

DISABILITIES DURING COVID-19

By Christina Baker

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Americans have been instructed to stand six feet away from others, wear masks and wash their hands frequently.

Devin Adams, however, is unable to judge how far 6 feet is.

“Obviously I want to follow social distancing [guidelines],” Adams (junior-rehabilitation and human services) said. “But sometimes I might unintentionally go closer than that to someone.”

Adams, who is partially blind, has to take people with her when she goes to the grocery store because she can’t read the arrows on the floor intending to guide foot traffic.

Adams also can’t tell whether people around her are wearing masks, which she said makes her uncomfortable.

Just as there are many different ways one can be disabled, the coronavirus has had a wide and varied effect on the lives of Penn State students with disabilities.

When Cassandra Kizis first moved back home with her family in March when Penn State moved its semester online, her life was just like most college students’ lives at the time.

However, when she came back to Penn State for the fall semester, she started to notice her hearing impairment affected her more than usual.

When Kizis (senior-geography and political science) tries to have a conversation with someone wearing a mask, it’s often hard for her to understand what they’re saying.

Masks muffle people’s voices and make it impossible to read lips, she said, and the problems become more pronounced because she has to stand six feet away from whoever she’s talking to.

“But luckily people have been very considerate,” Kizis said. “And when I tell them I’m having a hard time hearing because of the mask wearing, they’ve been [able to] project their voices more and help me out.”

For this reason, Kizis prefers taking online classes.

People don’t need to wear masks, and she can turn the volume on her laptop up or down as she needs.

Percy Sill, who has autism and ADHD, didn’t return to his hometown when classes went online last semester, and has spent the last nine months living alone on campus.

People with autism often engage in “stimming,” self-stimulating behaviors that usually yield a lot of sensory input.

For Sill (sophomore-digital art and media design) this looks like playing with fidget toys, waving his hands around and repeating phrases and noises.

However, Sill said he sometimes feels pressured to hide these behaviors when he’s around others.

Becoming more comfortable with stimming, by himself and around others, is “one of the few positive things” to come out of the coronavirus quarantine, Sill said.

His ADHD, on the other hand, was a profoundly negative thing for Sill.

Sill’s classes during the spring and summer were mostly taught asynchronously, and he said the lack of routine made it hard for him to complete his classwork.

“It was very difficult for me to get stuff done during the time and just being alone and having no one to bounce off of, if that makes sense,” Sill said. “[No one] to look out for me.”

Sill has depression and anxiety, which are very common in individuals with autism and ADHD, and said the isolation of the pandemic had a severe negative impact on his mental health.

“There was a point of the summer where my depression was just so bad I could barely — all I could do was, like, shower and eat. And then I would get back in bed,” Sill said. “It’s been really difficult, and even just little things that stacked up on each other about living alone — I don’t know, it’s just difficult.”

Meanwhile, for some, coronavirus regulations have made their lives easier.

Amy Mook has transverse myelitis, which impacts her ability to walk.

Although the transition to remote learning was stressful and difficult for Mook at first, she thoroughly prefers online classes.

Mook (senior-biology) usually isn’t able to take back-to-back classes and was worried that she wouldn’t be able to take some graduation requirements this semester.

Now that the university is mostly remote, taking back-to-back classes is as simple as closing and opening a Zoom window.

“I wouldn’t be able to have that freedom if the pandemic wouldn’t have happened,” Mook said.

Mook has also enjoyed the fact that many businesses have put more services online and expanded their delivery options due to coronavirus mitigation efforts.

“Whereas [before the pandemic] I would have to worry about getting into buildings and how far I’d have to walk to do certain experiences, a lot of those sort of obstacles that are more physical are now online,” Mook said. “That’s really expanded the resources that are available to me.”

Mook noted that people with other disabilities have had a much more challenging pandemic experience.

Stress and isolation can impact people’s health, and many disabled people are immunocompromised, Mook said.

“The unknown of everything has definitely put a weight on me,” Mook said. “[I need] to really make sure that I’m taking care of myself, but other people may not have access to services.”

Adjusting to the pandemic looks different for everyone. For some people, accommodations can be made, but others have to be patient.

For Adams, coping with the pandemic means being open about her needs.

Adams’ blindness is so severe that she has a white cane, but she usually avoids using it.

She’s been considering using it more now so people know to distance themselves from her if she’s not following social distancing guidelines.

“I guess [coping means] just being more willing to ask for help when I need it,” Adams said. “So if there’s marked off seats in the classroom or something like that, saying to the professor, ‘I can’t see which seats we’re allowed to sit in and which seats we’re not.’”

Kizis, who is the president of Penn State’s Access Club, said it’s important that as Penn State tries to adjust to the pandemic, administrators consult students with intellectual and physical disabilities to make sure that they can adjust to the technology and get the support they need.

Kizis said the Student Disability Resources office has contacted her and other students with disabilities to make sure they have proper accommodations.

MIS starts chapter at Penn State

By Mar cayla Connell
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In a response to a lack of representation of marginalized groups within the sports industry, Shaina Wiel, a Penn State alumna, founded Minorities in Sports, an organization meant to empower and connect minorities working in the sports industry.

MIS started about four and a half years ago as a group chat.

It was meant to be a safe space for minorities interested in working in sports to talk and connect.

Then, Wiel had the idea to turn this group chat into an organization.

“I realized it was a company and something that was needed to diversify the business side of sports,” Wiel said.

Wiel said she would like to see more people of color and women of color in revenue-driving roles and leadership positions.

“We need more [minorities] in executive positions and decision-making positions... [women of color in sports] are killing the game, but they are few and far between,” Wiel said. “I definitely feel like we need more in non-traditional roles.”

Wiel is currently running Minorities in Sports full-time and is working to formalize partnerships to help diversity needs through recruitments, programs, retainment efforts, branding and sponsorships.

She is also teaching this fall at both Georgetown University and West Virginia University.

With a few chapters of MIS already in place at other universities, the organization is expanding with a digital hub of over 1,000 sports professionals, and is growing daily.

Being that Wiel is a Penn State alumna, she had long wanted to start a chapter of MIS at Penn State but needed the assistance of current students to do so.

When Penn State student Ayomide Aremu-Cole connected

with Wiel through LinkedIn, the opportunity arose to found a MIS chapter at Penn State.

Wiel asked Aremu-Cole (senior-economics) if he would be interested in helping her create the chapter at her alma mater, and he gladly accepted the challenge.

“It was a very fortunate meeting [Wiel] and it ended with me getting a nice challenge and something to do throughout the summer and during the pandemic, so I am very grateful for that,” Aremu-Cole said.

The process of starting an MIS chapter was not necessarily difficult, but came with many anxieties for Aremu-Cole.

He said there are many nuances and details that come with starting an organization, like meticulous planning, finding the right people to be members and meeting deadlines.

“There are many moving parts to it,” Aremu-Cole said.

He believes this organization is important as it gives minority students access to a network of professionals and opportunities that aren’t necessarily available or afforded to them in the sports industry, which he said will hopefully allow for further professional development, growth and upward mobility.

Aside from the sports industry, Aremu-Cole said he realized there is a void in the information accessible to minorities in America, issues he has spoken to the president and board of the organization about.

In the future, the group hopes to add wellness workshops, financial literacy events and sports networking and development events.

“Not only do we want to help them develop professionally, we also want to help them develop as people in any way that we can,” Aremu-Cole said.

Aremu-Cole found who is now the president of Penn State’s MIS chapter, Toya Gordon, by

networking via LinkedIn as well.

Aremu-Cole said since he is a senior himself, he would be preoccupied with school work and graduation and, while he is a great creative thinker, he is not the best with day-to-day operations.

This meant finding someone else to be president of MIS at Penn State would be the best choice.

Aremu-Cole said Gordon (senior-management) helped him with the organization’s registration process and recruited what he thinks is a “phenomenal, strong executive board.”

“With the executive board we have now I think we will achieve all of the goals we set out for the year,” Aremu-Cole said. “I’m very proud to have worked on this project with so many great people.

“I hope MIS can grow into something that makes a huge difference in the Penn State community.”

Gordon wanted to be a part of this organization because she has always been very passionate about sports and can see what she said is an obvious lack of

minorities within the sports industry.

“Sports are obviously white-male dominated, even more specifically at Penn State,” Gordon said. “You don’t often see minorities reflected in [sports positions].”

Gordon said she believes the lack of representation and opportunities at Penn State is not a single experience or problem — rather, it is reflective of a much larger issue minorities experience everywhere.

“It is harder for minorities to get their foot in the door,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have direct connections to people and opportunities it’s a lot harder. It may cause [someone] to be overlooked, which is why MIS is so important. It breaks down barriers for minorities to access [information and opportunities] within the sports industry.”

Gordon said she realizes the presidency is a huge role, but she’s “never [backed down] from a challenge.”

As a Black woman, Gordon said she hopes MIS will be a safe space where students can not only talk about sports but bond

and confide in each other if they need support.

“I want to see everybody succeed,” Gordon said. “I want everyone to get the job or internship they want. I want them to do what makes them happy, and for me, sports really make me happy.”

Students who join MIS at Penn State this semester can explore different career avenues and job possibilities within the sports industry, such as sports medicine, journalism, business and more.

The chapter will also hold resume workshops, networking events and sports industry panels.

Wiel is excited her organization finally has a chapter at Penn State and believes MIS “will create and provide the connections and resources their white counterparts will have.”

“[The organization] being available to Penn State students will delete some of the barriers minorities encounter,” Wiel said. “It would have made my [career journey] a lot easier.”

To email reporter: mic5674@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @marcaylaaimani.



Collegian Creative

How COVID affects campus dining sustainability

By Quincey Reese
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the retirement of Penn State’s Green2Go program due to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coronavirus guidelines, Housing and Food Services has switched to a single-use, disposable food packaging approach to promote student safety.

HFS sustainability coordinator Anna Sostarecz said via email the CDC regulations for dining settings discouraged using containers or utensils brought in by customers, as well as shared items such as condiments and menus.

Sostarecz added that the use of disposable food service items, like silverware and dishes, was strongly encouraged.

Employees would also be required to wash their hands after removing their gloves or directly handling food service items.

According to the CDC guidelines, the only alternative to this method involves washing dishes with soap and hot water while wearing gloves, or placing dishes in a dishwasher.

Because of these guidelines, Sostarecz said HFS found the use of disposable dishware to be safer and more practical than the typical reusable dishware and Green2Go containers.

She also said the existing set-up of the Green2Go pro-

gram would require multiple exchanges per transaction between cashiers and students, which she said would create too many “unnecessary contact points.”

With these considerations in mind, HFS decided to drop the Green2Go system and switch to an entirely to-go food service with exclusively disposable food service items, including styrofoam containers, plastic silverware, single-serve condiments and plastic boxes and bags.

“The team did not feel the logistical flow of the Green2Go system would be safe for our guests,” Sostarecz said.

Additionally, Sostarecz said her sustainability team in HFS is still committed to sustainability within the dining halls.

While the Green2Go system has ended, Sostarecz said HFS is taking time to reevaluate how the program will operate for future use, which might push the creation of another sustainable dining program back to late fall or early in the spring semester.

Sostarecz said she and her team are working on a number of changes, including adding barcodes to the containers for better tracking, eliminating the need to interact with a cashier and integrating the containers into the Penn State Eats app.

Grace Joseph — the assistant program coordinator for the dining committee in EcoReps, a

student organization that serves as peer educators for sustainability — said although the temporary replacement of Green2Go with disposable packaging is a “big disappointment,” she understands HFS’s decision.

“Before COVID, climate change was a huge threat to human health, so that made Green2Go a great option,” Joseph (junior-nutrition) said. “But now, with the threat of COVID being more imminent than climate change, I think that it’s what dining had to do.”

Joseph said it is hard to predict exactly what effects will arise from the increase in waste production as a result of using more disposable food service items, but she is concerned the university might not have enough recyclable material to meet the state requirements necessary to recycle certain items.

She added, however, that the increase in waste production might encourage students to be more sustainable moving forward.

“I think it’s really disturbing to the students to see plastic and styrofoam containers piling up in the residence halls,” Joseph said. “One potential benefit in all of it is that it could open students’ eyes to all of the waste that’s produced by using styrofoam and plastic instead of reusable containers.”

Justin Chan, who practices and is interested in environ-

mental sustainability, said he understands why the university cannot use the Green2Go program for the time being, but does not approve of the current dining system either.

Chan (junior-actuarial science) said he believes HFS should instead use compostable or biodegradable containers instead of the styrofoam ones that are currently in place.

“The whole thing is horrible,” Chan said. “I understand the safety, but I don’t understand why everything needs to be in plastic bags.”

Chan said he had to ask dining hall employees not to put his food container and silverware in a plastic bag in the Waring and Pollock Commons, as the workers typically do this automatically.

Chan said the university also placed plastic bags for trash disposal outside of certain buildings across campus to manage the increase in dining hall-produced waste, which he said only adds to the waste issue.

“It’s going to fill up landfills faster and lead to climate change in the long run, and it doesn’t seem like Penn State really cares about that,” Chan said.

Chan said the university should switch to compostable food containers and switch from plastic to paper bags, which can be recycled. He added that residential dining could also only offer the plastic bags upon request if the paper bags are not an effective option.

Additionally, Chan said students can play a role by contacting HFS and asking that the current system be changed, and by using their own reusable silverware and not taking a plastic bag or plastic water bottle.

Similarly, Joseph suggested students buy their own condiments to leave in their rooms until they want to use them and try more plant-based foods in the dining hall.

Since the dining halls are not composting food waste for the time being, Joseph said students should be more aware of how much food they take.

Joseph also said students can fill out the contact form on the dining website to show HFS that the Green2Go program is a priority to students, emphasizing the importance of student voices in increasing sustainability on campus.

“Students should be aware that they are not completely powerless in this situation and that they can still use their voice and advocate to the university what they want to see,” Joseph said.

Joanne Shafer — deputy director and recycling coordinator at the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority — said although some of the food packaging used in the Penn State dining halls is recyclable, the university does not have the capacity to actually recycle them.

Plastic bags and plastic boxes, like those being used to package fruit and salads, are not recyclable at University Park, according to Shafer.

Shafer said the styrofoam food containers, which are made of a material called polystyrene, are difficult to recycle.

She said these containers would have to be clean and dry in order to be collected, and that the weight of each polystyrene load would have to reach 17 to 22 tons to fit Pennsylvania recycling load size requirements.

When Penn State attempted to recycle polystyrene in previous years, Shafer said it did not even meet 20 tons in an entire year — let alone a single load — because of how lightweight the material is.

Because of these factors, Shafer said polystyrene has a “huge” carbon footprint.

Despite this, however, Shafer said she is more concerned about ensuring that good recycling habits do not subside during the pandemic, as straying from these sustainable practices would have a long-term effect.

“I just celebrated 30 years on the job, which means I have seen a whole generation and a half of young Pennsylvanians grow up with the ethos of ‘reduce, reuse, recycle,’” Shafer said. “If we interrupt that for too big a time, I fear it will be difficult to go back and then the impact will be sustained and long-term.”

Shafer added it is also difficult to tell how the increase in disposables would affect the environment in the short-term, particularly because other environmental issues — such as air pollution and the release of greenhouse gases from driving cars, planes and other vehicles — have decreased during the pandemic.

Shafer also encouraged people to get outside and remind themselves of why it is important that sustainability habits are carried on during and after the pandemic.

“Centre County is a beautiful place,” Shafer said. “If there are opportunities to get out and see the natural world and make that connection, it makes us understand why it’s so important to preserve and conserve it.”

To email reporter: qjr5007@psu.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @quinceyreese.



Collegian File Photo

Bales of recyclable materials sit at the Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority building in Bellefonte, PA. on Nov. 17, 2019.

Making a bright splash in visual arts

By Kit Schroder
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Amara Eke didn't know she wanted to paint until she was a senior in high school.

Four years later, Eke (senior-fine arts) is heading into her last year at Penn State's School of Visual Arts.

Eke said she uses art as not only a creative outlet, but also to highlight her passion for social justice.

"I kind of describe it as a celebration of a marginalized perspective," Eke said.

She is the president of Opulence, Penn State's Drag Ambassadors.

Eke said organizations like Opulence have given her a lot of experience working with queer artists and doing drag herself. She often is collaborating with and working alongside "groups who are mostly at risk and not as represented in media and in art."

"So, I take it upon myself to kind of paint them in a positive light so they can kind of see themselves being recreated in history in a way they may have not been historically as we've seen in any kind of art," Eke said.

Eke said her interest in social justice began when she was younger. During high school, she was involved in student government, feminist clubs and was vocal on social media about social justice.

Eke is currently minoring in art history and women's studies. She said she knew she wanted to implement her women's studies

minor into her art when she took WMNST 100 with Lori Ginzberg.

"[WMNST 100] was super eye-opening and life-changing," Eke said. "I loved taking that class with her. It kind of lays out how we exist now in our culture and sexism, gender oppression and racism."

Eke said some other classes that shaped her art were the intermediate and advanced painting classes.

"The professors are really cool," Eke said. "They ask you about what your focus is, and it's really easy to guide it in the direction you want to go in, even if you might not know what that is right away."

Eke said these classes are a "really cool, creative" environment to make art in. She also said her peers are making art that "may be completely different than what you're working on."

Moreover, Jules Edelmans has known Eke since their freshman year at Penn State when they took an introduction to 2D art class together. This is one of the first classes an art student will take in the BFA track, according to Edelmans.

"I was so impressed by her work immediately and have seen it grow and change so much, in both content and scale," Edelmans (senior-drawing and painting and art education) said. "Her passion, creativity and work ethic are a huge inspiration to me as her peer."

Edelmans said it's hard to walk into the Visual Arts Building and not pop into Eke's studio to see

what she's working on, since it's always something new.

Additionally, Eke said she typically only works with acrylic paints. She prefers acrylics because she said they dry faster, they're not super expensive and the cleanup is relatively simple.

"I use every single color, ever," Eke said. "I never have a color palette. I use everything in the crayon box."

Eke also said she uses some more unconventional materials, like glitter, rhinestones, googly eyes and pipecleaners.

"I like using kind of cheap, kind of kiddy materials," Eke said. "I think it can be a testament to what we think of luxury art. It can make a cool, valuable piece of art without costing as much as something super crystalized would be."

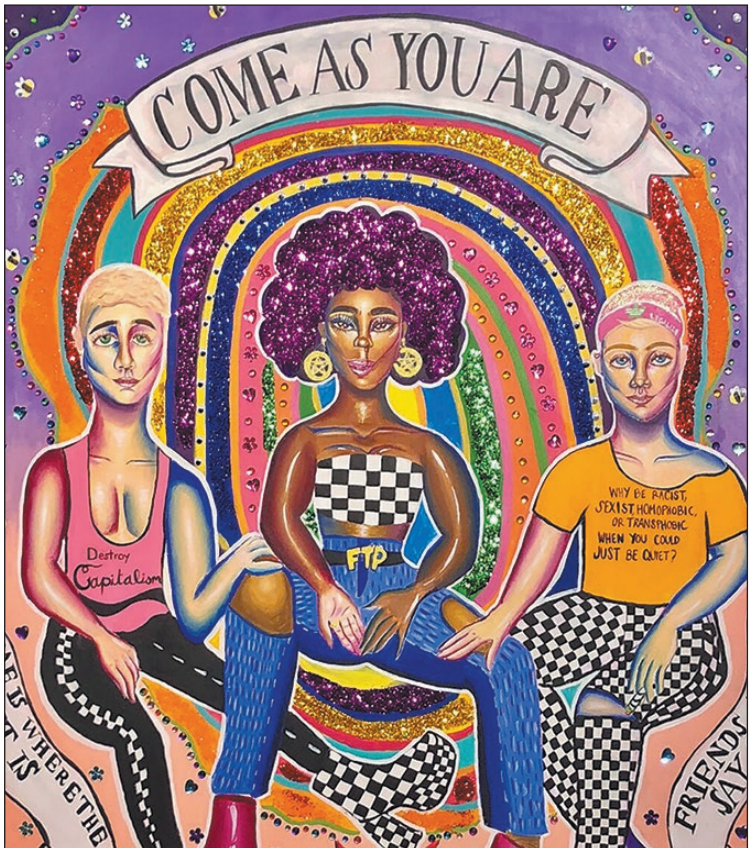
After graduating, Eke said she plans to apply for residencies — hopefully in upstate New York or the Pacific Northwest — to have the opportunity to make art and help others.

Eke has also been inspired by her own professors to teach either art history or women's studies at a collegiate level.

"My professors who taught me were super interesting and fun," Eke said. "I would love to be a part of that for someone."

John Bowman, one of Eke's professors at Penn State, said the department is very excited about what Eke will do with her talents in the future.

"Amara uses lots of bright colors in her pieces," Bowman said. "Her style is very Neo-futurism."



Courtesy of Amara Eke

One of Amara Eke's artworks inspired by social justice issues.

Additionally, Eke said studying art at Penn State is interesting to be a part of because Penn State is not specifically an art school. But, she believes she made the right decision to attend this university instead of an art school, because she has taken a variety of courses.

Finally, Eke said attending Penn State also helped her

determine a possible career path, since Penn State art professors teach and still have their work in galleries. This is something she initially didn't know was possible.

"The possibilities are really endless here," Eke said. "What I've learned here is amazing."

To email reporter: cas7114@psu.edu.
Follow her on Twitter at [@kschro15](https://twitter.com/kschro15).

MY VIEW | CASSANDRA KIDWELL

Yallah Taco's newest location continues to serve great food

State College's popular taco chain Yallah Taco has expanded to a new store at 310 E. College Ave. The location's opening day on Tuesday was the first look into what the newest Yallah store would bring.

I decided to make the trek back to the Taco Bell burial grounds, a place I once knew and loved.

Yallah Taco has big shoes to fill when occupying the building many students mourned for. But

with Yallah's success around town at the two other locations, I think it may do just fine.

I actually went to Yallah Taco during my first tour at Penn State when I was still in high school.

As a Mexican food fanatic, I was pleasantly surprised right away by the queso and the french fries burritos.

Yes, one of Yallah's specialties is a fries and burrito combination in all of the "Monster Burri-

tos," a menu of various burritos the restaurant serves.

I recently learned the store is actually an Arabic-Mexican fusion, which I never realized before. But when analyzing many of the burrito ingredients, it made sense.

The newest location is no exception to Yallah's typical taste and service. Although it was strange to walk out the doors without a crunch wrap supreme on a Friday night, the food pleased me as much as it always has.

I decided to change it up and try the cauliflower tacos and classic nachos to take home to my roommates. Both were delicious, and I was excited to see some vegan and vegetarian options.

Yallah continues to be my favorite place in State College to get fresh tacos, as the serving size of ingredients is perfect for a two-taco meal. I think Yallah is also always sure to load up ingredients on the tacos,

which always taste fresh and delicious.

I also saw a juice menu, which I had never seen at the other locations. The employees said juices would be available next week.

But I think the store still has some work to go. Only part of the menu was available so far, and it seems as if there is some minor interior remodeling necessary.

Though one new feature of the location is a screen that shows when orders are ready, which I think this will certainly help if this Yallah gets as popular as the old Taco Bell was.

I remember waiting 40 minutes in the State College Taco Bell line on any given weekend night. It will be interesting to see if this location stays open as late as Taco Bell, but that is also something that may come when Penn State's nightlife returns as

the spread of the coronavirus ceases.

The store also had pretty décor and ambiance, with a bright-colored theme that can be seen from beyond the restaurant's front doors.

There is the word "Yallah" painted across the store wall, as well as a map of Mexico.

The staff is always so charming and ready to serve. It came as such a surprise to me to find out the first Yallah stand only opened in 2016. It seems like Yallah has been operating in State College for a while.

Overall, I definitely enjoyed my visit to the new Yallah Taco location, and am looking forward to returning.

Cassandra Kidwell is a junior majoring in a digital and print journalism and is the Downtown & Campus blogger for The Daily Collegian. Follow her on Twitter at [@cassiewellkid](https://twitter.com/cassiewellkid) or sent her an email at cpk5376@psu.edu.



James Ricardo/Collegian

Yallah Taco opened at their new location today on College Avenue on Sept. 1.

Covid

FROM Page 1

"For example, they sent me an email saying that if I had in-person classes, they have clear masks to give professors so you could see their lips," Kizis said. "That's really great that they have access to that and they can distribute that to students."

However, Kizis said SDR cannot carry the entire university, and it's important that individual departments also work to accommodate students with disabilities.

Adams said she hopes to eventually resume life as it was before the pandemic. She said she was used to knowing what she needed to do to get around, and the pandemic has made everything uncertain.

"I was studying abroad in the spring semester. I was traveling around Europe. I took a trip from Ireland to the [United Kingdom] for a weekend, completely by myself," Adams said. "Now, I'm nervous to do simple

things. Just because it's so different and there's so much more visual stuff that I could miss. So that's kind of been hard. I feel like I'm just more timid about the things I'm doing, and I feel a little less independent."

Sill said although the coronavirus has been difficult, he appreciated the strides he's made toward accepting his autism.

Previously, when Sill would have breakdowns as a result of his autism, he said he "would not let [himself] experience them."

During the pandemic, he said he's been having them more frequently.

"I don't know if it was because I was having a hard time so I had them more often, or it was just [that] I was just letting myself have them because I was alone and there was nobody to judge me, but I did have a lot more breakdowns," Sill said. "It sounds bad, but it's kind of a good thing, I don't know."

Mook said she has been hoping to do a lot for her

career through telework, and the prevalence of people working from home during the pandemic showed her it's a possibility.

Mook said she hopes in the future Penn State and other institutions will continue the flexibility students have had during remote learning.

"Before, like, if I was having a bad day, I am able to walk some stairs," Mook said. "However, a lot of our buildings, the lecture halls [for example] have some pretty steep stairs. I know that I've expressed this concern to many, that some days I just can't do those stairs, and if you sit in the back, it's really loud."

Mook said she hopes when the pandemic is over she will still have the option to sometimes attend classes online if she needs to.

"I really do feel for everyone that's struggling across the board," Mook said. "But I am excited for the future."

To email reporter: cnb5384@psu.edu.
Follow her on Twitter at [@christybakery](https://twitter.com/christybakery).

Special Edition

PENN "STATE"

CHAMBRAY

MASK



ENJOY 15% OFF ALL
HAND-STICHED MASKS
CODE: PENN15

A portion of all sales support
The Daily Collegian

Visit: <https://savilino.com/products/penn-state-chambray>
To Get Yours Today!

Penn State must improve its coronavirus dashboard

It may seem promising that Penn State has reported only 32 positive coronavirus cases at University Park as of Tuesday, but does that mean Penn State is properly handling its reporting?

Although the university's coronavirus dashboard is updated twice a week, it has created confusion among the university's community, and its lack of transparency and comprehensive data does not help matters.

The dashboard's formatting is puzzling, leading viewers to have to do math that the university would ideally already provide.

The university does not directly tell viewers the number of positive cases per campus (instead, viewers must add the number of weekly positive cases from separate symptomatic and asymptomatic sections). It also

OUR VIEW

Increased accessibility and comprehensive data is imperative to include in the dashboard.

does not report the positivity rate of those tested.

Community members shouldn't struggle to understand something that pertains to their safety.

Additionally, rather than concrete numbers, some campuses' dashboards are currently completely blank.

Of Penn State's campuses on Sept. 2, nine — DuBois, Fayette, Lehigh Valley, New Kensington, Wilkes-Barre, York, College of Medicine (Hershey), Greater Valley and World Campus — reported completely blank coronavirus dashboards for students, according to the dashboard.

All tabs on the dashboard need to be filled out as soon as possible. If tests have not been conducted yet — and subsequent results are not available — the dashboard should clearly communicate this.

Readily available statistics about all campuses are imperative for the safety of all Penn Staters, not just those at University Park.

The university should also be more clear in the information it has reported. For example, University Park has reported 32 total positive cases since Tuesday. Twenty-three students who tested positive are currently in on-campus isolation, while 26

others who believe they came in contact with someone who has the virus are currently in on-campus quarantine.

Where are the nine students who tested positive and aren't in on-campus isolation? If they are living off campus, Penn State should disclose where — and if — these students are isolating.

Additionally, the university should identify where on-campus students lived when they tested positive, similar to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

UNC provided statistics on its dashboard of how many clusters — at least five cases in close proximity to each other — are on

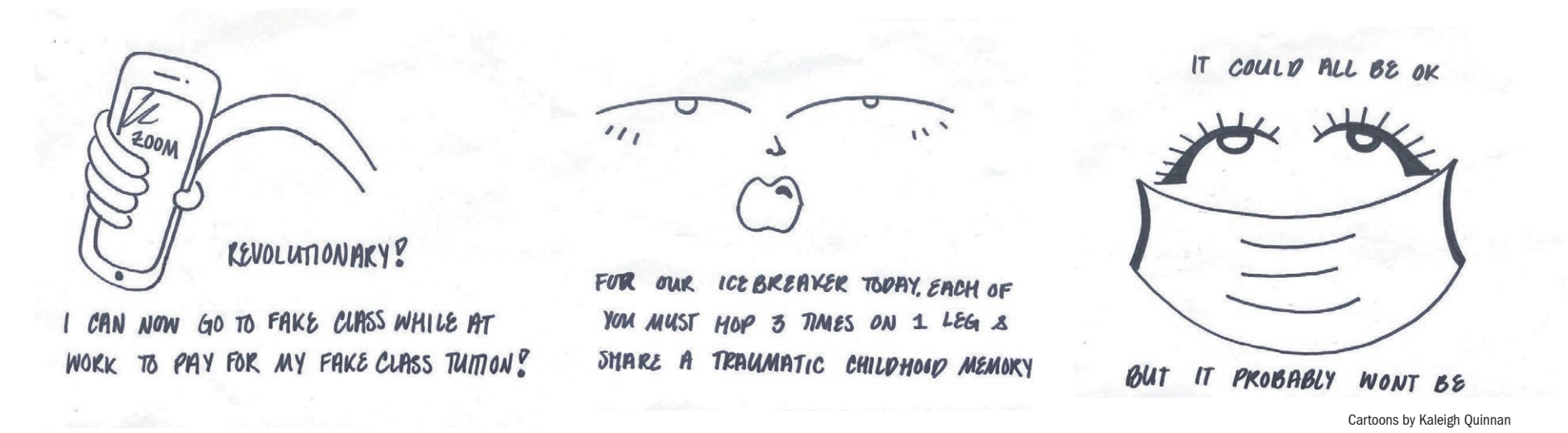
campus.

Similar information should be accessible to Penn State students.

Additionally, many other universities' dashboards include more through coronavirus-related information. For instance, Ohio State's dashboard includes quarantine locations, number of hospitalizations, PPE stock and the method for coronavirus testing. Penn State should do the same.

Ultimately, it does feel optimistic that Penn State has a relatively low number of reported coronavirus cases based on the size of its student population. The university hasn't reached the numbers that universities like UNC, the University of Notre Dame and University of Alabama reached in their first few weeks.

However, that doesn't mean Penn State's coronavirus cases are being properly reported.



Cartoons by Kaleigh Quinnan

MY VIEW | Ava Leone

Don't conform to photoshopped imagery

For as long as I can remember, the Kardashians have cemented themselves into modern-day pop culture as fashion icons and make-up gurus. I grew up seeing their faces splashed across magazine covers and their voices on national television.

Before school dances, I would try to emulate Kim Kardashian's contoured makeup routines, I bought Kylie Jenner's lip kits and I intently watched Khloe Kardashian's workout routines on Snapchat.

I consumed everything they were selling to me, because I thought it was real.

A few months ago, Khloe Kardashian posted a heavily altered selfie on her Instagram that made her look like an almost unrecognizable, glowing Barbie doll. And even after her over 100 million followers questioned her credibility and the original photo of her surfaced online about a week ago, Kardashian still has not admitted to editing it.

Dr. Luke Evans, a member of

"Photoshop perpetuates society's impossible standards for beauty geared toward women..."

Ava Leone

the British Parliament, proposed a bill in the United Kingdom that would require celebrities to label digitally altered images they post as edited.

The bill followed Khloe's post and would require celebrities to admit to airbrushing, photoshopping and altering their photos to their fans. This is in an effort to keep young fans from conforming to an image of perfection that doesn't exist.

Photoshop perpetuates society's impossible standards for beauty geared toward women, strengthens the patriarchy and makes certain girls take up as little place in the world as they possibly can.

Gen Z has grown up with social media where one can scroll through way more digitally altered photographs than real

images. Influencers share pictures with their millions of followers that promote thin waists and thigh gaps, quickly condemning any other construct of beauty.

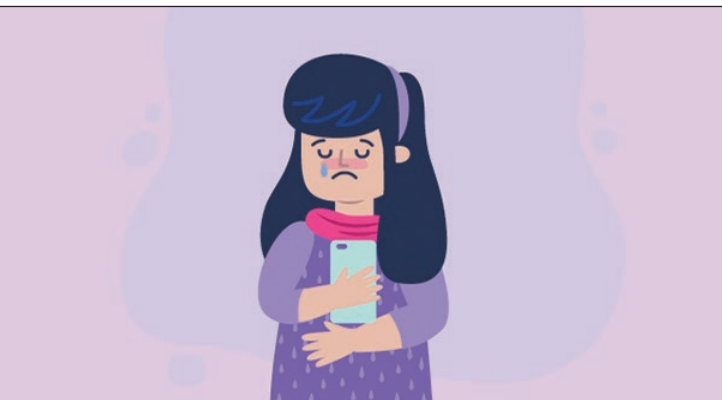
In today's world, women are told they need to spend their time obsessing over how they look in photographs, dieting and working out rather than their achievements.

When celebrities with an immense influence on young people like the Kardashians share airbrushed images on social media and label them as real, they are telling adolescent

girls they have to try to live up to a fantasy.

I believe we should normalize flaws, imperfections, freckles and stretch marks instead of smooth skin and six-pack abs. Women have a lot more to worry about than just their appearance, and maintaining that celebrities need to admit when photos are altered is a step in the right direction.

Ava Leone is a junior majoring in digital and print journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at azl271@psu.edu or follow her on Twitter at [@AvaLeone5](https://twitter.com/AvaLeone5).



Lizzie Bourque/Collegian Creative

We want to hear from you

Send us your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

Email: editorinchief@psucollegian.com
Online: collegian.psu.edu
Postal Mail/In Person: 123 S. Burrowes St., State College, PA 16801

Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include graduation year. All writers should provide their address and phone number for

verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters chosen also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

Who we are

The Daily Collegian's editorial

opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, which is made up of members of its Board of Editors, with the editor in chief holding final responsibility for content. The opinions expressed on the editorial page are not necessarily those of Collegian Inc., a separate institution from Penn State.

About the Collegian

The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and profession-

als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them during the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday and Thursday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

Complaints

News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

DAILY COLLEGIAN

Collegian Inc., James Building, 112 W. Foster Ave.
State College, PA 16801-3882 ©2020 Collegian Inc.

BOARD OF EDITORS

- Editor in Chief**
Maddie Aiken
 - Managing Editor**
Lindsey Toomer
 - Digital Managing Editor**
Shane Connelly
 - News Editor**
Erin Hogge
 - Assistant News Editor**
Grace Miller
 - Sports Editor**
Jake Aferiat
 - Assistant Sports Editor**
Gianna Galli
 - Football Editor**
Benjamin Ferree
 - Lifestyle Editor**
Becky Marcinko
 - Assistant Lifestyle Editor**
Jade Campos
 - Opinion Editor**
Ashley Hayford
 - Photo Editor**
Lily LaRegina
 - Multimedia Editor**
Jessica Cook
 - Assistant Multimedia Editor**
Ben McClary
- To contact News Division:
News, Opinions, Arts, Sports, Photo, Graphics, The Daily Collegian Online and The Weekly Collegian
Phone: 814-865-1828 | Fax: 814-863-1126

BOARD OF MANAGERS

- Business Manager**
Sarah Andriano
 - Vice President**
Lilly Forsyth
 - Advertising Manager**
Scott Witham
 - Creative Director**
Kaylyn McGrory
 - Marketing Director**
Abigail Schucker
 - Business Insights Director**
Adam Rhoad
 - Sales Directors**
Lauren Kang & Quinn Connelly
- To contact Business Division:
Advertising, circulation, accounting and classifieds
Phone: 814-865-2531 | Fax: 814-865-3848
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays

WRESTLING'S RECKONING

*Wrestling needs to confront its race issues
and the Black Wrestling Association is helping to lead the way*

By Jake Aferiat
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

There's long been a race problem in wrestling.

The sport, especially at the collegiate and even more specifically at the Division I level, is one of the whitest in the country.

According to the NCAA's demographic database, from 2008-2018, the median percentage of white head coaches was 92% while the median percentage of white wrestlers was 79% at the Division I level.

Yet, for wrestlers like two-time Indiana All-American Nate Jackson or former Penn State national champion Mark Hall, this lack of diversity in the sport was apparent, though not always immediately.

"I grew up in a predominantly white family and in a predominantly white area," Hall told The Daily Collegian. "On the other hand, I kind of recognized the diversity I was among, but I was too young and didn't really realize Black wrestling success was as rare compared to a lot of white wrestling. It wasn't glaring to me, but it was there."

Jackson's experience was similar to Hall's in that as he got older he began to experience being one of the few Black wrestlers in the wrestling room.

"When I first started my dad actually started a wrestling club and the area he started it in was predominantly Black. And after I had been in that club for about three years I went to another predominantly Black club. So personally I didn't have that experience," Jackson told the Collegian. "I know that there was a shift when I went from those clubs to high school."

Make no mistake though, these issues in representation are very real, and there are other issues in the sport that stem from this lack of representation.

"There are a lot of issues — hiring practices, the pay gap, under-representation especially at the Division I level of coaching, it's an issue. It's an issue of representation across the board," Jackson told the Collegian.

That lack of representation seeps into other aspects of the sport and could even serve as a deterrent to start the sport.

"What that means is that voice for that child who wants to continue to do something, it's gonna be a lot smaller, and then it's going to be a lot less insulat-



Noah Riffe/Collegian

Kerry McCoy, former Penn State wrestler and 1997 Hodge Trophy recipient, is honored during Penn State wrestling's match against Ohio State at the Bryce Jordan Center in University Park, PA on Saturday, Feb. 15.

ed," Jackson said. "So me as an eighth grader, when I'm thinking about choosing between these two sports and over here is this one sport where it's going to be tougher for me to reach the things that I want to reach within that sport, I may choose that sport over a sport like wrestling that I can't really see myself having success in."

Outside of the sports world, this year has seen renewed attention paid to the movement for Black lives and the constant injustice and inhumanity faced by Black people across this country.

The murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and the shooting of Jacob Blake, among countless others, have galvanized, mobilized and organized people of all races, gender identities and cultures to stand in solidarity with the Black community and other marginalized groups across the country to demand justice.

But for Black people living in America, this is nothing new.

"Shortly after the George Floyd situation, we saw how everybody across the country was reacting to it and as Black men, it's like, wait a minute, this could happen to me — you see a lot of people talking about this could be me," former Penn State wrestler and two-time Olympian Kerry McCoy told the Collegian. "Then you see

World and Olympic champions, doctors, lawyers, all very successful people that kind of have that same feeling.

"This isn't just something that's a passing phase — this is something we've grown up with and lived with for our whole lives. And so now you see it isn't just a handful of people, but it is truly something that goes across our culture."

And while the United States is undergoing a reckoning of its own when it comes to race, the wrestling and sports worlds are, too.

On the wrestling stage, the effort to diversify the sport and empower Black wrestlers throughout is being led by the newly-formed Black Wrestling Association, which boasts Jackson and two former Penn Staters — McCoy and Hall — among its 11 founders.

The organization came to be after a conversation between Jackson and former Iowa State national champion Kyven Gadson following the murder of Arbery and began to take shape following George Floyd's

murder.

Jackson felt Floyd's murder was "a paradigm shifter," and was surprised to see so many people react similarly from what he felt was a place of empathy.

As a result, Gadson and Jackson became inspired to do something that would make a

difference and thus began the latent first stages of the BWA.

The organization's mission statement reads: "To Inspire, Connect, and Empower Black Wrestlers and Allies to Grow Wrestling through Representation, Equality and Opportunity."

McCoy, who serves as the BWA's vice president, wanted to ensure the organization had concrete visions and stayed close to the words in its mission statement.

"We're just focusing on Black wrestlers and their accomplishments. For us, it's taking that to the next level to really inspire and empower but also connect whether it's by age, by experience by geographical location, and really to grow wrestling, increase representation, increase equality and increase opportunity," the two-time NCAA champion said.

Also emerging from this desire for social and societal change are Black athletes using their voices and letting their humanity — not athletic ability — define them.

"Being a good wrestler has been a blessing for me, and that's what I know I'm good at but also I know I won't be able to wrestle forever," Hall said. "I would like to be thought of as more than a wrestler. I don't know if I fulfilled that in my head quite yet, but I'm on my way with the people I've surrounded myself with and the groups I'm a part of and the education that I've received."

"I'm going to continue to put myself in the best position to create that man I want to be

so other people can have that inspiration."

Jackson echoed a similar sentiment.

"I think that what you see now is a movement for social change across the board where people are being more than athletes, these people are being more than businessmen, more than lawyers, more than organizations. People are starting to get behind movements and understand the importance and the prominence of really celebrating people," Jackson said. "That's our most valuable resource, so that's kind of what we want to do."

Hall, an Apple Valley, Minnesota, native said there was a period of time where he was "lost" in recent months, but was empowered to find what makes him passionate.

"There were some dark days in there where I'm just thinking I'm a wrestler, but at the end of the day, I have an opportunity to be so much more than that," Hall said. "I was just lost for a while and having the guys that I do around me, helped me find myself and find my purpose in the world and that was really helpful."

Another potential factor at play — so-called "color blindness" — can have damaging effects in the long run, especially when perpetrated by white coaches.

"When you say 'I don't see color,' if you're a coach and you don't see color, that's a big red flag because now if whatever percent of your team is athletes of color, you have to see color," McCoy, who spent 16 years as a Division I head coach, said. "Because now you really go into the point where you just see X's and O's and times and yards and carries and free throws — all those different things. So, I think it's important when you start seeing that it is for coaches to be able to step back and recognize it."

Jackson, Hall and McCoy also said another area where improvement is necessary is in the language used to describe and characterize Black wrestlers, especially subtly

"I think it is going to be a battle of trying to overcome those overt things that we just disagree with or that rub us the wrong way," Jackson said.

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

Homer only senior to return, 2 opt out

By Ben Serfass
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following a 10-5 start to the regular season, Penn State and its three seniors likely had high aspirations for the 2020 season after their weekend series against Miami (Ohio).

Instead, utility player Gavin Homer, catcher Jacob Padilla and outfielder Mason Nadeau were all suddenly hit with an extremely difficult decision — hang up their cleats or put their Penn State graduation on hold.

After the NCAA and the Big Ten decided to cancel all remaining spring sports contests in March, spring athletes who lost their 2020 season were awarded another year of athletic eligibility.

But, according to coach Rob Cooper, that wasn't always a given.

Eventually rumor turned to fact as everyone on the team got another year back.

"Obviously when the season was canceled we had heard rumblings that the NCAA was going to try and give the seniors potentially another year," Cooper said. "As we know, they've done more than that, they've given everyone a year of eligibility back."

Like any other season, Cooper and his staff held end of the season meetings with players including Homer, Padilla and Nadeau. But where the meeting differed from the normal ones was in the

topic of conversation.

"For those three guys I said, 'Listen, I would love to have all three of you back.' They're great kids," Cooper said. "These guys love baseball, but there's more to life than just playing baseball in college, and you have to take those opportunities as they come."

Even after the Big Ten announced it was suspending the 2020 spring sports season, some athletes were not convinced that they would be unable to resume their seasons later on.

"That's what we trained all fall and all winter for, and we finally had our time to shine on the field," Nadeau said. "To have that cut short, we were just remaining hopeful to get back on the field and do what we love."

Homer, a former transfer from Kellogg Community College, was the only Nittany Lion who opted to return for another season at Penn State.

"I was on the bus ride when they made the announcement that the [NCAA] were possibly going to grant another year [of athletic eligibility]," Homer said. "I'm trying to play the game of baseball as long as I can, so without hesitation I was immediately thinking that this is another opportunity for me to keep playing and for me to continue to get exposure to pro-level scouts."

Although it was not a difficult decision, the choice to return for an additional season was one that Homer talked over with

his family and his coaches.

"I talked to my family, I talked to the coaching staff, and I was able to come to the conclusion that here at Penn State I only have a year and a half in, so I felt like I had some unfinished business with the program," Homer said.

Part of the reason that Homer considered his decision to return to Penn State an easy one was the tight bond and sense of community that was shared by the entire team.

"I have never been on as close of a team as we were this year. Guys were constantly hanging

out with each other outside of baseball, and I felt like things were really starting to click," Homer said. "Guys were starting to not only focus on developing themselves but also helping other teammates develop."

Both Padilla and Nadeau were faced with the same choice but instead opted to not return to Happy Valley for their own separate personal reasons.

"I had already made my mind up, but the two guys who opted not to come back have other amazing things coming their way," Homer said.



Noah Riffe/Collegian

Infielder Gavin Homer bats during his game against Maryland on Friday, March 15, 2019 at Medlar Field.

Nadeau and Padilla were the only two players on the roster for the last four seasons, making each of their decisions a little more difficult.

"It was definitely tough, but not goodbye — just see you later," Nadeau said. "I know anyone on that team is just a phone call or a text away, and I will definitely be back up in Happy Valley once their season resumes to go watch them play."

Nadeau accepted a job offer in March and committed to a new position at Aldi Foods before there was any talk of the season being suspended.

"I was planning like most other seniors to finish the senior season... but after having played only 15 games of a minimum of 56 game season there was a lot of baseball that I missed out on," Nadeau said. "Baseball was my first love and will always be a huge part of my life, but I think that it was time for me to hang up the cleats competitively and move on to a different phase and be challenged in a different way."

That being said, the returning Nittany Lions are just looking to get back on the field and prepare and train for a full 2021 season.

"At the end of the day, I just want to play baseball so hopefully we can get this figured out and we're able to take the field come springtime," Homer said.

To email reporter: bxs1001@psu.edu.
Follow him on twitter at: @BenSerfass.



College is hard. Snacks help. Get **FREE** delivery.

Start your 6-month trial,
no cost to you

prime student


amazon.com/PAstate