Welcome to the Presidential Leadership Academy Alumni Newsletter!
As we head into the final month of winter, I attempted to find a clever quote about spring. It was much more difficult than I expected. After a while, I found a spring-related line from a poem by an 85-year-old woman, Nadine Stair. Apparently, this was widely circulated in chain emails, and I must confess that if I had read it in a chain email, I probably would have rolled my eyes. However, one particular stanza struck a chord:

If I had to live my life over,
I would start barefoot earlier in the spring
and stay that way later in the fall.
I would go to more dances,
I would ride more merry-go-rounds,
I would pick more daisies.

Being in “the real world” is rewarding, but it’s easy to get stuck in a routine. We might not get weekly emails of events and new opportunities anymore, but that doesn’t mean such activities no longer exist. We just have to work a little bit harder to find them. I guess what I’m saying is this: pick some daisies this month.

Features:
(Hint: Click each section title to be taken directly to that page)

Alumni Pulse
PLA Alumni are cordially invited back to campus for two events this spring!

PLA Update
Melissa and Lisa fill us in on the recent adventures and achievements of current PLA students.

Grey Matter
I’m sure we can all agree that one of the biggest adjustments to post-PLA life has been the lack of classes on Sunday evenings. But, not to worry, we’ve included some articles to rev up your critical thinking.

Catching Up
From helping direct a school play, to visiting a trampoline park, to adopting a puppy, PLA grads have been busy! In this issue, get caught up with Meg, Rachel, Justin, Mel, and Tori.
April 21: End of Year BBQ
An end-of-year celebration will take place at Sunset Park, 12-3pm on April 21, the Sunday of Blue White Weekend. RSVP to Lisa (lkb17@psu.edu) if you plan to attend.

May 1: Senior Ceremony
The Senior Ceremony will take place at the Nittany Lion Inn, at 6pm on Wednesday May 1. RSVP to Lisa (lkb17@psu.edu) if you plan to attend.

Admittedly, it may be tough for many of us to manage a mid-week trip to State College. However, if I may make a suggestion: take a moment to reflect on the memory of the giant cake at our Senior Ceremony...

Now, tell me you aren’t feeling a little bit more motivated to figure out a way to make the trek happen 😊
PLA THON Recap

PLA students raised over $3700 for the Four Diamonds Fund this year! New in 2013, the PLA held a Silent Auction and Game Night in January; the event raised over $500. Auction items included Levels passes, a football signed by PSU football players, and personal training sessions with Melissa.

The sophomore class dominated the Penny Wars this year

The PLA earned enough money to be entered into the lottery, but unfortunately did not get THON dancers. Three PLA students danced for other organizations: TJ Bard (for Skull and Bones), Josh Wimble (for Delta Upsilon), and Alyssa Wasserman (for Alpha Kappa Psi). Alyssa was also voted Mrs. THON in November!
Reading Suggestions:

This semester, PLA students are digging into content provided by *The New York Times in Leadership* and the *Ask Big Questions project*.

Workplace Flexibility – What’s it Worth?

Yahoo’s recent controversial requirement that all work-at-home employees return to the office has brought about a workplace flexibility debate. Considerations of innovation, efficiency, real estate costs, work-life balance, and even the environment come into play.

*Yahoo Orders Home Workers Back to the Office* by Claire Cain Miller & Catherine Rampell | Read it here

NYT Highlights Ambassador Jett’s Study

Ambassador Dennis Jett—PLA Advisory Board member and multi-time PLA Field Trip guest—recently published a study on the theoretical prices for various diplomatic postings,

*Study Puts ‘Cost’ to Landing Embassy Post* by Nicholas Confessore | Read it here

Should Equality Exist?

The junior class will be participating in an *Ask Big Questions* discussion, “Should Equality Exist?” The goal of the conversation is to help people understand themselves and others.

The *Ask Big Questions* project sets out these conversation guidelines:

1. Begin with reflections and stories related to the topic.
2. Use works such as a text, image, poem, song, video clip, or other form of art that participants can discuss and interpret together.
3. At the end of the conversation, ask: “What will we do as a result of talking and being together?” Then act on it.

Other *Ask Big Questions* topics include:

- For whom are we responsible?
- When do you forgive?
- How does technology change us?
- What do we choose to ignore?
- What makes you truly happy
What are you up to?
Right now, I'm teaching high school geometry and pre-calculus in Oklahoma City through Teach For America. Yep, those mathematical formulas & theorems that you either loved or hated in high school are now the bread-and-butter of my job, for better and for worse. My days are centered around hysterical, hormonal teenagers who are much brighter than they realize, and I love having math as an outlet to help build their confidence & sense of autonomy. Each day is a challenge, and the first few months were incredibly tough (as is the case for every first year teacher), but I wouldn't trade my place for the world.

I live in a house with three other teachers in the northwest part of the city. Sadly, my students' assumption that my only friends are teachers is preeeetty true. Outside of work, I've been writing & reading slam poetry and training for a half-marathon in April.

What have you been reading? Watching? Listening to? Any recommendations?
**Books:** Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell. Working on Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin and Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury (my friend who teaches English 10 inspired me on that one)
**Movies:** Silver Linings Playbook, The Impossible
**Music:** Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, "The Heist." Of Monsters and Men, "My Head is an Animal."
And I always advocate for a little Beyoncé
**Articles:** "The Trouble with Out-of-the-Box Thinking," recommended by my principal. "How Will You Measure Your Life?" by Clayton M. Christensen

What are you looking forward to in the next 6 months?
Over spring break, I'm both teaching intersession (to give some of my students extra help before testing) and taking a road trip up the Pacific coast to visit some PSU friends. Over the summer, I'll be sticking around Oklahoma for some training with the district & TFA. I also applied for a trip to Israel through TFA, which I find out about later this week...so keep your fingers crossed for me!

Have you been back to PSU recently?
By a bizarre twist of fate and the generosity of a TFA friend, I was able to make it up to THON 2013! I spent hours in the Springfield section of the stands, made my rounds on the BJC floor, and grabbed some lunch with fellow alumni.

Favorite parts of being back? That exhaustion/exhilaration/dehydration/emotional overload that is the BJC during THON weekend. Admittedly, this trip came at a time when I was struggling with my teacher life (& OKC life in general), so returning to something so familiar was just what the doctor ordered. I've always found THON magical because of how nearly every volunteer is struggling at some point during the weekend (dancers and committee
members and supporters alike), but by coming together, everyone pulls through. Taking that mentality back to OKC and seeing that struggle can unite us was incredibly valuable & gave me the energy I needed to re-enter the classroom.

Tell us about a project at work that you’re excited about

a) **Thunder Leadership program**, led by the general manager of the OKC Thunder, Sam Presti. Twenty of the students at my school are able to meet up with him every two months to discuss how to become better advocates for and leaders within their schools, and I’m one of the teacher liaisons for this program. These students drop wisdom every time, and I’m always thoroughly impressed with their insight. And, in a few short weeks, we’re headed off to a game.

b) **(Teacher nerd alert) EOI testing**: Whether or not you agree with standardized testing as a metric of learning, the fact remains that End-Of-Instruction tests (EOIs) are the gateway to college for my students. I’m "pimping out my room," so to speak, to give my kids all of the info they need to prepare for these tests on their own, and I cannot wait for the weeks leading up to the test, when we’ll be working hard each day. Our big day is April 22nd, so I’m hitting that sweet spot when we can really start building confidence.

c) **Girls mentoring program**: I’m hoping to roll this idea out next year, but here’s the premise. The John Marshall students who are engaged in non-academic activities succeed most readily at academics. That being said, few students are heavily engaged in other activities. My male students tend to succeed more easily than my female students, and I see a huge need for some female empowerment at my school, both within the high school & middle school. Still figuring out what this program will look like—If you have ideas or resources, please send ‘em my way!

![At a Thunder basketball game with other TFA teachers](image-url)
Tell us about something fun you did recently in Oklahoma City

Trampoline park. But not just with trampolines to jump & flip & dance around on—oh, no. There's more. This trampoline park includes a basketball hoop to practice your dunking skills, a dodgeball arena, and a gigantic foam pit. All of your childhood dreams can be fulfilled in a single place. (Again, I like to think of what my students would think if they knew I spent my weekends at trampoline parks... being a teacher gives me a whole new perspective on the school day.)

What are 3-5 things that you would recommend people do if they’re ever in the Oklahoma City area?

1. Rocktown Climbing Gym: Someone had a brilliant idea to turn the abandoned grain silos downtown into a state-of-the-art climbing facility. Not only can you climb inside the silos, but on a nice day, you can scale the outside walls.
2. Cowboys: It's Oklahoma—of course I had to include a cowboy bar. Here, you can grab a partner for two-stepping, learn line dancing, and watch live bull riding (none of that mechanical shenanigans) on Friday & Saturday nights.
3. Jimmy's Egg: Okay, it's a chain restaurant, but their breakfast is THE BOMB. I highly recommend the "breakfast debris," which is every unhealthy food you want to eat in the morning on a fluffy biscuit.
4. The Myriad Botanical Gardens: In the heart of OKC, these gardens are home to various community events, including plays, ice skating, and festivals throughout the summer.
5. The Chesapeake Boathouse: Get ready to fulfill more childhood dreams. This is an Olympic training ground, so here, you can meet and work out with Olympic athletes, and take in some beautiful riverside views.

Share a couple of random facts with us!

Currently, my mind is set on training for a marathon. I'm running in the OKC Half-Marathon in April, and hoping to run the full a year from now (and a few other races in between).

I've also taken up writing again. I've been writing & reading slam poetry at a local venue on Wednesday nights and I've been getting more active about my blogging. (Shout out to Dean Brady & Melissa for forcing up to keep up with our blogs...I have to say, mine's become quite a passion these days.) Feel free to check it out here, if you're interested in hearing some TFA thoughts.

What has been the toughest thing to get used to about life post-graduating from PSU?

Immersing myself in the unfamiliar. Living in an unfamiliar city, performing an unfamiliar occupation, surrounded by unfamiliar students, and making friends with unfamiliar people. Not having a point of stability was incredibly tough for me for the first few months, but slowly, everything is starting to feel more comfortable.

Keep in touch! 703-609-8565 barnett.meghane@gmail.com
What are you up to?
I am a music teacher at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, MD. Holy Child is an all-girls independent, Catholic school for grades 6-12 in Potomac, MD. I teach middle school general music, middle school choir, two upper school choirs, and currently I'm the vocal director and pianist for our musical, Beauty and the Beast! I also have a private voice studio in Maryland and have a job singing in the choir and cantoring at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Dupont Circle. I live in Arlington, VA with a fellow Penn State alum!

What have you been reading? Watching? Listening to? Any recommendations?
One of my favorite books is called *Music Quickens Time* by Daniel Barenboim. He is a famous orchestral conductor and educator. One of his most interesting endeavors is the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, an orchestra composed of members from Palestine, Israel, Jordan, and other Arab countries in the Middle East. It's fascinating to read his thoughts about music in general, and then how it creates a community between these musicians even though their countries have such animosity towards each other.

Through teaching and creating my own curriculum (side note - how cool is it that I can create my own curriculum?! I love private schools), I've found a series called *Keeping Score*, which is a documentary series about different classical composers and their works. It's created by Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony. In addition to the documentary and performance, there's also a ton of interactive scores and history on the website to learn more about the composition process and the composer! If you want to learn more about orchestral music, I highly recommend spending some time on that site!

What are you looking forward to in the next 6 months?
I'm definitely looking forward to seeing my first class of girls graduate in June, and then my brother's wedding! I've applied to some summer choral conducting programs and for high school summer music program jobs, so I'm currently waiting to hear back on those.

Have you been back to PSU?
I went back to Penn State twice last semester. Once to visit three of my best friends from college before one of them went off to London to get her Masters degree, and the other time to get my bridesmaids dress for my brother's wedding (I'm the maid of honor for his fiancée)!!
Tell us about a project at work that you’re excited about

As I mentioned earlier, we produced Disney’s Beauty and the Beast at my school last week!! The performances were at 7 pm on Friday and Saturday (March 1 and 2) and at 2 pm on Saturday March 2. Our male roles are filled by students from other schools in the area, including Georgetown Prep and Langley HS in Virginia. I played the piano/keyboard for the show. The students did an amazing job, and it was a lot of fun to play in the pit!

Tell us about something fun you did recently in your new home

In December, I went to see and participate in the sing-a-long of Handel’s Messiah at the Kennedy Center. My former voice teacher from high school was the tenor soloist! Luckily, he was able to get me a comp ticket, and I was able to sing the choral parts of Messiah with an entire concert hall full of strangers, which was pretty cool!

What are 3-5 things that you would recommend people do in DC if they are ever in the area?

1. Check out the free concerts at the Kennedy Center - every weekday at 6 pm. I don't get there as often as I should, but there's great performances, and they're free!!
2. Come see me sing at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Dupont Circle. It's the cathedral for the Archdiocese of Washington, and it is a beautiful space with amazing acoustics. Even if you're not religious, it's quite an experience to hear the sound there.
3. Very stereotypical, but go to the Mall and walk through all the monuments! I drive by the Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument every day. Just when I think I'm getting used to it, I'll see the skyline during a beautiful sunrise or sunset, and I realize just how cool it is to be that close to so much history on a daily basis!
4. In relation to the last, any of the Smithsonian Museums are a great place to go if you have a little or a lot of time.

Share a couple of random facts with us!

I started playing the piano more seriously and got back to working out and running on a consistent basis. Both started around the same time about two months ago. For a while, I barely recognized myself, but they both have become good habits! I also plan on learning German once the musical is over and things calm down a little!

What has been the toughest thing to get used to about life post-graduating from PSU?

This may sound blasphemous, but I am really happy to be done with college. I really miss all of my friends, but getting paid to do what I love is truly amazing. I feel very fortunate to have a teaching job, a private studio, and a church job, all within the first three months of moving to a new city. Not everything is perfect, but I feel like I'm establishing myself in the DC area as a musician and teacher, so I'm excited to see what the next few years have in store!

Keep in touch! 📞 570-926-7059  ⌐ rachel.ackerman31@gmail.com
What are you up to?
I am currently in Law School at the University of Akron. I also just transferred from my recent post as a Mobility Platoon Leader with A Company, 128th Brigade Support Battalion of the PA Army National Guard to the Ohio Army National Guard. My new assignment is as a Fire Support Officer with the 1-148 Infantry Regiment in Walbridge, OH. I am the Officer in Charge of the Fire Support Team (FiST) for A Company. The mission of a FiST is to provide all means of indirect fire to a Maneuver Commander. Our secondary responsibility is to provide battlefield intelligence on enemy movement.

Aside from the typical classes in law school, I am working on starting a Military Law Society to incorporate the law school into service projects for Veterans. The end goal is to build the program into a Veteran’s Clinic to provide legal advice to Veterans navigating everything from the criminal justice system to VA Benefits.

I live on the outskirts of Akron, OH beside The Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

What have you been reading? Watching? Listening to? Any recommendations?
Most of my reading is case law for my classes. I rarely get to read for leisure anymore. There are a few that I highly suggest; but as you can imagine, my leisure reading is about the military. Three of my favorite reads are: “We Were Soldiers Once...And Young” by LTG Harold Moore (Ret.) It’s the true story of what the movie was about with Mel Gibson. My neighbor served with the unit, so it hits close to home. Another is “Currahee!” by Donald Burgett. It is about the 101st Airborne in WWII. Finally, I suggest all Penn Stater’s read “Lone Survivor” by Marcus Luttrell about the heroism that LT Michael Murphy and his unit displayed that led him to receive the Medal of Honor.

I also love the show “Gold Rush” and "Suits". The childhood boy comes out when I watch "Gold Rush" and deep down, part of me wants to mine for gold in Alaska after I finish law school. haha

What are you looking forward to in the next 6 months?
Being done with my 1L year of law school and firing the "guns" with my soldiers.

Have you been back to PSU recently?
I get back to PSU as much as I can. My girlfriend currently works for the Graduate School HR Department so that gives me a good reason to get back to State. My favorite part of being back is for PSU Football, hiking Mt. Nittany, just walking around campus, and visiting those that still live and are employed at Penn State (especially Lisa!).
Tell us about something fun you did recently in your new home
I really enjoy going outside and exploring the parks along the "Towpath Trail" and the National Park as much as I can. I may live in the city, but you can't take the "country" out of a "country boy."

What are 3-5 things that you would recommend people do in Akron if they are ever in the area?
Check out the Metro Parks, National Park, golf courses, Zoo, concert venues, and then go to Cleveland to hit two cities at once for more to do.

Share a couple of random facts with us!
I adopted a young puppy in September from the local Animal Shelter/Adoption Agency. She's my little girl and keeps me company. She is energetic, and just enjoys life to the fullest now that she has a home with someone who loves her! (She's not the puppy pictured left, that's Veronica's)

I also received an acoustic guitar for Christmas, but haven't had any time to play or practice. It really has only been out a few times. It will be a while before I can put any notes together, but one can dream!

What has been the toughest thing to get used to about life post-graduating from PSU?
The lack of camaraderie outside of PSU, and loss of seeing close friends every day. There was always the common goal of just being a "Penn Stater" and you really miss the close-knit pride that is associated with it once you leave Happy Valley. The good thing is you find Alum everywhere to bond with, but it's still not the same.

Keep in touch! 814-229-1654  jgb5092@gmail.com
What are you up to?

Currently, I’m living in Easton, CT, and applying to graduate programs and summer employments in the wildlife field. Meanwhile, I’ve volunteered with the Connecticut Audubon Society by participating in banding migratory birds that pass through Connecticut. I am also planning on helping out a shorebird project, where I would aid in surveying endangered bird species along the coastline and in their breeding grounds. Lastly, I am tutoring a high school student in Chemistry and Algebra.

What have you been reading? Watching? Listening to? Any recommendations?

While I rarely watch TV or movies, I somehow became addicted to TLC’s “Friday Brideday.” Enough said.

As for books, I’ve been working my way through the Jane Austen novels. I’m currently on Emma, and it’s quite a fun challenge! I’m also a fan of Thought Catalogue (thoughtcatalogue.com), a blog of sorts about myriad topics that can either tug at your emotions or make you question the sanity of the author. While some of the bloggers aren’t the most articulate of writers, I enjoy what each brings to the table every time I visit that site.

What are you looking forward to in the next 6 months?

In the next six months, I hope to either be employed for a summer field position or know where I’m going to graduate school...actually, having both of those would be awesome - I’d be thrilled for the next few months when I finally have a solid plan! Other than that, I can’t wait for the shorebird project to start in the next few months. There are also a couple of weddings I’m attending over the summer; weddings are always a blast in my family, so I’m elated for those events!

Have you been back to PSU recently?

The last time I was in PSU, it was for one of my friend’s graduation in December. I was only there for a day and a half, but it’s always great to go back - I definitely miss being a student at Penn State! I’d say my favorite part about visiting is reminiscing the good times! Revisiting old stomping grounds makes me feel as if I never left. It’s weird being a graduate!

Tell us about a project that you’re excited about

While there’s not much going on right now, I’m extremely excited about the opportunity to be a part of the shorebird project (mentioned in Question 1) over the summer. The project is directed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, so I’m enthusiastic to be working with others in my field. For this project, I’d be helping collect data for shorebird species such as piping plover and American oystercatchers, just to name a few. I’ll aid in fencing areas that’ll protect nesting sites, educate the public at the beaches about these endangered species,
and monitor species survival when the chicks are hatched. Overall, it’ll be a great experience for me, and I can’t wait to get started!

Tell us about something fun you did recently in Easton
I wish I could. Unfortunately, my town is not a place for the young and the restless. Ever since Nemo decided to get lost in Connecticut, it’s been fairly gross outside for a while.

What are 3-5 things that you would recommend people do in Easton if they are ever in the area?
While I love my town for its scenic country roads and wilderness, finding activities for a young person to partake in is rather difficult. For the sake of the question, however, here’s what I’d recommend:

1. If you happen to come during the holiday season, you’re in luck: Easton, CT, is fairly well-known for its Christmas tree farms, with one of my favorites being Maple Row Tree Farm. Fun fact: in 2009, the Rockefeller Christmas Tree came from our quaint town!
2. Autumn is a beautiful time for some Sunday Driving. Since the majority of Easton is forests, the abundance of colors is astounding. Also, another farm in the area, Silveman’s Farm, has a great pumpkin selection and apple cider, so you should definitely take advantage of that!
3. There are several scenic views and trails in Easton. If you enjoy walking through the woods, you should definitely take the time to check out some of the paths. Depending on how lucky you are, you may even stumble upon some wildlife!

In a nutshell, Easton is a great spot if you need to escape the hubbub of a fast-paced life. We’re not too far away from New York City, so come on by if you want to visit!
Share a couple of random facts with us!
I’ve started baking more! To be honest, the kitchen is a rather frightening place for me, but I’m really enjoying baking new things. Recently, I made a New Zealand dish, called Pavlova, and it came out delicious!

What has been the toughest thing to get used to about life post-graduating from PSU?
Personally, the toughest part of being a new graduate is, for the unemployed like me, to not be too hard on yourself. While we all have done that in college at one point in our lives, it’s a different kind of pressure as a graduate without work. You get a grade in college that tells you what you did wrong or right, but with the job search, it’s hard to accept failure when you don’t know what you could have done differently.

I understand the economy is tough, but it’s difficult to accept that fact. I have a desire to work, or go to school, and feel like I’m contribute to society, but at the moment, it’s just not happening. I continually tell myself to keep my head up and apply, search, and apply some more. I never comprehended what it’s like to be unemployed until now, and it’s a rather humbling experience. Fortunately, I have my family supporting me, but some days, my pride suffers in not being as independent as I was at PSU. Hopefully, things will turn around soon, and I can get back to doing what I love: working with animals (and getting paid for it too)!

Keep in touch! 📞203-767-3328  📧melanie.l.torres@gmail.com
What are you up to?
I am living in Pottstown, PA, and working at Accenture in Philadelphia as a Systems Integration Analyst. Systems Integration (SI) is part of the consulting workforce and work on IT projects like merging systems, designing new systems, adding functionalities, building data warehouses, and designing/building phone apps. SI consultants work with the clients to define business needs and then work with developers to design a solution to solve those needs. (During my four week training in Chicago, we were taught the basics of JAVA programming and I had a panic attack that I would actually be expected to do that.)

My current project is a Business Intelligence project where my team is creating analytics functionalities and automated reporting processes. I am working on establishing a Project Management Office to help coordinate all the sub projects, streamline our processes by creating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and communicate our progress with the client.

What have you been reading?
Watching? Listening to?
I love listening to the Elvis Duran and the Morning Show on my (Philadelphia local station is FM102.1) and to audio books (Audibles.com) during my commute. Information Management Daily is a great online resource for daily articles related to business intelligence and analytics if you are interested.

What are you looking forward to in the next 6 months?
I am looking forward to finally using a couple of my vacation days to go to Florida in April, followed by a weekend trip to Penn State for Blue and White weekend!

Have you been back to PSU recently?
I was back in October for the Penn State vs. Ohio State football game. It was so good to be back, see friends, and to be submerged in Penn State pride again (even though we lost that game.)
Tell us about a project at work that you’re excited about
I just recently started a Value Measurement project which I am pretty excited about. I have been working on creating a process and series of templates to go along with the process aimed at measuring the value the Accenture team brings to the client. Today we began implementing it with one of our new projects. I am excited about this project because it is giving me a good overview of what needs to go into a project. Delivering value is the bottom line and essentially all our clients care about one way or another. Seeing this process allows me to see the importance of everything that goes into a project and the final goal.

Tell us about something fun you did recently in your new home
I went to my first NFL game and was lucky enough to attend one of the few the Eagles actually won this season. I also went to a pottery making class and spun a bowl on the wheel which is something I have always wanted to do.

What are 3-5 things that you would recommend people do in Philadelphia if they are ever in the area?
1. Try a Philadelphia cheesesteak and decide which is your favorite: Pat’s, Geno’s, or Jim’s.
2. Check out Reading Terminal Market
3. A Stephen Starr restaurant All his restaurants are unique and really good. My favorites so far are Continental and Morimoto.
4. Helium Comedy Club: It’s cheap and they have pretty decent comedians.
5. Phillies game: I don’t really like baseball, but I love going to the games!

Share a couple of random facts with us!
During my few months off over the summer, I started to learn how to golf, and I am learning, slowly. I just bought my first set of clubs and am looking forward to some nice spring weather to try them out.

What has been the toughest thing to get used to about life post-graduating from PSU?
I think the hardest part of post-graduation for me is my lack of involvement in things other than my job. At Penn State, it was so easy to be involved in a thousand things. It’s harder after graduation because we don’t have an involvement fair to attend, and all our friends aren’t within walking distance. I am working on finding a balance and becoming more involved in my work community and the Philadelphia community like volunteering for recruiting efforts and continuing my ballroom dance lessons from my last semester at Penn State.

Keep in touch! 📞 717-422-4406 ✉️ bell.torilynn@gmail.com