

Happy Days' star visits PSU Altoona

By Karina Yücel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Henry Winkler became a household name after playing Fonzie on "Happy Days" for a decade.

But Winkler has also dedicated his time and fame to various youth-oriented organizations and writing the "Hank Zipzer: The World's Most Amazing Underachiever" series of books.

Winkler will speak tonight at Penn State Altoona for the Altoona Distinguished Speakers Series. "A Conversation with Henry Winkler" will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Wolf Kuhn Theatre of Misciagna Family Center for Performing Arts.

Marissa Carney, media and public relations coordinator for Penn State Altoona, said she has heard a lot of positive things about Winkler's upcoming lecture.

Carney said a lot of people have gotten tickets for the lecture — the Distinguished Speakers Series committee is expecting a big turnout for Winkler's presentation.

Carney said she isn't sure of the exact topics Winkler will touch on during his talk, but

believes Winkler will talk about his fame, books, family and organizations.

Erik Klingebiel said it's a good thing for Winkler to use his celebrity status to help bring awareness to different charity organizations.

"It's a good way to get people to contribute to the charity and raise awareness," Klingebiel (junior-food science) said.

Winkler is an integral part of many youth-oriented organizations including United Friends of the Children, Toys for Tots campaign and the Children's Action Network.

Children's Action Network Executive Director Jennifer Perry had only nice things to say about Winkler.

"He and his wife are one of the six founding couples," Perry said. "He has helped build and guide the organization."

A couple of years ago, Winkler spoke out on behalf of the Children's Action Network about children getting immunizations, Perry said. This year the Children's Action Network is focusing on finding homes for children needing adoption and Winkler is taking time to speak out for the organization.

"We use Henry's voice whenever and

If you go

What: Penn State Altoona Distinguished Speakers Series presents "A Conversation with Henry Winkler"

When: 7:30 tonight

Where: Wolf Kuhn Theatre of Misciagna Family Center for the Performing Arts

wherever we can," Perry said. "He is the most effective speaker you can imagine. He is warm and caring and passionate and brings people in."

Winkler also makes appearances on the Children's Action Network's "A Home for the Holidays" program on CBS, which will air on Dec. 23 for the 12th consecutive year.

"He really is one of the kindest, most caring people that we work with," Perry said. "And his heart is big enough to touch all these kids — that's what makes him so wonderful."



Courtesy of imdb.com

Henry Winkler, known for playing Fonzie on Happy Days, will speak at Altoona tonight.

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