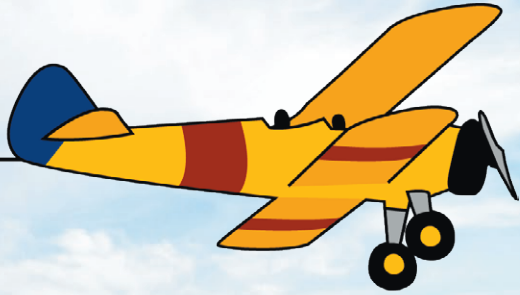


PRIMARIES APPROACHING



State College politicians emphasize importance of student involvement in local elections

By Kyle Hutchinson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Although it's only been a few months since the last political elections, a new set of races are on the horizon — local elections will soon be underway in State College.

Primaries for various local elections, including the mayor of State College and State College Borough Council, will take place on May 18.

Jesse Barlow, president of the State College Borough Council, said there will be important issues concerning racial justice that voters should consider.

"I think you are going to see a lot of discussions about diversity issues and policing issues because of all the police reform issues coming before the borough council this year," Barlow said.

Local elections typically don't pull in too much of a turnout, according to Barlow. According to Centre County election results,

4,405 total constituents voted for the three main candidates in the 2017 mayoral election.

"Turnout will be lower [than last November], but when the mayor is on the ballot, it tends to go up as it did four years ago," Barlow said.

In a big college town like State College, however, there are thousands of potential voting-aged students who could influence the result of the election, according to Barlow. People between 18 and 34 years old are not the most active voters, though, according to FiveThirtyEight.

In the 2020 presidential election, young voters increased their voter turnout to 55%, compared to a nationwide turnout of 66.2%. Barlow said State College could see some increase in young voter turnout this year.

"Student turnout for local elections tends to be low. I am hoping that might change due to mail-in ballots, bringing up the total a

bit," Barlow said.

In 2016, only 42-45% of young voters made it to the polls for the presidential election, showing an increase in youth turnout over the last four years.

Barlow said local elections should matter to students and that "if [students have] taken an interest in national politics, [they] should take an interest in local as well."

"I think when it comes to day-to-day life, who your local officials are matters more [than state or federal officials]," Barlow said. "What we do are the things that affect the lives of students."

Although the primary is still a couple of months away, Ezra Nanes declared his candidacy for mayor on Dec. 28.

Jim Leous, a three-term member of the State College Area School Board and former board vice president, also announced his intent to run for mayor on Feb. 17.

As of early Thursday morning, Leous did not respond for comment.

"We need a mayor that can be a very strong advocate for our gender, racial and religious minorities," Nanes said.

Nanes said he believes issues like climate change and economic recovery from the coronavirus are important to deal with, but racial justice is at the top of his mayoral agenda — especially when it comes to Penn State students.

"We are in the midst of a wave of assaults on race, gender and religious minorities during these Zoom bombings," Nanes said.

"As mayor, it is incredibly important [to] take a strong stand against these things. The perpetrators of these attacks must be brought to justice."

Nanes said he recognizes the

role students can play in local elections.

"If the students choose to vote, they can absolutely elect the next mayor — that is the power of the student vote," Nanes said.

Nanes said encouraging students to be a part of the electoral process is "vital." His campaign manager is an undergraduate student at Penn State, and Nanes said he has high school students volunteering with his campaign as well.

"We have got to engage person to person — that's where we make real connections," Nanes said. "We have to be on campus registering people to vote — we have to help students appreciate the power of their vote, their right to vote."

Citing the economic burden caused by the coronavirus pandemic and with students employed in many stores and restaurants downtown, Nanes said the community and the students must come together to support local businesses.

"We need to build a relationship between campus and downtown," Nanes said. "It is an integral part of this community and makes this a great place to be."

Borough Council member Katherine Oh Yeaple is running for a full term after being appointed in September 2020.

"We need to represent everyone in the community, whether retired, or students or young professionals," Yeaple said.

Yeaple said State College has gone through "many difficulties" in the last year.

"2020 was a challenging year. We are talking about the pandemic, transmission of the virus into the community [and] having an enormous impact on State College and the region," Yeaple said. "Hospitality, tourism and retail have all suffered in our local economy."

Yeaple said there are issues that affect the State College community, ranging from climate change to racial justice.

"We have to address the mental health needs of our community. We need to treat everyone equally. We need to be observant of our energy consumption and less reliant on our fossil fuels," Yeaple said.

In the midst of the pandemic, Yeaple said she is advocating for a "public health office" in State College.

"We need a public health structure here in our community," Yeaple said. "We have relied heavily on community health centers, but the county needs a public health office and medical director."

Yeaple said Penn State students can find many ways to get involved in local elections in the community.

"They can show up at various events. If they identify a candidate they agree with, they can get involved with those campaigns," Yeaple said. "We cannot ignore the students — the students are a huge part of State College. We are wedded together."

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Lily LaRegina/Collegian

The State College Borough Municipal Building on Monday, Sept. 14, 2020 in State College, Pa.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student supporters, unsupported

Editor's Note: The author of this letter is a resident assistant in Pollock Halls. This RA was previously interviewed for The Daily Collegian's article "Residence Life holds mandatory RA training on Penn State's first intended wellness day," in which the RA was referred to as "Steve."

Steve's real name has been omitted to protect their identity. Steve's status as a Penn State student and RA has been verified through The Daily Collegian's fact-checking process.

Disclaimer: I write this letter to the editor of The Daily Collegian as an individual and not a representative of the university nor the Department of Residence Life. I have at least one semester of experience as an RA in the Pollock area. This letter is published anonymously to prevent potential consequences from the Department of Residence Life.

While attending an institution offering a great breadth of courses with such diverse topics as Invertebrate Zoology and the Craft of Comics, it can be hard to think that there is a near universal experience shared by Penn State students. The idea of a resident assistant (RA) is almost inseparable from the college experience, even more so at Penn State. An RA is a live-in staff member within the Department of Residence Life and is responsible for building community, connecting students to campus resources and enforcing policies within the residence halls. The Department of Residence Life focuses on providing a co-curricular component to a

student's application. Formally, the department's co-curricular goals are to enrich a student's understanding of:

- Equity & Inclusion (formerly Diversity & Inclusion)
- Community Expectations
- Bystander Intervention
- Conflict Resolution

In short, the department is focused on supporting students in residence halls (and those off campus in certain situations). The department employs some of the most diverse and high-achieving students at this university, but seldom does it take advantage of its human capital. The first thing a potential RA is told from department representatives is that "RAs are students first;" however, this is far from the experience I've had. Prior to COVID-19, the department regarded RAs as easily replaceable assets rather than student leaders and employees. This attitude can be seen in almost every aspect of the RA role, from the process of becoming a RA to remuneration.

In a typical year to become an RA, an undergraduate student must first apply to a written application, successfully complete two interviews, and finally earn a space in the course (HIED 302) to even be considered for placement as a RA. It may be surprising to hear that only the written application of this two-semester process is fully accessible to all students. The interviews take place exclusively during times when students may have classes — historically on two Tuesdays and one Wednesday a semester — and are selected on a first come,

first serve basis. RAs and professional staff from the five housing areas participate in this interview process that in theory offers more than enough time slots to accommodate each candidate, but logistically clash with high-achieving students' classes or other commitments.

Should a candidate proceed through the process past these interviews, they must wait for weeks as candidates are selected to move on and are enrolled in the course HIED 302. During these weeks of waiting, most students are scheduling their own courses and often have conflicts with the HIED 302 class, which only has one section. Woe to the STEM students with labs and lectures encompassing the entirety of this class period. Woe to the arts students with studios and workshops.

Presently, there is no alternative to proceed in the process without successful completion of the HIED 302 course, meaning that if a student wishes to proceed in the process, they often must sacrifice or delay taking another course, which can have serious consequences for future courses with strictly gated prerequisites.

This course is facilitated by Residence Life professional staff members, often Residence Life Coordinators (RLC), who are tasked with running a section of the course on top of their other job responsibilities.



Courtesy of Penn State Athletics

Penn State assistant coach Tim Wassell serves as the program's coach for its goalkeeping and defensive units.

Tim Wassell and Penn State's 'evolving' defense

By Luke Vargas
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

By giving up three goals in less than 30 minutes in a 3-2 loss at Rutgers, Penn State's defense lapsed when it was needed most.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Rather than having a negative outlook on the Nittany Lions' late-game defensive performance in their fall to the Scarlet Knights, goalkeeping and defensive coach Tim Wassell had a more positive one.

"On the defensive side of the ball, we were actually really good," Wassell said. "We fell victim to a world-class free kick and then two counter goals, where set piece details were a step off."

Wassell is now entering his 11th season as an assistant coach for the Nittany Lions. During his tenure, the team has played some of the best defense in the nation — with a national championship to show for it.

The assistant coach made no

excuse about the loss to Rutgers and admitted the team is never going to congratulate itself when it loses a game.

"Look, I wanted to win on Saturday," Wassell said. "Rutgers is a really good team and punished us for a couple of details that were literally a step off."

"That's the difference at this level."

Over the course of last season, the team found itself more than a step off at times trying to build defensive momentum.

Penn State was conceding over twice as many goals per game as it had been in the prior season in 2018.

Wassell ascribed a rise in shots allowed and goals conceded last season to a lack of continuity.

"You know, college sports are funny," Wassell said. "You'll work really hard and get a group that's really got things figured out, and then they leave and you gotta start all over again."

Scholar Hotel opens in State College

By **Samantha Verrelli**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

For one Penn State alumnus, a new project in State College has become more than just a profitable opportunity.

On Jan. 15, the historic Glennland Building at 205 E. Beaver Ave. was transformed into a boutique-style hotel — Scholar Hotel State College — providing a modern use for the building while still preserving its history.

Gary Brandeis is the president of the Scholar Hotel Group, which owns the hotel. He is also a Penn State alumnus who graduated from the Smeal College of Business in 1988 with a degree in accounting.

“This is not just another project for me,” Brandeis said. “This is really personal.”

The hotel is an extended stay hotel — meaning there are rooms with kitchenettes that are intended for longer stays, according to Brandeis.

Brandeis said the hotel is a franchisee of Hilton, so guests can earn Hilton points and cash them in to stay at the Scholar Hotel. Additionally, the hotel is part of Hilton’s Tapestry Collection, which Brandeis said “allows [the hotel] to operate as an independent boutique hotel but still remain a part of the Hilton family.”

Brandeis described a boutique hotel as one that isn’t “cookie cutter” and is in a “unique” community. According to Brandeis, the Glennland Building is registered as historic, and the exterior is protected by the borough of State College.

For this reason, Brandeis was only able to alter the inside of the building.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

The Scholar Hotel, located on East Beaver Avenue, opened in January in the historic Glennland Building.

“We’re trying to honor the history of the building but also provide modern amenities,” Brandeis said.

One of the ways the Scholar Hotel Group preserved the Glennland Building’s legacy was by placing a historic photo of the original pool that was removed from the building in the 1960s behind the front desk.

Brandeis said a challenge when working in a historic building is figuring out “what’s inside that’s still historic that we can save and how we can save it.”

Prior to the hotel’s opening, renovations were completed to make sure the inside of the building was “modern and

comfortable,” according to Brandeis.

Some of these renovations included installing new systems for plumbing and electric, fire and safety, heating and cooling. Brandeis said some environmental hazards as a result of the building’s age also had to be handled.

“You don’t know what you’re going to find until you look under the covers,” Brandeis said.

One of the biggest costs during renovations was rebuilding the floors as there were structural issues the crew discovered, according to Brandeis.

The process of opening the Scholar Hotel was delayed by four

months, Brandeis said, due to the coronavirus.

Michael Balchin, the director of sales for the Scholar Hotel, said “for the atmosphere we are currently in, we are doing well” in regard to the coronavirus.

Balchin said he’s especially excited about the hotel’s capacity for extended stay guests. He said he hopes the market for traveling will improve in State College once people are allowed back into Beaver Stadium for football games.

Ryan Saal, the area general manager of the Scholar Hotel, added that the company is “slowly” starting to see “a good build.”

HealthWorks provides students with health tips

By **Grace Strayer**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Staying healthy has become more important than ever before at Penn State — both mentally and physically. While they’re not a stranger to campus, the university’s HealthWorks is striving to keep students at their best.

From stress and sleep to nutrition, HealthWorks provides students with a variety of health aid.

Penn State’s HealthWorks is a group of peer educators who are co-led by Katelyn Quick, a clinical dietician for Penn State Health Promotion and Wellness, and Erin Raupers, assistant director for Penn State Health Promotion and Wellness.

Split into two categories with peer educators, Quick focuses on outreach while Raupers takes on one-on-one student appointments. The overall goal for the program is to empower students to engage in healthy behavior and to advocate for a healthy Penn State community.

“I really feel strongly that health and wellness has to do with a holistic, whole-body approach,” Quick said.

Now held via Zoom because of the coronavirus, the one-on-one appointments focus on a range of student health topics such as nutrition, physical activity, sleep, stress, or healthy relationships and sexual health.

The coronavirus also caused Quick and her team to hold virtual office hours. Typically, HealthWorks makes informational material for students, conducts workshops for classes and clubs as well as tabling at in-person events.

“I think public health is really important because, instead of affecting just the individual in private nutrition appointments

whenever I’m leading this public health program, I know that I can affect different levels of change,” Quick said. “I can help change the environment that students are in or change social norms with different campaigns that we do, and so I find that to be really exciting.”

Quick said they’re able to reach more people with a “larger public health approach.”

The peer educators who are part of HealthWorks go through a spring interview process followed by a semester-long training program.

The three-credit class for Penn State students is taught by either Quick or Raupers, depending on which side of HealthWorks the student is interested in. These classes cover both public health and theory before narrowing into the specific HealthWorks field each student will be in.

Dalia Rivkin, a student who began as a peer educator this semester, said she came into the class knowing she wanted to help others but wasn’t sure how.

“After the training course, I know that I have the ability to either give students the information they need or at least know which direction to point them in,” Rivkin (junior-nutritional sciences) said via email.

Rivkin joined HealthWorks after getting a taste of helping others through Penn State’s Health & Wellness Coalition her sophomore year.

“We met a few times over the course of the year to discuss the health and wellness of Penn State students and see what we could do to help [them] in categories ranging from sexual health to eating more vegetables to getting more sleep and everything in between,” Rivkin said. “I [loved] the coalition, but it made me want a more direct impact on Penn State students and their wellbeing.”



Courtesy of Katelyn Quick

HealthWorks’ outreach hosted tabling events before the coronavirus.

Lucy Stone also began this semester as a peer educator. Stone (junior-biobehavioral health) trained to work with students in one-on-one sessions through HealthWorks.

“[The training is] a lot based on learning about the health topics that we mentor students about, but it’s also equally as much learning — it’s called motivational interviewing,” Stone said. “It’s one of the methods that we use when talking to students and helping them understand their goals.”

In addition to learning these skills in class, peer educators also practiced scenarios with other students to experience what some of the one-on-one sessions they encounter might look like.

“I think a lot of people more than ever are struggling with some of these issues that we help people with — such as stress

and getting enough physical activity, and having proper nutrition,” Stone said.

“So I think with the pandemic and everything, it’s really helpful to have that outreach and work with students who need help with those things.”

On the outreach side of HealthWorks is Paige McGhee. McGhee (sophomore-health policy and administration) began as a peer educator this spring as well, where she said they provide the “education and skills” for any wellness concerns students have.

McGhee said HealthWorks has not only enabled her to help others but also herself.

“HealthWorks taught me a lot about my own body — like lifestyle and habits — and I made great changes, but I also get to help my classmates and friends do the same,” McGhee said.

Amanda Malizia-Hicks saw

an ad about HealthWorks and the enthusiasm of other peer educators made her want to join. Malizia-Hicks (senior-labor and human resources) said she likes to help her peers live healthier lifestyles.

“Healthworks has adjusted this past year due to COVID-19 and offers some great programming via Zoom,” Malizia-Hicks said via email. “I feel like this is important because this past year has been hard on students.”

According to Quick, applications to become peer educators for fall 2021 classes are now open until March 5.

“I’m glad it’s a really strong program because not all universities get to have so many peer educators impacting students on campus.”

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Penn State to expand in-person courses

By **Will Aguirre**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

This summer, Penn State will begin its transition to a primarily in-person learning environment for fall 2021.

The plan for expanding on-campus instruction includes flexibility to return to remote learning if necessary.

The summer semester will continue Penn State’s coronavirus instructional modes, but will introduce more in-person courses. Penn State will continue to use event spaces, outdoor tents and other non-traditional instruction spaces over the summer.

The fall 2021 semester will still offer some remote options — such as synchronous and asynchronous online courses — but

will introduce a wider range of in-person instruction.

“Making detailed decisions now about the future mode of educational offerings for our university is not an easy task given all the unknowns surrounding the coronavirus pandemic,” Penn State President Eric Barron said in the release.

“However, with vaccines becoming more available and the expectation that public health guidelines will reflect progress, we are optimistic that we can begin to safely transition during the summer and move toward a full in-person experience this fall while doing all that we can to keep our students, employees and local communities as safe and healthy as possible.”

The details of this transition

are not yet finalized, and may be subject to change before the summer semester.

Penn State’s priority is the “health and well-being of its students, employees and local communities,” and thus the expansion of in-person courses is “contingent on the latest health and safety guidelines, including physical distancing requirements, as they are adjusted over the summer and fall in response to the state of the pandemic,” according to the release.

The university will share more information in the upcoming weeks about the details and logistics of its decision to transfer more classes to an on-campus format.



Lily LaRegina/Collegian

A group of students takes photos in front of a snow-covered Old Main on Monday, Feb. 1, in University Park, Pa.

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Art gallery creates artistic experience during pandemic

By Ava Leone
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Tucked away on McAllister Alley in downtown State College, you will find the Douglas Albert Art Gallery, a tiny shop filled to the brim with countless art pieces, sparkling jewelry and chirping cuckoo clocks. Amid all the chaos is Douglas Albert himself: the master of it all.

Albert’s treasure trove of art has been a staple in State College since 1981, and the gallery can completely immerse customers in Albert’s world.

“It’s definitely an experience just to go in the store,” Lauren Godfrey, a local interior designer who works with Albert, said. “I have spent hours there just getting lost, and I feel like I’ve only scratched the surface of what he has there.”

However, with the ever-changing State College economy and the coronavirus pandemic hindering travel to the area, Albert fears even more local businesses will start to shut down — including his own.

When he was just 20 years old, Albert opened Uncle Eli’s Artist Marketplace and Frame Shop in 1970, beginning his career as a State College businessman. Operating in the midst of the Vietnam War, Albert had no knowledge of business and zero inventory, learning as he went and moving the store five times until it finally settled on Beaver Avenue in 1975.

According to Albert, Uncle Eli’s is now the longest-standing business in downtown State College still in operation under the original proprietor.

Albert finished his fine arts degree at Penn State while running Uncle Eli’s and soon began focusing on finding higher quality art to display in a gallery.

In 1981, Albert received the opportunity to transform what was once a modest ski station into the Douglas Albert Art Gallery on McAllister Alley.

Albert said the transformation was not an easy task. He added that the alley was not even a brick walkway yet, and trucks making deliveries to The Tavern restaurant would constantly knock down Albert’s sign in the front of the gallery.

However, Albert said his gallery has thrived, bringing in internationally acclaimed artists’ work to State College and featuring art by renowned 20th century artists including Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró.

Albert also keeps in mind that not everyone wants to spend a lot of money, so he tries to procure art pieces at a variety of prices so anyone can find something to purchase at his gallery. According to Albert, he supports a couple hundred artists and studios.

“I’ve always tried to bring the outside world in, rather than deal with locals,” Albert said. “I have nothing against local artists — I’ve shown them over the years — but they have plenty of other opportunities up until now to really get their work out.”

Albert said he makes a huge investment in his inventory to provide customers with art that is unlike anything they could find anywhere else. And, according to some of his most loyal customers, that’s exactly what he does.

Former Senior Vice President of Finance and Business at Penn State David Gray and his wife have been buying art pieces from Albert since 2012.

Gray said Albert introduced him and his family to “phenomenal” art made by international artists from around the world, which is now on display in the Grays’ home.

“You’re not going to find the kinds of things that Douglas has for sale at Target, Kohl’s, Walmart or any other place really,” Gray said. “And that’s part of what I think makes his presence downtown so special.”

Albert values his relationships with his clients and remains good friends with Gray’s family.

According to Gray, people should visit the Douglas Albert Art Gallery because it is a “real little hidden gem, right in downtown State College, easy to get to, and they’re never going to find a more hospitable person [and] shop owner than Douglas.”

For Godfrey, her collaborative working relationship with Albert and his access to “one-of-a-kind pieces” only enhances her interior design business. His “incredible” expansive art knowledge helps her create the appropriate ambience for her clients’ homes.



Josie Chen/Collegian file photo

Douglas Albert opened his gallery on McAllister Alley in 1981.

“He just has a Rolodex in his mind of everything he has in his shop, and then [he] also [knows] artists [and pieces] that might go with the mood that I’m trying to create, so Doug’s an amazing resource,” Godfrey said.

Albert also tries to give back to the State College community, frequently donating to local charities like Centre County PAWS, the Connoisseur’s Dinner and Centre Safe. He said he wants people to know the Douglas Albert Art Gallery is part of the community.

However, even with Gray’s efforts, Albert worries that customers are no longer interested in visiting his store with the shift to online shopping.

“There is a world beyond Amazon, Etsy, and eBay. And people have to understand... you have to support local businesses or they won’t be around,” Albert said.

“It’s obvious what’s going on downtown here. It’s frightening. It scares me. But, I think, when the dust settles, there’ll be a rebuilding and State College will be a shopping hub like it was ten years ago.

“People used to come from all over, because there were nice stores here. I hope I’m still here, but who knows.”

Brian Cohen, owner of Harper’s Fine Clothing Store, has known Albert for nearly three decades and operates his own store a few steps away from Albert’s gallery.

Cohen said State College is lucky that it is a destination community with people coming from all over the country to visit the college town, because he thinks this helps local businesses.

However, since there has not been much foot traffic or out-of-town visitors to State College recently, Albert said local businesses have been suffering.

Albert said he thinks there will not be a lot of business growth in State College for a while.

He said 80% of his sales go to out-of-town visitors, so without as many conferences, parents visiting, people touring Penn State or in-person football games, business has become more difficult.

Albert doesn’t frequently use social media, and he admits that he is a “bit old-fashioned” when it comes to having an online presence. However, he said visiting the gallery is a “visceral experience” that will keep customers coming back.

He also said since many people are home more often than usual, they have started to realize they want to change what they have hanging on their walls, which has helped his business during the pandemic.

Albert added that great art can “stand the test of time.” And so far, he said no one has ever brought a piece of art back to the Douglas Albert Art Gallery to return.

“When I go home, I never get tired of looking at the artwork that I have hanging on my walls, so you know it’s not supposed to be decorative all the time,” Albert said. “It should speak to you. The dividend that you get from a nice painting — I believe the joy it gives you every time you look at something that you really love — it pays you back for what you pay for.”

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Follow her on Twitter at [@AvaLeone5](https://twitter.com/AvaLeone5).



Josie Chen/Collegian file photo

Douglas Albert said since people are home more often due to the pandemic, they want new art to freshen up their walls, bringing in more business to the Douglas Albert Art Gallery.



Spring 2021 Art Experiences

The Center for Arts & Crafts offers a variety of art experiences including In-Person Classes and Workshops, Take & Make Craft Kits, and more. Begins the week of February 22. Check out our website for more info!
studentaffairs.psu.edu/hub/craftcenter

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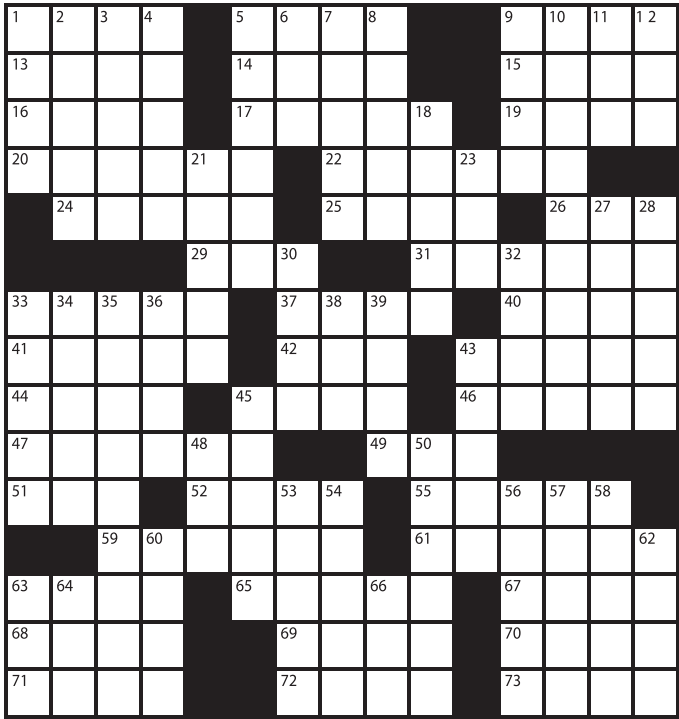
Questions, email craftcenter@psu.edu

U. Ed. STA 21-00 This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its workforce.

Puzzles

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WORD SEARCH

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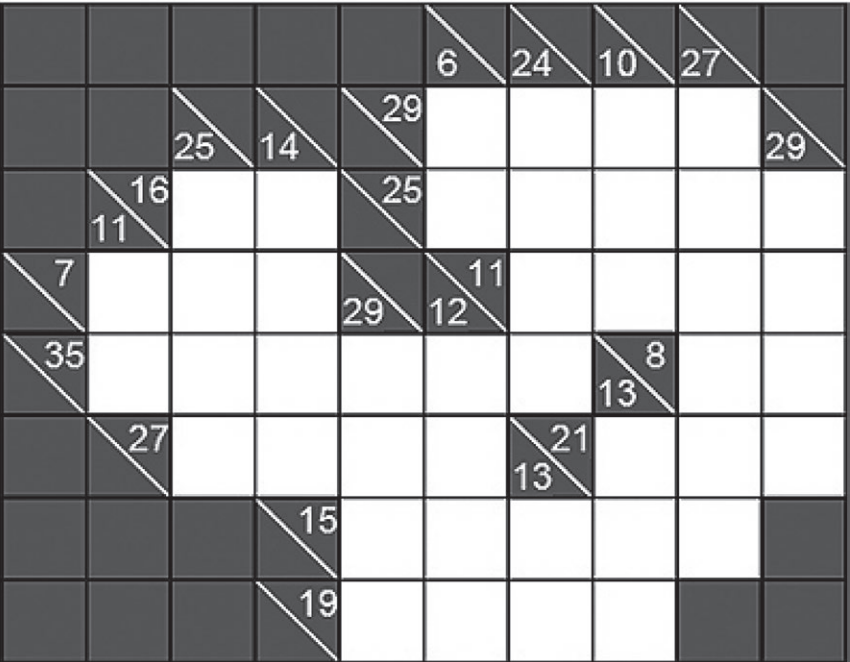
Scuba Diving

Adventure
Boat
Bubbles
Buoyancy
Camera
Coral
Deep
Divemaster
Dolphins
Explore
Flippers
Gear
Goggles
Lobster
Mask
Moray Eel
Ocean
Octopus
Oxygen
Reef
Rocks
Scuba
Seaweed
Shipwreck
Snorkel
Stingray
Tank
Treasure
Waves
Wet Suit

A D V E N T U R E I S D N T P E R J
Q T J T E Z R Y S P C Y S M I E S R
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D S O O K S E L B B U B F O M J O E
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Kakuro (Cross Sums)

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



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The next Penn State president should reflect its student body

RIGHT on the heels of a grueling presidential election for the White House, another presidential selection is due to start soon, this time for Old Main.

Penn State President Eric Barron announced his intention to retire and bid farewell to the highest office at Penn State on Feb. 22, choosing the year 2022 to be his final. With this announcement comes the potential heralding of a new era for the university, one in which its highest principles and ambitions may be more fully achieved.

In many ways, Barron's tenure was an era distinct in its own right. He first took the job in 2014 and was elected to guide the university in the aftermath of the Sandusky sex abuse case. Owing to the need to mend whatever wounds remained and preserve however much prestige was left, Barron served as a barometer for the university, signaling a return to a purer and healthier atmosphere.

But another set of problems and crises have arrived on the scene, and they demand a forceful rebuking. Yes, the next president of Penn State should not only possess the correct amount of chutzpah required by the job, able to conquer the diverse

OUR VIEW

Diversity must be heavily considered in the search for a new university president.

difficulties lying in wait, but also reflect the diversity inherent in the student body itself.

Pull up a listing of the past presidents of Penn State, and you will find a Sears catalog of older white men. And while there's nothing particularly wrong with this genre of person, the simple demographic fact remains: We study on a campus and live in a world where the vast majority of individuals cannot be accurately described as an older white men.

The last year has seen an explosion in racial awareness; protests upended major cities and brought attention to the underlying tension writhing under the surface of American society. Penn State should read the room and understand that that musky smell infecting it is the stench of stagnation, and the decay of American ideals unmoored.

What better way to make

amends for the past 400 years of history, marked as they are by hurt and heartbreak, than to select a candidate who resembles the student body in both appearance and zeal for a fairer and kinder world? How long must this same body wait until a leader who breaks the tired demographic triad can actually lead?

Around the same time he handed in his retirement papers, Barron concurrently announced a new slew of diversity and inclusion initiatives. The move continues a trend toward racial and gender equity, which reached its high watermark in the Presidential Commission on Racism, Bias and Community Safety. Assuming Penn State holds these principles to be self-evidently worthwhile, it should enshrine them at the highest level. If a diverse, inclusive and equitable campus remains the result most

desired, the best way to quicken and fulfill this goal is top-down.

Of course, the university should avoid mere tokenism. The next president must not be a figurehead fetishized for their background, and the nomination process must not be an empty gesture to score "woke" points and keep the kids appeased. Rather, the candidates' backgrounds should complement their talents and vice versa. After all, a diverse background can only make the onerous obligation of leading such a diverse student body that much easier.

In order to reach a more manifold list of candidates, the selection committee should look beyond the usual suspects; that is, current and former presidents of other colleges and universities.

Just like how the ideal candidate is open-minded and genuine in their convictions, the committee is obliged to be open-

minded and genuine in their search.

By expanding the list of traits that make for a good university president beyond "formerly gilded as university president," more candidates can be reached and thus considered. The most important qualities, a backbone and solid work ethic, have never been exclusive to the college president circuit.

The task remaining before the selection committee and the future president is a difficult one. Both must advance past the stage of symbolic actions full of sound but null of meaning, such as a trite email that affirms how hate has no home here or the selection of another monied, white man for the presidency. Instead, they should strive to represent the diverse interests and perspectives of the students currently bankrolling them.

The Barron era was a necessary one, and the man himself should be able to happily retire with the knowledge he laid a solid foundation for his successors.

But there still exists plenty left undone. And if the successor wants to succeed in helping Penn State adapt and diversify, they must be adaptable and diverse themselves.

Res Life

FROM Page 1

These RLCs often struggle to find the time to grade and give feedback on candidates and their assignments, which can negatively impact the candidate's ability to get picked up as all of the materials used by other RLCs to build their team of RAs come from the facilitator of the class.

But even after taking the HIED 302 course and a semester's investment, there is still no guarantee of placement as an RA. During the weeks of waiting for the RA roster announcement, students often must make alternative plans for housing — including signing leases for off-campus housing or requesting an on-campus housing contract. This necessary alternative planning can have serious financial ramifications for students whether they are "picked up" or not.

If a candidate is chosen and has already signed an off-campus lease as a contingency plan months ago — possibly before they even began the process to become a RA — the candidate must find a way out of the lease, attempt to find a sublet or bear the financial burden to become an RA. If a candidate is not picked up, they may have to pay for a more expensive on-campus housing contract as they did not attempt to secure an off-campus lease because they knew they wanted to become an RA.

This selection process isn't considerate of a student's scheduling or financial conditions, and is justified by citing the fact that until recently, it has worked fine. This process sets a dangerous precedent that RAs are subject to months of waiting, the expectation to quickly and drastically change plans, or

overly accommodate to better serve the Department of Residence Life.

These inflexible standards and attitudes may play a part in the fact that the department is struggling to recruit enough RA candidates to even fill the HIED 302 course, and accepted every candidate who submitted the written application into the course. RAs and RA candidates are told to have "grace and patience" when waiting for guidance, as has been the case with COVID-19 policies in the residence halls, or our remuneration. How much longer will the department continue to willfully ignore its practices and methods for RA recruitment are not only incredibly inconsiderate of candidates' statuses as students, but are also failing?

Nearly every government and media source will tell you that COVID-19 is a "rapidly emerging and evolving situation" to make the public aware that guidance may change, and it may be necessary to stay up to date on best practices. Penn State is no different. The website virusinfo.psu.edu and administrative policy AD101 are touted as being the one-stop shops for all questions and policies pertaining to COVID-19.

However, this website is

almost devoid of policies specific to residence halls, aside from the no-guest policy. There haven't been and there are currently no official online references that on-campus students can reference to

see all the policies pertaining to COVID-19, despite being held accountable to all of them.

Residents are fully dependent on often ignored posters hung in their building and their individual RA to keep them up to date on the changing policies and guidance, or risk being placed through the Student Conduct process, which can have serious consequences for repeated violations. Additionally,

these policies may differ widely depending on the housing area.

In the Pollock area, changes to these policies are principally announced in the form of a confusing Teams announcement from our area director, leading RAs to need to seek additional clarification from their individual supervisory RLC.

With so much ambiguity, unclear distribution and the lack of published policies, it is no surprise that many thousands of Student Conduct cases, consisting mainly of COVID-19 policy violations, were reported by RAs. The ethics of other policy violations are clear: Policies about prohibited items, underage drinking and other behaviors are clearly outlined in official university sources such as the Housing and Food Services Contract.

The same solid ethical justification is absent for COVID-19 policy violations. These policies can only be found on posters throughout the dorms and through announcements from a resident's RA. There is no published online reference for resident students and RAs to refer to in order to hold students accountable.

Historically, RAs have not been fully trained in the methodology and strategy behind the policies present in the residence halls. If an RA was to ask about a specific policy, they are often told they have no need to understand a policy, only to enforce it.

The precedent that RAs are not consulted at all when creating policy, but are expected to enforce them is a slippery moral slope and takes away an opportunity for RAs to advocate for their residential communities as the leaders Residence Life would see to describe them as.

The department is routinely defensive about RAs speaking as advocates for their peers and their communities. Most recently, The Daily Collegian

retroactively made an RA source anonymous after the source faced pressure from the department for an article in the

news outlet about the February Wellness Day being used for RA Training. Why doesn't the Department of Residence Life (and higher university structures) utilize student and student staff feedback to

shape policies and training? Otherwise, there would have been no need for RAs to advocate for themselves and their peers publicly.

The lack of support goes beyond policy enforcement and discouraging advocacy. RAs and RLCs routinely face student crises that have strongly adverse effects on their own mental health. RAs and RLCs are trained to encounter crises ranging from alcohol policy violations to suicidal ideation and sexual assault, but do not receive any training on how to support themselves and their own mental health after encountering and supporting students through these serious crises. RAs are often left unsupported financially, as well. RAs are remunerated with a \$500 tuition stipend, in addition to on-campus housing and a level-three dining plan each semester.

However, RAs are still charged for on-campus housing and often the equal remuneration comes weeks later, leading to the possibility of RAs having financial delinquent holds placed on their accounts. This spring, RAs were informed that their remuneration would be delayed, but would be posted to students' accounts before the return date of Feb. 7.

The resulting holds restrict RAs' abilities to request transcripts during a time when many were preparing to apply

“URAs and RLCs routinely face student crises that have strongly adverse effects on their own mental health.”

for internships and graduate schools. It took nearly three weeks after the start of the semester for the remuneration to be posted to RA accounts. days before the RA return to campus. RAs received no updates, explanation or even an apology for this circumstance.

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



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DAILY COLLEGIAN

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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 through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

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‘LITTLE OLD GROUNDSKEEPER’

Penn State baseball home games put in motion by Matt Neri

By Max Ralph
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State opens its 2021 baseball season on March 5, and the 10-day weather forecast for University Park currently shows rain and a high temperature in the low-40s—anything but beautiful baseball weather.

Luckily for the Nittany Lions, their season opener will be played in an indoor stadium away from home — but that doesn't mean they won't face inclement weather at all during the season.

Junior pitcher Bailey Dees said he remembers a few years ago when the team was met with some “weird” delays, including snow later in the spring, and even a fog delay.

Dees hails from North Carolina, a state not nearly as notorious for harsh winters as Pennsylvania.

And it took him some time to adjust when he came to Happy Valley.

“In North Carolina, it does get cold, but nothing like this, where it's snowing most of the year,” Dees told The Daily Collegian. “It's definitely a challenge coming up here and playing in the cold. Playing in warmer weather for the first few series each year definitely helps until you get into late March when it starts to warm up — but not really. It's still cold.”

Dees said it takes him longer to warm up and to throw hard in the cold. He said he combats it by wearing long sleeves all year and wearing a parka while in the dugout between innings.

So how do the Nittany Lions manage to play a full season every year? Matt Neri.

The senior sports turf manager



Erin O'Neill/Collegian file photo

Matt Neri, groundskeeper for Medlar Field, has won five Sports Turf Manager of the Year awards.

of Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, Neri has held the role ever since the ballpark was erected in 2006. In short, he's the groundskeeper.

“[Neri] does a fantastic job,” Dees said. “If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't play nearly as many games as we do here. You can tell he knows what he's doing, and he treats the field like it's his own child.”

Neri said in order to get the field in shape for the season, it has to start well before games are even thought about.

“There's a lot of things we can do in the fall to prepare for the spring,” Neri told the Collegian. “The more you can get done in the fall before winter, the better off you'll be once the snow melts.”

Neri said his crew's typical fall maintenance starts with leveling out the infield and then aerating the field. He said they've even tried painting the field green in recent years

in hopes it will help the field produce a little more heat.

Despite the challenges and preparation required, Neri likes his chances against the weather as long as he can have the field dried out by early March and put the tarp down.

However, if the snow doesn't thaw, he said there's not much to do but pray for some sun.

“Nine times out of 10, we'll have this thing ready,” Neri said. “[But] it's always that 10th year where we just get this crazy cold weather. There's not a lot you can do at that point.”

For that reason, Neri said there's “absolutely” some luck involved with his work.

He said sometimes the crew will check “every radar in the world,” expect a storm and have rain in the parking lot but not on the field.

“That's what we count on here in the spring,” Neri said. “Please,

give us four or five decent days. It doesn't have to be hot. Just give us some sunshine and a little bit of luck and we'll get this thing ready.”

When it comes to his time in Happy Valley, Neri said he has a great relationship with coach Rob Cooper and the program.

He said Cooper is a unique individual who truly cares — even for the “little old groundskeeper.”

“I can tell him my honest thoughts and he'll tell me his honest thoughts,” Neri said. “We've worked well together. Communication is key.”

Cooper said the team is “extremely lucky” to have Neri around.

“The guy's the best,” Cooper told the Collegian. “You know his field and his facility are going to look top-notch.”

Neri has the hardware to back up Cooper's sentiment, as he has won the New York-Penn League's

Sports Turf Manager of the Year Award five times.

However, what makes Neri stand out to Cooper is his desire to work with the team to do what's best for the players — in other words, communicate.

“There's a lot of groundskeepers out there who have unbelievable facilities and their field looks great, but they do that by not letting anyone go on it,” Cooper said. “Matt doesn't do that. He understands that our guys need to be on the field, so he is willing to do whatever it takes.”

Cooper said that Neri has even been invited into the locker room a few times after some unpredictable weather.

“We've had weekends where we didn't think we were going to get the game in, and he's got the field ready,” Cooper said. “We've had him in after and presented him with the game ball because we think that much of him. He's one of us.”

As for Neri, he said he sticks around Happy Valley to watch the field go from looking like “garbage” to being all greened-up — and to keep “doing the impossible.”

“There's been years when a lot of people said: ‘This can't be done, we're not going to be able to play,’” Neri said. “We as a crew proved everyone wrong. There's something to be said about that.”

“It's a really satisfying feeling to do the impossible and to know you're in central Pennsylvania. People look around and say ‘Oh my goodness. Penn State played a home game yesterday. How did that happen?’ It's kind of cool. It's happened quite a few times here.”

To email reporter: mdr5616@psu.edu.
Follow him on Twitter at [@mralph59](https://twitter.com/mralph59).

MY VIEW | BENJAMIN FERREE

Lasch renovations are a gamble

As a country, the United States is in the midst of one of the worst economic crises in history.



Ferree

In the second quarter of 2020, the United States recorded its steepest quarterly drop in economic output on record — a 9.1% drop.

Prior to this, America's GDP has never experienced a drop greater than 3% in a single quarter since record keeping began in 1947.

On a local level, State College is experiencing similar trouble, with small businesses struggling as coronavirus restrictions rightly continue.

These businesses are also still experiencing fallout from an empty Beaver Stadium this fall and no in-person graduation last spring.

In August, Sandy Barbour described Penn State Athletics' money challenges as a “very difficult financial situation” and had previously stated Penn State could be facing revenue losses of eight to nine figures should sports not be played.

Now, as we move into the spring, sports around the university are taking place. Still, it's unclear if this will be enough for Penn State to avoid a deficit in a year where multiple Division I schools have had to cut Olympic sports.

Despite all this, Penn State's Board of Trustees approved a \$48.3 million project to renovate the Lasch Football Building last Friday.

The main upgrade would be to Penn State's weight room, as well as performance enhancement equipment upgrades, sports medicine upgrades, a new hydrotherapy pool, an open rehabilitation space, trainer offices, graduate student and student trainer stations, a new student lobby entrance, and mechanical and electrical system upgrades.

Also included in these renovations is a student-development suite called the “5th Quarter,” which will provide opportunities to students as they transition from high school to college and from

college to the professional ranks.

“This next phase of those renovations will continue to provide our student-athletes with the resources needed to compete at the highest level on and off the field,” James Franklin said in a statement. “The addition of the student-athlete development suite for our 5th Quarter Program will provide a world class facility to prepare our guys as they transition to Penn State and prepare them for life beyond football. We will continue to fundraise to make this and future projects a reality.”

The final vote was 27-6 from the Board of Trustees, with one of the no's coming from Jay Paterno, son of Joe Paterno.

This decision is a gamble. I'm not going to sit here and ponder if it was the right decision to spend this money now, as there are various strong opinions on both sides.

Frankly, this decision should be discussed from a more nuanced approach than right or wrong.

On one end, these renovations need to be done to keep Penn State competitive with the best in college football.

Putting money into facilities doesn't necessarily equal wins. There is no magic number if you spend X amount and that equals one more win.

It doesn't work like that. But it's no coincidence that the schools with the best facilities happen to perform at a higher rate than schools that don't.

Just look at these facilities rankings from 247Sports — it's not a surprise to find Clemson and Ohio State in the top four. Now you also have schools like South Carolina at No. 5 and Illinois at No. 11.

So while it doesn't equal wins, Penn State wasn't found in the top 25 of those rankings.

On the other end, to Jay Paterno's point, why spend this money now?

“My former boss used to say: ‘Football is here to serve the university, not the other way around,’” Jay Paterno said to the board, referencing his father. “Football is a part of life, not life itself.”

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



Reagan Mulholland/Collegian file photo

The women's soccer team celebrates after it scores a goal against Illinois on Oct. 17, 2019, at Jeffrey Field.

Wassell

FROM Page 1.

With much of the elite defensive unit that only conceded 0.52 goals per game in 2018 having graduated, the new faces in the starting 11 struggled to relocate their rhythm and the sense of togetherness that had made them so successful, according to Wassell.

“Not to make excuses, but I think when you are as collective as we are, continuity matters,” Wassell said. “Once we found some continuity, we had a stretch where we won 11 games in a row.”

Despite conceding three goals against Rutgers, Wassell found encouraging signs that the defensive system he and head coach Erica Dambach had built was working.

“We want to defend from the front. Our second goal, what we thought should have been the game-winning goal against Rutgers, actually started from Ally Schlegel dispossessing a Rutgers defender and then quickly countering,” Wassell said. “We feel our defending can be our best playmaker.”

For Penn State, defending is by no means a passive duty relegated to the back four and the goalkeeper.

It's a collective action that involves all 11 players on the pitch, starting with the attackers.

Even some of the best players on the team had trouble adapting to playing the defensive side of the game in the manner Dambach and Wassell expected.

The likes of Sam Coffey and Schlegel, the Nittany Lions' top assist-provider and goal-scorer last season, respectively, all had to relearn the defensive side of their roles despite their breadth of experience.

“The interesting thing is, so many attacking players in

the youth game aren't taught anything about defending,” Wassell said. “They get here and they go, ‘Oh wait what? I gotta do what? I can't even spell defending, what are you talking about?’”

Under Wassell's leadership as Penn State's head recruiter, the Nittany Lions' recruiting strategy has been centered around recruiting the best players available rather than to fit a position of need on the pitch.

“I think there are some programs out there that say, ‘We're going to defend this way always,’ and they recruit to the program,” Wassell said.

“For us, we're gonna get the best players we can, and then figure out what works for us, but on both sides of the ball.”

Wassell noted it would be “silly” to not take the best available players just because they do not fit the defensive system.

Conversely, the coaching staff believes Penn State should be able to develop a system that works best for the talents that are brought to the university.

Many programs and clubs across the world hold to dogmatic principles over how the game should be played and what style should be implemented, but the blue and white has strayed from this approach in coaching philosophy.

Not only is Penn State willing to shift tactically from year to year, but Wassell claims the system can even switch from game to game.

“Tactically, we haven't settled on a defensive system, pressing triggers, those sorts of things until the NCAA Tournament,” Wassell said. “We really pride ourselves on evolving as the year goes on.”

“We want to be able to compete with any team that's in front of us. So if they want to be really direct and press us, OK, we have a solution for that. If they want to be

really possession-oriented, we have a solution for that.”

Wassell holds that all of the deep runs into the NCAA Tournament are a testament to the Nittany Lions' ability to adapt and evolve from game to game.

However, the defensive coach admits Penn State will not be a “finished product” as a result of this fluid tactical style.

In 2021, the players have had over a year to adjust to the defensive system in State College, and that includes freshmen who normally would have little exposure at this juncture in the season.

“I think every year, as fall-sport coaches, we talk about the freshmen, and at that point the freshmen have had about 15 days to prepare for the season,” Dambach said. “[This year,] while it is more challenging in other ways, they are way more prepared.”

One of those freshmen, who Dambach and Wassell both earmarked as one to watch, is center back Eva Alonso.

Wassell likened Alonso to fellow Spaniard and World Cup winner Sergio Busquets for her ability to play-make and move the ball from deep positions.

Alonso earned her first start for the blue and white against Rutgers, but after playing professionally in La Liga for Rayo Vallecano's first team for two seasons, the Spaniard is hardly a typical freshman.

Dambach and Wassell had high praise for Alonso's ability to adapt and her interchangeability across multiple positions in the back four and even the midfield.

Both the head coach and her assistant believe Alonso can play anywhere from center back to holding mid or even as a box-to-box midfielder.

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

DANCING FTK REMOTELY



Penn State Global Brigades dancer Lyndsay Stakem (junior-biobehavioral health) is brought to tears while hugging Hannah Olszewski (junior-marketing), who wrote her a note during the final four hours of THON dancing in her apartment on Sunday, Feb. 21.



Stakem opens a care package from one of her org's THON families as she dances for Penn State Global Brigades' THON chapter on Saturday, Feb. 20.



Stakem does the 2021 line dance with her friends during the final four hours of THON while dancing from her apartment on Sunday, Feb. 21.

Penn State Global Brigades THON dancer Lyndsay Stakem (junior-biobehavioral health) spent THON 2021 dancing from her State College apartment. With THON as a virtual event this year, Stakem got creative during her 46 hours, trying to replicate the Bryce Jordan Center's energy with the support of friends and family by making TikToks, doing crafts, and decorating. Stakem was able to dance and stay awake for the full 46 hours, despite THON's recommendation for dancers to rest during the six-hour rest periods in the virtual livestream.

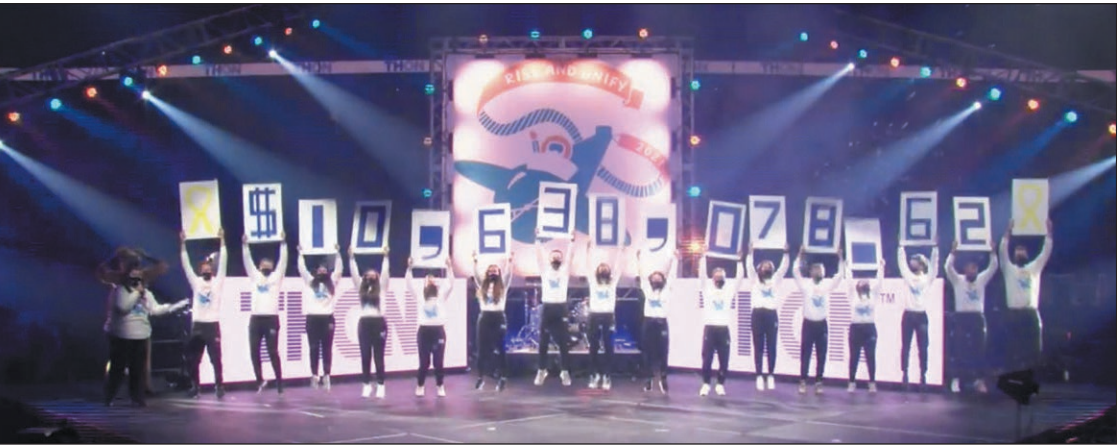
Photos by Lily LaRegina



Stakem stretches with the help of Olszewski during the final four hours of THON, dancing from her apartment on Sunday, Feb. 21.



Stakem smiles after sitting at the end of THON 2021's 46 hours in her State College apartment on Sunday, Feb. 21.



Via 46 Live

THON 2021 raised \$10,638,078.62 for pediatric cancer.

Dancers create memories during first virtual THON

By Nick Stonesifer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

THON 2021 has come to an end, and those who stood for the cause have since been resting and recovering. However, an amalgamation of stories and memories from the weekend will live in the minds of all who participated. Throughout the weekend, dancers said some moments stuck out more than others. Sarah Knappman, a dancer with Penn State's Tapestry Dance Company, said even though THON this year was virtual, she thought it was "inspiring" to see everyone involved come together for the weekend. "I think THON still lived on [and] prospered even though it was virtual," Knappman (senior-biomedical and mechanical engi-

neering) said. Knappman was stuck between two moments to call her "best" from the weekend. One memory was from the Final Four when she and her teammates were on a Zoom call with their Four Diamonds families. They all played a freeze dance game on the call. Knappman said the children put on a Zoom reaction, and the dancers came up with moves based on those reactions. Knappman said the second event she remembered from the weekend was their makeshift version of "Slides of Strength," which is normally a staple for dancers at THON. In a normal year, dancers in the Bryce Jordan Center slide on a tarp covered in baby powder and then receive a quick massage. Since this was not an op-

tion due to the virtual setting, Knappman said her and her fellow dancers used a pool float covered in baby powder and did their own version of the game. Brooke Schindelheim, a dancer with the Penn State Thespian Society, said her weekend was "incredible." "I [could not have] asked for a better THON weekend; it really all came together and it was just amazing. There [were] no words to describe it," Schindelheim (senior-labor and employment relations) said. Schindelheim said her favorite moment from the weekend was when her Four Diamonds family came to visit them. The family did a quick drive-by and she said it helped her "keep going" through the 46 hours. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story..

Seniors remember their last THON

By Oliver Ferguson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

This weekend, Penn State seniors held their breath for the last time as students as they waited for the THON total reveal. However, it wasn't the way many expected when they first arrived at Penn State. While THON was entirely virtual, many seniors said they didn't mind the way their final THON turned out. One senior who enjoyed the virtual setting of THON was Zoe Cykosky. Cykosky (senior-supply chain information systems) said the virtual THON "bypassed" her expectations. She even thought it was her favorite THON. "I thought it was more about the energy and the feeling," Cykosky said. "I still felt that THON energy the entire weekend." Cykosky said her favorite parts of THON this year were the events her organization, Penn State Club Tennis, organized for the weekend. Some of these events included Zoom talks with THON children, scavenger hunts and taking pictures. Cykosky added that she enjoyed the rest period this year. "I woke up every day recharged," Cykosky said. Katelynn Powell said she also didn't mind the change for this year despite it being her last. Powell (senior-corporate innovation and entrepreneurship)

was an entertainment captain at THON this year. She said she spent some time at the Bryce Jordan Center helping with the livestream. "I definitely think it was worth it," Powell said. For Powell, her favorite part of the weekend was how focused THON was on the families. She said she feels the spectacle of THON in the BJC sometimes "distracts" from the families. "It was important to me that we got back to our roots again and focused on what we're truly doing [THON] for," Powell said. However, even though Powell said this year was her favorite, she still missed all of the people who are normally at THON. "I felt like this year — because we were so focused on the mission — I just felt like everyone's heart was in it," Powell said. Francis Glavin said he also believes it was worth it to attend the virtual THON this year despite the circumstances. Glavin (senior-biochemistry) has been involved with THON since his freshman year as a member of the Sigma Pi fraternity. "It was just an insane honor to be able to represent my organization," Glavin said. "I had a really good time." For the weekend, Glavin said his fraternity planned themed activities at different locations. Visit collegian.psu.edu to read the full story.