

FALL 2023

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny



VOLUME 22

Welcome Back !

Fall 2023 Edition

	D O
Campus Update	Page 2
Spotted Lanternflies	Page 3
Bees/Apiary on Campus	Page 4
Food Truck Event (Welcome Back)	Page 5
New Hires	Page 6
"Oppenheimer" Review	Page 8

NEWS

CAMPUS UPDATE: A Successful NSO, Planning Amid Enrollment Decline

Melanie McGinniss Managing Editor

mum670@psu.edu

Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, reported that the New Student Orientation (NSO) program was a success this summer, with almost perfect attendance.

"There's always that nervous excitement, you know? They're with their parents still, so it's a kind of interesting hand-off," Nagel said.

According to a recent article from the Tribune Review, Penn State branch campuses are at a lowpoint in terms of enrollment rates. Additionally, these rates are predicted to continue to decrease because of declining birth rates and questioning the value of a college degree.

However, this really is not an issue specific to just branch campuses. Nagel stated that "our new student numbers are up from last year."

"Anybody in higher education is keeping a close eye on enrollments because there are a lot of competing factors, these are nothing new," Nagel said. She noted that there's a demographic cliff that's happening, "the birth rates for these next eight years are going



Interim chancellor Dr. Megan Nagel happily takes a selfie with new students at New Student Orientation. (Photo courtesy: Rosemary Martinelli)

to continue to decrease before they pick up again and these things tie back to what was happening 18 years ago...the economy was bad, people were having difficulty finding jobs," Nagel said.

Universities are competing with the job market where employers are in need of a workforce. To highschoolers, a lot of the offers being made by employers can seem like a high salary "out of the gate," Nagel said. "All financial indicators are... you will end up earning more money over the course of your career, significantly more money, with a college education," she added.

However, changing tuition rates and other financial factors make going to college debatable when one can make money right after high school. "We can't just keep doing the same thing expecting a different result because the world has just shifted peoples' interactions with higher ed," Nagel said, adding that PSUGA is looking at a progressive and positive semester this fall, with a lot of focus being put on new programs and systems for incoming students.

With recent news on diversity equity and inclusion (DEI), Nagel shared that PSUGA "places a strong emphasis on being a diverse campus" regardless of recent Supreme Court decisions. She said that the campus is really thinking about how it can "be sort of an anchor in some of these towns that need hope and educational opportunities."

PSUGA is leaning into its land-grant mission to connect with surrounding neighborhoods by offering non-credit courses or entrepreneurial opportunities through the Mon Valley Launchbox, which is seeking a new home after the previous one was destroyed in a gas explosion in 2022.

The campus has already worked to meet goals and recommendations from the equity task force by developing an anti-racism course that is now available and offered at all Penn State campuses.

Two teams of faculty and staff were sent to an equity institute, where they learned "actionable items" to focus on campus DEI goals. The teams will present their findings at a campus town hall on Sept. 13.

"There's actually really strong involvement this fall," Nagel said.

Faculty and staff have been taking advantage of PSUGA's "nimble" campus to try new things and experiment, but Nagel is hoping for more student input and involvement.

"Conversations are important and they're a good starting point, but it can be frustrating to me when that's all, just a conversation."

(Cover Photo Courtesy: Melanie McGinniss, Managing Editor)



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY STOMPING GROUNDS: Invasion Reaches Greater Allegheny Campus

Melanie McGinniss Managing Editor

mum670@psu.edu Leaving the Student Community Center (SCC) at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), students and faculty are usually expecting to open the door to some fresh air. However, this 2023 fall semester, jumping and flying spotted lanternflies (SLF) are seen gathering outside the SCC as if they're students on campus.

The best thing to do about it? Researchers say, squash them.

Director of Finance and Business, Dan Cella, said that there aren't really any solutions or "anything we can spray to actually prevent them from coming."

Campus Facilities Manager, Brad Dinkfelt, spoke with the exterminator that comes to the campus routinely to treat the buildings, only to be told the same thing. While they aren't a threat to humans, they certainly are to the environment.

"It seems like they're attracted to certain areas, so the SCC is really bad. I was in downtown McKeesport where our new Launchbox is being set up and they're just all over the sidewalk, all over the buildings...but then you'll go a block down and there's none," Cella said.

SLF feed on fruit trees and hardwood trees and leave honeydew, which can cause a black mold to grow and kill off the plant that was targeted. They are most attracted to tree of heaven, which is also an invasive plant species.

"I haven't heard that they go after plants that pollinate...it seems to be



Lanternflies swarm around the SCC entrance. (Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss, Managing Editor)



Adult Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) (Photo courtesy: US Department of Agriculture)

more food-source related," Cella said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) has managed to spread across 14 states in the northeast.

In 2014, this species, native to China, was first discovered in the United States in Berks County, PA. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) established a state quarantine to stop the spread of these pests. However, the changing climate has not helped.

Rising temperatures have only made it easier for SLF to survive. Laying their eggs in the fall, they have been able to make it through the warming winters.

In Pennsylvania, many vineyards have reported losing a lot of their harvest to SLF in 2022. This is because the pests are most attracted to fruit and hardwood trees, making wine grapes a go-to target. "It can be devastating for farmers that work in this area," Cella said.

However, there might just be a natural solution to these invaders. In China, a tiny wasp with a scientific name called Dryinus browni (no common name), is a natural predator to SLF that lays its eggs in the nymph (baby lanternflies) to feed on. Scientists still need more research to ensure that the use of the wasps wouldn't just cause another invasive problem.

To learn more about SLF, visit <u>https://www.</u> <u>aphis.usda.gov/aphis/</u> <u>resources/pests-diseases/</u> <u>hungry-pests/the-threat/</u> <u>spotted-lanternfly/spot-</u> <u>ted-lanternfly.</u>

COMMUNITY

PROFESSOR GRIMES, CELLA EAGER TO BRING THE "BUZZ" ON CAMPUS

Melanie McGinniss Managing Editor

mum670@psu.edu

Associate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology, Galen Grimes, and his bees have been patient, waiting more than three years to get to Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA). Students who attended the PSUGA Campus Community Fair might have spotted Grimes at one of the tables as he proudly promoted the new apiary club that will come along with the hives.

As stated in a previous *GA-Zette* article, Grimes has been taking care of over 70,000 bees at his own home since COVID lockdown, and is eager to introduce them to the PSUGA campus and show "the dependency we have on honey bees."

"I talked Jackie Edmondson, former chancellor, into bringing bees on campus as part of our sustainability program," Grimes said.

Director of Finance and Business, Dan Cella, said



Grimes eager to introduce the hives and the apiary club to PSUGA. (Photo courtesy: PSUGA Facebook page)

that an apiary (a place for keeping beehives) was built for the bees in the early summer right above the yellow lot, very close to where the goats were last year.

The goats have been coming to campus for five years to clear vegetation.

"We had to purchase an electric fence, same thing as the goats, and it's solar powered," Cella said.

"One of the requirements to have a healthy hive, is that it has to be near a water source, and there's actually like a very small stream that runs through that hillside...So we identified the space *GA Facebook page)* up there, then the facility folks created a gravel area up there and made these cement pavers to set the hives on," Cella added. Cella said that the cost to build the fence was small, with the main concern being the labor required from maintenance to bring the hives to the campus.

"You have to do it in the evening," Grimes said. "During the day, they're all out and about. You want to make sure the majority of the bees are inside the hive."

Students interested in the apiary club or checking out the bees when they arrive can contact Professor Galen Grimes at gag5@psu.edu.



Apiary for Grimes' two hives, set up by facility members. (Photo courtesy of Melanie McGinniss, Managing Editor)

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

A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: First Free Church Brings Millie's Ice Cream Truck

Melanie McGinniss Managing Editor mum670@psu.edu

mumoro@psu.ed

The First Evangelical Free Church, neighbors of Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus, held its annual Welcome Back Picnic for all students to grab some free food and socialize on Aug. 31. Quite the line formed with students and faculty in front of Millie's Ice Cream truck, which was rented and organized by Youth Pastor Alex Ielase.

For six years now, the First Evangelical Free Church has worked with PSUGA to welcome back students, staff and faculty.

"You guys are amazing neighbors," Ielase said. This year, students and staff recommended to the church that the Welcome Back Picnic should be held during Common Hour (noon - 1p.m.), and the turn-out was great. "We'll be prepared next year for the rush," Ielase joked.

The church has done other different things for students like "destressifying" by bringing snacks during finals or collecting food for the food pantry. The church has also always offered a "college and youngadult gathering" every



Students and faculty line up for Millie's Ice Cream Truck, provided by the First Evangelical Free Church. (Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss, Managing Editor)

Tuesday (6:30-8 p.m.) where they serve a free dinner. Although some students have attended, Ielase is looking to do even more for the community.

"This year, what I'd like to do is try and do something on a weekly basis in your building, and I'll just bring pizza or whatever...obviously we would want to look in the Bible and see what's in there, I'm not going to hide that, but just have a discussion...eat some food," Ielase said.

"I don't want to compete with the dining hall, so if I need to buy the food from them, no problem I'll do that," Ielase added.

Gideon Jones, junior RPTM major and soccer team member at PSUGA, has been attending the Student and Young-Adult group for the past few years and has already sent the message to Lorraine Craven, director of student services, about starting this student organization.

Ielase has been preparing and even has a name for the organization, "Alive." The goal is to continue the group monthly at the church, but weekly in the Student Community Center.

Ielase has been in ministry for about 20 years now, and said that he feels a calling to working with kids from rough backgrounds as someone who grew up in a single-parent home.

"The Lord changed my life, so you know I'm just sharing the good news about him," Ielase said. "It's like when you find out something amazing, whether it's a pregnancy or a birthday or you got a new job, you wanna tell other people right?"

For students interested in joining the youngadult group, contact Pastor Ielase via email at aielase@myfefc.org.





Faculty enjoying the free food provided by the First Free church. (Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss, Managing Editor)

CAMPUS

NEW FACES IN FAMILIAR PLACES

Melanie McGinniss Managing Editor

mum670@psu.edu Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) welcomes even more excited and new faces as a part of the campus' staff.

Born in McKeesport, Daniel Jakubek actually attended Greater Allegheny from 2000 to 2002, when it was still Penn State McKeesport. As the new Kelly Library services associate, this is Jakubek's first experience working on a college campus and in a library.



Daniel Jakubek Kelly Library daj154@psu.edu

In an email, Jakubek said that he has "always been interested in language arts and linguistics," but he did not see enough options in those fields.

"I jumped at the opportunity [at the library] because it sounded like it would be the perfect fit for me and I was right. I enjoy working here." Jason Broadwater, soccer coach and newly- appointed athletic director, already has predictions for this fall sports season.



Jason Broadwater Athletic Department jmb75@psu.edu

"I see a group of athletes, coaches and teams that are competitive across the board. It's in our campus and departmental DNA to want to roll up our sleeves and work hard. I see teams competing for playoff spots and conference championships," he said.

For Broadwater, student athlete success is the most important focus for the athletes. He aims to make sure athletes are focused "first in the classroom, then on the field or court. We're building a culture where the word 'student' always comes first," Broadwater said.

Help is available at the campus bookstore with Albert Maisto, the new assistant store manager. Maisto, from the Pittsburgh area, has been at the bookstore since October of 2022.

"I was working for the Barnes & Noble retail division prior, and when I was given the opportunity to work at a college bookstore, I jumped at the chance," he said.

Maistro wrote in an email to *The GA-Zette*, "I like to feel that I am creating a warm welcoming environment for anyone who walks into the bookstore. I am here to help students find what they will need to succeed here at PSUGA."

Maisto looks forward to continuing to build a great relationship with the bookstore and the entire campus.



Albert Maisto Campus Bookstore avm7258@psu.edu

Students living in the dorms have already met Kenneth Williams, the new student engagement and residential life coordinator.



Kenneth Williams SCC 114 kennethwilliams@psu.edu

Williams supervises the resident assistants (RAs) to make sure students have a safe environment.

Since late July, he has been living in a professional apartment in the residence hall.

Prior to coming to PSUGA, he lived in China, where he taught English. When it was time to move back to the U.S., Williams saw an opportunity in higher education at PSUGA.

"Here, the smaller campus community allows for a closer connection to students," Williams said in an interview from his office in the SCC. This year, he is creating a "student programmatic body" that teaches students about programming and leadership.

Williams wants to let students know that "every opportunity in college is a learning opportunity, a teachable moment." (Continued on next page)

The GA-ZETTE

CAMPUS

FALL 2023 - 7

(Continued from page 6)



Lindale Smith Frable 123G Ixs5832@psu.edu

Associate Director of Enrollment Management, Lindale Smith, was just as eager as the others to take an opportunity at PSUGA this year.

Smith has worked in college admissions for over 15 years. He earned his bachelor's degree in 2003 at Clarion University, where he also played college football.

Smith welcomes students to come to his office for any kind of assistance, and said in an email that he is "looking forward to continue to get to know faculty and staff, as well as the new and upcoming student body."

Universities are in need of strategies to halt the decline on enrollment rates, and Smith said that PSUGA can succeed by "getting out into the community...to increase our foothole in the community."

Student Government Association UPDATE 2023 Goals from SGA President, Aayushi Gandhi

"I am so excited to say that we have new members joining SGA this year. This year is all about focusing on what the student body wants. We will be working with the book club and other organizations to see what we can do to help have more student engagement this year. This campus means a lot to me, and I became part of the Student Government to make this place more welcoming for all students."



Aayushi Gandhi, SGA President apg5835@psu.edu (Photo courtesy: PSUGA)

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 29
Tuesday, September 12
Tuesday, September 26
Tuesday, October 10
Tuesday, October 24
Tuesday, November 7
Tuesday, December 5

🙄 12:15 PM

Frable 122

Interested in learning more about SGA or joining our organization? Please contact SGA President Aayushi Gandhi at apg5835@psu.edu

Student Government Association AT PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY

"Oppenheimer": A Landmark in Historic Cinema

Brandon Schuetz Staff Writer

bms6925@psu.edu

"Oppenheimer", directed by five-time Oscar-nominated Christopher Nolan and starring Irish actor, Cillian Murphy in the title role, is a stunning biographical film that recounts the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who helped create the atomic bombs that were dropped on Japan to bring an end to World War II.

The movie focuses on Oppenheimer's career and what led up to his involvement in the creation of the atomic bombs, as well as the fallout and his personal challenges after the weapons of mass destruction were unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States on Aug. 5 and 6 in 1945.

This film also deals with the persecution Oppenheimer endured from his own country following the events of the detonation of the bombs, and his subsequent call for the constraint of the new technology for military use.

Oppenheimer advised against going ahead with more nuclear research because he felt haunted by the destruction and



"Oppenheimer" released in theaters August 2023. (Photo courtesy: Universal Pictures)

disfigurement he saw that the bombs had caused on society and human beings.

The film, based on the Pulitzer Prizewinning book American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of Oppenheimer, written by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, recounts that Oppenheimer also felt great remorse for his involvement in the development of the atomic bombs, including his famous meeting with then President Harry Truman, who had made the final call to drop the bombs upon their completion.

Truman and many other Americans viewed Oppenheimer as a coward due to his unwillingness to continue development of nuclear weapons.

Oppenheimer, later dubbed "the father of the atomic bomb," warned against further nuclear research during the Cold War with Russia when tensions were at an alltime high.

Due to Oppenheimer's admonishments, the United States sought to belittle and diminish his political power and pull by persecuting him through the removal of his security clearances, and using connections he had to the communist party to do so even though Oppenheimer was not a communist himself.

"Oppenheimer" is a cinematic masterpiece that

director Nolan intricately put together to immerse viewers and show them the magnitude and destruction caused and felt by nuclear weapons.

The atomic blast shown in the film was miraculously and notably filmed without the use of any computer generatedimagery so that the audience could really sense the sheer power the nuclear weapons had generated and the devastation that they had caused.

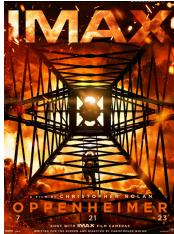
The importance of the historical events that "Oppenheimer" depicts makes this film a must watch for everybody. (Continued on next page)

The GA-ZETTE

ARTS & CULTURE

FALL 2023 - 9

(Continued from page 8)



"Oppenheimer" was shot for IMAX theaters. (Photo courtesy: IMBD)

It paints a visceral image of the calamity that was unleashed on the world at-large with the creation of the atomic bombs during the events of World War II.

The film also leaves the audience questioning nuclear technology and the powerful role it plays in today's society.

"Oppenheimer" has been a massive box office success, bringing in over \$700 million since its premiere in July. The film's unprecedented financial success is quite the landmark in Hollywood, during the ongoing writers' strike. It is entirely unheard of for a historical biography film to perform this well at the box office and the film being R-rated makes this an even more triumphant achievement in film making.

Filmgoers would be wise to keep an eye out for "Oppenheimer" at next year's 96th Academy Awards show as the movie is expected to win big.

"Oppenheimer" also features notable actors Florence Pugh; Robert Downey Jr. as one of the founding members of the Atomic Energy Commission; Emily Blunt as Oppenheimer's wife; Oscar-winner, Matt Damon as General Leslie Groves of the Manhattan Project; and Josh Peck.

Also featured in this film are native Pennsylvanians, actors David Dastmalchian, originally from Philadelphia and Dane DeHaan, originally from Allentown.

The GA-Zette



2023 Pennsylvania Golden Quill Award for Excellence in Journalism:

Yousuf Ibrahim

2023 Pennsylvania Golden Quill Award Finalists:

Carlin Whalen Melanie McGinniss Shannon Reid *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 <u>sites.psu.edu/gazette</u>.

Address:

4000 University Drive, McKeesport, PA 15102 Phone: 412-675-9025

Managing Editor: Melanie McGinniss, COMM

Staff Writers: Brandon Schuetz, COMM

Contributing Writers: Travis Mowery, COMM

Production Support: Nicholas Smerker, Media Commons

Administrative Support: Jayme Gralewski Renee Stahl Connie Surman

Faculty Advisor: Rosemary Martinelli

The thoughts and comments of **The GA-Zette** are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the administration and management of Penn State Greater Allegheny or The Pennsylvania State University, at-large. Editorial decisions rest with the staff and management of **The GA-Zette**.

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.

Send to: ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com



"How does the current indictment of a former president related to election fraud make you feel about the current political ecosystem in the United States?"



Nick Trunzo, Marketing and Communications Specialist

"I feel like the political environment of the U.S. in general has been pretty rocky for the last however long, right? I don't delve too deep into politics but...I know just seeing of who has been elected in office and who is currently being elected in office, I think it'd be nice to see a younger face in there. I feel like a lot of people in our generation definitely want someone younger, someone to work towards the future instead of relying on the past."

Michael Marks, Senior, IST

"This is what, his fourth indictment? I'd say it's pretty shocking, but in some ways I think it's a good thing because it shows that no one, not even a president, is above the law. If he has done what he's been accused of doing, then I hope that he is found accountable in a court of law. A few years back...the former president of South Korea, she was arrested for campaign fraud. She was actually found guilty and went to prison. That's never really happened in America before."



Mariyam Baytar, Freshman, Business



"I think that people lost trust in the government and the fact that if people lose trust in what is supposed to unite us then it can turn into a spiral of chaos. It's kind of chaotic in my opinion...regardless if it's republican or democratic, the government needs to be a system where people can trust...but it's not feeling like that now."

Gianna Tour, Sophomore, Business and volleyball team member

"Honestly, I'm not sure what to think. I feel as if this world is moving at such a fast pace that hardly anyone can keep up. The prices of goods and services are increasing, crime is increasing, the people are getting (angrier) as time goes on. I believe that no matter who becomes the next president, he or she should focus on the improvement of the United States."





Kennywood park still open for fun. (Photo courtesy: Rosemary Martinelli)



Have some fun on weekends at Kennywood! Putting a pause on being open daily, the park is now open weekends for the rest of September from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Phantom Fall Fest will begin on Sept. 22 until the end of October. (6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays, 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays).

Phantom Fright Nights, part of Phantom Fall Fest, will run through all of October on Fridays and Saturdays from 6 p.m. to midnight.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS





Register at ga.psu.edu/watch-party



Scan for a ticket!





2023 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

Support your campus athletes!

Men's Soccer

Fri., Sept. 8 vs Cincinnati-Clermont Tues., Sept. 12 vs Penn State Beaver Sat., Sept. 16 vs Christendom Sun., Sept. 17 at Saint Vincent – JV Sat., Sept. 23 at Penn State Lehigh Valley Sun., Sept. 24 at Penn State Scranton Tues., Sept. 26 at Christendom Sat., Sept. 30 vs Penn State Mont Alto Wed., Oct.4 at Penn State New Kensington Fri., Oct. 6 at Central Penn Sun., Oct. 8 vs Penn State Hazleton Sat., Oct. 14 vs Penn State York Sat., Oct. 21 at Penn State Brandywine



Women's Volleyball

Thur., Sept. 7 at Penn State New Kensington Sat., Sept. 9 vs Waynesburg University (Tri Match Played at Pitt Greensburg) Tue., Sept. 12 at Penn State Beaver Thu., Sept. 14 at Carlow Sat., Sept. 16 at Penn State Fayette Mon., Sept. 18 at Bethany College - JV Thu., Sept. 21 vs Penn State Du Bois Wed., Sept. 27 vs Butler County CC Fri., Sept. 29 vs Penn State Mont Alto Mon., Oct. 2 vs Bethany College - JV Wed., Oct. 4 vs Penn State Beaver Sat., Oct. 7 at Penn State Shenango Mon., Oct. 9 at Penn State Du Bois Thu., Oct. 12 at Penn State Mont Alto Sat., Oct. 14 vs Penn State Fayette Mon., Oct. 16 vs Penn State Shenango Sat., Oct. 21 vs Penn State New Kensington