

Penn State Wilkes-Barre's Student Run Newspaper

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Welcome Back Town Hall

by Jen Sgroi



Photo by Brian Klose

"Mask up or Pack up," Penn State's health and safety campaign, was the main focus of the Welcome Back Town Hall hosted by Chancellor Dale Jones, Dr. Lynda Goldstein, and Ms. Wanda Ochei. The meeting started with welcome back remarks by Chancellor Jones. He mentioned the excitement of being back on campus by students, faculty, and staff while praising all for maintaining social distancing. He stressed that the main priority was to safeguard health and safety on our campus. An enormous amount of work was put in over the summer to allow everyone to return for the fall semester. He wanted students to know that we are all in this together. There are many things that are changing not only in our immediate surroundings, but all over the world. However, students should focus on this current academic year. He ended his remarks sharing a few great points to remember this year:

- Shift Your Thinking
- Stay Positive
- Get Prepared
- Exercise Patience
- Be Ready to Pivot
- Expect to Prevail

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Town Hall (continued)

by Jen Sgroi

Associate CAO/Professor Dr. Lynda Goldstein followed Chancellor Jones' remarks, focusing on academic changes for this term. Courses are currently being offered through in-person, mixed/hybrid mode, or strictly online. Dr. Goldstein mentioned the issues with Zoom on the first day of school and reiterated the need to be patient and to communicate with professors. She also suggested that students build a rapport with faculty. If you do need to isolate yourself at any point, please reach out to faculty. They are prepared to help you stay on pace with your classes if the need arises. If you need technology such as a laptop or a hotspot, please reach out to the IT department. There are designated socially distant study spaces available to use throughout campus. Tutoring is still available for students who would like help with classes. Students are asked to schedule an appointment online. Dr. Goldstein also stated to look out for the new Leadership series beginning this month and that clubs are starting back up for the semester.

Ms. Wanda Ochei, Director of Student Services and Engagement, finished out the town hall meeting with important information for students. She thanked students for wearing masks on campus, social distancing, any mandatory pre-arrival and surveillance testing, checking psu. edu email regularly, and for keeping healthy and monitoring themselves in the PSU Go app. She stressed that by complying with these mentioned steps, we are not only helping to mitigate the spread of the virus, it also allows everyone to remain on campus. Student affairs and other administrative offices are open but operating remotely. Staff can be reached by phone, email, or through a zoom meeting. She then followed up with a few frequently asked questions.

- Do I need to participate in Surveillance Testing?
- Yes, participation is MANDATORY. If you choose not to participate, disciplinary actions may occur. Please make sure to check your PSU email regularly and respond within 48 hours if you do receive the time sensitive email for testing.
- What do I do if I have COVID symptoms, test positive, or come in contact with someone who tests positive?
- Contact our campus nurse-Suzanne Attanasio 570-675-9257
- Contact your family doctor
- If you test positive, there is a 10-day mandatory isolation period and you will not be allowed on campus. A doctor's release will be required to be permitted back on campus.
- Reach out to your faculty members
- For main virus information, visit virusinfo.psu.edu or wilkesbarre.psu.edu

 Ms. Ochei also mentioned great resources for students to receive campus information,
 such as the Blue Screen app, the Office 365 psu.edu email, and the PSU Go app. She concluded
 the meeting by reminding students to be engaged and if you have a question, just ask a faculty/
 staff member or even fellow students.

Sports Will Happen!

by Scott Schival

COVID-19 has stopped or changed certain things and sports is one of these. But we can tell you that as of now, all seasons will start during the Spring 2021 semester. If you are a current athlete or even if you want to join a team, come sign up now! Student athlete paperwork is available in the student commons at the corner of the desk right inside the door. Contact Athletic Director Scott Miner (sam61@psu.edu) or Karen Winters (kjw18@psu.edu).

At Penn State Wilkes-Barre we have the following sports available: Golf, Soccer, Men's Baseball, Women's Volleyball, Men's and Women's Basketball. Below are start dates for each sport, (dates are tentative and can change).

Golf - Coach Ed Keil (ejk213@psu.edu)

• September 21, 2020

Soccer - Coach Scott Miner (sam61@psu.edu)

- Individual workouts October 5, 2020
- First Practice February 21, 2021
- First game March 20, 2021 home against Mont Alto

Men's Baseball - Coach Scott Miner (sam61@psu.edu)

- Individual workouts October 5, 2020
- First Practice February 1, 2021
- First game March 26, 2021 away against Schuylkill

Women's Volleyball - Coach Abby Collins (apc5105@psu.edu)

- Individual workouts October 1, 2020
- First Practice February 1, 2021
- First Game February 20, 2021 away against Scranton and Brandywine
 Men's Basketball Coach LeShawn Hammett (lrh9@psu.edu)
- Individual workouts October 1, 2020
- First Practice January 8, 2021
- First Game TBD

Women's Basketball - Coach LeShawn Hammett (lrh9@psu.edu)

- Individual workouts October 1, 2020
- First Practice January 8, 2021
- First Game TBD

Favorite Fall Films

by Grant Loose

If you're anything like me, the instant you feel a bit of a chill in the air, you immediately switch into Halloween mode. For a horror fan, fall is the best time to binge some good scary films. Luckily, if you're looking for recommendations, I've got you covered.

PAN'S LABYRINTH

A powerful dark fantasy/horror film directed by Guillermo Del Toro about a young girl, Ofelia, that moves in with her stepfather, a fascistic and cruel captain of the Francoist army. When she arrives, Ofelia explores a mysterious labyrinth by the compound where she discovers that she is actually the princess of the underworld, and must complete three tasks to return there. It's currently streaming on Netflix.

2. THE WITCH

The Witch is a period folk-horror film about a Puritan family that is exiled from their village and are forced to live in isolation near the woods. When the youngest child vanishes, the family turn against their daughter, Thomasin, as tensions rise. While this film may not be for everyone, if you're a fan of a good atmospheric slow burn, it will definitely deliver. It's currently streaming on Netflix.

3. GREEN ROOM

When a punk band witnesses a murder at a venue run by neo-Nazi skinheads, they find themselves trapped in the green room with no way to escape. Green Room is a very tense movie that leaves you on the edge of your seat— you really don't feel its (already fairly short) runtime at all. It's currently streaming on Netflix.

4. IT FOLLOWS

When Jay sleeps with her new boyfriend for the first time, she discovers that she has contracted a curse where she is constantly being stalked by an entity set on killing her, and the only way to stop it is to sleep with someone else and pass it on to them. It's currently streaming on Tubi.

5. SUSPIRIA (1977)

If you're looking for the most neon color scheme you've ever seen in a movie, Suspiria is for you. When an American college student arrives at a famous German ballet school, she is caught up in a series of mysterious deaths. It's currently streaming on Tubi.

Favorite Fall Films (continued)

by Grant Loose

6. THE WAILING

The Wailing is a bit of almost every horror subgenre, and the plot is definitely hard to explain in just a sentence or two. When several people in a small village seemingly snap and commit brutal murders, the townspeople blame a strange outsider who recently moved in to the outskirts of the town. It's currently streaming on Prime and Tubi.

7. MANDY

I actually lied earlier when I said that Suspiria is the most neon movie I've ever seen— Mandy definitely beats it in that regard. It's basically the definition of love-it-or-hate-it, but if you're looking for something as over-the-top as humanly possible, it's worth checking out. I really don't know how to describe the plot, except that Nic Cage gets in a chainsaw duel and it's not even the weirdest part of the movie. It's currently streaming on Shudder.

8. ONE CUT OF THE DEAD

If you're more into comedy, this one's a great choice. An amateur director and his crew are shooting a zombie film with a microbudget when real zombies attack. It's genuinely really creative and funny, and despite the large amount of zombie comedies, I really don't think there's anything else like it. It's currently streaming on Prime.

9. PERFECT BLUE

Mima Kirigoe quits her job as a member of a popular J-pop group to become an actress, but she develops a stalker who is not happy with this decision. She later finds a website called Mima's Room where someone poses as her and writes journal entries from her perspective, and she begins to develop a severe paranoia as her fears begin to mix with reality.

10. THE FLY (1986)

The Fly is a classic body horror film for a reason. Even by today's standards, it still has a lot of gross and disturbing imagery. When a scientist creates a teleportation device, he tests it out while a fly accidentally gets into the device with him. Afterwards, he begins to merge with the genes of the fly. It's currently streaming on Hulu.

Lessons on Leadership

by Jen Sgroi

Most days, LOL typically stands for laugh out loud. At Penn State Wilkes-Barre, LOL takes on a whole new meaning with the new upcoming Lessons on Leadership series, organized by Jackie Warnick-Piatt, student activities coordinator at the Wilkes-Barre campus. The Lessons on Leadership Program began on campus during the 2019-2020 academic year. Prior to the current program being offered, various leadership programs, such as the Penn State Northeast Regional Conference, Summer Leadership Conference, and the Intercollegiate Leadership Program, allowed only limited participation by Penn State Wilkes-Barre students. Jackie and Ms. Wanda Ochei, Director of Student Services and Engagement, collaborated to find a way to offer a program to all interested on the Wilkes-Barre campus in valuable leadership lessons, which lead to the creation of the Lessons on Leadership series. According to Jackie, about eighteen students participated in at least one workshop last year. Seven students completed the required four out of six workshops to earn a leadership certificate.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, eight workshops will be offered to students, four in the fall and four in spring. Topics such as leadership types, communication skills, and conflict management are important for students of any age or degree level to dive into. These workshops will be hosted by Jackie and other knowledgeable Penn State faculty and staff on Zoom. The first two sessions to be offered are Leadership Styles on September 22nd and 23rd and Conflict and Consensus on October 13th and 14th, all held from 3:00-4:00 PM. Students will be able to choose the workshop date that best fits their schedule as information will be the same on both days.

To sign up, please email Jackie at jackiewp@psu.edu and in the subject line, LOL. Signups will be available up until the day before the scheduled program date. Whether you are a brand-new freshman on campus or a graduating senior, don't miss out on these amazing



Jen Sgroi: Jen is a senior IST major with a minor in business, who also tutors IST. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and son, being outside, and watching cooking shows, anime, and even reality TV. After graduation, Jen plans on pursuing web design because she

Pat Nelson: Pat is a sophomore Business major intending on matriculating to University Park next fall. He is President of Blue & White Society, as well as a member of Four Seasons, THON, Business Club, and Lion Ambassadors. In his free time, Pat enjoys watching Marvel movies, sports, and playing video games.

Scott Schival: Scott is a junior English major who intends on becoming a Sportswriter. He helped form the Veterans Support Club, driven by his Marine Corps service for OIF/OEF. Scott is also a Lion Ambassador, Basketball Announcer, ARB Desk Assistant, and Student Assistant Baseball Coach. In his free time, he likes to write, watch baseball and hockey, and play PlayStation.

Kaci Grabowski: Kaci is a senior majoring in English and minoring in Corporate Communication. She is Vice President of Student Government Association as well as a member of Blue & White Society and Lion Ambassadors. This is her second year working with the paper. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her friends and

Grant Loose: Grant is a junior majoring in English and minoring in IST. In his free time, he likes to watch movies, play video games, and play with his dog.

Larry Corridoni: Larry is a sophomore Mechanical Engineering major intending on matriculating to University Park next fall. He is President of Student Government Association, a member of Four Seasons, and JAM. In his free time, he likes to hang out with friends, read, and do anything outdoors. After graduation, Larry intends on becoming a mechanical engineer, and eventually open his own firm.

Halloween Word Search

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> BOO GAMES HALLOWEEN PARTY SPOOKY WITCH

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