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THON



‘UNIFY AS ONE’

Penn State students anticipate 50th THON, gear up for 46-hour dance weekend activities

By Julia Mertes
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Regardless of whether Penn State students are dancing, watching, attending, helping with or simply listening to THON this weekend, many share similar feelings of excitement and anticipation as the 46-hour philanthropic event approaches.

THON is the world’s largest student-run philanthropy that works to provide both emotional and financial support for Four Diamonds families who have been directly impacted by childhood cancer.

With THON 2022 marking the 50th THON “For The Kids,” current students and community members have been preparing to raise new heights in terms of money and awareness for pediatric cancer.

Kaylee Montanari has served as a general member and with-in leadership roles of Eclipse, a special interest organization that prioritizes raising monetary funds to benefit THON and Four Diamonds families, since her freshman year of college.

Montanari (senior-biology) said via email she’s “honored” to further her involvement in THON this year and “represent the best organization ever” by participating as a dancer as a representative of Eclipse and the family of Jeremiah Reedy, her organization’s THON family.

“I am thrilled to dance along-



A member of Phi Kappa Psi raises up the Four Diamonds sign from the Bryce Jordan Center during Penn State THON on Feb. 23, 2020.



The THON 2020 final fundraising total was revealed on Feb. 23, 2020. “I am thrilled to dance alongside some of my best friends for the best cause I could ever think of,” Kaylee Montanari (senior-biology) said.

side some of my best friends for the best cause I could ever think of,” Montanari said.

Montanari said the cause has only become more important to her after fundraising throughout the years and participating in family-bonding activities to “create a familiar atmosphere all while working toward [their] goal of raising money for those impacted by pediatric cancer.”

Throughout this academic year, Montanari said Eclipse members have gotten the opportunity to visit their THON family on a couple of different days.

During the last visit to the fam-

ily, Montanari said “it was the best time ever,” as they got to play Pokémon with the kids and interact with Jeremiah, who she described as being “so extremely fun and outgoing.”

She said she “thinks daily” about how “amazing” the upcoming weekend will be with the entire THON community.

“This weekend, I want to be able to talk to the Reedys more and get to play with Jeremiah and his Pokémon — [and] also get to talk to other families and children and learn about their stories,” Montanari said. “It will be awesome to have a whole weekend to hear many families’ personal stories and perspectives.”

Montanari said she’s also looking forward to the karaoke battle, which she will be participating in with her friends.

“I am excited to actually kind of be a part of the entertainment this year,” Montanari said. “We named our group the College Mutant Ninja Turtles, so look out for us on stage, and cheer us on.”

Since she will dance in THON this year, Montanari said she’s also feeling some nervousness about the upcoming event.

“Other than excitement, I am a little nervous,” Montanari said. “I know this weekend will be exhausting physically and mentally, but I also know why I am dancing and who I am dancing for.”

To prepare for the event, Montanari said she “cut out caffeine” as soon as she discovered she would be a dancer — so about two

and a half months ago.

Montanari said she also stopped drinking alcohol and put greater focus on getting proper nutrition and sleep.

In terms of conditioning, Montanari said she’s “upped [her] exercise regime to include more cardio and legs” so she’s prepared to dance for the duration of THON at the Bryce Jordan Center. To prepare mentally, Montanari downloaded some mindfulness apps on her devices, and she has also contacted as many Eclipse alumni as possible to garner advice from their experiences.

“More than anything, every day I take the time to think about my ‘why,’” Montanari said. “I think about why I am doing what I am doing. I am dancing for those in my life who have faced cancer, for Jeremiah and the Reedys, for more birthdays and for all the kids in the world who have faced cancer — those with or without the means to access treatment.”

Montanari said “without a doubt” her favorite part of the THON experience is knowing they “truly make a difference in the lives of children.”

“There is absolutely no denying that the money we raise helps families persevere through one of the toughest challenges one could face,” Montanari said.

She said students’ THON efforts directly help families receive immediate aid after a cancer diagnosis and support the future of cancer treatments and drug developments via research fund-

ing. “One of the most impressive and shocking facts about THON is that the money raised finances every step of the cancer timeline — diagnosis, treatment and prevention,” Montanari said.

She said THON demonstrates that “the world can unify as one,” and the organization is a place where people of diverse backgrounds can come together for a unified cause.

“You can feel it in the BJC — the unification of all the volunteers and families as one,” Montanari said. “It is powerful to look around THON Weekend at every single organization, student and person in the building, and know that all of our hard work and dedication has accumulated to this very point.”

Montanari said the final four hours of THON, which are typically known as the “Final Four,” are an especially memorable part of the weekend.

“It is where we truly get to see the reality of cancer, and it is where I feel a lot of newer volunteers for THON realize the true impact of being a participant in this amazing cause — fueling their passion and desire to continue to work and volunteer [in] coming years,” Montanari said.

In regard to it being the 50th THON this year, Montanari said the occasion “speaks for itself” and makes her “proud” to dance knowing how many lives have been positively impacted over the 50-year time period.

Bernarda Castillo-Matute said she’s watched her friends become heavily involved with THON throughout the year and is excited to cheer them on this weekend in the culmination of their hard work and dedication.

Although she’s personally not involved in a THON committee this year, Castillo-Matute (sophomore-criminology) said she is enthusiastic to see the hard work of her peers.

Castillo-Matute said she’s also thrilled that THON will be held in person this year following the virtual format from last year.

As a sophomore who has never experienced a true, in-person THON event, Castillo-Matute said she’s hopeful to attend this weekend or at least stay tuned in virtually.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Will THON cause COVID surge?

By Maggie McGovern
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With Penn State’s annual THON Weekend quickly approaching, the community has been preparing for an in-person event — contrary to last year’s livestream. The event will take place from Feb. 18-20 in the Bryce Jordan Center.

THON is the world’s largest student-run philanthropy that aims to provide emotional and financial support to Four Diamonds families who have been impacted by childhood cancer, and this year is the 50th THON.

For Penn State student Tyler Adams, he said he “wouldn’t be surprised” if THON causes a coronavirus outbreak following the weekend.

“I’ve heard of a lot of people kind of lying about themselves getting booster shots and all that... some people are getting apathetic, especially considering how young we are,” Adam (senior-electrical engineering) said.

Adams said THON could also lead to another case of something “like the PS-Plague.”

Dayo Olorunnisola said she could see a rise in coronavirus cases happening but said mandatory vaccinations and masks will

“definitely” help.

“I think the thing with masks is that it’s one thing to say you have to wear them and another thing to actually enforce it — and enforce it over the nose and mouth,” Olorunnisola (freshman-international politics) said. “With so many people in a room together, I just don’t think there’s a way to do it safely.”

Lauren Heisler agreed masks “help for sure” but said she feels THON will be like any event happening where “there’s just going to be COVID cases going up but not incredibly high.”

All THON attendees will be required to wear masks indoors. If THON spectators are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, they won’t need to provide proof of a negative test to enter the Bryce Jordan Center.

However, THON dancers and committee members will need to show proof of a negative test from Feb. 16 or later, even if they are fully vaccinated.

Anyone who wishes to access the event floor during THON Weekend must provide proof of vaccination. And, only Four Diamonds families whose children are not on active treatment can attend THON Weekend.

“I think [THON is] doing the

best [it] can with trying to hold the event still,” Heisler (freshman-architectural engineering) said.

Mark Del Grande said he believes THON has done “a good job.” He said he’s “happy” to see the weekend’s back in person.

“I think it’ll be a good experience, and I’m happy to go for my first time,” Del Grande (sophomore-computer science) said.

Ashley Weber said the experience “won’t be the same” if THON is not held in person.

“It’s what we’re known for,” Weber (freshman-advertising) said. “I’m glad it’s in person.”

Cole Johnson also said an in-person THON was a “good” decision because “cases are decreasing, and people are more aware of [the coronavirus] and the symptoms.”

“If everyone just keeps up the masks, washes their hands... and they know if they’re sick before going into THON and don’t expose anyone, then I don’t think it would be that big of a problem,” Johnson (junior-psychology) said. “But I do see there maybe being some cases after THON.”

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



The Nittany Lion gives Alex Moon (senior-political science and technology) a haircut at THON’s “No Hair Don’t Care” event in 2020.

‘No Hair Don’t Care’ event supports THON children

By Jeremiah Hassel
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Through its “No Hair Don’t Care” event Tuesday, Penn State THON sought to destigmatize hair loss from cancer treatment, according to THON Hair Donation Captain for Special Events Corinne Purisky.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 82 individuals had their heads shaved in the HUB-Robeson Center by stylists from Evolve Studio, who volunteered at the event.

“By shaving [their] heads, [participants are] standing in solidarity with all [children with cancer] and supporting them as they go through their cancer treatments and are dealing with the hair loss, which is such an emotional part of the process,” Purisky (graduate-human relations) said. “[Participants become] so much closer to the cause... You can just see how important the mission is to them.”

To participate, individuals paid \$10 — five of which was donated to the THON-affiliated organization of their choice. The event raised \$820 total.

Ana Sparages, also a hair do-

nation captain for special events, said THON’s annual “No Hair Don’t Care” event is “strategically placed” before THON Weekend to get people excited about THON and its mission.

According to Sparages (junior-supply chain management), hair loss is a “part of cancer we just don’t talk about” that causes children to “lose their confidence” and struggle with self-esteem.

“We know all the treatments that [the children] go through, but we don’t know the emotional side of it,” Sparages said. “The kids — they don’t have a choice to lose their hair.”

Sparages said “No Hair Don’t Care” shows hair loss in a “positive” way and lets THON children know they’re supported.

“As all the students are sitting there and actually feeling the hair dropping, that’s super symbolic,” Sparages said.

“That happens to kids all the time that are going through cancer treatment.”

Evolve Studio stylist Olivia Ake participated in the event for the first time this year, shaving the heads of multiple participants.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



The Nittany Lion dances on stage as Go Go Gadjet performs during Penn State THON in the Bryce Jordan Center on Feb. 23, 2020. “I’m glad [THON 2022 is] in person,” Ashley Weber (freshman-advertising) said.

Alumna creates unity through pesto

By Ava Leone
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Jessica Paholsky takes her audience across the world from Italy to Uganda to Thailand and more — all with the click of a mouse.

The Penn State alumna created her brand Once Upon a Pesto in 2016, with the goal to bring people together from all over the world with pesto sauce recipes. What started as a blog is now a website featuring 120 different pesto dishes from 40 separate regions on the planet and an Instagram account with over 12,000 followers who join Paholsky on her adventures.

“It’s a global journey that everyone can enjoy from the comfort of their home. They don’t need a passport, they don’t need to book any flight, no reservation — nothing like that,” Paholsky said. “It’s entertainment and educational. And that’s my goal: to teach people that the world is so vast. There’s so much to learn from different things, and this idea of food being a creative outlet for any ages, any skill levels.”

Along with a variety of pesto recipes, Paholsky also shares facts about the cultural and historical significance of these recipes for different countries and why specific ingredients are included on her website.

Paholsky first began to learn about pesto when she studied abroad as a student at Penn State in Italy. Immersed in Italian society, Paholsky learned how different foods influence culture and felt inspired to delve deeper into “studying food from a different lens.”

When thinking about food, she started to ask herself: “Where does it come from? Why is it important to a certain area of the world?”



Courtesy of Jessica Paholsky

Jessica Paholsky creates pesto recipes. “Food isn’t just an experience. It’s also a universal language,” she said.

After spending time in Italy, Paholsky decided to write her Schreyer Honors College thesis on olive oil, which has ties to the production of pesto. From there,



Courtesy of Jessica Paholsky

Jessica Paholsky, a 2014 Penn State graduate, shares her journey and passion for pesto on social media.

pesto became Paholsky’s area of expertise.

However, Paholsky said she believes all food can bring people together — not just pesto.

“There’s so much to learn about food, and food isn’t just an experience. It’s also a universal language,” Paholsky said.

The word “pesto” originates from an Italian verb, which means “to crush” or “to grind.” So “pesto” — which can be made with basil, chia seeds, bananas, daikon radish and more — refers to the process of making the sauce, rather than one singular way to make it.

Paholsky conceived the idea for Once Upon a Pesto when she worked at Rodale Inc., a publishing company for magazines like Men’s Health, Women’s Health and Runner’s World. The organization was sold to Hearst Communications in 2017.

Surrounded by creative individuals with professional connections to the media industry, Paholsky began to develop her dream to publish a cookbook, which turned into building her brand Once Upon a Pesto.

Colleague Anthony Rodale, a shareholder and board member at Rodale Inc., said Paholsky has a “solid identity online” with a “good message” to share: utilizing food as a “universal topic for creativity, sharing and learning.”

“She learned the skills, the knowledge, and now she’s flourishing on her own,” Rodale said.

It took Paholsky about a year to create all of the recipes on the website she developed by herself, to write all of the supporting content, and to take all of the photographs featured on Once Upon a Pesto.

When Paholsky studied at Penn State, she majored in visual communications and photography and graduated in 2014. Her Italian professor during her senior year, Patrick Tunno, compensated Paholsky for taking “beautiful, food pictures” for him while she studied abroad in Italy — photos he still has and includes in his educational materials.

Tunno said he believes Once Upon a Pesto shines and stands

out through Paholsky’s creativity.

“It’s just beautiful. Phenomenal pictures,” Tunno said. “And Jessica comes across as just this exuberant woman. So I think her passion for the food, when she talks like that comes through, and you can see that in the text, you can see it in the photos — and there’s something there that’s just really striking.”

Tunno said he’s not shocked to see where Paholsky is now in her career, and he’s excited to see where she ends up.

Sally Becker, Paholsky’s art teacher from kindergarten to fourth grade and then all the way through high school in Littlestown Area School District in Pennsylvania, could see Paholsky’s potential when she was in her classroom.

According to Becker, Paholsky was an “excellent student.”

One of Paholsky’s drawings from high school was even featured in the “Art of the State” exhibition in Harrisburg — one of the most competitive art showcases in Pennsylvania, Becker said.

Becker said she feels “so proud” of Paholsky and the work she’s doing with Once Upon a Pesto. She said she hopes Paholsky’s journey can be an inspiration for undergraduate students who would like to pursue creative career paths.

“This is a real success story for Penn State. It really is — and more people do need to hear about it,” Becker said.

Before Once Upon a Pesto, Paholsky said she never could have imagined the international connections she would make with people in California, New Zealand, Australia and across Europe. One of them is Sandrine Delabriere, a French chef based in London whose expertise lies in Mediterranean food.

Paholsky connected with Delabriere on Instagram and participated in an Instagram Live interview on Paholsky’s Once Upon a Pesto account. Their interview attracted the most viewers Paholsky had ever had.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

H2O No! brings the house down

By Ariana Krammes
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After meeting each other in Penn State club cross country, students Sean Theoclitus and Brody McElwain have been bringing a grittier, alternative sound to State College’s DIY music scene as H2O No!

“Derivatively, [our music] is definitely like punk rock,” McElwain (senior-engineering science and mechanics) said. “I’m on bass, and Sean is on drums. My bass is distorted [and] really loud, so we pull inspiration from bands set up similarly... like The Garden and Death from Above 1979.”



Caleb Craig/Colegician

Brody McElwain and Sean Theoclitus first met during Penn State club cross country and work to bring an “alternative” sound to State College.

H2O No! has recently begun to play live shows — something they couldn’t do in the past because of coronavirus concerns.

“They’re called house shows because there’s a whole indie underground State College community where people host shows and gigs at people’s houses,” Theoclitus (senior-architectural engineering) said.

Getting into the scene, H2O No! played house shows in December and one two weeks ago, according to Theoclitus.

Additionally, McElwain said the crowd at house shows tends to be so wild to the point where the audience broke the floor during H2O

No!’s most recent performance.

“At our last show, we opened up with a pretty hard song... and it just felt like the room was elevating. I saw people jumping all over the place,” McElwain said. “I realized how crazy it was when the guy who owned the house came up to me and was like, ‘Dude, you gotta tell people to calm down.’”

Nobody was hurt when the floor broke, but the show had to migrate to the basement of the house, McElwain said.

“No one was standing on top of the floor after that, but the energy shift in the basement definitely was noticeable,” Theoclitus said. “The ceiling was lower, so people couldn’t really jump around.”

House shows in State College generally have the same setup, Theoclitus said.

“Think of a regular, classic State College living room and kitchen area, and just fill that up [with people],” Theoclitus said. “We started [playing] around 9:30, and it was packed.”

Ben Lilly became friends with Theoclitus and McElwain after watching the show where the floor cracked.

“I met Sean at the last show... but before that, [we had] no communication at all,” Lilly (sophomore-cybersecurity) said. “Their stage presence is something that they shine with. It’s loud, it’s noisy. [It’s] very reminiscent of The Garden.”

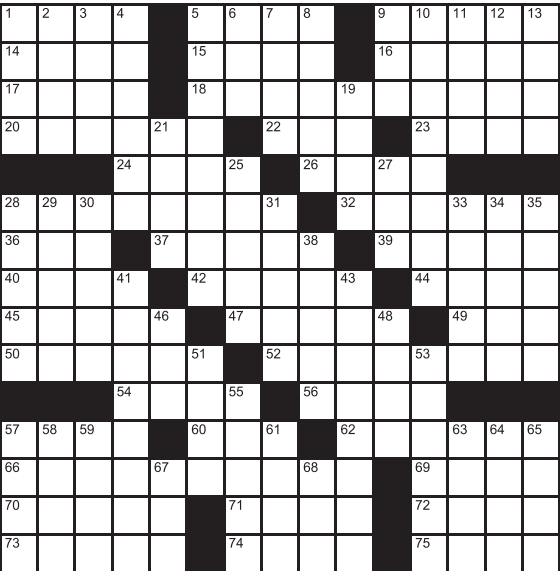
Similarly, Lilly said H2O No! is distinct from other bands.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Crossword

Across

- One who raised Cain
- Smudge
- Lewis with Lamb Chop
- Elephant Boy of 30’s film
- ___ avis
- Sharpened
- London’s subway
- 2015 Jessica Biel comedy, “___ Love”
- Humiliates
- Singer DiFranco
- Catch sight of
- “___ we forget”
- Whig’s rival
- Ancient brass cannon
- Lose weight
- Waikiki wear
- Diving duck
- Salami choice
- Misses the mark
- Hot blood
- Buffalo follower
- Family girl
- Unwavering
- Lubricate
- Ranch wear
- Wisdom
- Graf ___
- Restaurant freebie
- Chows down
- Ruckus
- Yellow-bellied terrapin
- Photographer’s equipment
- Blanchett of “Blue Jasmine”
- Towel material



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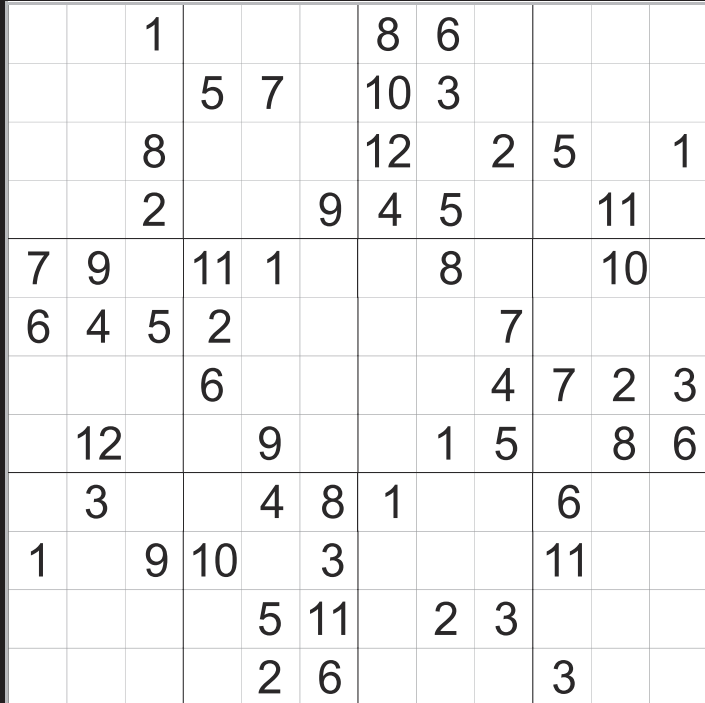
- Common thing?
- Column next to the ones
- Camping gear
- Cut the crop
- One way to stand by
- Last name in fashion
- Snaky swimmers
- Winter Palace residents
- Hawk’s cliffside dwelling
- Femme fatale
- Praise
- Kind of jack or suit
- Cone-shaped
- Former gold coin in the US
- Kind of cap
- Salaried worker, in brief
- Pickle flavoring
- 1995 triple Grammy winner
- Draw out
- Proclamation
- Small amphibians
- Away from the wind
- Unable to decide
- Hideous sort, in folklore
- Truth or ___ (slumber party game)
- School with historic playing fields
- Lease

Down

- Fictional terrier of the ‘40s
- Slap on
- Title for some bishops
- Breakfast cereal
- Mustard family genus
- Varnish ingredient
- Sea predator
- Contaminate
- 1965 Ursula Andress film

su|do|ku

© Pappocom



WORD SEARCH

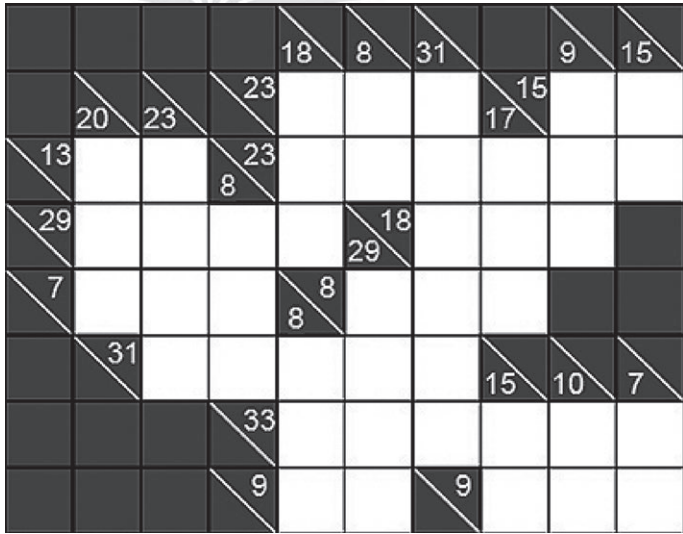
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One-Word TV Shows Though the Years



Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.



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Texas A&M’s Battalion should keep printing

Of the original 10 Amendments established by the Bill of Rights, there’s none as important to student journalists as the First.

Establishing free speech and, in turn free press, has benefitted both journalists and the public, as the former is able to report without interference from Congress and provide the latter with the news it deserves to know.

While the medium of printed newspapers may be seen as a dying format in the digital age, local and nationwide news outlets continue to print daily. Even if a younger generation is straying away from physical news, there’s still a nicheness of a newspaper.

For Texas A&M University’s student run newspaper, The Battalion, both of those luxuries are at risk.

In an article from the paper, University President M. Katherine Banks told the staff it must “cease printing weekly editions, effective immediately” on Feb. 10. Banks later sent an email to The Battalion stating it will be allowed to print for the rest of the spring semester.

No matter the struggles news outlets face, newspapers will remain an integral part of the journalism field. While it may be antique to some, that doesn’t mean no one picks up a paper. Older generations may not want to get their news from a laptop or phone and would likely rather stick to what they’re accustomed to.

Additionally, the meaningfulness for writers to see their work in a physical format is unmatched, and every journalist should have that opportunity.

The decision to eliminate

OUR VIEW

All universities need an independent student news outlet that reports on campus issues

weekly printing comes from Banks wanting The Battalion to focus solely on digital content and to ultimately become a part of the university’s new journalism department.

The staff was given only 24 hours to come to a decision: Remain a student organization and lose funding and resources, or become a part of the Department of Journalism.

What Banks fails to realize is that printing is a necessary skill for students to learn before venturing out into the professional realm of journalism. Who will be able to do it in the future if not taught?

Banks herself stated that she is “not a professor of journalism,” and also doesn’t understand the importance of print media. If she cannot grasp the significance of newspapers in regard to the educational value of journalism, why make this decision?

If Banks and the administration truly cared about furthering the careers of students in journalism, then they would let The Battalion operate as it sees fit.

Printing is a tradition — not just for The Battalion, which has been doing so since 1893 — but for numerous outlets across the country. In doing so, newspapers have been able to preserve moments in history, something digi-

tal media cannot capture in the same form.

However, the bigger issue at hand isn’t the loss of printing — it’s the loss of editorial freedom.

Texas A&M is attempting to have total control over The Battalion, and halting newspapers is just the start of it. Including the paper under the new Department of Journalism will allow the school to have influence over what The Battalion can and cannot publish.

According to an article from The Battalion, the university passed Rule 09.02, which says “signage, social media postings, press releases, news media interviews, and website postings, must be approved in accordance with applicable member rules or procedures.”

While Banks claimed it’s not the intention to have control over The Battalion’s content, it seems like a sneaky way to ensure it does nonetheless.

Being able to call yourself an independent news outlet is something that may be taken for granted until taken away. All college campuses should have an independent student news outlet that provides the community with the stories it needs to know.

Without that independence, The Battalion will constantly have the university looking over

its shoulder. It will likely be unable to publish content that Texas A&M may deem to be controversial.

As a result, students and faculty will be unaware of the issues going on that are necessary to a democratic functioning of their university community.

The Battalion’s main source of revenue comes from advertising, and the outlet already received \$61,000 worth of funding from advertisement deals for this semester.

If the reason behind halting the print publication is a financial reason, will the money that goes into the newspaper be used to combat the issues The Battalion covers? Instead of pursuing this, why doesn’t the administration tackle other issues at the university?

Just like a lack of printing is harmful to the careers of student journalists, not having investigative reporting experience will also set back aspiring writers. Learning how to report on hard-hitting topics and producing a print headline are just a few of the many things expected of professional journalists.

By not providing students with that opportunity, you’re creating a new generation of reporters who will lack the basics required to succeed in this industry. Most

journalists begin at their college newspaper where they can hone their craft in preparation for the future.

The Battalion has seen outside support, and that’s what it will take in order for the paper to remain in control of its content. After an outpouring of support on social media, Banks released another statement on Feb. 14, saying the university will “consider alternative solutions” to keep The Battalion printing.

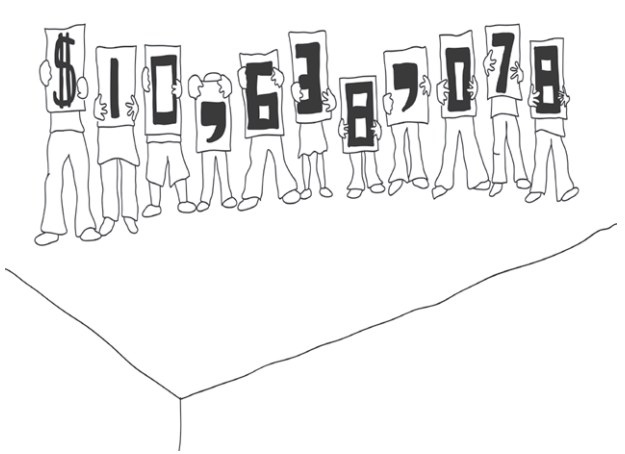
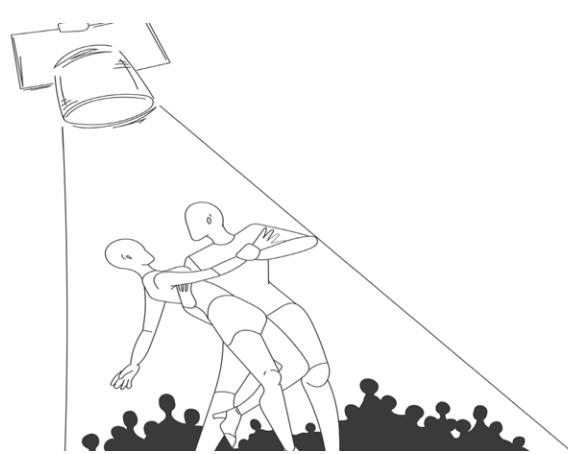
Even with backpedaling from Banks, the true colors of the university have been revealed. Rather than treat The Battalion with respect, the administration ambushed them with a situation that cannot be solved in 24 hours.

What this says about the future of journalism at Texas A&M in the long run could be troubling. But as for The Battalion, their stance to remain strong despite the university’s ignorance could act as a source of empowerment for future journalism majors.

With this being Banks’ first year as university president, who is she to call this transition a “new era for The Battalion?” She failed to even consult with journalism faculty members and instead made the decision with “university leadership.”

The possibility of a new era for The Battalion is something that doesn’t benefit students, rather it seems to be a way Texas A&M can protect itself both financially and optically.

With very few student media outlets present at the university, Banks needs to realize the importance of a tradition like The Battalion — now let it print without interference.

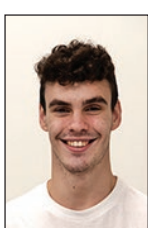


MY VIEW | James Langan

Comics by Maddie Seelig

Everyone should experience THON

It’s THON season at Penn State, and morale is high as the event will be back in person this year.



Langan

Many people hold fond memories of the 46-hour dance marathon, and looking back, I’m one of those people.

But in the moment, I couldn’t say the same.

As a freshman two years ago, everything I knew about THON was hearsay, and I didn’t know what to expect.

I knew covering THON for The Daily Collegian would be a lot of work, but I didn’t count on the 17-hour coma I slipped into after the event was over on that frigid Sunday in February 2020.

In the first few hours of THON, I was enamored in everything I was seeing, and when I left my first shift at around midnight on Friday, I was drained but excited to go back.

That feeling quickly changed when I woke up at 6 a.m. for my next shift. I sat alone on the CATABus that morning, as the driver and I said not a single word to one another.

Upon arriving at THON that morning, it appeared that my fellow reporter, Michael Sneff, had fallen ill with food poisoning after he had eaten everything the Bryce Jordan Center had to offer.

I myself had consumed a total of six chicken tender baskets by the time he was throwing up in the BJC parking lot, so I got a little paranoid.

I sat there for hours, writing and reading, all while waiting for my bowels to deliver a bitter fate. Alas, they did not — at least while I was at the BJC.

Without getting into specifics, the Pollock Halls bathroom should be condemned for what transpired that Saturday afternoon.

The delirium hit new heights when another one of my fellow reporters, David Tilli, tried to interview me for a story, not realizing I wrote for the Collegian and had been sitting next to him for three hours.

I went down to the dance floor for interviews a few times, and you’d be surprised at how little sleep deprived college students want to talk at 3 a.m. It was at that moment I realized I could never be a THON dancer.

For one, I can’t dance. And for two, I fall asleep halfway through a 50-minute lecture, so I’m not

really one for staying up for nearly two days.

In total, I clocked in around 30 hours at THON, which did me in for sure.

I slept so much over the next two weeks that before I knew it, it was spring break, and I didn’t return to Penn State until August for obvious reasons.

THON was a great experience, even if it pushed me to my limits. Will I ever spend that much time in the BJC again? I’d venture to say probably not.

It was unforgettable, so to all of the freshmen and sophomores who have never gone in person — you simply must.

Give up some sleep for a lifetime memory and a great cause.

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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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‘BACK TO BUSINESS’

Penn State eagerly anticipates looming postseason tournaments

By Tanyon Loose
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For a team that has dominated its opponents across several months of competition, a Big Ten regular-season title is relatively meaningless in the grand scheme of things.

For the blue and white, the real season starts in March.

Cael Sanderson's squad has its eyes on one goal and one goal only — an NCAA title.

However, an important step along the way for Penn State will be securing the Big Ten Tournament title.

The Big Ten is unquestionably the strongest conference in wrestling and forces even the best wrestlers in the conference to fight through a gauntlet of competition.

"I think at certain weights, the Big Ten Tournament is definitely the toughest tournament in the country," fifth-year senior Nick Lee said. "[Compared to NCAAs] the winning route is less matches at the Big Ten Tournament, but you're still getting top wrestlers, and I think that's a testament to the conference."

In some cases, it's certainly reasonable to argue the Big Ten Tournament is actually more difficult than the NCAA Tournament.

This could be the case at several weight classes but is especially pertinent at heavyweight, where four of the top-five wrestlers are from the Big Ten.

One could also point to 141 pounds, where the top four wrestlers are all from the Big Ten.

At the national tournament, many of the top seeds tech fall or major their first opponent or two,



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

At 141, Penn State's Nick Lee faces Dylan D'Emilio, winning in a 13-3 major decision, during Penn State wrestling's dual meet against Ohio State.

and only then does the competition pick up. While at the Big Ten Tournament, there are relatively few easy opponents.

"We talk about that all the time, how every match in the Big Ten you've got to be ready for," Lee said. "I think that's really exciting. As a wrestler, it just pushes us to be even better."

Aside from differences in the level of competition, the level of excitement also changes when teams are nearing postseason competition.

"We really look forward to the big events. That's what we've

trained for, and that's why you do what you do every day," Sanderson said. "Same thing for the athletes. For a guy like Nick Lee, he's wrestled a bunch of matches, so naturally, he's going to be a little bit more excited for the bigger matches. I think that's how we are as a program."

"What coach Cael said about older guys being able to get a little more excited is true," Lee said. "There's less uncertainty and less nervousness. You know what's coming, and you're excited about it because not a lot of people get to do it."

Conference tournaments also provide a different experience in terms of wrestling style and competition.

At the Big Ten championships, it's more than likely that the majority of the wrestlers who will square off have already met in the regular season. Whereas for older wrestlers, it's likely they've wrestled the same guys many times.

Not only does this mean both wrestlers can forgo the need to feel each other out and know the style of their opponent, but it also means they can wrestle in a

different way than how they would wrestle if they were facing off against a new opponent.

"If you've wrestled a guy multiple times, I think you kind of know what to expect and know you're gonna wrestle a little bit of a different way than if you're wrestling someone you haven't before," Lee said. "You can let it fly a little more, but in terms of preparation, there's nothing really different. You're going to prepare the same way."

Training for postseason competition, on the other hand, is a little different than in the regular season.

Sanderson said the team would focus heavily on conditioning in preparation for the Big Ten and NCAA Tournaments, but it would also use a little time off to rest up.

Penn State has been battered from a health standpoint this season, with a slew of injuries keeping its best wrestlers out of the lineup at several different points.

Health will undoubtedly be paramount to the Nittany Lions' title hopes come March.

Outside of health, Lee stressed the importance of confidence heading into the postseason and reminisced of prior championship teams he was a part of.

"I hope it [the team's confidence] is good. My confidence is great," Lee said. "I came in with a really good team, so whenever I was a freshman and sophomore, we didn't lose very much, and I got used to that."

"Then we graduated a lot of guys and had a younger team, so obviously we took some losses and that's part of life — but now, it's back to business as usual, which is fun."

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Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Penn State forward Adam Pilewicz (24) fires a shot during the game against the Wisconsin Badgers on Friday, Jan. 21. This is the fifth-year senior's final year with the team.

Seniors reflect ahead of final Pegula series

By Andrew Destin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Adam Pilewicz recognizes the end is near.

The fifth-year senior forward out of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, will have to face reality sooner rather than later.

As Penn State's final regular-season home series of the 2021-22 season against No. 5 Minnesota nears, so too does the last time Pilewicz will play at Pegula Ice Arena — and one of the last times he'll play competitive hockey.

"Unfortunately, this is it for me in hockey," Pilewicz said. "Pretty tough to leave this sport I kind of dedicated my life to up until this point."

Now on the verge of leaving Penn State with a degree in industrial engineering, Pilewicz is one of at least two players who will be honored over the weekend as players departing from the Nittany Lions' program. Pilewicz, who has been playing hockey since he was five years old, has a few interviews for engineering jobs lined up.

Before he looks too far ahead

to his future, though, Pilewicz is excited for the opportunity to play in front of fans one last time in University Park.

"I'm really grateful to have people here this year," Pilewicz said. "I know that the seniors last year didn't even get that opportunity to even have a senior night, so having something like this, family and friends come visit and watch, it's going to be really fun and emotional."

On a similar yet different vein, fifth-year senior defenseman Clayton Phillips will be moving on from the Nittany Lions' team at the conclusion of the year.

After playing his freshman and sophomore campaigns playing for the Golden Gophers, the Edina, Minnesota, native made the bold decision to travel east to Pennsylvania.

"It's the best decision I've ever made," Phillips said. "From the moment I got here, the coaching staff, teammates, coaching staff, everyone was very welcoming and made the adjustment ultra smooth."

Rather than preparing for post-graduation life in the manner that Pilewicz is, Phillips is more focused on the present. After all,

he was a third-round pick by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2017 NHL Entry Draft.

Senior defenseman Paul DeNaples has been around both Pilewicz and Phillip, players he called some of his "best friends," for the better part of his collegiate career.

DeNaples stressed how "happy" he was that Phillips made the move from the Land of 10,000 Lakes to the Keystone State to fill a void in the blue and white's back line.

However, just as important, if not more importantly, DeNaples went into great detail about how Pilewicz's departure is not one that will go by without heaps of appreciation.

"He's going to be a guy that's going to be remembered here forever," DeNaples said. "He's going to be remembered in his own way...for being probably one of the best teammates that's ever been through here. He's not going to be forgotten."

Both DeNaples and Pilewicz served as alternate captains to DeNaples during the 2021-22 season.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Shrewsberry's night of firsts

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was a night of firsts for coach Micah Shrewsberry in Penn State's 62-58 victory over No. 19 Michigan State on Tuesday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL After a poor offensive performance in the first half, the Nittany Lions swung back for 38 points in the second to grant Shrewsberry his first ranked win as a head coach, doing so against one of his longest idols, Tom Izzo.

"I grew up in Indianapolis. I've been watching Big Ten basketball for a long, long time," Shrewsberry said postgame. "There's nobody I have more respect for than coach Izzo and his program."

He's said it before, but Shrewsberry reiterated Tuesday night how Izzo's program at Michigan State is the model for his at Penn State.

Although his first season with the Nittany Lions is just six regular-season games away from completion, Shrewsberry is still molding his team's culture.

What sets Izzo apart from most coaches in college basketball, Shrewsberry said, all comes down to "longevity," a consistency that Shrewsberry is trying to instill in his program.

"That's winning year after year," Shrewsberry said. "If I can be half the coach [Izzo] is, I'll have a successful career."

To Izzo, Shrewsberry is already one his way to success and longevity.

"Good coaches just keep on banging, and that's what he did," Izzo said.

"He'll be the right coach for this place."

When told of Izzo's kind remarks toward him, Shrewsberry emphasized how honored he felt to have the 27-year head coach applaud him in his first season.

For Shrewsberry, he's just thankful to have the opportunity.

"It's an honor for me to coach against Tom Izzo," Shrewsberry said. "He gives a model for how we build our programs and what we do."

Although one of the most successful coaches in college basketball history, Izzo has also made a name for himself as one of the most vocal.

Over the past weeks, Shrewsberry has arguably taken Izzo's place as the most expressive Big Ten coach from the sidelines.

On Tuesday, Shrewsberry received his first technical foul after arguing with the referees following a foul call on the Nittany Lions.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Regan Gross/Collegian

Micah Shrewsberry contests a referee's call of a foul during the game versus Michigan State on Feb. 15.

‘UNPARALLELED MENTOR’

Professor leaves imprint on colleagues, next generation of student journalists

By Anjelica Rubin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Throughout Curt Chandler’s tenure at Penn State, he was many things — a mentor, colleague, friend, professor, father and journalist. But his family and friends said in every facet of his life, he was a storyteller first and foremost.

Chandler, who was an associate professor at Penn State’s Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications whose dedication to his craft inspired students and colleagues alike, died on Jan. 31 after a battle with pancreatic cancer.

“I don’t know how he managed to do it all,” Katie O’Toole, an instructor and lecturer in the College of Communications, said. “It was like he was being cloned. He seemed to be everywhere doing everything. In all the years I knew him, he was just so selfless — even to the bitter end.”

Chandler was born on Feb. 27, 1957, and he spent much of his childhood in Cloquet, Minnesota, and Marin, California, before graduating high school in Lewiston, Idaho.

In 1974, Chandler began studying at the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University. He became involved on campus as a photographer for the Daily Northwestern, president of the Chi Psi fraternity, member of Northwestern’s intercollegiate debate team and an art director of Byline Magazine, among other activities.

During his junior year, Curt also met his future wife, Stacie, a journalism major as well, and after graduating in 1979, the couple got married in 1980.

Madeline Chandler, Curt and Stacie’s daughter, said the dynamic between her “wonderful parents” was “loving.”

“My mother was definitely a superhero,” Madeline said. “She made my dad’s career work [a priority] while she touted around four kids. She lifted my dad up and made his career possible.”

Curt began his career working at small papers in Colorado and Utah before landing a job at The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio, as a staff photographer, later transitioning into the role as night picture editor and helping the paper transition from black



Courtesy of Mindy Boffemmyer

Curt Chandler (left) poses with family for a portrait. For Bellisario College of Communications instructor and lecturer Katie O’Toole, Chandler in “everything” and was “selfless — even to the bitter end.”

whether that meant working on projects, daily assignments, ordering supplies or equipment — that’s where I got to know him best,” Beale said. “I think it was his work ethic, even then, he was all in with everything he did.”

Beale said Curt’s knack for all things technical was apparent as well.

“He was always at the forefront of evolving technology and [learning about] where things were going,” Beale said. “I’ve always joked that when it came to the web and the internet, Curt was already selling that before others were talking about it.”

Curt later became the paper’s first editor of online innovation, a transition into what was just becoming the world of multimedia journalism.

“He started [that job] right when papers were starting to go online,” Madeline said. “He was just so excited to see how journalism was evolving.”

Madeline said every night at midnight when the paper turned over with new stories, Curt’s job consisted of copying and

into teaching and became an associate teaching professor in the College of Communications.

Yet even as Curt began working more and more within academia, Beale said he doesn’t believe that transition ever slowed Curt down.

“He used the same amount of energy and time [toward] both his professions,” Beale said. “Everyone knew they could call Curt, and he would do whatever he could to help. His office hours were 24/7.”

But the move presented an unforeseen obstacle.

“When he started at Penn State, I was not done with high school. I was at this amazing public art school in Pittsburgh,” Madeline said. “We had to sell our house and everything, but he let me stay in Pittsburgh to finish school because he knew how important it was for me.”

Madeline said this decision also meant Curt and his wife lived separately for two years before Madeline graduated in 2009, and they made the move to State College.

“It just shows how selfless both of my parents are,” Madeline said. “That they would do that for me.”

For Dean of the College of Communications Marie Hardin, who first met Curt when she was the associate department head of the college, the same adjective also came to mind.

“When we hired Curt in the fall of 2007, I scheduled the classes for the faculty so I got to know Curt through that,” Hardin said. “I think we all figured out rather quickly that Curt was a constant innovator and that the students were his first priority.”

According to Hardin, Curt began teaching COMM 271, Principles of Journalism, early on in his tenure at Penn State — a class that now has hundreds of students each semester but had only four students enrolled in its “first iteration.”

“In 2007, it was still very much a print world, but we knew multimedia was coming,” Hardin said. “Curt was hired as a visual journalist, and he brought in a skill set that moved the entire curriculum forward.”

Curt’s enthusiasm, ever-evolving technical knowledge and natural ability to teach storytelling to the next generation of journalists cemented his status as one of the most beloved teachers in the college, Hardin said.

His ability to connect with students in the classroom through avenues such as social media only increased his status, Madeline said.

Not only was he present in the classroom, known for his mentorship and guidance or the occasional onesie he’d wear to class, but he was also active in student organizations, serving as an adviser to Penn State Network Television, lending a hand with the student-run Centre County Report, and offering his time to industry associations such as the National Press Photographers Association and the Online News Association, among others.

One of the more recent endeavors Curt was leading was Centre News Digest, an initiative connecting local journalism in the Centre County area to its community.

Student Emily Grill first found

out about the initiative in Curt’s class halfway through her first semester at Penn State.

“My first communications class ever was with Curt during my first semester of my freshman year,” Grill (sophomore-broadcast journalism) said. “Even though it was on Zoom, you never knew what to expect. He was so good at sharing the unique possibilities journalism has to offer.”

According to Grill, Curt announced the Centre News Digest idea in class, asking if any students would be interested in collaborating with him.

Soon after, they began forming plans in January 2021.

“Curt saw a problem of local news in State College declining and that there were just missing pieces,” Grill said. “He cared so deeply about making sure we did everything we could to promote local journalism in the area that we all fed off that urgency, too.”

Grill said by the end of the spring semester, seven students were actively part of the team, with each student taking one day out of the week to create social media highlights or threads of some of the local content in the area — including from Penn State student organizations.

Her relationship with Curt was also becoming more personal at the same time, Grill said.

“Whenever I had a question or if I needed advice about anything under the sun, Curt was always there for me,” Grill said. “He is the one professor that made me genuinely excited about journalism.

Every other professor I have had has preached the dying industry aspect of it, but he never uttered those words. Not once.”

For many communications students at Penn State, taking a Curt class was simply a rite of passage.

Which was the case for Noah Riffe, who took Curt’s “iconic” COMM 271 class virtually. However, he first met Curt in 2017 after a family friend introduced them during a visit to the university.

“I talked to him for only five to 10 minutes, but you could just tell he was excited about what he did,” Riffe (senior-photojournalism) said. “I thought that was going to be it, but I was so wrong.”

As Riffe navigated the application process during his senior year of high school, Curt set up

a call to recruit Riffe to join the journalism program.

“He couldn’t have been more supportive, he didn’t even really know me, but he sold me on Penn State completely,” Riffe said. “I didn’t have the best grades or anything, but he told me I had great work.”

After that, Curt became his mentor, as well as an avid supporter of Riffe’s work, often sharing Riffe’s content on his own social media accounts.

“He didn’t do things like that to gain more success for his career or more money and fame,” Riffe said. “He did it because he cared about storytelling, and he cared about the next generation of storytellers.”

Giving back is one of the biggest lessons Curt instilled in Riffe, he said.

“In the photojournalism industry, there’s an emphasis on paying your dues — not just creating impactful journalism but also instilling in others what you have learned,” Riffe said. “Curt treated me as an equal, and I had no business being his equal. He had 30 years of experience on me, but he didn’t care. He believed in me.”

Traveling with students to cover stories gave Curt purpose beyond the classroom, often traveling abroad and to places such as Puerto Rico, Rio de Janeiro, Oslo and Hong Kong.

O’Toole, who has traveled with Curt on numerous trips, got to know him personally while traveling to Hong Kong with students in 2014.

“From lugging heavy pieces of equipment to the airport to

putting together broken pieces that [had] failed, he truly was the MVP of that trip,” O’Toole said. “And every morning, as soon as Curt appeared in the dining room, he would be surrounded by students.”

John Affleck, the director of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism, said traveling to Rio de Janeiro in 2016 for the Paralympic Games alongside Curt was also influential.

“He really took an interest in the students, and that’s selling it way, way short. He had professional relationships, but they were very warm,” Affleck said. “He always acted like their work [was] the most important thing he could be doing.”

“For someone like myself who came in from the industry six years after Curt, it was inspirational. He showed the other faculty what really matters.”

Beale echoed these sentiments.

“His classroom had no walls because he was always teaching,” Beale said. “Go down to the new media center and look at the gallery of photos [on the second floor]. When I look at that work, I see beautiful, powerful images, but I also see Curt and the students’ projects we worked with behind the scenes.”

Following a few years of construction — and a \$30 million expansion and renovation — the Bellisario Media Center, located in the Willard Building at the University Park campus officially opened last fall.

The media center is now home to many of the student media organizations on campus, and throughout the design process, Hardin said Curt was never far from her mind.

“In many ways, the ethos of this media center is a testament to him. He brought a spirit of innovation and a belief in students for the college that impacted all of us,” Hardin said. “What’s his lasting impact going to be? It’s when I walk into that media center and I see people doing creative, collaborative, ethically sound storytelling.”

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.



Courtesy of Toby Chandler

Chandler (left) was known for being unexpected, Emily Grill said. The pictured unicorn onesie made several appearances throughout the years.

and white page print to color.

“Being a journalist and photographer is who I knew my dad as from the get-go,” Madeline said. “The way so many people imagine him — wearing a safari shirt with cameras wrapped around him, film in the freezer, an endless amount of newspapers on the kitchen table that he read each morning — that’s classic Curt.”

And in 1994, Curt became the director of photography at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

“My most formative memories when it comes to my dad’s work come from growing up in Pittsburgh,” Madeline said. “I remember going to the Gazette on ‘Take [Our Kids] to Work Day’ and just loving it. I can still smell the ink.”

For John Beale, it was in Pittsburgh where he and Curt first met.

Beale, now an associate teaching professor in the College of Communications, was the head photographer at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette from 1984 to 2006.

“Curt and I worked together on a daily basis in Pittsburgh —

pasting the paper to the website — a tedious endeavor that eventually led to Curt working night shifts.

“I don’t know how he did it, but even with the hours he worked, he was still such a constant presence in my life, there’s not many memories I have where he isn’t there,” Madeline said. “In middle school when I played softball, my games would be at 2:30 p.m., right before he had to go to work, but it didn’t matter what he had scheduled, he was always there.”

For Madeline, the youngest of Curt’s four children, there was always a special bond.

“Whether it was daddy-daughter dates, going to the movies, dinner, you name it, Curt was my dude,” Madeline said. “He was always there. I mean he became the assistant troop leader for my Girl Scout troop because he was an eagle scout and wanted to make sure we all knew how to tie knots.”

But after 12 years at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and almost 30 years working at daily newspapers, Curt transitioned



Courtesy of Will Yurman

Chandler takes a selfie with Min Xian at the Short Doc Workshop in 2017. After graduation, Chandler continued to foster relationships with students.