



# The GA-ZETTE

FALL 2023

The Campus Newspaper for Penn State Greater Allegheny

VOLUME 23



## We Are, One Community

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2023 Fall Edition

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# Israel-Gaza Conflict

## A Need for Community Support and Compassion

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“We are one community. We are here for you, and I am asking each and everyone of you to be there for each other,” said Penn State President, Dr. Neeli Bendapudi, through a community message on Oct. 12.

The message was sent out in response to the violence committed on innocent Israeli civilians by Hamas on Oct. 7.

What was meant to be a celebration turned into a nightmare. Hundreds of Hamas gunmen attacked at the Tribe of Nova music festival in southern Israel, near the Gaza-Israel border.

An Associated Press (AP) News article stated that the massacre took about 1,400 lives, including Israelis in surrounding communities and about 30 American citizens. More than 230 hostages were taken, and their families have been waiting for their safe return.

On Oct. 9, Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant, ordered a complete siege that restricted water, fuel, electricity and any aid to Gaza.

Since then, for over three weeks, the densely



**Posters of Israelis who were taken as hostages by Hamas on the day of the attack.**  
(Photo courtesy: Wikimedia Commons)

populated Gaza Strip has been experiencing the unjustifiable retaliation from Israel.

AP News stated that more than 8,000 Palestinians have been killed. Over 3,000 of those killed are children.

Targeted hospitals, mosques and schools have been destroyed, leaving the survivors mourning and traumatized.

“Neither is acceptable,” Bendapudi said.

“It is worth noting just

how strange these acts of violence really are,” Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) Communications Professor and theorist, Michael Vicaro, said through an email. “War is an odd kind of contest ...where the goal is to out-injure and out-kill the other.”

The tragic historical facts make “justice” a driving force. However, the United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly

responded to the war on Oct. 27 and called for a “humanitarian truce” to end the crisis.

U.N. News stated that 120 votes approved the resolution and 14 votes, including Israel and the United States, disagreed. Forty-five abstained, meaning they did not approve or disapprove.

As a nonbinding resolution, the strikes on the people of Gaza continue. AP News said that four hostages were returned so far.

The humanitarian crisis that continues to escalate in the Middle East, and in the media, is a global concern.

Americans, especially given the diverse state of the nation, are grieving from the loss on both sides.

“We must not allow this violence to reach our campuses and communities,” Bendapudi said.

Students of universities such as Harvard and Carnegie Mellon have used their freedom of speech to speak up and express their emotions on the conflict.

“Without freedom of speech, your access to information would be threatened,” Bendapudi said in a video on the value of free speech.



**Israeli airstrike destroys buildings in Gaza City on October 9, 2023.**  
(Photo courtesy: Wikimedia Commons)

(Continued on next page)

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According to a National Public Radio (NPR) article, some vigils and protests have led to direct confrontations.

“It can be very hard... when both sides see the other’s mere presence as a kind of existential threat to their own identity and security,” Vicaro said.

He mentioned that in France, a ban was placed on pro-Palestinian protests on Oct. 12.

Vicaro said he finds this to be a fundamental mistake. He said that if we can’t engage in public deliberation, people often feel compelled to resort to violent solutions.

“Our fundamental commitment to the right of free expression is strong, but so is our commitment to safety and well-being,” Bendapudi said.

Many people can agree on wanting peace, but this isn’t achieved by ignoring the bad in the world. It’s easy to choose comfort over the painful emotions that the situation provokes.

This is called empathic distress, where people respond to an overwhelming amount of emotions from the suffering of others by choosing to disassociate. However, the regions involved do not have the luxury to look away from the situation.

A different mindset to have is compassion: sympathetic consciousness of others’ distress together with a desire to alleviate it (Merriam-Webster).

As humans who are not in a state of constant war, Americans can take advantage of the access to education and communication given to them as natural rights.

The U.S. involvement in the conflict has a lot

AP news stated that in Iran, a black flag was raised over the Razavi Shrine on Oct. 17 to represent the collective mourning of Gaza civilians.

For Pittsburgh, the Jewish community had existing and recent trauma from the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in 2018, on top of the generational trauma from the Holocaust.

“A good head  
and a good heart are  
always a formidable  
combination.”

- Nelson Mandela

to do with the strong economic ties the country has had to Israel since 1948, according to the U.S. Department of State. It is also important to note that this conflict is “intensifying,” meaning it’s not a new conflict.

Even kids were seen participating in a virtual pro-Palestine rally on Roblox, an online gaming platform, where the players “marched” and held Palestinian flags.

“It is important to note that vocalizing support for the people of Gaza is not equivalent to supporting Hamas or thinking that their recent acts of grotesque violence are justified, Vicaro said. “ Likewise, being critical of Israeli policies is not the same as being antisemitic.”

As a divisive topic, the discussion can be hard to initiate.

“I think it starts with recognizing what philosopher and theologian Martin Buber called ‘Thouness,’ the full recognition of the other’s humanity, which exceeds any label, role, or criteria,” Vicaro shared.

Among various and valuable differences, the people of the world share one thing in common: being human.

Bendapudi emphasized in her message that Penn State’s community is very diverse with 150 nationalities represented across students, faculty and staff. “Now is the time to come together as Penn Staters and bridge our differences by focusing on what unites us all,” she said.

Students, staff and faculty who feel like they need more support in these times are encouraged to reach out to campus resources.

For additional guidance, read Bendapudi’s message to the community at <https://www.psu.edu/news/administration/story/bendapudi-shares-message-penn-state-community-violence-middle-east/>.

**Cover photo: Painted wall at Salem’s Market & Grill on Penn Ave., Pittsburgh. (Photo courtesy of Melanie McGinniss)**



# Ukraine Update: Biden's Secret Aid Before Winter

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Oct. 13 marked 600 days since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ukraine launched long-range Army Tactical Missile System, (ATACM) a conventional surface-to-surface artillery weapon system, missiles at Russia, secretly provided to them by the United States, as Russia's attempts to take over a key Ukrainian city weaken.

On Oct. 17, the Ukrainian military confirmed that their attacks launched on Russian forces had destroyed numerous Russian helicopters, a depot for ammunition and a Russian air defense launcher.

A United States official clarified that President Joe Biden had signed off on supplying the missiles to Ukraine in mid-September. Biden met

with the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on Sept. 21 at the White House to speak with him on the matter.

"Today, I am especially grateful to the United States. Our agreements with President Biden are being implemented. They are being implemented very accurately – the ATACMS have proven themselves," Ukrainian President Zelensky said in his daily address via Telegram.

The missiles provided to Ukraine by the United States were sent to Ukraine at an undisclosed time so that Russian forces could be taken by surprise.

All questions regarding the ATACMS missiles have been redirected by the Pentagon to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Elsewhere, the significantly and strategically important Ukrainian city



**Ukrainian Flag**

*(Retrieved from The GA-Zette Media Library)*

of Avdiivka is holding strong against Russian opposition.

Over 15 attacks on the city from Russian forces were fended off by the Ukrainian military in just 24 hours.

"The enemy hasn't stopped either assaulting or shelling positions" around Avdiivka, said Vitalii Barabash, head of the city administration, on Ukrainian television, when the assaults first began.

With the attacks on the important city of Avdiivka dwindling and the newly acquired aid from the United States in the form of ATACMS missiles, morale has been boosted among Ukrainian forces.

"Thanks to everyone who beat and is beating the enemy. Thanks to everyone who helped the newest types of weapons appear in Ukraine and to people who create

weaponry inside Ukraine. Thanks to those who are joining the military today," said Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Rustem Emerov, via social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

With winter quickly approaching and harsh wintry conditions already inbound, this war continues with no clear end in sight.



**President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy.**  
*(Retrieved from The GA-Zette Media Library)*

## The GA-Zette

**AWARD-WINNING  
NEWSPAPER**

2023 Pennsylvania  
Golden Quill Award for  
Excellence in Journalism:

Yousuf Ibrahim

2023 Pennsylvania  
Golden Quill Award  
Finalists:

Carlin Whalen  
Melanie McGinniss  
Shannon Reid



# Donating Diapers to McKeesport A Successful Supportive Saturday

Cars lined up on Eden Park Boulevard for the drive-up diaper distribution event held at McKeesport Area Senior High School on Oct. 26.

Sponsored by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan, the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and Pittsburgh non-profit, Global Links, prepared boxes full of diapers to support those in the community who are experiencing financial hardships.

At no cost, families and caregivers received a one-month supply of children's diapers per household.



*Event members happily helped out the community, as cars lined up all down Eden Park Boulevard.*

*(Photos courtesy of: Brandon Schuetz, Staff Writer)*

## Breast Cancer Awareness for Men

### 2023 Statistics

- About 2,800 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed
- About 530 men will die from breast cancer
- For men, the lifetime risk of getting breast cancer is about 1 in 833
- Older age (over 50) and overweight/obesity issues increase risk

### Prevention

- Share your family history with your doctor
- Get to and stay at a healthy weight
- Avoid or limit alcohol
- Get about 2-4 hours of moderate intensity per week

**Information retrieved from the American Cancer Society and Center for Disease Control's websites.**



# Opening Doors and Opportunities

## Penn State and McKeesport Re-open Mon Valley LaunchBox

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Director of the Mon Valley LaunchBox, Eric Ewell, finally cut the imaginary ribbon to begin the second opening of the Mon Valley LaunchBox on Oct. 12, at the new location on Fifth Ave. in downtown McKeesport.

[The LaunchBox](#), a collaborative initiative between Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) and the city of McKeesport, was initiated and located before the pandemic but was unfortunately lost to a natural gas explosion in 2022.

What was once a bank is now the farming grounds for entrepreneurs to accelerate their dreams.

The idea is to rebuild McKeesport through businesses and educational opportunities and keep those new businesses in the area, to bring back life and engagement to the city's community.

McKeesport's economy was heavily impacted when the steel industry collapsed in the 1980s.

Pennsylvania Senator, Jim Brewster, Pennsylvania State Representative, Matthew Gergely, Mayor of McKeesport, Michael Cherepko, and Penn State



*(Left to right) Mon Valley LaunchBox director, Eric Ewell, elected officials, entrepreneur, Shalay Williams, and Penn State Greater Allegheny Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, proudly spoke for the re-opening at the new building.*

Interim Chancellor, Dr. Megan Nagel, all shared their gratitude for the second chance to economically redevelop the city and support entrepreneurs.

Nagel made sure that the community knows that PSUGA is not just showing up by name.

"Penn State Greater Allegheny has become an incredible partner to the city of McKeesport," Cherepko said.

Diversity is a top priority for PSUGA. All the entrepreneurs who are working with the LaunchBox are minorities, with 75% being African American women.

These entrepreneurs and the program might have faced a tragic set-

back, but this did not stop them all from flourishing.

"You have to crawl before you walk and walk before you run, and they were starting to run," Cherepko said.

He stated that the program maintained the entrepreneurs by relocating them on campus until the re-opening.

"I don't think it's going to be long until we're all running here at this location," Cherepko said.

Nagel also wants to make sure that students also know that these services exist for them.

"I think there's opportunities for classes to have projects that support the entrepreneurs, that also have our students learn from those entrepreneurial skills."



*Entrance to the new LaunchBox on Fifth Ave., McKeesport.*



*Entrepreneur, Shalay Williams, Lpn, spoke on behalf of the Care Heart CPR training site. (Photos courtesy of: Nick Trunzo)*



# Veterans Breakfast Club

## Uniting and Healing through Stories

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Whether it's courage, hardships or wisdom that they carry, all veterans have a story to share.

"When I was growing up... (veterans) were all around. That's not the case today... so young people can go through their daily lives without really thinking about military service or understanding what it entailed," said Todd DePastino, executive director, and founder of the Veterans Breakfast Club (VBC).



**Director of the Veterans Breakfast Club,  
Todd DePastino**  
(Photo courtesy:  
Melanie McGinniss)

With a Ph.D. in American History from Yale University, DePastino taught at Penn State Beaver and Waynesburg University. After writing a book about WWII in 2008, he found that a lot of veterans were



**U.S. Army Veteran, Harry Van Riper**  
(Photo courtesy:  
Melanie McGinniss)

attending the talks that were held in support of his book. This is where DePastino saw the magic in amplifying the voices of veterans to share their stories.

The VBC was created for veterans to share stories, enjoyed by non-veterans. Veterans are given a chance at breakfast events to be heard and recognized, while non-veterans get the opportunity to ask questions and go home with something they didn't know before.

"Telling my story a number of times healed me... so what he does is very important for vets, number one, and for the population to understand what they went through," United States Army Veteran of the 5th Regiment Harry Van Riper said.

Earning a Purple Heart

and Presidential Unit Citation for his and his battalion's heroic acts in Vietnam, Americans want to thank Riper for his service. Riper and DePastino instead encourage non-veterans to ask vets about their stories.

"We live in an age where everybody is posting and talking about themselves, but not many people take time to listen and to really listen attentively and lovingly... that's the kind of environment we try to create at our events," DePastino said.

In honor of those who served in the military, Nov. 11 is marked for Veterans Day. Non-veterans can show their respect and appreciation in more ways than just saying "thank you."

"I'm in several different organizations,

and all they basically do is go and put flyers or wreaths on gravesites. Do something for the vets while they're alive so they can appreciate it," retired Master Sergeant Harry Blackwell, Sr. said.

Blackwell said that people should especially consider the veterans that have no family or friends who visit them.

According to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, about 7,038 veterans who served WWII are still alive in all of Pennsylvania. It's important to appreciate the time and people who are left.

The VBC holds both in-person and online ZOOM meetings, where all are welcome to be listeners for the veterans.

For event schedules and more information on the VBC, visit the VBC's website.



**DePastino walks around with a microphone and holds it up for veterans to share their stories at Christ Church Grove Farm in Sewickley, PA.**  
(Photo Courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)

# Calls for Change After Deadly Accident

## A Petition for Better Traffic Management

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Disaster struck on Sept. 20, when Serra Catholic High School sophomore student and cheerleader, Samantha Lee Kalkbrenner, was killed in a school van accident involving another car on her way to school early that morning.

The crash, which took place on Richland Avenue, occurred when a Serra Catholic school van carrying four students was attempting to make a left turn off of Third Street onto the busy road. A vehicle heading northbound collided with the van in the middle of its turn causing the van to flip.

Upon impact, Kalkbrenner was ejected from the school van and pinned underneath the vehicle, dying at the scene from her injuries. She was 15 years old.

Witnesses say that the car that impacted the school van was earlier seen racing a Jeep on the same street, just moments before the accident involving the school van took place.

The community is devastated and calling for immediate action to be taken about the intersection where the accident took place.

Jessica McCauley, of McKeesport, was one of the first on the scene. Devastated by what happened, McCauley started a petition on change.org titled ‘Add a traffic light at 5th and Richland to keep our families safe!’

With nearly 5,200 signatures, the community hopes that elected officials will take action.

“This is not the first incident where someone lost their life on this stretch of Richland Avenue,” wrote McCauley in the description of her online petition.

After reaching out for a statement from State Representative Nick Pisciotano (D) 38th District, the elected official for the part of Allegheny County where the accident occurred, McCauley

did not get an immediate response. However, McCauley, organizer of the online petition, eventually received a response from Rep. Pisciotano’s manager.

“Adding the light at 5th will be the best solution to this problem, everyone is in agreement” said Pisciotano’s manager. Additionally, it is their belief that the borough is looking into restricting left turns off of Third and Fourth streets.

As of right now, Allegheny County plans to put “No Left Turn” signs up on Third and Fourth streets at the intersections where the roads merge onto Richland Avenue. A traffic curb divider is also planned to be put up along Richland Avenue to help.

However, this is not enough for many. Calls for a traffic light to be installed are still abundant, but so far the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has not completely budged. Instead, PennDOT looks to study the area more and collect data to see if it is necessary to put up a traffic light at the intersection.

If PennDOT’s research determines that a traffic light should go up, then this can be expected to happen shortly.

The other three students onboard the school van were taken to the hospital in stable condition. The drivers of both the van and the other vehicle were taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Serra Catholic canceled all classes and activities for the remainder of the accident week.

“She was the beating heart of her class,” said Serra Catholic Principal, Robert Childs, at a candlelit prayer service in Kalkbrenner’s memory, held the following day, Sept. 21, in which hundreds of people from the community attended.



**Serra Catholic High School expressed its grief and love for Samantha Lee Kalkbrenner.**  
(Photo courtesy: Brandon Schuetz)



# Congratulations

## Christopher Robinson Pittsburgh's 40 Under 40



“All that I do is to be able to help students — that has always been at the forefront of my mind — teach, educate and mentor students as well.”

- Christopher Robinson  
in Pittsburgh Magazine's article.

Pittsburgh Magazine and Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) are holding their 25th anniversary for this year's "40 under 40" winners, which includes Penn State Greater Allegheny's (PSUGA) faculty member, Dr. Christopher Robinson.

Robinson, assistant professor and director of PSUGA's social work program, and the other 39 winners were recognized in a Pittsburgh Magazine article for their work in making the Pittsburgh region a better place.

Robinson, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, earned his bachelor's degree in social work at Jackson State University, a master's degree from University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in

education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

On top of being the founder of PSUGA's social work program, Robinson is the co-founder of the Pittsburgh Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Collaborative that works to engage the community and promote the importance of academic success and higher education at HBCU's.

The awards ceremony will be at the Events Center at Rivers Casino on Nov. 10 from 6 - 9:30 p.m..

Tickets for the event can be purchased at <https://www.showelix.com/event/40under40awards>.

*Photo courtesy:*

*Becky Thurner Braddock/Pittsburgh Magazine*

### 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 [rum31@psu.edu](mailto:rum31@psu.edu)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of **The GA-ZETTE** welcome letters to the editor by writing to [rum31@psu.edu](mailto: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.

## CAMPUS UPDATE:

### Great Student Engagement, Schedule Changes to Come

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The Penn State Day Open House, held on Oct. 7, was a good turnout for Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA).

“That was a significant improvement in terms of numbers from last year... it’s a really good energy,” Interim Chancellor Megan Nagel said.

Nagel stated that this fall semester has also been really good in terms of engagement.

“For the first time in several years students have been coming to me with new ideas,” Nagel said.

To parallel the efforts of the “CREATE” career readiness team, the campus will be holding a showcase of internships

that students have been doing this fall to give other students examples of their possibilities.

“I think that’s probably the best way to convince other students...your fellow peers are out and having these experiences, and they survived,” Nagel joked.

Student engagement is a good example of how smaller branch campuses can become a close-knit and supportive community.

PSUGA students are also engaging in more student government and student life related topics.

Nagel shared that an announcement for change occurred at the faculty level when the campus was scheduling courses. When translated to students, concerns about

Common Hour (noon - 1 p.m.) arose.

The discussion was brought up to Faculty Senate to determine the benefits and functionality of the change.

At other Penn State campuses, the Monday, Wednesday, Friday Common Hour model is the norm.

“What we’re moving towards is a model where we have three common hours a week...fully preserved,” Nagel said.

For PSUGA, students and professors have experienced conflicts with attendance for classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

With the focus this year being on student success, the first-year seminar course needed to be put in Thursday’s Common Hour slot to ensure

students can attend “really critical events like majors and minors fair, or the next community engagement fair,” Nagel said.

She mentioned that PSUGA’s Student Government Association’s (SGA) meetings have traditionally been held on Tuesday’s Common Hour. PSUGA students are also accustomed to the five days of Common Hour, making this something students are thinking about, as well.

At press time, Nagel is one of three finalist candidates in the running to be named permanent chancellor and chief academic officer for the Greater Allegheny campus.

### Campus Safety Reminders from Penn State University Police

- **Gauging the social scene:** Are people behaving responsibly, or does the situation seem reckless and potentially dangerous?
- **Keep the campus safe:** See that buildings, walkways and parking lots are adequately secured, lit and patrolled. Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Police offer to escort students to their cars if they don’t feel safe.

**University Police and Public Safety**  
Frable, 108  
Non-emergency calls: (412) 675-9130  
**EMERGENCIES CALL 911**



# UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

Sunday Nov. 12th

# FALL FESTIVAL

Benefiting THON™  
@ Student Community center

CRAFTS, GAMES, FOOD, AND SO MUCH MORE!

Penn State Greater Allegheny  
4000 University Drive,  
McKeesport PA 15132

1:00-4:00 PM

**PennState**  
Greater Allegheny

You are invited to join us for

## MULTICULTURAL DAY

Saturday, November 4, 2023  
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Student Community Center

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Sponsored by Penn State Greater Allegheny's Admissions Office and Multicultural Outreach Committee.

All are welcome to join us for an event dedicated to celebrating diversity and embracing differences. Have your high school transcript reviewed and we may be able to give you an admissions decision on the spot!

To learn more about how to register for this event

**Check your PSU email!**

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY EMBRACE DIFFERENCES

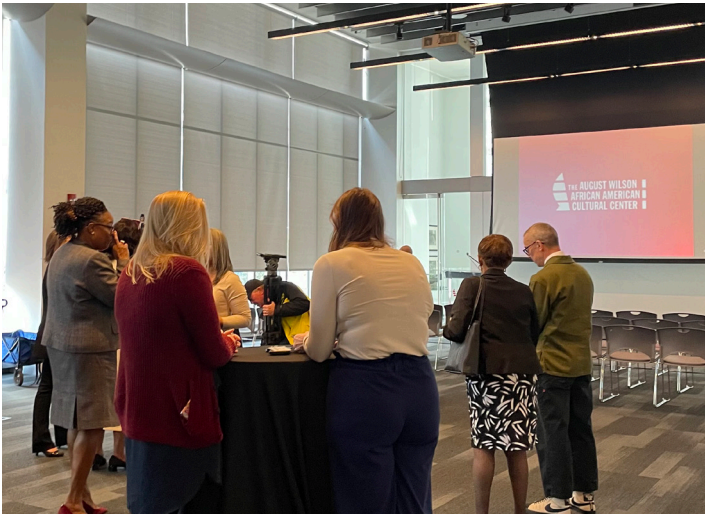
# I BELONG

PENN STATE GREATER ALLEGHENY



# Carrying August Wilson's Legacy

## August Wilson African American Cultural Center



Press members await the announcement of upcoming plans and events.

(Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)

### Melanie McGinniss

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Join the year full of cultural appreciation at Pittsburgh's August Wilson African American Cultural Center (AWAACC).

The AWAACC hosted a press conference on Sept. 27 to announce the Center's 2023/2024 event schedule.

President and CEO, Janis Burley, of the AWAACC, announced the season's list of educational and fun-filled events, Sep.- July, to celebrate African American arts and culture.

As a non-profit, many of the events offered are family-friendly and free.

The AWAACC is located in the city's cultural district and works to carry on the legacy of Pulitzer Prize-winning

playwright, August Wilson.

Born in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Wilson is best known for his series of ten plays that narrate the African American experience from the decades of 1904 to 1997.

Wilson said once that he wanted to capture the most important issues for Black Americans in each decade, so that his plays would stand as a record of the history.

These nine plays, set in the Hill District and referred to as "The Pittsburgh Cycle," made their way to Broadway.

Wilson was originally a poet and has published his work in journals like "Black World" and "Black Lines."

In 1968, he became the co-founder and director of Black Horizon Theater in Pittsburgh.



The August Wilson African American Culture Center on Liberty Avenue.

(Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)

The AWAAC is the second largest Black multi-disciplinary performing arts center in the United States and

has worked to continue Wilson's vision and hard work since 2006.

## Upcoming Events

For an event list and tickets, visit [awaacc.org/events/](http://awaacc.org/events/)



(Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)



# Celebrating Chinese Culture

## 2023 Chinese Cultural Festival

The Pittsburgh Chinese Cultural Center held its 8th annual festival at Mellon Park on Sept. 16 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., celebrating with music, martial arts performances and cultural cuisine.

The event gave the Pittsburgh community another opportunity to appreciate and learn more about the existing and growing Asian community of the city.



**匹兹堡中华文化中心**  
Pittsburgh Chinese Cultural center  
*The Sound of Snow Falling dance was performed by the Pittsburgh East Chinese Dance Fellowship to start part two of the show. (Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)*



**Vendors and the Pittsburgh community gathered on the sunny Saturday at Mellon Park. (Photo courtesy: Melanie McGinniss)**

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Send to:

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# A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie

## Peterson Events Center Packed with Fans

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On Oct. 7, top hip-hop artist, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, left fans craving more with an unforgettable concert at the Peterson Events Center. His excellent stage presence, crowd control, and most importantly, strong tracklist, made for a great performance.

The venue was packed to the brim, with people waiting in line for up to two hours before doors opened at 7 p.m. Even fans who got there an hour early didn't get inside until 8 p.m. because the line was so long.

The rapper seamlessly went through a 28-track setlist, treating fans to many hit songs such as "Swervin" and "Jungle,"



*Fans filled the Peterson Events Center for hip-hop artist, A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie. (Photo courtesy: Matt Bisceglia, RPTM major at PSUGA)*

until he eventually ended with his most popular song, "Drowning."

You could certainly feel the energy in the room, as fans were rapping along to every word.

Throughout the concert, Boogie's connection with his fans was evident. He took the time to engage with the audience, sharing personal stories and messages of inspiration. His genuine interactions with the crowd added a heartfelt touch to the high-octane performance. This was especially apparent when he covered songs by two other famous late rappers, Pop Smoke and PnB Rock.

While the set was noticeably shorter than most rock or country concerts, the two-hour set felt perfectly timed, giving the audience everything they needed and leaving them exhausted.

Boogie wasn't the only good thing about that night's show. Fellow New York artist, Toosii, had a fantastic performance.

Toosii, while not as popular as Boogie, did a great job hyping up the audience before the main event. Toosii's crowd interaction was just as good, if not better, than the main event. He made sure the audience didn't get bored.

Toosii was seen singing in the crowd and wandering almost the whole lower section of the venue. At one point he even brought people on stage with him to perform his most popular song, "Favorite Song," even performing it more than once.



*Artist A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie (Photo courtesy: JD Sports, Creative Commons Library)*



# Steelers Update

## Looking Ahead after an Unfortunate Outcome



*Pittsburgh Steelers Linebacker, T.J. Watt, amid the Jacksonville players during a regular season game on Oct. 29  
(Photo courtesy: Karl Roser/Pittsburgh Steelers)*

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The Pittsburgh Steelers entered this week with a big win on the road against the Los Angeles Rams and looked to bring that back home to Acrisure Stadium as they hosted the Jacksonville Jaguars.

But that was not the case. The Steelers lost 20 – 10 to the Jaguars. Pittsburgh forced three turnovers, but only capitalized with three points which is a big factor in their Week 8 loss.

A very slow first quarter opened with the Jaguars scoring with a quick field goal. Jags Kicker, Brandon McManus, nailed his 50-yard attempt to lead 3 – 0.

On their very next drive, McManus got another attempt. This time, it was a 51-yard attempt which he completed with ease.

The Steelers defense did a good job holding their offense to just a couple field goals because it could have easily been the start of a blowout.

About halfway through the second quarter, Jags Quarterback, Trevor Lawrence, was intercepted in the endzone by Steelers Safety, Damontae Kazee, which prevented the Jags from increasing their lead.

And after four three-and-out drives, the offense was finally able to put something together. Their 12-play drive was stalled in the redzone and they were forced to take a chip-

shot field goal to reduce their deficit, 6 – 3. But the Jaguars answered right back. McManus kicked his third field goal of the game to lead by six again at half.

With only 17 seconds left in the quarter, Steelers Quarterback, Kenny Pickett, exited the game with a rib injury and the severity has yet to be released. Mitch Trubisky played in his place for the remainder of the game.

The start back from the half was slow until Lawrence found Running Back, Travis Etienne, deep for a 56-yard touchdown pass. They followed that up with a successful 2-point conversion to make it a two-score game, 17 – 3. Trubisky and the Steelers offense answered with a

touchdown of their own. He found Wide Receiver, George Pickens, for a 22-yard passing touchdown.

However, that wasn't enough for them to take the lead. Trubisky threw an interception to Safety, Andrew Wingard, and McManus was able to nail his fourth field goal, pulling ahead, 20 – 10. The Jags ended the game with a fourth down stop and another interception, which ran out the final seconds of the game.

“As unfortunate as the outcome of this game is, it is final,” Steelers Head Coach, Mike Tomlin, said in a post-game press conference. “We better turn our attention towards the next opportunity on the short week and those are our intentions.”

# 2023-2024 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

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## Men's Basketball

Wed., Nov. 1 - vs. Penn Highlands  
 Wed., Nov. 8 - vs. Bryant and Stratton (Rochester)  
 Sat., Nov. 11 - at Saint Thomas University  
 Sun., Nov. 12 - at Florida Memorial University  
 Fri., Nov. 17 - vs. Penn State Mont Alto  
 Sat., Nov. 18 - vs. Penn State York  
 Tues., Nov. 28 - at Penn State Fayette  
 Fri., Dec. 1 - at Penn State Brandywine  
 Sat., Dec. 2 - at Penn State Lehigh Valley  
 Mon., Dec. 4 - at Westminster  
 Wed., Dec. 6 - at Community College of Allegheny County  
 Fri., Dec. 8 - vs. Penn State Hazleton  
 Sat., Dec. 9 - vs. Penn State Schuylkill  
 Sat., Dec. 16 - vs. Johnson & Wales (NC)  
 Mon., Dec. 18 - at Drexel University

January-February Schedule: <https://www.athleticsga.com/sports/mbkb/2023-24/schedule>

## Women's Basketball

Thur., Nov. 2 - vs. Point Park  
 Sat., Nov. 11 - at Northwestern Ohio  
 Fri., Nov. 17 - vs. Penn State Mont Alto  
 Sat., Nov. 18 - vs. Penn State York  
 Sat., Nov. 28 - at Penn State Fayette  
 Fri., Dec. 1 - at Penn State Brandywine  
 Sat., Dec. 2 - vs. Penn State Lehigh Valley  
 Wed., Dec. 6 - at Community College of Allegheny County  
 Fri., Dec. 8 - vs. Penn State Hazleton  
 Sat., Dec. 9 - vs. Penn State Schuylkill  
 Fri., Jan. 12 - at Penn State Scranton  
 Sat., Jan. 13 - at Penn State Wilkes-Barre  
 Tues., Jan. 16 - at Penn State Du Bois  
 Sat., Jan. 20 - at Kent St.-Tuscarawas  
 Tues., Jan. 23 - at Penn State New Kensington  
 Sat., Jan. 27 - at Penn State Shenango  
 Tues., Jan. 30 - vs. Penn State Beaver

February Schedule: <https://www.athleticsga.com/sports/wbkb/2023-24/schedule>