Zette*. She echoed Nagel’s goals

for keeping the newspaper alive. In the past three years, Martinelli said that business, IST and English students have “joined with COMM majors and participated in the writing and design of the newspaper and they won local, regional and national awards for their work.” She stressed that “the goal is to keep journalism alive at PSUGA.”

Furness, as the head of the radio, mentioned a few problems trying to get WMKP back up and running, including many COVID struggles, staffing problems, and some tech issues that make it difficult for the radio to get going. “Also, there aren’t many people that listen to radio now,” Furness said,

and he’s thinking about “reworking it.”

“I am giving some thought to make the space more focused on talk radio and podcasting, allowing people to use



aspects of radio that a lot more people are listening for,” he said.

Current COMM students and those first-semester students considering COMM as a major should reach out to Furness at [zackfurness@psu.edu](mailto:zackfurness@psu.edu) or Vicaro at [mpv2@psu.edu](mailto:mpv2@psu.edu) with questions or concerns.



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

## Penn State Student Contracts Monkeypox

An off-campus Penn State student has tested positive for monkeypox in the first confirmed case at University Park, according to both the university and the state Department of Health (DOH). Per a Penn State news release, dated Aug. 17, the student tested positive Aug. 13 and is currently isolating and recovering. Close contacts have been identified and notified through contact tracing from the state DOH.

Monkeypox symptoms are similar to smallpox but milder — including fever, chills, respiratory issues, rashes, etc. — and the illness is rarely fatal, though the skin lesions are painful and can cause scarring. It is much less contagious than COVID-19, and most patients require no treatment, according to the state DOH.

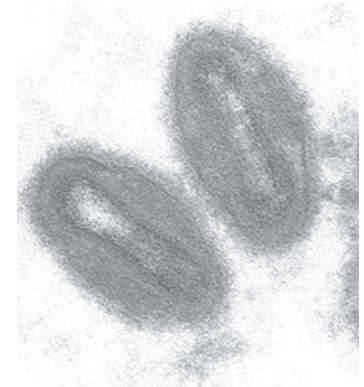
Symptoms typically begin within three weeks of exposure, and the

illness usually lasts 2-4 weeks.

According to Penn State, University Health Services first contacted the state DOH — and the two entities continue to monitor the case.

*Editor’s Note: This story was first published in the Centre Daily Times on Aug. 18. The GA-Zette will continue to monitor this and related monkeypox stories throughout the semester. Information about monkeypox and*

*health department guidelines on vaccines and other prevention measures can be found at [studentaffairs.psu.edu](http://studentaffairs.psu.edu) and navigating to the health and wellness tab.*



# New Faces in Familiar Places

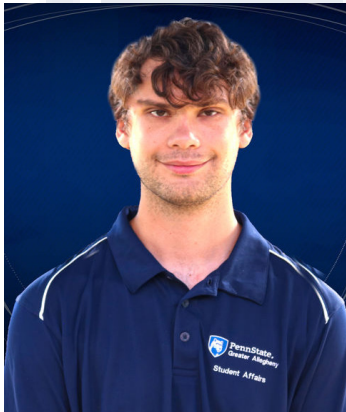
## CARLIN WHALEN

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Over the summer at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), there have been staff positions that were vacant and now are filled. Several current employees even received a promotion during the summer.

Starting at the top of the hill at the McKeesport Hall dorm, anyone can find the new residential education specialist, Peter Long.



Long began his new role on Aug. 1 and he says that “PSUGA has been great so far.” He is looking forward to meeting the resident students and working with them this year. As one of two live-in employees at the dorm, Long must supervise the resident assistants (RA) and conduct their training, while also assisting the students who live there.

Long comes to PSUGA with experience from two different universities where he was

involved in residence life. At Point Park University, Long was the assistant resident director and he also worked for a time as a community assistant at Clarion University, the latter where he went to college to earn a degree in history.

The similarities between all three jobs outweigh the differences, according to Long. “The biggest difference is the size of the campus. PSUGA is the smallest campus I have worked at, but it is nice that everyone seems to know each other.

“Being involved on campus helped me to understand how student affairs departments operate and gain an appreciation for those that choose to work in the field,” he said. Long suggests students make small goals throughout their college careers and “that way they will feel like they are making progress.”

While Long lives in the dorm, he has an office in the Student Community Center (SCC) in Room 110, on the lower level. His e-mail is pel5127@psu.edu

Additionally, Louise Aravich, who was the other residential education specialist at McKeesport Hall, was named the associate director of student affairs earlier this summer. She replaced her supervi-

sor, Justin Dandoy, who left for the University of Pittsburgh. As the associate director, she will work closely with Lorraine Craven who heads the student affairs office.

She will oversee student code of conduct, as well as continuing her work with the Free Store 15132, and other student life events and programs, and supervising Long and the soon-to-be-named other residential education specialist who is being hired.

“I was very intentional in learning pieces of the position to help me for my next steps, whatever they would be,” Aravich said. “Luckily, I get to keep using that knowledge here.”

Aravich went to school at Penn State DuBois and she earned a degree in Letters, Arts and Sciences (LAS). After, she went back to school at Indiana University of Pennsylvania to earn her Master of Arts in Student Affairs Higher Education.

In college, Aravich was extremely active on cam-



pus. This is what started her journey and love for student affairs.

“I was in THON, was a THON dancer, the SGA (Student Government Association) president, a Lion Ambassador, a service club member, and I participated in service trips and more!” She advises students to step out of their comfort zone in order to make the most of the college experience. “You can’t be brave if you’re not scared!”

Aravich’s office is located in the SCC in Room 211, near the Café Metro, and she can be reached by email at law315@psu.edu.

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# WE ARE PENN STATE

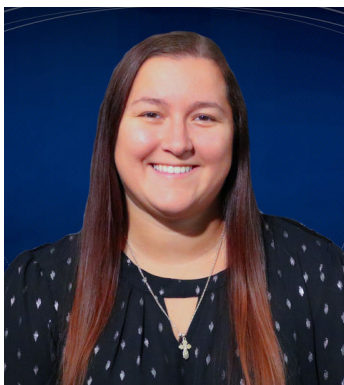


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Across the road from McKeesport Hall is the Wunderley Gymnasium. That was where you would customarily find Danielle Kochka, the campus soccer coach, a role she held for the past two years. This past May, she moved on to the admissions and student aid office as a new admissions counselor.

Kochka says there is not too much difference between the two roles, because “as the softball coach, I was recruiting softball players to come to campus (and I was) working with admissions, but I never had the access or resources that I do now!”

She will join current admissions counselors, Carlos Chueca and Shakeria Carter, along with new interim admissions director, Rachael Banks, and a new administrative assistant, Amy Zakrzewski, as they recruit prospective students, “working with them from the start of the admissions process until the moment they matriculate to cam-



pus,” Kochka said.

She graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA, with a degree in communications. “I have learned how to talk to recruits and prospective students, giving me a glimpse into what it takes to truly ‘psuga sell’ the idea of the campus to prospective students. I used that basic understanding to give me a good foundation as I started this role on campus.”

While Kochka says that public speaking, multitasking, teamwork, and the “ability to think on your feet” are a few skills that are important in the working world, her advice to new and current students is to “never compare yourself to anyone else’s success.”

“It took me a few years after graduating college to really figure out what I wanted to do and where I wanted to do it,” she added. “You will hear a million times how everyone is on their own timeline, and it is so true. It’s hard not to feel like a failure if things aren’t happening as fast as you want them to, but you have to remember to focus on your own goals and aspirations without comparing them to anyone else’s,” Kochka concluded.

Her office is on the first floor of Frable Building, Room 123G, and her e-mail is dek5273@psu.

edu.

A familiar face on the PSUGA campus--as well as the Fayette and New Kensington campuses--is Erin Morton, who was promoted from regional human resources consultant to regional human resources strategic partner.



“The roles are similar and have many overlapping duties, but the strategic partner role has more of the developing and directing the HR agenda for the three campuses that this position supports, as well as aligning the work that the HR team does with the campus mission,” Morton said.

The expectations on all three campuses “is to support the campus mission/vision and be a resources partner to staff, faculty and students.”

Morton was not always in higher education, but brought with her human resources experiences from the corporate world. She earned her undergraduate degree in business from Capella University and graduated this past spring with a Masters in Professional

studies and HR/employment Relations from Penn State World Campus. Her education and experiences all together helped her in landing this new role.

“Communications, adaptability, collaboration, and listening,” she said, are all important skills for her job.

Her advice for students? “Be kind to yourself and give yourself grace to make mistakes and to learn from those mistakes.”

Morton’s office is in 124 Frable and her e-mail is emm627@psu.edu

Two other familiar faces on campus who are in new roles this fall: Nicholas Trunzo, a senior IST major at PSUGA and a work study student in the Strategic Planning and Communications Office, is the new marketing specialist in that office; and Jayme Gralewski moved from admissions to academic affairs as the new administrative assistant.

Other new faces on campus include:

In the Office of Physical Plant, Brad Dinkfelt, facilities manager, and Keith Haidle, technical services specialist; in the Office of Institutional Advancement, Anne Pastor as director of campus development and; in the Office of Health Services, Kevin Debow, who joined the campus as a mental health counselor.

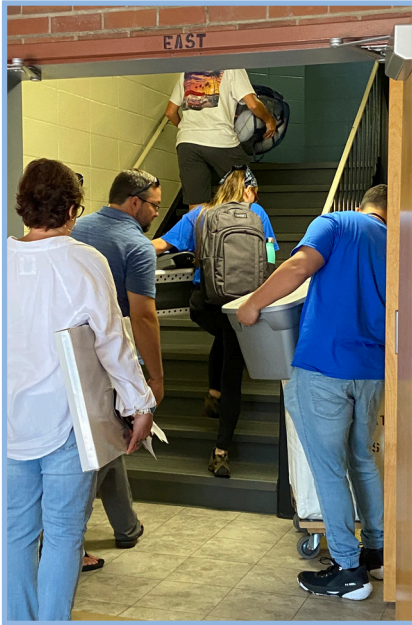




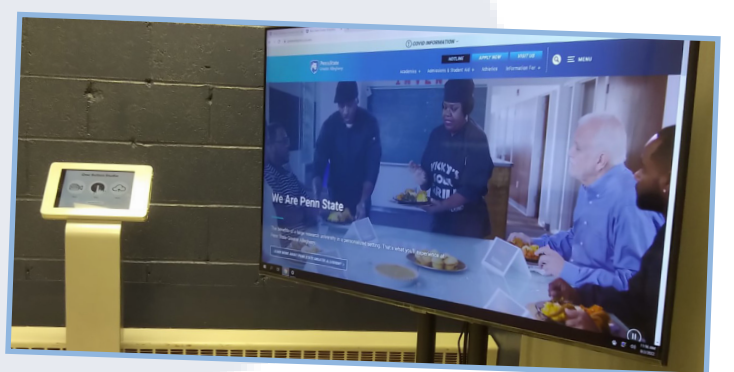
# CONVOCATION DAY



# MOVE-IN DAY



Select photos have been taken from the PSUGA Instagram page @pennstatega



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# BRAND NEW ONE BUTTON STUDIO In Crawford 105



**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny



# Penn State's New SGA President Takes Presence on Campus Seriously

**Riley Perciavalle**  
Contributing Writer

For Penn State Greater Allegheny's new Student Government Association (SGA) president, Aayushi Purvin Gandhi, her role is important and she could not be more excited.

"I had a very good opposing candidate, but I am proud to have the position and ready to help advocate for student voices at Greater Allegheny," she said, admitting that it was "nerve-racking waiting for the results for who won."

Of every college environment, student opinions are needed to make a campus better. Such things as cafeteria food or dorm accommodations help make an impact within their four years. Gandhi's campaign aimed to be diligent while also supporting a better diverse environment.

"I want to make Penn State Greater Allegheny a more welcoming campus rather than making it more fancy," she said. That



includes providing activities for both commuters and residents. She is also looking off campus to the city of McKeesport, hoping that she can make more connections between the campus and the nearby community. McKeesport is the second largest city in Allegheny County, second only to Pittsburgh.

"An example is the Free Store, which I want to be better known (along with other) resources pro-

vided to both the campus and surrounding communities," she said.

In her experience working with CCSG (Council of Commonwealth Student Governments), the overall governing body for all campus SGAs, Gandhi wants Greater Allegheny students to have a better idea of what student governing means and its importance to student life.

"I want to improve

the culture on the campus through the introduction of student voices in campus improvement," she explained. "For example, there is the remodeling for the lower floor of the Student Community Center (SCC) and the addition of a sport court outside the residence hall," both of which are supported with student activity fee funds. Students should have an idea of where their financial support to the campus actually goes, Gandhi added.

With all that in mind, Gandhi is as excited for these future ideas as she was when finding out she won the election. For what may come next, students can thank SGA President Aayushi Purvin Gandhi as this is a new step for her.



## 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.

## CLUB ADVERTISING

Does your organization want to promote its event or program in the 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)



# Penn State Grad Life

## What College Taught Me

**RILEY PERCIAVALLE**  
Contributing Writer

Twelve years of public education taught me that college was going to be tougher than anything I had experienced before in education. Those folks who told me that were not so wrong, but neither were they completely right. College, to some extent, is a gateway into adulthood that most students from high school have the freedom to access while on campuses across the U.S.



Over the past four years while I was a student at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), my eyes were opened to see how most teachers told me that it would be different. They were right with such things as class scheduling, activities, campus events, job opportunities, internships and more all throughout the campus...and beyond. After graduating from Penn State, most students take the effect of post-college

blues and become an adult in the working world. It's a fast track.

However, as they graduate, as I graduated, and as new freshmen students come in and begin their collegiate journey, I decided to leave some advice to any student who chooses to listen and to read this... first semester or fourth year. Take note.

### *Don't Let the Expectations Get to You*

Not every college will be a struggle, depending on where you enroll. Many campuses around Allegheny County and outside Pennsylvania are all different. At Greater Allegheny, faculty and staff treat you as an equal with respect. They wish to help you in any means possible, whether it's an email late at night to answer a question when you are studying late or during their lunch break in the afternoon, they are always here to help and to talk. They will not see you as a number. You are an individual who comes to class to further your studies for the future. Faculty can help you get there, but you need to help yourself.

### *Partake In Any Clubs That Interest You*

If being a part of afterschool clubs was something you liked in high school, then you will

find more during your time in college. Every day there is a new club being made, just waiting for more people to sign up to join. If there's a club you like to join, sign up if you have free time. If there is no club available for you, create one and recruit others. Make yourself the creator of your new club on campus. It also looks good on a resume to show you can be a team leader. Leadership comes in fun ways, too.



### *Always Make Connections on Campus*

The workplace isn't always a place to make connections, but in college, believe it or not, most of the professors you will have are friends with various people through Allegheny County or even farther, like across the U.S. or the world.

Every faculty member at college has made a connection to the working world, sending students out to help their degree become "real" and more valuable. Faculty also understand what each job does for society.

### *Make Memories*

College is all about opportunities and trying to set a foot in the door of the career you choose. What most teachers in high school do not tell you, is the idea that you can make memories throughout your time on campus. It can be anything from movie nights, game nights, a show at The Benedum Center in downtown Pittsburgh, or even a trip out of Pennsylvania will help. Many occasions are always there for something to do at night or on weekends to enjoy with old and new friends to appreciate the opportunities that college can provide to them.

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Always Keep Up With Your Classes

High school and college are very different. The big difference between the two is the consequences that follow. In high school if you fail, you will have to redo an assignment. In college, you will need to redo a course, but at a heavy price. This is no minor inconvenience. If you want to pass you will have to make the grade. If you do get busy with a job or personal problems, talk to your professor. Always talk to the professor and get help and support. There are many on-campus services for support, too.

College is not for everyone nor is everyone prepared for it. However, it's what we learn from others that help you to understand and that makes our education journey much easier to succeed. Enjoy college and always consider that the time here will be some of the best years in your life.

Editor's Note: Riley Perciavalle is a 2021 Penn State graduate who earned a COMM degree while a student at PSUGA. As a member of The GA-Zette editorial team, he garnered statewide and regional journalism awards of excellence for his op-ed columns in this newspaper.

# Penn State's Social Work Concept

**RILEY PERCIAVALLE**  
Contributing Writer

A new Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree program, providing broad-based educational experiences for undergraduate students interested in working in the private and public sector, is now offered at Penn State. Students can start the degree at any Commonwealth Campus, but they can only complete it at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), where it begins this fall semester.

According to Dr. Christopher Robinson--BSW program chair and assistant professor of social work--and Kiera Mallett--director of field education and assistant teaching professor of social work--the degree is designed to “ address

education, and theory, BSW students will be prepared to work in diverse practice settings as generalist practitioners.

The field of social work has been around for more than 125 years, with some of the earliest courses and training happening at Columbia University. The mission of the BSW program at PSUGA is to enhance human well-being and eliminate social injustices through advocacy, cultural humility, global citizenship, scholarship and service.

Robinson said the PSUGA social work degree is “the only degree major at Greater Allegheny that grants students eligibility for a state license (LBSW) in Pennsylvania.”

Students interested in exploring the field of social work can register for

also be eligible to sit for the BS-level licensing exam, a requirement of the field.

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and to help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty,” Robinson said.



Robinson came to PSUGA in 2021 from Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) where he was a professor of social work. Mallett is new to PSUGA, coming to the campus from the Pittsburgh Public Schools where she was a school social worker.

Interested students can learn more about the BSW degree program by visiting Robinson and Mallett, whose offices are in 201F and 201C, respectively, in Frable Building, or by writing to them at cmr6836@psu.edu or kzm6156@psu.edu.



the shortage of licensed bachelor-level social workers in Pennsylvania, with particular attention to the Mon Valley region of Pittsburgh.” Grounded in diversity, ethics, field

SOCW 195--Introduction to Social Work--this fall. Robinson and Mallett expect to graduate the first class with the BSW degree in 2026, when the graduates will



## Updates From McKeesport

*This was compiled from details from a press release and the official website of McKeesport, PA.*

McKeesport Rising is under way in 2022 with demolition, paving, and economic development at the forefront of this year's plans.

"In our first few phases over the last four years, we razed 400 buildings in town – many residential and some commercial – and we have gotten started on hundreds more in 2022," Mayor Michael Cherepko said. "While we have a long road ahead, we are finally getting a handle on this blight."

With demolition taking place across town, don't forget about new businesses coming into town. Most recently Get-Go celebrated the grand opening of its new Fifth Avenue location – with revenue doubling Giant Eagle's initial corporate expectations. Additionally, Renziehausen Park improvements were made this summer. They included a new roof



**Construction equipment at Renziehausen Park**

and restrooms at the Lions Bandshell.

The roof on the concession stand, along with deck and step replacements, were also underway at the Jamie Brewster-Filotei Field.

The possible future of the shuttered former Penn McKee Hotel still hangs in the balance following a public hearing discussion earlier this year before the Redevelopment Authority of the City of McKeesport. A consultant's report found that portions of the building were unable to be saved, due to significant deterioration since its closure in 1985.

A decision on what to do with the structure and how to repurpose it must be determined or it will need to be torn down. The Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh is involved in the process to try to restore and redevelop the building and the surrounding site.

The hotel was one of the region's most glamorous hotels during the 20th century, even hosting a congressional debate in 1947 between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon, years before they ran against each other for president.

*THE GA-ZETTE*, the official campus newspaper of Penn State Greater Allegheny, is published by students for students, faculty and staff of the campus. The paper is printed seasonally, but is also posted and updated bi-weekly, on a digital platform at [sites.psu.edu/gazette](https://sites.psu.edu/gazette).

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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.*

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# Opinion - From Where I Sit: Robb Elementary Massacre Should Be Calling Card To Act

**SHANNON REID**  
Guest Columnist

Nineteen children. That's how many were killed in the recent massacre at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on May 24. Two faculty members killed. The gunman himself a child, only 18 years of age, was shot dead by a border patrol officer in a deadly confrontation.

Over the last decades, we've seen a total of 231+ mass shootings and the number increases daily. We've seen them in churches, stores, day spas and hotels. Just last year, we had a total of 21 shootings. Now, not only are the numbers doubling, but they are occurring at a quicker pace with no signs of slowing. Worst case scenario, even children, the product of a budding generation, are being exposed to these mass shootings.

The majority of these cases are schools. This year, we've seen 30 shootings at K-12 schools. These types of mass murders fall into a very particular pattern: institutions of learning have the potential of institutions of deadly hostage-taking.

For almost an hour, a gunman had 19 children and two teachers trapped

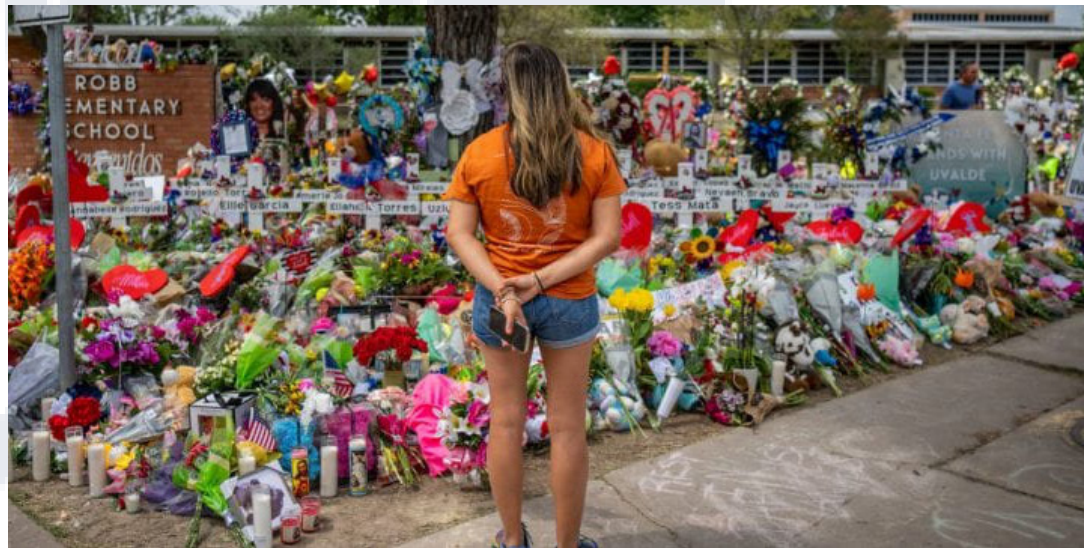
in two adjoining classrooms with barricades, then he fatally shot them. Why he did it and what was his history is in stark contrast to the young man of the same age behind another act of terrorism at a supermarket in Buffalo, where a total of 10 African Americans were killed — a racially-moti-

rifles which he bought after turning 18, crashed his car outside the building. A nearby witness dispatched Uvalde police and the gunman retreated into the building. Prior to the event, the young man shot his grandmother who, miraculously, survived.

The problem isn't so much the perpetrators of

control is unnecessarily scrutinized. Every time we try to convince someone of the significance of gun legislation, all we do is create a rift and a sense of distrust.

One side wants to reduce the presence of guns in the country. The other wants to do the opposite and put more guns in the



*Memorial outside of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, courtesy Flickr, Creative Commons License 2022.*

vated massacre enkindled by the infamous white replacement theory, peddled by several politicians and cable news anchors of which he had been engrossed for a long time.

In these times, when children's lives are supposedly a time of learning, loving and laughter, they are also times of bleak, unspeakable tragedies.

The massacre started around 11:30 a.m. right after the gunman, armed with two AR-15-style

these massacres but the laws that grant them the means to get the weapon. Aiming to change these laws or add new ones for more than a decade now, we have placed our trust in Congress to pass legislation that would prevent another massacre from happening.

But where there is meaningful legislation, there is also controversial politics. When debating the Second Amendment, the plausibility of gun

hands of Americans. So far, notwithstanding the mass shootings throughout the years, those who seek to do the opposite of what we implore evidently refuse to compromise.

Unless we can fill this rift with sentiments of justification, all we will have to look back on in our long struggle for enacting reasonable gun legislation is a backlog from the moratorium of inaction.

*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from page 14)

What they confuse for a political gambit is but a moral recommendation. The point of gun control this whole time has been to keep firearms from falling into the wrong hands because when they do, tragedies like what we have seen in Columbine in 1999, Sandy Hook in 2012 and Robb Elementary just this year, are bound to happen.

Unchecked liberty to carry arms gives a sort of advantage to the depraved. Strong gun legislation restrains the depraved. Weak gun legislation sanctions the depraved. The stronger the legislation, the more regulated the depraved.



*Paying respects - President Biden and First Lady, Jill Biden*

Take Texas, for example. As everybody knows by now, the state of Texas has become a major force in advancing right to bear arms with the passing of laws like permitless carry, open carry and a ban on background checks.

We also know by now that the gunman did not

hit Robb Elementary at random. Reports say that the gunman left an augury of his dastardly deed in a few private messages on Instagram and a post on Facebook, swanking the rifles that would be used in the shooting. He even directly stated, in one of his messages, that he was “going to shoot up an elementary school rn (Sic).”

He was of a depraved heart because he had plotted the horrendous event long before.

It gets deeper still. Since lowering the age requirement for purchasing assault weapons from 21 to 18, children are both murdering and being murdered before they are even adults.

Mistakes were made

in the handling of the fatal invasion. According to the given timeline in the investigation, a faculty member left a door propped open ultimately allowing the gunman access inside the school. After someone at a nearby funeral home made a 9-1-1 call about a per-

son armed with a rifle, a responding resource officer failed to notice the gunman in hiding behind a row of vehicles and had mistaken a teacher as the suspect.

And as they stood idle in the hallway, the Uvalde police chief made the decision to delay queuing the officers to breach the classroom where the children and teachers were being held, despite calls from one of the children inside, pleading for them to act. The ill-preparedness demonstrated that day proves just how dangerous downplaying the potentials for such tragedies can be.

It is true that America would not exist had the soldiers in George Washington’s Continental Army not been armed, and for a long time, firearms have come to symbolize a sort of bold heroism. But these days, people have long learned to valorize laws that promote them better than to scrutinize the ongoing crises of disasters that end with the blood of children and the tears of parents.

They continuously suggest that gun rights are God-given rights. But if gun rights are God-given rights, what is a child’s life? Must we treat one as highly precious and the other as downright expendable? Can a just-turned-18-year-old casually walk into a store to

purchase rifles and drive up to a school two days later to gun down 19 children and two teachers in a barricaded room?

I continuously hear someone telling others that legislating arms would not solve the problem of gun violence. Then they get the reply of “In theory, what might protect someone without a gun from someone with a gun?” Their response is “a person with a gun.”

Under this discretion of crediting the pros and discrediting the cons of gun accessibility, one deliberately misinterprets the reasoning of those who advocate for gun control.

If nothing is done about this, then day by day, more people will be attending the funerals of little boys and little girls. More proud parents who had just attended their child’s honor roll ceremony will end up grieving.

Worst case scenario: our obsession with the Second Amendment will be our undoing in due time, if we continue killing each other and putting children in the line of fire. The freedom to live while living in America will cease to exist.

*Editor’s Note: Shannon Reid is a 2020 English graduate of Penn State Greater Allegheny and he periodically is a guest columnist for The GA-Zette.*

# The GA-Zette Awards

## REGIONAL AWARDS:

Golden Quill Awards, the Press Club of  
Western Pennsylvania  
2020--Opinion/Columns  
2021--Layout and Design  
2022--Layout and Design

Golden Quill Awards--Finalists

2020--Opinion/Columns  
2021--News (COVID-19 ongoing coverage)  
2022--Sports Story

## STATEWIDE AWARDS:

Pennsylvania News Media Association  
2021--Second Place--Layout and Design  
2021--Honorable Mention--Movie Review  
2022--Diversity College Student Award

## NATIONAL AWARDS:

American Scholastic Press Association  
2022--First Place, Outstanding Collegiate  
Newspaper

## GREATER ALLEGHENY STUDENT AWARDS:

2022--Outstanding Student Organization

### Woud you like to be part of this award-winning newspaper?

Are there any students in any major interested in being a news writer, reporter, photographer or even an editorial cartoonist?

If you are, please contact Professor Rosemary Martinelli at [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu) to get more information about your involvement in *The GA-Zette*.

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# ENTERTAINMENT



## Thor Love & Thunder Hammering In A Good Time

**RILEY PERCIAVALLE**  
Contributing Writer

After the events of Endgame, many have made the argument of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) not making peak films like it had before. Movies like “Eternals” and “Shang-Chi” have many divided as most expect the original cast to appear for more than a cameo in all other films. Many viewers received that with everyone’s favorite “God of Thunder” returning to deliver justice.

“Thor Love & Thunder” is the fourth Thor movie and the 29th film released under the Marvel Cinematic Universe, starring Chris Hemsworth as the Asgardian once more with another force coming for him.

Upon leaving his “retirement,” a new entity known as Gorr the God

Butcher, played by Christian Bale, who, like the name suggests, plans to extinct every god before him.

Thor takes with him Valkyrie, played by Tessa Thompson, and Korg, voiced by Director Taika Waititi. They combat against the God Butcher before it’s too late.

Along the way, it seems an old flame has come back as Jane Porter, played by Natalie Portman, as she has become a new owner to Mjölfnir (Me-yol-neer) to become The Mighty Thor.

After coming together, they begin their journey and seek to stop the reign of Gorr before it is too late, as all god life is in danger.

The movie plays a heroic story most people have heard, having the right story elements to keep them entertained.

Hemsworth as Thor is

always entertaining as he continues to be the “fish out of water,” trying to find himself to do better and even finding inner peace within his journey.

While Hemsworth plays a good hero, Bale plays a villain that no one would have expected. Most would recognize Christian Bale from The Dark Knight trilogy, playing the famous Caped Crusader as he defeats his greatest foes. Yet as a villain, Bale plays it like he is into the role. Every scene with him is filled with mystery and dark humor as someone known as the “God Butcher” would be.

He has his goal and his motive, which makes it more understanding where he is coming from as he continues his reign of terror and won’t stop until his mission is complete.

Besides great characters, the setting for the most part is grand as this

is a god from another world and not an every day human being. The journey from one location to another has a color scheme that fits. Watching the trailers, various light and dark colors work as they help balance out the moods. Even the color in the costumes match well.

However, some issues can be had with the humor, as some jokes do not land well. A lot of the jokes do give a slight chuckle but a few times you will ask why that happened.

What can happen next may not be known for the MCU, but with another phase coming, this movie was not being enjoyable start to finish.





## Kennywood and Idlewild Now Hiring Hundreds for Bigger and Better Halloween Events in 2022

*This story was derived from a press release from Kennywood Entertainment.*

Spooky season at Kennywood and Idlewild starts in little more than a month, and park leaders need more than 350 new recruits to bring the fall fun and frights to life.

Kennywood and Idlewild will give guests the largest and longest Halloween seasons ever in 2022.

Phantom Fall Fest at Kennywood and HallowBOO! at

Idlewild begin, Sept. 24, and each park will hold special hiring events to bring in scare actors and other positions. A Phantom Fall Fest job fair begins on August 31.

Opportunities are available for applicants ages 14 and up, though professionals and senior citizens are encouraged to apply, as the flexible hours of both fall events fit well around school, primary jobs and other commitments.

The Job Fair will be held at Kennywood in the Parkside Café from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Applicants can

apply online at any time via the Kennywood and Idlewild websites.

“Few jobs are as fun as being paid to scare people!” said Kennywood Human Resources Director, Joe Barron, in a press release. “Working at Kennywood or Idlewild offers a unique environment, flexible and engaging schedules, and the ability to deliver smiles – and screams – to thousands of guests during the fall season.”

Phantom Fall Fest and HallowBOO! will be bigger and better than ever before in 2022. At Kennywood’s Phantom Fall Fest, you can play all day and fright all night for family-friendly fun. The extreme screams happen when the sun goes down, with brand new haunted houses and scare zones.



Idlewild’s Hallow-BOO! will feature trick-or-treating throughout Story Book Forest, meet and greets with Princess Lily and Daniel Tiger, mazes, live entertainment, and a ghoulish dance party.

For more information, visit Kennywood and Idlewild websites: [kennywood.com](http://kennywood.com) and [idlewild.com](http://idlewild.com)





# SPORTS & ATHLETICS



Quarterbacks Mason Rudolph, Mitchell Trubisky, and Kenny Pickett during training camp at St. Vincent College (Abigail Dean/Pittsburgh Steelers)

## The Fight for the Top Thoughts from a Hometown Fan

**CARLIN WHALEN**  
Managing Editor

[cjw6426@psu.edu](mailto:cjw6426@psu.edu)

With the retirement of Ben “Big Ben” Roethlisberger at the end of last football season, the Pittsburgh Steelers were in dire need of a new starting quarterback.



The Black and Gold ended up signing free agent, Mitchell Trubisky, formerly of the Chicago Bears and Buffalo Bills, to fill the QB role. They also drafted University of Pittsburgh standout Kenny Pickett in the first round of the 2022 NFL draft, a move that seems to sit well with Pittsburghers.

Additionally, the team still has Mason Rudolph, that Oklahoma State star, on the roster as a third quarterback. Rudolph was called in last year to fill in for Big Ben, sometimes to a not-so-pleasant outcome.

All three men were in Latrobe this past month for training camp and drills at St. Vincent College. Each of them showed off their skills for a chance to be selected as the team’s starting QB. The crowd seemed to enjoy each of them, as witnessed by the cheers of the bystanders.

I was there. Unfortunately, the one I went to was rained out before all the players could take the field. Although, everyone was there to see them practice, I heard the applause. I applauded, too.

Coach Mike Tomlin has played all three in the preseason games against the Seattle Seahawks and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Tomlin has been switching around the order in the games to test each of their skills.

The real question is, who will be the one to come out on top?



# 2022 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

## **MEN'S SOCCER:**

- Friday Sept. 2 vs Bryant & Stratton
- Saturday Sept. 3 vs TBD
- Wednesday Sept. 7 vs Central Penn
- Sunday Sept. 11 Alleghany College of Maryland
- Saturday Sept. 17 @ Penn State Hazleton
- Sunday Sept. 18 @ Penn State Wilkes-Barre
- Tuesday Sept. 20 vs Penn State New Kensington
- Saturday Sept. 24 vs Penn State Lehigh Valley
- Sunday Sept. 25 vs Penn State Scranton
- Saturday Oct. 1 @ Penn State York
- Tuesday Oct. 4 @ Penn State Beaver
- Thursday Oct. 6 vs Westmoreland County CC
- Saturday Oct. 8 vs Penn State Brandywine
- Saturday Oct. 15 @ Penn State Mont Alto
- Sunday Oct. 16 @ Thiel College - JV
- Thursday Oct. 20 vs Waynesburg University - JV



## **WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL:**

- USCAA Tournament on Friday Sept. 2 & Saturday Sept. 3 @ Penn State Beaver
- Wednesday Sept. 7 vs Bethany College
- Saturday Sept. 10 vs Pitt-Greensburg & Waynesburg University @ Waynsburg University
- Tuesday Sept. 13 @ Penn State DuBois
- Thursday Sept. 15 vs Carlow
- Monday Sept 19 @ CCAC
- Wednesday Sept. 21 vs Penn State Fayette
- Saturday Sept 24 vs Penn State Beaver
- Sunday Sept. 25 vs Penn State Mont Alto & Penn State New Kensington @ PSUGA
- Wednesday Sept. 28 vs CCBC
- Thursday Sept. 29 @ Penn State Shenango
- Sunday Oct. 2 vs Penn State Du Bois
- Wednesday Oct. 5 @ Penn State New Kensington
- Friday Oct. 7 @ Grove City College
- PSUAC Crossover Weekend on Saturday Oct. 8 @ Penn State York
- PSUAC Crossover Weekend on Sunday Oct. 9 @ Penn State Bradywine
- Tuesday Oct. 11 @ Penn State Mont Alto
- Wednesday Oct. 12 @ Penn State Beaver
- Saturday Oct. 15 @ Penn State Fayette
- Thursday Oct. 20 vs Penn State Shenango

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