

## AST Update Between Newsletters:



### Sean Brame, AST Speaks at Hershey Grand Opening:

Sean Brame, quad amputee, was one of the Keynote Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new **Penn State University/Hershey Children's Hospital** at the PSU Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA. Sean and his family sat right behind Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell and PSU President Graham Spanier. It was later said: "Sean's speech was the talk of the med center." See copy of speech below.

Gov. Rendell asked Sean if he is planning to run for office someday. Sean's mother Carol responded about their trip to the White House when Sean stood in front of FDR's pictures and said..."Mom if a man in a wheelchair could be president I wonder what a guy on two prosthetic legs could do..." Gov. Rendell laughed.

Sean is presently wheelchair bound due to corrective surgery, and hating it. Sean was told he could try his new prosthetic legs in about two weeks after the stitches come out on Dec 2. Sean said "bag that..." he has other ideas, his brand new legs are presently sitting in his Living Room and they are really neat. They have Steeler's fabric laminated into the sockets, brand new Steeler's sneakers, and cool black pylons with yellow tape to be added after the final adjustments are made. Everyone is betting Sean will be walking by December 3.

Please note that Sean Brame, a member of the AST (Amputee Support Team of Central PA), is the youngest ACA (Amputee Coalition of America) Certified Peer Visitor in the United States. Sean was trained with his mother Carol, to help provide intervention with persons suffering multiple limb loss, and also with young persons, regardless of how many limbs they may have lost. Sean has also visited with our wounded warriors at Walter Reed Military Hospital in Washington, DC. Sean was also honored by the ACA at its Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA as the ACA's Person of the Year for 2007.



## **Sean Brame's Speech at the Penn State University/Hershey Children's Hospital:**

"We Are Penn State" is a cheer that I have heard and echoed since I was born. Penn State Blue and White is in my blood, and on Fall Saturdays I can be found sitting in the North end zone in front of the dance team, cheering for the big guys dressed in Blue and White. However, five years ago, I discovered the familiar phrase "We are Penn State" means so much more....

Five years ago I almost died as a result of a sport's injury that turned life threatening. Doctors at our local hospital could not effectively treat me because they lacked the specialized equipment only a Children's Hospital could provide. Fortunately, I live close enough to the Penn State Children's Hospital, so I was transported there and admitted to the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Children's Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

While in the hospital, my family soon discovered that the Penn State Children's Hospital had the true "We Are" spirit. They saw first-hand how a group of dedicated medical professionals work like a well-trained football team to make me better. Although they may not work in the biggest children's hospital in the country, the medical care I received was second to none.

When I recovered from my illness, I got to view another part of the Penn State "We Are" spirit, that of community involvement. I was asked to become one of the spokes children for the Children's Miracle Network. As a Miracle Child, I was asked to share my story with community and business leaders so they could see first hand how their generous donations are used to help children like me.

Five years after my illness, I am still a regular fixture around the halls of the Penn State Children's Hospital, not necessarily as a patient, but as an ambassador of good will. People tell me that I inspire other children to get better because when they see me walk into a room, it gives them hope. Some say that I inspire the medical staff to work harder to help critically ill children because when they see me walk into a room, it shows them promise. Still others say that I am an inspiration to a community because when they see me able to continue my life without limbs, it gives them incentive to support our hospital.

The Pennsylvania State University... We are more than just a football team... "We Are" a state of the art medical facility dedicated to the betterment of children in Central Pa and beyond ... "We Are" a dedicated staff of medical and support personnel determined to treat the whole child so more miracles can happen ... "We Are" a generous community pledged to support the building of a bigger, better Children's hospital to help more families like mine have a lifetime of memories instead of a lifetime of tears.... We Are Penn State, and I am proud to be a part of the team.

Here to talk more about how the new hospital will help families like mine feel more at home is Dr. Craig Hillemeier, Chair of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital.

## Randy Stevens in the News:

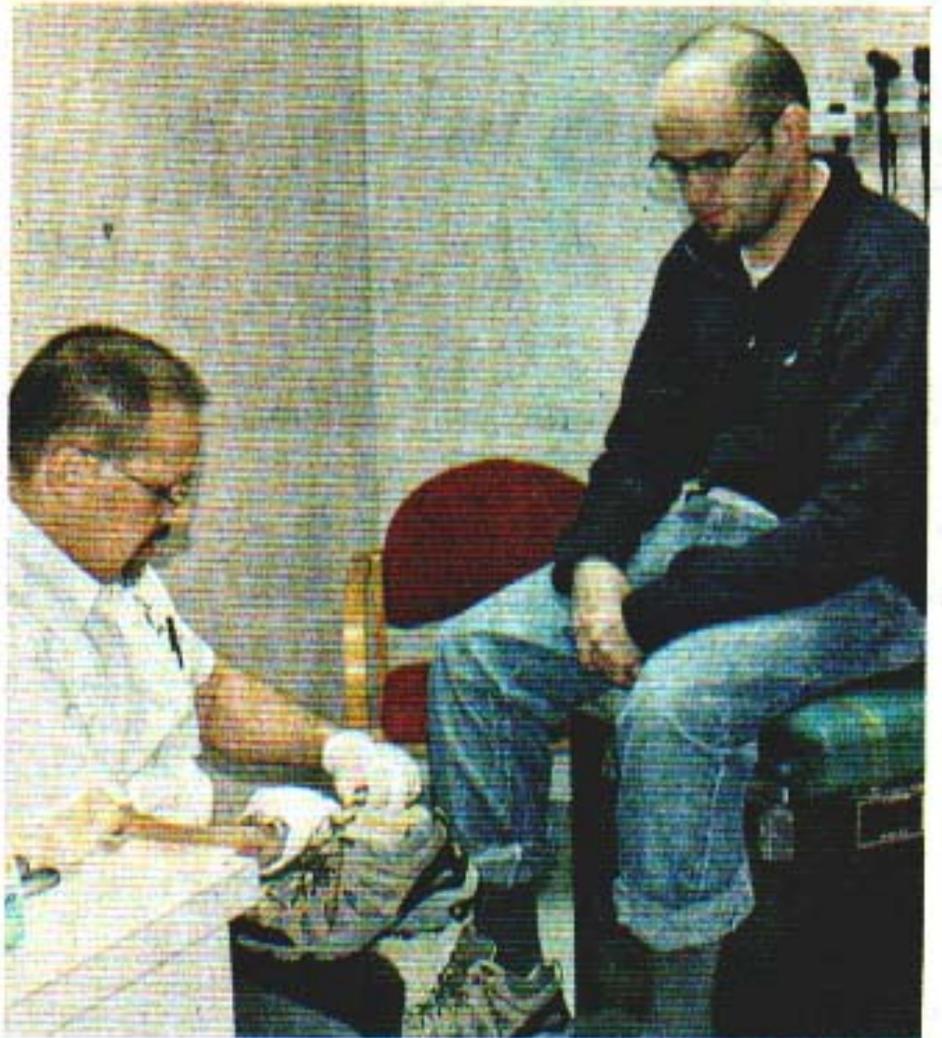
Many of you may remember Randy Stevens speaking at our AST Meeting on March 11, 2009 at the Helen M. Simpson Rehabilitation Hospital. The AST Congratulates AST Member and supporter Randy Stevens for his unselfish help and support of the less fortunate people in our community.

### HARRISBURG

## 75 homeless men receive new shoes

Randy Stevens of Randy Stevens Foot-care fits Jason Moore of Camden, N.J., with a new pair of shoes as part of the Soles4Souls program, which provided free foot screenings and footwear to men at the Bethesda Mission on Monday. The program was part of the fourth national effort to help relieve the foot problems experienced by the homeless. Through Bethesda, 75 area homeless men received shoes.

— Joe Elias, [jelias@patriot-news.com](mailto:jelias@patriot-news.com)



JOE ELIAS, The Patriot-News

### Next AST Meeting:

Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 PM: AST Meeting about “**Exercise & Wellness**”  
HealthSouth Mechanicsburg, Refreshments provided.