

THE NITTANY PRIDE

Vol. XII No. 4

February 27, 2016



A Philanthropic Home Run

THON: Where Cancer Gets Served

PSNK Remembers Dr. Michael McGinnis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THON: Where Cancer Gets Served	2
A Philanthropic Home Run	4
PSNK Remembers Dr. Michael McGinnis	6
Ridener’s Tale.....	8
PSNK Student Life Coordinator Accepts New Job Position.....	11
Safety Officer Secures and Protects PSNK.....	13
Greensburg, PA Central In Fight Against Human Trafficking.....	15
Wrestling with Fate.....	17

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Nico Regoli

Managing and Online Editor: Isabella Bordonaro

Copy Editor: Monica Fiore

Copy Editor: Nathan Traini

Staff Writer & Reporter: Scott Sinclair

Staff Writer & Reporter: Sam Elliot

Staff Writer & Reporter: Aleigha DiDonato

Contributing Writer: Chris Lucidi

Contributing Writer: Millie Brassier

Faculty Advisor: Abhinav Aima

The content of this publication resides solely with the authors and not with the Pennsylvania State University.

The Nittany Pride is funded by the Student Activity Fee at Penn State New Kensington.

CAMPUS LIFE

THON™ : Where Cancer Gets Served

By Sam Elliott

Staff Writer & Reporter

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - On February 17-19, 2017, the Bryce Jordan Center held host to the yearly anticipated event of THON; an event dedicated to the eradicating of childhood cancer and dancing for a cure.

Cancer, according to the *National Cancer Institute*, is “a term for diseases in which abnormal cells divide without control and can invade nearby tissues.” It can affect everyone. Roughly 15,780 children in the U.S. are affected each year, between their birth and age 19. As a result, about 1,960 of those diagnosed children will die. It is sad, but that is the reality. That is why people donate to THON - the largest student run philanthropy, dedicated to the fight against cancer.

The students of Penn State who participate in this organization happily and without hesitation give their time to go out and collect donations through “canning,” soliciting businesses for contributions, and spreading the word of THON and all the good things it represents. THON, however, wouldn’t be possible without Four Diamonds.

What is Four Diamonds? It is a foundation created by Charles and Irma Millard in honor of their son, Christopher, who was diagnosed with cancer at age 11. Before he died, he wrote a story about a knight who went in search of four diamonds. These diamonds were what the knight thought to be the key to being released from the clutches of an evil sorceress. The four diamonds were courage, wisdom, honesty, and strength.....these were also what Christopher believed to be the cure to defeat cancer.

That is where the name came from. Their foundation covers 100 percent of the child’s cancer-related medical expenses that are not covered by insurance, as well as providing support to the families affected. Penn State is all about giving back, and the Four Diamonds are a perfect symbol of that representation.

Now another huge aspect of THON is the 46 hour dance for a cure marathon, with no sitting or sleeping allowed. All the student dancers who participate are hand selected by members of the Penn State faculty, who conduct interviews to identify students that represent the proper ideals of a Penn Stater. The students must be active members of the THON organization and answer a series of questions in relation to why they THON. The responses to these questions are the most important part in being selected as a dancer.



From left to right: PSNK student Taylor McHenry, dancer Shannon Josefoski, Graduate Assistant John Spigelmyer, dancer Chad Navarro, and student Sam Elliot on the THON dance floor. (Photo taken by Therese Bonk.)

CAMPUS LIFE

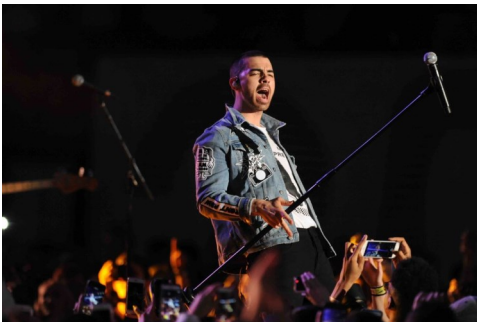
It is an honor and a privilege to be selected as a dancer. Parents and their cancer-stricken children are present for the marathon, and as a dancer, one must act accordingly. Dancers have the responsibility of making that child forget their troubles for brief time. Make them feel like a normal kid again. Make them laugh, make them smile, make them feel lifted by the emotional support of the whole community, for they are never alone. There is strength in numbers, encouragement by the numbers, wisdom from their elders, and the honest belief that that child can beat cancer.

This year, the PSNK faculty selected Shannon Josefoski and Chad Navarro as the dancers to hold the honor of



Below photo of inside the BJC during THON 2017. (Photo taken by Sam Elliott)

representing our campus at THON 2017. Campuses select individuals they believe to be worthy of that representation and are shipped up to University Park for the event.



Top photo of Joe Jonas and his band DNCE performing and the bottom of the THON 2017's total earnings.

(Photos attained via Google images.)

When Navarro was asked what THON meant to him, he humbly replied, "Being able to help people." He also said that he was looking forward to "meeting some pretty cool people, seeing people from other campuses, being able to stand for 46 hours straight, all the sports teams at the pep rally (they do stunts with music), hanging out with my morale (Kyra Harkins), and doing stuff with our dancer, Shannon." Navarro in his own words, is "pretty pumped up" for THON!

Last year, Ben Lesko was chosen to be our male dancer at THON. To him, the whole THON experience had a "huge impact [that] changed [his] life." He said it makes you, "count your blessings," and the "46 hours is nothing compared to what these kids go through." To Lesko, THON means sacrifice, and by sacrifice he means, "giving time from yourself to help others."



Lesko also described how he felt through the 46 duration, and made it seem like a highly emotionally thrilling rollercoaster ride. He said that it was amazing and filled with energetic excitement at the beginning. "Halfway through you're in awe" to even be a participant, but the

truly emotional feelings come near the end when the names of those who lost the fight are presented to everybody, along with those who are still currently fighting. That sadness associated with the loss isn't there for long because the THON family then reenergizes everybody with hope for the future.

CAMPUS LIFE

A Philanthropic Home Run

By: *Isabella Bordonaro*

Managing and Online Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Penn State New Kensington's new official Varsity Baseball Team spent their winter break giving back to those in need in their local community.

Penn State New Kensington has had a club baseball team for many years, but finally during the 2016-17 academic year, they have become a Varsity sport. This means that the team will no longer be playing the game just for the fun of it, but now will have the chance to win the PSUAC title.

Jim Perry, the head coach of the team, has them trained and ready to start winning. He has been part of PSNK baseball for 2 years, and started out as a volunteer coach. He now has made the team a Varsity sport, and brought in 16 new recruits from the Alle-Kiski area.

Part of his coaching strategy though, involved the team taking time during their winter break to give back to the community in a monumental way.

According to Perry, the team working with the Salvation Army in New Kensington, and "took 5,000 gifts, wrapped them, put them in categories, and then filled out wish lists for the different families," he said. "We also bagged the gifts, and prepared them for a toy drive."

Not only did the team do this for needy children in the area, they took time to care for the elderly as well.

"We went to Logan Place, an assisted living center in New Kensington, and we bought them gifts and candy, and sang some Christmas Carols," Perry stated. "We visited each and every tenant."

Jake Klukaszewski, a junior Secondary Education major at PSNK is one of the Captains for team. He is primarily a catcher and outfielder. Klukaszewski is ready to help lead the team into their first official season "Even though it's our first year, I expect us to compete for the PSUAC title. We have the team to do it."



Jake Klukaszewski practicing throwing during practice. (Photo taken by Isabella Bordonaro)

CAMPUS LIFE

Klukazewski was proud to volunteer with his team. When asked if he felt it was important for the team to give back, he stated, “Absolutely! I think our major goal is to not only be better players on the field, but also to be better men off of it in our communities.”

Fellow Captain Ben Lesko, a senior IST major, had a similar response, “It shows the team mentality that we not only all have for each other, but towards everyone around us.”

Lesko is one of the team member who has been with it since the team was a club in Spring of 2014. He plays as an outfielder and first baseman. He stated that, “organization and team spirit has changed so much [now that they are Varsity sport]. Now, the boys want to be at practice, we joke with each other and build that team chemistry.”

Ryan Binkley, the third Captain, also liked being part of the team’s philanthropic duties. Binkley is a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering. He plays as an outfielder and first baseman.

“I believe it’s very important to give back to the community because they are the ones who support us so it means a lot for us to give them something in return,” Binkley said. “It makes you feel good as a person knowing you helped someone out.”

The season will officially start when the team travels down to Vero Beach, Florida during the week of March 5th where they will be playing against Hagerstown Community College.

“We are leaving March 5th for Vero Beach to play 6 games down there,” stated Perry. “When we get back the season pretty much starts. We’ll probably play 5 exhibition games and the following weekend we will start a 3 game series with Greater Allegheny.”

The team is excited and ready to start playing, and all share great expectations for the season.

“I believe our team will be very successful this upcoming season,” said Binkley. “We have a lot of hard workers on the team and we bond very well. All of our hard work will pay off.”

PSNK baseball is ready to give our school a winning team, and hit those home runs into the community’s heart!



PSNK Varsity Team gathering with Coach Perry for a pep talk at practice.

(Photo taken by Isabella Bordonaro)

CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State New Kensington Remembers Dr. Michael McGinnis

*By: Monica Fiore
Copy Editor*



Business professor, Dr. Mike McGinnis
(Courtesy of Penn State New Kensington's Website)

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - January 21 was a heartbreaking day for the Penn State community, his local community members, and family members who gathered in Penn State's Forum Theatre to commemorate the life of not only a fellow colleague and faculty member, but a family member and a friend.

Penn State New Kensington's beloved Business professor, Dr. Mike McGinnis, passed away suddenly on December 26 in Florida.

Mourning staff and faculty members remembered who Dr. McGinnis was and how he impacted their lives.

"Dr. McGinnis was one of the first people I met as a new faculty member here at Penn State New Kensington," said Dr. Megan Bardolph, Assistant Professor of English. "He always offered me a lot of advice when it comes to things like teaching and doing my research and being a new faculty member at an unfamiliar institution, which I really appreciated him for."

"He was a character," said McGinnis' daughter, Michelle. "He was an upbeat, positive person. He was always very supportive. He always encouraged me to make my own decisions. He also taught me not to be afraid of trying something new. He was a good genuine man."

Dr. Kevin Snider, the Chancellor of Penn State New Kensington, reminisced on Dr. McGinnis' character.

"Mike had the ability to connect with anybody and everybody and he really cared about students," said Snider. "He was also a very accomplished scholar in his field. He brought a lot of prestige to the campus through that."

Dr. McGinnis' memorial contained a slideshow of pictures of him and his family, as well as a display of hundreds of photographs. McGinnis, who worked at the campus for fifteen years, was a very respected faculty member who had a dire passion for teaching.

"Based on the conversations we had about teaching, it's clear to me that he really wanted to help make a difference in students' lives," said Bardolph.

"Sitting out, looking over the people who came to his memorial service, he had everyone from the ladies who work the cafe, to colleagues, to administrators," said Snider. "I think he liked the people and he liked connecting with them and feeling a part of something. He liked being able to help students."

CAMPUS LIFE

Giorgianna Simco, a Business major, reflected on Dr. McGinnis' impact on her.

"He was a kind man, which I think radiated off him into the Penn State Community," said Simco. "I think he also brought us his knowledge and made it a point to let the students know how important it is to stay on top of school work to be successful."

Not only did McGinnis have an impact on staff, faculty, and students, but he also made an impression on the AVI food staff.

"I really miss seeing him every day," said Margaret Karp, a barista at "The Junction." "Even though he knew my name is Margaret, a lot of the time when he said, 'Good Morning', he would call me 'Malinda.' Sometimes I would say 'Good Morning' back and reply, 'But it's still Margaret', and we would laugh and he would correct himself. Most times, I would just answer to it because I knew he really did know who I was."

Dr. McGinnis' impression on the Penn State Community was so great that nothing could ever replace him. His presence will always remain.

"Mike was a contributing family member," Snider said. "He made this a nice place to be and I think that's something that's going to continue beyond his physical presence here."

"I think it's not so much necessarily what he'll leave here so much as what will be absent," said Bardolph. "He was such a presence on this campus. Everyone knew who he was and I think things are going to be different now that he's not here anymore. He had this sort of presence that I don't think is going to be replaced anytime. Maybe that's part of the legacy and how people will remember him."

McGinnis' presence will be severely missed, for he touched a lot of hearts. His sense of humor and ability to connect with people will always be remembered at Penn State New Kensington.

"If you judge a man by what he leaves behind, then Mike was a giant," Snider said. "He had neighbors here, he had people from academic, he had his family that came up from Florida. It's clear he had a special place in everybody's heart. It just seems that he left behind a lot of memories and good lessons for people."



CAMPUS LIFE

Ridener's Tale

By: Nathan Traini
Copy Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Fred Ridener is an Associate Professor of science at Penn State New Kensington who teaches under the radar as a minor scientific historical figure, concerned with educational funding.

Ridener is well respected by his students in Physics 211. "I have been enjoying Ridener's class, mainly because the way he teaches the class is engaging and not too hard to understand," said John Rottschafer, a student in 211. "He is an overall nice guy and definitely knows his physics."

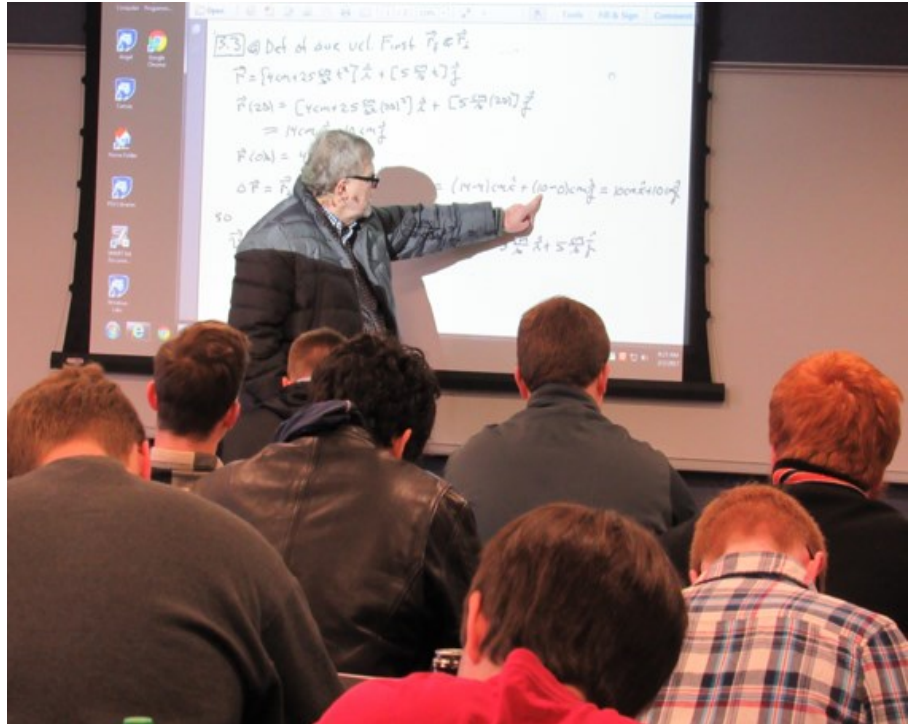
"I like physics 211 because it provides a real life application for math," said William White, another student in 211. "As for Ridener, he knows the material very well and keeps the class entertaining."

Ridener's students have an appreciation of their teacher but if they sat down with him to talk about his past, they would be surprised to find that he is somewhat of a historical figure that's educating them in the relatively small branch campus of Penn State New Kensington.

While attending New Mexico State, Ridener was part of a co-op program that allowed students to work at the Goddard Space Flight Center at NASA for two semesters and go to school for two semesters. There were multiple satellite systems at NASA but Ridener worked with Nelson Ness who, along with the system of satellites, were trying to accurately record the shape of the Earth's magnetic field.

Ridener remembers Ness as, "a very hot person, he had a short fuse." A scientist, Ridener thought, was a person that was measured and restrained, "and spoke with an English accent." Instead Ness was a hot headed "volatile" person very protective of his research.

Ridener explained the whole process, he would record the data that came from the satellites and use that data to punch the programming cards that were fed into the computer by the programmer. Back in the early to mid 60's, when Ridener was at NASA, the computer he ran the data through possessed half of all the world's computing power.



Ridener teaching his Physics 211 class.
(Photo taken by Nathan Traini)

CAMPUS LIFE

They expected to find the shape of the magnetic field to be completely symmetrical. Instead, after running off what the computer calculated, the magnetic field looked like a comet, “with the field being compressed in the front, facing the sun, and a tail opposite the sun,” Ridener said.

The reason for the tear drop shaped field, Ridener said, was “hydrogen protons, charged particles from the sun, which reach all the way to the Kypser Belt, would interact with the magnetic field making the wind tunnel shape.” The Kypser Belt is a disk of asteroids beyond Neptune nearly 50 times the distance between the Earth and the Sun.

Ridener was the first person to identify and see the true shape of the magnetic field. When he called his superior Ness over to see the results, Ness was visibly distraught.

Ridener recalled Ness’s “ears turned red” and Ness started to accuse Ridener of, “making up my own data points.” Ridener was innocent, but the unexpected shape of the field seemed to have irritated Ness because he, “ripped the paper off the plotter.” The Earth’s magnetic field’s tail was later named Ness’s tail, because he was the lead scientist.

After Ness realized Ridener was correct, “I could do no wrong” said Ridener.

Ness would say “we need this data by today” and Ridener would say “it’s going to take a few hours for us to compile the data and then run it through the computer.” The lead programmer was an African American man, “which was unusual in those days because African Americans were nearly shut out of the educational system.” The programmer said, as Ridener recounts, “Just bring the data to me, whatever you need, and leave Ness out of it.”

After he graduated from New Mexico state with his dual degrees in mathematics and physics, Ridener was excited by theoretical physics, and went to Iowa state to get his Ph.D.

After he finished his Ph.D he went and worked for Westinghouse, programming the computer that helped make steel.

“University jobs have lower pay but at least you know you have a job and you can research whatever you want,” said Ridener, while comparing the differences between a university job and working in the private sector as a physicist. “Yes, you may get big bucks but the company could say, we don’t need your research, and lay off your whole team,” he said.

Ridener went on to explain that he, “never paid a penny for school” and even if he had to pay to go to New Mexico State, “tuition was \$150 a semester.” \$150 in the early 60s, given inflation roughly equals \$1,200 in 2016 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is still much less than the roughly \$7,000 students pay to go to Penn State branch campuses.

Back when Ridener was going into college, “we were channeled into special class, we were offered special scholarships.” That system of advancing people in math and science was put in place in response to the Soviets.

CAMPUS LIFE


The system that allowed Ridener to go to school tuition free doesn't exist anymore. Scientists would prefer to fund science and math to just further our understanding instead of funding it as a scientific arms race.

That is the beef scientists like Ridener have with how education is handled because we aren't funding education to simply educate people, but we do it only when we face a threat that requires a scientific and technical response.

The United States was supposed to have a particle accelerator, like the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland, but 20 times more powerful. The U.S. and the scientific communities had the land laid out but congress couldn't understand the justification for the funding.

Ridener recalled what U.S. Congressman William Proxmire, a Democratic Senator from Wisconsin, said to scientists when they proposed the U.S.'s version of the particle accelerator to discover the Higgs Boson particle, "So, if you don't find it this generation, it'll still be there next generation."

"What seems like useless science today, science that is an order of magnitude out of our engineering, eventually becomes the revolutionary technology," said Ridener.



Tell us what YOU think of the Nittany
Pride! Email us at
nittanypridenews@gmail.com



CAMPUS LIFE

Penn State New Kensington's Student Life Coordinator Accepts New Job Position

By: *Monica Fiore*
Copy Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Bittersweet would not begin to describe January 18 for Lauren Blum and the Penn State Community, as staff, faculty, and students bid farewell to the campus's former Student Life coordinator. Blum accepted a new position at Point Park University, located in Pittsburgh.

Blum, who served as the Graduate Assistant in the Student Affairs office from August 2010-August 2011, became Student Life Coordinator in September 2011 when the position became available. During her remaining five and a half years at the campus, Blum became the Assistant Director of Student Affairs.

Though Blum is excited about her job at Point Park University, she said she will miss the time she spent working at Penn State New Kensington.

"It was very hard to leave PSNK," stated Blum. "The memories and friendships I made at PSNK will be lifelong."

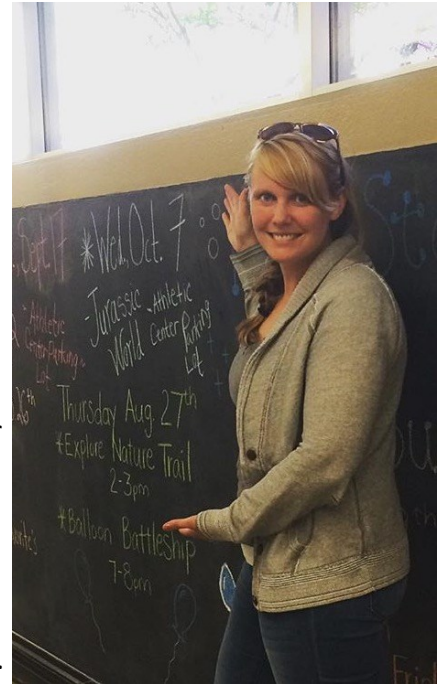
It may have been hard for Blum to leave the campus, but this new chapter in her life is one that Blum knew would benefit her in the long run.

"Just like with every big decision in life, you have to really think about what you want and need to be happy and take that next step," Blum said. "This position is a great next step for me. It is closer to home, less hours, and more money. My husband and I are looking to start a family and all of these were pros in the decision making."

As it was hard for Blum to leave her first job, it was hard for staff, faculty, and students to see her go as well.

"Of course we were sad to see Lauren go," stated Penn State New Kensington senior and SGA President Shannon Josefoski. "She was a huge part of this campus and big part in my life."

"Lauren was a major part of why I chose to get involved as a student leader early in my college career," senior Billy Carney stated. "She was just the kind of person that pushed students to be a part of things. Not just that, she cared about everyone, as well. I, like many other students, was comfortable just talking to her about daily stuff."



Penn State's former Student Life Coordinator, Lauren Blum (Courtesy of PSNK Admissions' Instagram)

CAMPUS LIFE

Theresa Bonk, Director of Student Affairs, revealed what it was like to see Blum leave.

“It’s always difficult to see a staff member leave the campus, especially Lauren, who was so well liked and had made such a positive impact,” Bonk stated. “Lauren was an integral part of the Student Affairs team. She had a great sense of camaraderie, always ready to take responsibilities that were in addition to her regular job duties. She was a leader on campus and she was a good friend.”

Because Blum was the Student Life Coordinator, her departure has left students wondering whether the events planned prior to her departure will still take place.

“Every activity that we have planned is going to happen,” Josefoski reassured. “They are going to be run by other staff members within the Student Affairs department, myself, the SGA, and the work-studies in Student Life.”

“We are fortunate to have an amazing Student Affairs staff and others on campus who have pitched in and taken on various events to ensure that all programs continue as scheduled,” said Bonk. “Our Student Government Association and other student leaders have also stepped forward to help.”

One of the more crucial events that will still take place is the Spring Break trip to Puerto Rico.

“We are very pleased that Adam Robinson and Melba Amador have agreed to co-lead the Alternative Spring Break service trip to Puerto Rico in March,” said Bonk.

The Alternative Spring Break trip, taking place March 3-11, gives students a chance to participate in a “week long service learning experience while being fully immersed in the Puerto Rican culture,” according to the Student Life poster advertisement.

“I believe that we have covered much of the activities and will strive to meet our students needs, but it’s very critical that we fill this position as soon as possible,” Bonk stated.

Even though it has been a short time since Blum left the campus, her absence is clearly evident.

“It is going to take some time to get used to her not being here,” said Josefoski.

Blum’s new position will be “Assistant Director of Event and Conference Services” at Point Park University.

Check out our Facebook Page!
www.facebook.com/nittany.pride.1

CAMPUS LIFE

Safety Officer Secures and Guards PSNK

*By: Millie Brassler
Contributing Writer*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. – Penn State New Kensington, one of the many branch campuses of Penn State University, is not only a small campus for students to learn and become well acquainted with one another, but, according to many, it is also a safe campus.

Penn State New Kensington's Chief of Police and Public Safety Manager at the New Kensington and Fayette Campuses, Wesley Sheets, works hard to ensure the campus has an excellent safety record. Throughout his time as Public Safety Manager, Sheets has become rather knowledgeable on the initiatives that make up campus safety.

Sheets has worked for over one year at the Penn State New Kensington campus, where he has had the experience of maintaining campus security. He explained that throughout his role in the Department of Public Safety, he is committed to community service and the police. His work in the department helps him to maintain a positive association for a better overall experience for students, staff, and visitors.

The University Police and Public Safety departments are responsible for the protection and service of Penn State students, teachers, and staff. They are additionally responsible for the protection and maintenance of property as well as the application of Commonwealth laws and regulations of the University.

These departments and those who carry out the duties to maintain safety prove to be vital as situations of danger and violence become more frequent in public institutions in today's society. The conflict that occurred recently at Ohio State University, where a student attacked several other students with a knife, demonstrates the need for public safety officials to be prepared and knowledgeable regarding how to manage such situations.

The Washington Post reported, "An Ohio State student drove into a crowd outside a classroom building Monday morning, then got out and slashed people with a butcher knife, sending 11 people to the hospital in what authorities said was a planned assault."

Sheets explained his perspective regarding the campus public safety department. "We are here to proactively protect and serve our community in every way possible," said Sheets.

According to Sheets, his other campus duties and responsibilities include updating and maintaining the campus emergency plans and procedures. This includes maintaining all campus crime and safety information as mandated by state and federal regulations.

"The department is responsible for providing services to the campus community including vehicle assistance, crime prevention programs and presentations, safety escorts and various other duties," explained Sheets.

CAMPUS LIFE

Sheets said that the first objective and procedure in place in case of an emergency is to inform PSU alert immediately. This system is used to alert members of Penn State campus communities in emergencies, such as campus closures and other urgent information.

“Using this portal is a quick way to communicate information to our entire community,” said Sheets. Sheets explained that the Penn State New Kensington faculty and staff are provided with an emergency response handbook which outlines expectations for a variety of emergencies or incidents. This booklet is located in all classrooms throughout the campus. “The campus also has other procedures like ‘BEEPS’ which are our Emergency Building Evacuation Plans, which have provided evacuation procedures for the entire campus,” said Sheets. “These plans have been developed through our office in conjunction with the Environmental Health and Safety Office at University Park. It has provided evacuation maps, which have been placed throughout campus, includes procedures to evacuate campus, and also identifies specific staff members throughout the campus who are responsible for assisting the evacuation process.”

Sheets also meets regularly with members of Penn State’s Emergency Management Department in order to ensure that they are all properly trained and prepared for a variety of potential emergencies.

“We are always working to make our campus better prepared,” said Sheets.

Penn State New Kensington sophomore student, Monica Fiore, explained that she feels very safe on campus.

“While there is not really that much security on campus, like there would be in grade school, I feel there is no need for there to be,” explained Fiore. “Penn State New Kensington is a very safe campus and that’s why it was voted one of the safest campuses in Pennsylvania earlier this year.”

Fiore explained that while she was majoring in Administration of Justice last year, she researched crimes that occurred on the campus and found that there were not any reported.

“I feel that there are no crimes and that Penn State is one of the safest campuses because Penn State’s students are very exceptional students,” said Fiore.

Matthew Boehm, a junior at Penn State New Kensington, also agreed that he felt safe on the campus.

“It is a very safe and fun campus to be at,” said Boehm. “I appreciate the security at the front desk for all that they do. I know that there won’t be any unsafe incidents because all the students are at college to learn and to further their knowledge.”

Emily Smouse, explained “I do think schools should practice lockdown drills with all of the recent school shootings and stabbings. It would be very helpful for all students to know what to do in an emergency setting. I think all parents would support this kind of practice because they are worried for the safety of their children in colleges today.”

Penn State New Kensington alum Kaitlin Miskanic explained why she believes lock down drills and back up plans could be some preventative ways for campuses to stay safe and be prepared to protect the public.

“If something similar to the Ohio State University incident happened here at Penn State New Kensington, I would be surprised and scared at the same time,” said Miskanic. “This is such a small campus. Everyone knows everyone here so it would be hard to believe something like that could happen on this campus. I would also make sure it’s completely safe to return to campus again if an incident like that occurred. I think schools, even colleges, should practice lockdown drills because you never know what to expect with everything happening in society nowadays.”

COMMUNITY

Greensburg, PA Central in Fight Against Human Trafficking

By: Scott Sinclair

Staff Writer & Reporter

GREENSBURG, Pa- The University of Pittsburgh in Greensburg and The Blackburn Center in Greensburg are partners in combating human rights abuses in Southwestern, PA.

Typically, Pitt and Penn State are rivals. The most obvious example of this are the athletic rivalries, but also the competition to lure incoming freshmen to either respective school looms large. But when an issue has larger societal ramifications the rivalries give way to cooperation. It is in that spirit that the following story is being reported.

The University of Pittsburgh Greensburg campus has a close affiliation with The Blackburn Center in Greensburg PA, which aids victims of many different types of abuse and also brings public awareness to these issues through communication and other outreach programs. The Blackburn Center employs a team of attorneys, counselors, psychologists, and social workers. They also work in affiliation with local law enforcement. The University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg both donates as a university and through campus fund raising activities. Many UPG students volunteer and intern at the Blackburn Center, and in turn the Blackburn Center helps these students become aware of social issues in the world around them.

One such issue which may not seem prevalent in southwestern Pennsylvania is the crime of human trafficking. This however is a larger issue locally than it would seem. An FBI prostitution raid in Homestead PA in 2012 revealed that most of the prostitutes arrested in that raid were actually victims of sex trafficking.

Jessica Lohr is a criminal justice and psychology major at UPG who will be graduating in the spring and beginning law school. Lohr also is a paralegal at the law firm of Fenters-Ward and provided some insight into the issue of human trafficking. "Most victims of human trafficking in the United States are between the ages of 12 and 14" Lohr says, "they are already in the sex industry in their country of origin where prostitution is often legal." These young women are sold to brokers in these countries and are brought into the United States primarily through four states which serve as conduits: New York, California, Texas, and Nevada.

Human trafficking is not confined to bigger metropolitan cities such as New York City or Los Angeles. Lohr states that in Allegheny & Westmoreland counties law enforcement make multiple prostitution arrests on a weekly basis, and of these arrests approximately 80% of the prostitutes arrested have been victims of human trafficking.

This is where the work of the Blackburn Center begins. In some cases, the victims of trafficking are able to come forward on their own to seek the help of the center to get their lives on a better path. Those who have been arrested are made to serve their time in jail if the situation warrants, but are made aware of the services that the center provides and are encouraged to seek out these services upon their release.

According to Ms. Lohr many of the students at UPG who are either criminal justice or psychology majors take advantage of the school's affiliation with the Blackburn Center to learn real-world lessons about victims of many different types of abuse, not just human trafficking, and how to aid the victims of these abuses find their way back to a more fulfilling way of life.

COMMUNITY

These experiences help to mold these students into leaders of the next generation, who will continue the work towards eradicating these types of abuses and providing aid to these victims. These traits were evident with Ms. Lohr during her interview for *The Nittany Pride* as she spoke passionately and eloquently about the problem, and was very knowledgeable in the facts that were provided for this article.

The Blackburn Center itself, while being located in Greensburg, serves to help victims not just in Westmorland county, but also Allegheny and other counties in the region. This, according to Lohr, makes it the region's foremost location for assisting these victims. The center has a very detailed website, blackburncenter.org, that provides a forum to learn about these abuses, including human trafficking, along with a place to report abuse, and to accept donations from the general public.

The Penn State community can very much acknowledge that The University of Pittsburgh, including its satellite campuses, provide strong civic leadership in southwestern Pennsylvania. This leadership, along with the hard work of its students, like Ms. Lohr and all those at the Greensburg campus, do well to serve organizations such as the Blackburn Center.

Continued success to the Blackburn Center, and for perhaps the first time ever in a Penn State publication, Hail to Pitt!



EDITORIAL

Wrestling With Fate

By: Nico Regoli

Staff Writer and Editor-in-Chief

I've been the editor-in-chief of *The Nittany Pride* since the fall semester of 2016 began, and in that short time, I've learned a few things about myself and about life. One of those things I've learned is that Murphy's Law is always looking over your shoulder, just waiting to intervene and ruin your plans.

For example, back in September, I went to cover the tailgates in Downtown Pittsburgh for the first Pitt versus Penn State football game in 16 years. I took all the photos I needed, I interviewed as many people as I needed to, and I had finished with enough time left to make it to a bar just before kickoff. I was having a really good day... And then nature called.

More specifically, nature butt-dialed me, and the nearest opportunity to relieve myself was a row of outhouses under a bridge, next to Stage AE's parking lot. After minutes of waiting in line, I had discovered way too late that not only had my water bottle leaked inside my backpack, but also that my outhouse was out of toilet paper, and all I had on my person to lessen the situation was a single, used paper towel. Stricken with mud butt, I watched the first quarter at Jerome Bettis' Grille 36, and then unpleasantly drove home to bathe and throw away my shorts.

Then for our October edition, I decided to write an editorial on the 2016 presidential election. I knew this would be a difficult challenge, especially considering who was running, but I was up to the task. Then the race turned into a scandal fest, and my editorial challenge morphed into a nightmare.

We at *The Nittany Pride* tell our writers to keep our stories within 800 words/two pages, because each newspaper can only be a set number of pages, and usually the only times we're willing to let stories exceed two pages is when we have enough one-page stories to balance things out. I wrote four grueling pages, all of which we miraculously managed to fit to print, about how Gary Johnson was a corporate shill, Hillary Clinton was an untrustworthy establishment hack, and Donald Trump was just plain terrible, so I was therefore going to vote for Jill Stein (which I ended up not even doing because Trump started polling much better after the editorial was published). I kid you not when I say that writing that editorial, as well as the election itself, and the aftermath of the election was and has been murderous on my soul.

Now, here I find myself once more, trying to write something that you, our readers, will greatly enjoy, and fate has me at the mercy of circumstance.

The original headline was, "Wrestling With Independence," and the lead read, "On February 11, 2017, Ring of Honor invaded Stage AE for a billed night of 'Steel City Excellence,' taping four television episodes to build anticipation for the promotion's upcoming 15th anniversary show on March 10." I wanted to share with you all the important happenings at my very first live wrestling event (which by the way was amazing, and I suggest you check your local TV listings so you can see for yourself how great it was), while also bringing public awareness to the non-WWE, independent wrestling scene. Fate did not share my aspirations.

EDITORIAL

There were the little issues, like bad Wi-Fi at the venue, my mobile charger not working, and having to ration my phone battery, which made photography and video recording more challenging, especially when I had to conduct interviews at 1% power. Speaking of interviews, everyone was in a hurry to go home or to the bar, so the only people I could question were my friends who also attended (and who helped me photograph and record), one of whom was so hyped up at the time that the recording of his interview is equally as hard to follow as the actual interview was. Those issues aren't what broke the camel's back though.

The true plague upon my original story has been my old enemy, the two-page limit. I have struggled with and overcome that maximum many times before, but after going through five drafts of my intended sports/entertainment article, I have to accept defeat. I can't list all of the main bullet points of the TV tapings and also fit in my Indy wrestling awareness narrative without going over the limit. Maybe I can still write it as a website exclusive, but I can't condense everything I want to say and include for print, and I'm not happy about that.



I know that not every story I write is going to be a homerun, but I take pride in my writing and I take pride (appropriately) in being part of *The Nittany Pride*. So it sucks to not be able to deliver what I intended, and tell the story I wanted to tell.

The Rebellion faction's Kenny King gets powerbombed by the Ring of Honor 6-Man Tag Team Champions, The Kingdom. (Photo by Nico Regoli)

That's part of being a journalist though. Stories aren't always published, photos don't always turn out right, not every source is reliable, etc. Things aren't always going to turn out how you plan, because journalism is a hard job, and the President of the United States tweeting that the media is "the enemy of the American People" (he really tweeted that) is not making this job any easier.

Something will always be there to knock you down, but as I've learned from sports entertainment, from 15 years of martial arts, and from my dad's so-far successful recovery from a brain tumor and multiple operations, you get back up and keep fighting. In wrestling terms, when life counters your offense and covers you for the three-count, you kick out at two, get creative, and win with a move from 'outta nowhere.' You turn a lemon into lemonade, or in my case, you turn an article into an editorial.

Chocolate Covered Strawberry Martini

If you love chocolate covered strawberries (and alcohol) you will LOVE this decadent martini! Whether you're cuddling up with your special someone, or drinking to forget you're alone, you'll enjoy this sinfully yummy, simple drink.

You will need:

- 6 oz. Vodka
- 3 oz. Strawberry Liquor
- 3 oz. White Crème de Cacao
- Garnishes (chocolate syrup and two chocolate covered strawberries)

Directions:

1. Combine all ingredients in a shaker with ice, shake, and strain into a chilled martini glass
2. Garnish with a chocolate covered strawberry

(recipe courtesy of DrinkedIn.com)



Photo Courtesy of Google Images