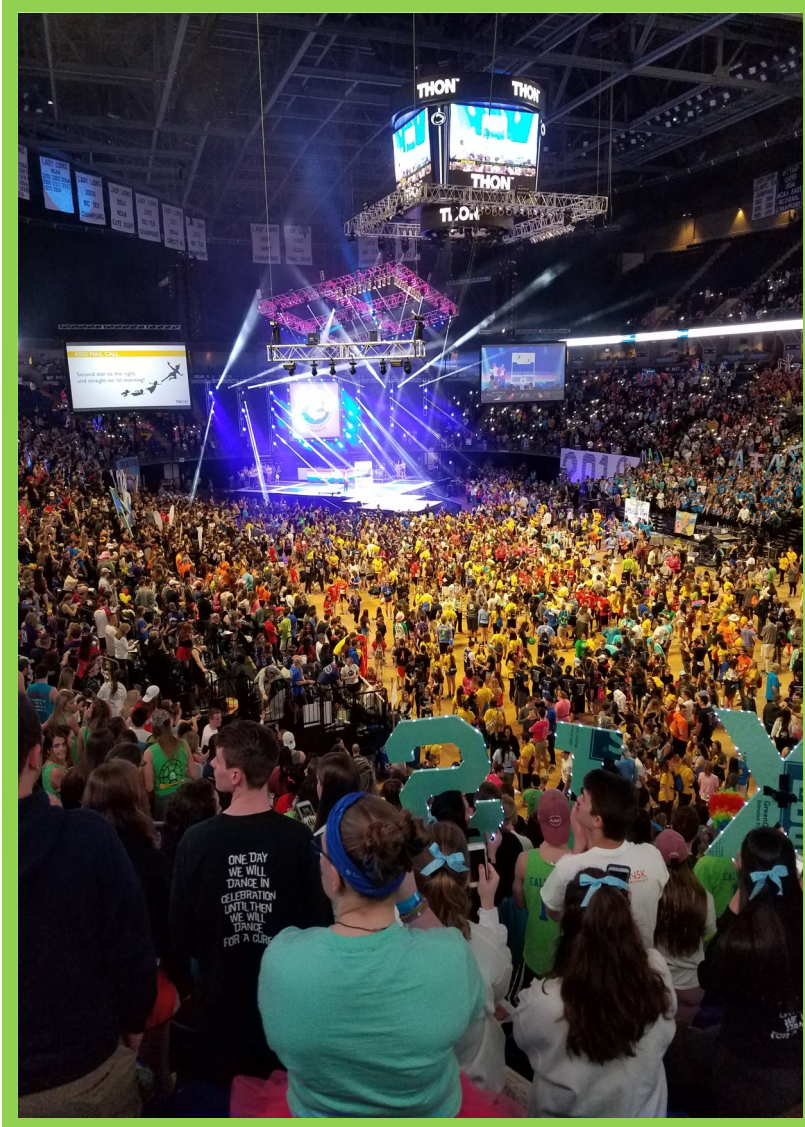


# THE NITTANY PRIDE

Vol. XIII No. 5

March 16, 2018



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**PSNK Student Runs for PA House**

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**Gerrymandering: How it Affects Congressional Lines in PA**

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**The Chance of a Lifetime**

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Scott Sinclair

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

# COMMUNITY

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## PSNK Student Runs for PA House

*By: Kierstin Flickinger and Nico Regoli  
Staff Writers & Reporters*

UPPER BURRELL, Pa. – Senior Psychology student Jon McCabe is running for the House Representative 54<sup>th</sup> District Seat. On Tuesday, Feb 20, he hosted a campaign event at Woodpeckers, a popular bar next to the New Kensington campus.

McCabe has always had an interest in politics. It's part of the reason that he helped found the club 'My Vote Matters' on Penn State New Kensington's campus after taking an advanced political science course taught by John Craig Hammond. As Vice President of this club, McCabe has helped register roughly 15% of the school's student population to vote.

However, this wasn't enough for McCabe in terms of making a difference politically.

"If you want change, you can't wait for it. You've just got to go out and do it," McCabe said during his event. "You've got to start your own band."

Roughly twenty people showed in support of the PSNK senior, but he's got a lot more people on his side than that.

"I've been knocking on people's doors every day," McCabe said. "Sometimes they tell me they're not interested and slam the door in my face, but other times they sign the petition for me."

Since the start of My Vote Matters, McCabe believes that a wave of political activism has happened on the Penn State New Kensington campus. The club sets out to register students to vote in elections and educate students on what's happening in politics through various events that they call "Diplomatic Discussions."

"We have promoted so much political activism and I have met so many amazing people [through these events]," McCabe said. "The only next logical step to me was to just run."

Not only does McCabe have the support of his community, but he also has the support of fellow students who are not in the 54<sup>th</sup> district.

"It's so important for him to run," senior Alison Plasencia said. "To me, it shows that people my age are about to start making a big difference in this world."

Former My Vote Matters member, Broderick Gerano said, "I have so much pride in the fact that Jon is doing this. I know that he can win."

McCabe has the same confidence in his abilities.

"I really think I have a good chance to make a difference for my community," he said. "We need to get the voice of the people into Harrisburg, and I think I can do that."

The last day that citizens over the age of 18 (or people who will be 18 on or before May 15<sup>th</sup>) can register to vote in the primary election is April 16<sup>th</sup>. The primary election takes place on May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in voting, McCabe insists on finding himself, Millie Brassler, or myself (Kierstin Flickinger) to register to vote as quickly as possible. You can also register to vote online at <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## A Different Take

**“Faculty Matters” allows engineering students to see their faculty in a different light.**

*By: Scott Sinclair  
Staff Writer and Reporter*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa.- Penn State New Kensington’s engineering students went to another lecture recently, but this one didn’t require textbooks or homework.

This was the “Faculty Matters” event held by the Success Center and Ruth Herstek. It was intended to be a panel discussion to allow student to hear about what their professors had done prior to teaching, and what the students could expect as they graduated and began to enter the job market.

The event which was hosted by Herstek and Jim Shields, included 5 members of the Engineering Department; Nicholas Petrucci, a lecturer in EMET; Dr. Joseph Cuiffi, the EMET program coordinator; Dr. Haifeng Wang, an assistant professor in EMET; Joan Kowalski, am assistant teaching professor; and Dr. Joie Marhefka, the BET program coordinator.

The program began with each professor speaking about their background and professional experience. They also told stories of their days in college and they encouraged the students in attendance not to panic if they are considering a change of major, or if they are experiencing any other difficulties academically. It was the general consensus of the panel that they had each experienced these things and ultimately they found the path that best suited them.

The panelists also spoke to why they chose the particular type of engineering that they were most drawn to; whether it been more hand on or more theoretical, or was more industry based or more medically or biologically based. The discussion brought to light a very broad range of professional options for the students in attendance.

One topic which seemed to get the attention of the student audience was the talk of a professional movement known as “Industry 4.0.” The general premise of this says that it will be up to the students to act almost as individual entrepreneurs in their early professional career and have the fruits of their labor purchased by a larger corporation. This thinking would seem to be in direct contrast with the traditional notion of getting a degree and working for a company designing product for them.

One student, Keith Myers, who is a returning veteran student, took particular note of this concept.

“I wasn’t familiar with Industry 4.0 until I heard it in this meeting,” Myers said.

When the panel discussion was completed, the students were given the opportunity to network with the professors while enjoying appetizers which were included in the program.

“We want to encourage the students to network and polish their professional skills,” Shields said. “This type of forum gives the students the opportunity to do that.”

# CAMPUS LIFE

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Ruth Herstek hopes to make this a monthly event to include all the different departments in the school, “We would like the opportunity to get students from all majors to meet their faculty in this way,” Herstek said, “We believe it would be beneficial for students to see their professors outside the classroom in a less formal environment.”

“We believe this type of program allows the students to ask the types of questions that they may not be able to ask in the classroom,” Herstek said.

Approximately 20 students were in attendance along with many members of the campus staff. Herstek is currently planning the next “Faculty Matters” meeting to be held in March, this time with the Administration of Justice Department.



# CAMPUS LIFE

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## How Students at PSNK Feel About the Florida Shooting

*By: Ashton Caldwell  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, 17 people were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School located in Parkland, Florida. The suspect, according to a Fox News article by Madeline Farber was “identified as 19-year old Nikolas Cruz.” His weapon of choice, “a semi-automatic AR-15 assault rifle.”

An article by CNN provided a list of the 17 victims. The 17 victims were, “Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Laughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, and Peter Wang.”

President Trump tweeted shortly after the shooting saying, “my prayers and condolences to the families of the victims of the terrible Florida shooting. No child, teacher or anyone else should feel unsafe in an American school.”

I went around campus asking students how they felt about the shooting. Here is what they had to say.

One student who wished to remain anonymous said “to begin, the shooting should of never happened. There were so many signs and warnings that it was going to happen, yet nothing was done by anyone to prevent it. The FBI knew about it and the Supreindeint knew as well, yet they did nothing. No kid should be scared to go to school and no parent should worry if their child will be safe. There should be no reason for school shootings. In my opinion, the blame should not be on gun control, it should be on the people who sell guns to the people who are unfit to carry a firearm. Guns don’t kill people, people kill people.”

Another student who also wished to remain anonymous said “as usual, the shooting is a tragedy, and it shouldn’t have happened. Although, the way we are handling this is useless. Blame can only be put on the suspect and those who knew about it and did nothing. The groups who support guns and their use should not have any blame put on them. Trying to do away with murder will never happen and no amount of legislation will fully solve the issue. What we need to do is stop putting fear in place of facts and pay attention to what had happened in the past to avoid another incident like this.”

Here is what another student had to say, “I felt that it was very sad that there were people who lost their lives due to a lack of attention to the warnings that were given and a lack of mental health care.”

The second question that I asked students was if they believe that the shooting was fake. This is due to the fact that conspiracy theorists are claiming that the shooting was a staged event. Accusations were being made that the students who survived were actors. According to a USA Today article by Doug Stanglin and Christal Hayes, “Benjamin Kelley district secretary for Rep. Shawn Harrison emailed a reporter for the Tampa Bay Times that several students who appeared on television criticizing lawmakers on gun-control laws actually travel to different incidents when they happen.”



# CAMPUS LIFE

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To make matters worse, President Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr. liked a tweet that claimed the shooting and the students were a conspiracy. The tweet, which as written by Graham Ledger stated the following: "Could it be that this student is running for cover for his dad who works as an FBI agent at the Miami field office which botched tracking down the man behind the Valentine's day Massacre? Just wondering. Just connecting some dots."

Don. Jr. also liked a tweet by an individual who uses the name Thomas Paine, who posted a video of David Hogg along with the message: "the kid who has been running his mouth about how Donald Trump and the GOP are teaming to help murder high school kids by upholding the Second Amendment is the son of an FBI agent. David Hogg is a school shooting survivor in Florida."



Victims of the Florida school shooting (Photo Courtesy of Google Images)

Here were responses. Due to the controversial question, all students wished to remain anonymous.

"There is some fake news out there, but no way in HELL this shooting is fake. Like how can 16 teenagers and a football coach/ security guard just disappear? What about the grieving families who lost their child that have to go through this being told that it never happened? If they heard that someone says oh thats fake it never happened; how do you think those families reactions will be knowing that their child will never come back to them. The whole fake news is really getting annoying and it is wrong. If you can't come up with proof that it is fake then don't say that's fake. Talk to all the families, first responders, even the offender who caused it and then you can decide if its fake or not."

"I don't think that everything is fake, but there certainly is some manipulation by the media. These survivors, the four or five students that were interviewed, are being turned into celebrities. These kids are being politicized and their stories are being bent to fit an agenda. This may not be fake, but there is not a lot we are being told," stated another student.

Finally, a student added, "I think that it is shameful that someone would even begin to consider this tragedy to be fake. This is not only real, but it is surreal and not in a good way. Along with not only being shameful, it is also disrespectful to the people who died. The people who said that this was fake should have been there to see with their own eyes what actually happened and should I dare say trade places with the poor souls who died since they doubt it so much as I am sure the victims would love to be able to stand there and say it never happened."

Editor's Note: We at the Nittany Pride hope that the students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School have a successful rest of the school year. May peace and tranquility come to the families and friends of the victims.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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## Life Changing

### Thon makes huge impact on attendee.

*By: Scott Sinclair  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

I'd like to think I've seen a lot in my adult life. I've been in combat, I've stood on many stages giving crowds of people the gift of my music, I've held championship sports banners, I've enrolled in college at an age when most aren't.

These events were big and important in the grand scheme of things, but one more event has to be added:

Thon.

Thon as a word is nonsensical, it is only part of the word marathon; to the uninformed it would appear to be nothing more than another texting shortcut which are popular in today's culture. The uninformed should take the time to get informed about the use of this short and powerful syllable.

Thon by strict definition is a 46-hour dance marathon held annually by Penn State University to raise money for pediatric cancer. But the experience itself defies any definition, strict or otherwise. It is parts celebration and parts torture test; it is both painful and euphoric. But one thing is for sure; it is the best of those who participate.

The main players in this 3 day melodrama are the dancers. These dancers are tasked with being awake and on their feet from 6 p.m. on Friday until 4 p.m. on Sunday. These are the 46 hours that are held to legendary status at Penn State. Penn State New Kensington was proudly and well represented by our 2 dancers; Gina Batiz and Nick Roth.

The rest of the PSNK crew were there to support our 2 champions of sleep deprivation. Some of us were able to visit the floor to speak to our champs, the rest remained in the stands and waved and yelled and held signs with our dancers' likenesses. The sea of dancers on the floor sometimes lead us to play a real-life "Where's Waldo?" game to pick our people out. Other times they found their way over to the area below us and waved up to us in the stands.

I found these moments to be some of the weekend's biggest payoffs.

There was one rule of this exercise that pertained to us the spectators as well, even though we received breaks and exit the arena for a few hours of rest, if we were in the stands or on the floor, we too were standing. It was simply part of the job.

This call to rise was done at 6 p.m. on Friday with a countdown that reminded me of many a New Year's Eve festivity. There would be a similar count down to sit down at 4 p.m. on Sunday. But there were many, many sights, sounds, physical hardships, and emotions to experience between these two landmarks.



# CAMPUS LIFE

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The first task was to learn the line dance that everyone in the Bryce Jordan Center would be doing repeatedly. And by everyone, I mean everyone. In my many years of concert-going I have seen some very unified audience participation, but this was as synchronized and spot on as anything I have ever seen. This was of course after having to take an arena-wide lesson from the crew of Dancer-Relations Captains who lead us from the stage. But after about the 10<sup>th</sup> time hearing “Dancer-Relations Captains, to the stage!” and being put through our paces, it finally sunk in, and it was unified and glorious.

In addition to the periodic performance of the line dance, many different types of artists found their way on to the stage. Some of these included bands from the region such as Misterwives and Go-Go Gadget. There were also various dance and performance groups from the University proper which kept the energy at a consistently high level.

One of the things that stood out about the bands, which was very different from my aforementioned concert going experiences, was the consistent message from the bands that they were experiencing their own hero worship in this case. It was as if they were there to see us and cheer for us, and primarily the dancers, as much as we were the audience there to see them. Hearing this message over and over certainly made the enormity of this event hit home.

Inserted among all of the booked entertainment were the Pep-Rally and later Family Hour.

The Pep-Rally was the most “Penn State” activity I have participated in as a student of the university. This was a virtual showcase of “The Big School,” including each available Varsity team doing its own dance routine for both entertainment and bragging rights. One of the judges for this tour-de-force was PSU alum and current Pittsburgh Steeler Jesse James. The marching band was in attendance providing a soundtrack usually heard on my TV on Saturday afternoons in the fall.

For a commonwealth campus student attending Thon for the first time this was a very surreal experience.

At 1 p.m. on Sunday the collective took a moment and got down to why we had actually gathered in the first place.

This break in the mayhem was known as “Family Hour” and it brought perspective to the 43 hours which had come before.

This was the opportunity to hear from the families of both the survivors of, and those we had lost to, the beast we were there to fight; pediatric cancer. While this was in sharp contrast to the party atmosphere which had colored the previous hours of standing, it had an emotional and profound affect on my peers and I as we watched videos and heard live speeches from many families of those affected by this disease.

This time is meant to show the participants the bigger picture and to help them push through the final hours. For as unfair as it seems to invoke these deep emotions at that level of fatigue, it was absolutely effective. Any soreness or exhaustion I might have felt disappeared when it was set against the trials endured by these brave children.

# CAMPUS LIFE

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The emotion of family hour gave way to the final crescendo of energy which was exemplified by Go-Go Gadget, the closing band who announced that it was their 10<sup>th</sup> year participating in Thon. It is a well-deserved run; their energy and musicianship were a perfect end to a life-altering weekend. The only piece of business left, after the aforementioned countdown to take a load off, was the famous turning of the cards which would reveal the total earnings.

Perhaps like many spectators, I chose to focus on the digits closest to the dollar sign. I figured I could look up what the hundreds and smaller were at some point later. So I fixed my weary gaze left, and observed "\$10,1....."

And there you have it, over 10 million dollars. And funny to think, in my own little way, I was part of this party; some meetings back at New Ken, helping make spaghetti on Saturday morning, watching our campus Thon chairs pulling their hair out over logistical and financial details, having a send off dinner and butchering the drums on the "Rock Band" video game (who knew "real" drummers suck at Rock Band?).

So, as I said at the beginning; I've seen a lot in my adult life. Using my Navy experience as a benchmark, I feel it would be very appropriate to salute my fellow Thon participants as the heroes that I know them to be, much in the same way I was acknowledged after my return home from Operation Desert Storm in 1991. It is well deserved, with special recognition of all of our campus Thon chairs, and of course our dancers Gina and Nick, using a military parlance; it was an honor to serve this cause with all of you.



# CAMPUS LIFE

## Branch Campus V. Main Campus

By: *Isabella Bordonaro*  
Editor In Chief

As a Senior at Penn State New Kensington, I have often wondered if I missed out on the “college experience” by only attending a branch campus.

I always see friends who attend Penn State Main, and other big colleges, and feel like I am missing out on some of the opportunities a large campus offers like a larger student population, more class choices, and more extracurricular activities.

While Penn Ken does offer great four year degrees, and a good variety of extracurricular activities, it is very small when you compare it to Main campus. Penn Ken has around 650 students this semester, while Main campus serves around 46,000.[1]

Personally, I chose Penn Ken specifically for its size and proximity to my home. I live no more than 10 minutes from campus, which is extremely convenient. I also do much better in smaller classes, and feel that I have really gotten to know my professors and classmates because of this.

I just recently visited Main campus to visit a friend, and I finally got to see what Main campus was all about. It was a beautiful place, with so much to do and see that I honestly got a bit overwhelmed. It made me realize that while I enjoyed visiting, and hope to again, I no longer felt I was “missing out” by going to Penn Ken for four years.

Since many people have trouble deciding between whether to go “big” or go home, here are a few reasons why home is a good and viable option.

First, you save TONS on not having to pay room and board. According to the Penn State website, a student going to Main, who is a PA resident, will spend around \$30,000 just on tuition and fees, and another \$15,000 on room and board and food.[2] A student who attends a branch campus, like Penn Ken, spends an average of \$25,000 a year on tuition and fees, but does not have to spend the extra money on room and board.<sup>2</sup> This saves a student over \$20,000 a year just by attending a branch campus. That’s enough to pay for your next year of schooling.

If you then account all the scholarships a student could have, you can almost cut your cost in half. For example, I have received several scholarships throughout my college career, and will graduate with a little over \$10,000 dollars in debt. That’s nothing compared to the potential \$40-60,000 a student going to Main campus could accumulate.



My Boyfriend Nathan and I standing on Old Main for the first time. (Photo Courtesy of Isabella Bordonaro)

# CAMPUS LIFE

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A second benefit of attending a branch campus, as I mentioned prior, is the smaller class sizes. This has really helped me to receive basically a one on one education with my professors. They are usually really easy to reach, and may be more accessible on campus as well.

I think the smaller size also benefits how the class actually works, because discussion is a lot easier when its 10 students and a professor, instead of 300. This lends to every person's voice being heard, and can mean a better understanding for all. The small size can also be of benefit for students coming from smaller high schools, and can smooth their transition into college.[3]

Lastly, while you may be attending Penn State New Kensington, you diploma will read identical to someone graduating from Main campus. You are still receiving a Penn State grade education, and your diploma will match that.

Overall, I think Penn Ken is a wonderful campus to attend for four years. Although it is small, the student life office is extremely active, and there's pretty much something going on every day. I have made amazing friends during my time here, and I wouldn't trade that for the world. I know that come graduation in May, PSNK has given me everything, and more, that I will need to enter the real world with my head held high.

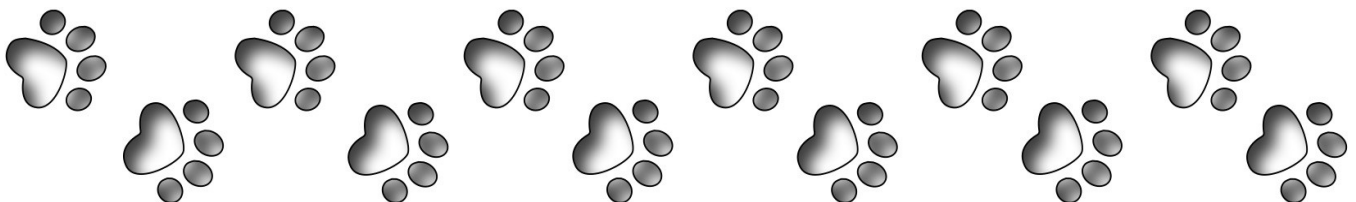
I know a small campus isn't for everyone, but I hope this will make some realize that it really has its own special qualities to offer, and makes it stand out from the rest.

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[1] <https://admissions.psu.edu/pennstate/campuses/>

[2] <https://admissions.psu.edu/costs-aid/tuition/>

[3] <https://www.scholarships.com/news/enrolling-at-a-branch-campus-vs-a-main-campus>



# SPORTS

## Pittsburgh Penguins Acquire Derick Brassard From Ottawa

By: *Ryan Fiore*  
*Copy Editor*

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. - Is there a chance at the cup three years in a row? With the way the Penguins have been playing, along with latest trade deal made by General Manager Jim Rutherford, Penguins fans certainly have a reason to think so.

“Why the hell not?”, Penn State New Kensington student Marissa Wiles responded to the question. “We’ve been doing relatively well this season with all of the changes that Sullivan and the managers of the Penguins have put into motion.”

Friday, February 23 was a bittersweet day for Penguins fans as the Ottawa Senators received defenseman Ian Cole, Penguins goalie Filip Gustavsson, and a first round pick in return for center Derick Brassard, as well as a 2018 third round draft pick and forward Vincent Dunn. Ian Cole previously played with the St. Louis Blues. Cole had nine goals and 50 assists over the course of four seasons with the Penguins.



Former Ottawa center Derick Brassard and Penguins center Sidney Crosby (Courtesy of Google Images)

When asked about joining the Penguins, Brassard showed eagerness and excitement.

“I’m just really excited to be joining the team that has won the last two Stanley Cups,” Brassard said on a conference call Saturday with local beat writers. “I think it’s a great opportunity for me right now in my career to have a chance to win. I’m just really, really excited to be joining the team.”

The other part of the deal was with the NHL’s newest team, the Vegas Golden Knights. The Penguins traded right winger Ryan Reaves and Vancouver’s 2018 fourth-round pick to the Golden Knights in exchange for winger Tobias Lindberg. Reaves’ time with the Penguins was short-lived, as he was traded to the Penguins in June 2017, along with a second-round pick in the NHL Entry Draft in exchange for center Oskar Lundqvist and a first-round pick. Reaves, who previously played seven seasons with the St. Louis Blues, had four goals and four assists during his time with the Penguins.

On February 26, it was announced that Cole was traded to the Columbus Blue Jackets in return for forward Nick Moutrey and a third-round pick in 2020.

“I think in the end, it will be beneficial for the Penguins, but I’m sad to see Ian Cole go,” Wiles said.

Penguins fans can also look forward to the possibility of a Hagelin-Brassard-Kessel line, which ironically, brings back the infamous “HBK” line. “HBK” was a line that consisted of left wing Carl Hagelin, center Nick Bonino, and right wing Phil Kessel. “The ‘HBK Line’ has done damage to the home team’s last-change advantage, and helped the Penguins win five of eight road games in this year’s playoffs by combining for seven goals and 20 points,” according to *NHL.com*. *The line however, ceased to exist at the start of the 2017-2018 season when Nick Bonino was signed by the Nashville Predators on July 1, 2017.*

If Brassard does not play with Hagelin and Kessel, he will most likely be paired with Guentzel and Kessel.

“Kessel is a really, really good player”, Brassard said. “I’m not sure what the coach is going to decide. If we end up all three together, we could be dangerous.”

The Pittsburgh Penguins play the Columbus Blue Jackets on April 5 and the Ottawa Senators on April 6.

# POLITICS

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## Gerrymandering: How it Affects Congressional Lines in PA

*By: Ashton Caldwell  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

The words politics and corruption are usually closely intertwined with one another. It is the view of the American people that politicians and the whole government for that matter are corrupt. Many feel that our congressmen both at the state and the federal level do not properly serve the needs of the people.

In the state of Pennsylvania, this notion is becoming more and more evident, especially when it comes to the topic of Gerrymandering and the PA Congressional lines.

For the readers who are unfamiliar with the concept of Gerrymandering, the political group Fair Districts PA has provided a definition. Gerrymandering is “the practice of manipulating voting districts to benefit parties, not people...which gives voters less voice and less choice.”<sup>1</sup>

Gerrymandering has been an in issue in Pennsylvania for a long time. This all began to change with a PA Supreme Court ruling that was released on Jan. 22. The ruling which had a 5 to 2 vote stated that, the “Court finds as a matter of law that the Congressional Redistricting Act of 2011 clearly, plainly and palpably violates the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and, on that sole basis, we hereby strike it as unconstitutional.”<sup>2</sup>

The Court also ruled that “the Pennsylvania General Assembly” had to create and submit a new Congressional map to Governor Wolf by Feb. 9. So, a first draft was made by the Republicans.

However, when the map was submitted to the governor, it was rejected. According to an article by Christopher Ingraham, who is a writer for the Washington Post, “the new districts generally respect county and municipal boundaries and don’t wander seemingly arbitrarily across Pennsylvania, as the States Supreme Court wrote. Unfortunately for Pennsylvania voters, the new districts show just as much partisan bias as the old ones.”<sup>3</sup>

The Republicans denied making the map that favored Republicans. Drew Crompton, who is the “general counsel to Pennsylvania’s State Senate Republicans”, said in an email that, “the proposed map fully complies with all the metrics laid out by the plaintiff experts in the case as well as the tests set forth in the majority opinion by the Supreme Court of PA.”<sup>3</sup>

The Republicans were not happy with the rejection of the map. So, “State Representative Cris Dush sent a memo to all members of the House seeking co-sponsors for an impeachment bill”<sup>4</sup>, according to Margaret Hartmann, a writer for the New York magazine. The end goal was to impeach the five Democrat judges on the PA Supreme Court.

Dush argued that the rejection was an “usurpation of the sovereign power of the legislature under the Pennsylvania Constitution,...In the Constitution, it’s a contract between the people and the government that they hired to oversee them. And the sovereigns in this issue are God, the people, and the legislature — in that order.”<sup>4</sup>

However no action was taken, so a new map was drawn, this time with more input from the Democrats and the Governor.

This map, according to [governorpa.gov](http://governorpa.gov), “is constitutional, and complies with the court’s order. Further, the map accounts for traditional communities of interests and seeks to avoid cracking, packing and unnecessary splitting of regions. The map has the same number of overall splits as the Republican leaders’ joint submission but reduces the number of counties split more than once and no county is split more than three times.”<sup>5</sup> The map was submitted on Feb. 15, in accordance with the PA Supreme Court ruling.



# POLITICS

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That map was rejected as well due to the fact that Republicans were not happy with the new lines.

So, in accordance with the court ruling which stated “should the General Assembly not submit a congressional districting plan on or before February 9, 2018, or should the Governor not approve the General Assembly’s plan on or before February 15, 2018, this Court shall proceed expeditiously to adopt a plan based on the evidentiary record developed in the Commonwealth Court.”<sup>1</sup>

The Court proposed the new map on Feb. 19.

“The new map will fundamentally rejigger the state’s politics and, at first glance, will make Democrats much more competitive in a state that has leaned their way for most of the last two decades,” according to the CNN writer, Chris Cillizza.<sup>6</sup> The Democrats have a better chance now of getting congressional seats.

Governor Wolf was very happy with this new map, stating that the new map was a “tremendous effort to remedy Pennsylvania’s unfair and unequal congressional elections,” according to a Fox News article.<sup>7</sup>

At the federal level, President Trump was not happy with what was going here in Pennsylvania. On Feb. 20 he tweeted, “Hope Republicans in the Great State of Pennsylvania challenge the new “pushed” Congressional Map, all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Your Original was correct! Don’t let the Dems take elections away from you so that they can raise taxes & waste money!”

Then on Feb. 24, POTUS tweeted, “Democrat judges have totally redrawn election lines in the great State of Pennsylvania. [@FoxNews](#). This is very unfair to Republicans and to our country as a whole. Must be appealed to the United States Supreme Court ASAP!”<sup>9</sup>

The action taken by the PA Supreme Court, according to a Fox News article, was “the first time a state court threw out congressional boundaries in a partisan gerrymandering case.”<sup>7</sup> It is the hope of this author that other state supreme courts follow suite in the states where Gerrymandering is an issue.

1. <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/the-problem>
2. [http://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/order%20%20grantedjurisdiction%20retained%20%2010339890932033626.pdf#search=%22january 22 2018%22](http://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/order%20%20grantedjurisdiction%20retained%20%2010339890932033626.pdf#search=%22january%2022%202018%22)
3. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/02/11/pennsylvania-republicans-have-drawn-a-new-congressional-map-that-is-just-as-gerrymandered-as-the-old-one/?utm\\_term=.c34b982137a9](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2018/02/11/pennsylvania-republicans-have-drawn-a-new-congressional-map-that-is-just-as-gerrymandered-as-the-old-one/?utm_term=.c34b982137a9)
4. <http://amp.nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/02/pa-lawmaker-hopes-to-impeach-justices-who-nixed-gerrymander.html>
5. <https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-submits-a-fairer-congressional-map-to-supreme-court/>
6. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/02/20/politics/pennsylvania-map-q-and-a/index.html>
7. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/02/19/pennsylvania-supreme-court-issues-new-election-map.amp.html>
8. [https://twitter.com/search?q=trump+twitter&ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Esearch](https://twitter.com/search?q=trump+twitter&ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Esearch)

# HISTORY

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## Happy Birthday President Washington

*By: Ashton Caldwell  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

I would like to take this time to honor the birth of a man who truly had the heart of a patriot and played a major role in forming the United States. That man is the “Father of Our Country,” George Washington. The article is meant to highlight some of his major accomplishments throughout his life.

George Washington, according to [history.com](#) “was born on February 22, 1732, at his family's plantation on Pope's Creek in Westmoreland County, in the British Colony of Virginia.”<sup>1</sup>

When he was younger, he was a surveyor and later served in the British Army during the French and Indian War.

When the feeling of Revolution was in the air of the American Colonies, “the Continental Congress commissioned George Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army on June 19, 1775” according to [loc.gov](#).<sup>2</sup> He was nominated by his future Vice President, John Adams.

He fought fiercely in the American Revolution until the surrender of General Cornwallis on Oct. 19, 1781, officially ending the war.

After the war, Washington turned to diplomatic work. He already had governmental experience through serving in the Virginia House of Burgesses and as a delegate from Virginia in the Continental Congress. When there was the need to revise the Articles of Confederation, Washington was chosen to preside over the convention. The result of the convention was the U.S. Constitution.

After the Constitution was formally adopted by the thirteen states, Washington was chosen as America's first president. He served two consecutive terms between 1789 and 1797. The position of the presidency was a new one and Washington understood this. According to [mountvernon.org](#), Washington “in his first Inaugural Address...confessed that he was unpracticed in the duties of civil administration.”<sup>3</sup>

Regardless of that, he still served as president, setting the standard of the Presidency.

When it came time for the decision of choosing the President again, Washington decided not to run again and stepped down. He did not want to become a King and lead the people to believe that the U.S. was turning into a monarchy.

The musical Hamilton contains the song One Last Time. This song depicts the moment when George Washington tells Alexander Hamilton that he is stepping down as President. He asks Hamilton to help him write his farewell address. Please note that James Madison helped as well, but the song does not mention it. Towards the end of the song, Hamilton reads the ending of Washington's Farewell Address, in the background Washington is singing it. The ending reads:

# HISTORY

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“Though, in reviewing the incidents of my administration, I am unconscious of intentional error. I am nevertheless too sensible of my defects not to think it probable that I may have committed many errors. I shall also carry with me the hope that my country will view them with indulgence, and that after forty five years of my life dedicated to its service with an upright zeal, the faults of incompetent abilities will be consigned to oblivion, as I myself must soon be to the mansions of rest. I anticipate with pleasing expectation that retreat in which I promise myself to realize the sweet enjoyment of partaking in the midst of my fellow citizens, the benign influence of good laws under a free government, the ever-favorite object of my heart, and the happy reward, as I trust, of our mutual cares, labors, and dangers.”<sup>4</sup>

George Washington will always be an important figure in American History, and this author is proud to honor him on his birthday (especially since we share the same birthday). Happy Birthday George Washington!



George Washington in front of U.S. Flag (photo courtesy of Google Images)

1. <http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/george-washington>
2. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/commission.html>
3. <http://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/biography/>
4. <https://www.lyrics.com/lyric/32212211/Lin-Manuel+Miranda/One+Last+Time>

# EDITORIAL

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## The Traditional-ish Side of Saint Patrick's Day

*By: Kierstin Flickinger  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

I remember my first Spring Semester in college. Saint Patrick's Day fell on a school day and I had roughly fifteen people go out of their way to say "Happy Saint Patrick's Day" to me. I found this weird as someone who was extremely introverted and who did not know any of the people who had said it to me. At a club meeting, I asked if anyone else had been told the same thing an awfully large amount of times. The only person who said that they had was another red-headed, pale girl. At that point, I'd been dying my hair ginger for so long that I hadn't realized that no one in college knew that my hair was not naturally ginger colored. This other girl and myself both realized that the reason we had been getting this is because we looked Irish. While this isn't true for her, it certainly is for me, and it's definitely not the only time I've been asked about being of Irish descent.

Much of my true background is unknown to me. I don't know any of the maternal side of my family, and I only know about half of the paternal side of my family. Though I fully embrace the Flickinger name and love all of my family to death, I don't have a drop of Flickinger blood in me. Flickinger's are from Scotland, likely. But the part of my blood-family that I do know are Irish, and so this is where my views of my familial background are rooted.

We all know that Saint Patrick's Day (or Paddy's Day as it's typically called in the Republic of Ireland) is an Irish holiday. If you didn't know that, search for all of the "Kiss me I'm Irish" shirts that you're sure to see on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This holiday is so deeply rooted in Irish culture that not only is it a national public holiday, but also a bank holiday, meaning that all of the banks are closed on this day.

In the United States, many people use the holiday as a reason to drink a lot of beer (green colored or otherwise). Colleges go crazy with their State Patty's Day or their IUPatty's or Fake Patty's Day (all of which really should be Paddy's, but I digress). In America, it's basically a pastime to drink heavily on March 17<sup>th</sup> because everyone knows that the Irish drink a lot of beer (another stereotype I never realized I would face. I hate most beers, just to be clear).

However, it's a completely different story in Ireland. Because of the fact that the Republic of Ireland is a highly Catholic place, and the fact that Saint Patrick's Day falls in the middle of Lent, heavy drinking isn't quite as common. In fact, according to a TIME article titled, "10 Things You Didn't Know About St. Patrick's Day," Irish pubs were closed by law on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Roughly 50 years ago, however, this law was repealed. Since then, the people of Ireland can enjoy drinking as much as we do, but my grandmother tells me her mother did not drink because of Lent.

The final part of this "how you're doing Paddy's Day wrong" article is the food. Unfortunately, we do not eat Lucky Charms all day on March 17<sup>th</sup> (oh, how I wish we did!), and fortunately we don't typically eat corned beef (I truthfully don't even know what corned beef is, but this is apparently what most households have when celebrating, at least on the Flickinger half of my family).

# EDITORIAL

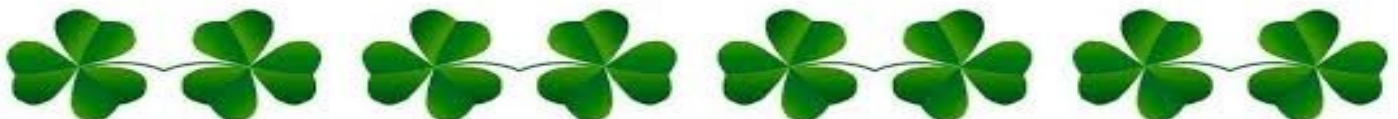
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My grandparents aren't heavily focused on making everything right all day, so we don't try to eat really traditional Irish breakfasts or anything, but we do eat lamb. I'm not sure what the reasoning for this is, because when I think of lamb, I think of Greece (I guess we're all ethnically uncultured in some ways) and gyros. But we also could have Shepard's Pie. We eat a generic vegetable stew that my grandmother is very good at making. Oh, and we eat like a lot of potatoes. Shepard's Pie is a lot of potato and so is the stew. Some stereotypes are true, guys.

Though my grandma does not drink, the rest of my family does, and we'll probably wound out the evening with a Guinness, since that is a pretty traditionally Irish beer. This is the first Paddy's Day that I'll be legal to drink with my uncles, pap, and brother, so I can't wait to have a Guinness with them.

However, I don't think that it's totally ridiculous for people of non-Irish or partial Irish descent to celebrate Paddy's Day in any manner that they like. By all means, drink a lot of beer, go to a parade, and dance the night away, because it's really all about celebrating Irish culture, and I think that's great.

Tell us what YOU think of the Nittany  
Pride! Email us at  
[nittanypridenews@gmail.com](mailto:nittanypridenews@gmail.com)



# EDITORIAL

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## The Chance of a Lifetime

*By: Rachel Queck  
Staff Writer & Reporter*

Have you ever had one of those moments where you just think “wow, I can’t believe this just happened to me?!” Well, I had that moment when I came back from winter break.

Originally, I had no idea that it would be possible for me to do all of these amazing things, especially since I am anything but financially well off.

Prior to break, I signed up for a chance to be a part of a research conference in Salamanca, Spain, not thinking that it would be possible for me to get in at the time.

Time had passed after this and my life had gone on with school, Christmas, and other things of daily life. Then, after Christmas break, I received an email that it may be possible for me to afford a study abroad in Peru.

Hearing about this, I immediately jumped at the idea of being able to afford such an opportunity. The only problem with this was that I only had a matter of days to apply. It had been Sunday when I was told of the opportunity and the application was due that Thursday.

Running around like a mad woman, I went around trying to get my application in with the help of many friends who I could not thank enough. I had my application turned in that Thursday. During that time, I also found that I had to do an interview. Not being at University Park, I was unable to appear in person for this interview.

After talking with one of the coordinators, they set up a phone interview for the next day, which was that Friday. I did my interview all while pacing back and forth in the One-Button Studio on campus. Nervously awaiting my answer, I went through the weekend.

On the following Monday, I looked at my Webmail to find a very special email. I opened the email to find that I had been unofficially accepted to the program (which I am now officially accepted) with the chance of becoming a tutor while in Peru as well.

With tears in my eyes, I went and told all of my family and friends excitedly. That same week, I found another special email in my inbox. Except this one was different. It was my answer to my applications for the research conference in Salamanca. There were two different emails from the AATSP. I opened the first one to find that I had not been accepted.

Saddened, I sat upset. I looked at my email again and found the other email. I opened it up to find something that would bring tears to my eyes once again. I found that my second proposal had been accepted and that I was accepted to go to Spain as well as Peru.

Excited, I screamed the news to everyone. Adding to my excitement, I found that I had an interview to be a tutor in Peru. So I made the interview for that next Monday and the events kept snowballing as time kept ticking.



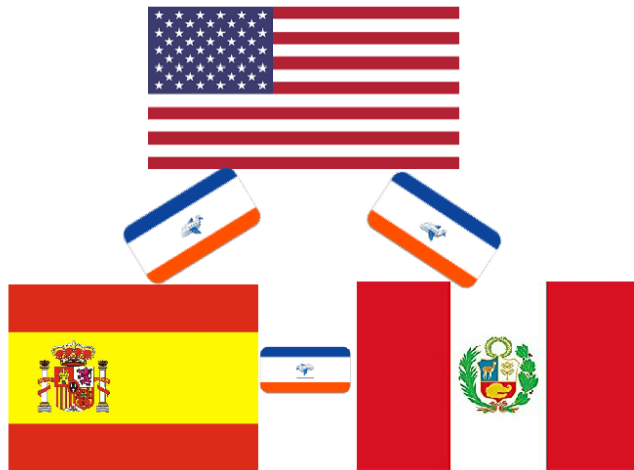
# EDITORIAL

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I went on with the rest of my week excited and also nervous for my second interview. Then came Monday. I remember running around trying to figure out how to use Skype as I had never used it before this interview. I ended up being able to use the quiet testing room in the Success Center to do my interview.

I felt a little bit uneasy about how my interview went as I walked out of the testing room. I still have yet to hear whether or not I got the position.

Despite not knowing, I am still beyond thrilled and excited for my trips this summer. I am preparing myself for the adventure of a lifetime. Stay tuned to the Nittany Pride for next semester for the follow up!



From left to right: The Spanish Flag, The U.S. Flag, The Peruvian Flag  
(Photo Courtesy of Google Images and Rachel Queck)



# OBITUARIES

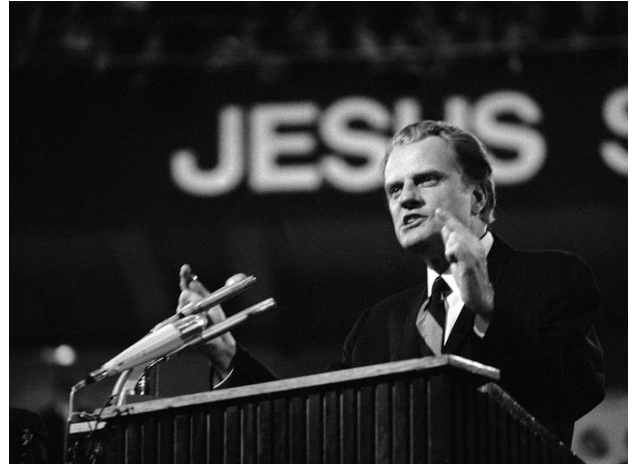
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## “America’s Pastor” Billy Graham Dies at 99

By: Ryan Fiore  
Copy Editor

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa. -“Billy Graham died this past week. I never got to meet Billy Graham, but he was personally a man I came to respect greatly,” were the opening words of a sermon by Pastor Ken Foust of Grace Community Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell on Sunday, February 25. Foust is one the many millions who was inspired by the evangelist Billy Graham, who died February 21 at the age of 99.

Billy Graham’s son, Franklin, shared the news of his father’s death on February 21. “My father Billy Graham was once asked, ‘Where is Heaven?’ He replied, ‘Heaven is where Jesus is and I am going to Him soon!’ This morning, at the age of 99, he departed this world into eternal life in Heaven, prepared by the Lord Jesus Christ - the Savior of the World - whom he proclaimed for nearly 80 years.”



The famous Reverend Billy Graham (Photo courtesy of Google Images)

William Franklin Graham Jr. was born November 7, 1918 in Charlotte, North Carolina, to William and Morrow Franklin. He grew up with two younger sisters and a younger brother. Nearly a week before his 16th birthday, Graham attended a revival meeting led by Dr. Mordecai Ham; a revival meeting that would change his life forever.

“His song leader, Mr. Ramsay, led us all in ‘Just As I Am’ – four verses,” according to Billy Graham’s autobiography, *Just As I Am*. “Then we started another song: ‘Almost Persuaded, Now to Believe.’ On the last verse of that second song, I responded. I walked down to the front, feeling as if I had lead weights attached to my feet, and stood in the space before the platform. I checked ‘Recommitment’ on the card I filled out. After all, I had been brought up to regard my baptism and confirmation as professions of faith too. The difference was that this time I was doing it on purpose, doing it with intention. For all my previous religious upbringing and church activity, I believe that that was the moment I made my real commitment to Jesus Christ.”

After graduating Florida Bible Institute in 1940, he married his wife, Ruth, in 1943. They shared five children: Ann, Franklin, Gigi, Ruth, and Ned. Graham became a widower when his wife Ruth passed away in 2007.

As an American Southern Baptist, Billy Graham was known for his mission trips. Graham visited over 185 countries and territories starting in 1947, before retiring in 2005. Graham’s son, Franklin, has followed in his father’s footsteps by continuing on with these mission trips. Graham’s crusades were just one of the impacts he had on the Christian community.

“Since he was 99, he’s always been in my life,” said Penn State New Kensington Professor Marilyn Bartolacci. “The whole time I’ve ever been alive, there’s been Billy Graham and I just think for me, he’s always been that consistency in faith. He just never waivered. There was never a scandal about him.

# OBITUARIES

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He never put himself up there that he was so much better or of better faith. He just did it the way everybody should. He just had that faith the whole way through and I think that was the example he always set for me.”

“Billy Graham was not a pastor,” Foust continued in his sermon. “Billy Graham did not do on a daily basis what I do. Billy Graham was an evangelist. Billy Graham believed that God put him on this Earth to tell people the good news of Jesus Christ.

Billy Graham, each and every time he opened his mouth and spoke in a public setting, had one message and one message alone. Billy Graham stood before people and told them how they could get into heaven.”

According to TheFamousPeople.com, “In 1950 he founded ‘Billy Graham Evangelistic Association’ (BGEA), a ministry to preach the gospel to a larger number of people around the world and encourage them to join their community. It included a radio program, television broadcasts and magazines. With the modernization of technology, it has also developed web portals for spreading the message of Christianity to the world.”

“I think he’s affected everybody because he’s like ‘everyman’; whether you’re Christian or Catholic, he crosses all those lines and he’s like the Christian ‘everyman,’” said Bartolacci.

An “everyman” is defined as “an ordinary individual of whom the audience or readers are supposed to be able to identify easily and who is often placed in extraordinary circumstances.

“He always just stayed the ‘everyman,’” Bartolacci said. “He never thought himself any better than anybody else and I think that’s why everybody just identified with him. He was always just like anybody. He had that strong faith.”

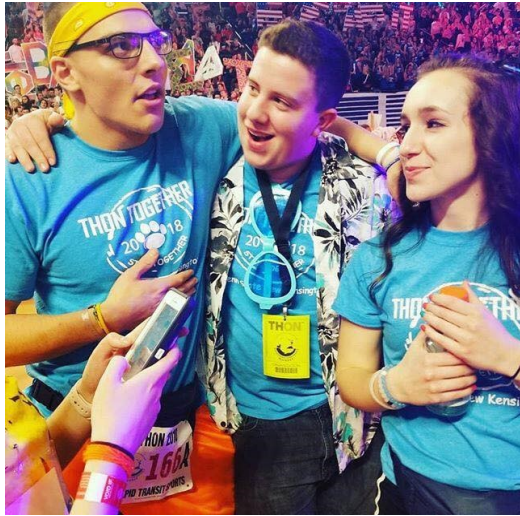
Graham also received the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Freedom Award in 2000, “for monumental and lasting contributions to the cause of freedom,” according to the *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association website*.

“I don’t think they’ll ever be another Billy Graham,” Bartolacci said.

**“Someday, you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will have just changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God.” -Billy Graham**

Want to write for the Nittany Pride?

Email Isabella at [nittanypridenews@gmail.com](mailto:nittanypridenews@gmail.com)!



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