

## AN UNFIT ENDING

### *Coronavirus brings typical spring semester to a halt*

By **Lindsey Toomer**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State students left campus for spring break in early March — and little did they know they wouldn't return anytime soon.

Throughout the early weeks of March, universities across the country decided to cancel in-person classes due to increasing concerns surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

On Friday, March 6, just a day before the start of Penn State's spring break, Pennsylvania confirmed two presumptive cases of the coronavirus.

As of Sunday, May 3, Pennsylvania reported 49,267 cases.

Penn State initially decided to hold a three-week remote learning period. On March 18, the university extended the remote learning period through the remainder of the spring semester.

Students studying abroad were sent home and Penn State traditions like the Blue-White Game,

Movin' On and in-person commencement were canceled.

The NCAA suspended all organized sports team activities, canceled winter sports championships and spring sports seasons.

Businesses all over State College closed their doors to limit the spread, and State College began to resemble a ghost town.

There are still many uncertainties surrounding the future of the Penn State and State College communities.

In-person summer classes, summer study abroad programs, New Student Orientation and Arts Fest have already been canceled.

Normally, The Daily Collegian's finals edition is dedicated to giving students tips and tricks to help manage finals week.

This year, however, The Daily Collegian wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on the impact the pandemic had on the semester.

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To email reporter: [lxt344@psu.edu](mailto:lxt344@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@lindseytoom](https://twitter.com/lindseytoom).



# The highs and lows of spring 2020

By **Becky Marcinko**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As the spring semester was suddenly cut short by the world-wide shutdown due to spread of the coronavirus, life at Penn State came to a halt in mid-March.

However, the first half of the semester carried on regularly and was full of events and occurrences.

Here is a recap of some of the major news and events from the semester.

## B.o.B. and Ronny Chieng headlines SPA Day

The fifth annual SPA Day was held on Friday, Jan. 17 in the HUB-Robeson Center. The day consisted of a series of free events, lectures and concerts. B.o.B. provided Penn State students with nostalgia through performing songs like “Airplanes” and “Nothin’ on You” at 9 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Student Committee organizes MLK Jr. Commemoration Week

Through the theme “The Story of U.S: Exposing the Unarmed Truth,” the student committee hosted a week of events from Jan. 20-24 to honor the life of Martin Luther King Jr. The events included the Dr. Mather Luther King Jr. National Day of Service and a keynote lecture by CNN political commentators Symone D. Sanders and Bakari Sellers.

## Penn State Go launches

The app “Penn State Go” launched on Jan. 16 in the Apple App Store and Google Play store. The app includes features like Canvas, Penn State Outlook, CATABus tracking, campus maps, LionPATH, library services and Starfish.

## Penn State receives 2019-20 “It’s On Us” grant

Penn State was one of the 36 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania to receive grant money from the “It’s On Us” initiative, which focuses on combating sexual assault in colleges.

## Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity relocates to the HUB

The Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity moved from its previous location in the Boucke Building to the HUB. The new location provides the opportunity for the center to increase its ability to provide resources to more students.



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

Guard **Myreon Jones (0)** hangs his head during the alma mater after the men’s basketball game against No. 16 Michigan State at the Bryce Jordan Center on Tuesday, March 3

# How alternative grading works

By **Braden Dyreson**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After Penn State switched to a remote learning period halfway through the spring semester due to the coronavirus pandemic, students will have the option to change their letter grades.

The optional alternative grading system allows students to choose from one of three alternatives or keep their original letter grade.

If a student earns a C or above, they may opt to change it “SAT” or satisfactory. “SAT” may be used to fulfill any prerequisites or entrance-to-major courses that require a C or better.

If a student gets a D, which is a passing grade in a class, they can choose to change it to a “V” or pass.

If a student fails a course, they can change the grade to a “Z” or no grade.

A “Z” will effectively be treated like a late drop.



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

**Prajesh Patel (senior-computer science)** speaks outside of the closed down Taco Bell on College Ave. Sunday, March 1. Patel organized a vigil to honor the closed down taco chain.

## Alpha Epsilon Pi is placed on suspension after alleged sexual assault occurs at the fraternity

After a student said she was sexually assaulted by four brothers at Alpha Epsilon Pi on Jan. 15, the fraternity was placed on interim suspension. The fraternity lost privileges including membership recruitment, new member activities, participation in university functions and the ability to host social events during the suspension.

## THON special interest organization Eclipse wins the THON Showcase

Eclipse won the opportunity to perform at THON 2020 after winning the third-annual THON Showcase on Jan. 24.

The second and third place winners, FOTO and the Society of Women Engineers, also were given performance slots during THON.

## Center for the Performing Arts presents “Jersey Boys”

The national tour of “Jersey Boys,” the jukebox musical featuring the story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, was presented Jan. 28.

## Parody Penn State “We’re” logos flood the internet

Parodies of the Penn State logo featuring the slogan “We’re” were popular on social media, specifically on Reddit, as students made their own versions of the “we’re” lion.

## Justin Bieber announces concert at the Bryce Jordan Center

Justin Bieber was set to stop in State College on Aug. 6. The tour has now been postponed due to coronavirus concerns.

## State College Borough approves first Pride Parade

The borough approved planning State College’s first Pride Parade. The parade was set to take place on June 13, but has since been canceled due to the spread of the coronavirus.

## Men’s basketball achieves fifth straight victory over Michigan State

On Feb. 4, the men’s basketball team continued a winning streak over Michigan State in a game that ended 75-70.

## Delta Kappa Epsilon is placed under interim suspension

On Feb. 11 the Office of Student Conduct placed Delta Kappa Epsilon on interim suspension after “multiple reports of misconduct against the fraternity.”

## Luke Combs performs at the BJC

The BJC featured country singer Luke Combs’ sold-out concert on Feb. 13. The concert was part of Combs’ “What You See Is What You Get” tour.

## Penn State wrestling is victorious at Bryce Jordan Center dual

Penn State wrestling beat Ohio State 20-16 at the annual Bryce Jordan Center dual on Feb. 15.

## THON performances include Daya, Cash Cash, Go Go Gadget

Pop artist Daya was the surprise performer at THON 2020. Cash Cash, an electronic music group, was a second surprise performance later in the weekend.

Go Go Gadget, a cover band from State College, also returned to THON for the 12th time after not performing at THON 2019.

## Homecoming 2020 theme is revealed at THON

The theme for Homecoming 2020 will be “Envisioning Nittany Horizons.”

## THON raises over \$11 million

The total for THON 2020 was \$11,696,942.38.



Aabha Vora/Collegian

**Two dancers** celebrate completing THON by taking a selfie during Penn State THON at the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, Feb. 23.

## Men’s basketball achieves dramatic win over Rutgers

Penn State defeated Rutgers 65-64 on Feb. 26 during what became the team’s last win of the season, as the season was cut short due to the coronavirus.

## Taco Bell closes, students hold vigil

After the Taco Bell on College Avenue suddenly closed in February, students held a vigil to mourn the loss of the restaurant on March 1.

The vigil gained national attention as ESPN host Rece Davis tweeted about the location’s closure, and Saturday Night Live’s Colin Hanks mentioned the vigil during Weekend Update.

## Auntie Anne’s, Carvel and Cinnabon location opens

The “triple storefront” opened in February. The store is located at 324 E. College Ave.

## SPA announces that it is bringing David Dobrik to Penn State

Student Programming Association was set to bring YouTuber David Dobrik to campus on March 27 for a Q&A. The event has since been canceled due to coronavirus concerns and the closure of the university for the semester. However, SPA is working to reschedule the event.

## Movin’ On announces Foster the People as 2020 headliner

Movin’ On announced the 2020 lineup would include Foster the People, Lil Yachty, Two Friends and Sasha Sloan. The festival has been canceled.

## In-person classes suspended during spring break

Penn State announced the initial switch to remote learning due to the spread of the coronavirus on March 11. Originally, online classes were set to occur online until “at least April 3.”

## Online classes extended for the remainder of the semester

On March 18, Penn State canceled in-person classes for at least the rest of the semester.

## Katie Solomon named the THON 2021 executive director

After being involved with THON since 2017, Katie Solomon will be the executive director for THON 2021.

## Pride Month is celebrated virtually

With the suspension of in-person classes and activities, Penn State Pride Month was celebrated through April with virtual events that included a keynote speaker and educational workshops.

## Virtual commencement is announced

Penn State announced plans for the class of 2020’s virtual commencement. The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. on May 9. Penn State said it is still committed to holding in-person celebrations at a later date.

## Yallah Taco to open in former Taco Bell location

A new sign was displayed at the former downtown Taco Bell location advertising the eventual opening of a new Yallah Taco at the same location.

## McKay-Pathickal wins UPUA 15th assembly presidency

Zachary McKay and Lexy Pathickal were elected the next president and vice president of UPUA on April 15 after receiving a total of 2,844 votes. Candidates Erin Boas and Kyle Larson received 289 less votes, with a total of 2,555 votes.

This was the first contested UPUA presidential election in three years.

## In-person classes canceled for the summer

Penn State announced the continuation of remote learning for all summer sessions. In-person classes may return later in the summer if public health guidelines allow, according to Penn State.

## Summer events in State College are canceled

The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and the Central PA 4thFest were canceled in April due to the spread of the coronavirus.

## Penn State suspends in-person events through mid-June and moves NSO online

The university canceled or postponed all events through June 19. Moreover, New Student Orientations will be held virtually.

To email reporter: **rnm5187@psu.edu**. Follow her on Twitter at **@beckymarcinko**.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

Pop artist **Daya** performs at Penn State THON in the Bryce Jordan Center on Friday, Feb. 21.

## DAILY COLLEGIAN

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# Uncertainty surrounds fall 2020

*Officials, faculty look ahead amid coronavirus concerns*

By Kira Mohr  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the nationwide shutdown of academic institutions due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Penn State community has found itself unsure of the future of the university for the upcoming academic year.

Recently, Penn State announced the cancellation of in-person summer classes and any on-campus activities, such as New Student Orientation and student-held jobs.

Although Penn State has not announced any decision regarding the fate of the university's fall semester, spokesperson Wyatt Dubois has emphasized that the health and safety of the Penn State community will be at the forefront when the decision is made.

"As Penn State continues to confront the threat and manage risks that the coronavirus pandemic presents, the University is creating new action groups to continue analyzing public health, and now overlaying what a return to campus may look like..." Dubois said via email. "Not only are there short-term questions to work through, but there are many long-term challenges as well, not just for Penn State, but for higher education and our nation as a whole."

Given the impossibility of knowing the future of the coronavirus spread, Dubois commented that multiple scenarios regarding the reopening of the university will be created in order to best serve the community in the fall and beyond.

"Decisions will remain people-focused and mission-focused, and flexibility in any plan will be a necessity," Dubois said.

"We will continue communicating with our students,



Lindsey Toomer/Colegian

**Old Main Lawn** sits empty during the coronavirus quarantine period Saturday, March 21.

faculty and staff, as well as the community, and will provide more information on a plan as we move forward."

Jenna Spinelle, a teaching faculty member within the Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, has employed various techniques this semester in order to find the best way to communicate with her students — underlining the significance of personalized meetings to keep a feedback-oriented environment within an online classroom.

"As someone who teaches writing-based courses, I've started having more one-on-one Zoom meetings with students so I can review their work and offer feedback," Spinelle said via

email. "This is the closest thing I've found to walking around the room and helping people as they have questions. I use Calendly for appointment scheduling and post the link to sign up in Canvas. It's worked pretty well so far."

Greg Lovinsky, a teaching professor within the Penn State Department of Psychology, said he has been using various perspectives to create the best learning environment and plan for the future of the fall semester.

"In my bigger lecture hall classes next year, I am thinking about how I will engage students by doing in-class assignments in a 'touchless' way," Lovinsky said via email.

"Fortunately, I can also get a

student's perspective. My daughter is a Penn State student, and she is giving me insight about what seems to be effective and what's not as effective in her classes this spring."

Lovinsky said his students love his usual old-school, written assignment style, which he said is helpful for retaining information.

However, with the current switch to online learning platforms and the possible continuation of this classroom environment, Lovinsky is leaning on the opinions of other teaching faculty.

Using additional wisdom from colleagues within his department, Lovinsky said he is attempting to stay true to his own

teaching methods while incorporating collaboration with others.

"[For the spring], it may be that I project the assignment on the screen, and then I will ask students to use their own tablet paper, take a picture of their completed work and then submit it on Canvas real-time," Lovinsky said.

"I made strides to make both classes much more hands-on and interactive over the past two or three years, so my challenge could be to capture the essence of interactive learning in an online environment, if necessary."

To email reporter: [kjm6453@psu.edu](mailto:kjm6453@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@kirajessa](https://twitter.com/kirajessa).



Collegian file photo

**Students** walk down Pattee Mall on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2016.

## Students debate taking gap semester if fall is moved online

By Andrew Destin  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Gap years and semesters are hardly new concepts, yet some Penn State students typically seem disinterested in these educational approaches.

As Penn State's Maymester and both summer sessions are set for remote learning amid the coronavirus pandemic, concerns about off-campus education continuing in the fall have entered many students' minds. Penn State said it will make a decision about the fall 2020 semester by June 15.

Regardless, students have expressed a variety of reasons for why they would rather endure digital lectures in the fall.

"I would ride the course and continue learning from remote locations, just because I fear waiting could delay getting a job," student Joel Vardon said. "I've been preparing to graduate in the spring [of 2021] and I don't want to do anything to throw that off, no matter the circumstances."

Vardon (junior-supply chain and information systems) has expressed that though he is not fond of his online course load, the courses in his major have been surprisingly useful. As options such as community colleges and virtual universities become appealing to some, Vardon said he prefers the quality instruction of Penn State's faculty.

"I feel that the professors and the Smeal College of Business are such a great value and resources that they trump any potential benefits that I would get at an online college," Vardon said.

Across other majors, students note that though they lack hands-on teaching, a delayed graduation is not much of an option. Student

Anna Mansfield will continue with Zoom lectures, even if they may not prepare her as well for a career of working with children as on-campus classes would.

Given her professional aspirations, Mansfield (junior-elementary and early childhood education) has learned that many of her upper level courses that meet Penn State's graduation requirements are not offered by online universities. Even without her essential in-person instruction, Mansfield sees no other option.

"I probably would [take classes] just to stay on track, but it definitely will be challenging," Mansfield said. "I'm supposed to be student teaching in a classroom next year, and that's where I get my experience to prepare for my own classroom."

Still, there are those pursuing degrees in majors where Penn State's campus is essential for learning. Student Chris Hess is among those who would rather return to campus before paying tuition again.

Hess (junior-broadcast journalism) said he dreams of working in sports reporting, but to position himself for employment upon graduation, he will need a portfolio that encompasses a career in sports coverage at Penn State. Without athletics, Hess sees no point in enrolling for the fall.

"I'm planning on taking a semester off if those are the cards that we're dealt with," Hess said. "To keep myself busy, I would still like to be able to live in my apartment in State College to look for a job or internship in the area."

Despite the current absence of athletics, Hess sees a silver lining during this crisis. In the event that Penn State does continue remote learning in the fall, Hess envisions a chance to experience

life after Penn State prior to graduation.

"It would be nice to get a taste of the post grad life, not having classes and just having a job or an internship for the time being," Hess said. "I think it'll actually be a blessing in the long run, personally. I'd like to show that I didn't lay around and do nothing and that I was productive."

Though individuals' graduations hinge on their degrees, younger students like Harsh Gupta's enrollment could be influenced by grading. After Penn State enacted alternative grading options for the spring 2020 semester, some students want Penn State to continue offering alternative grading if classes remain online.

However, according to Penn State's remote learning website, grading methodology will "revert to its typical form for the summer 2020 semester, with students receiving a letter grade for most courses."

Though Gupta (sophomore-electrical engineering) has yet to decide on fall enrollment, he said he believes he is not alone in that academics will be the deciding factor for many students.

"Depending on how the grading of each semester works out, that would be something very important for me," Gupta said.

Whatever academic choices individuals would make in a hypothetical online fall semester, there are many students who agree a return to University Park is the desired outcome. If in-person teaching is deemed safe, students like Hess will return as they do every August.

"Absolutely nothing would change," Hess said. "I would treat it just like I was going back for another school year."

## Artists weigh in on virtual Arts Fest

By Kira Mohr  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts recently announced it will hold activities virtually from July 8-12, and some members of the State College community expressed mixed feelings on the first ever virtual Arts Fest — especially the artists themselves.

On average, nearly 125,000 people visit the festival each year, according to the Arts Fest website.

This gathering gives small businesses, hotels and restaurants in State College extra income during the campus "off-season;" however, it also gives artists across the nation a chance to showcase their art to a crowd of thousands.

Though artists are thrilled at the opportunity to still have the art show on an online medium this summer, many are still mourning the environment of an in-person festival and the damage of the coronavirus on the art community.

Holly Foss has showcased her various serigraphs and acrylic paintings during Arts Fest for 35 years. Regarding the festival, Foss loves the atmosphere and the people of the event, describing it as nothing short of "fun".

However, despite the distress of canceling Arts Fest, Foss believes that it was necessary for the safety of the community. No matter what, testing and prevention of the pandemic is of the utmost importance, according to Foss.

"The [coronavirus] is a problem and not worth the risk of an art show," Foss said. "[Arts

Fest] meant a lot to me. I have lost my whole income for the year pretty much. I know this hurts many people financially, but when I heard about it I knew it was going to take time to resolve. This will all be a memory down the road, whatever we do during this time will hopefully help us grow."

Another 40-year participant in Arts Fest is Diane Maurer-Mathison — recognized internationally as an expert paper artist, according to her website.

Similar to the sentiments of Foss, Maurer-Mathison understands the importance of safety regarding the world's current situation.

She emphasized that even with precautions such as "open-air booths," the art may still not be safe due to exposure to wind and other elements — and ultimately, canceling the event was an inevitable decision.

"I was also much relieved to see it canceled however, because I would not have felt safe doing the show with the virus still circulating," Maurer-Mathison said. "As a studio artist working solo, I don't have a lot of direct contact with people and always enjoyed talking with buyers at the festival and getting feedback on my new designs. I will miss that this year, as well."

Maurer-Mathison's work is also available locally at The Gallery Shop in Lemont, Art a la Carte in Bellefonte and The State College Framing Company and Gallery in State College. However, the closure of these places have left her, along with numerous other artists, without income.

Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



James Leavy/Colegian

**David Scherer, of Michigan**, stands in a doorway between his artwork during the State College Arts Festival on Friday, July 12, 2019.



# College is messy; embrace it

By Elena Rose  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thinking about my senior column has always brought on pressure — good pressure, but pressure. It’s the final mark that you have the privilege of leaving at the Collegian, and you only get one shot at it. As someone who is maybe a little too much of a perfectionist at times, I’ve been trying to think about how I might want this column to unfold since my freshman year.

Yet, somehow, I blinked and it’s three years later — the night before my column is due. And while I have a million meaningful ideas, I still can’t think of one “perfect” message. Bear with me as I try to capture some of my most transformative moments at Penn State into a few hundred words.

My college experience, like any good one, was far from perfect. But, God, it was still so lovely and exactly what I needed. I’m teary-eyed writing this, but I swear I’m only looking back on the past four years with the fullest heart and the warmest smile that only Elena Rose could have.

College may get terribly messy at points. Try your best to embrace that and, at the very least, learn from it.

My senior year was a wild, Messyyyy (yes, with a capital “m” and four “y”s) ride for a million reasons. After coming off of my junior year — probably my most fun and “successful” year of college — I had incredibly high hopes for what my final year could hold. Practically everything felt like it was on the up-and-up in my life. And then one day, all of a sudden, it kind of wasn’t anymore.

I hit some of my hardest days as editor-in-chief. I was struggling to keep up with classes, begging my professors to bump up some of my grades. I wasn’t really sleeping or eating much. My mental health was plummeting and I was losing weight. I lost some seemingly “real” friends and relationships I thought I’d have for years.

I swear I was giving it my all, yet I still felt like I was letting everyone down. And that sucks.

I’m very good at cultivating a version of myself I want people to see, and I feared that image was cracking — that people could see me in the excruciatingly vulnerable ways I desperately didn’t want them to.

As far as that perfectionist side of me was concerned, I was failing. And I sobbed to my roommates pretty much every day for months.

It felt like the universe just wanted to kick me a million times over when I was clearly already down (and dangerously sick of life).

But somehow, I still managed to remind myself that I would come out of this funk — whenever the hell it



Elena Rose poses in her graduation gown with the Nittany Lion Shrine.

would finally end — wiser and stronger, even when things felt terrifying and hopeless. I will always be proud of myself for that tenacity.

Sometimes, I needed to just spend a night laughing instead of crying about how much of a train wreck everything felt, because I’d rather laugh with my best friends than spend another night sobbing until I passed out.

Though I eventually managed to find that deep, genuine happiness again in the end, it still feels almost wrong — like an error occurred — that my Penn State experience is coming to a close in such an incongruent way.

But then again, almost nothing in life ends perfectly, wrapped up in a neat little bow like we want it to. And that’s okay. How we learn and get back up again is the most important part — and I couldn’t feel more grateful to carry those lessons with me as I venture into adulthood.

As Editor-in-Chief Elena and “just Elena” Elena, I often find myself drawn to one particular Maya Angelou quote: “People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.”

So, I’d like to thank some people for what they’ve taught me and the ways they’ve made me feel.

To Brynn, Bryel and Julie:

I don’t even know where to begin. Thank you for being the most loveable roommates, my ~soul sisters~ and for always seeing the absolute best in me, at my highest highs and lowest lows. Nothing bad can touch me when I’m so loved and protected by these three. I cannot wait to keep growing together and loving each other for 8 million more years, even when we’re annoying 40-year-old women coming back to visit Gaff on a football weekend.

To my Lebo ride or dies: Kathleen, Jake, Jessie,

Laura and Julie: Though some parts of our lives have changed enormously over the past four years, our love and support always seems to stay the same. I am forever grateful for you five. Thank you for always being my rocks, even from hundreds of miles and states away — I can’t wait for the whole lifetime of unmatched friendship that’s still ahead of us.

To my Savoir Faire A Cappella girls, especially Abby, Lauren, Lani and Ali:

Thank you for showing me the most beautiful, unjudging, unconditional love since day one. The memories we’ve made together singing at gigs, laughing, crying and everything in between are certainly some of my most precious at this school. I am the luckiest girl on the planet to have such meaningful friendships with you.

To my mom, dad and older sister, Julia:

Thank you for supporting me, believing in me and always encouraging me to pursue my passions. There is zero way I would have ended up at the best university in the world if it weren’t for my alumni mom and sister basically telling me I had no choice, so I genuinely cannot thank you enough for that today. Ily!!

To last year’s top three, the other 2/3 of my top three, and next year’s top three:

You have all pushed me to be a better journalist, leader and friend, and I am forever grateful for that.

Kelly, Kara and Andy: Thank you for paving the way and always being a friend to me. Your willingness to check in on me and lend a helping hand when I needed it this year speaks volumes to who you are as people.

Dave and Tyler: Thank you for always being on your A game and making my job way easier — I’m so proud of us for finally making it to the end.

To Maddie, Lindsey and Shane: It has been so exciting to watch you guys grow into the leaders you were meant to be here. I love each of you so much, and I’m so excited to watch you guys hit your strides and flourish next year. You know I’m always one text or call away (granted, we’re assuming my phone is working in that scenario).

And to every other special creature The Daily Collegian has led me to — especially DJ, Caleb, Ben, James, Chelsea, Lingerman, Caitlin, Aabha, Brian and Sarah:

Thank you so very much for just being you. If you have walked through the door of The Daily Collegian office, I promise that you’ve impacted my life in more ways than you know.

Serving as your editor-in-chief this year has been my toughest challenge and my greatest honor. But with a group of people like this, I’d do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Elena Rose is a senior majoring in digital and print journalism, and served as the Collegian’s 2019-2020 editor-in-chief.

# Here’s to four great years

By Tyler King  
MANAGING EDITOR

I’ve been thinking about writing this column for about a year now.

The inevitability of my college career slowly creeping to an end hit me this time last year when I watched some of my best friends graduate and move on to bigger and better things.

I always thought I would have some grand piece of advice to pass on as I reflected back on my four years here. But as I sit down to write this in my final week as a student ever, I find myself without a whole lot to say.

Sure, I could go with the old cliché and tell you to really cherish every second of your college career because it goes by faster than you think.

We all have things we wish we could go back and do differently, and my college experience is no different. I wish I read a few more books, tried a few more activities and said yes to hanging out with my friends more often.

I could also tell you about how these last four years changed me as a person and how my entire worldview has changed.

Sure, I grew a lot as a person throughout my four years at Penn State, and I would probably laugh at some of the things I said in my first few months on campus. I was relatively new to the whole journalism thing — my only prior “journalism” experience was writing crappy sports articles for my high school paper.

But this isn’t going to be a column about how every person should have an epiphany during these four years, because at my core I’m still a pretty simple small town kid who loves baseball, country music and the company of a few good friends.

Now more than ever, I cherish all of three of those things.

And as myself and every other senior across the world has seen our college careers come to an abrupt end, I could also take the time to lament how unfair it is that some of those cherished memories from the final month of college have been taken away



David Eckert and Tyler King pose with the Twitter avatar of the not-present Elena Rose.

without warning. But I’m not going to do that either.

Sure, what I really want right now is to experience my final few days as a college student the proper way — sitting outside a bar somewhere with my friends talking about the good times we had.

But even though the ending isn’t what any of us pictured, that shouldn’t ruin what has been a truly great four years — because these last four years have been the best of my life, and I wouldn’t trade them for the world.

I’ll always look back at this time of my life with great fondness and feel grateful for being at Penn State when I was.

During my freshman year, I stormed the field at Beaver Stadium after the win over Ohio State, witnessed a Big Ten Championship, saw Kanye West in concert and covered a national championship wrestling team. That was all in the first year — and the next three were even better.

I got to cover an NIT Championship at Madison Square Garden, travel across Big Ten country two falls in a row, make two fantastic trips to Orlando and Dallas for bowl games, watch Lee Corso put on the Nittany Lion head from a few feet away and spend two weeks in Williamsport covering the Little League World Series.

I’ll never take for granted the opportunities I had and will be forever grateful for those who helped make it possible and the friends I made along the way. There are 100 people I could mention and thank, but here are a few:

First, to John Affleck and Russ Eshleman, thank you for teaching me everything I need to know about this profession and molding me into the writer I am today.

To Vince Lungaro, thank you for being the first real friend I made at Penn State, bringing me into the Collegian family and always being there to shoot basketball at Rec Hall.

To Dylan Jacobs, Caleb Wilfinger and Ben Ferree, thanks for all of the memories traveling to

and from football and basketball games and for all the nights in between we spent playing sports trivia at Jax or drinking dirty sprites at Champs.

To Caitlin Lee and Aabha Vora, you were the first two people I thought of when I realized these last two months of college would be spent in quarantine. I’d give anything to spend another Saturday night getting wine drunk and watching some random reality television show for hours on end. You truly don’t know how happy I am to be able to call you my friends.

To Matt Lingerman, thank you for all of the times we spent laughing about absolutely nothing. I knew from the first day we met and immediately started talking about Phillies prospects that we’d be great friends, and the last four years have done nothing but prove me right. You’ll never walk alone.

To Kelly Powers, thank you for always leaving your office door open and becoming a lifelong friend. You are continuously there for me when I need it most and are always my voice of reason.

To David Eckert, thank you for being the best friend I could have ever asked for. There’s no person I would have rather shared an office, a house, a dorm room and a dozen long car rides with. You are more talented than you know, and I strive to be more like you as a writer, editor and person.

To Brynn Boehler, my other half and partner in crime, thank you for everything — but most importantly, being the reason I smile each and every day. Nothing has made me happier than spending these entire four years with you by my side.

And finally, to my family, especially my parents, thank you for providing more than enough love and support. I don’t say it nearly enough, but I love you, and I wouldn’t be where I am today without you.

Tyler King is a senior majoring in digital and print journalism and Spanish, and served as the Collegian’s 2019-2020 managing editor.

# What I’ve lost and what I’ve been given

By David Eckert  
DIGITAL MANAGING EDITOR

As I sit now, trying to work out some way to jam what has been an incredibly seismic four years at Penn State into something bite sized and digestible, I cannot keep my mind from wandering back toward the image of a balance scale.

One side of that scale is weighed down with the bad change, while the other side holds the good. Surely, my life — in some ways — is more difficult than it was when I walked into Sproul Hall four years ago.

What would that unsuspecting, chunky fella have thought if he’d been told that soon enough he wouldn’t be able to chomp on some potato chips or scarf down some pizza? What would he think that instead, he’d be shopping in the gluten free aisle all because of the bite of some tiny insect he’d never even seen?

How would that sports lover react if you’d told him that soon he would not be able to play a game of pick-up basketball because he’d be too weak and too sore the next day?

Certainly, he wouldn’t have liked that news. My Lyme disease and all its various impacts have thrown a big cinderblock on the negative side of our metaphorical balance scale. It’s been hard, there’s no doubt. I wish it hadn’t happened, that the treatment would have worked quickly and completely, that I could eat a gloriously warm and mushy chocolate chip cookie without fearing how my body would react to it.

And yet, when I think back on my time at Penn State, I find so many other things on the opposite side of that balance scale to counteract that hefty weight.

I’ve learned that I have a passion for stories, when I’d really only hoped to use journalism as a way to tap into my love of sports.

For four years, I’ve had a blast chasing news in every direction, hunting for a compelling feature, and seeking out a unique angle.

I’ve gotten to see more than my fair share of sporting spectacles, too.

I’ve watched Patrick Mahomes orchestrate a legendary comeback from press row at the Super Bowl. I’ve witnessed Penn State men’s basketball turn its program

around from the press box of the Bryce Jordan Center. I’ve chronicled thriller after thriller for a Penn State men’s hockey team that does not know how to play a boring game. I’ve feared for my life while the Beaver Stadium press box shakes after a big play.

I’ve received remarkable support from faculty mentors like John Affleck and Russ Eshleman.

But more important than any of that, I found a home at The Daily Collegian.

I will consider myself a Daily Collegian graduate for the rest of my life. It has been the definitive classroom.

It’s also given me the chance to meet countless people who I will consider lifelong friends — nothing bonds you with another journalist quite like arguing over trivial changes to a headline.

To Mark, Matt, Rubin, Vince, Kelly and all the others who accepted me and turned a nervous, socially awkward, goofy, tall guy into someone who was comfortable in his own skin: I truly could never repay you.

To Tyler, Caleb, DJ, and everyone else who began this journey with me four years ago and will come out the other end as a lifelong friend: thank you for being with me every step of the way.

To our fearless leader, Elena Rose: thank you for allowing me to bait clicks and force people to write about Saquon Barkley every time he breathes.

To the next generation of Collegian leaders; Maddie, Shane, Lindsey, Ben, Jake, Erin, Chelsea, Grace, Andrew and everyone else: You guys will do this place prouder than I ever could have. I am so excited to leave the Collegian in your hands, and even more excited to continue building our friendships.

(I am super anxious about leaving somebody out, so, if that somebody is you, just know, me and my brain are sorry.)

I’ve been truly blessed by this place. I could not imagine my college experience without it. For every knock I’ve taken, there has been someone there to pick me up.

Now back to that balance scale. I hope you can see, as I can, that the cinderblock on one end is now starting to look pretty light.

David Eckert is a senior majoring in digital and print journalism and Spanish, and served as the Collegian’s 2019-2020 digital managing editor.



The family-owned business is very close with their staff

Han also noted that Kimchi Korean has not let go of any of its staff.

“We all need to be careful and safe,” Dadra said. “And we need to do everything we can to keep customers safe, employees safe, and family safe.”

To email reporter: [mll5648@psu.edu](mailto:mll5648@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@Madigan-lubold12](https://twitter.com/Madigan-lubold12).



**A student employee at In a Pickle** makes a sandwich in Redifer Commons on Friday, Nov. 8, 2019.

**By Andrea Garcia**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

In order to reduce employees' chances of contracting the coronavirus, many businesses are changing their customer-employee interactions. Anna Kauffman from Enola, Pennsylvania works at a local ice-cream shop named Kristy's Whistle Stop, and said her job has en-

“Numerous elders have called the pharmacy and have personally thanked me for our service and help during this tough time, which is super humbling and makes me realize my purpose as an essential worker,” Aksoy said.



**Downtown State College** sits empty on the evening of Saturday, May 2 amid the coronavirus pandemic.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN has an immediate opening for a part-time delivery assistant. Hours are Monday & Thursday from approximately 4:30 AM to 8:00 AM. Starting hourly wage is \$12.00 per hour. For more information contact Craig at 814-865-1566 or [cshowers604@gmail.com](mailto:cshowers604@gmail.com), or stop by our business office at 112 West Foster Ave. to fill out an application.

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# LASTING LEGACIES

*Penn State legends Mark Hall and Vincenzo Joseph leave behind careers to remember*

By **Jake Aferiat**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Watch sports for long enough and become a fan of a team or a sport and you'll have seen it time and again.

**WRESTLING** An athlete bursts on the scene early in their career only for their career to fizzle out or not live up to the expectations and hype surrounding them.

That could've happened with Mark Hall and Vincenzo Joseph when they first arrived at Penn State five years ago.

But it didn't. Instead, Hall and Joseph went on to make history and became the first ever Penn State freshmen to capture national titles and solidified themselves in the annals of Penn State history.

"To be a freshmen national champion, there's not many of those guys walking around," two-time NCAA champion David Taylor told the Daily Collegian. "I think they cemented themselves as being Penn State legends right there, right away."

All things considered, it helped Hall's and Joseph's legacies to carve out their spots in history early on.

That way — if they did suffer the same fate as so many athletes before them and the duo struggled later on, at least they left a lasting impression right away.



Noah Riffe/Collegian

**Mark Hall** flexes his muscles after defeating Ohio State's Kaleb Romero during the annual Bryce Jordan Center dual on Feb. 15.

It turned out quickly that that wouldn't be the case.

Both arrived in Happy Valley as highly thought of and promising recruits — Joseph hailed from Pittsburgh while Hall trekked east from Minnesota.

Joseph won two state titles while Hall won six titles of his own, but the Nittany Lions have brought in plenty of multiple time state champions, especially in the Cael Sanderson era.

So the duo would have to make the necessary adjustments to college wrestling, something that former Penn State coach John Fritz knows is easier said than done.

"A lot of times, no matter how good somebody is, they come in as a freshman you say, 'Well, you know, they're good and they're gonna be really great.' But freshman year sometimes it's tough," Fritz said.

Beyond the history they made, Fritz has been especially impressed by the consistency of Hall and Joseph, something equally as rare in his experience.

"Those guys started right off as freshmen right there at the very top. They've just been great. And the neat thing about it is, they've been consistent," he told the Collegian. "I mean, you know, obviously we've been fortunate over the years and especially lately to have a number of fantastic wrestlers, including Hall and Joseph from the very beginning."

While there was that conventional wisdom that might've caused some to doubt Joseph and Hall or to be surprised by their success early on, those close to them knew it was inevitable.

In fact, it was those lofty goals and high standards the pair set that are almost seen as a prerequisite for joining Sanderson's program.

"I knew how good they were going to be and I think they did too. When they signed to Penn State, they knew the goals they had set for themselves," three-time NCAA champion Zain Retherford said in November. "I got to wrestle with those guys even though they're bigger than me. And when I was with those guys, it was no surprise to me or to them. Just coming to Penn State you set goals for yourself like that."

It's fine to set the goals. But if there's not that prospect for adversity or the chance that something might not go an athlete's way, it could lead to stagnation.

"I know so many wrestlers who need that determination and a turning point to overcome something to get to the next level, and it's not easy to do that," Sanshiro Abe, Joseph's high school coach and a former NCAA champion for Penn State, said.

Abe recalled that Joseph struggled early in his high school career but came alive late during his time at Pittsburgh Central Catholic and won state titles his junior and senior year.

But it was Joseph's senior year which Abe felt gave him the most confidence to smoothly transition to college.

"His senior year was easy for us as coaches because we just sat in the corner and he was just doing what he wanted to do. And then I think he did that and it carried over to the college level too," Abe said. "So it just gave him confidence and he'd done it before, so I think he was comfortable with competing with these guys that were top college wrestlers."

Fritz has seen how tough that transition can be first hand, as the former coach compiled an 87-33-2 record and guided 21 Nittany Lions to All-American honors,



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Vincenzo Joseph** works his position on Nebraska's Isaih White in the 165-pound semifinals at the Big Ten Tournament on Saturday, March 7.

including Abe as a freshman.

"I think the adjustment is the number one thing. No matter what, in high school, you're not dealing with that intensity all the time. You're gonna have you have a great match every now and then you're gonna have somebody that really challenges you," Fritz said. "But in college, it's all the best high school wrestlers coming up, and so it's a challenge."

Joseph and Hall defied the odds early on, earning their places in the lineup and rising the occasion despite ultimately having incomplete legacies.

They missed out on the chance to become three-time NCAA champions when the NCAA canceled all winter championships and denied winter athletes another year of eligibility.

Fritz admits, as a fan and former member of the program, even he's disappointed the two can't finish their careers the way they'd like.

"They seemed to improve every time out there. I think it's partly because of their attitude — they love to wrestle and they love to perform. They like to work hard, so it's all pretty neat. But I think they are special," Fritz said. "It's tough for us because we want to see them win it that last time."

Even Taylor, a legend in his own right and one of the best to ever don a Nittany Lion singlet, approached Hall's and Joseph's legacies as a fan and an integral

part of the community.

"I'm sure everybody as competitors wanted to go finish their season and finish their careers on a solid note... What they were able to do for this university and for the Penn State program, we're eternally grateful for them the way that they competed over their careers," the 2018 World champion said. "They should hold their heads high."

Because of the sheer magnitude of wrestlers that have stepped foot in Rec Hall, Penn State fans have been spoiled with wrestlers like Bo Nickal, Jason Nolf, Retherford, Taylor, Ed Ruth, Quentin Wright and others over the last decade.

You can call it greatness recognizing greatness.

But to Abe, a three-time Big Ten champion, Olympian for Japan and Penn State's ninth winningest wrestler of all-time, Hall and Joseph belong in conversation with the program's all-time greats and won't be forgotten anytime soon.

"The numbers don't lie. Cenzo and Mark are up there with those guys, so I think people are going to remember them," he said, "They were pretty dominant college wrestlers, not just at Penn State, but in collegiate wrestling as a whole."

To email reporter: [jxa5415@psu.edu](mailto:jxa5415@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@Jake\\_Aferiat51](https://twitter.com/Jake_Aferiat51).

# Grant Ament embraces the next chapter

By **Andrew Porterfield**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The name Grant Ament is synonymous with Penn State lacrosse.

**MEN'S LACROSSE** Before Ament's arrival, the Nittany Lions were in turmoil, coming off a 5-9 season in 2015 that included a 5-game losing streak. Their luck changed, though, when Ament stepped into the locker room.

Prior to the 2016 season, Penn State had a .510 winning percentage since 2005. In Ament's five seasons with the team, the Nittany Lions posted a .700 winning percentage that was highlighted by a Final Four appearance in 2019.

But now Ament has decided it's time to move on.

The redshirt senior declared for the PLL College Draft in March, forgoing an extra year of eligibility after his fifth season as a Nittany Lion was cut short due to the spread of coronavirus.

Now entering the professional world of lacrosse, Ament has had years of practice and experience that has shaped him into the player he is today.

Infatuated by the game of lacrosse since he was in elementary school, Ament can't remember a time in which he didn't have a stick in his hand.

"My brothers started playing early on and I basically played in first grade and on," Ament said. "I'd go to their practices and stuff and would try to be as involved as I possibly could. And, so basically, it kind of blossomed."

Growing up in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and coming from a Penn State family, Ament's decision to continue his lacrosse career in Happy Valley was a no-brainer.

Ament's parents, Brad and Lisa Ament, and brothers, Blake and Brandon, all attended or were attending Penn State when Ament committed to playing for coach Jeff Tambroni.

"We've been taking our kids to Penn State since they were little," Brad, Grant's father, said. "When Grant had the opportunity to sit down with coach Tambroni and talk about continuing his lacrosse career, we were excited for him."

Ament didn't need much time to acclimate to the college game, immediately becoming the



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Grant Ament** walks off the field after Penn State's season-ending loss to Yale in the NCAA men's lacrosse semifinal game at Lincoln Financial Field on May 25, 2019.

go-to guy on the offensive side of the field.

As a true freshman, Ament led the team with 54 points and was named an All-Big Ten honorable mention.

With 63 percent of his points coming off of assists in his first season as a Nittany Lion, Ament's teammates knew his facilitation abilities were second to none.

Former Penn State defender Chris Sabia, who played with Ament in both high school and college, relates Ament's playmaking to a Hall of Fame player in a different sport.

"I think [of] Steve Nash," Sabia said of Ament's playmaking abilities. "Nash, obviously, was someone that some people have never even seen before, like the way he could pass. Grant does an amazing job with a stick in his hand and you really never know what he's going to do."

His production didn't stop after his freshman season, though. Ament's next season added more accolades to his résumé with an All-Big Ten first-team nod and a National Player of the Week award after a nine-point outing against Cornell in early February.

Then, he hit a bump in the road. Entering his junior season, Ament suffered a foot injury that forced him to take a redshirt and miss the entire 2018 campaign. Without its top point-scorer, Penn State went just 8-6 and failed to make the Big Ten Tournament.

Coming across the first major

obstacle in his college career, Ament received some advice from someone who suffered a similar injury — former Cornell standout Rob Pannell.

"I had the same injury, and I had reached out to coach Tambroni, who I played for at Cornell and have a relationship with," Pannell said. "I said, 'Listen, I saw what happened to Grant and if he wants to speak to me about it, I did the same thing.'"

From then on, a relationship budded between the third-year college player and the MLL All-Star. Pannell stressed the importance of not rushing back from the injury and was a driving force in Ament eventually taking a redshirt to prime himself for a return in 2019.

That redshirt, allowing Ament to rehab, made his comeback in 2019 one for the record books.

Leading the Nittany Lions to the NCAA Tournament with just one regular-season loss, Ament was primed to take Penn State to a place uncharted for Penn State men's lacrosse — the NCAA Final Four.

Prior to his redshirt junior season, Ament had never made it past the first round of the tournament, only making it once before and losing to Towson.

That would change, though, as Penn State coasted by UMBC and Loyola in the first two rounds before getting to the Final Four. In the semifinals, the Nittany Lions were set to face a familiar opponent.

Before their Final Four appearance against Yale, the Nittany Lions had lost just one game. That game, in New Haven, Connecticut, was a one-point loss in which Ament's nine points weren't enough to keep Penn State's undefeated bid alive.

Ament and company would eventually lose to the Bulldogs again in their first Final Four appearance, but the foundation of becoming a perennial contender was set.

Finishing the 2019 season with 126 points, Ament set the NCAA record for assists in a single season with 96 and was one of five players selected as finalists for the Tewaaraton Award.

Coming out of high school, Ament could have elected to continue his college career at schools like Johns Hopkins, Maryland or Duke that had already set themselves apart as some of the premier programs in lacrosse.

The Pennsylvania native, however, wanted to help jumpstart a culture of winning in his home state — a goal that was realized with the team's dream season that culminated into the Final Four appearance.

"I really enjoyed being able to kind of start a culture and start a trend for a program that has been on the map, but hasn't really quite sunk in yet," Ament said.

That culture continued in the early part of 2020, with the Nittany Lions heralded as a top contender and positioned at No. 1

for multiple weeks.

But Ament was stripped of the opportunity to bookend his career with another historic season.

Penn State played just seven games in 2020 before its season was ended due to the spread of coronavirus, and now players and fans alike are left wondering what could have been.

Tallying three assists in what would turn out to be his final collegiate game against Furman, Ament led the NCAA with 31 assists on the season and finished second in the NCAA with 4.57 assists per game.

While Ament's time at Penn State has come to a close, he has forged relationships with his teammates and coaching staff that will last a lifetime.

One of those relationships is with Tambroni, who started to recruit Ament when he was in the ninth grade.

"After I had already announced and told him that I'm not coming back, he texted me that night just checking in to see how I was doing," Ament said about Tambroni. "These past five years, it's just the start of our relationship, and the hope is that it can just continue on for as long as it possibly can."

Ament isn't the only one who benefited from their relationship, though.

"I've often sat down in the office with Grant, and he shares my passion for the sport of lacrosse," Tambroni said. "I have so much admiration for the way his mind worked, certainly worked like a coach and he was an extension of our coaching staff on the field."

Ament's journey will now continue with the Premier Lacrosse League's College Draft, which was originally scheduled for April 21, but has now been pushed back to May due to the spread of coronavirus.

Whatever team Ament suits up for next, fellow PLL newcomer Pannell is excited to play in the same league as the Penn State all-time leading points scorer.

"I'm pretty positive in saying that he's gonna have success right from the get go in the PLL, and I'm excited to see it," Pannell said. "I know we'll have a bunch of laughs and a bunch of smiles whether we're playing against or with each other."

To email reporter: [abp5641@psu.edu](mailto:abp5641@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@aporterfield7](https://twitter.com/aporterfield7).