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A Colorful Climb

The IM building's new, 42-foot-high climbing wall, visible from University Drive thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows, is part of the campus rec center's four-year, \$82 million renovation.

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Overcoming disability and a late start, Taylor Bielecki is winning national accolades for her work.

ART BECOMES HER

Five years ago, Bielecki arrived at Penn State with a talent for drawing and an interest in literature; in May, she'll earn degrees from both the School of Visual Arts and the Schreyer Honors English program. But it wasn't until her junior year when, at the advice of art professor and mentor Ann Shostrom, she enrolled in John Bowman's introductory oil painting class—and got “hooked.”

KENNEDY HONORS

Her painting of a carousel horse, titled “I'm Bringing Hell to You,” recently earned a spot on a national tour of emerging young artists who also have a disability: She's dealt with a relatively mild case of cerebral palsy since childhood and still struggles with the muscle function on the right side of her body. When she accepted the award at the Kennedy Center in October, she felt it belonged “just as much” to Bowman and Shostrom.

CINEMATIC FLAIR

One of her favorite filmmakers is Alfred Hitchcock—she's studied about a dozen of his flicks—and most of her own work focuses on the horror genre. “There's something to be said about facing your fears,” says the 23-year-old Paterno Fellow, adding that painting helps her “come to terms” with personal issues, like a stuttering disorder.

SHINY THINGS

Since oils don't dry as fast as acrylic paint, Bielecki glazes over each layer to add colors, highlights, and shadows for both vibrancy and drama: “Oils help the lights really stand out from the dark darks.”

POST-GRAD PLANS

Bielecki plans to head to Italy in August to visit relatives and, naturally, to paint. To see more of her work, visit tbdesignsart.carbonmade.com. —Amy Strauss Downey '04 Lib





WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

Q: What's a "headhouse," and why is it called that?

A: They stand on the south side of Curtin Road between Shortlidge and Bigler, three low-slung buildings called Headhouse I, II, and III—so named because they're generally located at the "head" of a greenhouse complex, and serve as its command center. Greenhouse manager **Scott DiLoreto '02 MS Agr** says Penn State's headhouses "function as space for plant growth preparations, and are also designed to facilitate research and teaching." They include classroom and lab spaces that are used not only by Ag students and faculty, but by plant scientists from the Eberly College of Science. Headhouse III also houses the Frost Entomological Museum. Of the buildings themselves, which are about 60 years old, DiLoreto says their unassuming appearance belies the fascinating work being done inside. "The headhouses are awesome," he says. "I love working in them." —RJ

→ Got a campus mystery you want solved? Email us at heypennstater@psu.edu.

THE BIG 3

From a new look to new flavors, recent changes at the Berkey Creamery remind us that tradition and innovation aren't mutually exclusive.



PINTS TO GO

In addition to half gallons, you can now have six packs of Creamery pints shipped anywhere in the continental U.S.



A FRESH LOOK

The new packaging includes high-resolution images of the ice cream inside.



NEW DUO

THON Gold Ribbon Ripple (left) and Grilled Stickers are the two newest additions to the Creamery lineup. —RJ



FROM TOP: STILFELER; DANA EDELSON/NBC

My Favorite Things

THE PAVILION THEATRE

I found the Pavilion—and Penn State theatre—by accident, and fell in love with this perfect space for intimate productions. It was frightening, exhilarating, and magical to perform there in the late '60s under the direction of Kelly Yeaton, an expert on arena staging, who cast me once in an experimental production with linebacker Mike Reid '69 A&A.



Don Roy King '69 Lib

Emmy-award-winning director of "Saturday Night Live." Writer, actor and "the proudest father on earth."

COMMON WEALTH



1 BEHREND

A \$50,000 gift from **Nishi Gupta '82 Eng** will fund a scholarship for engineering students at Behrend who "show exceptional academic promise and demonstrate financial need." Gupta, who attended Behrend, is a retired vice president at IBM.

2 DICKINSON LAW

Erin Varley, a third-year law student, has been named Northeast Region "Law Student of the Year" by *The National Jurist* magazine. Varley, who is working toward a career in human rights and public interest law, is one of 20 students honored nationally.

3 WORTHINGTON SCRANTON

A \$1.6 million commitment from **Thomas F. Zenty III '77 H&HD**, the largest gift in campus history, will endow a pair of scholarships for students who demonstrate financial need. Zenty is CEO of Ohio-based University Hospitals. —RJ



CLUB HOPPING SCROUNGE

FOUNDED: 1996

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP: 50

MISSION: "End-to-end recycling of old computers."

Michael Glasgow, SCROUNGE's current president, first learned about Penn State York's longest-running club 20 years ago while volunteering at a local nonprofit. "We were among the first recipients of SCROUNGE donations; they gave us IBM PS/2 computers," he says.

Now a student majoring in IT, Glasgow's thrilled to be part of a longstanding effort to refurbish old computers and redistribute them to groups that need them. If a machine is too old for a new operating system, "we'll break it down as much as we can," Glasgow says, "even separating steel, copper, and aluminum, and selling off components." —SJ

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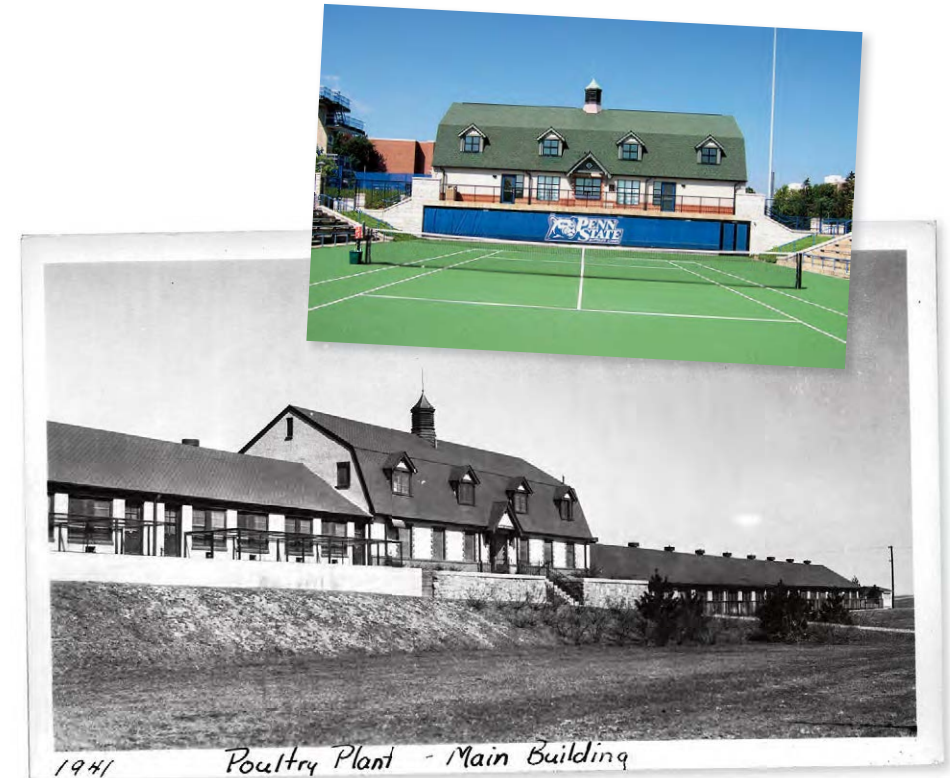
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THEN & NOW

The Poultry Education and Research Center is situated at the far north end of University Drive, out of sight (and smell) of most of campus. But it wasn't always so: The old poultry barns stood just off Bigler Road, and anyone who lived on the east end of campus through the 1980s can still recall the odor. Eventually, the birds migrated (slightly) north, and in the late '90s the area was reclaimed for the Sarni Tennis Center—where the old barn's profile is maintained in the team clubhouse. —RJ



FROM TOP: PENN STATE ATHLETICS; PENN STATE ARCHIVES; KEVIN CACELA '16 NUR



AROUND THE VALLEY

OK, so it's not a perfect re-creation—for starters, there's no VW Beetle (heh) parked in the background, and the closest any of these guys get to John Lennon's all-white suit is a pair of white (and blue) Nikes. But it's the thought that counts, and in paying homage to the classic Beatles' album *Abbey Road*, these guys—from left, Connor Bortz '16 Lib, Derek Charlie '16 Bus, Nick Nowokunski '16 Bus, and Will Watson Jr. '16 Nur—clearly put some thought into it. With graduation season upon us once again, we'll expect more clever photo ops around campus soon. *Sgt. Pepper's*, anyone? —RJ

**PRACTICAL
ADVICE**

How can you **win an argument?** English Professor **Richard Doyle** shares his tips.



KNOW YOUR STUFF

Spend half an hour a day on Wikipedia, follow the links inside articles, and go wherever your curiosity leads. This is how your knowledge will increase.

LISTEN UP

Get in the habit of listening; it's equally important in an argument.

ACTION WORDS

Read over everything you write, changing passive sentences to active ones using strong verbs. Your speech will mimic this over time.

FIND THE FLOW

Strive to begin every sentence with old information and end it with new information. Focusing on creating this flow in writing first will help you in your oral arguments.

COUNTER POINT

Remember you're making an argument, not *having* an argument. Listen, incorporate their strongest counter argument, then propose an alternative that bolsters your position. —S/



Astrophysics professor Eric Ford is on the hunt for habitable planets.

Q: What are habitable planets?

A: We should say *potentially* habitable planets. We know that all known Earth-like life uses liquid water at some stage, so we're looking for similar planets orbiting in the circumstellar habitable zone of a nearby star. That's the range of distances from that star where a rocky planet could support liquid water on its surface.

Q: How do you find these planets?

A: Researchers use a variety of detection techniques, from telescopes made of a telephoto lens, to the Habitable Zone Planet Finder, which can measure the velocity of a star with extreme precision. Developed at Penn State, it will begin to search for planets around nearby stars that emit most of their energy in the infrared.

Q: What can we learn from habitable planets?

A: If we find dozens of potentially habitable planets, and see what fraction of them have continents and oceans, abundant oxygen, and other Earth-like characteristics, we could better understand whether the rise of life on Earth happens in other planetary systems, or whether we might be the only life in the galaxy. —S/

IN SHORT

RECORD CONTRACT

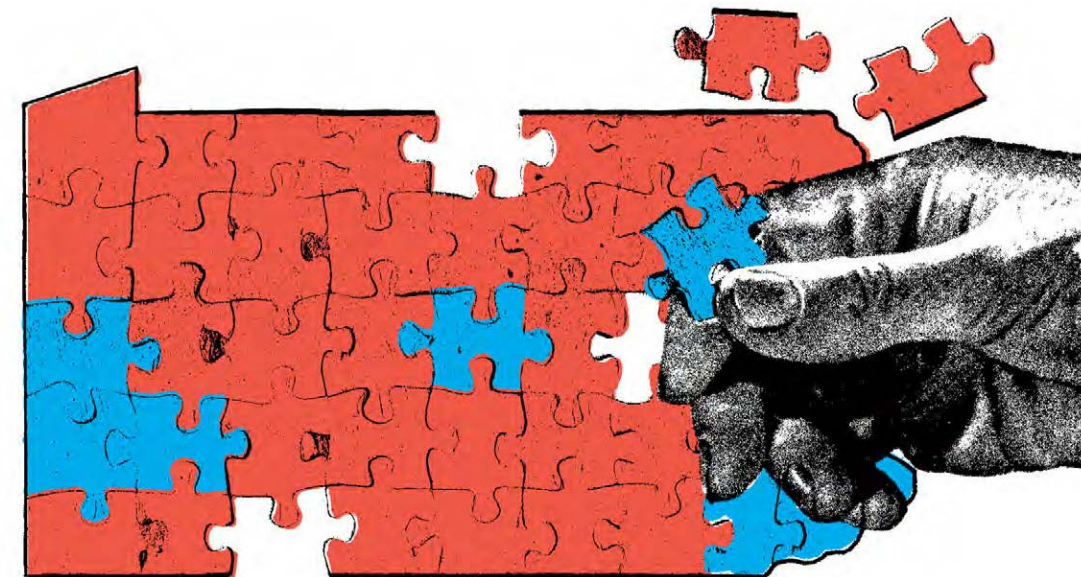
The U.S. Navy has awarded Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory a 10-year contract worth as much as \$2.1 billion toward research to improve national security. The award marks the largest research contract in the university's history.

BE MINE?

After two decades of development, a new variety of grape tomato bred by Penn State plant geneticist Majid Foolad is now available commercially. Seeds for the "Valentine" tomato are available on the Johnny's Seeds online catalog.

WHAT'S THE BUZZ

A \$2.1 million grant from the Department of Agriculture and nonprofit Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research will support a new project at Penn State's Center for Pollinator Research. The project will translate research into tools to help beekeepers and land managers maintain pollinator populations. —RJ



KEEPING CURRENT

Partisan Gerrymandering

EXPECT MORE CASES ON THIS POLARIZING TOPIC, SAYS POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR **MICHAEL BERKMAN**, ESPECIALLY IF THE SUPREME COURT RULES.

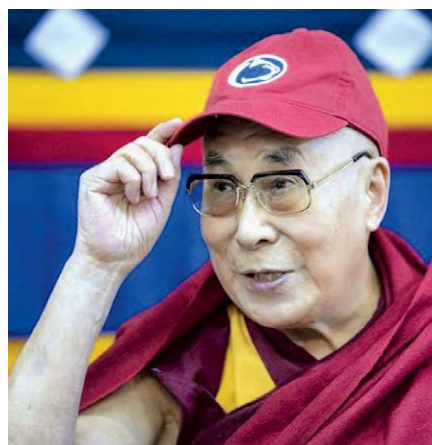


"Partisan gerrymandering—the drawing of district lines by both political parties to their advantage—became more relevant after the 2010 midterm elections, which gave Republicans control over redistricting in many states. The technology for drawing districts is also extremely sophisticated: Legislators can figure out to the particular residential block, if not the house, which way people are going to vote. This results in an unfair advantage for one party and wasted votes for the other.

"The recent ruling in Pennsylvania to redraw congressional district boundaries was the first of its kind. Other states may now look to their state supreme courts for relief in such cases rather than turning to the federal courts.

"The Supreme Court could set a precedent if it rules on the *Gill v. Whitford* case brought by Wisconsin voters using the efficiency gap standard, which measures the number of wasted votes. It could really shake up politics." —S/

FOUND ON TWITTER



PENN STATE TWITTER

Penn State @penn_state

This week, @pennstatehhd professor Robert Roeser got the opportunity to join the @DalaiLama for a panel discussion about ethics in research, and then, of course, gifted #HHDL with a #PennState cap! (👉 : DalaiLama on Instagram)

→ Roeser, the Bennett Pierce Professor of caring and compassion, met the Dalai Lama in India this spring at a panel discussion on ethics and compassion in education research.