



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Firefighter Sarah Nevel (sophomore-health and human development) poses with a firetruck at the Alpha Fire Company firehouse.

## Student stands out at Alpha firehouse

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Sarah Nevel college girl seem like any other college girl.

She is in a sorority and she loves to dance. But there is one thing that sets her apart — she's the only Penn State female firefighter at Alpha Fire Company.

"It's bittersweet," Nevel (sophomore-health and human development) said. "Everyone [at Alpha] is always looking at me — I stand out. I'm different. I can't blend in like everyone else."

Though she is one of the only women on staff, most of the time Nevel said she feels like "one of the guys."

"I don't like they tone it down when I'm around," she said.

But Nevel doesn't let standing out affect her hard work, said Steve Bair, Centre Region Council of Governments fire director.

"The best thing I would point out is she's a very good firefighter on her own right," he said. "She's a good person, and she does a good job. She's very active. We like having her."

Alpha is not the first fire company at which Nevel has worked. She became a firefighter more than two years ago in her hometown of Erie, Pa. "It was something new and exciting, and I could help the community, as cheesy as it sounds," Nevel said.

Though Nevel is the only firefighter in her family, her brother Jamie Nevel (senior-mechanical engineering) said he wasn't nervous when she initially said she wanted to join the force.

"I wasn't necessarily scared, because she was pretty confident that she could do it," he said. "With her training now and how competent she is with everything, I'm not really that worried about it. Some of the action she sees is pretty traumatic, but she's usually okay with it — she's mentally capable of handling these scenarios."

Nevel said she's only really had one case that has been particularly nerve-wracking.

"We had a car accident — it was actually one of our members," she said. "He passed us, and he was going too fast ... [he] hit too much air and came down and hit a pole and flipped the car on its side. It was really surprising that he actually walked away from that."

Because she liked working as a firefighter in her hometown, Nevel said she researched Alpha before selecting Penn State as the university she wanted to attend. Alpha is a very "prestigious" company because of the training requirements for all members, she added.

"All the officers are top-notch," she said. "They're all older, very experienced firefighters. I think that has a lot to do with it."

Before Nevel could work for Alpha, she had to apply for a position, be interviewed and go through a training process.

Nevel said the company has such strict policies because it wants to make sure applicants are there for the "right reasons." She said the company looks for dedication and a willingness to learn.

Fire is not the only thing that Nevel conquers — at home, she also works for her local emergency medical service.

"Alpha is all fire, but back home we also run EMS," she said. "My first cardiac arrest — that was exciting for me because technically when we got to her the lady was dead, but by the time we got her to the hospital, she had vital signs, so by the books, we brought her back to life."

Though she has experience with both, she said she likes firefighting more because it's more exciting.

She might even make it a career some day, along with her other dream — being a nurse.

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## Vintage shop celebrates 15 years

By Nathan Pfennberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

While most of the town was donning blue and white Saturday, The Rag and Bone — which stocks vintage fashion in a variety of styles and colors — was celebrating its 15th birthday.

"Everything here is colorful and one of a kind," storeowner Shelley Banker, Class of 1993, said.

And if something in The Rag and Bone, 224 E. Calder Way, is related to Penn State, it's from a different decade — like the 1930s athletic jacket sitting in the front window.

That's because everything in the vintage clothing shops hails from sometime between the 1930s and 1980s, Banker said.

After graduating with a degree in advertising, Banker said she went abroad for a year before realizing that State College had a

void in shopping options.

"At the time there wasn't a vintage store around," she said.

The Rag and Bone started out in a basement-level shop on Allen Street, before moving to Calder Way four years ago. The move provided the store with more foot traffic and a better display window, Banker said.

Over the years, Banker has developed a variety of sources for new vintage finds, from wholesale stores to personal donations, she said. Her favorite donation came from a man on his way to Goodwill who decided to stop in her store on a whim.

In the bag destined for the thrift store were a number of 1930s gowns Banker said she couldn't pass up. She incorporated "gorgeous, one-of-a-kind" gowns into her collection, and the man left with several hundred dollars in his pocket.

With a store smaller than 1,000

sq. ft. and a niche offering, Banker said her collection has to be versatile to keep customers coming back for more.

She said the store does very well around Halloween every year, and she recently expanded the collection of rentals and accessories for the holiday. Many customers appreciate the rental option for Halloween gear because most will only wear the outfit once, she said.

"We can do everything from the 'Mad Men' look to hippies to disco," she said.

For most customers, though, a piece of vintage clothing can enhance an otherwise dull outfit. Most people don't deck themselves out in clothes from the sixties, Banker said, but will add a vintage skinny tie to an interview ensemble, or a colorful top to pair with modern jeans.

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## Center to offer free HPV vaccine

By Micah Wintner  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine will be offered free of charge today at the Student Health Center to students and their spouses between 19 and 26 years old.

The vaccine, Gardasil, must be given in three doses to maximize effectiveness, said Shelley Haffner, University Health Services (UHS) nurse manager for infection control. The first dose will be available 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in the Student Health Center.

Vaccination — offered to both males and females — is available only by appointment, which can be scheduled on the UHS website, Haffner said.

Students not able to make the first vaccination Monday can contact the Centre County Office

### If you go

**What:** Human papilloma virus free vaccination

**When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today

**Where:** Student Health Center

**Details:** This is the first of three HPV vaccinations UHS is offering to students between 19 and 26 years old.

of the Department of Health, UHS or their private healthcare provider to receive the vaccine, Haffner said.

UHS will provide the second dose of the vaccine Nov. 15 and the third March 21. Students who already started the vaccination series can continue the process through one of the three clinics, UHS marketing manager Beth Collitt wrote in an e-mail.

The vaccine is given as a shot in the arm, and students need to wait at the Student Health Center for 15 minutes after receiving it to make sure no harmful reactions to the vaccine take place, Haffner said.

Common side effects include pain, swelling, itching, redness at the injection point and fever, Collitt wrote.

There are more than 100 strains of HPV, a third of which cause genital problems like warts, Collitt wrote.

Even visible to the naked eye, making it more important for students to guard against them, she wrote.

Estimates show that HPV affects a large portion of the American population, Haffner said.

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### PEEK-A-BOO



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Maya Burke, 2, of Lewistown, looks at a turtle during the Reptile Show at the Nittany Mall on Sunday.

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## CAREER



## CORNER

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WEDNESDAY 15th

Full-time Technical  
THURSDAY 16th

[www.fairs.sa.psu.edu/fall](http://www.fairs.sa.psu.edu/fall)

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### Who Should Attend Fall Career Days?

Career Days is for Everyone — whether you are a freshman looking to network, an upperclassman looking for a summer internship/co-op, or a senior on the job hunt.



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⇒ click the Events tab to access Info Sessions



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