



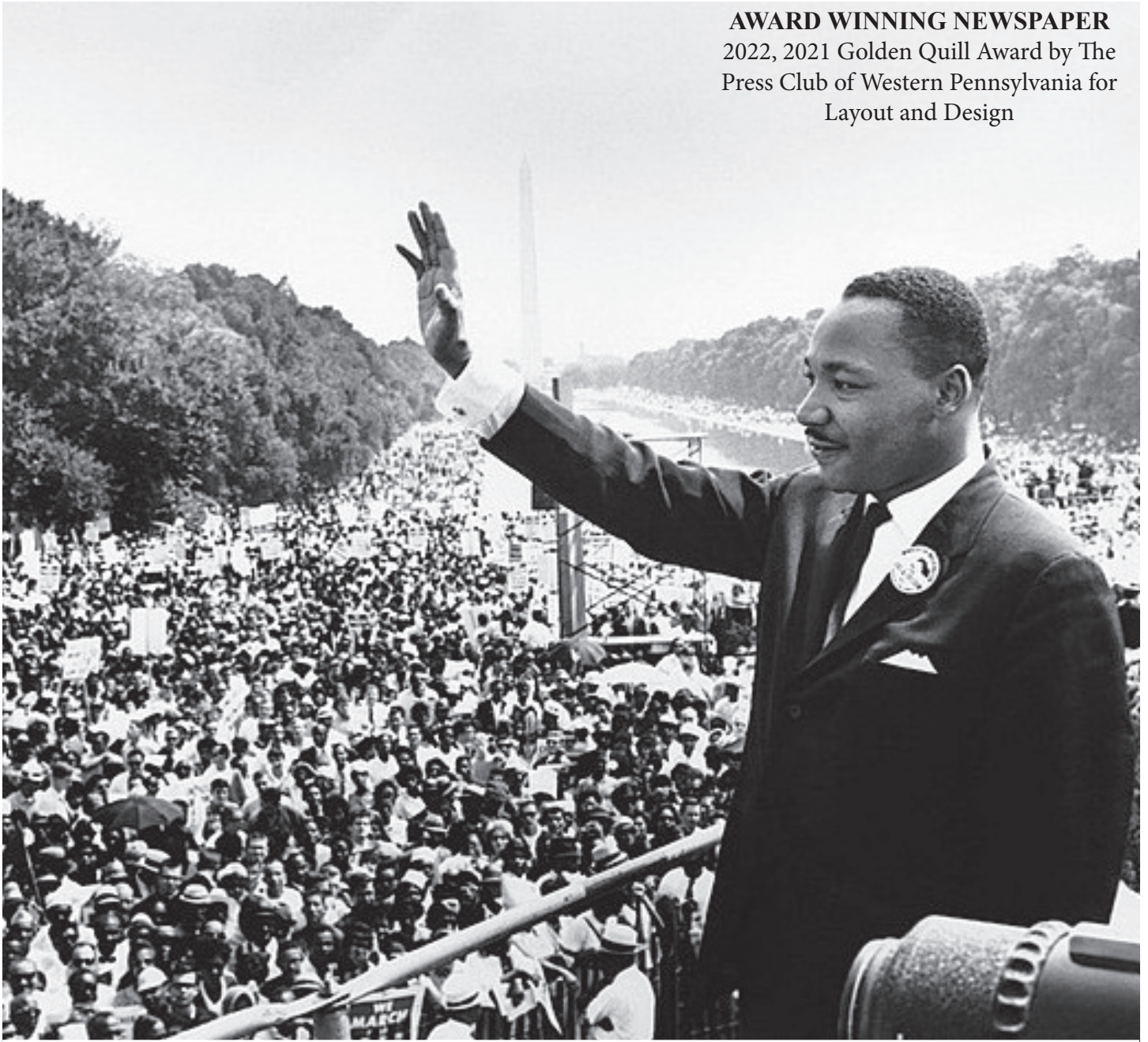
The GA-ZETTE

JANUARY 2023

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

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WELCOME BACK!!!

JANUARY 2023 EDITION

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Enrollment, Student Success: Nagel's Focus for 2023

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Entering a new year can bring lots of new things including changes and improvements. Dr. Megan Nagel, Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) interim chancellor, has discussed many of the new things happening around the Greater Allegheny campus.

On Jan. 24, PSUGA is holding a town hall meeting for the employees to really focus on how they are defining the success of students on campus. "I am really looking forward to this," Nagel said. "We are all doing a lot to help students be successful, but I don't think that we can,

as a community, clearly identify what success is." In shorter terms, PSUGA employees are trying to get students "rowing in the right direction."

Also, PSUGA received a seed grant to implement a curriculum for career readiness, which is expected to begin during the fall semester. Currently, the campus is trying to identify leaders to take charge for this project.

Specifically, this program will help students build a portfolio of skills right away for their first semester of college. Its intent is to make them a "more attractive employee," Nagel said.

One thing that Penn State [as a whole] is having challenges with



involves its budget. So, Penn State has been allocating the funds differently. However, Nagel doesn't think it will impact the Greater Allegheny campus much. "We're about as bare bones as we can get," she said.

The new allocation model is based on head count. So, as the campus's enrollment continues to grow, the budget will grow as well.

Along the lines of enrollment, the campus is going to hold many initiatives when numerous high school students visit this spring. "I expect to see a lot more energy and interaction of community members and high school students," Nagel said, which is something that has been lacking the last few years.

Additionally, students can look forward to many new renovations coming

sometime in the future. There aren't any renovations planned for this spring, but Nagel is very pleased with how far the campus has come just in the span of 10 years. With the recent closure of the Free Store, PSUGA plans to remodel the basement of Frable with plans to be more focused and strategic about what the space is being used for.

The sport court is also in the works, but it is still in the bidding process.

Instead of changing the time for Nagel's Walk-n-Talks, she decided to keep them at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, although, she would still love to see more than just faculty and staff join her on them.

Photos courtesy: Penn State Greater Allegheny Student Affairs instagram page.



FRONT COVER: Archival photo of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during 1964 March on Washington, D.C. On Jan. 16, we remember Dr. King for his nonviolent activism during the Civil Rights Movement, which protested racial discrimination by federal and state law.

McKeesport Native to be Inaugurated as Lieutenant Governor

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Austin Davis, who was elected as Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor, will be inaugurated on Jan. 17. Davis, a McKeesport native who has represented Pennsylvania's 35th district of the Mon Valley in the state house since 2018, will take the oath of office alongside fellow Democrat, governor-elect, Josh Shapiro, in Harrisburg.

Both men defeated Republican gubernatorial candidate, Doug Mastriano, and his running mate, Carrie DelRosso, by a 15-point margin back in November.

At 33 years old, Davis will become the first millennial to hold a state-wide elected office, along with being the first African American to be elected lieutenant governor, the second-highest elected position in Pennsylvania.

Davis and Shapiro ran a campaign focused on voting rights, abortion rights and raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. However, with the rising cost of living due to recent inflation, Davis believes that the minimum wage may need another review.

"We are going to have to take another look at it... to see what the minimum wage should be." Davis said that because of inflation, the incoming administration will need to ensure that a \$15 minimum wage will be sufficient for working Pennsylvanians.

Another issue that Davis is focused on is ensuring that younger Pennsylvanians have access to quality education, from the primary to post-secondary levels.

"First, we need to make sure we are adequately funding our schools here in PA," Davis said. "Secondly, we need to make sure we put a mental health counselor in every school."

Davis is a first-generation college graduate, having earned a degree in political science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1989. He also believes that the state government has a responsibility in keeping college affordable



for those who want to attend, while also ensuring that other options, such as trade schools, can fully be utilized by students.

Having spent a good portion of his life in public service, Davis became involved in government from an early age when he founded the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, under then McKeesport Mayor (now Pa State Senator, 45th District), Jim Brewster.

Always interested in helping others and in supporting McKeesport and the Mon Valley, Davis previously served as the vice chair for the Allegheny County Democratic Committee, along with serving on

the board of directors for multiple organizations, including the YMCA of Greater Pittsburgh; Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School; The Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advisory Board; Auberle; Port Authority of Allegheny County (Pittsburgh Regional Transit); and Communities in Schools.

Davis has been married to his wife Blayre since 2017.

Editor's note:

The GA-Zette reached out to U.S. Senator, John Fetterman, and U.S. House Representative, Summer Lee, for interviews, but did not get a response by press time.



The Long-Awaited Eight Miles Economic Development in Mon Valley “Rides” on Expressway Link

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The Pennsylvania (PA) Turnpike Commission (PTC) is moving forward with the addition of the 14-mile, Route 51 to Interstate-376 Project (Jefferson Hills to Monroeville), final leg to the existing 54-mile Mon/Fayette Expressway (MFE) from Morgantown, W.Va. to Jefferson Hills.

In 1985, legislation was passed to allow for the expressway project that is expected to be completed in 2028.

Renee Colborn, operations communication officer for the PTC, said “The Mon/Fayette Expressway, which is also known as PA Turnpike 43, stretches from Interstate

68 (I-68) in Morgantown, W.Va. to Route 51 in Jefferson Hills, that’s the part that already exists. What we’re going to build now is a section of it that will connect there (Route 51) to Route 837 in Duquesne...that’s eight miles.”

Colborn stated that “once this is built...it’ll be a quick link to all these communities, including your campus (Penn State Greater Allegheny PSUGA) from areas like Duquesne...depending on where all of your students live.” The new section will include the areas of Jefferson Hills, West Mifflin, Dravosburg, Clairton, and Duquesne.

For PSUGA, Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, said that the MFE will have a “long-term impact” on the campus. “It

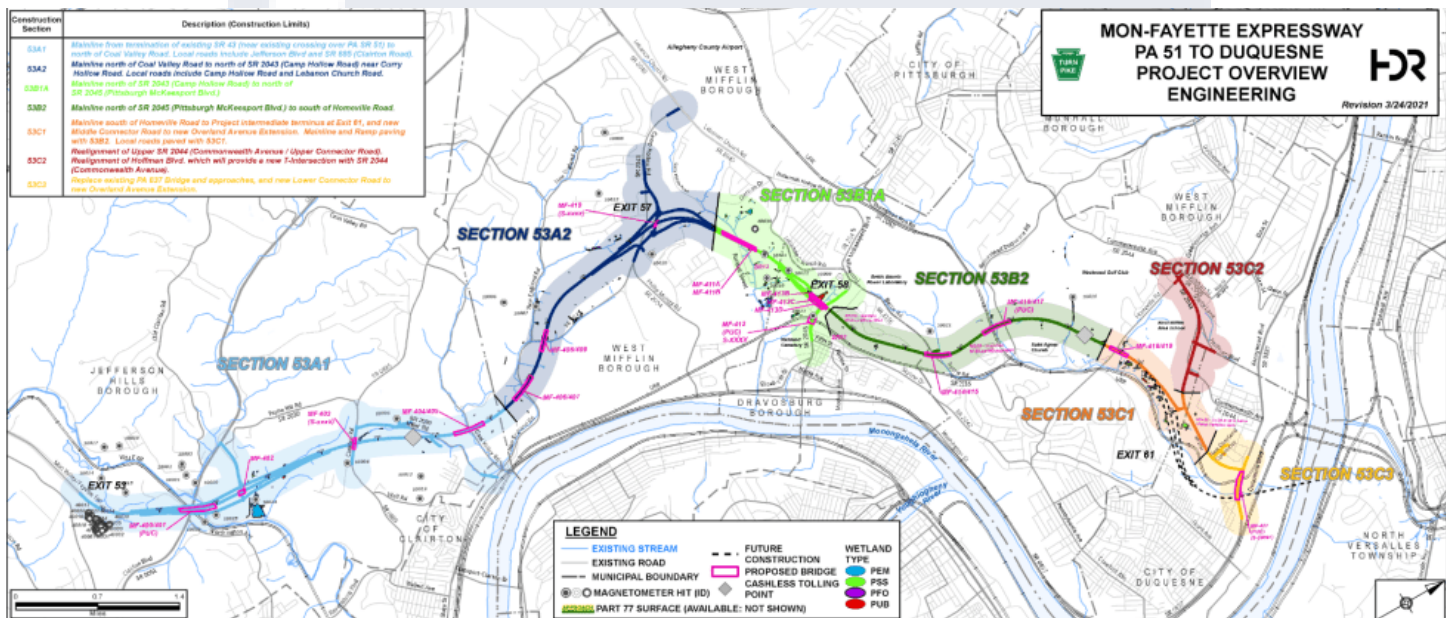
will just provide a more direct link from places that are farther out...from where I live in Monroeville, it’s such a pain to get there...it’s certainly on my radar,” Nagel said.

Tim Joyce, chief of staff to Sen. Jim Brewster (PA Senate, 45th District in the Mon Valley), also has knowledge and support for the Expressway. “If you’ve ever tried to get in from the eastern suburbs to Pittsburgh in the morning, it’s about an hour commute. And this would reduce the commute to maybe 15 minutes...that was one of the driving forces,” Joyce said. “South is pretty tough too, but they have an option there that the eastern suburbs don’t... they have the Pittsburgh Regional Transit T.”

The Route 51 to I-376 part of the MFE Project is divided into two sections, north and south of the Monongahela Rivers, and will start with the southern side. “Once that’s built, we’ll reevaluate what the funding stream looks like and see if we can build the northern stretch,” Colborn said. That would be the final six miles of the highway.

Colborn said that MFE will eventually stretch to Monroeville, but Monroeville to Jefferson Hills is financially a significant amount of money, and the funding is currently only available to reach the Duquesne area. “We’re getting the money through Act 89, which is the oil franchise tax,” Colborn said.

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Joyce added that that is why the expressway is being constructed in phases. “When the turnpike has money to do another phase, they do it, and then work stops. Then they have to wait until they have money again. Right now, I think we have enough money to bring the road north into Duquesne, but to cross the river and come up through the Turtle Creek Valley into Monroeville, that phase is not planned yet nor funded,” Joyce said.

The southern section is also split into seven sections of construction from the Jefferson Hills area to Duquesne.

Colborn said that the PTC just received approval to send out the first bid for the first construction section (called 53-A1 on the construction maps) in Jefferson Hills. The bid goes out to contractors to estimate the costs and the PTC reviews for the lowest-priced contract that meets all the requirements of the construction. Because the bidding process takes months, Colborn expects actual construction to begin in the spring of 2023.

The history of the Mon Fayette Expressway spans decades, as far back as the 1970s. The PTC was mandated to build the highway by the state legislature, so it required

tolls. The tolls help “recoup the costs of building it, number one, and number two, to maintain it,” Colborn said. “If maybe they asked PennDOT to build this brand-new roadway, there wouldn’t be tolls involved. But they (the legislature) told us we had to build it. The micro and macroeconomics to these types of projects are critical to consider before getting upset about tolls,” she added.

Joyce added to the history by saying “I think it’s like 15 years in a row the tolls have gone up. But what we did, we hand-capped the turnpike when the state legislature, 12 to 15 years ago, passed legislation that the turnpike had to turn over \$400 million a year to PennDOT. This is because PennDOT needed money to maintain the roads and bridges.” He added “Nobody likes a tax increase...so instead

of the legislature raising taxes or fees on drivers’ licenses and auto registrations and other things associated with vehicles... they put the burden on the turnpike.”

Only looking at 10 years, this would mean the PTC has given \$4 billion to PennDOT, “money that they could’ve used for their construction,” Joyce said.

No matter which way the project is viewed,

percent of our bridges are failing...but we don’t have the money to fix them,” Joyce said.

To get the money, programs have to be cut or some have even suggested that the legislature should be cut in half, which Joyce noted is not an effective solution.

“Even if you eliminate the legislature, I think that would cut out one half of one percent of the annual budget...our budget is



costs and cost-savings are always at the forefront of any project, especially when it comes to highway construction and related infrastructure needs.

The PTC has to consider, the Federal Highway Administration mandates that the highway needs to be widened to three lanes, which is also expensive. “You know that we have problems with our bridges. PennDOT has the same problem. At least 20

approaching \$40 billion a year. Even at that, we still don’t have enough money to do what we need to do,” Joyce said. “At least 75% of the budget is set in stone and already being used for education, health and human services and the department of corrections, including the state police,” he added.

According to the PTC’s website, the estimated overall cost of the (Continued on next page)



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Mon-Fayette Expressway project is \$1.01 billion (including designs, tolling equipment, utility movements, etc.). But it's not just a road that the money is being invested in. The whole purpose of the MFE is to spur redevelopment efforts and reindustrialize the Mon Valley area.

"This goes way back," Colborn said. "The legislation was being developed to help (build) a better highway access system in the area."

Colborn said that because the steel industry was declining in the Mon Valley area, legislators thought that building a highway for more things to take place would help the economy flourish and allow for free flow of commerce. Joyce explained that the other driving force to this expressway being built was for "the cost to companies, farmers...anybody that has to ship by truck because on a highway, you

can use larger trucks with heavier weight limits."

For example, if you did not have this type of expressway, Joyce said that it might take several trucks to get milk from a farm in New York to grocery stores. In Pennsylvania, it might take even more because you "may have to take longer detours, or you have to send in smaller trucks, lighter loads," Joyce said.

In comparison, Colborn said, "New Stanton, for instance... didn't hardly exist before the turnpike came through, it was just farmland. So now there's all kinds of economic development in the area, gas stations, restaurants, hotels... everything."

Joyce added that when Interstate-279 (from Pittsburgh to the northern suburbs) was built in the early 1980s, it did a lot for communities like Pine Township. Not only did it cut the commute in half, but because it was easier to get around, in many cases, it doubled the value of the houses.

"The eastern suburbs were sitting here waiting for people to help. They put the East Busway in, but that stops in Swissvale...it doesn't come all the way out, it stops about halfway. Had it come to Monroeville, it would have had a greater impact," Joyce added.

The process of a highway project takes several steps before even starting, which is why it has and will take years. Right of way acquisitions are necessary, where the PTC needed to check all properties that are going to be affected and purchase them from owners.

The PTC hires staff for relocation and makes offers and helps those affected find a new place to live. Electric and gas utilities need to be coordinated so that all the utilities are moved or removed from construction sites. The PTC also needs to get permits in every municipality before construction.

"All that stuff has to be in place before we can even begin to put a shovel in the ground," Colborn said, "but right now, we're pretty much on track."

The only small change in the project plan has been the design modification of a round-about in the West Mifflin and Dravosburg section, visually represented through a video on the PTC's MFE page (under the "News and Public Involvement" section.)

Colborn said that the MFE website page was updated in October to "switch gears and make it construction-friendly and let people know what is happening in each section." An interactive map is also available for people to click on and get facts about each section.

Visit www.paturnpike.com in the "Construction Projects" tab for more information on the MFE.

Photos courtesy: The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission



Maumbe Connects Outdoors and Indoors for PSUGA RPTM Students

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After acquiring her degrees in Michigan and Kentucky, as well as teaching in West Virginia, Assistant Teaching Professor of Recreation, Parks and Tourism Management (RPTM), Dr. Kudzayi Maumbe, is now at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) this spring with three courses for students interested in learning more about recreation and tourism and the economic impact of this discipline.

“I will be teaching Introduction to Community Recreation, Inclusive Leisure Services, and Marketing of Recreation Services, which is my specialization—the business side and marketing of rec, so I’m really looking forward to that.”

Maumbe began her journey in the RPTM field with a love for traveling. “For me,” she said, “I was more interested in the tourism management



part of the program.

“I liked to travel as a student. I thought doing this would enable me to travel in some places. So it just sounded like a good position to be in, being a person who loves to travel and the outdoors and all of that. But of course, I just went further with my education.”

To students who are still unsure of what major they want, Maumbe said that there is far more to the RPTM program than most realize. “If you’re someone who just loves to work in the local recreation and parks departments, almost every community, doesn’t matter how big or small, has

recreation and parks.”

As far as jobs go, she added that “the opportunities are endless” and they can be found at all levels in all cities: “from local to city level, major cities, at the municipal level...state county departments...to national and federal levels, the National Park Service and Forest Service,” she said.

“You could be sitting at the front desk, running tours, doing research, teaching, guiding, and it’s just endless,” she added.

Maumbe also said that destination management is another aspect of RPTM, saying that the people in those roles, tasked with bringing events to their

city, are graduates from an RPTM major. She said Pittsburgh is a major sports city, which would create great opportunities for people in this field.

“Being at WVU, I used to come to Pittsburgh with my students,” Maumbe said. “Each time I took my students to visit Pittsburgh, they always were fascinated to meet recent graduates or interns who were bidding on major events to come to the destination. I get excited when I talk about it because it’s a program that’s underestimated,” she added.

Maumbe said teaching at a smaller campus will give her a better opportunity to focus on the students individually. “This is just the right place for me.”

Students interested in talking with Maumbe about RPTM can find her office in Main, 104B, and her e-mail is kkm6102@psu.edu.

Photo courtesy: Nick Trunzo

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

War in Ukraine Rages on for Nearly a Year

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Editor's note: This installment on the War in Ukraine is continued from The GA-Zette's December edition.

Since the war in Ukraine began nearly a year ago, Russia has conducted attacks on northern Ukraine through Belarus, and much of its advancement upon Kiev has been through those routes.

Russians and Ukrainians are one people," Dr. Catherine Wanner, professor of history, anthropology, and religious studies in Penn State's College of Liberal Arts at University Park said, "and I think he thought that Ukrainians quite agreed with him, and that clearly is not the case."

For Julia Skorija, a Ukrainian-American woman who has lived in the U.S. (now in Pittsburgh) for 20 years, said that before the war,

Ukraine was, I would say, 'Well, it's the same as Russia.'" However, since the war began, her opinion has changed.

"Most of my Russian friends here—there's a couple that are very, like, supportive—but a lot of them were, sort of indifferent," she said. "Some did not even say a word."

According to Wanner, during the Imperial Period (pre-1917's Russian Revolution), Russia, Ukraine and Belarus were all part of a single church,

"Belarus has consistently really ceded its foreign policy to Russia, and in terms of trading, and economically, it retains some advantages given this subservient satellite relationship that it has with Russia," Wanner said.

Belarusian President, Alexander Lukashenko, has been in power since Belarus' first presidential election in 1994, and has often been referred to, even by himself, as the last dictator of Europe.

"There was an early state, Kievan Rus' it was called," Wanner said, "That started off in the 10th century, and it was a major trading center and a center of learning and the like. Because of the Imperial connections between Russia and Ukraine, that entity, Kievan Rus', became part of Russian historical mythology as the proto-Russian state, the proto-Russian empire, that was where initially they accepted Christianity," she added.

Wanner said that Russian schoolchildren learn that "Kiev is the mother of Russian cities." Ukraine, however, seems to be trying to recast this narrative to say that Kiev

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Ukrainians protesting against the Russian aggression

During the Imperial Period in Russia, through 1917, both Ukraine (which was called Little Russia) and Belarus (which means White Russia) were united under the state of Great Russia.

"I think Vladimir Putin truly believes that

she also was of the opinion that Russians and Ukrainians were close, not just in proximity, but in camaraderie as well.

"I considered them like our brothers, and basically the same people, and sometimes I would even say that—somebody that didn't know where

The Russian Orthodox Church. "Writing or publishing anything in Ukrainian or Belarusian was strictly forbidden in the Imperial Period, and it went up and down during the Soviet period, sometimes encouraged, but often discouraged," she added.

(Continued from page 8)

is rather the beginning of Ukrainian civilization.

When the Soviet Union fell in 1991, the government attempted to transition from a Communist, one-party system into a capitalist, market-based economy, with a multi-party system. The transition, however, was extremely rushed.

“It was called shock therapy,” Wanner said. “In other words, there should be a lot of shock—that transformation should happen as quickly as possible, so that there would be no backsliding, so that, in other words, you could clip the possibility of recreating a Communist system.

“And so you had massive state-run enterprises that were quickly privatized [including mining, shipping, steel, and oil companies among others]... before there was a full roster of legislation and laws to mitigate against the predatory

tendencies of capitalism,” she added.

Wanner also said that it was mostly high-ranking members of the Communist Party of the fallen Soviet Union who ended up acquiring those enterprises, largely remaining elites into Russia’s more capitalist era.

Perhaps one reason Russia is unwilling to let go of its former republics and satellite states is because of the prestige and status that comes with being a world superpower. According to Wanner, during the Imperial Period, Russia was frequently referred to as “backward,” the word that was used, she said.

A significant percentage of the country at that time was peasantry, illiterate and impoverished, while a small percentage of elites were extremely wealthy and learned. “So they had a very highly-polarized and imbalanced society,” Wanner said.



“Along comes the [Bolshevik] Revolution. So they go from literally one extreme to the other, trying to really just smash that kind of a feudal, inherited social status based class system and having sort of embarked on this really social experiment and creating a totally new kind of a society that was driven by communist ideology,” she added.

“The big factor here is that after World War II, the Soviet Union emerged as a superpower, as one of two superpowers on the geopolitical stage. And I think it’s that prestigious, prominent status that Vladimir Putin is loathe to let go of. And, of course, besides these natural resources, Russia’s not particularly an economic nor a political superpower these days. But once [Russia] begins these kinds of wars that are so perilous, we are then all obliged to pay quite a bit of attention to Mr. Putin and to his needs and desires,” Wanner said.

Many have criticized the rise of far-right wing

nationalism in both Russia and Ukraine. Both countries have a history of fighting against Nazism during World War II, so it may be especially puzzling for some that such ideologies have been on the rise in recent years.

According to Wanner, being a soldier was once highly prestigious during the Soviet Union, and though it may have become less prestigious over time, it has begun to return in recent years.

“I think this kind of nationalist ideology... there’s, in essence, really two key factors that begin to explain it. One, I think we’re living in that kind of moment historically right now, unfortunately, one could point to the rise of—or the existence of—a certain Christian nationalism in this country (the U.S.) as well, and elsewhere in the world,” she said.

Much like in most countries, there seems to be a correlation with a rise

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in far-right nationalism and economic stagnation.

“In the Russian case, you have to sort of compensate for sluggish, disappointing, or otherwise economic dissatisfaction,” Wanner said. “You have then the cultivation of this kind of nationalist patriotism, as they call it, or nationalist grandeur, the sense of entitlement and the tendency to try to explain away shortcomings, as the fault of, let’s say, the U.S. or Europe, or some outside force, as opposed to the kind of kleptocratic governance that exists in Russia,” she added.

In the Ukrainian case, it seems that nationalist far right movements have always existed on the fringes. Wanner notes that it is a “quest for independence,” an attempt to create an independent Ukrainian state.

“It obviously failed during World War II, in the chaos of the Nazi invasion. There was an attempt by these fairly far right groups to try to use the chaos of the moment to try to establish an independent Ukrainian state.

“Then comes 1991, they obviously feel that Ukraine becomes independent,” Wanner added. “But there were always fringe elements, that sought to really make certain that they would retain

this independent state,” Wanner said.

“So for Ukrainians, the problem is Russia - Russia wanting to keep them within their orbit. On the Russian side, there’s this tremendous sort of inward looking and celebration of Russia, as in the Russian Orthodox Church, as being the guardians of what they call ‘traditional values,’” she continued.

This is how and why some of these far-right elements in Russia connect with Christian nationalist groups, Wanner said, “be they here in the U.S. or in places like Hungary or elsewhere.”

“So for those far right groups in Russia, the problem is Western liberal values that allow for anything that allow supposedly all kinds of liberties, (including) when it comes to sexual and gender-based identities and rules.”

Wanner concluded by saying that the liberal governments that championed unbridled immigration, that allowed for a transformation of European populations and the like, for these groups in Russia versus those in Ukraine, are very different.

Photos courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

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

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



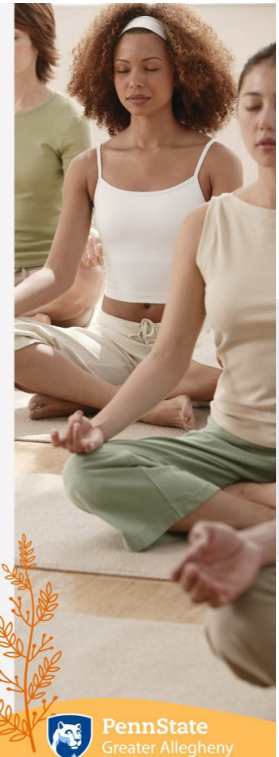
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

HBO Max Scores a ‘Spirited’ Movie Stream with “Fallen Angels”

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On September 6, 1995, cinema was changed forever. On that day, in a still British Hong Kong, *Fallen Angels* released in theatres. It is a sequel of sorts to *Chungking Express*, another very good movie, but *Fallen Angels* dominates Internet spaces like no other foreign film I have ever seen. Screenshots of the film are on so many alternative mood boards, indie album cover photos, and social media headers that it was impossible to avoid.

So on Dec. 1, I finally watched the film, and it was perhaps the best use of 98 minutes I spent all year.

Without spoiling, the film centers around a variety of characters. A depressed hitman, his obsessed assistant, a mute prison escapee, a manic prostitute, and a few more eccentric personalities make up the main cast. What seems to tie them all together is their unique brands of loneliness and their steadfast addiction to cigarettes.

Some of these characters narrate to the audience. I would guess

most of the lines in the movie are narration, and with only 98 minutes to spare, that doesn't leave a lot of room for dialogue. It makes sense, however, that most of the words these lonely, mentally ill people say are in their heads to an audience that technically doesn't even exist. The few interactions between the characters in the film only make them seem even lonelier, like the mute escapee, who assists the woman he's in love with in her search for the prostitute who stole her boyfriend.

The camerawork is unashamed and unconcerned with convention. The freedom that comes with a handheld camera is not put to waste. The film most likely takes place in the humid summer of Hong Kong, and the wavering, uncertain quality

that comes with a human touch only adds to the weary, tired nature of the film, as though even the cameraman just wants to collapse and take a break.

A handheld camera also allows for a level of intimacy that you can't get with a clinical, industrial rig. It's not enough for director Wong Kar-wai to get a close-up shot of a character's face. He has to go further.

A friend of mine compared the cameraman to a gastroenterologist, and called the movie, “the most beautiful colonoscopy I've ever seen.” I don't fully understand what he meant, but if I have to guess, I would say that the camera seems to dissect the city and its inhabitants like a doctor. Almost every single shot in the movie is either indoors, or outdoors at nighttime.

Kar-wai's obsession with illuminating darkness seems to go both for the city of Hong Kong as well as its people, but he approaches the scumminess of mankind with enough empathy to make these dregs of society into legends.

The performances are all top of the line, and the soundtrack is memorable enough to have you looking for the songs on Spotify. The good news is that some people have already compiled the soundtrack into playlists on the app, and the film itself is available to watch on HBO Max.

If you don't have HBO Max, you need to find a way to watch this movie. If you do have HBO Max, this film is a must-watch, and if you die before seeing it, you will regret it in the afterlife.



OPINION: From Where I Sit - Lessons from my grandmother

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Not everyone has a grandparent, and my grandmother is the only one I have.

Twenty years ago, when she was 65, my grandmother moved from Japan to the United States. The reason was because her only daughter, who moved to America, my mother, had my brother and me.

My mother had everything set up so that she had her own place to live about 15 minutes away from us, since my grandmother is a very independent woman. I remember doing flips on the bed because I was so excited to have her live near us.

Ever since she moved to Pittsburgh with us, my mother would bring us over to her place every Wednesday for dinner and to spend time together.

Sometimes my brother and I would stay over with her and spend weekends going on walks or making drawings for her, after we finished our Japanese homework, of course.

Those weekly hangouts and sleepovers started to become fewer once my brother and I had more sports and more homework. Holidays and special occasions were always spent together with my grandmother, but there was a significant difference. My brother and I are only two years apart, so once he left for college, I knew I would be leaving shortly thereafter.

I went to Penn State's Behrend campus, in Erie, for about a year-and-a-half, but I switched to a campus closer to home in Pittsburgh so that I could help my mother who had been diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Though things were hard, my grandmother was al-

ways there. Even though we saw less of each other throughout the years before that, we started to reconnect and we started to talk a lot more.

As a child, I simply loved my grandmother for her kindness and just for being part of my family. As an adult, I'm able to have more complex conversations with her and I learn something every time.

Now 85, she might be old, but she consistently gives me something new. Without her, I wouldn't understand family history as deep as I do now. It's one thing for your parents to talk about their lives and what their parents told them, but it's different coming from their parents (a grandparent) themselves.

If my grandmother didn't tell me herself, I wouldn't be able to understand her perspective of being a child in Japan

after WWII. I wouldn't fully understand what it took for my mother to have the life she did and for my brother and I to have the life we do now.

Being a child taking care of her younger siblings, my grandmother had little time and material to work with in her childhood. She had no school, no school supplies and no time to waste.

Because of her, my brother and I are on "team no-waste" to do our best not to waste food, for example. She tells me she hates to see anyone waste food when she would have done anything back then just for a little more.

Her strength is the most admirable part of her, but it doesn't stop there. She has taught me other things, like how to sew since she had a tailoring shop when she was younger. She taught me Japanese calligraphy, different recipes, and so many simple hacks for daily life. She even teaches me about myself when I recognize our similarities.

Today she lives in the same condo, with all the artwork my brother and I designed, collected in her dresser. I go to see her every chance I get.





SPRING BREAK IN SEATTLE

The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a weeklong experience for PSUGA students dedicated to learning about complex social and cultural issues through community service and experiential learning. If you are passionate about learning about the world around you, open to new experiences, and ready to get out of your comfort zone - this is right for you. Time will be split between various volunteer initiatives related to poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity.

MAR 3-MAR 11

**Contact Louise Aravich
to sign up!
law315@psu.edu**

**ATTENTION STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.
Effective immediately, The FREE STORE 15132 is now permanently CLOSED.**

We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience to all members of our community. With the help of our students and their feedback, we are reimagining this space to better serve PSUGA students now and in the future.

This new initiative for PSUGA students will launch later in *Spring 2023*.

We are no longer accepting donations.

Here is a list of local organizations we suggest donating your items to:

<p>McKeesport AGAPE Center- info@mission-agape.org (412) 874-2158 Main Address: 1201 Prescott Street White Oak, PA 15131</p>	<p>FREE STORE 15104 (201) 532-1722 420 Braddock Ave Braddock, PA 15104</p>
<p>Free Store Wilkinsburg freestorewilkinsburg@gmail.com 412-436-9836 619 Penn Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221</p>	<p>Light of Life Rescue Mission mjenkins@lightoflife.org 412-258-6100 913 Western Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233</p>

SPORTS & ATHLETICS

Penn State Wins Rose Bowl 35 -21, First Time in Nearly 30 Years

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Managing Editor

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Known as “the granddaddy of them all,” and at 109 years old, the Rose Bowl is the oldest operating football bowl game to date and Penn State is no stranger to it. The team played in the bowl four other times, accumulating a 1 – 3 record. Their last Rose Bowl win occurred back in 1995 when they beat the Oregon Ducks, 38 – 20.

In their fifth and most recent appearance on Jan. 2, the 11th-ranked Nittany

Lions secured their second win when they faced off against the No. 8 Utah Utes in Pasadena, CA for an exciting 35 – 21 victory.

During a slow first quarter, the Lions were able to get the first points of the game. After they swiftly moved the ball down the field, Nicholas Singleton, Lions running back, rushed for a 5-yard touchdown.

The Utes were able to answer back with a touchdown of their own, taking half of the second quarter to score. Cameron Rising, Utes quarterback,

completed a short touchdown pass to Tight End, Thomas Yassmin, to tie the game 7 – 7. Both the Lions and Utes were able to score another touchdown before halftime to keep the game tied, 14 – 14.

After a back-and-forth first half, the Lions gained momentum to widen their lead and stop the Utes with their stellar defense. Singleton rushed for an 87-yard touchdown. A few drives later, Clifford finds KeAndre Lambert-Smith, Lions wide receiver, for an 88-yard touchdown to go up 28 – 14.

After these two touchdowns, Penn State became the first team in Rose Bowl history to have two 80+ yard scoring plays. Once again, the Lions were in scoring position. This time, Running Back, Kaytron Allen, rushed into the endzone for a 1-yard touchdown.

Bryson Barnes, Utes backup quarterback, replaced Rising after suffering a knee injury and was able to finish the game with a touchdown pass of his own. After moving down the length of the field in under two minutes, Barnes completed a 5-yard touchdown pass to Wide Receiver, Jaylen Dixon, to end the game, 35 – 21.

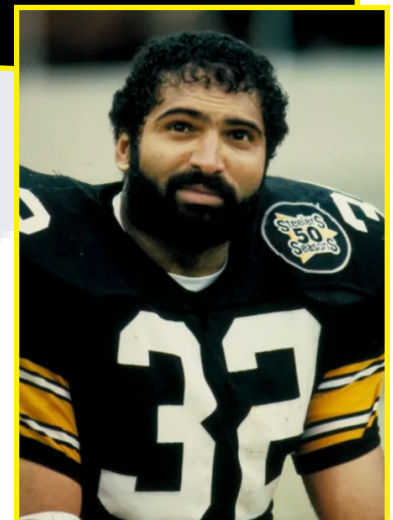
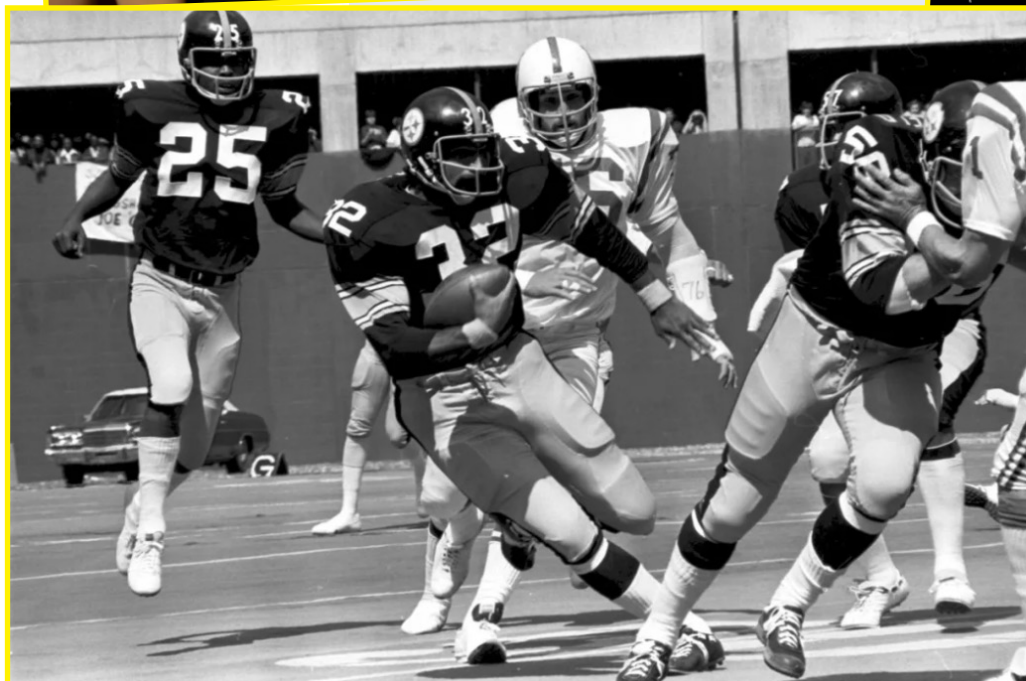
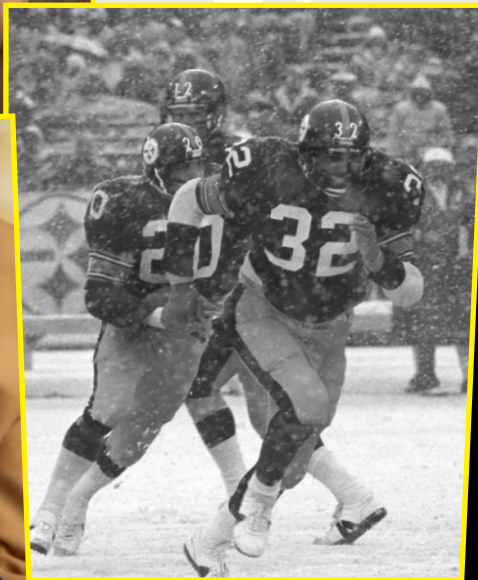
The victory was also a notable for Lions Quarterback, Sean Clifford, who ended his college football career on a high note.

After a great five years with the Nittany Lions, Clifford was quoted in a post-game press conference, saying, “I respect, love, and appreciate every single man that has come through Penn State’s program and impacted me, whether it be coaches, administrators, staff, but especially my teammates.”



Penn State Nittany Lions celebrate their exciting victory against the Utah Utes in the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, California (USA Today Sports/Gary A. Vasquez)

Remembering Steelers Hall of Famer and Penn State Great, Franco Harris (1950-2022)



Some photos have been taken by Karl Roser, a photographer for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Pep, Positivity at Greater Allegheny

Student Brings Cheerleading Back to Campus

MELANIE MCGINNISS

Contributing Writer

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It took a negative like the COVID-19 pandemic to bring something positive back to Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA). Korinne McCutcheon, a junior bio-behavioral health student and her mom, Jenn McCutcheon, who is the financial assistant in the Housing and Food Services Department, “teamed up” to bring a cheerleading club to the campus last fall, with a goal to promote inclusivity and school spirit.

At the start of the pandemic, when McCutcheon

was still a senior in high school, the sponsor for the last cheerleading club on campus moved away and the club disappeared. However, during the fall semester of her sophomore year at PSUGA, McCutcheon and her mom decided that they would try to bring it back to the campus.

“It was definitely a slower start because a lot of people didn’t know about it,” McCutcheon said. Even when things started to calm down with the pandemic and it was more under control, the ongoing virtual classes and the fact that not many students even stayed on campus made it “harder to

promote” a new club on campus.

This didn’t stop McCutcheon’s vision of positivity. She made a proposal to the Student Government Association (SGA) on her own to start the club.

“Since we are a club, we don’t get athletic funding...we get club funding through student affairs,” McCutcheon said. “I came up with a proposal for how much uniforms would cost: there’s a top, a bottom, a pair of shoes and then a jacket and pom-poms.” McCutcheon said that SGA approved the budget and the campus now has a set of Penn State cheerleading uniforms and blue and silver pom-poms for the club.

“As of right now...I think we have eight people signed up, but there are some other people that have expressed interest in joining too,” McCutcheon said, “in comparison to last year, I think we had three or four.” The club has been able to grow despite the challenges as McCutcheon continues to adapt and promote it.

“We did the club fair, and I think we’re going to do a last call and probably reach out to Louise (Aravich), who sends out the emails for student affairs, and have a flyer

for other people to sign up if they didn’t see us at one of the fairs,” McCutcheon said.

Not only is it important for athletic teams to know they have the extra support, but it’s also important for other students wanting to join the club, she said. “We have a couple people who have never cheered before, so that’s really cool to have because maybe their (high) school didn’t offer it or they didn’t have the opportunity. This way it gives everybody a free opportunity to cheer,” McCutcheon said.

“Even school (high school) cheer...it was so expensive, like thousands of dollars and you don’t even get to keep half of the stuff,” she added.

McCutcheon has been cheering practically her whole life, tumbling through gymnastics since the age of three. She started cheering through Steel City All Stars in Pleasant Valley and has been involved in recreational cheer and competitive cheer throughout school.

“My mom and I own our own competitive cheerleading program called Competitive Cheer Xtreme...we’re based

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from page 16)

out of Irwin...25 minutes away,” McCutcheon said. Their extensive experience in cheering and owning a gym makes them the perfect persons to bring the cheer club, and some pep, back to PSUGA.

The club meets once a week in the Fitness and Cultural Center, on the upper hill near the McKeesport Hall dorm, to practice in the studio, but they also incorporate virtual practice by sending videos of cheers for people to learn between in-person meetings.

“As of right now its just a club, but if we are able to maintain the team for two years, this is our second year, then they’ll look into bringing it in as an athletic sport,” McCutcheon said.

There are a lot of competitive gyms in the

area that would make it so the team could compete. However, McCutcheon hopes to be able to have two separate teams at the campus (one as a club and one as a sport), so that there is always an option for inclusivity.

The campus cheer club supports the men’s and women’s basketball teams by cheering at their home games, and McCutcheon hopes to be able to eventually cheer for the home baseball games.

“The only issue is that not everybody has a car, their (baseball) home games are in Butler,” McCutcheon said.

Students interested in the cheerleading club should contact McCutcheon at klm6739@psu.edu.

Photo credit: Melanie McGinniss

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To Our Readers: The GA-Zette welcome 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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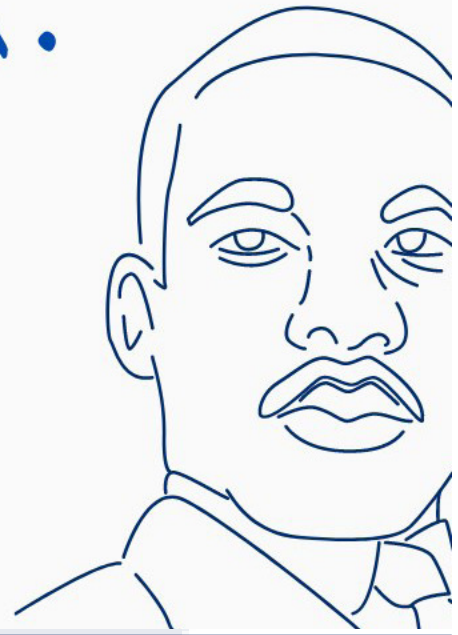
Students participating in activities held in the newly renovated Student Suite (Photo courtesy: Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Facebook Page)



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



MONDAY,
JANUARY 16



Student Affairs

HAPPY FRIDAY 13TH

FREE LUCKY BAMBOO



FRIDAY, JAN 13TH
12:15PM
COMMUTER LOUNGE, SCC

GA FITNESS CENTER

Spring 2023

Hours of Operation:

Monday- Friday
12:00PM-11:00PM

Saturday
1:00PM-8:00PM

Sunday
1:00PM- 4:00PM



2023 PSUGA Men's Basketball Schedule

January:

Sun. 15 vs. Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Mon. 16 vs. Penn State Scranton
Wed. 18 vs. Penn State Shenango
Tue. 24 vs. Penn State Mont Alto
Sat. 28 at Penn State Fayette
Tue. 31 vs. Penn State Du Bois

February:

Sat. 4 vs. Penn State Beaver
Tue. 7 at Penn State Shenango
Sat. 11 vs. Penn State New Kensington
Sat. 18 at Penn State Du Bois
Tue. 21 at Penn State New Kensington

2023 PSUGA Women's Basketball Schedule

January:

Sun. 15 vs. Penn State Wilkes-Barre
Mon. 16 vs. Penn State Scranton
Wed. 18 vs. Penn State Shenango
Tue. 24 vs. Penn State Mont Alto
Sat. 28 at Penn State Fayette
Tue. 31 vs. Penn State Du Bois

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Sat. 18 at Penn State Du Bois
Tue. 21 at Penn State New Kensington

The Penn State logo is displayed in a large, bold, blue font at the bottom of the page. The letters are stylized with a slight shadow effect. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of the word "State".

PennState®

CONGRATULATIONS 2022 GRADUATES!

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE GRADUATES

Administration of Justice

Sharon Ande
Andrea Ghiloni

Psychology

Elizabeth Jeffers
Danaesia U. Moore-Terrell

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE GRADUATES

Biobehavioral Health

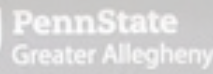
Onika Marae Miles +

Business

Ilana M. Ballard
Amber Bhandari Chhetri
Sullivan Conway
Dzenan Dzanko +

Criminal Justice

Samantha Penascino +



Psychology

Natasha Anna Herald +
Sueriah Om'Unique Timsah

Information Sciences and Technology

Seth M. Sosia
William Sosia
Nicholas Anthony Trunzo

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

+ Summer 2022 Graduates

Graduation Memories



Graduation memories from the Fall of 2022 graduation ceremony. (Photos courtesy: Penn State Greater Allegheny's Facebook Page)

