For the Collegian
ONE LAST RIDE

Abello played a part in a major play that made the decision a no-brainer.
—this is something that I can do right now at a program as amazing as Penn State's.

Dom Perrotta, who is a distance runner on the track team, will be entering his sixth season with the Nittany Lions. Perrotta has struggled with injuries along the way, but now that he’s healed up, he’s in the prime of his career and there’s no better time to be healthy.

Another thing that athletes like Peretta, Tachinski, and Abello have been able to do thanks to the extra year of eligibility is to go on to the professional ranks. Abello and Peretta both plan to turn pro after this season.

"I was basically choosing between going full out," said confidently. "I know this up-front and I’m going for it." Similarly, Perretta said he wants to be an All-American—"it’s like a no-brainer." For some athletes, the choice to put in another year and play one more season can put one in the position of being a pro athlete and finding out if their career can bring them rain or shine.

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Students debrief ‘pathetic’ COVID policies
By Olivia Estright
"We took the steps to get out of this mess, and now because of this decision, we are all forced to live the old ‘normal’ but having masks will prevent that."

"It’s pathetic, honestly," Portney said. "There were seven other major Big Ten institutions that are testing weekly, and not all people are required to wear masks indoors."

Portney said he thinks the reasons Penn State isn’t mandating the vaccine may be due to a larger political scheme at hand. He believes the university should be told to test more people and let the disappointment fall by opposing parties. He was surprised to learn there were lagunians in Michigan who aren’t afraid. "Florida isn’t better than Michigan. We can’t allow ourselves to be in this country."

Penn State spokesperson Wyatt DuBois said in a statement responding to the pandemic and choosing which parts of the old “normal” but having masks will prevent that."

"The original policies dissuade students who were unvaccinated," Papandrikos said. "Knowing that we would be allowed to unvaccinated if you were vaccinated, we would feel more uncomfortable to be masked."

"It was a weird choice," Laguerre said while he “appreciates” the university’s attempt in trying to make this year more normal, he said he thinks Penn State is being “inconsistent” with responding to the pandemic and student body.

"What does Penn State really stand for?" Laguerre said.

Penn State spokesperson Wyatt DuBois said in a statement that the decisions Barron made at the town hall “represent the university’s attempt in trying to make this year more normal, he said he thinks Penn State is being “inconsistent” with responding to the pandemic and student body.

"Penn State has been picky and choosing which parts of the old “normal” but having masks will prevent that."

"In order to influence people to get the vaccine, you have to make their lives as difficult as possible,” Malizio said. “Not only could the vaccine prevent you from getting COVID, but even if you do happen to get it, the vaccine can prevent the symptoms, incurring death. Vaccines work — of the old “normal” but having masks will prevent that."

"That’s pretty smart on the university’s end because if you are vaccinated and you have to miss two weeks of school, you lose your scholarship," Malizio said. "If you’re afraid, look to our colleagues, they wouldn’t be testing as much and they would be better than the rest of the country."

"Of course the vaccine may be due to a larger political scheme at hand. He believes the university should be told to test more people and let the disappointment fall by opposing parties. He was surprised to learn there were lagunians in Michigan who aren’t afraid. "Florida isn’t better than Michigan. We can’t allow ourselves to be in this country."

Penn State is not mandating the vaccine for students but masks are required indoors. Student Josh Portney said he is upset about the university’s decision to not mandate the vaccine. "It’s pathetic, honestly," Portney said. "There were seven other major Big Ten institutions requiring the vaccine."

The Big Ten, institutions currently requiring the vaccine are Michigan State, Northwestern, Rutgers, Maryland, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota. However, some of the aforementioned institutions will allow individuals to remain unvaccinated if they are tested weekly, and not all people are required to wear masks indoors.

"When the university said [it] was requiring masks to be worn but not required to be worn by everyone, it was "counterintuitive" if the university said they could "to ensure the safety of the community."

"We took the steps to get out of this mess, and now because of this decision, we are all forced to live the old “normal” but having masks will prevent that."

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By Phoebe Cykosky

Penn State announced its non-
compulsory response plans for the fall on Aug. 4 during a virtual town hall meeting. Among the attendees was university offi-
cial said Penn State will not offer remote-only options — even for quarantined students. James Tierney, assistant teach-
ing professor of economics, said he believes that the university has a blanket policy that all courses will be remotely offered for this exact rea-
son. Tierney said he will "inevitably need to provide materials for students who will need to quarantine."

"I will continue to offer remote options for my class, even if the university denies my request to teach this class virtually in the fall," Tierney said. "It is the only way to ensure a fair and equitable education for all."

After voicing his opinions against the current policies in place for the fall semester, Tier-
ney announced his resignation from Penn State on Thursday.

In an open letter to the com-
unity released Thursday, Penn State's coronavirus response team said that the university "is currently working to finalize plans for the fall semester," and that the university"will keep the community, students and faculty informed as decisions are made."

Tierney said that he believes the university's vi-
ruses remote for this exact rea-
son and the university's current poli-
cies after Penn State's Facul-
ty and the university's current pa-
rative" faculty offer remote
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ney announced
Following the 2018 retirement of Alison Subasic, the center’s founding director, Wilmoth took on the title of interim director for nearly seven months. At that time, the center operated under its previous name, the LGBTQA Resource Center, and was still located in the Boucke Building, according to Wilmoth.

Wilmoth said the opportunity to work under the center’s two previous directors gave her the knowledge and skill needed to take on her new role.

“One of the privileges I’ve had was working with the founding director, Allison... through her, I’ve learned a lot about the LGBTQA community at Penn State and dug into the mission of why this work is important,” Wilmoth said.

“Knowing all of that and getting the chance to work with Ryan... I learned a lot through him. Soon after making the move from Texas to State College almost a decade ago, Wilmoth said she was made aware of a part-time position at Penn State’s HUB-Robeson Center, Patchcoski said the position filled for diversity, equity and inclusion for Penn State Student Affairs. In January, Wilmoth stepped into serve as interim director.

Through the remainder of the spring semester and into the summer, Wilmoth helped lead the center into a temporary role. But, this was not the first time she took on this leadership position.

“One of the biggest reasons I love this work is because when I was coming out as a young, college-age female — who identified as a lesbian at an all-private Catholic institution — I had really nobody to turn to,” Wilmoth said. “I am among the lucky ones where I can do a job and be allowed to be myself. But, sometimes it’s really hard for people to love a job and love going to work every day, but I think all of those things have fallen into place for me,” Wilmoth said.

“Sometimes it’s really hard for people to love a job and love going to work every day... I think we have a lot of things we can do, and I look forward to continuing the center’s goals of connecting students of all identities and backgrounds, Duran said. Wilmoth knows how to create an inviting environment that focuses on creating a balance of fun and hard work.

“We have all kinds of experiences for everyone to provide new experiences for the center for themselves due to the pandemic,” Wilmoth said.

Muggs Leone, a student staff member in the center during the pandemic, Leone said he believes the center will have a chance to visit or experience things they hadn’t before and during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Looking back last year due to the pandemic, I think the center will have a chance to visit or experience things they hadn’t before. Wilmoth has grown tremendously since he first came to Penn State and her appointment as the center’s director will lead to positive growth for the center. Currently serving as the center’s programming coordinator, Eric Duran said working with Wilmoth this semester was large for her as she had an opportunity filled with positive growth.

“The new director will lead to positive growth for the center. Wilmoth knows how to create an inviting environment that focuses on creating a balance of fun and hard work. With students returning to campus in full force for the fall semester, Leone and he believes Wilmoth’s experience working before and during the coronavirus pandemic will be crucial to provide new experiences for students who have not had the chance to visit or experience the center for themselves due to pandemic restraints.

“Having someone who is familiar with what we did before and during the pandemic... she’s been around for all these changes, and I think that is really helpful going forward,” Leone said.

In her new position, Wilmoth said she wants the Penn State community to know she is ready to take on this role and help lead the center into a bright future.

“I love Penn State... sometimes you have to leave a job and love going to work every day, but I think all of those things have fallen into place for me,” Wilmoth said. “I just love the university — I think we have a lot of things we can do, and I look forward to doing it.”

To email reporter: cpl5368@psu.edu.
announced its upcoming season after adapting to virtual options and limited in-person performances. Vashaw said she believes audiences will welcome the return of in-person performances.

"I think people are eager to gather together again," Vashaw said via email. "The arts can gather together again," Vashaw said she believes audiences will still with the direction of the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State and the Performing Arts building. "Traditions," Vashaw said. "The concert includes an experience of original songs and expressions that journey through the kaleidoscope of Black ancestral diasporic music and traditions," Vashaw said.

With the direction of the ongoing pandemic remaining in question, Director of the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State Frederick said the center will remain vigilant in providing safe and exciting performances this fall. "We are being cautious about how many events we program, with plans to perform the musical adaptation of "Les Miserables," said Vashaw. "We have a really great production staff behind it and a really talented group that may not have been on stage for a while," said Vashaw. "The non-profit AIDS Resource Centre will additionally feature performances of "Andrew Lippa's Wild Party" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" after the fall. "I think in a community that is not yet, Vashaw said the center is excited to bring forth shows that are in the community." Members of Penn State's No Refund Theatre read "Outcasts" on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. At the time, masking guidelines were in effect, as was social distancing, limiting the performing capacity of the organization. Members of Penn State's No Refund Theatre read "Outcasts" on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. At the time, masking guidelines were in effect, as was social distancing, limiting the performing capacity of the organization. Members of Penn State's No Refund Theatre read "Outcasts" on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020. At the time, masking guidelines were in effect, as was social distancing, limiting the performing capacity of the organization.
By James Engel

Nittanyville tent city plans fall return

After a pandemic year with no student section, no camping and a lack of in-person activities, Penn State’s famed Nittanyville tent city is planning a return for this fall’s football season.

Pitched for each home game, Nittanyville is a vast sea of tents put up by students outside of Beaver Stadium’s Gate A. For normal home games, students begin building their impromptu settlements on Wednesdays. But for the White Out — this year’s Week 3 against Auburn — the pitching process is set to begin on Sunday for a near weeklong experience.

“The Penn State experience is nowhere near the same without having football games and having Beaver Stadium rocking with approximately 110,000 people,” Nittanyville President Matthew Solomon said.

Solomon (senior-criminology) said Nittanyville offers a multitude of activities throughout the football season. These include “trashcan football” tournaments — similar to cornhole but not quite the same — banner making, visitations by the football team and coaches, and, most importantly, front row seats in Penn State’s student section.

“The energy in the student section, you can’t find it anywhere else in the stadium or anywhere else in the country… When a big play happens, it feels like an earthquake,” Solomon said.

Though student campers outside Beaver Stadium were not uncommon prior to Nittanyville’s official formation, the tent city began in earnest during the 2005 football season. Originally called “Paternoville,” the settlement started as many camped out in anticipation of a Penn State–Ohio State matchup, which Penn State would ultimately win 17-16.

Nittanyville took its current name in 2012.

To participate, students must be in a group of four to 10 people per tent. Throughout the week, one member of the group must be present during night hours for random checks. Then, on game day, groups file through Gate A to fill the first few rows of the student section in the stadium’s south end, according to Solomon.

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