Alumni and friends honored retired engineering instructor Sam Zabec at a roast and raised $107,000 for a scholarship in his name.  (See page 13)
Dear Friends of Penn State Greater Allegheny,

Our hearts are heavy with the unfolding of the unfortunate incidents at University Park. We face our future with remorse and humility, but we are strong in our resolve to move forward. Under new leadership, Dr. Erickson has promised to manage the University with a “shared sense of purpose” guided by “Five Promises.” During this crucial period Rod Erickson has promised, in his Presidency, to:

1. reinforce to the entire Penn State community the moral imperative of doing the right thing – the first time, every time.
2. lead by example, I will expect no less of others.
3. (be) committed to transparency to the fullest extent possible given the ongoing investigations.
4. be respectful and sensitive to the victims and their families. We will seek appropriate ways to foster healing and raise broader awareness of the issue of sexual abuse.
5. provide whatever resources, access, and information are needed to support the Special Committee’s investigation. I pledge to take immediate action based on its findings.

Penn State Greater Allegheny has a long history of providing quality education at our campus. For the past 12 years, I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as the campus’ leader in the Chancellor role. I pledge to you now that I will continue to manage this campus with a sense of transparency and vision, supporting Dr. Erickson’s “Five Promises” and moving this campus further towards our visionary goal of “...caring for the success of our students and communities.”

At times like these, I believe the best way to stay focused and to maintain positive outcomes is to recommit, as a unit, to meet daily challenges with the ever arching best of our individual and collective abilities. Accordingly, this issue of Nittany Lines highlights the achievement of many fine people, at all levels, who continue to make the Penn State Greater Allegheny experience a unique and fulfilling one.

We continue to be successful in raising the funds needed to assist our students financially. Recently, an anonymous donor has made a commitment to bequeath $2.2 million dollars of his private estate, to Penn State Greater Allegheny. This gift is great news and a historic “new” in the growth trajectory of our campus. The gift and the giver show by concrete recognition the value and the authenticity of the very honesty of our efforts as a campus to support student success.

In addition to this historic donation, we’ve continued to reach out to raise funds for students who are struggling financially. Our annual All That’s Jazz Scholarship Benefit brought in over $200,000 over the past two years. This brings the total raised over the course of this event to $475,000.

During this past year, I was honored and humbled to be the recipient of the 2010 YWCA Racial Justice Award. The YWCA presents this award to both individuals and organizations to recognize their work in breaking down the barriers of racism. I was pleased to accept this award on behalf of Penn State Greater Allegheny’s mission.

We all will continue to work to make Penn State Greater Allegheny the “first choice” campus for those who are seeking the high quality of a Penn State education.

I want each reader of this important record of campus achievement to note that as workers and peers, we can continue to accomplish more in our lives and for the lives of others. As a campus we wish each of you the very best in 2012.

Sincerely,

Chancellor Curtiss E. Porter, Ph.D.

‘64 – ’66
Inaugural 5K sets pace for future races

Nearly 100 runners braved a chilly morning on Saturday, April 9, to participate in the first Penn State Greater Allegheny 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds of $1,658 collected from race registrations were donated to Sonshine Ministries in McKeesport. The ministry provides clothing, food, and counseling services to area residents.

The 5K was hosted by the Penn State Greater Allegheny Student Government Association. It was sponsored by the Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society. The purpose of the event was to provide students at Penn State Greater Allegheny the opportunity to be challenged both physically and mentally while contributing to their surrounding community.

The first place male and female community members were Chuck Love (21:34) and Erica Suhy (24:18). The first place male and female students were Keith Tester (23:35) and Roni Watkins (1:07:47).

The event was timed by Runner’s High, a race and time management company based in Grove City.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny Inaugural 5K Race was a great success, bringing together the campus and community. Right, Penn State Greater Allegheny Fitness Coordinator Tracy Gibbs, Assistant Coordinator of Residence Life Sarah Holtzman and Chancellor Curtiss E. Porter present a check for $1,658 to Terry Ruccio from Sonshine Ministries.
Nathan Globosky likes to figure out how things work. It was like that with his dirt bike, his car and throughout high school at Central Westmoreland Career and Technology Center where he studied welding and machining. After working in fabrication shops for two years in high school he realized it wouldn’t be enough to pursue a solid career. Although he had never planned on going to college, it seems natural now that Globosky would come to Penn State Greater Allegheny to pursue a major in Mechanical Engineering. The campus was close to his home in Herminie, Pennsylvania, but he could also live on campus and “get everything out of college that I imagined.”

Globosky actually began his schooling at Penn State Greater Allegheny through the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Program (STEM). STEM is challenging academic enrichment for incoming freshmen who want to pursue careers in engineering, computer science, science, business management, entrepreneurship, and mathematics. “Participating in STEM was the best decision I made coming into college, not to mention I moved up two math places after completing the program and retesting,” said Globosky. “I would encourage incoming students to get involved in different clubs and organizations. For engineering students, definitely take advantage of the STEM program,” he added.

Globosky’s favorite spot on campus is the Student Community Center. He likes the relaxed modern atmosphere… the café with the new Starbucks, the windows in front that let the sun shine in and the mixture of tables and comfy seating.

Dedicated is a word that Globosky exemplifies. As a third generation firefighter who volunteers 250 hours per year of service in his home town of Herminie, he’s dedicated to his community. He’s also dedicated to academics. “There will always be road blocks along the way, but I will do whatever it takes to push forward and achieve success,” said Globosky.

Globosky’s dream job is to work for Mythbusters—a television show that debunks common myths; but when he’s thinking more seriously, he says he’d be content building security systems for the government.
Chandra Ulinfun thought she wanted to be a cardiologist, but perhaps her heart wasn’t in it. After a business law class in high school, she was hooked on law and big business. She is pursuing a management degree at Penn State Greater Allegheny. After graduation she plans to attend law school. She’d like to start her career in a corporate law department, then hold a series of elected offices before making a run for her dream job—President of the United States!

Ulinfun gets a lot of questions about why she did not attend the Penn State Harrisburg Campus, since her home is just 20 minutes away. “I wanted to be close to the city and to experience city life in Pittsburgh,” she said. “Ultimately I chose Penn State Greater Allegheny because the campus is small and has an intimate setting. It allowed me to find a close group of friends. There is always someone to talk to and it’s a great place to find a mentor.”

Where might you find Ulinfun on campus? “It’s actually a tie between the Admissions Office and Student Affairs Office. The Student Affairs Office provides Chandra the support she needs when it comes time for big tests or if she is just having a rough day. “They are always there to listen and with an inspirational quote to make me feel better,” she said.

Although college life doesn’t allow the time to practice, Ulinfun can play the violin and sing. “I was very musically involved in high school,” said Ulinfin. She was first violinist of her orchestra and sang in an all female choral group. “Our choir won competitions at the district, state, and regional level. We also took lessons and performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City.”

While being on her own at college has made Ulinfun more independent and responsible, she still finds she misses her mom, dad, three younger brothers and little sister. “I have a car, so I can go home when I want to, but it’s not the same as being able to see my family every day,” she said. “I like to lounge around the house on weekends and have long conversations with my parents about the news and life,” she added.

Ulinfun has some thoughtful advice for incoming freshmen. “Seize every opportunity—academic and social,” she said. When counting up the perks of being a student at Penn State Greater Allegheny, Ulinfun mentions cultural events, clubs, sports, free tutoring, and help from academic advisers. “Remember you are paying all of this money to be at Penn State. Take advantage of everything that will make you a better, well-versed person and leader in your life.”
Snow...it’s very real, but hard to describe. When Chinar Singh from India experienced snow for the first time, she was a freshman on campus at Penn State Greater Allegheny. “I absolutely loved it. I went snow tubing, made a snow angel, snow man, went sledding, all for the first time,” she said.

Singh is pursuing a degree in pre-medicine. “My parents are both general practitioners. I see them help all kinds of people, freeing them from pain,” said Singh. “My dream job is to become a world famous doctor, maybe a plastic surgeon,” she adds. “I would work six months for money, the other six months for charity.”

Singh chose Penn State Greater Allegheny because of its small, intimate atmosphere. She likes knowing every corner of the campus and recognizing all of the faces. “Being here has helped me cultivate a feeling of belonging and togetherness,” she says. “I have found the people here very friendly. They smile, wave, hold doors, and help you with everything you need,” said Singh.

The Residence Hall is her favorite place on campus. “It is my home,” she says.

Although the campus is cozy, moving halfway across the world has had its challenges. Topping the list is homesickness, next is the long plane ride. “The plane trip here is 24 hours!” she says. “Being responsible for myself was an adjustment. I do my own laundry; take care of my stuff, and work. I am basically doing everything myself,” then she quickly adds, “but it feels great growing up.”

“People would be surprised to know that I am one extroverted nerd,” she says with a smile. “I had a 4.0 in the fall semester, but I love making friends and would like to be a part of every activity on campus,” she said. As a Lion Ambassador, participant in THON fund-raising for children with cancer, treasurer of the Residence Hall Council, programming chair of the Student Government Association, a tutor at McKeesport Area High School as part of the Penn State Educational Partnership Program, and a student in the Honors Program she takes great advantage of what Penn State Greater Allegheny has to offer academically and socially.

Her advice to incoming freshmen is to be you. “This is a time to figure out who you are, and your limitations, what you can and cannot do,” she said. “Join the clubs on campus—that’s how you meet people and make friends. Also, if you are going to live on campus, make an effort to get along with your roommate. If you are lucky like me, this person could become your best friend.”
Coming to the USA to continue his education is a decision that surprised Sheng Wei’s family and friends in China. “I was accepted to a university with a good reputation, but I wanted to become a better person through my own effort,” said Sheng Wei, known on campus as Wilson. In his senior year, Chancellor Porter visited his high school and their conversation paved the way to his coming to Penn State Greater Allegheny. “I came here because it already felt familiar to me,” he said.

Wei is pursuing a degree in Engineering Science, but intends to make that a double major with the addition of Philosophy. “I chose engineering because I like to build things,” he said. “Engineering Science gave me an opportunity to fulfill my wide spectrum of interest in Engineering because it offers abundant electives for students in their junior and senior years,” he added. In addition to the campus being a great learning environment, with its small classes and intimate atmosphere, Wei has learned a lot from being a Lion Ambassador. “I have gained the skill and bravery to speak in front of the public. Through volunteering at university events and in the community, I have felt the warmth, acceptance and cohesion that are found in a family,” he said.

“The Kelly Library gives me a place where I can calm down and focus on my study,” says Wei of his favorite place on campus. He said he also meets a lot of good people in the library—students, like him, focused on their dreams.

Those who know Wei may be surprised that in spite of his pulled together appearance and diligence about school work, he’s really a little messy. “I do clean up after myself, but I am not extremely organized with my personal things,” he said.

There are many adjustments for college students, but one might imagine this is especially true for an international student like Wei. “The most challenging thing for me was breaking out of my shell and interacting with people,” he said. “Being a Lion Ambassador has helped me to do that.” He said it was also challenging to acquaint himself with a different system of education and to preserve himself and his roots in a different culture.

While he’s relishing his time and experiences in this country, he plans to return to China after graduation. His dream job is to be an engineer for a computer company where he creates machines that make people’s lives easier.

When asked what advice he would give incoming freshmen, he’s very emphatic, “study hard and be an active participant in school organizations. Be patient, someday, all of your efforts will pay off.”
Dr. Jeanne T. Amlund coauthored a book chapter entitled “Just Beginning a Doctoral Program?” in The Doctoral Student’s Advisor and Mentor: Sage Advice from the Experts.

Dr. Jay Breckenridge, a founding member of the Heritage Players, Bethel Park Community Theatre, continued his involvement by acting, directing and designing and building sets for various productions of the theater company, including participation in the Pittsburgh New Works Festival each September.


Dr. Gregory Gillette authored an article, “Mathematics, Education, and Technological Considerations” and was invited to present his work at the 11th National Communication Ethics Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

Galen Grimes recently published two articles in refereed journals, one on “Profiling Online Behavior for Network and Information Security Education” in the International Journal of Interdisciplinary Telecommunications and Networking which he coauthored with Penn State colleague Michael Bartolacci, and another which he coauthored with Penn State colleagues, Elizabeth Mazur, Margaret Signorella and Michelle Hough entitled “Developmental and Experiential Differences in Adults Knowledge of Computers and Internet Hazards,” in Educational Gerontology.

Lori Hepner exhibited her photography (by invitation) both nationally and internationally. Works have been displayed in Spain, at the 1708 Gallery in Richmond, VA, at the Artlink Gallery in Fort Wayne, IN and at the George A. Spiva Center for the Arts in Joplin, MO. Locally her photographic prints were awarded the Carnegie Museum of Art Purchase Award at the 100th Annual Exhibition of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and was awarded Best Demonstration of Theme at a competitive art exhibition at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

Michelle Kline served as the Academic Coordinator for the University College’s baccalaureate degree in business, working with faculty and Instructional Design Teams to bring the degree program to the World Campus. In this role, she serves on the Executive Committee of the BSB Faculty Disciplinary Community and was elected to chair that committee for a 2-year term. Ms. Kline also presented at the WCET Learn Do Connect and Enjoy conference in LaJolla, CA.

Dr. Andrzej Kobylański had his work published in the International Journal of Management and Marketing Research.

Dr. Kobylański also presented and authored a paper for the Summer 2010 Global Conference on Business and Finance in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Kristin Sciulli, senior instructor in mathematics, and campus math department coordinator, was appointed Assistant Director of Academic Affairs. Sciulli has been an active participant in the campus’s Summer STEM bridge program, teaching the Math component and in the Toys ’N More program, funded through the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Eric Lipsky was the recipient of a $50,000 grant for Entrepreneurship Education and Biodiesel Fuels Development from Mary Del Brady and Richard Pearson. Dr. Lipsky’s efforts will address the need to reduce the use of resources and create more sustainable practices on campus.

The keynote speaker at the 2001 fall commencement was Daniel H. Simpson. Simpson writes daily editorial and weekly columns for the Pittsburgh Post Gazette and the Toledo Blade. He is a member of the American Academy of Diplomacy, an organization of distinguished retired American statesmen in the field of foreign affairs and national defense.
Dr. Elizabeth Mazur had several publications in 2010. Along with her co-authored article (see above – Grimes), she had an article published in the Journal of Adolescent Research [Self presentation and Interaction in Blogs of Adolescents and Young Emerging Adults, coauthored with former student L. Kozarian]; a chapter, “Collecting data from social networking web sites and blogs,” in Advanced methods for conducting online behavioral research, and a book review, “The Barbie girls and the sea monsters,” [Review of the book, Gender Development], in Psychology of Women Quarterly.

Dr. Mbagne Mbengue had his coauthored work, “Analysis and simulations of a nonlinear dynamic beam,” accepted for publication in ZAMP Journal.

Dr. Mary Preuss is the editor of the Latin American Indian Literatures Journal, and also translated an article, “The Three Brothers,” for the journal. Dr. Preuss also serves on the Editorial Board of Mythologiae based in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She presented “Relaciones romanticas en la literatura folklórica maya,” XXXV Congreso Anual de Literaturas Hispánicas, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and “Wives, Husbands, and Lovers in Contemporary Mayan Literature” at The 32nd MACLAS Annual Conference, at the University of Pittsburgh. She is co-convener of the symposium “Kindred Mesoamerican Spirits: Animal Allies of Human Aspirations” of the 54th ICA meeting, University of Vienna.

Dr. Margaret Signorella was awarded Fellow status by the American Psychological Association (Division 35-Psychology of Women), and co-authored an article described above (see Grimes). Dr. Signorella is also a member of a research group awarded a 3-year, $130,247 grant from the National Geographic society to address the National Geographic Bee gender gap.

Dr. Mildred Mickle authored “Faith in Verse and Fiction: James Baldwin’s, Phillis Wheatley’s, Octavia E. Butler’s and Tananarive Due’s Creation of a Peaceful Space,” which appeared in Critical Insights: James Baldwin, Morris Dickstein, Editor.

Dr. John Peles served as Associate Editor of the American Midland Naturalist.

Dr. MaryEllen Higgins had an article published in African Literature Today, a direct result of the monies received from the University’s Global Fund. Dr. Higgins also presented her work on Documenting Human Rights in African Cinema for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Verónica Montecinos received the inaugural Eugene J. Barone Memorial Fund Distinguished Alumni award from the Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh, where she gave a talk at the awards ceremony in October 2010. Dr. Montecinos was also invited to participate in several prestigious international academic events in 2010. She presented a paper at the 30th Anniversary Symposium of the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was a keynote speaker at the International Conference on the State of the Social Sciences in Chile and Latin America, at the Universidad Diego Portales in Santiago, Chile. She also presented a paper at the conference “Assessing the State of the Nation: Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Mexico at the Bicentenario, 1810 – 2010,” at the University of Leiden in The Netherlands.

Dr. Clifford Manlove served as chair of the Greater Allegheny Faculty Senate and represented the campus on the University College Faculty Council. Dr. Manlove also received a grant from Global Programs to conduct research for his book, The Harder They Come: Cultural and Political Histories of Rastafari and Reggae in Jamaica, 1948-1980, at the University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. While there, Dr. Manlove was invited to give a paper on this project at the Inaugural Rastafari Studies Conference sponsored by UWI, Institute for Caribbean Studies and Reggae Studies Unit.

Dr. Curtiss E. Porter, Chancellor of Penn State Greater Allegheny, was the keynote speaker at the spring 2011 commencement. Porter was also the recipient of the 2010 YWCA Racial Justice Award for his efforts to eliminate racism and promote equality.
For a second year in a row, the **All That’s Jazz Scholarship Benefit** raises more than $100,000

Since 2004, the benefit has raised over $475,000 for student scholarships.

Record amount of $110,000 raised at the Seventh Annual **All That’s Jazz Benefit** on October 16, 2010

“Every year it’s a different party,” says Nancy Seifert, a title sponsor and entertainment and decorations chair woman, and this year was **very** different. From swing dancing to a reverse auction, which raised $14,000 in 15 minutes for the Text Book Fund, guests and volunteers felt an energy in the building that helped the event reach a record high of $110,000.

Penn State Greater Allegheny won the 2010 American Marketing Association (AMA) Award in the Education Category. This award was for the submission of the strategic marketing efforts toward the Seventh Annual All That’s Jazz Scholarship Benefit.

For a second year in a row, the All That's Jazz Scholarship Benefit raises more than $100,000. Since 2004, the benefit has raised over $475,000 for student scholarships.

2011

Eighth Annual All That’s Jazz Benefit tops $102,000 on November 5, 2011

This year’s theme was “Celebrate!” and that’s exactly what occurred at the Eighth Annual All That’s Jazz Scholarship Benefit. Performing on the William A. Seifert, Jr Stage, was the vocal quintet, 42Five, direct from Orlando, Florida. Unlike any musical experience around, 42Five recreated an entire instrumental band with nothing but their voices. For a second year in a row, the reverse auction netted $16,000 in a mere 15 minutes with the total going to the Text Book Fund.
During the month of July, incoming freshmen at Penn State Greater Allegheny honed their academic skills in engineering, mathematics, English composition and physics as part of The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) summer bridge program. Twenty openings were available to students who applied to the program by submitting essays describing how participation would help them to achieve their academic and career goals.

During the four-week session, students experienced the academic and social aspects of a Penn State education. Students attended classes each day until 3 p.m. After class, they participated in tutoring, study skills classes and other activities to prepare them for college-level work.

“The STEM program gives these students a head start and better prepares them for some of the difficult classes they will encounter as college students,” said Kristin Sciulli, assistant director of academic affairs and an organizer of the program. “We also plan outside activities to help them bond and give them an opportunity to develop a support system.”

As part of the program, students put what they were learning to practical use at Blueroof, a McKeesport company that develops state-of-the-art living facilities for senior citizens or the disabled. The project, referred to as BIM, or Blueroof Independence Module, was designed as a free-standing modular unit that could be attached to a house and used primarily for returning disabled veterans. Each team presented their findings at a final semester presentation.

The three teams researched and designed components for the BIM dealing with architecture, energy and technology.

“I found the project to be very interesting and beneficial,” said Katherine Yoho, one of the students in the STEM program from the Pittsburgh Creative and Performing Arts magnet school. “Being on the campus this summer and working on this project helped me to get familiar with the campus before the fall semester starts. It also made me more aware of the kind of school work that is expected of me and better prepared me for the semester.”

The program cost of $750 included meals, field trips, text books, extracurricular activities and faculty instruction. Costs were defrayed by grants from the Pittsburgh-based EQT Foundation and the National Science Foundation.
Zabec roast celebrates endowment for student scholarships

On May 21, a crowd of nearly 250 came out to honor Sam Zabec, Residence Hall Coordinator, Delta Kappa Phi member, adviser, and well-known and loved engineering instructor at the Greater Allegheny campus from 1968 until his retirement in 2004.

The purpose of the evening was to “roast” the good-natured Zabec and wrap-up a fundraiser for the Sam Zabec Scholarship. The $107,000 raised for this Trustee Matching Scholarship will support students studying science, technology, engineering and math.

The evening included dinner, a Roast of Zabec, and dancing to music from the Sam Zabec years.

It’s not too late to contribute to the Zabec Scholarship Fund. For more information, call 412-675-9048 or email arf4@psu.edu.
Penn State Greater Allegheny Athletics

Reaching up, reaching out, reaching deep within!

Penn State Greater Allegheny athletics is reaching new heights by adding new sports offerings, providing services to the community and encouraging students to achieve in their athletic and academic pursuits.

Reaching up!

Athletic Department add Men’s Wrestling and Cross Country in 2011-12

Penn State Greater Allegheny Athletic Department announced the addition of Wrestling and Cross Country for the 2011-12 academic year. This will bring the number of varsity sports offerings at Penn State Greater Allegheny to eight: Golf (Coed), Cross Country (Coed), Women’s Volleyball, Men’s Basketball, Women’s Basketball, Wrestling, Baseball, and Softball. Cross Country will be offered to both men and women. Wrestling will be offered to men only. “The addition of Wrestling and Cross Country is a huge step in the development of our athletic department. We have doubled the number of varsity sports offered since 2006-07,” said Jim Chester, director of athletics. Both the Cross Country Team and the Wrestling Team will compete in the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) and the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA).

Baseball Captures PSUAC Championship

Penn State Greater Allegheny defeated Penn State Brandywine 3-2 to earn the PSUAC tournament championship. The title marks the first for head coach Jim Chester.

The game remained scoreless through the first 3 innings, with Junior starting pitcher Ted Fricke (Carrick) dancing his way through multiple jams. In the Greater Allegheny half of the 4th inning, the offense finally got going. Freshman shortstop Scott Dierdorf (Hopewell) earned a lead-off walk, which was followed by Freshman first baseman Adam Wehr (Northwestern) knocking a two-run blast to left field. Sophomore third baseman Robbie Shartle (Meadville) followed Wehr’s homerun with a double, and then was knocked in by Sophomore left fielder Matt Bradburn (Baldwin).

Penn State Brandywine brought the score to within 1, after a run in both the 5th and 6th inning. After a scoreless inning for Greater Allegheny in the bottom of the 6th, Freshman pitcher Dan Laird (Steel Valley) was able to strike out the Brandywine lead-off man. After a hit, an error, and an intentional walk loaded the bases, Laird forced an infield fly for the second out. The third out was a ground out to third baseman Scott Dierdorf, who stepped on the bag to bring home the PSUAC crown.

Ted Fricke earned the win for Greater Allegheny on the mound, giving up 2 runs on just 3 hits, while striking out 9 through 5 innings. Dan Laird pitched the final 2 frames to seal the deal. Adam Wehr led the bats for Greater Allegheny with 2 hits, including a huge 2-run homer in the bottom of the 4th inning. Matt Bradburn also added a hit, and knocked in the eventual game-winning run.

Jim Chester honored as Collegiate Baseball Manager of the Year

The Rotary Club of Pittsburgh has named Penn State Greater Allegheny Baseball Coach, Jim Chester its second Collegiate Baseball Manager of the Year. Chester was honored during the fifth annual Chuck Tanner Major League Baseball Manager of the Year event at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.
Reaching deep within!

Baseball Nabs Numerous PSUAC Accolades

The Penn State Greater Allegheny baseball program garnered numerous awards from the Penn State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC).

Greater Allegheny had a clean sweep among leagues top honors:

PSUAC Player of the Year: Zak Schmidt (Moon)
PSUAC Pitcher of the Year: Scott Dierdorf (Hopewell)
PSUAC Newcomer of the Year: Scott Dierdorf (Hopewell)
PSUAC Coach of the Year: Jim Chester

The PSUAC also recognized six players on their annual all-conference teams:

1st Team
Jon Lutz (West Mifflin)
Ted Frick (Carrick)
Zak Schmidt (Moon)
Scott Dierdorf (Hopewell)

2nd Team
Matt Bradburn (Baldwin)
Adam Wehr (Northwestern)

Twenty Student Athletes Earn PSUAC Academic All Conference

Twenty Penn State Greater Allegheny student-athletes earned honors in the Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference. Student-athletes must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher or have 3.0 GPA during their respective season to earn the conference honors.

Honorees are listed below:

Men’s Basketball
Wesley Bobbit
Aaron Byrd

Baseball
Brian Balagurchik
Matt Bradburn
Bill Hodgetts
Tyler Kugler
Jon Lutz
Kevin Quinn
Zak Schmidt
Doug Walter
Sam Weightman
Jeff Ziegler

Softball
Lashawana Carter-Sewell
Lauren Clark
Kelly Donohue
Nicole Drane
Kaitlyn Kirkpatrick
Sydney McMullen
Samantha Segiel
Lacey Walters
Teaching International

Spotlight on Human Rights and Other Events

Penn State Greater Allegheny, strongly committed to the University’s internationalization initiatives, each year adopts a country or region of the world as a common focus to inspire teaching and scholarship for the Teaching International program. Through comparative study we hope to advance a greater understanding of globalization processes and its impact on the lives of people around the world, including our own region.

This last academic year focused on Eastern Europe and human rights.

Teaching International is a partner with the Greener Allegheny initiative and the Honors Program to bring lectures, films, and other activities on globalization and sustainability to the campus.

Born in Hamburg, Germany Edith Bell spent several years in concentration camps during WWII. After years in the Netherlands, Israel and Panama, she came to the United States in 1955. Her talk was entitled “Human rights violated: Testimony from a peace and justice activist.”

Dr. Ronald H. Liden addressed the campus community about human rights and changes in Eastern Europe. The talk entitled, “1989: The Meaning and Consequences of the Year of the Fall” focused on changes in Eastern Europe after the fall of communism and the Soviet Union.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny Players presented their spring production, “The Flower Queen’s Daughter” as part of the Teaching International Project. Dr. Jay Breckenridge, professor of Theatre Arts supervised the theatrical production.

Dr. Douglas M. Charles, assistant professor of history at Greater Allegheny spoke about the FBI and human rights. Charles is the author of *J. Edgar Hoover and the Anti-interventionists*, which describes how FBI director J. Edgar Hoover catered to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s political interests in order to preserve his position and to expand FBI authority.

Dr. Jay Breckenridge, professor of Theatre Arts supervised the theatrical production.

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Dr. Irene Hanson Frieze, speaker in the Globalization and Sustainability Speaker Series presented “Responding to a Changing World: Attitudes About Gender, Work and Family Post-socialist Europe.”

Steve Hvozdovich from the environmental organization, Clean Water Action in Pittsburgh spoke before the showing of the movie, Gasland. Hvozdovich is the spokesman for the Clean Water Action for the Marcellus Shale drilling issues.

Dr. Mary C. Burke was a guest speaker during the Teaching International year and discussed the topic of modern-day slavery. Dr. Burke is a faculty member in the Psychology Department at Carlow University in Pittsburgh, where she is the director for the doctoral program in counseling psychology.

Alina Bodea (no photo available) spoke on “Making Sense of the Romanian Orphans’ Phenomenon in post ‘89 Romania. A View From the Ground.”

Projects at the Student Research Conference featured topics that focused on Penn State Greater Allegheny’s Teaching International theme of Eastern Europe. Videos and posters created by students working both individually and in groups from a variety of different courses were displayed. Honors recognition went to Sheng Wei and Xuerong Xiao, first and second place respectfully for their worked entitled, “Some Applications of Vectors,” and Summing Alternating Harmonic-like Series.”
The groundwork for their article titled “Finding Sums for an Infinite Class of Alternating Series,” began when the students took Chen’s calculus class as freshmen in the fall of 2009. “They both had a solid background in high school mathematics and admirable diligence,” said Chen. To inspire their interest, he gave them some copies of published papers on college math as well as his joint papers with former students.

“In May 2010, Wei’s asked to do research during the summer while he was visiting his family in China,” said Chen. “I gave him some harder problems than he’d had in calculus class, but still solvable by a talented student through hard work.” Wei worked on the problems persistently during the summer and succeeded in solving them.

In the summer of 2010, both Wei and Xiao were approved to be Penn State Schreyer Scholars. That fall, they took Math297H, an independent study/research class for honors credit with Chen. One of the topics for the class was, “How to find sum for Infinite Series.” Through months of diligent work, they got impressive results, which were first presented at the campus student research conference in November 2010. Along with another project of theirs, they won the top two places in the honors category. Later they participated in a student research poster exhibition at University Park in the spring of 2011. Following that event, their co-authored paper was submitted by Chen to the journal for publication.

In talking about their research experience both students said that they greatly benefited. “Through the research, I not only learned a great deal of mathematics, but more importantly, I learned the spirit of perseverance, constant curiosity and hard work which are indispensible in research as in every other goal that we need to achieve in our life,” said Wei. “Some problems required research; some required skilled use of knowledge; some needed clever ideas...I not only learned mathematics, but also the courage to seek another way out when trapped in catacombs.” said Xiao.

Dr. Elizabeth Mazur began working with psychology major Lacey Richards on an undergraduate research project that looked at adolescents’ friendship patterns online. Richards began working with Mazur as a research assistant on another project Mazur was conducting with another undergraduate student (Mazur & Kozarian, 2010).

Richards enjoyed the experience and thus decided to continue with the new idea Mazur had developed. Mazur and Richards used public postings on MySpace to examine the numbers and types of friends seen in the social networking interactions.

Richards received the Undergraduate Research Award from the Pennsylvania Psychological Association for this project, and later presented their work at a national conference, the Society for Research in Adolescence. Richards graduated with a B.A. degree in applied psychology in 2008.

The Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology recently published Mazur and Richard’s paper (2011). The article is entitled “Adolescents and Emerging Adults, Social Networking Online: Homophily or Diversity?”

Mazur is currently working with Yidi Li, who began at Greater Allegheny and is completing her psychology degree at University Park. Mazur and Li presented their work, “What are They Blogging and Blurbing? A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Chinese and American Emerging Adults’ Online Social Profiles,” at the American Psychological Association conference in August 2011 in Washington, DC. The project began as part of the campus international curriculum program, Teaching International, during the year the regional focus was on East Asia.
We are... Penn State
A Message To Alumni

Most of us remember our years in college with great fondness. You can continue to feel connected to your college years at Penn State by joining the Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society. Founded in 1982, the Alumni Society connects alumni with the University and provides valuable services to faculty, staff, students, and our community. It doesn’t matter which campus you graduated from; you only need to be a dues-paying member of the Penn State Alumni Association. Membership is an excellent way to give back to the campus and community.

The Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society holds several events each year. Our annual Breakfast with Santa has become a favorite community event. Local children from disadvantaged backgrounds come to the campus for a delicious breakfast, some time with Santa himself, and the chance to pick out a new toy to take home.

In the springtime, the Society’s annual Creamery Ice Cream Sale allows local PSU Alumni (and anyone else who can’t resist) to order their favorite half-gallon flavors along with boxes of those world-famous Grilled Stickies from The Diner. We have them delivered from University Park onto campus where folks line up bright and early to pack them into coolers and take them home to ration out until next year.

During McKeesport’s annual International Village each summer, members of the Society can be found in the parking lot behind the Frable building collecting donations for “Parking for Paws” which, along with the Ice Cream Sale, benefits the Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society Scholarship Fund.

During the course of each semester, the Society also sponsors events like Capitol Day, a bus to take students and staff to Harrisburg for a rally in response to the recent budgetary concerns. We pay attention to the little things too…like a brand new Nittany Lion mascot outfit for the campus Lion Ambassadors.

This past year the Society provided sponsorship for a local 5K run for charity and made the last donation White Oak’s no-kill animal shelter needed in order to open their new facility.

The Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Membership is free. Check out the Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Society Facebook page and follow @PSUGA_Alumni on Twitter for up-to-date information and meeting locations.

We invite you to connect with other Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni and participate in great local community service projects. If you’re interested in joining or have any questions, please contact me at psuga-alumni@psu.edu.

Sincerely,

Denise Kubli
President, Penn State Greater Allegheny Alumni Association