

REPRESENTATION



Lauren Lee/For the Collegian

Freshman Heidy Canales, left, is the first Latino Caucus representative in UPUA. Sophomore Eddie Richardson is the first Black Caucus representative. Latino Caucus, Black Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American Caucus were granted seats in UPUA's 14th General Assembly on Nov. 14, 2018.

'A seat at the table': Latino Caucus elects its first UPUA representative

By Lauren Lee
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Heidy Canales described it as a surreal feeling.

The Penn State freshman was officially elected as the first Latino Caucus representative in the University Park Undergraduate Association.

Members of Latino Caucus nominated Canales during their meeting on March 14 and officially elected her during their meeting on March 28.

Latino Caucus President Tomás Sanchez said after advocating for the creation of the community seats in UPUA, members of Latino Caucus knew Canales would be the right candidate for the new role.

"A lot of people saw her dedication, how hardworking she was so it became assumed she was going to take the position," Sanchez (junior-political science and sociology) said. "She also wanted to do more to represent the Latino students."

When Canales (freshman-public relations) was officially elected, she said it felt like a "wow" feeling.

"I don't really have words for it," Canales said. "Just knowing that a group of people that I can relate

to trust me with that role touched my heart."

In her first year at Penn State, Canales was in UPUA's freshman council and served as the press secretary for the rest of UPUA's 13th Assembly. Despite her involvement in UPUA, Canales said she felt like she needed to do more for the Latinx community.

"It wasn't like a hands on role, it was like, 'I'm there, and I'm just witnessing things,'" Canales said.

As a result, Canales said she became more involved with Latino Caucus by joining the organization's University Relations Committee.

"That's where I saw more of the advocacy side of the Latino Caucus and that's kind of really what made me want to go for this role," she said.

After attending her first meeting as a freshman UPUA council member, Canales said she was inspired to get more involved with advocacy.

Canales said she remembers seeing around 50 people that came to the open student forum during a UPUA meeting to advocate for the community seats.

"For me being a fresh freshman, having no experience as to what is going on at Penn State and that being the first major issue that I was presented with was like, 'How is this even a problem at Penn State? Why don't we have the seats?'" Canales said. "That didn't make sense to me."

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'We made history': Black Caucus elects its first UPUA representative

By Lauren Lee
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State sophomore Eddie Richardson made history Thursday night after being elected as the first Black Caucus representative in the University Park Undergraduate Association.

Over 15 members of Black Caucus met in Room 322 HUB-Robeson Center for their usual general body meeting — except this time, members were able to cast a vote on who would become Black Caucus's first representative.

Black Caucus Vice President Fatima Odebisi conducted the voting process by opening the floor up for members to nominate other members.

Danielita Pantoe, the president of Black Caucus, nominated Eddie Richardson as the only nominee for the UPUA seat.

"This whole thing was very beautiful," Pantoe said. "We made history, not just first in getting the seats but then someone stepping up because it is a very big responsibility."

Last semester, numerous organizations on campus advocated for the creation of community representative seats within UPUA. After a vote, UPUA members decided to add seats in the 14th

Assembly, which will meet for the first time on April 3.

Seven organizations gained seats in the 14th Assembly. In addition to Black Caucus, Latino Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council and National Panhellenic Council will have a representative.

Before the official vote, Richardson (sophomore-journalism, international politics and economics) was asked a series of questions by members.

Richardson, who was previously part of the Sankofa committee, said he is heavily involved in the caucus.

As a triple major, Richardson said he is well organized and has the time to be a member of Black Caucus and a representative.

"After school, this position will be my main priority," Richardson said.

Richardson said he wants to give back to the community and wants Black Caucus members to continue to hold him up to a high standard in representing the black community.

"I will act as a medium," Richardson said. "So think of it as this position is all you guys."

Then, members wrote down their votes on a slip of paper for Odebisi to count.

In the end, Richardson won the vote. Black Caucus member Jaida Lively said history was made.

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Stick with the Collegian as we also look to hear from the Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American Caucus.

Assistant dean focuses on inclusion in College of Agricultural Sciences

By Lilly Forsyth
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The squeaky wheel gets the grease — or rather, those who make their needs and wants heard are more likely to get what they desire.

This idea has motivated Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs for the College of Agricultural Sciences Patresse Ingram through her education, personal life and career.

Though she described herself as "pretty quiet and reserved," Ingram did what she needed to in order to fight for her success, especially when she was pursuing her doctoral degree at Michigan State.

Ingram explained that she "had to hunt down" one of her professors and would wait outside one of his classes taught during the weekend.

"I would be there with my little boy and I would be sitting outside the door so when he got out, there I was," Ingram said, laughing loudly. "I was squeaking so I could get some oil."

Though she relied on a "got to get through" mentality, Ingram is making it her mission to be more accessible to students who may need her as a resource.

Her position within the College of Agricultural Sciences was created in 2011, and Ingram remembered thinking it was "great" the college had made a higher role that would focus on diversity and inclusion.

"I think that I have had some impact on the college in terms of putting diversity on their minds and having people recognize that diversity, multiculturalism and accepting all kinds of people is

important," Ingram said. "I think that's the biggest accomplishment — it becomes part of the culture of the college."

Ingram is also the adviser of Penn State's chapter of MANRRS — Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. The club invites all students of all backgrounds and majors to join.

"It's a place and kind of like a family for them to feel like these are people that I relate well to and they feel comfortable with," Ingram said. "It's critical to create this space."

This year, the chapter will soon attend the 34th-annual national conference where students will participate in competitions, give presentations about their research and listen to speakers.

MANRRS co-adviser Derek James noted the importance of bringing students to this type of environment where students of color can "see other students that look like them."

"[The conference] is getting them to see that it is not how it is everywhere," James said, regarding the statistically disproportionate demographics of Central Pennsylvania. "Being able to see 1,500 students who are in the same majors is beneficial to them."

Additionally, Ingram was once a professor at Penn State, teaching YFE 438: Living in an Increasingly Diverse Society, AEE 460: Foundations of Leadership Development and YFE 496A: Communicating Across Cultures.

Both her educational background and teaching experience assures James on Ingram's ability to fulfill the needs of her position.



Lindsey Shuey/Collegian

Patresse Ingram, assistant dean of Multicultural Affairs, poses in the Agricultural Administration Building on Friday, March 29.

"Her perspective and understanding of what faculty and students needs are — she's able to understand the rigor of secondary education," James said.

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education Gary Thompson echoed James' comments on Ingram's background, also highlighting her being a "constant advocate" for students.

"She worked on a scholarship of education which is really important for her to understand and related to students," Thompson said. "She's also a very empathetic person. She's concerned about people and I think that goes with her professional demeanor as well."

Thompson added that Ingram has personally taken the time to advise him and other faculty on how to be inclusive.

"One of my areas of interests, both personally and profession-

ally, is really to be more culturally competent," he said. "I took a year of cultural diversity inventory under her supervision."

Thompson said Ingram also provides input on how the college advertises to faculty and engages with students.

James first met Ingram as a graduate student and she served as his adviser. Ingram will no longer be James' official adviser by the end of the summer.

"It will probably be, jokingly, a weight off of her back because I've been around for so long," James said. "More importantly, I think it will be an accomplishment for her to help another student walk across that stage."

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PSU student killed in Philadelphia

By Greg Metz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A Penn State student was shot and killed at FDR Park in South Philadelphia Saturday night.

Nicholas Flacco, 20, suffered one gunshot wound to the chest after an argument broke out in the park just before 10 p.m., according to CBS Philly.

He is the son of Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector of Internal Affairs, Chris Flacco.

Flacco was tailgating with his friends after attending the Phillies game Saturday afternoon when the shooting occurred.

He was rushed to a nearby hospital and pronounced dead at 10:17 p.m.

There was a large group in the park when the incident occurred and the crowd dispersed on Pattison Avenue toward Broad Street.

The Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 5 is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest of a suspect in the case.

Lodge President John McNesby calls Flacco's death "a senseless act of violence."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Flacco family and our fellow police officers will close this case with help from the public," McNesby said.

Flacco was a student in the College of the Liberal Arts, according to the Penn State student directory.

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Events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month set to begin

By **Jordan Corley**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In honor of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the University Park Undergraduate Association is hosting Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Week 2019 from April 8 to April 12. This year, UPUA partnered with the Gender Equity Center to host the following events. The programs are free and open to all students.

Honoring Survival: Transforming the Spirit
-6:30 p.m. Monday, April 8
-Memorial Lounge, Pasquerilla Spiritual Center

Hosted by the Gender Equity Center over the past decade, this event is designed to commemorate the strength and resilience of those affected by assault.

"It's really geared toward honoring all survivors of all forms of assault," Jennifer Penceck, programming coordinator of the Gender Equity Center, said. "It could be sexual assault or relationship violence or stalking." There will be multiple speakers, music and an interactive art component.

"It's one of my favorite [events]," Penceck said. "It's really for those who want to give back to survivors."

What Were You Wearing? Survivor Art Installation
-11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 9
-134 HUB-Robeson Center

The second annual survivor art installation is a display of the

outfits sexual assault survivors were wearing during their assault.

"We have numerous real survivor stories about what they were wearing when they were assaulted," Penceck said.

The outfits will hang on a wall in the HUB, and next to each outfit will be a written description of the survivor's story.

"There is so much victim blaming that happens," Penceck said, "especially around what [the person who was assaulted] was wearing."

The goal of the event is to show that outfit choice should never lead to victim blaming.

Men Against Violence Walk

-12 p.m. Wednesday, April 10
-Flex Theater, HUB-Robeson Center

The annual walk is led by the Gender Equity Center's Men Against Violence peer education group.

In previous years, MAV led a similar event, "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes," where men would walk a mile around campus in heels. Penceck said nationally, some groups felt the event was feeding into gender stereotypes and not spreading their message the way it was intended.

Last year was the first year the center hosted the "Men Against Violence Walk," which Penceck said is inclusive to all individuals and organizations.

"It's a great way to show visual support for the [sexual assault survivors]," Penceck said.



John Stinely/Collegian

Members of **Sisters of the Runway PSU** lead the A Mile in Her Shoes walk outside of the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2018.

Mira Sorvino- #MeToo: From Weinstein to World-wide Advocacy

-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 10
-Alumni Hall, HUB-Robeson Center

Sorvina, an Academy Award-winning actress, was one of the first women in Hollywood to publicly recount her experience being harassed by former director Harvey Weinstein.

Following her interview with TIME magazine, 90 other women came forward with their stories, thus beginning the #MeToo movement.

The Gender Equity Center,

Panhellenic Council, the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and UPUA are sponsoring the event.

The Gender Equity Center also offers two peer education groups throughout the entire year.

Peers Helping Reaffirm Educate and Empower (PHREE) is primarily a female-identified group where members discuss their own experience with assault and how to change "rape culture" on campus, said Shannon DeHoff, group organizer and graduate assistant.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

University activities to celebrate Penn State's LGBTQ Pride Month

By **Grace Miller**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The LGBTQA Resource Center is partnering with other programs to celebrate Penn State's annual Pride Month to both celebrate and show support for the LGBTQ community on-campus and beyond.

While June has been recognized nationally as Pride Month for the community since 1970, the university and its organizations choose to recognize this month of pride in April.

Sonya Wilmoth, assistant director at the resource center, said pride month gives students an opportunity to show pride in who they are and the pieces of their identity.

"I think, more than anything, it's to bring awareness to this particular community and that we are here on Penn State's campus and not just at [University] Park, but across the Commonwealth, and that we're here and... we're just proud of all of our identities," Wilmoth said.

Wilmoth said the activities were planned so that there is something for everyone. Activi-



Ken Kalbach/Collegian

LGBTQA Student Resource Center Director, Brian Patchcoski marches during the Pride March along Pollock road on Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

ties will be run by the LGBTQA Resource Center itself, student groups, campus recreation, campus libraries and the Center for the Performing Arts.

"One of the things that we know here as a center is that not all LGBTQ students visit the center, but exist on campus," Wilmoth said, "and we want to make sure that we provide across the month activities that everyone can be a part of in some fashion."

Wilmoth is specifically excited for the HUB takeover on April 2, which she said will create an "amazing" atmosphere at the HUB and kick off the month.

Sean Moran said he thinks of pride as a "halfway-there party."

"For me, it's important because, as a gay man, it is kind of like a celebration of how far we have come and what we can do," Moran (senior-psychology) said.

Moran takes all of his friends to

pride events regardless of their sexual orientation or gender, and he said that they always end up having fun.

"It's kind of like, actually a really relaxing time," Moran said. "Not that I'm normally stressed about like all of the politics of being gay, but... genuinely there's a lot of love, a lot of happiness shared, it's just a very, very welcoming environment."

Below is the list of Penn State's pride month events:

Monday, April 1 - 5:
Pennsylvania LGBTQ History Exhibit— located on the first floor of the Pattee Library in the Leisure Reading Room

Tuesday, April 2:
HUB Take Over— 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Play With Pride— Free Tennis Clinic at the tennis center from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3:
Safer People Safer Places Workshop— located at HUB 134 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

Richardson

FROM Page 1.

"I know a lot of people on [the executive board] just in Black Caucus in general worked very hard to obtain these seats in the UPUA," Lively (freshman-English) said. "So it was just really nice to see it happen, for them to achieve their goals."

Lively said she knows Richardson personally and believes he is a great person for the job.

"I just hope to see a lot more representation for the black community and just recognition of the black community," Lively said. "Because we have a lot of great people, a lot of great orgs, a lot of great things we do that I feel like they don't get the attention they deserve from the entire community, not just the black community. I hope to see it all integrated and supportive of each other."

After his win, Richardson is excited.

"I look forward to where the community going to be growing in the future," Richardson said.

Richardson said he hopes to push for more representation.

"The black community has a lot of concerns that they feel aren't conveyed properly," Richardson said. "I intend to use every way that I can in this position to give a voice to the black community and to the greater community of people of color on campus."

After graduating college, Richardson said he hopes to go into politics.

"To be in government you have to depend on those you are being representative for," Richardson said. "This is a great start for me and the community as well."

Pantoe said she enjoyed being part of the elections. She believes Richardson's involvement in the Sankofa committee and communications committee demonstrates his dedication to the organization.

"Eddie is amazing," Pantoe said. "He's very goal-oriented, very organized and he's been showing passion within Black Caucus before even knowing about the seats."

Pantoe added she is confident Richardson will represent the black community.

"I feel he will always stand his ground," she said. "He's always strong minded and it's an amazing start to an amazing story."

Odebisi said she feels enthusiastic for the future with the first representative.

"It definitely does feel like a breath of fresh air," Odebisi said. "But with breaths of fresh air you have to take another breath after. So it's good that there's a person there, but now it's time to do the work"

Zachary McKay, an at-large representative for UPUA, also came to the general body meeting to witness the election.

"Obviously it's pretty historical," McKay (sophomore-economics) said. McKay said during his time serving as a UPUA representative in the 13th Assembly, he was able to be part of the team that helped push for the multicultural caucus seats.

"Seeing it come to fruition now after knowing the history of all those who make it happen is amazing," McKay said.

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Canales

FROM Page 1.

Last semester, numerous campus organizations successfully advocated for the creation of community representative seats within UPUA. Seven organizations gained seats in the 14th Assembly. In addition to Latino Caucus, Black Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Caucus, Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, Multicultural Greek Council and National Panhellenic Council will each have a representative.

From her first meeting, Canales said she had critiques of the organization. "I guess that's a good thing because when you want change you have to be able to see what's wrong with something and want to fix it," Canales said.

Now, as the representative for Latino Caucus, Canales said it "feels great to see it come full circle."

"[Latino Caucus members] trust me to go into this role and really do something with it," Canales said. "Because being the first [Latino Caucus representative] you're setting a precedence for how the community seat is taken seriously, and I honestly plan to do a lot with this role."

Canales said she has several initiatives she hopes to go into fruition once she starts working.

One of the main efforts Canales said she is advocating for is to make sure UPUA becomes more involved with Latino Caucus.

"Because they are elected to

serve the constituents that are the undergraduate community, there is no reason why they shouldn't be more involved in more Latino Caucus events and showing their face more than a 'Hi' here or 'Hi' there and only coming to us when there is a problem," Canales said.

Canales said she also wants to focus on expanding the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, which is located in the HUB-Robeson Center.

"I think that is one of the best ways that this role can be used is advocating for students of color on campus to get more spaces that are designed specifically for us," Canales said. "Because at the end of the day, we deserve more than just a corner in the HUB that nobody has heard about."

Canales said this initiative is important in matching Penn State's diversity initiatives.

"If Penn State is actually committed to diversity and inclusion then they're going to do things to make sure that the students of color here on campus feel like they are welcome," she said.

Canales said although her new role is a big responsibility, she said she works well under pressure.

"I'm here to serve the people. I just want what's best for our community," Canales said. "Not even just the Latinx community — for all marginalized groups on campus."

Through her previous experience listening to UPUA debate on whether the community seats

should be created, Canales said she will make sure she does not let her community down.

"I'm glad that I saw it because now I know it's like, 'Okay well the things that they think won't work with these seats, I know I'm going to make sure I do,'" Canales said. "I'm never going to give UPUA a reason to think that electing these seats was a mistake."

Canales said these new positions in UPUA are crucial for representation.

"At the end of the day, when you're part of a group that doesn't get enough attention, you have to work 10-times harder than everybody else in the room," Canales said.

Sanchez, who has previously been a representative in UPUA, said being an at-large representative has a different focus than a community representative.

"When you're an at-large member of UPUA, you're representing all Penn State students," Sanchez said. "Which there isn't anything bad about that, but it means your focus can't be on the communities that need it the most."

Sanchez, who also was involved with UPUA as a freshman, said a big goal of his has always been trying to build a bridge between multicultural communities and the greater Penn State community.

"I realized at the end of the day, we can outreach and tell them we can tell these communities we can help them, or we can give them the

opportunity to help themselves," Sanchez said. "I think that's what these seats do — they give us a seat at the table and allow us to bring light to these issues that are important to us without having to tokenize at-large members."

Sanchez said he realized there was consistent tokenization of UPUA representatives who happen to be Latinx.

"We felt as though if we're going to have this tokenization, let's have someone who is connected to the community who knows what the struggles are and can actually implement the change that the community wants to see," he said.

David Carcamo, the director of university relations for Latino Caucus, said the initiative for community seats dates back decades ago.

"It was something that we asked for that at the time the student government said 'We'll look into it,'" Carcamo said. "And as a lot of things go with issues of diversity and inclusion, if we're not there all the time reminding the powers that be that we need to have a seat at the table then sometimes it just gets left off."

Carcamo said he thought Canales stood out as someone who takes initiative when he started working with Canales last semester. "She, from the very beginning, was just on board with the vision that Latino Caucus had," Carcamo said. "Our vision is to be political advocates to demonstrate academic excellence and create an inclusive environment for all of us that are Latino." In the future, Carcamo said he hopes to see her open

up a steady line of communication between UPUA and Latino Caucus.

"Even to get the seats this past year, we ran into friction between UPUA and Latino Caucus that almost threatened to derail everything," Carcamo said. "I think that's not something that's unique to this year. I think it's something much broader where there's a skepticism on behalf of communities of color."

In addition to supporting the initiative to expand the PRCC, Carcamo said the organization is advocating for "cultural competency training" among faculty and staff at Penn State.

"In most circles of marginalized communities here, these conversations just kind of begin organically of people telling their stories and experiences they had a run in with a professor in a classroom or office hours or during an event," she said. "There's obviously this lapse in knowledge about marginalized communities."

Carcamo said the initiative intends to help educate faculty and staff who may not be used to working with diverse communities.

"The most fundamental relationship for students here is with their professors," Carcamo said. "They're the most constant people that they're seeing... So it's really important that we try to build on that relationship as much as we can."

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Penn State, State College take big step during Pride Month

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the famous Stonewall Riots, a seminal moment in the modern gay rights movement when members of the LGBTQ community demonstrated against police raids at the Stonewall Inn.

Since then, a lot of progress has been made in the fight for LGBTQ equality — same-sex marriage has been legalized, many states have bolstered their non-discrimination policies to include sexual orientation and gender identity and a record percentage of Americans now support same-sex marriage.

However, there’s still a lot of work to be done and still a lot of pervasive issues the community faces.

For instance, a 2015 study found that 47% of transgender individuals are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetimes, and only 21 states have laws explicitly banning employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

OUR VIEW

The move to put up pride flags is important to raise visibility, but more needs to be done

This shows that there’s still clearly much to do in the effort to ensure equal protection for members of the LGBTQ community, and Penn State and State College, to their credit have acknowledged that fact.

You could say increasing visibility is an important first step. Last year, the borough painted crosswalks at the corners of Allen Street and Calder Way with the rainbow pride flags as a symbol of inclusivity and solidarity with the LGBTQ community at Penn State and in State College.

In 2017, the borough council created the LGBTQ Advisory Committee, and this year, that committee approved the installation of 70-80 pride flags around the borough — ensuring the presence was well

known.

Pride Month is typically in June, but Penn State chooses to celebrate in April while classes are still in session, and more students are still around.

Penn State and the borough are hosting several important events during the month with the intention to both increase visibility as well as education surrounding many of the issues facing the community, and many of the events provide a good mix of both.

Part of that effort is putting up the flags, a more visible and concerted effort than painting the crosswalks.

It shows a stronger commitment and a change from the status quo that was not previously in place, and while it’s not enough from an

educational standpoint, there is no denying it raises the visibility and puts the LGBTQ community at the front of a lot people’s minds.

Ideally, it would have been nice if Penn State or State College did something like this earlier, but they’re also under no obligation to put them up at all.

It would be different if the flags were also solely on campus and thus only affected Penn State students, but to put them in downtown State College now involves more of the community in the fight for equal rights and tolerance.

Despite all of these efforts to raise awareness and education and despite the national support for same-sex marriage, there’s still a palpable anti-LGBTQ sentiment that many

students, alumni or townspeople may possess and so for the borough to have a statement of support like this is important.

The borough also did not have to align itself with the interests of the university in this matter, though it is a smart and relatively obvious move.

Having said all of that, hanging these flags is only a first step — it’s far from a solution to a pervasive societal issue.

The educational aspects of the month need to be highlighted as well. There are a lot of layers and levels to these discussions that need to incorporate both visibility and education simultaneously.

Ultimately, Penn State and State College are taking an important step toward moving the dialogue forward and doing their part to help the LGBTQ community.

Now it’s a matter of seeing these discussions continue beyond the month and seeing a larger commitment to these issues in the future.

MY VIEW | Kaleigh Quinnan

Start considering important issues and values for 2020

This weekend, I was fortunate enough to enjoy a weekend getaway in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.



Quinnan

Being that we were in central Pennsylvania, it did not surprise me that this was President Trump territory.

Yes, one house we passed was indeed decorated with a lawn ornament of the groundhog and a Trump 2020 flag.

This sight not only devastated me on a personal level, but should quite frankly also be taken to be an embarrassment for the United States and human race as in its entirety.

While shocking, it is not difficult to understand how this middle-America place could foster such views.

After all, it was in many of these areas where the president’s rhetoric hit home the hardest because of a declining economy and desire for change from the status quo.

This is also where the divide between upper and lower classes becomes more and more defined with every passing day.

The microcosms of society, even in Punxsutawney, are contributors to this greater problem.

Take our Airbnb for example, and the industry as a whole.

We took the opportunity to rent out a remote mansion in this place, essentially aiding a member of the community.

This is good for the local economy, because the owner of the estate will then ideally go and spend money and pay taxes and whatever else his heart desires to do in central Pennsylvania.

This is not always the case, however, and often places can be manipulated by bigger businesses that wish to prevent such profits.

In New Orleans, for example, hotels and larger businesses lobbied to local governments to ban Airbnb so that when Mardi Gras rolled around, local renters would be out of business and people would have to stay in hotels.

This is a result of large corporations paying their way to more money, which if applied to places like Punxsutawney, would be devastating for the local economy.

The irony of this is that it is exactly what people in these places are voting for: a growing private sector that will ultimately disadvantage them and potentially leave them worse off than before.

I do not mean to drag the citizens of central Pennsylvania, and I am sure that there are many nice people who live and enjoy this region in all of its glory.

I did, however, mean to drag



Caitline Lee/Collegian

Democratic presidential candidate Beto O’Rourke yells a “We Are” chant after speaking to an audience in Heritage Hall on March 19.

anyone in this area who thinks it reasonable to promote politicians that will ultimately hurt them and countless others in similar situations (not to mention spewing hatred and lies against women, people of color, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, poor people and the media).

It’s time to really start think-

ing about the 2020 Presidential election, and reconsidering the choice our country made nearly four years ago.

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Photo by Eric Firestine/Collegian

How Cael Sanderson's consistent message and philosophy have guided Penn State's historic run over the past 10 years

By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Fifteen years ago, something strange happened — Cael Sanderson struggled.

At first glance, it would appear Sanderson and losing were like oil and water.

After all, Sanderson never lost in college, compiling a career record of 159-0 with four NCAA titles at Iowa State, and following that up by winning a World silver medal in 2003 and an Olympic gold medal in 2004.

Sanderson said he learned a lot on the international stage and during his college career.

The biggest: Keeping the faith and showing resilience, while still recognizing shortcomings and adapting at the same time. It's the one thing he's tried to impart on the next generation of wrestlers.

For his part in doing that, it has led to Penn State winning eight of the last nine NCAA titles and 58 Nittany Lions taking home All-American nods.

"Every year is a new challenge and you have different individuals with different strengths and weaknesses so you have to continue to evolve," Sanderson said. "You still have to have the program built on the same principles but you adapt to help the individuals along the way."

But Sanderson hasn't always adapted so easily. His individual results on the mat are surface level and don't tell the full story.

There's a thought that Sanderson was a mortal lock to be successful on the international stage and would automatically win medals.

However as it actually turns out, one of the titans of the sport was quickly becoming disillusioned and frustrated with the very thing he made his livelihood.

"The misconception is Cael won four NCAA championships and then just magically ended up being an Olympic champion, but he went through a few things on his way to accomplishing his athletic goals," former U.S. National Team freestyle coach Kevin Jackson told The Daily Collegian. "I caught him at some of his most vulnerable moments where he was frustrated with wrestling, didn't like wrestling, wanted to give up on it."

When Sanderson first made the jump from college to the international level, he was one of the youngest to do so.

He graduated from Iowa State in 2002 and made his first world team that same year, though

the United States did not make the trip to Tehran for the World Championships due to security concerns.

Despite his youth, Sanderson's college resume spoke for itself and earned him the respect of his fellow World and Olympic team members, including former Penn State great and former Stanford and Maryland coach Kerry McCoy.

From McCoy's perspective, though, Sanderson's ability to bounce back after losing truly demonstrated what highlighted one of Sanderson's top qualities — his work ethic.

"The thing is a lot of people look at him and only see the good and they don't see the bad," McCoy, Penn State's second-winningest wrestler all-time, said. "But Cael took a lot of losses whether it's getting taken down or getting turned in matches, and he always used that to be able to get better."

What also stood out to McCoy was Sanderson's demeanor and maturity, and he even went so far as to say the way Sanderson handled himself is really the thing that made those World and Olympic teams special.

"Cael was one of the younger guys on that team, but he was able to assimilate to the group easily without feeling like he had to change his identity or who he was," McCoy, a three-time All-American, two-time Olympian and two-time NCAA champion,

said. "He was himself. Cael was Cael. He didn't try to be anybody else and didn't try to do anything else; it was just him. When we had conversations, he was raw and honest and told us how he felt. You never had to worry about who you were going to get. That genuine type of personality that he had is what helped make those teams special."

Sanderson's wrestling also didn't hurt those teams either.

But he conceded and knew his wrestling alone wasn't going to be enough to propel him to the top of the podium, especially jumping from the collegiate to international stage.

"Anytime you jump levels, you've got to be willing to learn. You've got to be willing to be coachable. It takes a confidence but a humility that you know that you can get better and improve," Sanderson said. "I made that jump but things have changed a little bit since then."

The Cael Sanderson era at Penn State officially began on April 17, 2009.

Sanderson was coming from his alma mater, Iowa State, where

he had just finished his third year at the helm and racked up a 44-10 record while coaching 15 All-Americans and two national champions.

Iowa State's history up to that point couldn't be talked about without mentioning Sanderson's name. The same was true of Penn State history — where Sanderson would have to carve out a legacy — and former coach Rich Lorenzo.

Lorenzo coached the Nittany Lions from 1978-92, won 188 matches and mentored 53 All-Americans in his time at the helm and left an indelible mark on the program. But he feels what Sanderson has been able to do is well beyond what's normal.

"There are some leadership qualities in Cael that not many people have. It's just amazing the way his guys go out there and give their best," Lorenzo, who is a 2019 inductee into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, said. "I've always had kids go out there and to their best, but what they do is a step above."

Penn State's history is important to Sanderson as it's helped build the foundation for the current dynasty — and he's keenly aware of that fact.

"I say it every chance I get, but Penn State wrestling is what it is today because of Rich Lorenzo. The support that we have is because of the relationships that he built when he was coaching," Sanderson said. "There are other great coaches also, [but] he's just really special."

It was Sanderson's trademark humility and quiet nature that led to the seamless transition when Sanderson eventually took over the program.

Before Sanderson's tenure, Penn State was coached for the previous 11 years by former Nittany Lion All-American Troy Sunderland, who guided the Nittany Lions to a 115-90 record, including four top-10 finishes at the NCAA Tournament.

In the days and weeks preceding the start of Sanderson's time commandeering the Nittany Lions, there was an excitement and an intrigue about someone of that caliber coming in to lead a team coming off an 8-12-1 season with a 17th place finish at NCAA's.

"The initial reaction was just excitement and the next reaction was just curiosity of what he would try to implement into the program and how he was able to have so much success," former NCAA champion and 2016 Olympian Frank Molinaro said. "If you're competitive, that's what you want."

Molinaro and his fellow All-American teammate Dan Vallimont were holdovers from Sunderland's tenure and said while it was sad to see the old staff go, they were anxious to see what the future held for a team they knew had potential to compete.

Sanderson made an immediate impact in his first season,

coaching Penn State to a record of 13-6-1 and a ninth place finish at NCAA's.

There was an increased level of commitment required to wrestle for Sanderson, which meant the transition wasn't for everyone.

But both Molinaro and Vallimont admit it was for the best.

"There was a little bit of a period where the first thing I could see was things were getting harder," Vallimont said. "People had to make decisions on if they wanted to say they were or a college athlete or be a successful wrestler and a student. The level of commitment was higher and the guys you had left, we were all on the same page with what we wanted to accomplish."

Beyond that, Molinaro felt it was Sanderson's sharpened focus and careful planning which helped the team buy in.

"Everything that Cael does is intentional — all the decisions he makes, the way he thinks, the stories he tells and the lessons he started to throw at the guys," Molinaro said. "He's carefully planned and he doesn't get distracted. If Cael is saying this is what you need to do to be successful, it's been planned out way before he comes to you and tried to help you."

Penn State won its first NCAA title under Cael Sanderson in 2011.

Since then, the Nittany Lions have been on top of the wrestling world and aren't showing any signs of letting up.

But it was winning that first championship in such a short period of time that set the current dynasty in motion.

Looking back on it now almost 10 years later, Frank Molinaro said based solely on the timeline of events, winning the first title was unexpected.

"I think the timeline that it happened in and going from ninth place to first — I'd say no, that's not a realistic timeframe by any stretch," the four-time All-American and former assistant coach said. "We had a unique blend of people but everyone had the same goal. It was a special year and we had a lot of different personalities and it all came together way faster than we expected."

What's allowed for the dominant performances to be sustained, in part, is Sanderson's objectivity and level headedness.

Though regardless of the outcome, Molinaro has seen Sanderson remained fully committed and focused throughout the years.

"Cael doesn't inhale too much of the success — he doesn't inhale any of the success, to be honest. That's part of his focus and that's part of what makes him great is that he loves his life whether he's winning or losing," Molinaro said. "He doesn't get attached to it in

either direction and when you can have that kind of balance, you can do anything."

While 2011 was a special year for Molinaro and the rest of the Nittany Lions who won the NCAA title, the final day of any NCAA Tournament — when Penn State gets to hoist individual and team trophies — is always special for Lorenzo.

"In Philadelphia when we won the first one, I was so happy I was crying. Just to see Penn State be able to come out on top. I knew we had a gold mine, we just needed the right miners," Lorenzo said. "The happiest day of my wrestling life is when I see Penn State wrestle and become national champions."

But Lorenzo — the second winningest coach in program history — was never able to capture a team title, finishing as high as third four times.

The key to success for Sanderson has largely been in the recruits he's able to entice to come to Penn State and then subsequently mold into some of the best wrestlers in the country.

Sanderson won't settle and take just any wrestler, though.

"We're not looking for kids that just want to be on our team. If a kid isn't trying to make the team and break in, then that's probably more frustrating as a coach than anything else," Sanderson said. "We want kids that want to be the best. You come to Penn State, you've got to earn your spot. You're never going to inherit a spot. If you're not ready to compete with the right fire and enthusiasm, then somebody else we hope is."

As a result of the run Penn State's been able to put together, Kevin Jackson, Sanderson's successor at Iowa State, feels the Penn State coach has carved his place as one of the most important Americans in the history of wrestling.

"When you start talking about America and the wrestlers that have had the biggest impact on our sport his name is going to be with John Smith and Dan Gable," Jackson said. "With the recruiting classes he has come in and them hitting their marks, they're going to continue to win...Penn State's in for a long run and I don't know when that thing ends."

Whenever the run does end, it doesn't matter to Sanderson.

Instead, the important thing is to not get complacent. That was always the goal.

"What was the goal 10 years ago? Just to have a program that's competing for national championships on a regular basis," Sanderson said at media day prior to the start of the season. "[But ultimately] we want kids that when they graduate, they're glad they came to Penn State and go out and make a difference in the world."

To email reporter: jxa5415@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @Jake_Aferiat51.

MY VIEW | DYLAN JACOBS

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

Penn State won't admit it, but Aarne Talvitie's injury during the World Junior Championships hurt them in the long run

Aarne Talvitie was the exact player Penn State needed. Alongside Nikita Pavlychev

MEN'S HOCKEY



and Sam Sternschein, the Finnish winger was a playmaker who added an extra dimension to a line more known for its defensive ability.

But in January, that all ended. While representing Finland in the gold medal game at the World Junior Championships, Talvitie suffered a lower-body injury that sidelined him for the rest of the season.

His absence cut short strong seasons for Sternschein and especially Pavlychev. The Russian center was in the midst of a career season, recording 10 goals and 10 assists in the first 17 games.

In the final 22 games, all played without Talvitie, Pavlychev had four goals and five assists. Sternschein had 11 points over that 17 game stretch, and then had seven points over the last 22 games.

With Talvitie in the lineup, Penn State had four dangerous, talented lines. Without him, they had three. Replacing Talvitie with Blake Gober helps with the physical aspect of the line, but the tiny winger was not

producing on the scoresheet anywhere near what Talvitie was doing.

Having three productive skilled lines is still good, but with the inconsistencies the other lines showed down the stretch, the issue became clearer.

Guys like Denis Smirnov, Ludvig Larsson and Alec Marsh were hit or miss throughout the season, making the loss of another offensive line more difficult.

But coach Guy Gadowsky wasn't ready to make excuses.

"Obviously you can't blame that because there are other teams that have injuries and are able to overcome it," Gadowsky said.

"That being said, he's a special athlete and a special team player. I'm really looking forward to have him all year next year and I feel he will get better and better. I thought he was really coming on and

obviously the tournament he had, everyone could see how effective he is. The whole team is giddy to have him for a whole year... But I can't attribute our lack of going to the tournament to one player."

The Big Ten Championship was a good example of the affect his absence had on the team. The Fighting Irish made it their mission to shut down the line of Alex Limoges, Evan Barratt and



Eric Firestine/Collegian

Forward Aarne Talvitie (20) plays the puck during a game against Arizona State University at Pegula Ice Arena on Friday, Nov. 2, 2018. Penn State won the game 6-5.

Liam Folkes, far and away Penn State's most productive line.

Because of that, secondary options had to step up.

They got goals from Marsh and Sternschein, but there wasn't enough finish in Penn State's game.

Talvitie wouldn't have automatically given them a win, but having another dynamic option in a game like that could have been huge.

With inconsistencies on other lines, his absence hurt the offense as a whole.

It eliminates that line as a true offensive threat, so it affects the overall depth.

But Gadowsky knows playing

in the World Junior Championships was a risk worth taking.

"I don't want to speak for Aarne, but I think if you were to say 'You get a chance to win a World Juniors gold medal but you would have to miss the rest of the season' I think there would be a lot of guys that would take that right away," Gadowsky said.

Many college players are invited to the World Juniors, so it's a risk a lot of teams take, but Gadowsky knows that nothing will change to prevent these types of situations.

Gadowsky was not confident that Talvitie would be back at 100 percent in August, so there

is a chance he could miss the start of next season, but that won't change his approach.

"I'm not the only coach asking this question... but I don't think it could change," Gadowsky said.

"I think the opportunity for these student-athletes to go on to an experience like that, World Juniors, is a great opportunity.

Unfortunately, it could end up a negative for their college seasons, but it's such a tremendous opportunity and experience and I don't think we'll look at it any differently."

To email reporter: dkj5109@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at [@DylJacob](https://twitter.com/DylJacob).

LION'S LIST

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NOTICE OF MEETING
The Board of Trustees of The Pennsylvania State University hereby gives notice of a meeting of the Committee on Compensation to be held via conference call on Thursday, April 4, 2019, beginning at 4:00 p.m. This meeting is open to the public for listening purposes by live audio stream at www.wpsu.org/live. Notice is also provided of a meeting of the Committee on Compensation (Executive Session) on Thursday, April 4, 2019, at 3:30 p.m. to consider a personnel matter.

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Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

www.jacquelinebigar.com
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ARIES (3/21-4/19) ★★★ You might need to slow down. An unexpected development could add an element of confusion. Work with the trend, rather than fight it. You might not realize how angry you are about a key issue. Tonight: With a favorite person.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) ★★★★ Be more direct when speaking to someone at a distance. You care a lot about this person. The more direct you are, the more satisfying the interaction will be. A friend confuses the line between your friendship and another issue. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★★ Forge a new path. With a new direction comes unusual, sudden insights that normally would not be so easily accessed. When you experience such openness, you cannot help but grow. Tonight: Let your imagination lead.

CANCER (6/21-7/22) ★★★★★ One-on-one discussions could be more important than you think. Be the first to head in a specific direction -- something you have been trying to avoid! A boss or higher-up could play a significant role. Tonight: Don't fight city hall!

LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★ In the a.m. you have an urge to clear out a lot of work. You will do just that. However, you could become more aware of someone who seems to appear from nowhere. You feel as if you have no choice but to get to know this person better. Tonight: Intriguing times.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22) ★★★★★ Your creativity surges the moment you open your eyes. Why not be spontaneous and follow one of the suggestions in your head? The end results could open you up to an activity that you might want to pursue daily. Tonight: Know when to call it a night!

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★★★★ You cannot hold yourself back, nor do you want to. Let your interest in the process open you up to many new ideas. In hindsight, you will be delighted by this period and what happened. A partner or close friend reacts most unexpectedly. Tonight: With a favorite person.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★ You could become more agitated than you think. Sit back and approach a situation differently. If angry, find out what is ailing you and work through it with a partner or dear friend. Tonight: Happiest at home.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★ Make the first move. You will be much happier that way. The other party might be difficult at first. You will witness a change quickly enough. A problem takes a quirky overtime. Tonight: Making the most out of every moment.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★ You might be correctly under the impression that others are demanding they take the lead. You need to be very strong to handle the pressure. Go with the flow rather than be upset. In the long run, that attitude works better. Tonight: Use caution with your spending.

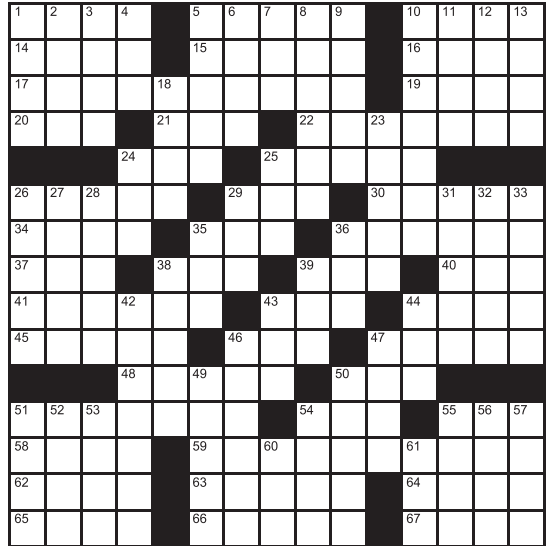
AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ You could experience quite a sudden mood change. How you see a personal matter will transform things for the better. Trust your leadership skills to speak for themselves. Tonight: As you wish.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★ You suddenly might feel tired or need some time for reflection. Take it, as you will need it. You will want to take your time contemplating the impact of a realization. Use caution handling money. Tonight: You pull the wild card -- anything can happen, especially around money.

Crossword

Across

- Stubborn sort
- Banana tree
- Border
- Heroic poem
- More artful
- Picture of health?
- Popular resort
- Raconteur's offering
- Inseparable
- Cygnets' father
- Came out
- Frick collection
- Fearless
- Caste member
- Actress Tina
- Ammonia derivative
- Burden
- Treat like a dog?
- Spectacles
- Kitchen pest
- Quiche, e.g.
- Fortune
- Heating alternative
- Keep
- Indefinite number
- Gauche's weapon
- Dehydrate
- Snare
- Poker pot
- Designer's concern
- Ignited
- Government building
- Film director's cry
- Blood letters
- Parsley or sage
- Oktoberfest wear
- Shrinking Asian sea
- Swap
- Curds and ____
- Musical mark
- Shoe parts
- Wildcat



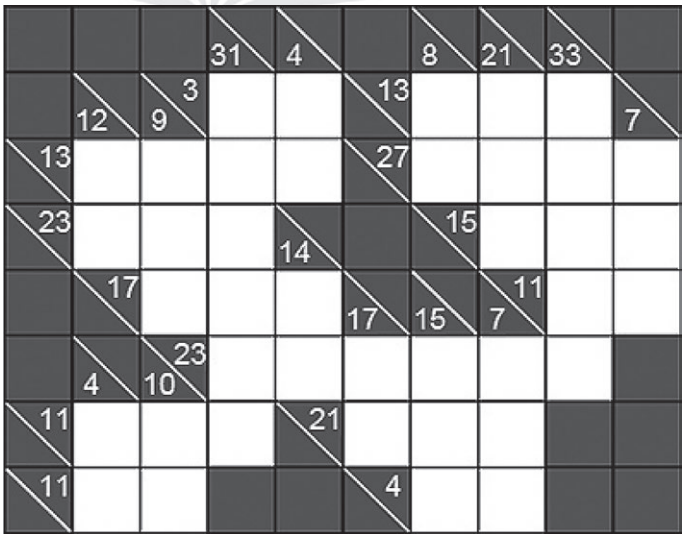
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Down

- Office message
- ____ reflection
- Kind of wolf
- Superlative ending
- English race place
- Spill the beans
- Make public
- Bloody Mary additive
- Fragrance
- Far-out
- Party pooper
- Battering wind
- Gave the once-over
- Light brown
- Oust
- Handbills
- Wager
- Squirrel away
- Baltimore's ____ Harbor
- Eccentric
- Retainer
- Bullion unit
- Passed out
- Bacon piece
- Grenade part
- Farm mother
- Lab tube
- Pants part
- Football play
- Distant
- Took the bait
- Ravel classic
- Kin's partner
- Young male horses
- Angling equipment
- "Rush Hour" star, 1998
- Prefix with dynamic
- Kind of fall
- Relinquish
- Pasty-faced
- "It's ____ real!"
- Black stone
- Metric unit of volume
- Rice University mascot

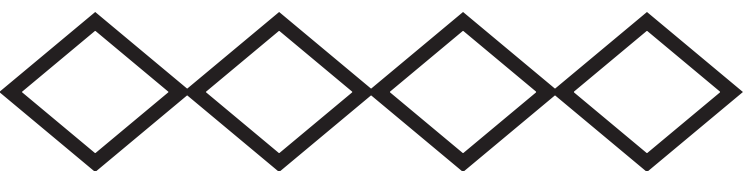
Kakuro (Cross Sums)

The rules are easy to learn: A number above the diagonal line in a black square is the sum of the white squares to the right of it. A number below the diagonal line is the sum of the white squares in the sequence below it. You may only use the digits 1 to 9, and a digit may be used only once in any sequence.



Answers bit.ly/1CBcyRi

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‘We are all part of the community’

How a sophomore UPUA representative plans to beat the odds and get elected to State College Borough Council

By Connor Donlon and Anjelica Singer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In late February, Tom Dougherty III decided to run for one of four vacancies on the State College Borough Council, foregoing a possible reelection within the University Park Undergraduate Association.

Though Dougherty (sophomore-international politics) formally announced his campaign last month, the former UPUA representative said he made up his mind about running long before February.

“I think I pretty much made that decision [to run] I would say as early as last year, whenever the rainbow crosswalks were brought up,” Dougherty said, referring to the four crosswalks downtown painted the colors of the rainbow for Pride Month last June.

Dougherty and other members of UPUA had approached the borough with the idea of painting the crosswalks on Allen Street and Calder Alley after visiting Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

The project was popular among the council, and State Borough Council President Evan Myers later encouraged the council to expand the idea further.

“Immediately the [rainbow crosswalk project] received so much support with the council,” Dougherty said. “Myers said, ‘Why can’t we have multiple streets with these crosswalks?’ It was just this amazing town and gown initiative.”

After the rainbow crosswalk initiative was complete, Dougherty found himself longing for more.

“I saw that there’s so many more projects we can do to make this community more welcoming to all people,” Dougherty said. “The best way possible to do that is to make sure a student is on the council.”

However, past elections may indicate that odds will not be in Dougherty’s favor. The last student to be elected to the State Borough Council was Dean Phillips in 1973, who served on the



James Leavy/Collegian

Tom Dougherty, (sophomore-international relations) hosts as emcee for the World Cultural Talent Week in the Freeman Hall of the HUB-Robeson Center.

council for over three years.

However, previous elections are not deterring Dougherty’s campaign. The sophomore believes the time is now to get involved in the realm of politics.

“After the midterm [elections] and what I saw happen after sitting on the council as a student representative for about a year now...I’ve come to realize that our voices need to be heard,” Dougherty said.

Dougherty’s time as UPUA liaison to the Borough Council has seen an increase in the divide between the university and downtown State College.

“I have been seeing how College Avenue has become a wall barrier between the university and the ‘rest of the community’ and that’s not how it is,” Dougherty said. “We are all a part of the community.”

To ensure a more united State College area, Dougherty believes it is imperative for a student to be represented on the Borough Council.

The Democratic candidate also expressed excitement over the notion of having a younger voice on the council.

“Having a younger voice compared to an older voice on the

council is a lot more valuable in the aspect that it would give a more broad opinion and broad examples of how they lives their lives,” Dougherty said. “We all live our lives differently. A younger perspective and an older perspective are welcome, but we need a younger perspective, too.”

According to Mayor Don Hahn, having a student representative on Borough Council is the reason why they started appointing a non-voting student representative in 2010.

“My reasons for voting for the position were to encourage student interest and increased knowledge of and participation in local government, to provide learning opportunities to students, to give voice to a clearly underrepresented demographic, and to introduce a different perspective and greater diversity into council debates in order to help avoid groupthink,” Hahn said via email.

Although opponents of student representation on Borough Council have said the position may be discriminatory against non-students, Don Hahn said even though he agrees, he believes there is a rational basis for it.

“Creating the position is reasonably related to legitimate

borough goals in encouraging political participation, educating our future leaders, supporting diversity and avoiding groupthink,” Hahn said. “The election of a student would further these worthwhile goals.”

Hahn said because Dougherty has served as the student representative to Borough Council for the past year, he would expect him to be knowledgeable about the issues.

Hahn also shared his own experience of running for Borough Council for the first time in 1995, and how it was an educational process learning about his future constituents’ interests and familiarizing himself with Borough Council issues through individual meetings with council members.

“Personally, I have met Mr. Dougherty many times, and I believe that he has met Council members,” Hahn said. “Therefore, I would expect that he would be ahead of the game in this respect.”

After the midterm elections, young voters demonstrated they can have impact in various elections.

According to data from NextGen PA, Penn State nearly doubled 2014’s midterm totals in

November 2018 in just five hours of polling.

“I am looking forward to getting a first-hand experience of seeing, not this sort of Blue Wave, but this new political motivation that Generation Z and millennials are feeling because it’s so overwhelmingly powerful that we are finally getting into politics,” Dougherty said.

Fellow UPUA member Zachary McKay is also excited by the idea of having a younger voice on the Borough Council.

“Many fail to realize the critical need for student opinion to fall on receptive ears when the Borough Council debate issues which directly affect students” McKay (sophomore - economics and political science) said via email.

McKay and Dougherty first met each other when they were both candidates for UPUA’s 13th Assembly.

McKay lauded Dougherty’s work ethic and dedication to the betterment of the university.

“I’ve seen him work on legislation promoting collaboration between the borough and the university via the International Town and Gown Association, more accessible on-campus transportation via the Zagster bikeshare program and internal improvements within the organization by supporting the implementation of community seats,” McKay said.

Dougherty was a vocal advocate for UPUA’s community representative seats, which were ultimately granted last October.

“I’ve also seen Tom carry out his service as borough liaison by bringing borough officials to campus for discussions with students on issues which affect all of State College — students and residents alike,” McKay said.

Though the primary is on May 21, Dougherty already has volunteers and staff for his campaign.

“I think the best thing I’m going to see is just seeing all the people that are going to come out and support,” Dougherty said.

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Fashion show sheds light on domestic violence

By Lauren Lee
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

On Tuesday, the Penn State student organization Sisters on the Runway will transform Heritage Hall in the HUB-Robeson Center into a fashion runway show to raise awareness of individuals who have experienced domestic violence.

The show, which will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, will feature fashion sponsored by brands such as Macy’s and Express, student-made fashion, a “sign walk” and student speakers who will share their experiences with domestic violence. This year, Sisters on the Runway President Elle Roberts said three students will speak about their experiences.

“That’s always so hard,” Roberts (senior-early education) said. “Because usually it’s a sister that

you just care about so much because they’ve been through these things but you don’t see it because they usually don’t want to go back and ask about it. So when they sit there and tell 200 people about [their experience] it’s just like they’re so strong and so powerful.”

Roberts said her favorite part about the event is during the “sign walk,” in which models dress in black T-shirts and jeans with signs that have various statistics about domestic violence.

“It’s super humbling...you could hear a pin drop and people are crying,” Roberts said. “It’s so powerful because you remember why you’re here.”

Tickets to the show cost \$4.99 and can be purchased in front of Heritage Hall. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to Centre Safe, a nonprofit organization in State College that was formerly known as the Centre

County Women’s Resource Center.

“[Centre Safe] does so much for people. They do legal services, they have counseling services they can refer you to other people, they have a shelter they allow people to stay at for 30 days so that no one can come after them,” Roberts said. “They help [those who have experienced domestic violence] through so many things that you wouldn’t even know because it’s literally a life or death situations.”

Roberts said she is inspired every time they announce the total amount of money raised at the end of the night.

“When they told us that we raised \$2,000 [last year] I was like, ‘Wow.’ This is going toward people in my community that are going to be able to get themselves out of situations or just get support,” Roberts said, “because it takes eight to nine times for a victim to

leave because it’s so dangerous.”

Roberts said she first became involved with the organization after she modeled in the show her freshman and sophomore year. She said she quickly became inspired and more involved with the organization after her first event.

Isabelle Ferber, the vice president of Sisters on the Runway, said she became involved with the organization after being a model in the show.

“I’ve just found a home here in [Sisters on the Runway],” Ferber said. “It’s a group of women who love to empower other women and I love that.”

Ferber said the topic of domestic violence is personal to her as her friends and family have been affected by it.

“Being a woman in a college environment is something that is sometimes really terrifying,” Ferber said. “And to work for this cause to promote women’s

empowerment, to promote and advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault is so incredibly important.”

Ferber said it is important to hold events such as the fashion show as a way to start a conversation about domestic violence.

“I think it’s sometimes hard to talk about these subjects, and sometimes it’s one of those things that are taboo,” Ferber said. “And I think it’s something that we have to talk about.”

Roberts said the fashion show is important in raising awareness through education and celebrating survivors.

“College girls are the most likely to be affected by [domestic violence],” Roberts said. “So it’s a terrifying thing that I want to protect everyone from but you can only do that through education.”

Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.

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