Pittsburgh Technical Institute Students Transform Oakdale Campus into HUMANS VS. ZOMBIES Battle Ground

PITTSBURGH --- October 21, 2011 --- The mission is simple: avoid being tagged by a Zombie. Supplies are few: Nerf guns, head bands and index cards.

The game begins with all players as humans, and one is randomly selected to be the "Original Zombie." The Original Zombie tags human players and turns them into zombies. Zombies must tag and "eat" a human every 48 hours or they starve to death and are out of the game. Zombies win when all human players have been tagged and turned into zombies. Humans can win by surviving long enough for all of the zombies to starve.

Pittsburgh Technical Institute will become a Humans VS. Zombies battleground for three days beginning November 18 and ending November 20, 2011. It’s their fifth HvZ tournament, and according to PTI’s Intramural Sports Coordinator, John Palko, HvZ is one of the college’s most popular activities. Palko attributes student response to the game to just one key element. “Nerf Guns,” said Palko, not-so-jokingly. “It’s really that simple.”

Student coordinator Hannah Snyder explains the appeal of HvZ a little differently. “The game is something all students can participate in together…regardless of major, age, interests or physical ability," said Snyder. "We all let our guard down and get to meet a lot of people with whom we probably wouldn't have had the chance to interact otherwise.”
Humans VS. Zombies tournaments at Pittsburgh Technical Institute typically attract around 125 student participants. And the numbers are growing.

HvZ was invented at Goucher College in 2005. Social networking has enabled the game to expand to more than 650 colleges and universities worldwide, as well as high schools, military bases, summer camps and public libraries.

Hannah Snyder’s interest in the game even landed her a graphic design internship with Gnarwhal Studios, producers of HvZ with locations in Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Chicago. Snyder designs HvZ promotional materials such as posters, flyers, tee shirts and web content that Gnarwhal offers to help campuses organize tournaments and recruit players at campuses all over the world. Hannah is a graduate of Holidaysburg Senior High School near Altoona, PA, and graduates this month with her degree in Graphic Design. Next, she hopes to continue her design career in the entertainment industry and would ideally like to relocate to Florida to work for Walt Disney World.

PTI supports student interest in HvZ and often has employee participation. Careful not to interfere with classes and technical labs, Palko assists with supplies, registration and ensures that classrooms and labs are off-limits.

“Students at PTI are career-driven and work very hard,” said Palko. “As I see it, if I can provide our students with a few hours of fun and offer some balance to their academic work, I’ve done my job.” Palko has been with PTI since 2010 and oversees a variety of intramural sports and activities including basketball, deck hockey, soccer, flag-football, faculty vs. student softball and tournament poker.

Link to PTI’s Flickr account for photos of previous HvZ tournaments: [www.pti.edu/flickr](http://www.pti.edu/flickr)

**ABOUT Pittsburgh Technical Institute**

Offering career-focused education since 1946, Pittsburgh Technical Institute is a two-year college with two locations in Western Pennsylvania: a 180-acre campus in North Fayette, west of Pittsburgh, and a center at the Regional Learning Alliance, north of the City in Cranberry. PTI offers degree and certificate programs in areas such as Building Technology, Business, Criminal Justice, Design, Healthcare, Nursing, and Information Technology.

PTI students can take advantage of online course offerings, on-campus residence halls, student activities, intramural programs and community service programs. PTI is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

For more information, call **1-800-784-9675**, or visit [http://www.pti.edu/](http://www.pti.edu/).

For more information about Humans VS. Zombies, visit [http://humansvszombies.org/](http://humansvszombies.org/)

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