… in the community where students give back by helping others through Habitat for Humanity.

See story on page 4
TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 Message from Interim Chancellor
   Dr. Nancy L. Herron

4 News

5 Honor Society

10 Real Students, Real Stories

6 Mike Monezis

7 Betel Gebre

8 Alyssa Finocchi

9 Diwas Timsina

10 Alumni & Development

12 All That’s Jazz

13 Ningbo Opera

14 Athletics

16 ABSENCE

17 Farm Kings

18 Faculty

21 Technology

22 THON
Message from Interim Chancellor
Dr. Nancy L. Herron

Interim Chancellor Nancy L. Herron welcomed City of McKeesport Mayor Michael Cherepko to the campus to discuss the city’s strategic planning process as part of her outreach efforts with the community.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Over this last year, I have been honored to serve as the Interim Chancellor at Penn State Greater Allegheny. It has been 14 years since last I called the campus home and despite Thomas Wolfe’s axiom in his 1940s posthumous novel, ‘You Can’t Go Home Again,’ the truth is, you really can. In the past few months, I have been reunited with many of the alumni, faculty, and staff at the campus, and have gotten to know many new faces as well. One thing that has not changed is that the entire campus community continues to be the best at nurturing and educating a new generation of Penn Staters. The campus is so involved in both the work of the University and in partnering with the communities of Western Pennsylvania.

Recently, Michael Cherepko, Mayor of the City of McKeesport, made a visit to Greater Allegheny and spoke about ways that the campus and local municipalities have been able to productively collaborate. Students in both formal Penn State courses and informal out-of-class experiences have made invaluable contributions, the result of wanting to give back to their communities. One recent example involves students enrolled in the Foundations of Civic and Community Engagement class who developed two surveys that are being used by the City of McKeesport in their strategic planning process. White Oak Borough, local Rotarians are working with Penn State student leaders to reestablish a Rotaract Club Chapter to provide opportunities for students aged 18–30 to identify mentors and to explore first hand real life business operations. The campus also continued to embrace the notion that ‘Penn State Lives Here’ by taking part in the 54th Annual International Village in Renziehausen Park, and at the White Oak Community Days Celebration, where, with the help of the Greater Allegheny Admissions staff, children created PSU “Blue and White” macaroni necklaces. Greater Allegheny campus community members also regularly volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, several volunteer fire companies, and numerous sports clinics in and around the region.

But as you know, higher education comes at a high price, especially for a student who is the first person in the family to go on to post-secondary education. At Greater Allegheny, over 91% of the students depend on some type of financial aid to complete a baccalaureate degree program. Scholarships mean everything to these students and their families. In the past 11 years, All That’s Jazz has raised more than $821,000 for student scholarships. The importance of this event is huge and its success is a direct result of hard work and dedication of many groups—students, faculty, staff, and volunteers, and the continued generosity of donors like you.

Dr. Curtiss E. Porter, retired Chancellor at Penn State Greater Allegheny, along with Advisory Board members and dedicated volunteers, initiated the idea of All That’s Jazz and the campus and its students remain in their debt. So during this time of transition, I look to reinforcing these ideas and to preserving the strong traditions of academic excellence and revitalized community spirit that have been carefully forged by the campus over the years in Western Pennsylvania. Thank you for your help and continued support.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Herron, Ph.D.
Interim Chancellor

PENNSTATE
Greater Allegheny

VISION:
Penn State Greater Allegheny will always care for and advance the success of our students and communities. We will grow and change to meet the academic and community engagement needs for the future.

NITTANY LINES
is a publication of Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Dr. Nancy L. Herron, Interim Chancellor

Linda M. Curinga, Editor, Manager of Marketing and Communications
Email: lmc16@psu.edu

Christina Newmyer, Marketing and Communications Specialist
Email: cmn13@psu.edu

Contributing writers:
David Buckholtz
Tracy Gibbs
Connie Goehring
Shelbie McCurdy
Dr. Margaret Signorella

Office of the Chancellor
4000 University Drive
McKeesport, PA 15132
Telephone: 412-675-9980
Fax: 412-675-9185
ga.psu.edu

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/PennStateGA
Like our Facebook page at facebook.com/pennstate.greaterallegheny

Produced by Penn State Greater Allegheny
U.Ed. GAO-15-015

Statement of Nondiscrimination
The University is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University’s educational mission, and will not be tolerated. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to Dr. Kenneth Lehrman III, Vice Provost for Affirmative Action, Affirmative Action Office, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802-5901; Email: klf2@psu.edu; Tel 814-863-0471.

THIS PUBLICATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE MEDIA ON REQUEST.
The vision of Penn State Greater Allegheny is to always care for and advance the success of its students and communities, and on several early Saturday mornings, students helped their community by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh. In all there were three separate homes that were worked on—one was in McKeesport; the others were in Sharpsburg and West Mifflin.

Last year, students and staff have volunteered 234 hours of their time to help disadvantaged families obtain affordable housing in our local communities.

Glenn Beech, director of student affairs, took the students on these trips. He said, “I am so proud of each of the students who, unselfishly, gave up entire Saturdays to participate in a service project for a community in which they are a part of, only because they are studying here. This act of kindness on their part demonstrates to me that they are members of a caring and compassionate generation that is striving for a better future for all of us.” Beech was impressed with the enthusiasm the students showed in helping their local community. Many of the students volunteered to help at all of the locations.

Brianna Audette, a freshman from Philadelphia, who is studying Accounting and Business, was eager to take the opportunity to help a family. She knew first-hand what it meant to work with this particular organization. It was a few years earlier that Brianna and her family had the opportunity to volunteer with the group by putting in more than 2,000 volunteer hours toward building their own home. When her family moved into their newly built home, the feeling was overwhelming for her. On her sixteenth birthday, she went to the work site and signed the papers to become a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. She said, “It felt awesome to help rehab a home for another family with my friends and I can’t wait to help again.” Brianna is also very active on campus and plays volleyball, basketball, and softball. She plans on coaching girls’ volleyball after she graduates.

Brianna was so grateful that Habitat for Humanity could help her family that she plans to continue to volunteer throughout her life. She wants people to feel secure in their new homes just how she did. Like many Penn Staters, Brianna takes great pride in the opportunities that have been given to her, and plans on giving back. According to the Habitat for Humanity website, the organization believes that “every single person on this earth deserves a place that they can call ‘home.’” The mission of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh (HFHGP) is to build decent shelter for the citizens in Allegheny County. Once the HFHGP Board of Directors approves a family, they earn Sweat Equity by working 350 hours of labor. This experience assists families in learning how to maintain their new home; it also gives them a sense of accomplishment and pride. Kudos to all of the student volunteers for demonstrating their Penn State Pride.
Honor societies provide prestigious opportunities for student members

The candlelight service held annually at Penn State Greater Allegheny for Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, is a solemn and honorable occasion. Student officers individually invite each new member to the front of the room to sign the honor roll book and light individual candles from the main flame that represents the eternal light of Psi Chi. This action signifies the students’ induction into the campus chapter, which was formed in 2007. The ceremony is followed by a reception for Psi Chi members’ friends and family.

Invitations to join Psi Chi are offered every spring to Greater Allegheny students who are at least second-semester sophomores, majoring or minoring in psychology with at least nine credits in psychology completed, who rank in the upper 35% of their class in general scholarship, earn an overall GPA of at least 3.0, and a psychology GPA of at least 3.0.

Associate Professor of Psychology and Chapter Adviser Dr. Elizabeth Mazur, said, "We are so proud to have a chapter of Psi Chi here on the Greater Allegheny campus. The members are students who work hard to achieve high academic standing, both in their majors and in their other courses. It is an honor and a privilege for them to become members of this exclusive society."

Founded in 1929, Psi Chi is one of the largest honor societies in the world. Its purposes are to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in scholarship, and to advance the science of psychology. Chapters not only recognize academic achievement by granting membership in the Society, but also sponsor programs that augment the regular curriculum, offer service to the campus and the community at large, develop leadership skills, and provide fellowship through affiliation with the chapter. Psi Chi is a member of the Association of College Honor Societies and an affiliate of the American Psychological Association and the Association for Psychological Science.

Another International Honor Society on campus is Sigma Beta Delta, the business honor society. Students can only become members through invitation which is dependent upon a student’s scholastic record and outstanding achievements. To be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper 20 percent of the junior or senior class and be invited to membership by the faculty officers, who are currently Bernice Cerasaro, instructor in Business Administration and chapter president and Dr. Michelle Hough, associate professor in Business Administration and chapter vice president.

As a Sigma Beta Delta member, the student joins a prestigious group of academic and business leaders dedicated to the pursuit of meaningful aspirations. Sigma Beta Delta membership conveys academic excellence and a commitment to high principles and superior achievement throughout his or her lifetime.

Sigma means wisdom, Beta signifies honor and Delta signifies the pursuit of meaningful aspirations.

The purpose of Sigma Beta Delta is to encourage and recognize scholarship and accomplishment among students of business, management, and administration, and to encourage and promote aspirations toward personal and professional improvement and a life distinguished by honorable service to humankind.

This spring, the campus looks forward to inducting a new group of students into both of these prestigious societies at their ceremonies.

Students from the Sigma Beta Delta (left) and the Psi Chi (right) Honor Societies proudly display their certificates at the induction ceremonies.
Mike Monezis

Mike, a Psychology major with a business option, is from McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and works at his family’s store, Minerva Bakery. He chose Greater Allegheny because it has the best of both worlds. “It has the access and recognition of a large university combined with the high quality education of a small class size,” he said. “Classes aren’t just sitting back and listening to a lecture but an open discussion.”

Mike goes to Disney

When Mike travelled to Disney World as a young child, he noticed that some of the cast members’ nametags had the names of their colleges or universities on them. He learned that you can work at Disney as part of your college experience.

Mike returned to Disney World to participate in Disney College last year, where he had the incredible opportunity to advance his strengths and interests, meet people from around the country, and take part in educational opportunities students can’t get anywhere else. While working in an ice cream parlor on Disney’s Main Street, Mike took courses that transferred as credits to Penn State. He also worked on valuable skills like how to create a resume, interview skills, and business etiquette.

The importance of education

Mike was tempted to stay at Disney, but knew that it was important to finish his education. He said, “It was so much fun that I didn’t want to leave, but I knew that I needed to finish my education so that I could start a career.”

A new appreciation for Penn State

“I didn’t fully appreciate Penn State until I went to Disney. When people saw Penn State on my nametag, they always asked about it, just as I did as a child. They were always impressed that I attend Penn State. I hadn’t realized that it was known all over the world.”

Advice from Mike

Mike learned so much during his experience at Disney that he now uses in everyday life. His advice to new students? “Take a deep breath and do not stress over small things. Just be sure to learn how to manage your time properly.”
Betel Gebre

Betel “Betty” Gebre has travelled more in her 19 years, than most people ever will. Born in Ethiopia, her family moved to Georgia when she was just seven years old. Betty also spent a “gap year” in Ecuador, between high school and college. She worked with children there, teaching them English and computers. She is now an International Politics major and soccer player at Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Get involved

Betty is very involved in campus activities. She is a member of the Black Student Union and a Lion Ambassador. She attends many of the Teaching International seminars and other club sponsored events on campus. She said, “Attending these events allows me the opportunity to gain new insight and knowledge about topics both foreign and familiar to me.”

Quote to live by

Nelson Mandela said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Betty agrees and said that it “is important for one to stay open-minded and eager to learn as the world is constantly molding; it is impossible for one to say they have obtained all of the knowledge in the world.”

Why Greater Allegheny?

Betty said, “I remember looking at the “It’s Your Time” videos for the different campuses and finding Greater Allegheny; I did not think it was possible that a campus of its size could offer such diversity. The reason I am here and the reason why I choose to stay is because of the staff, the environment, and the diversity I found here at Greater Allegheny.” Betty loved that the campus was designated as an international campus.

Why International Politics?

“As someone who aspires to contribute to the development of the world, I believe I have the obligation to speak up for those who are not as lucky to have had the opportunities that I had, for those whose voices are silenced or are unheard. I believe that by studying International Relations I am able to be more aware of the issues the world faces and to see how I fit into the equation of bringing change.”

Giving back

Betty has planned and participated in a number of events on campus and in the region. She planned an International Women’s Day event on campus. She also spoke to minority students at McKeesport High School, encouraging them to take Advanced Placement classes. “I wanted to tell the students that they are capable of achieving their dreams.”

Advice from Betty

Betty wants to tell future Greater Allegheny students that “If you want to go to a college that allows you to be more than a number, that provides all the resources you need, staff that truly cares about your success, and an environment that let you gradually adjust to the college life, then you have chosen wisely. College is really about what you make of it and if you are open to the possibilities you will be surprised at what you find.”
Real Students—Real Stories

Alyssa Finocchi

Women’s volleyball player Alyssa Finocchi really liked the idea of going to a small campus, while getting a Penn State degree. “Originally I wanted to go to University Park after two years at Greater Allegheny but decided to stay because Greater Allegheny offered my major and I would also have the opportunity to play volleyball for an additional two years,” she said. “Greater Allegheny is different than other campuses because it’s a small close-knit community. Everybody knows each other and is friendly on this campus. Many of the teachers know the students by name and are always available to give advice or answer questions.”

An athlete and a scholar

Alyssa has been captain of the Greater Allegheny women’s volleyball team since her sophomore year. She is also a great student. She has been awarded Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) Academic All Conference, an award for athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, all three years she’s been playing. She has also earned PSUAC Honorable Mention and First Team PSUAC, in addition to player of the week several times for PSUAC and once for the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA).

Motivation

She said, “The awards have meant a lot to me because I never expected to get these recognitions while playing in college. There is a lot more traveling than in high school and the teams are more competitive. I have learned to always try my best and give 100% as well as motivate my team to do the same. These awards have shown me that hard work and dedication really do go a long way.”

Wise Advice from Alyssa

“The schoolwork is a lot different than high school. You have to be focused from day one in order to not fall behind. There will always be options that seem better than homework or studying but ultimately you are going to school to learn. I would also advise students to participate in a sport or a club because this is a great way to meet new people and make long-term friends.”

Giving Back

Alyssa enjoys giving back to her community. She has volunteered at a youth volleyball camp in Baldwin with younger student athletes, as well as at Baldwin High School volleyball camps. She enjoys being able to see her old coaches, get some extra playing time, and helping younger kids learn the sport.

Alyssa’s future

At Greater Allegheny Alyssa has learned a lot about diversity and becoming friends with people from different states and even different countries. A Business, Marketing and Management major, Alyssa’s dream job is to one day own a boutique or clothing store while designing clothes as well. She said, “I chose this major because I am interested in selling techniques and leadership skills. It also gives me a wide variety of job options.”
Diwas Timsina

Diwas Timsina was born and raised for 14 years in Jhapa, Nepal, in a refugee camp. Originally from Bhutan, his family and 70,000 other Bhutanese were forced to leave the country due to the interethnic conflict that occurred in the 1990’s. “We faced so many struggles and challenges like discrimination, crowdedness, floods, fire, hurricane and diseases. The list goes on and on,” said Diwas. In 2008, the Timsinas first arrived in the United States, settling in Atlanta, Georgia where they stayed for three years before moving to Pittsburgh.

A New life

Diwas said, “Before I came to the United States, people used to say that it will have tall buildings, it is peaceful and clean and looks like heaven. It is the land of opportunity.” He said, “When I saw it for the first time I was shocked and lost because all the descriptions were wrong and it did not look like heaven. But one thing was right—it is the land of opportunity.”

Experiencing success

With the help of Junior Achievement (JA) in Pittsburgh, he was selected as one of six nationwide high school students to fly to Dallas, Texas, to AT&T Global headquarters. There, he spoke in a live nationwide broadcast about his job shadow experience with AT&T in Pittsburgh. He also had the opportunity to meet with AT&T’s CEO and JA USA’s President. Diwas has been highlighted at a national level in Junior Achievement USA’s 2012 Annual Report as well as in multiple local newspapers.

Diwas at Greater Allegheny

An Information Science and Technology major, Diwas also plays soccer at Penn State Greater Allegheny. He says he chose this campus because he “wanted to start off from a small campus.” He added, “Everything is good and I am doing my best at my classes and I cannot believe I am already a sophomore in college.”

Advice from Diwas

Diwas has some advice for fellow students: “No matter who you are, where you came from, and what you have done in your life, education is very important if you want to go further in your life.”
Greater Allegheny Alumni Society: Giving a legacy to create a future

The Penn State Alumni Association is a powerful network of more than 172,000 members worldwide. The Association has been keeping alumni connected to the University and to each other for more than a century. It is the largest dues-paying organization of its kind in the world. The Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society is proud to be a part of this organization and to connect the Alumni of Greater Allegheny to both the campus and the University as a whole.

Each year, the Greater Allegheny Alumni Society offers a scholarship to students attending Penn State Greater Allegheny. This endowed award was established to provide recognition and financial assistance to a deserving current degree student that has met the requirements for the award. Last year, four scholarships were given to students in the amount of $3,700.

"We are honored and privileged to be able to provide the alumni scholarships. Many of us received scholarships while at Penn State, and wouldn't have been able to attend college without financial help, so we are aware of how important scholarships are to families," said Denise Kubli, Alumni Society president. "We are always looking for ways, both financial and otherwise, in which we can support current students."

Money for the student scholarships is raised through a Penn State Berkey Creamery Ice Cream and Ye Old College Diner Stickies Sale and by asking for donations when people park in the campus lot for International Village, an annual festival held in Renzie Park, adjacent to the campus, just to name a few. The Alumni Society aims to be very connected to the campus. They generously support campus events such as All That's Jazz, a scholarship benefit that has been in place for more than 10 years, the printing of "Nittany Lines," the campus' annual magazine, Breakfast with Santa, and a Business Etiquette Dinner to teach students proper etiquette during interviews and business dinners.

The Society also presents an Honorary Alum Award each year. This year the award was given to Professor of Theatre Arts Dr. Jay Breckenridge for his many years of service to the Society and the campus community. Kubli said, "Dr. Breckenridge has been an inspiration to his students and the Alumni Society has always been appreciative of his support, especially to our annual Breakfast with Santa held for underprivileged children."

In addition, this spring the Alumni Society hosted a Senior Sendoff, a casual dinner for graduates and their families. The Society wanted to celebrate the Class of 2014's graduation and induction into the Penn State Alumni Association.

Alumni scholarship recipients pose with Alumni Society board members at the Honors Convocation.
When *For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students* ended on June 30, 2014, it had raised more than $2.18 billion. It is the most significant fundraising effort in Penn State’s history. According to a news release from the University Park campus, Penn State is one of only twelve public universities in the nation to have ever exceeded a $2 billion campaign goal, receiving support from 167,500 alumni, the most alumni donors to any campaign in the country. Overall, more than 603,000 donors made more than 2.1 million gifts to the historic University-wide effort.

Penn State Greater Allegheny also exceeded its goal of $5 million! Many alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and friends contributed to the success of this campaign. It is because of their generosity that Penn State will continue to thrive for many generations to come.

“The campus community is so grateful for our active alumni group,” said Interim Chancellor Dr. Nancy L. Herron. “Many of these events could not take place without their financial and volunteer assistance. They always make an effort to mentor current students and to welcome graduates into their fold.”

Children from the surrounding communities enjoy Breakfast with Santa at the annual event that has been sponsored by the Alumni Society for 26 years.

Interim Chancellor Nancy L. Herron speaks to graduating seniors at the first Alumni Society hosted Senior Sendoff event.

Cynthia Oliver became the director of campus development and alumni relations at Penn State Greater Allegheny effective November 25. Oliver comes to Penn State with approximately 20 years of fund raising and nonprofit administration experience. Most recently she served as director of advancement for Catholic Charities and Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center in Pittsburgh. Last year, under her direction, the Catholic Charities development team raised $3.5 million in annual gift revenues.

Oliver previously served as a development and management consultant, and held several leadership positions in local nonprofits, including executive director of the Westmoreland Girl Scout Council and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Oliver holds a bachelor of arts and a master’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Phoenix. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and serves on the board of the SWPA Association of Fund Raising Professionals (AFP), the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Eberly College of Business Advisory Board, the Penn State Parent’s Council, and has served as a member and former president of Serra Catholic High School Board of Directors.

Oliver grew up in White Oak, Pa. and is a graduate of McKeensport High School. She and her husband John have seven children and reside in McKeensport.

“We are excited to have Cynthia joining our team at Greater Allegheny,” said Interim Chancellor Nancy L. Herron. “Her experience cultivating and soliciting major donors and her established relationships with the Pittsburgh foundations will help to advance the level of scholarship funds that are made available to our students at the campus.”

Cynthia Oliver became the director of campus development and alumni relations at Penn State Greater Allegheny effective November 25. Oliver comes to Penn State with approximately 20 years of fund raising and nonprofit administration experience. Most recently she served as director of advancement for Catholic Charities and Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center in Pittsburgh. Last year, under her direction, the Catholic Charities development team raised $3.5 million in annual gift revenues.

Oliver previously served as a development and management consultant, and held several leadership positions in local nonprofits, including executive director of the Westmoreland Girl Scout Council and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Oliver holds a bachelor of arts and a master’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Phoenix. She is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and serves on the board of the SWPA Association of Fund Raising Professionals (AFP), the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Eberly College of Business Advisory Board, the Penn State Parent’s Council, and has served as a member and former president of Serra Catholic High School Board of Directors.

Oliver grew up in White Oak, Pa. and is a graduate of McKeensport High School. She and her husband John have seven children and reside in McKeensport.

“We are excited to have Cynthia joining our team at Greater Allegheny,” said Interim Chancellor Nancy L. Herron. “Her experience cultivating and soliciting major donors and her established relationships with the Pittsburgh foundations will help to advance the level of scholarship funds that are made available to our students at the campus.”
On the evening of November 8, 2014, the Student Community Center was the place to be. People were mingling and bidding on fabulous auction items, the smells of delicious food was wafting through the hallways, and, of course, the stage was hopping with the sounds of live jazz music provided by a trio of musicians: David Pellow, Mark Strickland, and Benny Benack, Jr. Following their performance Broadway’s Next Hit Musical took the stage to perform their hilarious awards-show style act. The event raised more than $96,000, bringing the 11-year total of All That’s Jazz to $821,000 raised for student scholarships.

The event would not have been such a success without the generosity of the sponsors, auction donors and guests. Special thanks to the 11th Annual All That’s Jazz sponsors:

**Corporate Sponsors**
- Desmone Architects
- Excela Health
- HDH Group
- Jendoco Construction Corporation
- Oliver Natural Resources, Inc.
- Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society
- RDM – Resource Development and Management
- Specialty Steel Products, Inc.
- UPMC McKeesport
- Westinghouse

**Patrons**
- Mark Gruskin
- Nancy L. Herron
- Margaret Signorella
- Jay and Kim Weitzel
- Cliff and Barbara Wise

**Ambassadors**
- Lou Anne Caligiuri  
  In Memory of Ruth Hunt  
- Kelley Lynch
- Jim and Megan Minarik
- Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society
- Resource Development and Management, Inc.
- Keith and Wendy Staso
- John and Nancy Traina

**Supporters**
- Robert and Gloria Ennis
- Galen Grimes
- Michelle Hough
- Ross J. Nese
- Vic and Patty Orler
- Peter R. Swistock

For more information on the 12th Annual All That’s Jazz and how your donation can help Penn State Greater Allegheny students, contact the Development office at 412-675-9180.
A Night at the (Chinese) Opera

Most people never get the chance to experience a live Chinese opera. But the Greater Allegheny campus and community had the experience of a lifetime, when the Ningbo Yong Opera Troupe stopped by on their American tour for a special performance.

Zhihao Song, a Penn State Greater Allegheny business major, had the idea to bring the group to the campus. Back home in Ningbo, he is neighbors with one of the Opera's performers. He contacted the troupe, which was performing at Grinnell College in Iowa, and asked them to come to Penn State Greater Allegheny while they were in the United States.

The 27-member troupe's performance included parts from Andi, adapted from Eugene O’Neill’s Pulitzer-winning Anna Christie, as well as highlights from a few other plays.

According to the website Ningbo.gov, the Ningbo opera originated from the countryside of Zhejiang Province. As one of the most important local operas, it is widely popular in Ningbo, Zhoushan, Taizhou, and Shanghai. With a wide repertoire featuring traditional Chinese opera and interpretations of modern works, the Ningbo Yong Opera Troupe has performed in France, Germany, Saudi Arabia and the United States, among other countries.

The group's recent performance of "The Red Dress" at New York City's Lincoln Center won the 11th National Spiritual Civilization Five Top Project Prize and the Excellent Repertoire Award of the Seventh China Dance Lotus Award.

“We were so excited and fortunate to host the award-winning Ningbo Yong Opera Troupe. We are always looking for cultural and educational opportunities for our students, and to have a world-renowned musical group perform on our campus is an experience consistent with the campus emphasis on a global curriculum," Director of Academic Affairs Margaret Signorella said, adding, “Zhihao showed great initiative in arranging the visit.”
ATHLETICS

Greater Allegheny student athletes show their Penn State pride by giving back to the community

The men’s soccer team conducted an interactive program at the Boys and Girls Club in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. The team had the opportunity to interact with 31 children, ranging in age from five to nine. The Greater Allegheny athletes played games and shared their soccer skills with the kids.

The baseball and softball teams came together last year to host a camp at the Miracle League Field in Upper St. Clair, Pennsylvania. The kids at Miracle League of the South Hills, which is a part of the Pirates Charities Organization, enjoyed spending time with the older students, and all had fun at camp.

The men’s and women’s basketball teams also held an informational clinic with the boys and girls from Mon Yough Catholic School in White Oak, Pennsylvania, in December.

Student athletes hit 1,000 points!

Aaron Byrd netted his 1,000th career point in a Penn State jersey.

Taylor Fulton achieved her 1,000th point scoring record in a Penn State jersey through her four-year career.

Christina Floyd hit a milestone, scoring her 1,000th point and grabbing her 1,000th rebound in her four-year career at Greater Allegheny.

Basketball

Women’s Basketball: Paving the way to a 15-10, 12-4 season was head coach Lou Zadecky, who was honored with the 2013-14 Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year award.

Men’s Basketball: A competitive second-half of the season fell short as Greater Allegheny narrowly missed the PSUAC Playoffs with an overall record of 9-17, 8-9 PSUAC. The 2014 season welcomes new head coach, Tyler Care.

Volleyball

In the 2013 season the Women’s Volleyball program nailed back to back appearances at the PSUAC Elite Eight Playoffs. The women finished the season 10-19 and 8-9 in the PSUAC, moving to the Elite Eight against Brandywine. In the 2014 season, the team moved further into PSUAC Playoffs, making it to the semi-final game against Fayette. They finished their season 21-10 and 11-7 in the PSUAC.

Cross Country

In 2013 Rachel Ramsey finished second at the PSUAC Championships with a time of 27:35. She holds the best course time at Westmoreland County Community College (20:53), at Greater Allegheny (21:59), and at PSU Wilkes Barre (16:53 with a 2.5 mile course). In 2014, Ramsey finished first overall at the PSUAC conference Championships with a time of 25:49.
Student-Athletes Earn PSUAC Academic All-Conference Recognition

Forty-one Penn State Greater Allegheny student-athletes were recognized by the Penn State University Athletic Conference for their outstanding effort both in the classroom and in competition, as each of them were awarded the Academic All-Conference honor.

To be eligible for the Academic All-Conference distinction, a student-athlete must either maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or higher during their semester of competition or maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and have at least 24 credits completed.

The award-winners are as follows, listed by sport:

**Baseball**
- Bill Carter
- Clay Groff
- Trevor Jaworski
- Zach Krivda
- Eric Schell
- Matt Warhola
- Tommy Williams

**Men’s Basketball**
- Petrie Addison
- Aaron Byrd

**Cross Country**
- Tammy Bevilacqua
- Kasey Dansak
- Melissa Lofts
- Rob Meier
- Rachel Ramsey
- Keith Smith

**Men’s Soccer**
- Seung Wook Cho
- Bangaly Diane
- Manoj Sharma
- Qimin Sun

**Softball**
- Audra Besnak
- Sam Clark
- Shelby Bendick
- Kasey Dansak
- Kim Hall
- Ashley Lowenstein
- Holly Madeja
- Casey Naylor

**Volleyball**
- Audra Besnak
- Adrielle Brisdon
- Alyssa Finocchi
- Christina Floyd
- Kayla Franklin

**Women’s Basketball**
- Betel Gebre
- Nana Kennedy-Kwofie
- Melissa Lofts
- Lauren Pruitt
- Rachel Ramsey
- Jocelyn Randolph

The award-winners are as follows, listed by sport:

- **Baseball**
  - Bill Carter
  - Clay Groff
  - Trevor Jaworski
  - Zach Krivda
  - Eric Schell
  - Matt Warhola
  - Tommy Williams

- **Men’s Basketball**
  - Petrie Addison
  - Aaron Byrd

- **Cross Country**
  - Tammy Bevilacqua
  - Kasey Dansak
  - Melissa Lofts
  - Rob Meier
  - Rachel Ramsey
  - Keith Smith

- **Men’s Soccer**
  - Seung Wook Cho
  - Bangaly Diane
  - Manoj Sharma
  - Qimin Sun

- **Softball**
  - Audra Besnak
  - Sam Clark
  - Shelby Bendick
  - Kasey Dansak
  - Kim Hall
  - Ashley Lowenstein
  - Holly Madeja
  - Casey Naylor

- **Volleyball**
  - Audra Besnak
  - Adrielle Brisdon
  - Alyssa Finocchi

- **Women’s Basketball**
  - Betel Gebre
  - Nana Kennedy-Kwofie
  - Melissa Lofts
  - Lauren Pruitt
  - Rachel Ramsey
  - Jocelyn Randolph
Creative endeavors featured in campus publication


These are all examples of works you might find in ABSENCE: Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Literary & Visual Art Review. The Review’s 16th volume was published last Spring by the student-operated PSUGA Press, which also publishes one or two book-length works per year in support of the mission of the campus.

Each year, faculty, staff, alumni, and student members of the campus community are invited by the student editors to submit their best poetry, short fiction, essays, photography, graphic art, and other literary and visual art.

The Review’s goal is to provide all full- and part-time students, faculty, staff, and alumni with a shared venue for their creative endeavors, and to generate interest in the arts. ABSENCE also prepares students for careers in academia, publishing and journalism, and document design—both paper and digital—while offering opportunities for students to earn Penn State credit for editorial work. Several student editors have gone on to careers in publishing and academia.

“ABSENCE is a great place for artists, whether aspiring or more experienced, to submit their creative work, and to have it permanently edited and published by their peers,” said Dr. Cliff Manlove, associate professor of English and ABSENCE faculty adviser since 2002.

A student editorial committee evaluates each submission, and designs and publishes the Review. A “blind submission” policy is used to select the art that is published. Acceptance for publication by the student editors is selective and competitive. Only about 20 to 25 percent of submissions are selected. After consulting with student editors and faculty adviser, final decisions about publication rest with the student editor-in-chief. “The students on the editorial staff work hard to produce a quality issue,” said Manlove.

The 2014 student editors were led by Tim Tolbert, Editor-in-Chief. According to Tolbert, a senior majoring in English, “We are so fortunate to have this opportunity to learn, from the ground up, how to produce an actual publication. ABSENCE is a hands-on, high quality addition to our portfolios that we can show off when we interview for future jobs. The experience has been invaluable.”

Each student submission is eligible for consideration for the annual Chancellor’s Prizes for Best Literary & Visual Art. One thousand dollars in scholarships is awarded to students. The Chancellor’s Prizes were founded in 2006, by then-Chancellor Curtiss E. Porter, to promote the growth of an active creative community in and around Penn State Greater Allegheny.

ABSENCE is published in April of each academic year, and is unveiled at its annual Reading and Reception, which features the work of each year’s authors and artists. The event celebrates the arts with live performances from the campus choir and band. Those in attendance receive a complimentary copy of the issue, which includes a special section on this year’s Teaching International themes, Canada and Global Health. Requests for copies may be sent to the faculty adviser at manlove@psu.edu.

Rainbow Falls Cascades by Kelly Kovalsky

Purple Falls by Dacian McKenzie

Mantis by Michael Bazalewski

Evening Run by Luke Sabljak

“Irish Eyes” by Chun “Jack” Zhang

The event celebrates the arts with live performances from the campus choir and band. Those in attendance receive a complimentary copy of the issue, which includes a special section on this year’s Teaching International themes, Canada and Global Health. Requests for copies may be sent to the faculty adviser at manlove@psu.edu.
The students of BA 422W, Strategic Business Planning, spent the spring semester performing an in-depth study of the business strategies of Freedom Farms, the Pennsylvania farm owned and operated by the King Family made famous by their television show, Farm Kings. The study included Freedom Farms Cafe and Carryout, Boldy’s Bakery, the farm markets and the farm itself.

Joe King, eldest child and patriarch of the King family, visited the Penn State Greater Allegheny campus to speak with the students and learn from them how he can grow and improve his family’s businesses. King came to the campus not as a celebrity, but as a co-owner and partner of Freedom Farms.

Strategic Business Planning is the capstone course of the Bachelor of Science in Business Program. It’s taught by Dr. Michelle Hough, associate professor of business. Hough, a regular customer of Freedom Farms Café and Carryout, approached King about working with her students. “The students enjoy working with real businesses in a service-learning context. I thought Freedom Farms would be perfect for our class to study,” she said. “It’s a local business doing a lot of great things, including launching a popular television show. The Kings have been amazing in opening their business to us and giving us an unprecedented view into the strategic management of this ever-growing diversified business.”

The students presented their findings to King, along with suggestions on how to improve the growing family business.

They offered suggestions such as a new vision statement, new mission statement, ways to grow the company, and suggestions for customer retention. One suggestion was that the Kings bring together all of their business into one place, creating a one-stop shop. Other ideas included offering catering, holding events to attract new customers, and showcasing their all-natural foods. One of the students’ most valuable contributions was to make an organizational chart to better divide responsibilities among the key areas of the business.

Freedom Farms is already successful, but King is always looking for ways to improve. He said, “We always try new things. They don’t always work, but they are all successful because even if they don’t work out, you learn something.”

The students presented King with a 65-page business plan. King said, “I want to thank you for all of your work. These suggestions will certainly help me in my effort to be an educated farmer.”

Farm Kings follows the King family as they battle the elements—and each other—to provide the Pittsburgh region with fresh, high-quality produce and meats. According to the Great American Country TV website, “Joe, the oldest of the ten King kids, manages brothers Tim, the head of produce, Pete, the ‘Human Harvester’, Dan, the passionate wannabe-partner, and mom Lisa, to make sure the work gets done on a daily basis.”

“I am so proud of the students who embraced this project, working on every aspect of business strategy. They logged more than 600 hours of work,” said Hough, noting that the students were all graduating seniors.

Hough plans for the Strategic Business Planning course to examine a different business each semester. The fall class studied the Strip District of Pittsburgh. Visit ga.psu.edu to read about their experience.
Dr. Jay Breckenridge, Professor of Theatre Arts, wrote the play Canadian Folk Tales: Stories of the Wabanaki Indians for the Penn State Greater Allegheny Players. The piece adapted and dramatized four folk tales of the Wabanaki Indians of Eastern Canada as part of the Teaching International Program. Breckenridge also wrote the plays Merlin in the Middle, How King Solomon Met the Queen of Sheba, and Celtic Folk Tales for the Penn State Greater Allegheny Players. He served as stage manager for a new one-act play Whistleblower by the Heritage Players, Pittsburgh New Works Festival. He also produced and stage-managed The Promise for the Heritage Players entry in the Pittsburgh New Works Festival, designed and built scenery for Heritage Players of Bethel Park, and performed the role of Tubal for South Park Theatre's production of Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice.

Bernie Cerasaro, Instructor in Business, with Dr. Michelle Hough, Associate Professor in Business, and Dr. Andrew Kobylanski, presented their paper, Evaluating Mechanisms for Increasing Elder Consumer Interactions with Information Technology at ‘Aging and Society: An Interdisciplinary Conference,’ in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.


Dr. Zhibo Chen, Professor of Mathematics, co-authored two articles: “Forcing faces in plane bipartite graphs (II)” in Discrete Applied Mathematics, and “Conjugated circuits and forcing edges” in MATCH Communications in Mathematics and in Computer Chemistry.

Dr. Zack Furness, Assistant Professor of Communications, edited Punkademics: The Basement Show in the Ivory Tower, and authored two chapters in the same book, “Attempted education and righteous accusation: an introduction to Punkademics” and “Milo went to college: an interview with a descendent.” He also wrote the chapter, “Paved with Good Intentions” in Bikeness: Designing for Chicago Bike Culture.


Lori Hepner, Associate Professor of Integrative Arts, published artwork in the Flash Forward 2013 Catalog, in Toronto, Canada. She was the presenter and author of “Twitter Portraits and Mutated Data: Binary Code as Art,” and “This is Not Photography! Social Media, Visualized.” Hepner was invited to give the keynote presentation titled, “Digital Identity in the Age of Social Media” for the Media Commons Tailgate at Penn State’s University Park campus. Her art was exhibited at SPACE Gallery, Pittsburgh; American Life Exhibition, ShijiaZhuang Art Museum, ShijiaZhuang China; Flight School Exhibition, Three Rivers Arts Festival, Pittsburgh; SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Day, Pittsburgh, No Name Players Theater Company and The New Hazlet Theater, Pittsburgh, PA; The A.I.R. Gallery 10th Biennial, A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn, New York. She had eight photographic prints shown at the American Life Exhibition, Dalí International Photo Festival, Dalí, Yunnan, China; four pieces from Status Symbols at Art Beat, Shadyside Academy, Fox Chapel; and Flash Forward 12 at the Magenta Foundation, Flash Forward Festival in Boston, and SALT Institute for Documentary Studies, in Portland, Maine. Hepner also received the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Scholarship Award at the “Americans for the Arts National Conference” and a Faculty Research Grant from the College of Arts and Architecture, Penn State.

Dr. MaryEllen Higgins, Associate professor of English, co-edited The Western in the Global South and edited Hollywood’s Africa After 1994. She also wrote “Trashing the Western’s Revenge Narrative in Mahamat-Saleh Haroun’s Darat” in The Western in the Global South.

Dr. Michelle G. Hough, Associate Professor of Business, published the book, Putting Privacy in Perspective: Exploring the Evolution and Implications of Privacy in U.S. Society. Hough also co-authored with Dr. Margaret Signorella and Dr. Elizabeth Mazur, a book chapter “Older Adults and Their Internet Behaviors.”

Hough received the Best Paper Award for the best of the Innovative Teaching track, by The Applied Business and Entrepreneurship Association International (ABEAI) at the 10th annual ABEAI conference in Honolulu, Hawaii for “Exploring the use of a compressed live case study model (clcs) to enhance student learning and organizational effectiveness,” which she presented and co-authored with Penn State Greater Allegheny student Donald Shulock. Hough also co-presented, with Bernie Cerasaro, Instructor in Business, and Andrew Kobylanski, a paper, “Evaluating Mechanisms for Increasing Elder Consumer Interactions with Information Technology” at “Aging and Society: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. James A. Jaap, Senior Instructor in English had an interview published, “Cather Camp: An Interview with Francoise Pallae-Pain, James Jaap, and Tracey Tucker” for the Willa Cather Newsletter and Review, Willa Cather Foundation. He was also awarded a grant for the James R. Woodress Visiting Fellowship, University of Nebraska, a four-week fellowship at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to study the works and archives of Willa Cather.

Dr. Beth A. Lindsey, Assistant Professor of Physics, published “Combining Two Reform Curricula: An Example From A Course With Well-Prepared Students,” in the American Journal of Physics: Physics Education Research Section and co-authored “Student understanding of energy: Difficulties related to systems,” in the American Journal of Physics.

Lindsey also co-authored “Positive attitudinal shifts with the physics by inquiry curriculum across multiple implementations,” in Physical Review Special Topics: Physics Education Research. Lindsey was elected to a three-year term as Editor-In-Chief of the American Physical Society Forum on Education Newsletter.
**Dr. Eric M. Lipsky**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering co-authored “Particulate matter and organic vapor emissions from an in-use helicopter engine operating on petroleum and Fischer-Tropsch fuels,” in *Energy & Fuels*. He also co-authored “Fuel composition and secondary organic aerosol formation: gas-turbine exhaust and alternative aviation fuels,” in *Environmental Science and Technology*; and “Analyses of turbulent flow fields and aerosol dynamics of diesel engine exhaust inside two dilution sampling tunnels using the CTAG model,” in *Environmental Science and Technology*.

Lipsky was a participating artist and consulting engineer on the artwork, *The Workers*. It was funded by Industrial Arts Coop, City of Pittsburgh, Heinz Endowments, Pittsburgh Sprout Fund, Pittsburgh. *The Workers* is a collaborative public sculpture project involving over 20 artists. The sculpture, which pays tribute to the regional steel industry, is assembled from leftover scrap metal from vanished Pittsburgh steel mills. The 20-foot tall sculpture rests permanently in Pittsburgh’s South Side Riverfront Park.

Lipsky was interviewed for the article, “Searching for Methane Leaks from Shale Gas,” by Allegheny Front environmental reporter Reid Frazier. The article describes data collection of air quality around Marcellus Shale industrial sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania. He was also interviewed by the Allegheny Front Environmental Radio Show for a feature program titled “Gas Planet - The Impact of the Natural Gas Boom on Climate Change.” The program aired several times in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

**Dr. Clifford T. Manlove**, Associate Professor of English, wrote the chapter “An Image of Africa: Blackness and Colonialism in Peter Jackson’s King Kong” in *Hollywood’s Africa After 1994*, edited by Dr. Mary Ellen Higgins. Manlove was also the presenter and author of “The Utopian and Dystopian Dimensions of the Plantation as Represented in Tarantino’s Django Unchained” in *Environmental Science and Technology*; and “From King Alpha and Queen Omega to I ’n’ I: Toward a ‘Rasta Theory’ Via Rastafari’s Overstanding of Subjectivity, Leadership, and Social Organization,” in *Environmental Science and Technology*; and “Using ‘The Trade as a Form of Control’: On the Commercialization of Ganja and the Role of Commerce in the Babylonian Conspiracy in The Harder They Come,” both at the “Second Triennial Rastafari Studies Conference and General Assembly,” in Mona, Jamaica. The last paper is under consideration for a selected volume of conference proceedings. Manlove is the Senior Faculty Adviser & Publisher of ABSENCE, the campus Literary & Visual Arts Review.

**Dr. Elizabeth Mazur**, Associate Professor of Psychology, co-authored with Dr. Margaret Signorella and Dr. Michelle Hough, a book chapter, “Older Adults and Their Internet Behaviors.” She also presented “Teaching Students What They Can Do: The Make a Grant Project in Psychology of Gender” at the “Penn State Shenango Teaching Conference” in Sharon, Pennsylvania; “Women and Social Class Activism,” at the “Association for Women in Psychology” in Salt Lake City, Utah; and “Young Chinese Women: Self-presentation and Identity on Social Networking Sites” at the “39th Annual Conference of the Association for Women in Psychology” in Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Dr. Mildred R. Mickle**, Associate Professor of English, coordinator (with Dr. Douglas Charles) of the Letters, Arts and Sciences major, developed the new campus certificates in Creative Writing and Africana Studies.


He also co-authored “Efficacy of All-Male Academies: Insights from Critical Race Theory (CRT),” in *Sex Roles*. The authors plan to continue their research and investigation of this timely issue in public education.

Mitchell also authored “Bethany House Academy: A Pan-African, African-centered Model for Implementing an International Rites of Passage Program for Urban, Adolescent African American Males,” in *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men*. The last paper is under consideration for a selected volume of conference proceedings. Manlove is the Senior Faculty Adviser & Publisher of ABSENCE, the campus Literary & Visual Arts Review.
Dr. Verónica Montecinos, Professor of Sociology, received the Award for Teaching Excellence from Penn State Greater Allegheny. Montecinos was named a 2013 Penn State Teaching Fellow by the Penn State Alumni Association. She also received the Editor’s Choice Award for the poem “Scrub, Scrub, Scrub,” which was published in ABSENCE: Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Literary and Visual Art Review. The poem was read at the ABSENCE reception in April.

Montecinos was appointed by Chilean President Michelle Bachelet to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Pension Systems.

Dr. Megan Nagel, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, co-authored “hplcsimulator.org – a New Website Featuring an Advanced, Interactive High-Performance Liquid Chromatography Simulator and Instructor Resources,” in the Journal of Chemical Education American Chemical Society, and “hplcsimulator.org,” in Journal of Analytical Sciences Digital Library. The article was selected as Editor’s Choice. Nagel also published, “Visualizing Separations: How Shopping can be Useful for Introducing Chromatography,” in the Journal of Chemical Education American Chemical Society.

Dr. John D. Peles, Professor of Biology, published “Effects of aluminum and copper exposure on growth” in Aquatic Toxicology.

Dr. Mary H. Preuss, Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature, contributed to the edited volume “The Lights Dim but Don’t Go Out on the Stars of Maya Oral Literature” in Parallel Worlds. Genre, Discourse, and Poetics in Contemporary, Colonial, and Classic Maya Literature. She is also editor of the Latin American Indian Literatures Journal.

Kristin M. Sciulli, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Senior Instructor in Mathematics, coordinated the STEM summer bridge program for new students.


Dr. Kurt C. Torell, Associate Professor of Philosophy, had several pieces of artwork published in ABSENCE: Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Literary and Visual Art Review, including Hell’s Canyon, Badlands II, Untitled or Trilogy Four, Badlands III, Lagoon Beach, Lollipop Trees, Trilogy I, and Idaho. Lollipop Trees was featured on the cover of the review and received the Editor’s Choice Award.

Dr. Michael Vicaro, Assistant Professor of Communications, published “Digital Disclosure, Decision-making, and Democracy” in Teaching Media Quarterly.

Jonathan J. White, Instructor in History was awarded the Editor’s Pick from ABSENCE: Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Literary and Visual Art Review, for his “Ode to the Gingerbread Man.” He also co-presented “The Significance of African-American History; The Use of African-American Poetry in Education,” at the “PAEYC & Allegheny Family Support Conference” in Pittsburgh.

Courtney Young, Head Librarian, Professor of Women’s Studies, served as President-elect and is now President of the American Library Association. Young was promoted to Librarian and Professor of Women’s Studies.

Dr. Young Han Bae, Assistant Professor of Marketing, Dr. Alandra F. Kahl, Instructor in Environmental Engineering, Dr. Kuei-Nuan Lin, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, Dr. Katherine J. McLean, Assistant Professor of Administration of Justice, and Dr. Veronica Paz, Instructor in Accounting.

Welcome

Retirements

Dr. Jeanne Amlund
Dr. Jay Breckenridge
Dr. Edward Bittner
Donna Rhodes
Three-dimensional (3-D) printers are popping up everywhere in the news these days. Scientists have printed everything from tattoos to food to human skull implants. And students at Penn State Greater Allegheny are learning, first-hand, how to use this cutting-edge machine.

Freshman students in the engineering program are experiencing a fun new way of learning utilizing the campus’ 3-D printer. The printer was purchased with funds from part of a grant called Toys ‘N More, a National Science Foundation grant aimed at increasing the retention of engineering students.

Three-dimensional printing is the process of making a three-dimensional solid object of virtually any shape from a digital model. While 3-D printing technology has been around since the 1980s, it was not until the early 2010s that the printers became widely available commercially.

Many students start in an engineering program in college only to leave due to difficulty in math and science classes. The Toys ‘N More program uses toys to help get students excited about the kinds of things that engineers get to do in hopes of motivating students to work harder in their math and science classes. The program is imbedded in a course most engineering students take in their first year of classes. Introduction to Engineering Design, taught by Dr. Alandra Kahl, Instructor in Engineering, teaches basic design methods, computer skills, and aspects of the different engineering fields. One of the computer skills taught is using Computer-Aided-Design software (CAD) to design and model items in the computer. The 3-D printer allows these designs to be manufactured and used for various class projects. The 3-D printer works by printing thin layers of plastic and building them up to make a design from the computer.

One of the first projects, led by Dr. Eric Lipsky, assistant professor of engineering, used the 3-D printer to design a Zero-Emissions-Home that generates the energy it needs using various forms of alternative energy. Students modelled the house using the CAD software and then printed the model using the 3-D printer. The CAD software helps to visualize their designs as they can rotate it and see on the computer screen from different angles.

“The students were able to see and touch their design up close and make the connection between a design in their head, and how it will look once it is built,” Lipsky added.

Another project in the Engineering Design course is to reengineer a toy for preschoolers. Students begin by deconstructing a current toy from toys that they were given to study how they worked. As part of the reconstruction process, students must use their CAD skills and the 3-D printer to construct a part that is integrated into the final project. Once the toys are built, the students make a field trip to a neighboring pre-school to test out their toys with children at the preschool. “Students appreciate utilizing their CAD skills to bring their designs to life,” said Dr. Kahl. “It allows them to connect their work in the classroom to the real world.”
Greater Allegheny students participate in THON and spark a Mini-THON at a local high school

Penn State Greater Allegheny students departed campus last winter to travel to University Park with one intent in mind, THON. THON is a yearlong effort ending with a single weekend to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer.

"We tried to rest beforehand, but it was hard because we were so excited! When we arrived, there were so many people waiting to enter the Bryce Jordan Center. Everyone was so positive and it felt so good knowing we were helping to raise money for kids with cancer," said Ashia Mack, one of Greater Allegheny’s dancers. "I felt overwhelmed with pride to be a part of such a tradition."

Thirty-four students gave up an entire weekend to support Mack and Jaleel Dyson, the other dancer from Greater Allegheny. The pair successfully completed 46 hours of dancing!

For the past three years, the THON team from Greater Allegheny has “adopted” Madison Garrigan as their THON child. Thankfully, Madi has been in remission for the past two years! She is 19 and just finished her freshman year at Millersville University. Maddi and her mom, dad, and big brother attend THON every year. The students were so excited to share THON weekend with this courageous family, and the Garrigans were overwhelmed again to receive such kindness. They have formed a bond that will surely last a lifetime.

Greater Allegheny students worked proactively and relentlessly throughout the year raising approximately $14,000 while preparing for the Dance Marathon weekend. Throughout the year, students from Penn State Greater Allegheny held many events such as a Pie in the Face event, a Date Auction, Penny Wars, a spaghetti dinner, THON bowling, and Kennywood Fright Night. In the past 10 years, the campus has raised nearly $150,000 for THON.

Greater Allegheny THON Chair Andrew Pricener, and the campus’ THON executive committee coordinated the efforts for the campus. He said, “THON has been such an amazing experience! From the very first committee meeting to the big weekend, it was so stressful, but so rewarding. We are so grateful for the support we received from everyone on campus, and in the community. It was a true group effort to raise this money for the kids.”

Gearing up for the next THON
It’s not too late to support THON
The 2015 Greater Allegheny THON committee, led by co-chairs Andrew Pricener and Jaleel Dyson, has been raising money and planning for an exciting event coming up on February 20–22. Some events include a spaghetti dinner and a Pie-in-the-Face event, where students, faculty, and staff volunteer to “get pied,” or donate money for the chance to throw a pie at someone.

If you would like to help the THON students in their efforts to raise money for families affected by cancer, please donate to the four diamonds fund through the website donate.thon.org. Choose General Organizations, then Greater Allegheny, and complete the form. Our
During the grand finale of THON the final total is revealed and this year THON broke yet another record. THON raised $13,343,517.33 towards the Four Diamonds Fund in 2014. The total raised since 1977 is more than $114 million.

Photo Credit: Ashia Mack, Erin O'Malley, David Buckholtz.

Students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Borough, Pennsylvania joined in the Spirit of THON. Last spring, the school hosted its first “Mini-THON”—a 12-hour dance marathon modeled after Penn State’s event. There were 17 teams, one of which was made up of ten teachers, seven of whom were Penn State Alumni. The Mini-THON raised more than $22,000, which was also donated to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital.

“This was the first time for Thomas Jefferson to ever hold an event like this, but it is expected to become an annual event. The students involved really seemed to have a great time and get behind this wonderful cause,” said Evan Cecere, a member of the teachers’ Mini-THON team and a Penn State alumnus who attended the Greater Allegheny campus and danced at THON. “I believe that this will continue to grow and that we will see our students holding up signs next year displaying an amount greater than what we achieved this year.”

Plans to make the mini-THON an annual event at Thomas Jefferson High School are being made by the teachers who participated at this year’s event.

Students at Thomas Jefferson School District participate in a mini-THON modeled after Penn State’s fundraiser. Photo Credit: Thomas Jefferson School District

It’s not too late to support THON 2015

Andrew Pricener and Jaleel Dyson, has been raising money to support families with children through the website donate.thon.org. Choose General campus will then be credited with your donation.

Gearing up for the next THON

Students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Borough, Pennsylvania joined in the Spirit of THON. Last spring, the school hosted its first “Mini-THON”—a 12-hour dance marathon modeled after Penn State’s event. There were 17 teams, one of which was made up of ten teachers, seven of whom were Penn State Alumni. The Mini-THON raised more than $22,000, which was also donated to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital.

“This was the first time for Thomas Jefferson to ever hold an event like this, but it is expected to become an annual event. The students involved really seemed to have a great time and get behind this wonderful cause,” said Evan Cecere, a member of the teachers’ Mini-THON team and a Penn State alumnus who attended the Greater Allegheny campus and danced at THON. “I believe that this will continue to grow and that we will see our students holding up signs next year displaying an amount greater than what we achieved this year.”

Plans to make the mini-THON an annual event at Thomas Jefferson High School are being made by the teachers who participated at this year’s event.

Students at Thomas Jefferson School District participate in a mini-THON modeled after Penn State’s fundraiser. Photo Credit: Thomas Jefferson School District

It’s not too late to support THON 2015

Andrew Pricener and Jaleel Dyson, has been raising money to support families with children through the website donate.thon.org. Choose General campus will then be credited with your donation.

Gearing up for the next THON

Students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Borough, Pennsylvania joined in the Spirit of THON. Last spring, the school hosted its first “Mini-THON”—a 12-hour dance marathon modeled after Penn State’s event. There were 17 teams, one of which was made up of ten teachers, seven of whom were Penn State Alumni. The Mini-THON raised more than $22,000, which was also donated to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital.

“This was the first time for Thomas Jefferson to ever hold an event like this, but it is expected to become an annual event. The students involved really seemed to have a great time and get behind this wonderful cause,” said Evan Cecere, a member of the teachers’ Mini-THON team and a Penn State alumnus who attended the Greater Allegheny campus and danced at THON. “I believe that this will continue to grow and that we will see our students holding up signs next year displaying an amount greater than what we achieved this year.”

Plans to make the mini-THON an annual event at Thomas Jefferson High School are being made by the teachers who participated at this year’s event.

Students at Thomas Jefferson School District participate in a mini-THON modeled after Penn State’s fundraiser. Photo Credit: Thomas Jefferson School District

It’s not too late to support THON 2015

Andrew Pricener and Jaleel Dyson, has been raising money to support families with children through the website donate.thon.org. Choose General campus will then be credited with your donation.

Gearing up for the next THON

Students at Thomas Jefferson High School in Jefferson Borough, Pennsylvania joined in the Spirit of THON. Last spring, the school hosted its first “Mini-THON”—a 12-hour dance marathon modeled after Penn State’s event. There were 17 teams, one of which was made up of ten teachers, seven of whom were Penn State Alumni. The Mini-THON raised more than $22,000, which was also donated to the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children’s Hospital.

“This was the first time for Thomas Jefferson to ever hold an event like this, but it is expected to become an annual event. The students involved really seemed to have a great time and get behind this wonderful cause,” said Evan Cecere, a member of the teachers’ Mini-THON team and a Penn State alumnus who attended the Greater Allegheny campus and danced at THON. “I believe that this will continue to grow and that we will see our students holding up signs next year displaying an amount greater than what we achieved this year.”

Plans to make the mini-THON an annual event at Thomas Jefferson High School are being made by the teachers who participated at this year’s event.
A Night at the Chinese Opera.

Read about the Ningbo Yong Opera Troupe’s performance at the campus on page 13.