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VERSUS

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RUTGERS (5-5)
SCARLET KNIGHTS

(6-4) PENN STATE
NITTANY LIONS



TAKE IT ALL IN



Graphic by Annika Shastry

‘IT TOOK A LOT TO GET HERE’

Jaquan Brisker, Tariq Castro-Fields soaking in final moments with Penn State program

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

“It’s just kind of a mess,” James Franklin said.

Penn State will host Rutgers at Beaver Stadium for Senior Day on Saturday. But ever since the coronavirus-impacted 2020 season, Senior Day has been a bit more complicated.

The NCAA granted all players an extra year of eligibility, meaning players who may be listed as seniors right now have the chance to return for a fifth or sixth season if they redshirted.

Penn State operated like normal on Senior Day in 2020 because the NCAA hadn’t yet announced it would grant the extra year.

However, Franklin said this year he’ll have some seniors choose not to walk because they already know they’ll be back next year, while some players will walk either because they know they won’t be back or haven’t yet made a decision. He also said it messes with the way the team recruits moving forward.

Some players, though, will take in the ceremonies for a second time.

Safety Jaquan Brisker and cornerback Tariq Castro-Fields were among the seniors who were honored in 2020, but they both made

the decision to return in 2021.

This weekend’s festivities are final, though. There’s no coming back for the pair, and it’s starting to sink in for Brisker.

“I would say it does [feel different] because this is really my last game in Beaver Stadium,” Brisker said. “I definitely feel it winding down. It’s coming to an end.”

The Pittsburgh native has a well-documented journey to Happy Valley, transferring in as a junior after two years at Lackawanna College.

He’s built up a strong reputation for himself on the field since joining the Nittany Lions, including recently accepting an invite to the Reese’s Senior Bowl following the 2021 season.

He said Wednesday he’s proud of how far he’s come both on the field and academically, as he’s set to graduate from Penn State in December.

Halfway through the season, Brisker said it was starting to sink in that it was his last ride in Happy Valley.

“Every Saturday, I sit down there at the 50-yard line and I just take it all in. Like, ‘Wow.’ Just look at this environment. Whether it’s home or away, just look. Look at yourself,” Brisker said during the week before the Illinois game.

“You’re sitting here in a Penn State uniform. I always take it all



Samantha Hendrzak/Collegian file photo

Jaquan Brisker (1) and Tariq Castro-Fields (5) both returned to Penn State for a fifth year after the NCAA granted an extra year to all athletes following their 2020 season.

in... I’m definitely humbled to be here.”

But Brisker didn’t have to come back to Penn State.

He was rising near the top of a lot of NFL Draft projections for his solid play in 2020, and Pro Football Focus already recognized him as a first-team All-American.

For him and cornerback Castro-Fields, the decision to return was always about the team and not their own goals. They had unfinished business after the 4-5 2020 season, and Brisker said anyone who is faced with a similar decision this year should take a look at the team first.

“If those guys come up to us and ask us, I will always say ‘Think about the team then think about yourself at the end,’” Brisker said. “It’s always a great decision to come back, especially being under Coach Franklin. This is a great program, a great fan base, a great school. The field’s gonna take care of itself. It’s a blessing to come back.”

Castro-Fields was recruited to Penn State out of high school. While dealing with injuries for a big chunk of his career, his fifth and final campaign has been one of his healthiest yet.

When he looks back on his Nittany Lion career, he’ll remem-

ber the relationships he made and the things that make Happy Valley so unique.

“Reflecting on all the hard work and all the times with my brothers. I love these guys, and these experiences are one of a kind. [You] couldn’t get them anywhere else,” Castro-Fields said. “Little things like that and just reflecting on plays I made in the stadium and things like that. When I walk up there I’m gonna look around at the crowd. It should be a great day.”

Like Brisker, Castro-Fields could serve as a guide for players making a similar decision to come back this offseason.

While he doesn’t know any of his teammates’ specific situations right now, he said everyone needs to be at peace with their own decision no matter what it is.

“I would just tell him ‘Trust your heart.’ That’s the biggest thing. This decision is for you, and at the end of the day when you go to sleep, you have to be happy with the decisions you make. Nobody else can make it for you,” Castro-Fields said. “Whatever it may be, just trust your heart, trust your family, trust the people around you and just make the smartest decision for you.”

Castro-Fields’ second Senior Day walk will give him one last

chance to see a Beaver Stadium crowd, culminating in his decision to return for a fifth year.

As proud as he is of the relationships he’s made inside the program, he has a special guest joining him on his walk this weekend who may stand above the rest.

“My grandma is going to walk the field with me and my mom, so that’s gonna be super special,” Castro-Fields said. “My grandmother hasn’t seen me play in so long. For her to be out there and for her to kind of share this last memory of Beaver Stadium with me means the absolute world to me.”

Castro-Fields called his grandma Erlinda his “rock” and expressed his gratitude for all she has done for the family. She came to the United States from the Philippines when she was around 50 years old.

Erlinda lives with Castro-Fields, so he spent every day with her during quarantine. He said being around her always brightens his day.


He doesn’t get to see her as often now that quarantine is over, but a road trip to his home state for the Maryland game allowed Castro-Fields to see his family.

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



Lily LaRegina/Collegian file photo

Tariq Castro-Fields will walk the field on Senior Day for the second year in a row with his grandma and mom by his side.



PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Jonathan Sutherland	S/Sr.	21	Noah Cain	RB/Jr.	48	Cody Romano	LB/Jr.	81	Henry Fessler	WR/Jr.
1	Jaquan Brisker	S/Sr.	21	Tyler Rudolph	S/So.	49	Ben Chizmar	LB/Fr.	82	Liam Clifford	WR/Fr.
2	Ta'Quan Roberson	QB/So.	23	Curtis Jacobs	LB/So.	49	Michael Wright	SN/Fr.	83	Justin Weller	WR/Sr.
2	Keaton Ellis	S/Jr.	24	Jeffrey Davis Jr.	CB/Fr.	50	Max Chizmar	LB/Sr.	84	Theo Johnson	TE/So.
3	Johnny Dixon	CB/Jr.	24	Keyvone Lee	RB/So.	50	Will Knutsson	OL/Jr.	84	Jan Mahlert	WR/Fr.
3	Parker Washington	WR/So.	25	Daequan Hardy	CB/Fr.	51	Hakeem Beamon	DT/So.	85	Harrison Wallace III	WR/Fr.
4	Kalen King	CB/Fr.	26	Caziah Holmes	RB/So.	51	Jimmy Christ	OL/Fr.	86	Brandon Strange	TE/H/So.
5	Tariq Castro-Fields	CB/Sr.	26	Jaden Seider	S/So.	52	Jordan van den Berg	DT/So.	87	Ben Knapp	TE/Fr.
5	Jahan Dotson	WR/Sr.	27	Aeneas Hawkins	DT/Jr.	52	Blake Zalar	OL/So.	87	Benjamin Wilson	WR/Sr.
6	Cam Sullivan-Brown	WR/Sr.	27	Ethan Susen	CB/Fr.	53	Fred Hansard	DT/Sr.	88	Norval Black	WR/Sr.
6	Zakee Wheatley	CB/Fr.	27	Bobby Walchak	S/Fr.	53	Rasheed Walker	OL/Jr.	89	Winston Eubanks	WR/Sr.
7	Jaylen Reed	S/Fr.	28	Devyn Ford	RB/Jr.	54	Derrick Tangelo	DT/Sr.	89	Grayson Kline	TE/H/Jr.
8	Marquis Wilson	ATH/So.	29	Sebastian Constantini	S/So.	55	Fatorma Mulbah	DT/Fr.	90	Rafael Checa	K/Jr.
9	Joey Porter Jr.	CB/So.	30	Kaleb Brown	CB/Fr.	55	Anthony Whigan	OL/Sr.	90	Rodney McGraw	DE/Fr.
9	Christian Veilleux	QB/Fr.	32	Dylan Farronato	S/So.	56	Amin Vanover	DT/Fr.	91	Chris Stoll	SN/Sr.
10	John Lovett	RB/Sr.	33	Bryce Mostella	DE/Fr.	57	Ibrahim Traore	OL/Fr.	92	Jake Pinegar	K/Sr.
11	Daniel George	WR/Jr.	34	Dominic DeLuca	LB/Fr.	58	Landon Tengwall	OL/Fr.	92	Smith Vilbert	DE/So.
12	Brandon Smith	LB/Jr.	36	Zuriah Fisher	LB/Fr.	59	Kaleb Konigus	OL/Jr.	93	Spencer Perry	DE/Fr.
13	Ellis Brooks	LB/Sr.	37	Drew Hartlaub	S/Sr.	60	Seth Nevills	OL/Jr.	93	Bradley King	P/Sr.
13	KeAndre Lambert-Smith	WR/So.	38	Frederik Lesieur	S/Fr.	61	Ryan Willis	OL/Fr.	94	Jake Wilson	DE/Fr.
14	Sean Clifford	QB/Sr.	38	Tank Smith	RB/So.	66	Nick Dawkins	OL/Fr.	95	Cole Brevard	DT/Fr.
14	A.J. Lytton	CB/Jr.	39	Robbie Dwyer	LB/So.	68	Eric Wilson	OL/Sr.	95	Vlad Hilling	K/Jr.
15	Evan Clark	QB/Fr.	40	Jesse Luketa	LB/Sr.	70	Juice Scruggs	OL/Jr.	96	Barney Amor	P/Sr.
15	Enzo Jennings	S/Fr.	41	Kobe King	LB/Fr.	72	Bryce Effner	OL/Jr.	96	Mitchell Groh	K/Fr.
16	Ji'Ayr Brown	S/Sr.	42	Jamari Buddin	LB/Fr.	73	Mike Miranda	OL/Sr.	97	PJ Mustipher	DT/Jr.
16	Khalil Dinkins	TE/Fr.	43	Tyler Elsdon	LB/Fr.	74	Olumuyiwa Fashanu	OL/Fr.	98	Jordan Stout	K/P/Sr.
17	Arnold Ebiketie	DE/Sr.	44	Joseph Appiah Darkwa	DT/So.	75	Des Holmes	OL/Sr.	98	Dan Vasey	DE/Jr.
17	Mason Stahl	QB/Fr.	44	Tyler Warren	TE/Fr.	77	Sal Wormley	OL/So.	99	Coziah Izzaed	DT/Fr.
18	Davon Townley Jr.	DE/Fr.	45	Charlie Katshir	LB/Jr.	78	Golden Israel-Achumba	OL/Fr.	99	Gabe Nwosu	P/Fr.
19	Jaden Dottin	WR/Fr.	46	Nick Tarburton	DE/Jr.	79	Caeden Wallace	OL/So.			
19	Jace Tutty	CB/Fr.	47	Alex Furmanek	DT/So.	80	Malick Meiga	WR/Fr.			
20	Adisa Isaac	DE/Jr.	48	Tyler Duzansky	SN/Fr.	81	Evan Clark	TE/Fr.			

R

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

FOOTBALL ROSTER

No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.	No.	Name	Position/Elig.
0	Christian Izien	DB/Jr.	16	Max Melton	DB/Fr.	39	Nyjon Freeman	RB/Fr.	69	Caleb Patterson	DL/Fr.
0	Noah Vedral	QB/Sr.	16	Michael O'Connor	K/Fr.	40	Adrian Taffe	DB/Fr.	70	Reggie Sutton	OL/Jr.
1	Valentino Ambrosio	K/Jr.	17	Deion Jennings	LB/Jr.	41	Todd Bowles Jr.	DB/Fr.	71	Aaron Lewis	DL/Fr.
1	Isaih Pacheco	RB/Jr.	17	Gavin Rupp	QB/Fr.	41	Jordan Kinsler	RB/Fr.	71	Raiqwon O'Neal	OL/Jr.
2	Aron Cruickshank	WR/Jr.	18	Bo Melton	WR/Sr.	43	Dami Awoyinf	LB/Fr.	72	Hollin Pierce	OL/Fr.
2	Avery Young	DB/Jr.	18	Keenan Reid	DB/Sr.	44	Brian Ugwu	DL/So.	73	Terrence Salami	OL/Fr.
3	Olakunle Fatukasi	LB/Sr.	19	Austin Albericci	QB/Jr.	45	Jamree Kromah	DL/Jr.	74	Isaiah Wright	OL/Fr.
3	Evan Simon	QB/Fr.	19	Calebe Silva	DB/Sr.	45	Brandon Myers	TE/Jr.	75	Beau Lanzidelle	OL/Fr.
4	Najjee Jones	DB/Sr.	20	Elijuwan Mack	DB/Fr.	46	Matt Gibney	LB/So.	76	Matt Rosso	OL/Jr.
4	Aaron Young	RB/So.	21	Tre Avery	DB/Sr.	46	Brendan Shank	LS/Jr.	77	Sam Vretman	OL/Sr.
5	Kessawn Abraham	DB/Jr.	21	Johnny Langan	QB/Jr.	47	Billy Taylor	LS/Sr.	78	Kevin Toth Jr.	OL/Fr.
5	Jovani Haskins	TE/Sr.	22	Tyreem Powell	LB/Fr.	48	Kyonte Hamilton	DL/Fr.	79	Jason Lavigna	OL/So.
6	Rashawn Battle	DL/Sr.	23	Wesley Bailey	DL/Fr.	49	Zack Taylor	LS/Fr.	80	Frederik Krebs	WR/Fr.
6	Christian Braswell	DB/Jr.	23	Kyle Monangai	DB/Sr.	50	CJ Hanson	OL/So.	81	Zach Goodale	WR/Fr.
6	Christian Dremel	WR/So.	24	Patrice Rene	RB/Jr.	50	Julius Turner	DL/Sr.	82	Myles Goddard	TE/Fr.
7	Shameen Jones	WR/Sr.	25	Shaquan Loyal	DB/Fr.	51	Troy Rainey	OL/Fr.	83	Joshua Youngblood	WR/So.
7	Robert Longerebeam	DB/So.	26	CJ Onyechi	DL/Sr.	53	Tunde Fatukasi	OL/Fr.	84	Ahmirr Robinson	WR/Fr.
8	Tyshon Fogg	LB/Sr.	26	Al-Shadee Salaam	RB/Fr.	54	Cedrice Paillant	OL/Jr.	85	Jessie Parson III	WR/Fr.
8	Jamier Wright-Collins	RB/Fr.	27	Jameer Campbell	DB/Sr.	55	Zaire Angoy	DL/Fr.	86	Cooper Heisey	TE/So.
9	Tyreek Maddox-Williams	LB/Sr.	28	Nasir Montgomery	WR/Fr.	55	Kamar Mississippi	OL/Fr.	87	Tahjay Moore	TE/Fr.
9	Gavin Wimsatt	QB/Fr.	28	Aslan Pugh	LB/Sr.	56	Sean Cooper	DL/Fr.	88	Carnell Davis	WR/Fr.
10	Matt Alaimo	TE/Jr.	29	Lawrence Stevens	DB/Sr.	56	Tyler Needham	OL/Fr.	88	Ifeanyi Maijeh	DL/Sr.
10	Shawn Collins	DL/Fr.	30	Chris Conti	LB/So.	57	Ireland Brown	OL/So.	89	Victor Konopka	TE/Fr.
11	Shawn Munnerlyn	WR/Fr.	31	Michael Robinson II	DB/Fr.	57	Stanley Dennis II	DL./Fr.	90	René Konga	DL/Fr.
11	Drew Singleton	LB/Sr.	32	John Guaimano	DB/So.	58	David Nwaogwugwu	OL/Jr.	91	Cam'ron Stewart	DL/Fr.
12	Khayri Banton	LB/Fr.	33	Parker Day	RB/Sr.	58	Mohamed Toure	LB/So.	92	Mayan Ahanotu	DL/Jr.
12	Brandon Sanders	WR/Sr.	33	Andrew Vince	LB/Fr.	59	Drew Bethke	LB/So.	94	Adam Korsak	P/Sr.
13	Zukudo Igwenagu	TE/So.	34	Desmond Igbinosun	DB/Fr.	59	Gus Zilinsk	OL/Fr.	95	Henry Hughes Jr.	DL/Fr.
13	Chris Long	DB/Fr.	35	Max Patterson	DB/Fr.	60	Moses Gbagbe-Sowah	OL/Fr.	96	Guy Fava	K/So.
14	Jordan Thompson	DL/Fr.	35	Jonathan Pimentel	LB/Jr.	65	Bryan Felter	OL/Fr.	96	Keshon Griffin	DL/Fr.
14	Isaiah Washington	WR/So.	37	Joe Lusardi	DB/Fr.	66	Nick Krimin	OL/Sr.	97	Mike Tverdiv	DL/Sr.
15	Alijah Clark	DB/Fr.	38	Austin Dean	LB/Fr.	67	Kevin Schaeffer	OL/Fr.	99	Eric Bernstein	K/So.
15	Cole Snyder	QB/So.	39	Amir Byrd	DB/So.	69	Brendan Bordner	OL/Sr.	99	Ryan Keeler	DL/Fr.

KNOW THE FOE

Penn State football scouts experienced Rutgers team ahead of matchup

By Seth Engle
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Since joining the Big Ten in 2014, Rutgers hasn't enjoyed a single lick of success, with the exception of its 8-4 inaugural season.

Entering their Saturday matchup with Penn State at 5-5, the Scarlet Knights have a legitimate opportunity to clinch a bowl game for the first time in seven years with a victory over the Nittany Lions.

On the other hand, the blue and white is nearly on its last limb of a winning record. If Penn State loses on Saturday, it will move to 6-5 to face a Michigan State team currently ranked No. 7 in the country.

It's likely James Franklin hasn't faced a Rutgers team this competitive in his eight seasons in Happy Valley.

"I've known Coach [Greg] Schiano for a long time," Franklin said on Tuesday. "Obviously he's done a really good job throughout his career, specifically at Rutgers."

Franklin said one of the many things that stands out to him from this year's Scarlet Knights' roster is the team's depth in experienced players.

"I think they have the second most super seniors in the conference with 13 that they had



Darron Cummings/AP

Rutgers running back Isaih Pacheco (1) runs during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Indiana, Saturday, Nov. 13, in Bloomington, Ind.

returned," Franklin said.

Of these fifth or sixth-year seniors, one man in particular stands out to Franklin as a glue guy on Rutgers' defense: defensive tackle Julius Turner. He leads a Scarlet Knights defense ranked top 50 in points against for the first time since 2012.

"[Turner] was an issue last year as well," Franklin said. "Their nose guard who plays top nose on the center... really explosive."

Another Scarlet Knight who opted to use an extra year of

eligibility in 2021 is linebacker Olakunle Fatukasi, who led the Big Ten in tackles and tackles per game a season ago.

Despite an injury keeping him out of last week's matchup with Indiana, Fatakusi remains ranked in the top seven in the Big Ten in tackles, tackles for loss and forced fumbles.

"Those guys are playing at a high level," Franklin said.

While not as dominant as its defense, Rutgers' offense has found somewhat of an identity this season. Contrary to Penn State, the

Scarlet Knights are still a work in progress passing the football but have enjoyed success on the ground.

The man who leads the charge in the run game? Isaih Pacheco, who Jesse Luketa has faced multiple times, most notably when Pacheco rushed for over 100 yards against the Nittany Lions in 2019.

"Pacheco, he's a very talented back, very capable," Luketa said. "I'm looking forward to the matchup."

Although he mentioned the

experience of quarterback Noah Vedral, Luketa made it quite obvious that a key to Penn State's defensive game plan would be attacking the rush.

"We're gonna have to play physical and fast," Luketa said. "Start fast, dominate the line of scrimmage."

To Franklin, one more area of the Scarlet Knights' game that has gone a bit underlooked is their efficiency on special teams led by special teams coordinator Adam Scheier.

"[He's a] creative guy... they run a lot of fakes and misdirections," Franklin said. "If you study them over the last couple years, they've made some really big plays."

While he has a consistently impressive punter of his own, Franklin said Rutgers' Australian punter Adam Korsak may be "the best punter in the country."

"He does a really good job using a wide variety [of kicks] like a lot of the Australian kids do," Franklin said.

"Whether it's a traditional punt, whether they're trying to pin someone down with a sky punt, whether he's doing a low roller, he does a lot of different things."

To email reporter: sre5190@psu.edu. Follow him on Twitter at [@bigsengtweets](https://twitter.com/bigsengtweets).

Max Ralph



Ralph

Knights will run the ball a lot, but that's largely been a strength for the Penn State defense. A less-potent pass rush lets Sean Clifford thrive, too. James Franklin gives his seniors a good sendoff.

Score: Penn State 27, Rutgers 13

Seth Engle



Engle

including a shutout victory over Indiana, but have since gone 1-4. Expect PSU to return to true form with a blowout victory its east coast foe, Rutgers, who haven't beaten Penn State since 1988.

Score: Penn State 27, Rutgers 0

Justin Morganstein



Morganstein

like this, as long as the Nittany Lion offense gets the ball in the hands of its playmakers, then they should be able to handle a Rutgers team that has looked shaken defensively at times.

Score: Penn State 27, Rutgers 17

Alexis Yoder



Yoder

Clifford and Jahan Dotson against a struggling Rutgers defense. The defense should stay consistent and find its groove as it has for most of the season.

Score: Penn State 24, Rutgers 10

Guest Picker: Zech Lambert



Lambert

is too strong against a team that is not good offensively. Penn State will end its home slate with an empathic win.

Score: Penn State 31, Rutgers 10

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Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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‘UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT’

Penn State students experience mold, health issues in North Halls

By Kate Irwin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

During the first week of September, Penn State student Lucy Farmen noticed her belongings began to be covered in mold under her bed in Holmes Hall — located in North Halls.

“I went to grab something under my bed, and I noticed [my] Birkenstocks and snow boots... were just covered in mold,” Farmen (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. “It was so weird because I had never even worn the Birkenstocks before.”

As Farmen continued inspecting her room, she said she grabbed a hoodie covered in mold from her desk.

“I realized there was all this mold covering my desk, so I wiped it down with bleach,” she said. “Then I came back the next day, and it was back.”

Farmen said she and her roommate were experiencing difficulty

to properly address the mold issue in residence halls, which led to nearly 600 students evacuating a dorm building in 2018.

University of Maryland’s former Health Center Director David McBride had acknowledged that “mold can cause respiratory irritation that may increase susceptibility of any viral infection,” according to the Washington Post article.

Farmen said she was struck by the comparisons of this incident to what she has experienced this fall.

“It’s just crazy because the story matches up so much with what we’re experiencing,” she said.

Megh Snelling lives in Leete Hall in North in a suite with three roommates. Her two suitemates noticed mold before she did.

“We had just gotten an email about how North Residence Halls were having a mold issue from Housing,” Snelling (freshman-music education) said. “So [Penn State Housing] came and gave

our roommates a dehumidifier and sprayed [their] room.”

Snelling said she and her roommate then decided to inspect their personal room to see if their side of the suite also contained mold.

“We noticed there was a lot of mold all over the place — it was covering the ceiling, and it seemed to be stemming from our vent so we stopped using our air conditioning,” she said. “We called up [Housing], and at first they didn’t really believe us, and they told us it could just be dust.”

Snelling said she insisted she believed mold was in the room, so members from Penn State Housing gave them a dehumidifier.

“The air quality still didn’t feel right, and there was still mold all over the ceiling,” she said. “So we called up Housing again, and a guy came and told us the mold wasn’t active.”

Snelling said she wasn’t confident the mold wouldn’t spread and was worried about her health around it — especially because she’s immunocompromised.

“Every time I go to the doctor, they diagnose me with pneumonia,” she said. “I was in the emergency room on Monday, and they diagnosed me with pneumonia and told me it was probably because of the mold.”

Snelling said her doctors think an allergen is causing a pneumonia hypersensitive situation and said the only allergen she’s



Ariana Krammes/Collegian

Students in North Halls have been allegedly experiencing cases of mold since the beginning of the semester, raising concerns over their health and safety.

consistently being exposed to is mold.

“The mold needs to be tested,” she said. “My doctors keep saying they need to know what type of mold so they can figure out if I’m allergic to it.”

In addition to providing a dehumidifier, Snelling said Penn State Housing came and cleaned most of the mold from their ceiling — after her mother called and emailed the office several times. She said spots of mold continue to linger on the ceiling, though.

“I think the dehumidifier works, but I’m not sure if it actually helps the mold since I think it’s in the air vents,” Snelling said.

Snelling said she doesn’t feel safe living in Leete Hall, and she and her roommate are looking to live elsewhere next fall due to this issue.

“I feel like we’re all in an unsafe environment right now,” she said. “My roommate and I have both been having a lot of health issues that are respiratory-related, and I don’t understand how they can say, ‘Oh, this mold obviously needs to be cleaned,’ but are fine with students still living here.”

Hannah Ratthe also lives in Leete Hall and said she is also suspicious that her lingering illness this semester is connected to the presence of mold in her dorm.

“I was sick for a very long time,” Ratthe (freshman-music education) said. “I got over my cold, but I continued to have a cough for a good month, and I think it may have been due to the mold on my desk.”

Ratthe said she didn’t notice the mold until Housing came in and conducted an inspection in all the dorms in North Halls

because of other complaints.

“That’s when they found the mold,” she said. “I personally didn’t know it was mold until they told me that’s what it was.”

Ratthe said the main spot mold was growing in her dorm was on top of her desk — she didn’t notice it at first because her desk was covered with personal items.

“I think it’s awful,” Ratthe said. “Having mold is a very big health risk, so I personally feel like [Penn State] should do a better job with fixing the ventilation system — that would be nice for [the university] to do that.”

Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers said via email that Housing has checked all rooms in North Halls for signs of moisture or mold, “addressing any issues discovered with a safe and effective sanitizer that cleans and kills mold spores.” In addition, Powers said dehumidifiers were also provided to residents as needed.

“[Housing] brought a dehumidifier, but that actually caused other issues with our breathing because it’s constantly on 24/7, and it gives us dry throats,” Ratthe said. “We decided to just turn it off, but I think we still have mold.”

Housing staff members, who have been keeping an eye on the situation, report the current humidity in the buildings is at 43%, “which is appropriate and desirable for this time of year,” Powers said.

Ratthe’s roommate, Alex LeCrone, also said she was frustrated by the way Penn State has handled mold in dorms.

“We’re paying a s--- ton of money to live in an already low-quality dorm, and now it’s impacting our health, which really sucks,” LeCrone (freshman-music education)

said. “The university shouldn’t be exploiting us like this.”

Powers said the health and safety of students is the university’s No. 1 priority, and the mold can be attributed to an increase of rainfall, which has created humid and moist conditions.

Penn State Housing indicated it received information on two moisture incidents in North Halls in the past two weeks and has followed up with those residents, cleaning and sanitizing the rooms on Nov. 1, Powers said.

Powers also said, “overall, it appears the issue has been identified and addressed.” She said if any resident is experiencing issues, they can fill out the Maintenance Request form.

Conal Carr, director of housing operations and facilities planning at Penn State, said via email the university has “cleaned and sanitized the impacted rooms, proactively checked all the rooms in multiple buildings and emailed all the residents in North [Halls], asking them to report any issues to the area housing office.”

“Since humidity levels have finally dropped, we should have no or very few issues moving forward,” Carr said.

However, Ratthe said she and her roommate believe these actions are not enough from the university.

“I just want [Penn State] to quickly figure out a solution,” Ratthe said. “I feel like [the university is] taking [its] sweet time — so as not to get into a lot of trouble, but a lot of people have been affected.”

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Community grapples with Mad Mex closing

By Danny Gotwals
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After hearing State College’s Mad Mex location will close Nov. 28 pending the sale of Days Inn by Wyndham Penn State, alumnus John Richter said he has “no idea” where he will go when he visits the area next.

Mad Mex holds many fond memories for Richter — from when he would have nights out with friends as a student.

Richter, who graduated in 2008, described Mad Mex as a “great institution” and “always a great place to hang out.”

He said he likes Mad Mex’s margaritas and tries to return to the restaurant whenever he is back in State College.

“It’s usually one of our first stops,” he said.

Student Adam Stone said he and his girlfriend found Mad Mex recently.

“We like it because it’s one of the few places in town that has good vegetarian and vegan options,” Stone (graduate-geoscience) said. “For a college town, State College is surprisingly not that good with vegetarian and vegan food.”

Stone said there are still other quality options for food like Kaarma Indian Cuisine Redefined, Roots Natural Kitchen and Yallah Taco.

As a State College resident who



Ariana Krammes/Collegian

Mad Mex’s downtown location will close Nov. 28, pending the sale of Days Inn by Wyndham Penn State. “It’s got a great vibe,” Erin O’Leary said of the restaurant.

works for Penn State, Denise Wall said she usually visits Mad Mex in the summer — when there are not many students around.

“Standing in this line is a little bizarre for me,” Wall said of her fall visit.

Wall lamented the lack of other restaurants with an outdoor patio like Mad Mex in State College.

“There’s not a ton of other places like this,” Scanlon said.

Wall said she hopes Mad Mex can “find another spot.”

Erin O’Leary said she enjoys Mad Mex’s burritos and margaritas.

“I’ve come here many times over the years,” O’Leary said. “It’s got a great vibe.”

O’Leary, who currently lives in Boston, used to own Old State Clothing Co., and she and her employees frequented Mad Mex for burrito night.

There is not another bar in State College like Mad Mex where “you can watch games

and do a lot of things outside,” O’Leary said.

“I wish the staff [of Mad Mex] well, and I hope that they find something to replace Mad Mex,” O’Leary said.

Though she’s only been to Mad Mex a couple of times, student Jonah Grove said she wanted to “check it out before it closes.”

“It was just a nice place to catch up with friends,” Grove (senior-accounting) said.

Grove said she will most likely

continue to visit Plaza Mexican for Mexican food after Mad Mex closes.

Tyler Goehrung described Mad Mex as “a nice, chill bar to go to with [his] friends.” He said he believes Mad Mex’s outdoor patio distinguishes it from other bars, similar to Wall.

“Most bars here are just inside, but this bar has both inside and outside [spaces],” Goehrung (senior-science) said.

Goehrung said he likes other bars like Doggie’s Pub and Champs, but he said they’re often “busy,” which is why he likes Mad Mex.

Erik Bakken, a State College resident, said it’s rare for Mad Mex to be able to use the patio in mid-November.

Rey Azteca and Plaza Mexican have always been Bakken’s favorites for “authentic” Mexican food. He said he considers Mad Mex more of a “Tex-Mex” restaurant.

Bakken said he’ll miss Mad Mex, but when it’s gone, he’ll still enjoy bars like Barrel 21, Otto’s Pub and Brewery, and Doggie’s.

Bill Fuller, the president and corporate chef of big Burrito Restaurant Group, said he is unsure of what will replace Mad Mex, but the company is in the process of looking for other locations in State College.

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‘THE VOICE OF PENN STATE’

Steve Jones celebrates his 30th season announcing play-by-play

By Ava Leone
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Growing up in the small town of Enfield, Connecticut, Steve Jones would sit in his room at night listening to games on the radio — baseball, basketball, football games — and marvel at the announcers.

“I thought, ‘Wow, what a great job,’ never once considering that you actually got paid for it,” Jones said with a laugh. “I just thought it was great that you got to go to a game: ‘I would really love to try that.’”

Now Jones lives out his childhood dream every day. He serves as the play-by-play voice for Penn State’s football and men’s basketball teams, celebrating his 30th season announcing for football and his 40th season announcing for basketball this year.

He attributes his success to making many mistakes announcing early on as a Penn State communications student.

“It all started in Wilkes-Barre — at the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus,” Jones said. “They had a 10-watt radio station on the second floor of the commons. And that’s where I first started announcing and making 1,000 mistakes and then tried to somehow cut it down to 500 mistakes. Then I tried to cut it down to 200 mistakes.”

Luckily, Jones said no one



Courtesy of Mark Selders

Penn State play-by-play announcer Steve Jones, who has served in his role for 30 years, discusses football with former head football coach Joe Paterno.

could tune into the small station after they left the parking lot, so no one else knew about the thousands of mistakes Jones made, except for himself. However, that radio station no one listened to made Jones fall in love with play-by-play announcing.

After graduating from Penn State in 1980 with a degree in speech communications broadcasting, Jones began to slowly move up the ladder to landing his

current position.

“I’ve always been, it seems, in the right place at the right time,” Jones said.

Securing a job in State College right away announcing for women’s basketball, Jones slowly began to fill in announcing for the men’s basketball games during the 1981-82 season a couple of times and got hired during the 1982-1983 season as a full-time announcer. Quickly, Penn State also recruited Jones as the third announcer for Penn State football in 1983, which he did until he became the play-by-play announcer in 2000.

Jones said he feels grateful to get to describe exciting moments in Penn State history.

“I get to sit there with a blank canvas in front of me, and I get to paint the picture with words for about three to four hours,” Jones said, “every single Saturday in the fall.”

Jones said he feels fortunate to work alongside “phenomenal” coworkers, like his producer Roger Corey and color analyst Jack Ham during the football season, and color analyst Dick Jerardi during the men’s basketball season. And, Jones said no matter what people think of him, individuals like Corey, Ham and Jerardi always make him better at his job. For over 20 years, Ham has wit-

nessed Jones’ attention to detail in the recording booth and how it makes him the best play-by-play announcer he possibly can be.

“He puts in the time, he puts in the work, he puts in the effort... If I’d say one thing about Steve — he is so well prepared,” Ham said. “He leaves nothing to chance. And his work ethic is something very, very special.”

For producer of the Penn State Radio Network Roger Corey, he and Steve have “been like family” since 1984 when they first started working together at local radio station WMHA.

Corey said he believes Jones’ passion for Penn State sports helps to set them all up for success when they are on air. Jones gets along with all of the football coaching staff so well that there’s an open line of communication between them, allowing Jones to excel in his career, Corey said.

“He is the voice of Penn State. It’s his life,” Corey said. “I think he lives it. I think he shows it. And I think everyone listening on the radio learns a lot about the program and enjoys Steve’s passion for his work as much as we enjoy watching and listening to him in the booth.”

Dick Jerardi, Jones’ color analyst for men’s basketball, also said Jones’ professionalism, preparation and love for the game makes

him “brilliant” at his job. Jones’ “contagious enthusiasm” makes working with him one of the best parts of Jerardi’s job.

With a “front row seat to history,” Jones said he has announced pivotal moments for Penn State football throughout his career, including Joe Paterno’s 324th win — surpassing former coach Bear Bryant’s record — Paterno’s 400th win and his 409th win.

However, Jones said James Franklin’s work has launched many of the great moments he has announced in the past few years.

“The signature play of all of that is the block field goal by Marcus Allen that Grant Haley picked up against Ohio State in 2016 and ran it back for a touchdown,” Jones said. “You felt that was the moment that put Penn State on the upward trajectory.”

Jones said Franklin has made him “part of the family” with the players and coaching staff over the years, making his job so rewarding for him when he gets to announce their successes.

Invented in Penn State’s progress, Jones remains loyal to the university. People have approached Jones with other job offers several times, and Jones has always said no to them all. He said he already has his dream career.

“Everyone has to have in their mind what they think ‘the job’ is. Now for some people in our business, ‘the job’ is to be at CBS or ‘the job’ is to be at ESPN,” Jones said. “For me, ‘the job’ has always been to me — this job.”

“And so I’ve never even had even a remote feeling about going someplace else because I really felt I had the best job.”

Jones said he hopes he can keep announcing play-by-play for Penn State for many more years to come.

“I’ve had the privilege of announcing some of the greatest moments in the history of Penn State football — and it is a privilege, believe me,” Jones said. “Working with James Franklin, working with the staff and being around the players. Every single day you’re around this, you feel like there’s a privilege to it.”

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Initiative brings human rights to classroom

By Kate Irwin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Perhaps many adults in the United States remember the first time in grade school they heard the story of Anne Frank. Maybe they recall the feeling they had after reading “Night” by Elie Wiesel for the first time. Or perhaps, some adults don’t recall these at all.

The Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative at Penn State, which launched this summer, is striving to ensure the aforementioned types of learning experiences fulfill their potential and have a positive impact on children.

Founded and directed by Boaz Dvir, the initiative equips educators with skills to teach and engage students with difficult topics — while focusing on empathy and critical thinking.

As a former journalist, Dvir is also an assistant professor of journalism in Penn State’s Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications and an award-winning documentary filmmaker.

In his documentaries, Dvir said he tells the stories of “ordinary people who go through extraordinary circumstances, transform in the process, become trailblazers and really have an impact on society around them.”

“A few years ago, the Pennsylvania Department of Education approached me about including two of my documentaries in [its] Holocaust curricular offerings,” Dvir said.

“And I said, ‘Of course, but wouldn’t you like some material to go with it?’”

The first, a 2015 Public Broadcasting Service documentary titled “A Wing and a Prayer” focuses on U.S. World War II aviators who raced against the clock to prevent what they thought was an eminent second holocaust.

The other documentary, “Cojot,” follows a Holocaust survivor who sets out in the 1970s to find and kill his father’s Nazi executioner.

Dvir, who’s currently finishing “Cojot,” said he emphasizes the importance of presenting media in classrooms with proper context and opportunities for in-

depth questioning and critical thinking.

“You really need to do a great deal more than simply present media — like evaluating if there are any elements that could trigger trauma or stress among students,” Dvir said.

Teachers not only have to teach difficult curriculum, such as the Holocaust, but they also encounter tough topics that filter into the classroom via current events and student experiences — which Dvir said led him to realize the importance of offering support and tools directly to teachers.

Dvir also has a background in K-12 professional development, as he worked at the University of Florida’s Lastinger Center for Learning for four years.

The new Penn State Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative provides professional development to help educators facilitate productive, meaningful conversations about difficult historical moments like the Holocaust and human rights violations, as well as current events, according to Dvir.

“The question is, ‘How do I use this to get [students] to think for themselves, think critically [and] not just soak up the information?’” Dvir said. “How do I raise it to a level where we’re not just disseminating information, but we’re engaging students in discussions that provide them with insight into the human condition, not just knowledge — knowledge is fleeting.”

Dvir said the initiative grew out of discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, which observed ineffectiveness in teaching difficult topics around the state.

In 2014, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed a law, Act 70, that encouraged schools to teach Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations. The law did not mandate the curriculum, but daylong trainings for teachers were held around the state regarding Holocaust education.

“Sometimes the educators who attended this training invited Department of Education officials to observe their teaching of the Holocaust,” Dvir said. “And as the Department of Education told me, when they visited these

classrooms, they were often disappointed. In several instances, the teaching was inappropriate and ineffective.”

Dvir said he attributes the disconnect between the often “compelling” Holocaust curriculum material and classroom execution to the lack of a pedagogy to bridge the gap between content and impacting students “in a powerful way.”

That lack of a powerful impact may be contributing to statistics reflecting the lack of awareness of the Holocaust among young Americans, Dvir said.

“Recent studies show that four out of 10 young Americans don’t know what the Holocaust is,” Dvir said.

Inadequate critical engagement with materials in classrooms, which the Department of Education noticed, prompted Dvir to start the initiative at Penn State, he said.

The initiative is geared toward K-12 Pennsylvania educators to support them in teaching difficult topics — largely through an inquiry-based approach, according to Dvir.

Engagement of the initiative materials with teachers officially began this summer in a weeklong virtual conference.

Teachers then have the support of the initiative throughout the whole school year — where they pursue research, analyze data and collaborate with other educators on inquiries surrounding the teaching of difficult subjects in classrooms and schools, as well as trauma-informed learning.

Through the yearlong initiative, Dvir said teachers can earn 60 of the 180 professional development points needed for their recertification, which is mandated every five years for Pennsylvania teachers.

Dvir said he believes the concentrated and active engagement of teachers with inquiry-based research and professional development is more effective and impactful for education than attending brief conferences on scattered topics.

Jennifer Cody is a fifth-grade teacher in the State College Area School District who is participating in the initiative professional development program this school

year. Cody said her passion for teaching difficult topics and engaging with trauma-informed learning piqued her interest in the program.

She described the “amazing” experience she had at the initiative’s weeklong conference this summer — as well as the process of developing specific inquiries with other teachers in the initiative to research throughout the school year.

“My team is specifically focused on student identity and how to grow into your identity in a confident way and how to handle bullies,” she said. “[The initiative] provides a very effective, yearlong process, where we meet often.”

Although Cody said she is not teaching the Holocaust specifically to her fifth-grade students, the knowledge she has gained both about the Holocaust and broaching challenging topics with students has helped her grow as a teacher, she said.

“I function as an inquiry-based teacher,” she said. “I work hard to pose as many perspectives about things as possible to my students and help them to make informed decisions.”

Part of equipping educators with the tools to teach their students in more engaging,

comprehensive ways is recognizing that difficult topics are inevitably linked to trauma, Dvir said.

The initiative recently created an online trauma-informed practice module where educators across the country can learn how to incorporate this element of teaching into their classrooms and schools.

Pennsylvania teachers can earn six professional development points for completing this module, Dvir said.

Dara Hass, an English teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, joined the initiative team that constructed this module.

Hass was a teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas on Feb. 14, 2018, when a 19-year-old student killed 17 people and injured 17 others. The shooter, Nikolas Cruz, entered Hass’ classroom first.

“When [members of the initiative] brought me in, I had a firsthand account of a traumatic event related to the classroom that students go into every day,” she said. “My advice came from talking about how teachers themselves can handle their own mental wellness.”

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



Courtesy of Curt Chandler

Penn State Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Education Initiative’s director, Boaz Dvir (right) narrates his film “Cojot.”

PSU town halls must include more voices

OUR VIEW

Town halls provide good information but can enact more change by listening to community

The idea of a town hall meeting typically carries a political connotation. Images of politicians campaigning at local cities, fielding the questions and concerns of the community, while providing possible solutions serve as the stereotype for what town halls act as.

A town hall meeting brings a sense of collectivism to a community, attempting to further the discussion on certain topics that impact the well-being of all. Penn State is no stranger to this as the university often plays host to town halls that address prevalent issues on campus.

The most recent occurred on Nov. 8 where Penn State President Eric Barron hosted a virtual town hall regarding the rise in sexual misconduct incidents this semester. At the time, Penn State was made aware of 19 known forcible sex offenses. As of Nov. 15, that number increased to 22 offenses.

Barron was joined alongside a panel of faculty members and a student to show listeners the efforts made by the university to combat sexual misconduct.

The information provided by the panel was good to hear on behalf of students and the rest of the community alike. It was an important moment for Penn State to try to disseminate

information about a topic that has upset much of State College by giving prominent people who are knowledgeable on sexual assault a platform.

Despite the great information provided from this, the university's town halls still contain flaws that can be corrected by Penn State to spread even more awareness.

This town hall had questions that were pre-submitted before the event, allowing the panel to prepare answers ahead of time. And while the answers provided were conveyed well, knowing what will be said prior lacks a sense of organicness in the conversation.

Statements shouldn't be prepared to act as a form of university PR, rather, the questions should be asked in a live format to allow for a discussion among the concerned. Also, Penn State should strive to answer all questions and not just those that are easy to confront.

A town hall is not the right

medium to provide the public with new information. If the university wants to continue to host these events to make the community aware, that's fine — just don't call it a town hall.

Rebranding the town hall to a press conference or an announcement seems more fitting for the business being conducted. These can then be followed up by an actual town hall where people can raise questions on a whim.

Additionally, the university can continue to prepare remarks and statements that it feels are essential to the discussion while also fielding questions from the audience. But the current town halls make it seem as if Penn State has already made its decision on certain topics and is using these meetings to let the community know what they are — not engage in discussion with the people experiencing these issues every day.

Town halls must encourage greater dialogue but there also needs to be people to create

such conversations, including students. Penn State is already doing all it can to make the community aware of town halls, it's on the students to follow through.

Each morning students receive an email from Penn State News, which provides ample information regarding current news on campus, including when town halls will be held. There are also multiple student media outlets that cover town halls that students can rely on.

Yet, the tone of the meetings doesn't seem fit for students, because they often come across as a mechanism for the university to make itself look good rather than talk about how these issues affect the student body.

From a leadership perspective, it's essential for Barron to hold the town halls in their true nature by listening to the community. He must solicit the input and advice of the faculty, staff and students who are being affected by his decision making.

Other important issues that

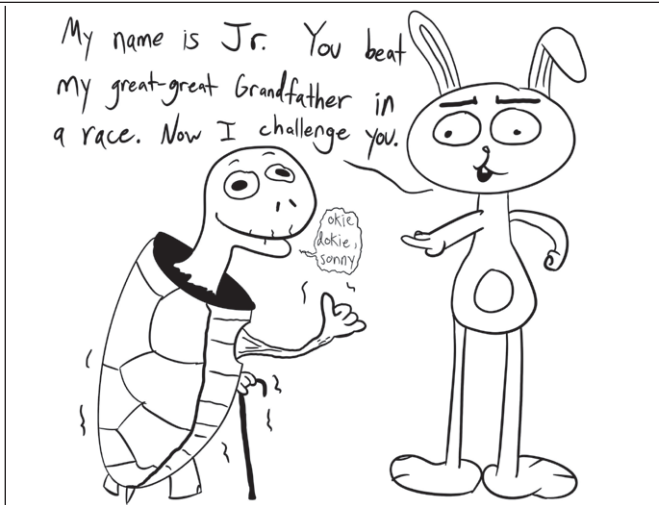
deserve attention may slip through the cracks unless brought up in the heat of the moment like a live Q&A. Barron most likely isn't reading every complaint email being sent, so he may not know of other issues persisting on campus.

While his tenure is nearly complete that doesn't mean Barron can't improve upon the way he will be viewed when it's over. It's not too late to obtain more respect from the university, something that can be achieved by truly listening to what the community has to say.

Despite the flaws of the current format, the town halls are at least attempting to bring awareness to the Penn State community on serious issues.

Allowing experts to speak and provide their insight should create a sense of trust for those listening. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, Barron and the university brought in medical researchers to provide proper insight on the disease.

Even if the town hall isn't ideal and not the format people might expect, it cannot be denied that the administration is attempting to educate the Penn State community. And by incorporating the voices of students more, the university will be able to achieve a greater sense of change — something it desperately needs.



Comics by Davis Huth

MY VIEW | Braden Dyreson

Remembering Turkeygate, the article that shook the world

Editor's Note: I wanted to be a real journalist. Edit important articles for the Collegian. But this is my life.



Dyreson

I wrote an article two years ago arguing that the president shouldn't pardon a turkey on Thanksgiving. Turkeygate went viral and caused national dialogue about the role of turkeys in public life. The New York Times said "no comment," and the Pulitzer Prize committee said, "My email is just pulitzer@gmail.com, I'm not the Pulitzer Prize committee. Please stop sending me stuff."

The important discussions and passionate arguments we've all had over the pardoning of a turkey have brought us closer together as a community, a

nation and a world — in spite of our differences.

For this healing we've all been through, you can thank me, and I fully accept your appreciation. Reflecting upon my words and

their legacy has helped my process of self-illumination.

So many years since that fateful column and so much has changed. I, now an old man, am stopped everywhere I go by children and turkeys alike and asked the same question. The only question. The original question. The most important question, "Do you still believe that no turkey should be pardoned?"

Old age has softened this art-

ist's heart, thus I lean back on my cane wistfully and reply to both the turkeys and children, "F--- no."

My words are more relevant now than ever: Turkeys have gained too much ground over the past two years. Herbert Marcuse famously argued that we lived in "the totalitarian age," but I would posit that we now live in a "turkey-tarian age," and humanity is its stuffing. Refer to the venerable Wikipedia's article on the

Braden Dyreson

turkey: "Turkey (Turkish: Türkiye), officially the Republic of Turkey, [a] is a transcontinental country located mainly on the peninsula of Ana-

tolia in Western Asia, with a smaller portion on East Thrace in Southeast Europe."

Those sons of flightless birds have taken over a country. What's next, the world? And our country dares to pardon these animals.

No more! No longer shall we pardon the butterballs! The only dinner invitation they'll get is on the menu.

It's not just the years, it's the turkeys. This fight has left me bruised and battered. I close my eyes to sleep at night, and all I hear is "gobble gobble."

But it's all been worth it. That's what good journalism is about. I have secured my legacy in Turkeygate.

Braden Dyreson is a junior majoring in philosophy and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at bsd5216@psu.edu or follow him on Twitter at [@BradenDyreson](https://twitter.com/BradenDyreson).



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Fans react to return to Rec Hall

By Ben Serfass
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Rec Hall may be one of the most storied venues at Penn State, but it's much more than that for those who wrestle there and those who fill the stands every match of the season.

After the pandemic-shortened wrestling season last year, Penn State fans and loyalists are more than ready to return to the familiar confines of Rec Hall.

Wrestling runs deep in the Penn State community and Kurt Hinton is evidence of that.

Hinton has been a fan and a season ticket holder since he moved to the State College area in 1984 and is well aware of the uniqueness of Rec Hall.

"Being that close to the match is pretty awesome and being able to almost feel the adrenaline of the athletes," Hinton told The Daily Collegian. "Rec Hall probably has the best fan base and crowd experiences that I've ever experienced, and I've been to a lot of different arenas around the country."

While Rec Hall provides fans with a unique and special experience, the recent run of success under Cael Sanderson has energized the Penn State faithful.

As a season ticket holder for over three decades, Hinton has seen his fair share of Nittany Lion wrestling and is more than grateful to get a front row seat to the success of Sanderson and his



Lily Regina/Collegian

Fans at Rec Hall are eager to once again cheer on Penn State wrestling after not attending matches last season.

team. "I have the same seats, so I consider myself very, very fortunate," Hinton said. "We went through some pretty lean years back in the '80s and into the '90s, but then Cael takes over and it's like a dream come true for NCAA wrestling fans."

Without his typical season tickets, Hinton, like every other Penn State fan, had to stream the matches online.

"It was a bummer," Hinton said. "Any way we could watch, my friends and I would watch them, online or on TV, so we didn't really miss many matches that way."

Penn State alumnus Rich Puleo is another long-time season ticket holder, holding sea-

son tickets since the late 1960s.

Being unable to attend Penn State matches in person was particularly difficult for Puleo.

"I never even knew this company FloWrestling existed," Puleo told the Collegian. "We had to buy a season for \$150 or so to watch it on an internet program, and it was hard."

Aside from the inconvenience, Puleo said the sport itself is different to watch when not in person.

"It was horrible because I have followed every one of those kids who wrestle at Penn State," Puleo said.

"Wrestling is pretty much a sport where seeing it firsthand is

a little bit different than on TV."

To Puleo, the part of what makes Penn State so special is the interactions with fans and former athletes during matches inside of Rec Hall.

"I just enjoy walking into the venue. Even when you walk in and all the fans are there, that's exciting because you get to see some of the former guys like David Taylor walking around," Puleo said. "I mean all these guys on the team that previously wrestled show up, and you get to see some of your friends and people you haven't seen."

Neil Turner wrestled at Penn State and graduated from the university in 1961, but now, he has a

different role with the program as a devout fan and current season ticket holder.

As a former wrestler, Turner is aware of how the fans can impact a wrestling match.

"I think they really help the Penn State wrestlers," Turner told the Collegian. "I wouldn't even want to venture a guess as to how they might affect a Lehigh wrestler or an Ohio State wrestler."

Turner has been to a number of wrestling matches at a number of different venues over the years, and in his opinion, the size and construction of the arena is what gives it its charm.

"The audience is pretty darn close to the competitors because it's not huge like the Bryce Jordan Center," Turner said. "The closeness of the audience to the athletes is a plus."

Turner followed the Nittany Lions last season the best he could, but he, like others, is more than ready to attend matches in person again this season.

Rec Hall may have been empty last season outside of athletes and a select few others — the Nittany Lion faithful is more than ready to return home.

"I am very, very proud to be a Penn State graduate, and I'm very, very proud to be a Penn State wrestling supporter," Turner said.

"It will just be a real joy... It's our home base."

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Chris Funkey's journey

By Zech Lambert
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For four years, whenever Chris Funkey got ready for a game, he put on a goalie mask.

Now, the former Penn State netminder has traded in his mask for a different piece of headwear — a broadcasting headset.

Funkey recently joined the Penn State men's hockey broadcasting team, filling in occasionally on the radio broadcasts of Nittany Lion contests.

However, his path to the broadcast booth was far from a normal one — some may even say it was... funky.

Upon graduating from Penn State, Funkey received a degree in finance, which he used to land a job at Lord, Abbett & Company.

It was actually his hockey team, too, that helped him find this job, and he still works there today.

"I was referred to Lord, Abbett by a former roommate and teammate of mine, Rick DeRosa," Funkey told The Daily Collegian. "He had said, 'Hey, Funks, I'm not sure if you're thinking about playing, but I work at this company, working as an adviser consultant. I think it's something you would enjoy and you'd be very good at. I would love for you to come in and interview.'"

It wasn't until Penn State reached out and asked Funkey to join the broadcast team that the thought of putting the headset on even crossed the 27-year-old's mind.

However, getting Funkey onto broadcasts wasn't a tough decision for the people at Penn State, should he have wanted to join the team.

A majority of his time in the blue and white was spent as a backup, but he grew to become a fan favorite in Hockey Valley, thanks in large part to his vibrant personality and ability to make others smile and laugh.

"He was funny in some of this stuff he did on the video board, a high-character guy in the

locker room, someone that his teammates loved and the fans grew to love as just a backup goalie," Brian Tripp, Penn State's main play-by-play broadcaster, told the Collegian. "To find out that he was around and maybe interested in getting on the air, I thought it was a win-win for both sides."

When he did get ice time, though, he performed relatively well. Funkey posted a career 7-5-1 record with two shutouts and a 2.77 goals-against average, which helps contribute to what Tripp referred to as a "tremendous hockey background."

Despite the limited playing time, Guy Gadowsky always viewed Funkey as a "special person."

"When he came into this program we did a lot of homework on him, and we didn't hear one average word about him," Gadowsky said. "No one said he was a 'good' guy. No one. It was 'great.' He has a pretty profound effect on people."

Funkey got a chance to leave a profound effect on the Nittany Lion fans listening to his first broadcast.

He made his debut on the mic during Penn State's two-game series against Ohio State in Columbus on Nov. 5 and 6 — a place he had his own history with.

Back in 2017, Funkey posted a career-high 43 saves in a game where Andrew Sturtz forced overtime with 0.7 seconds left on a goal from the point.

Funkey then stopped all three shots in the eventual shootout to lead the Nittany Lions to a shootout victory over the Buckeyes at Value City Arena.

He did color commentary, while the usual color guy Eric Ohlson slid over to play-by-play for the

series with Tripp gone covering the Penn State football game in Maryland.

Even with his history at Ohio State, Funkey was still nervous throwing on the headset for the first time.

"I was out of my element," Funkey said. "I'm a guy who likes to talk, anybody who knows me will tell you that. I can talk for a while, but I will say, I was more nervous to put the headset on than I ever was to get between the pipes."

As nerve-racking as it may have been, Funkey said after the first period or so he settled in and got comfortable live on the air.

The nerves for Funkey weren't surprising to Tripp, though, who's been calling Penn State games since the inception of the Division I team. The veteran radio voice told the former netminder the beginning would be the toughest.

He also informed him after he gets rolling, it'll all become natural.

"I told him he's gonna be nervous with the pregame show," Tripp said. "Once the game starts you're just gonna be sitting there talking to someone about hockey."

Being that he played for four years under Gadowsky, Funkey can offer insights not many others have the ability to, so some of the hockey talk he brings to the table is next-level in-depth.

"The only thing I really wanted to do was try to add a little bit of insight just as one of Coach Gadowsky's former players," Funkey said. "Just maybe some insight as to what him and the staff are saying in the dressing room in between periods."

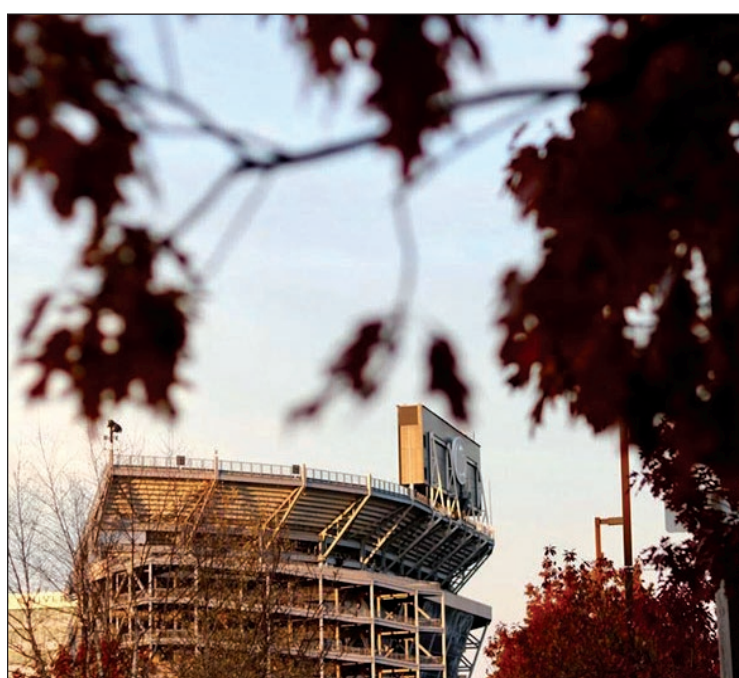
However, he was able to add more than just that.

The goaltender position is one that is granted the opportunity to see the entire game as it develops, thus allowing for a more well-rounded understanding of the game. There also aren't many goaltenders on a roster — Penn State currently only boasts three — so Funkey's perspective is more of a unique one than that of a former skater.

"He could kind of take us into the mind of a goalie a little bit," Ohlson told the Collegian. "[He could] also compare it to what a shooter is doing in a situation and how the goaltender reacts to that."

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

Chris Funkey
Former goalie



Gianna Galli/Collegian

Penn State explores the possibility of expanding attractions at Penn State, such as possibly bringing the NHL's Winter Classic to Beaver Stadium.

'Premier destination'

By Zach Allen
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The sports and entertainment industry at Penn State and Centre County is about to grow to a much higher scale as Fritz Smith, president and CEO of the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau, announced the formation of the Happy Valley Sports and Entertainment Commission in a Zoom press conference on Tuesday.

The commission's goal is to take Penn State and Centre County's legacy of sports and entertainment and market it to outside sources with the facilities in the community to make Centre County "a premier destination," as the commission's vice chairman Scott Sidwell said.

Centre County has hosted a number of big concerts and events over the years, not to mention the 100,000-plus people that pile into Beaver Stadium, a facility that sits at the center of what the commission plans to capitalize on, every football Saturday in State College.

Big-time artists like the Jonas Brothers, Avicii and, soon, Billie Eilish have performed in the Bryce Jordan Center before, but with this new commission and its mentality to "think big," according to Sidwell, more of those big name artists could be brought in to perform.

"We have seven Saturdays a year, roughly, where we have 100,000 people in the stands," Smith said. "What would the economic impact be, what would it mean for job growth, if we could replicate that 10 times, 12 times, more per year and not just with athletic events."

The commission plans to host concerts and has even ex-

plored hosting the NHL's Winter Classic. It has also held conversations with Topgolf to potentially bring one of those to Happy Valley.

Happy Valley Adventure Bureau board member Joe Battista was named chairman of the commission while Sidwell, Penn State's Deputy Athletic Director, was appointed the vice chairman role.

"To be able to give back through the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau has been a dream come true," Battista said. "This sports and entertainment commission, it's so exciting, the energy and the passion that we all have towards this, it's going to be infectious."

Along with the announcement of this commission and its board members, Smith announced that they would also fund the Huddle Up Group, which has given strategic advice to over 100 other commissions like the one that's being announced, to help structure the organization.

They also plan to commission a firm to provide economic impact analysis of all sports in Centre County, such as the State College Spikes, and not just Penn State sports.

Partnerships, like the one with the Huddle Up Group, are a big focus for the commission as Smith stressed the importance of strengthening the relationship with Penn State in the press conference.

"We feel that we've really put a stake in the ground and that we have sent a signal to the entire community, and to our competitors quite frankly," Smith said. "We're serious about this and that it's going to be a great endeavor."

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Jonah Rosen/Collegian file photo

Chris Funkey embraces his teammate during his time as a goaltender at Penn State.

Freshmen experience ‘weed-out’ courses

By Julia Graver
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

A typical first-year Penn State engineering student experience starts by walking up the steps to the Forum Building, opening the door to a 300-person lecture hall and listening to a CHEM 110 professor for 50 minutes.

Some students said their introductory courses are colloquially referred to as “weed-out” classes, which means some think they’re designed to lessen the number of students in the major — and CHEM 110, Chemical Principles I, has been deemed one of them.

“My roommate did tell me that he knew someone [who] was going to be a chemistry major, and because of CHEM 110 they were already switching,” Layne Simko said. “That was back within the first couple weeks.”

Mary Bojan, teaching professor in the department of chemistry at Penn State, said she believes the course is difficult for students because it’s their first year, and they were probably expecting a high school-level course.

“A lot of our students come to University Park, and they think they know a lot about chemistry from their high school courses, and what we have found over the years is that they don’t know as much as they think they do,” Bojan said. “We don’t want them to find that out after the first exam — we want them to kind of realize right away.”

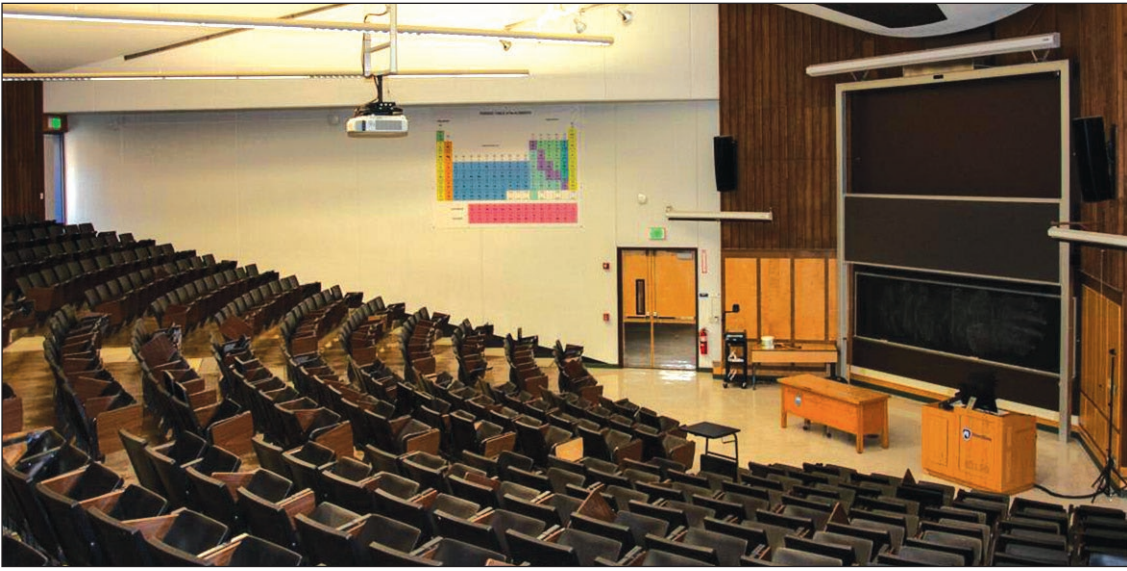
CJ Milke said he noticed this difference when comparing his college and high school science courses.

“I remember walking in on the first day — it was my first college class, and I was like, ‘Oh, God,’” Milke (freshman-engineering) said. “It was very different than a 30-person high school class.”

Simko (freshman-mechanical engineering) also said he feels college courses are “very different from high school.”

“It’s definitely a big change going from that because in the big lectures, you can’t interact with the professor too much compared to in high school — where the teacher knows your name and knows who you are,” Simko said.

Simko said the workload and assignments students have to do are “definitely more” than he thought in college.



Ryan Bowman/Collegian

Freshmen engineering students attend their lecture classes, ones they classify as “weed-out” courses, in the Forum building.

Milke said he typically spends “six to eight hours” a week for CHEM 110 between homework and studying.

However, Bojan said students are “expected to do a lot” on their own for the course, such as completing readings and problems.

“In high school, you are generally told absolutely everything,” Bojan said. “That is not a criticism, it’s just how high school sciences work.”

However, Bojan said she fully believes students are capable of completing CHEM 110.

“The students can do it — they are capable of doing what we ask of them in college,” Bojan said. “This is not because they can’t do it, it’s because they’re not used to it.”

MATH 140, or Calculus With Analytic Geometry, and PHYS 211, General Physics: Mechanics, are also known as “weed-out” classes, students said, because they’re additional entry-level requirements for engineering majors.

Freshman Aiden Hlatky said he dropped MATH 140 and will “go at it with a different approach” this spring.

“Going into the first [MATH 140] exam, I just looked over my notes before the exam,” Hlatky (freshman-architectural engineering) said. “I didn’t really study, and [the exam] was so hard.”

Sarah Bury said she had to adjust her study habits after struggling in MATH 140.

“It’s a big transition from high school,” Bury (freshman-chemical engineering) said. “Before, I didn’t have to study.”

Both Bury and Hlatky said the biggest difference in their study habits is the larger amount of time they put into their work in college.

“I definitely study more and take more detailed notes,” Bury said. “I have studied a lot here. You’re not gonna pass if you don’t study.”

Bury said she dropped PHYS 211 and plans to take it this coming summer.

Hlatky also said he has reconsidered his major overall.

However, Hlatky said “you have to jump through a bunch of flaming hoops to get where you want to be,” and MATH 140 is “one of those flaming hoops.”

Sophomores Alex Romano and Vish Munic said they saw their class sizes lessen over the first semester of their freshman year in PHYS 211.

“I could see how many kids were in [PHYS 211] last year,” Munic (sophomore-aerospace engineering) said. “It was in the 200s in the very beginning, and then, it must have been below 100 at the very end.”

Both Romano (sophomore-aerospace engineering) and Munic had to make studying

adjustments in order to keep up with the course work.

“If you didn’t adapt and take on better study habits, then I don’t think you would be able to pass as a freshman,” Romano said.

Both students said “bombing” the first exam in “weed-out” courses is the wake-up call needed to adapt to the demand of a college-level course.

Munic said he would start studying four to five days in advance instead of “just glancing” over his notes.

Romano said now, he has to “study days in advance ‘times two’ for just one subject.”

Despite the “trial and error” Romano and Munic said they went through to be successful in their studies, both students believe they have since found a way of studying that fits the demands of these courses.

“There was a lot of pressure to be studying because you weren’t confident in what you were learning,” Romano said. “You could pass by doing the lessons and assignments, but to succeed, you have to do something similar to what we did.”

Christine Masters, assistant dean for academic support and global programs and teaching professor of engineering science and mechanics in the College of Engineering, said the university does not intentionally “weed-out” students.

“Every student that we admit

to the College of Engineering we believe has the potential to succeed in completing an engineering degree from Penn State,” Masters said. “The goal behind setting specific course requirements for entry to an engineering major is not about ‘weeding-out’ students, rather, we believe the entry requirements are rooted in developing that core foundation... for engineering students to build their skills.”

Masters also said there has been “a distinct shift in perspective on the idea of supporting students.”

“When I was in school, I definitely felt the perception that, ‘We don’t expect everyone to be here and get to graduation so you better work hard,’ was kind of the underlying message,” Masters said.

Masters said she has not met a professor in her time at Penn State who is not committed to the well-being and prosperity of students.

“Every engineering professor, every math professor, every chemistry professor, every physics professor that I have personally worked with... Every single one I have talked to about why they’re there and how they are conducting their class is always around a genuine desire to help students learn the material,” Masters said.

While many students struggle with “weed-out” classes, Romano said there are some benefits to taking difficult courses.

“You don’t realize how much time and effort you put into something [until] you look back on it and you reflect,” Romano said. “Looking back on what we did to study for [‘weed-out’ classes], it was an immense amount of just studying, and it’s like, ‘I can’t believe I had the mentality to do that.’”

Romano said it’s important to find a balance between studying and keeping yourself healthy.

“Take care of yourself — you need sleep, [and] you need to be eating,” Romano said. “It sounds kind of crazy, but some kids will just not eat as much because they want to cram.”

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

What flicks get students in the holiday spirit?

By Olivia Woodring
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

With Thanksgiving break approaching, many Penn State students have begun reminiscing on family traditions and season-favorite movies or TV episodes to stream — wherever and however they may be celebrating this year.

Dominic Pozo said he plans to “eat food with family and see friends.”

Pozo (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said some of his favorite movies to watch with family are “How The Grinch Stole Christmas” with Jim Carrey, as well as “The Polar Express” — two holiday classics.

Erica Prushinski is also a fan

of “The Grinch” and said she will begin watching Christmas movies over Thanksgiving break until the end of December.

While watching “The Grinch” and other holiday movies, Prushinski (freshman-engineering) said her family puts up their Christmas tree on Black Friday.

“It is relaxing,” Prushinski said.

Camryn Chaffee tunes into holiday favorites as well, and she said “constant Christmas movies” play while her family decorates the house.

“The Friday after Thanksgiving, we help [my mom] take our 14 bins of Christmas decorations upstairs,” Chaffee said.

She said while they decorate

for three days, holiday specials play in the background.

Some of Chaffee’s favorites include “The Year Without a Santa Claus,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” and “Santa Claus Is Comin’ to Town” — all products of Rankin/Bass Animated Entertainment and its puppet-like animation, she said.

Traveling to new places for the Thanksgiving break, William Engel and Molly Gould will keep traditions and holiday favorites alive — despite being away from home.

Engel (freshman-finance) said he will travel to New York for Thanksgiving, yet he still plans to stream his favorite holiday movie — “Free Birds.”

“If you have never seen it, it is

hilarious,” Engel said.

And, Gould (freshman-criminology and psychology) said she will travel outside of the country with her family.

“We are going around Iceland and ending in Reykjavik, which is the capital — and that’s where we are having our Thanksgiving dinner,” Gould said.

Notwithstanding the change of scenery, Gould said the “Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade” will always remain one of her favorites.

Katherine Maloney said the televised parade “is always on while [her family is] cooking the turkey.”

Additionally, Emily St. Laurent (senior-nursing) agrees, and she

said, on top of the parade, she enjoys watching “any Charlie Brown movies and football.”

Rayna Seidenfrau (freshman-communications) said she also opts for the Charlie Brown and Snoopy films — “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” being one of her top picks.

Maloney (sophomore-chemical engineering) said it’s hard to pick favorites when it comes to seasonal films, but “the cheesy Hallmark [specials] are so good.”

Even when it’s not time to celebrate the holidays, Maloney said she loves watching her seasonal favorites.

“I will watch [holiday movies] whenever.”

Professor’s work challenges gender norms

By Katelyn Garcia
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

When Theresa Vescio’s daughter was in fourth grade, she came home angry at a neighborhood boy who praised her for running fast for a girl — to which she replied, “I’m just faster than him, I’m just fast.”

Today, Vescio said her daughter wouldn’t notice a comment like this, which she said shows that her daughter has started to expect these types of comments.

Vescio is a professor of psychology and women’s gender and sexuality studies at Penn State, and her research focuses on the effects of stereotypes on marginalized communities and the cultural ideology of masculinity.

Her interest in research began in the study of subtle sexism, which emerged from her experience on her graduate school’s coed softball team.

“I’d step up to bat, and you’d have to wait for the whole

outfield to come in and stand behind third base, and then when you’d hit over their head — which you could’ve done in the third grade — they act like it’s so shocking,” Vescio said.

Although praised, she said she was never able to play positions on the team that reflected her skill — a form of “sugar-coated” sexism.

Through her research, she investigates both men’s and women’s endorsement of masculinity. She said masculinity is the idea of the “good man,” where men should be “strong, powerful, tough and nothing like women.”

“We look at how men might internalize those norms — even though most men can’t possibly live up to these ridiculously high standards,” Vescio said.

According to Vescio, masculinity is a cultural value strived for by both men and women. Since masculinity is universally valued, men can negatively react when it’s threatened, she said.

Vescio measures the reaction of men by threatening their masculinity in her research — threats she said lead to men’s self-reported likelihood of sexually harassing and objectifying women, among other reactions.

In a current paper under review, Vescio said her findings point toward different trends, such as acceptance of political leaders accused of sexual

violence and disbelief of women accusers based on the endorsement of masculinity.

Outside of her research, Vescio teaches a first-year seminar on social inequalities and change, a senior psychology seminar and an honors research methods class for psychology majors and minors.

“Dr. Vescio has been absolutely instrumental in my development as a researcher,” Nathaniel Schermerhorn said. “She has pushed me to develop research questions that integrate various theoretical frameworks and that have real-world applications.”

Schermerhorn (graduate-psychology) said he is currently researching hegemonic masculinity, or a “culturally exalted form of masculinity that influences people’s behaviors and attitudes,” he said, in relation to political engagement with Vescio.

He said Vescio’s approach to her research “ensures ethical, transparent and rigorous research standards.”

Karleigh Veglia said Vescio is a “phenomenal” researcher because she makes sure students have an “equal contribution to the laboratory.”

As a professor, Vescio “encourages” her students and “makes sure they can think critically through any situation in the psychology field,” Veglia (senior-psychology) said.

“Many classes that I had prior to taking her class emphasize memorization and do not make connections to the real world,” Veglia said. “I learned how to conduct research from Dr. Vescio, and I am a better researcher because of it.”

Veglia said she’s currently working on two studies with Vescio, which will be presented at the Society for Social and Personality Psychology conference in San Francisco this February.

Some of Vescio’s most recent work focuses on masculinity in regards to former President Donald Trump’s election, the response to the coronavirus pandemic and racialized discrimination.

When looking at her research, Vescio said keeping the gender binary in mind is crucial.

“This is all about who is the default person and who is othered,” Vescio said.

To combat this, Vescio said to pay attention to ideas of certain groups and the compassion toward them, as well as the “surprised effect... that lets you know you have lower expectations for one group over another.”

“Younger generations, your cohorts are going to make huge strides here,” Vescio said. “Questioning the gender binary, being more pro-LGBTQ+ across the board — those [are] things that challenge the binary.”



Jillian Wesner/Collegian

Psychology Professor Theresa Vescio uses her research and coursework to challenge society’s gender norms.