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## Housing Edition Fall 2020



Graphic by Kaleigh Quinnan



# HERE residents feel like ‘guinea pigs’

By Quincey Reese  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State students living in the HERE, a new high-rise apartment building in downtown State College, are “living in an active construction site” in its debut year, according to resident Sarah Sutnick.

Located on Heister Street, the HERE began offering leases last fall, making this the first semester students have lived in it.

A couple of weeks into their living experiences, some student residents have mixed reviews of the apartment.

Sutnick (senior-broadcast journalism) said having five bedrooms and five bathrooms, a variety of amenities and a close location to College Avenue are “phenomenal” qualities of the HERE, but that these things cannot be fully appreciated until the construction on the building is complete.

“It would be a really luxurious place to live, if it was done,” Sutnick said.

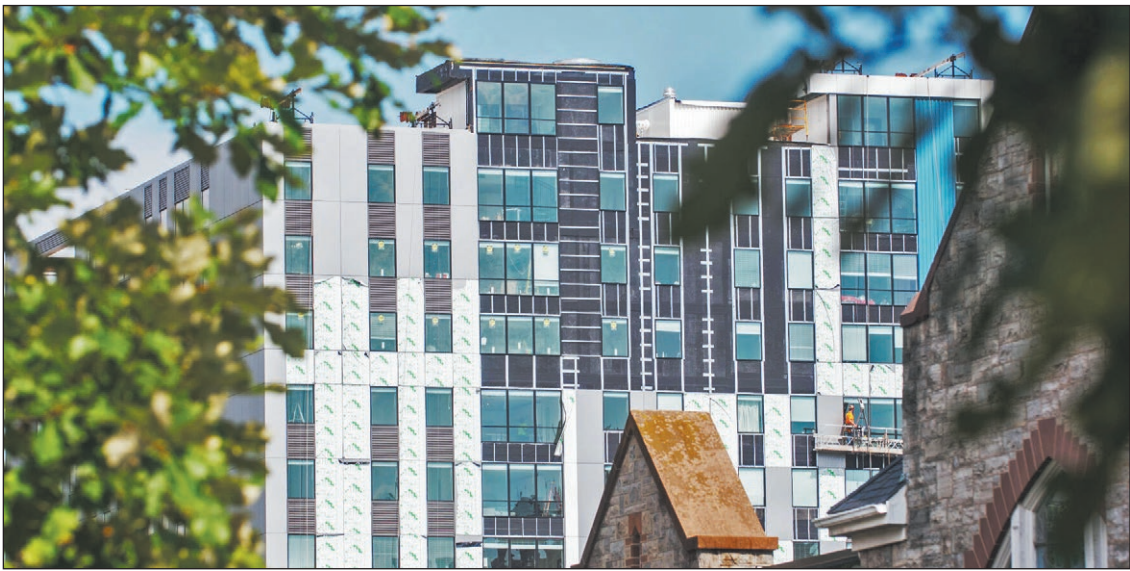
She added that she is still unable to enter the building via the front door due to construction, instead having to use other, less convenient entrances.

Mirroring this sentiment, Carter Kelly said the ongoing construction has disrupted his daily life to a degree.

“I woke up this morning, not to my alarm, but to construction above my room,” Kelly (senior-rehabilitation and human services) said.

Kelly said construction prevented him from moving in at the initially anticipated time. He said the HERE told residents the pandemic pushed back the construction process by about four to six weeks, which is why they were unable to allow residents into the building at the scheduled time in August.

Kelly said residents of lower floors were able to move in the



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Construction workers** work on finishing the facade of the HERE, downtown State College’s newest high rise apartment building. Students have already moved into the building, despite the incomplete construction.

day after initially scheduled, but he had to live at the Days Inn on Pugh Street for two weeks until his apartment — which is on the top floor of the building — was completed. He said HERE paid for the hotel stay and credited residents rent for the time they were not living in their apartment.

Sutnick said some of the HERE’s amenities, such as the gym and the terrace spaces, have been closed frequently throughout the past few weeks due to coronavirus restrictions.

Although she understands why these rules need to be followed, Sutnick said she does not believe it should be the HERE’s responsibility to regulate who utilizes these common spaces instead of allowing students to make their own decisions.

Being that she pays around \$1,300 a month in rent after dividing the cost with her four roommates, Sutnick said the HERE should not regulate how often people use its amenities.

Sutnick said an additional inconvenience is that all HERE residents are required to have a

key fob on them after 8 p.m. in order to get into the building and its communal spaces, because all of the doors lock at that time.

Other than these drawbacks, Sutnick said she believes the HERE will be better in the coming weeks.

“I think it will be [worth it],” Sutnick said. “Moving in the past month, it has not been [worth it], but by November or December I think it will be.”

Fabiola Manieri said she has faced similar issues with the HERE, but feels like she and her roommates “lucked out” with their relatively smooth transition into the new apartment.

When she first moved in, Manieri (junior-nutritional sciences) said there were some paint marks on the floors, the air conditioning did not work for two days and the hot water would not run for the first two weeks unless they turned on all of the showers at the same time.

Manieri said the HERE also has security hired to ensure residents’ safety and that coronavirus mitigation protocols are being followed. Although she appreciates the thought behind this, she said it feels invasive at times.

When she and her roommates had two friends over to celebrate one of her roommate’s birthdays, for example, Manieri said a security guard knocked on their door and asked them to turn down their music, without having received a noise complaint.

Manieri said this was not a big deal but made it feel like she was living in a dorm again.

“I kind of left the dorms because I didn’t want an RA, and this felt kind of like an RA in an apartment,” Manieri said.

She added that with people hanging out in their apartments more often due to the pandemic, she did not feel the group’s actions were out of line.

Kelly also expressed concerns over the security system.

“Not many people are a fan of

[the security]. They just don’t handle things the greatest,” he said. “They’re just enforcing their job, but it makes it hard for us to have our friends come over.”

Manieri also said the HERE gave residents until Sunday, Sept. 27 to decide whether or not they wanted to renew their leases for 2021-22 and that all apartments whose leases were not renewed would be put up for future residents on Monday, Sept. 28.

Manieri said some residents did not find this fair seeing as the apartment is still under construction and some amenities have just opened. “They’re like ‘how am I supposed to know if I want to keep living here if I’ve barely experienced the whole thing?’” Manieri said.

Although these were not ideal situations, Manieri said they were somewhat typical issues of moving into a brand new apartment.

“The longer we’ve been living here, the better it’s gotten,” Manieri said. “We’re kind of like their guinea pigs, I guess, because we’re the first people to live here.”

Manieri added she has heard of other HERE residents who experienced “way worse” than she and her roommates. She said some individuals have had their glass shower doors break seemingly out of nowhere and others have arrived to incompletely furnished apartments, which goes against what residents were promised.

Manieri said she has seen additional instances like this on the Instagram account @theheretea, which has posted pictures and videos of problems students have had with the HERE, including construction crews at work right outside their windows, communal spaces not being finished and appliances not working.

Similarly, Kelly said he and his roommates have experienced the construction crew working

outside their windows while they were getting ready in the morning.

Aside from these issues, Manieri said she and her roommates decided to renew their lease at the HERE for next year because of its positive features and not wanting to move out and back into another apartment.

Manieri said she has especially appreciated having her own room and bathroom, a washer and dryer in the unit, a close proximity to campus, a fully-furnished living space and a “really nice” view of Beaver Stadium.

Even though the HERE is on the higher end of the cost spectrum for State College apartments, Manieri said she feels it is worth the price considering all of the amenities it will offer.

“I would say ultimately yes, it is worth it, because living downtown in general is so expensive,” Manieri said. “Just having this place where, obviously now with COVID, we are spending a lot of time, it’s worth it because I’m always in here and it’s nice to have.”

Kelly said he also feels the HERE is a worthwhile place to live, especially because of the location “right in the heart of downtown,” the amount of space, the quality of his room, the private rooftop deck that comes with being on the top floor and being close by to his sister, who lives on another floor of the apartment.

Kelly said the HERE’s amenities — such as the gym, sky lounge, study spaces and secure mail room — add to this value. He added that other locations that are still being finished, including a coffee shop and a spa featuring a hot tub, sauna and tanning bed, will also contribute to the apartment’s benefits.

Nonetheless, Kelly said he does not believe any State College apartments should be as expensive as they are.

“We’re in State College, and we’re still students who either have loans, grants, financial aid, or even parents paying for these things,” Kelly said. “I think it’s kind of ridiculous to be paying the price we pay at 18 to 22 when people in New York City are paying this price but they are 30 years old with a financially stable job.”

Despite the challenges that have come with living in a new apartment, however, Kelly said being with friends throughout the hectic nature of the construction eases the difficulties.

“It’s a mess, but it’s still fun, especially when you’re living with people that you love, you’re cool with and you’re chill with,” he said. “It makes it worth it.”

The HERE could not be reached for comment.

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# Students share experience in isolation at Eastview Terrace

By Webb Lin  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State has used Eastview Terrace to isolate students who tested positive for the coronavirus, and to quarantine students who have potentially been exposed since the start of the school year.

Though this has been done to help contain the number of cases in State College, some students said the process is not working quite as intended.

In order to be put into isolation, a student must test positive for the coronavirus, either by getting randomly selected for a test or seeking one out.

According to Penn State’s coronavirus information website, students who test positive for the coronavirus are required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days. Students and faculty who are experiencing symptoms are required to isolate until their test results arrive back negative.

Although the two terms are similar, the difference in meaning between quarantine and isolation is apparent, according to Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers.

Quarantine is done to prevent the potential spread of the coronavirus before symptoms, while isolation is done for people who tested positive for the coronavirus or are feeling symptoms of the coronavirus.

Jake Moore said he initially got tested when he had a sore throat and wanted to be on the safe side, but when contacting University Health Services about rapid testing, he ended up feeling confused and “misled.”

“I called five or six different people on UHS and their information and communication is in no way consistent,” Moore (junior-

telecommunications) said. “The rapid test for example, at first I was told they had them, a different lady told me they ran out of them, and a third lady told me they never had them to begin with.”

Rachel Hord also expressed confusion when she got tested and was not given a clear answer as to how long it would take to receive the test results.

Hord (freshman-telecommunications) was told to quarantine in Eastview Terrace until her results came back, and even after the results arrived with a confirmed positive, Hord said it was unclear how long she would be isolated.

“I heard so many different things from people. When I was getting tested, one lady said it takes three to five business days to get results. Another lady said two days,” Hord said. “When I asked how long would isolation be, I heard one lady say two weeks, and I heard another say 10 days.”

Catalina Cheung, who had also been tested and received a call within a few hours to pack and move into Eastview Terrace, said packing instructions were unclear.

Cheung (sophomore-kinesiology) said she had 20 minutes to get to Eastview and packed whatever she could carry.

“I didn’t bring a pillow or a blanket because they didn’t say to. They just said to bring toiletries and clothes and enough stuff for 14 days max,” Cheung said.

“So then I got there and there was just a little blanket and no pillow.”

Cheung also said the meals provided were either hit or miss, recalling one mishap when water was not delivered.

Lunch would be served at

around 11:30 a.m., dinner is served at 4:30 p.m. and breakfast would come with the dinner.

Hord, who had tested positive, said she was not able to taste or smell the food. Despite this, she said chicken and vegetables were served four days in a row and described dinner as “dining hall food that has been sitting out for a few hours.”

“One night they gave me some brown meat. I really don’t know what it was because I couldn’t taste it, but later that night I got sick,” Hord said.

While quarantined there, students tried to figure out ways to fill their time and keep themselves entertained, as they are not to leave their room at all.

Moore said he filled his time by watching Netflix, calling his friends and family and trying to study and do work.

Hord said she contacted her

friends and family, and rewatched all of the Harry Potter movies, did homework and read.

For students who might have to isolate at Eastview Terrace at some point, Moore said he suggests finding a way to workout and exercise as much as possible.

“It got to the point where I was just excited to have people dropping off my food,” Moore said. “I was just so bored.”

Cheung said to bring things to keep yourself entertained, as after a couple days it becomes “depressing.”

Hord suggested packing for longer than you think you will be in Eastview, along with things such as books and movies. Hord said to also bring medicine, as it is not provided.

From their experience overall, Moore said he was very displeased with the process and that at least two people on his floor at

Eastview had felt the same way.

In terms of what Penn State can do to help students with the whole process for the future, Hord said that it would be better to offer some form of transportation for students who live farther from Eastview Terrace, and although it would be difficult to do, Hord said it would be beneficial for someone from Penn State to call and check in on the isolated students’ mental health.

“I never got a mental health check, [but] luckily I had my friends and family who checked up on me,” Hord said. “But, I feel like it would have been nice to know that the campus was thinking about my well-being rather than just locking me in a room and leaving food outside my door for 10 days.”

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Ken Minamoto/Collegian

**Students who test positive for the coronavirus or experience symptoms** are required to isolate in Eastview Terrace.



# Extra time, extra creative

*Penn State freshmen spend more time making their dorms feel like home*

By Courtney McGinley  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Due to the ongoing global pandemic, many students are encouraged to stay in their homes and dorm rooms while attending classes online to ensure their safety.

Some Penn State freshmen took more time to decorate their rooms due to the extra time they plan to spend at home this semester.

Katie Porco said she definitely spends more time in her room because of the pandemic and the high number of positive coronavirus cases on campus.

“I took time to decorate my room because we are going to be in our rooms a lot doing school work,” Porco (freshman-hospitality) said. “It is best to have a good environment, feel more comfortable and be more at home.”

Porco and her roommate put a lot of thought into getting their dorm together for the semester.

“My roommate and I collaborated and got all kinds of different picture frames to hang funny photos of people we love,” Porco said. “My roommate has ‘wacky’ Adam Sandler on her wall, and I have Michael Cera on mine. We wanted it to become a conversation piece.”

Porco said she also has several throw pillows not only for comfort, but to make the room look more “fancy.”

Similarly, Emily Nordmann spent a lot of time decorating her room this semester.

She said she has a tapestry of Paris, many photos of family and friends and LED lights to brighten the mood inside.

“I spent more time decorating my dorm because I knew that I would be spending more time inside than outside,” Nordmann (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. “I brought a lot of things from home to give my room that ‘homey’ environment.”

Nordmann said she wanted to make her room look extra nice because it is where she said she would be taking all of her Zoom classes.

“I didn’t want to spend hours doing my work in a dorm with



James Riccardo/Collegian

East Halls quad on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

white cinder blocks as my walls,” Nordmann said. “I feel more comfortable here with decorations, and it makes me feel a little better about my whole semester being online.”

On the other hand, Caleb Roberts said he did not spend time decorating his room, thinking Penn State might send students home earlier than planned.

“I originally thought we were going to be sent home earlier than the fifth week of school, therefore, I did not decorate my room for fear I would have to pack up and take it all down,” Roberts (freshman-aerospace engineering) said.

Additionally, he thought it was unnecessary because students are not allowed to have a lot of people in their dorm rooms because of coronavirus limitations.

However, he had a change of heart because he wanted to make his room more vibrant when studying.

“Thinking about it now, I think it would be fun and different to

make my room more of an at-home atmosphere,” Roberts said.

“With extra time on my hands due to coronavirus, it’s definitely possible.”

Nevertheless, Jill Heilig, similar to Porco and Nordmann, went all out to bring happiness to her room.

“I did decorate my dorm more in-depth with my favorite things because of coronavirus, just because I wanted to give it that home-like feel,” Heilig (freshman-film) said.

From completing school work to hanging with friends and everything in between, Heilig said she spends a lot of time in her room.

“At the end of the day, comfortability is key,” Heilig said, “and I want to be reminded of all the things I love, especially amid a pandemic when everything is out of our hands.”

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Maddie Aiken/Collegian

Cars drive through downtown State College on Feb. 18.

## Students share apartment hunting highs and lows

By Athena Taveras  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Many upperclassmen decide to move off-campus at some point in their college careers, but what exactly does a search for an apartment look like?

Peggy Burke reflected on her experience looking for housing last year.

For Burke (senior-psychology) and her current roommates, the search was easy because they knew people who lived in the building before them.

However, there were a few complications.

“We had a lot of roommates, so there were limited options,” Elizabeth Trautman said.

The group has a total of seven people living together in a loft-style apartment with Burke, including friends Trautman (senior-biochemistry and molecular biology) and Adriana Romano.

According to Romano (senior-biomedical engineering), the group was also doing its best to find a place with the best value for what they were looking for. Romano said they were particularly looking for a place that was well-cleaned and well-maintained.

The group lived on campus for three years, but all agreed they prefer living off-campus.

Leila Filien is currently in search of housing for next year, and said she is excited to live off-campus because she wants to be able to cook.

Filien (sophomore-chemistry and political science) and her friend Jacob Snyder are planning on being neighbors, both hoping to live in different units in the same building.

Filien is hoping to find a place

that is affordable and is a short bus ride or car ride away from campus.

“I am not trying to commute 30 minutes every day to school,” Filien said.

Snyder (sophomore-biology) said he trusts his friend is going to pick a nice place to live, and said he does not do much research besides looking at pictures of the apartments.

He requested that the apartment has quiet places so that they can focus on work. He also hopes for some kind of common space where they can all spend time together.

Snyder and Filien have some worries as well, though.

“When you go online, you see very mixed reviews,” Filien said. “You kind of have to go based on word of mouth and what you feel when you tour the places.”

Luckily, Filien said, they were able to do in-person tours of the apartments they were interested in.

She also said landlords and apartment companies often offer the “bare minimum” and charge high rent prices.

However, Filien hopes the rates might be lower than usual this year because of uncertainties with the coronavirus and lower demand for off-campus housing.

Meanwhile, Snyder’s biggest concern is the commute.

“Right here [on campus] it’s easily accessible,” Snyder said. “I can wake up however-many minutes before my class and just throw on something and go.”

For now, Snyder and Filien are waiting to see which apartment will have the most reasonable price.

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## HUB art exhibit honors dead migrants

By Quincey Reese  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Orange and manila tags laid out on a map line the wall in the HUB-Robeson Center's Art Alley, each one representing a migrant life lost while crossing the United States border through the Sonoran Desert of Arizona.

These tags are part of a participatory art exhibition called Hostile Terrain 94, whose creator is a Penn State graduate.

University of California, Los Angeles professor Jason De León, who received a doctorate in anthropology from Penn State in 2008, said via email he came up with the idea for the exhibit in 2018, hoping to raise awareness for the migrant struggle.

According to Sarah Kipp, the exhibition coordinator for the HUB galleries, the exhibit's name is derived from the 1994 U.S. policy called "Prevention Through Deterrence" which increased border patrol measures intended to shift undocumented migration patterns.

Because of this, Kipp said the main location where undocumented migrants can enter the country is through the Sonoran Desert of Arizona, which U.S. Border Patrol enforcement referred to as "hostile terrain" in official reports.

As the director of the non-profit Undocumented Migration Project — which began in 2009 to research the migrant experience and inform the public — De León said it took 16 months and eight prototypes to get the exhibit to its finalized stage.

UMP Exhibition coordinator Nicole Smith said Hostile Terrain 94 began as a map with red dots placed at the exact longitude and latitude where migrant bodies were found by the nonprofit's research team.

After placing all of the red dots on the map, however, Smith said the team felt the impact of the exhibit could be improved upon.

"After having it up, [Jason] really felt like it kind of fell flat and didn't do justice to or showcase the weight of these deaths that are occurring," Smith said. "When you just have a bunch of red dots on a map... you can't see the depth of it."

At this stage, the UMP team came up with the idea to replace the red dots



James Riccardo/Collegian

The Hostile Terrain 94 exhibit displayed in Art Alley Tuesday, September 29 at the HUB-Robeson Center.

with toe tags, which are cardboard tags used to identify dead people in morgues.

The tags include information about each migrant they represent, including name, age, sex, reporting date, cause of death, body condition and the location of where each individual was found.

The color of the tag also holds meaning, with manila tags representing bodies the team was able to identify and orange representing the unidentifiable.

Given the hot climate in the Sonoran Desert, Kipp said it does not take long for bodies to become unidentifiable.

Smith said the tags were better equipped to express the multitude of migrants who died crossing the border, as well as the true impact of the issue at hand. Based on data gathered from the mid-1990s to 2019, there are about 3,200 tags depicted in the exhibit.

Because the tags overlap one another, Smith said "there are a few inches where they are not flat up against the wall." She said the experience of filling out all of the tags and hanging them up on the wall "hit really deep" for the team.

"After we installed it and put up all the tags for the very first time, we took a step back in this exhibition space, and we kind of just were silent for a second," Smith said. "Just seeing the density of the tags really helped us think about the amount of people who are dying."

Recognizing the impact

the exhibit had on the team, the UMP decided to extend the opportunity for other organizations to host their own version of the display. To date, De León said Hostile Terrain 94 is present in approximately 150 organizations across six continents.

De León said the meaning of the exhibit is revealed most strongly through direct participation.

"We find the filling out of toe tags to be an important moment of witnessing for our participants, and we hope the exhibition will both increase peoples' knowledge about this issue and encourage them to work for positive social change," De León said.

Smith said many of the 150 organizations are universities or other academic institutions, but there are also several non-academic groups involved, including a church and a shelter.

Lindsey Landfried, curator and senior gallery manager for the HUB galleries, said she applied Penn State to be a host for Hostile Terrain 94 in 2019 upon requests by a few professors in the anthropology department.

According to Kipp, these individuals knew of De León's work and wanted to bring it to Penn State. Knowing the anthropology department did not have a sufficient space for this, they reached out to the HUB art galleries.

Upon seeing all of the requests, Landfried said she knew the HUB galleries should get involved.

"Seeing such an outpouring of interest from our community, I wanted to support it," Landfried said.

She also said the exhibit fit well with the galleries' mission of bringing "transformative arts experiences of local relevance and international importance to our region."

Visual arts production specialist for the HUB galleries Danielle Spewak said the galleries began working on the exhibit with the community this past May through the Penn State Museum Consortium.

She said the group also started reaching out to students via virtual classes in June and began officially installing the exhibit in Art Alley in August.

To recreate Hostile Terrain 94 at Penn State, Kipp said community members have been filling out the 3,200 toe tags with information provided by the UMP. Interested individuals can

register to receive a tag via a form on the HUB galleries' website.

Kipp said the University Park community and some Commonwealth Campuses — including World Campus, Abington, Scranton, Brandywine and Altoona — have participated in creating Hostile Terrain 94.

According to Kipp, University Park participants can pick up their tag at the HUB, but tags can also be mailed to individuals at the Commonwealth Campuses.

To offer emotional support in the tag completion process, Landfried said the galleries are also hosting workshops from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays during which University Park participants can join with other individuals in filling out their tag.

She said the galleries also offer participants a pamphlet of mental health and student affairs resources at this time.

Kipp said the galleries are offering this support to students because of how "heavy" the subject matter is.

"This is all real data," Kipp said. "These are real people who lost their lives crossing the Arizona Desert in search of a better life."

So far, Landfried said over 100 community members and 200 students have filled out the tags on their own time. Additionally, more than 440 individuals have filled out a tag while attending one of the galleries' 32 workshops.

According to Landfried, the galleries are aiming to have all of the tags filled out by mid-October. Although the current teardown date for the Hostile Terrain 94 exhibit is Nov. 20, she said she hopes to keep it up in Art Alley until December if possible.

Accompanying the tag portion of the exhibit, Spewak said there is a TV displaying drone footage of the Sonoran Desert that was sent to the galleries by the UMP. She said the galleries decided to display this to give community members — many of whom have likely never experienced a desert — a greater understanding of the conditions migrants face crossing the border.

Spewak added that the smaller TV shows a video created by the galleries to explain Hostile Terrain 94 and how people can get involved in Penn State's version of the exhibit.

After each host

organization takes down its exhibit, Kipp said the tags will be sent back to the UMP. According to De León, the UMP hopes to use these toe tags in a large, culminating exhibition in Washington D.C.

To accompany this, De León said the UMP is also working on a video entitled "A Moment of Global Remembrance" in which participants from around the world will submit a video of them reading one of the 3,200 deceased migrant names.

Smith said the UMP initially planned on doing the culminating exhibition just prior to the 2020 election, but the pandemic prevented this from happening on schedule. Instead, the UMP plans to hold this event whenever the pandemic has passed.

She added that the lifespan of the Hostile Terrain 94 exhibit is likely to be extended into 2022. The tags will also be archived online so they can be referenced in the future.

The galleries also plan to collaborate with the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State for an event in early October. Spewak said the details of this are not yet finalized, but they will showcase a performance focusing on "migrant stories" since the center had already planned on utilizing this theme for their show next year.

Spewak said she believes the exhibit takes on new meaning during Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on Sept. 15.

"This exhibition is to memorialize the lives lost at our border, and these lives are largely Hispanic ones," Spewak said. "While Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate Hispanic history, we must also recognize the hardship that has been placed on these communities by our migration policies."

Landfried said the galleries may also host a virtual viewing of episode six of the Netflix series "Immigration Nation." This episode, entitled "Prevention Through Deterrence" features De León, Hostile Terrain 94 and the UMP.

Kipp said students interested in learning more about the migrant experience can also access De León's book "The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail" for free via the Penn State Libraries.

Although everyone has a different interpretation of Hostile Terrain 94 depending on who they are and when they view it, Landfried said participation is a "high privilege" in which the true artistic expression of the exhibit lies.

"The art is not exactly the tags. It's not exactly the map," Landfried said. "Where the project really lives is through having people engage with this act of remembrance and also the learning and shared humanity of thinking about these people who have died from migration."

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Courtesy of the Undocumented Migration Project

Jason De León, a Penn State graduate, came up with the idea for the Hostile Terrain 94 exhibit in 2018.



# Lack of Latin American curriculum in US

**By Melissa Manno**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

By the year 2050, more than one in five Americans will be of Hispanic descent, according to the Pew Research Center.

Although Latino people make up the country’s second largest ethnic group behind non-Hispanic whites, Latino Penn Staters say the K-12 education system lacks the representation to reflect this.

A.K. Sandoval-Strausz is the director of Penn State’s Latina/o Studies Program and emphasized the importance of Americans learning the nation’s history of migration.

“If you’re going to tell American history from the standpoint of one group of people, there’s ways you’re going to get it completely wrong,” Sandoval-Strausz said. “You can’t just look at this country’s story and think, ‘this is great’ because it also involves mass death and enslavement.”

He discussed how Latino history is relevant to today’s issues and how it can help students understand U.S. population demographics.

According to the Pew Research Center, Latinos accounted for 52% of all U.S. population growth between 2010 and 2019.

“This is partly because the U.S. launched a lot of military offenses and other kinds of interventions in countries across this hemisphere that displaced people, many of whom came here,” Sandoval-Strausz said. “Understanding the things we as a nation have done wrong alongside the things that we have done right is essential to being honest with ourselves about who we are.”

Sandoval-Strausz is a Colombian born in the Bronx, New York. He said growing up somewhere with an extensive variety of Latino heritages made it difficult for schools to implement one cohesive curriculum, so there was less pressure to do so.

Because of this, though, he said he was a target of insulting stereotypes, referencing the cocaine jokes he’d hear when people learned of his Colombian heritage.

As a professor, Sandoval-Strausz said he sees the lack of representative education reflected in his Latino students. He said they generally have a good sense of their own ethnicity and its collective history, but haven’t grasped what all of these Latin American migrations have in



Courtesy of the Mexican Student Association

**The executive board of the Mexican Student Association** poses for a photo at the Noche en Mexico in 2019.

common — which tends to relate directly to U.S. intervention.

“I spent a lot of time speaking with Puerto Ricans and ethnic Mexicans about what they have in common in terms of land loss, and by the same token I talk to the Dominicans and Colombians about the way the United States intervened in their ancestors’ countries, which made things much more difficult for them,” Sandoval-Strausz said. “It’s the commonalities that are often new to them.”

Mexican Student Association President Estefania Ledesma was born and raised in Mexico until she moved to Harrisburg before she began kindergarten. With Spanish being her first language, she had to learn English in preschool and became fluent by third grade.

Ledesma (senior-veterinary and biomedical sciences) said there was no Latino education in primary school, adding that what she did know of her history was a result of her own research or from her Mexican-born parents.

It wasn’t until high school when Ledesma said she first heard her heritage mentioned in the classroom — and it was a moment she wouldn’t forget.

“I distinctly remember we were learning about World War Two, and Mexico, Puerto Rico and Cuba had two pages of the textbook, so Mexican history was literally just two paragraphs and we spent about 20 minutes on all of Latinx history before moving on,” Ledesma said. “This sums up how Latinx education is in the U.S.”

Ledesma said this shocked her since she already knew how large of a role Mexico played in America’s past and didn’t understand how two paragraphs could represent the extent of Mexican participation in this country’s history.

“I don’t think people realize the huge impact Latinos have had in America,” Ledesma said. “There’s so much important history we skip over, and especially now in the U.S. political climate where immigration is one of the biggest issues, students should learn early on why those policies are the way they are.”

She also emphasized how many people have a strong stance on immigration without understanding the actual process and how long it takes to even be considered for residency in the U.S.

“We learn a lot about immigration from Europe in school and even spend a month on Ellis Island, learning about European influence and contributions,” Ledesma said. “But when it comes to Latinx Americans, we completely ignore what they have provided to America.”

Damaris Fraser was raised in Puerto Rico until she moved to Orlando, Florida, her senior year of high school. In Florida, she said she learned nothing about Latino history — but that was nothing new to her.

One might expect Puerto Rico to have an extensive curriculum covering its history, but Fraser said the colonization of the territory has led to an Americanized and limited education system.

“The only Latinx studies classes we had was Puerto Rican history and I only took that for two years,” Fraser (junior-secondary education) said. “Meanwhile, I had to take American history every year.”

Fraser said if Latino youth saw people who looked like them in positions of power in their education, it would “inspire them and let them know they can do so much more than what society generally tells them.”

She emphasized how many cultures, not just Latinos, are suppressed in the American education system and how this contributes to prejudice.

“People are afraid of the unknown, but when students learn about different cultures and get exposed to something early, it produces a curiosity,” Fraser said. “Latinx culture is so enriching and can offer so much more than what people are getting from it.”

This nonexistent curriculum leads to false assumptions, like the ones Fraser said she often gets about not looking Puerto Rican because she has a darker complexion, or that she’s an international student because students don’t know Puerto Rico is part of the U.S. — or in general that if a student is Latino, they must be Mexican.

These assumptions are a result of clumping a diverse set of nations and cultures together to fit one label, which is why graduate student Esther Muñoz said she’s not fond of the term “Hispanic.”

“Humans always want to put everything into a category even if

it doesn’t fit, so they take this set of people who are very different and put them into a group, stick a label on it and move on,” Muñoz said.

Muñoz was born and raised in San Francisco, but said she grew up Mexican. She attended high school in the suburbs of the bay area, the inner city of San Francisco and in Germany, and said the experience of being Latino in those three places was drastically different.

In the suburbs, Muñoz said she was taught the “American version” of history and it wasn’t until she moved to the inner city where she learned to challenge it.

“I was going to a completely underfunded high school with rebellious teachers who were adamant about being truthful about a lot of the injustices we see,” Muñoz said, referencing how many of the students were from poverty-stricken areas. “For those teachers, it was really important to help students understand why we are in the predicament we are in as colored people in the U.S.”

Throughout her education, Muñoz said she’d faced a multitude of stereotypes about her Latino background, being called ethnic slurs and told she wasn’t American.

“If I’m Mexican and Nicaraguan, and these people say they’re American, but their heritage is European, how come they have more of a right coming across the Atlantic ocean than my family who just came across the land?” Muñoz said.

She said the solution comes down to one simple thing — textbooks. By updating textbooks without whitewashing history, Muñoz said students will be able to form more educated opinions about topics that impact Latino people.

“If you start in kindergarten getting brainwashed about Christopher Columbus, and this is the education across the board, of course you won’t understand why Latinos get really worked up when we think about him,” Muñoz said. “Let’s talk about things that actually happened to create this country.”

Puerto Rican student Jaclyn Navarro also expressed how the curriculum around different cultures is deficient. Growing up in Philadelphia, Navarro said Latino education was missing from her curriculum.

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

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# The music of Penn State game day

By Brooke Steach  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Typically, Penn State football fans can expect to hear the same songs played during a game to give Beaver Stadium its usual atmosphere.

Last year, Beaver Stadium was voted the best college football venue in the country in USA Today’s “For The Win 2019 Ultimate Stadium Bracket.”

One of the people tasked with creating the atmosphere at Beaver Stadium is PJ Mullen, Penn State’s director of marketing. Mullen graduated from Penn State in 2007 with a degree in telecommunications.

Mullen said his responsibilities during football games are focused on the atmosphere, crowd, videos on the big screen, music and fireworks. He said he works with the goal of putting on the best show every year.

While selecting songs for football games, Mullen said trying to unify thousands of people is not necessarily about playing new songs. Instead, Mullen said he

plays songs students, parents, kids and grandparents have heard at Beaver Stadium for years.

“Whenever we are going through the songs at the games, we mentally conditioned our fans for the past several years to react to certain items and to know when a certain song plays it means a certain item is happening on the field,” Mullen said.

During games, Mullen said the players and fans know what specific sounds are and what will be coming next in the game.

“We are always trying to keep things fresh, especially for the warm up. The team, the guys and coaching staff all like certain songs, and we are always trying to maintain a new vibe there,” Mullen said.

While Mullen said he likes introducing new songs in the stadium, classics like “Sweet Caroline” and “Livin’ on a Prayer” will continue to be played.

To narrow down the songs for football games, Mullen said 30 interns also give input. The football

players provide songs they would like to hear while warming up.

“We have to keep in mind we have age ranges in the stadium from 3 years old to 95. We have to think what’s going to get everyone going and be appropriate for the fanbase,” Mullen said.

Mullen said the stadium’s remixes are a major factor in creating the typical game day atmosphere.

“I can see the students jumping up and down, and the [alumni] doing the same thing,” Mullen said. “Sitting up in that chair and being an [alumnus] myself, I can feel all the energy in the stadium, and there’s really nothing better than that.”

Mullen was unable to describe plans for this upcoming season just yet. He said the marketing department doesn’t really have any guidance yet from the Big Ten or Penn State.

Additionally, many Penn State students also have favorite game day songs and remixes.

For example, Nathan Sanchez said his favorite song played at the games is the “The Lion King” EDM remix.

Sanchez (senior-kinesiology) said he would add more EDM music if he had to change the football playlist. He said his favorite “hype” song played at the games is “Up Down (Do This All Day)” by T-Pain.

However, Nick Plakans said he wouldn’t change anything about the music played at Beaver Stadium, because he thinks the current music makes the atmosphere special.

Plakans (junior-security risk analysis) said his favorite song to hear during football games is “Mr. Brightside” by The Killers.



Collegian File Photo

A crowd cheers for Penn State in the student section during the game against Rutgers at Beaver Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

MY VIEW | AVA LEONE

## How is the Travis Scott burger?

I walked downtown blaring Travis Scott’s 2016 album “Birds In The Trap Sing McKnight” on my way to try his notorious burger.

Videos of Gen Z students driving up to McDonald’s and ordering the Travis Scott burger while blasting “Sicko Mode” into the drive-thru speakers have been all over my TikTok. The Travis Scott Meal has become an internet sensation.

As the first celebrity McDonald’s has ever partnered with for a meal since Michael Jordan in the early 90s, Travis Scott had big shoes to fill, and he is exceeding all expectations.

The limited-edition burger has been selling out in McDonald’s restaurants across the world, and for a company that produces two billion hamburgers every year, the meal’s popularity was unprecedented.

Even though Travis Scott’s meal has turned into a meme on social media, people are still coming out in droves to try what was the star’s signature order since his fameless days in Houston.

While waiting in line for my

order to be filled, I could hear murmured conversations around me about the Travis Scott burger. Students getting their fast food fix before heading out for the night were laughing about the phenomenon of the meal together at separate tables.

And even when I overheard people ridiculing the trend and the burger itself, it seemed like everyone already had the infamous meal in front of them. On a Saturday night, the restaurant was packed and the talk of the town was about the rapper’s creation.

The elevated burger boasts 100% fresh beef, topped with pickles, onions, two slices of melted American cheese, ketchup and mustard. What sets it apart from a regular Quarter Pounder is the added crispy bacon and lettuce that Travis Scott swears by in his order, according to the McDonald’s website.

When I finally got my hands on the sought-after burger, I was surprised by its simplicity. The flavors all blended well together, but it would not take a Michelin star chef to create this

recipe. Bacon and a beef patty might sound like a little too much protein for one burger, but together with the sweet pickles and crisp lettuce, the meal tasted savory and satisfying.

Washed down with soda and McDonald’s signature french fries, I can confidently say that even with all of the critique for the burger’s basic ingredients, I still completely devoured it in under a few minutes.

Even though the meal is receiving some heat online from people claiming it is just an over-hyped, bland burger, I still had to try it for myself.

I’m a fan of Travis Scott’s music and went to the concert where he graced the Bryce Jordan Center in 2019 during my freshman year.

Anyone who knows Travis Scott and his work knows that he goes all out for almost everything he does.

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

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](mailto:azl271@psu.edu) or follow her on Twitter at @AvalLeone5.

## SPA adapts to hosting virtual events

By Ariana Krammes  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the spread of the coronavirus continuing throughout the fall semester, Penn State’s Student Programming Association has found different ways to continue regular events through Zoom meetings and livestreams.

Nik Steacker, the concerts chair for SPA, said although the organization’s process of picking artists has remained the same, the concerts have been easier to prepare for.

“When we had in-person concerts, we would have to set up production the night before, unload the trucks and then set up all day during the day of the event,” Steacker said. “Now all I have to do is hop on a Zoom call an hour before, do soundcheck and everything’s set up just like that.”

However, Steacker said adjusting to in-person concerts from virtual concerts has been challenging for him.

“I was really looking forward to leading my committee meetings and being very personable with my committee members,” Steacker said. “It’s limited me in my sense of what I’m able to do this year. There’s not much you can do when you’re having Zoom

meetings because not every artist wants to do a virtual show.”

Steacker also added that although virtual events may be limiting in some aspects, they do have some benefits, such as a wider pool of artists.

“Normally Jason Derulo would be way out of budget for us, but we were able to get him on a virtual show because they tend to be cheaper,” Steacker said.

Additionally, SPA special events chair Paulina Rodriguez said her committee may consider in-person events.

According to Rodriguez, the special events committee is responsible for activities like laser tag, comedy shows and DIY projects.

“We are looking into [doing in-person events] this October, but it wouldn’t be like the David Dobrik event or something,” Rodriguez said. “Just a normal event of picking up something that you could do in your own comfort at home.”

Even though online events have been successful and are easier to schedule than in-person events, the latter tend to have a higher turnout, according to Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said some students easily get tired of doing work for their online classes, so they are

less likely to attend a virtual event that would still require them to be sitting at their computer.

Moreover, Rodriguez said SPA is still tabling inside of the HUB while keeping social distancing measures in place.

Chris Eichlin, SPA’s Noontime concerts chair, said it is hard to compare former Noontime turnout with virtual Noontime turnout.

“With Noontime in the HUB, you hear [the music] as you’re walking by and you can just stop by, so our turnout would be much higher in that sense,” Eichlin said.

“Now with everything being virtual, it forces us to be creative and ambitious with our social media accounts and just getting people engaged.”

Some of SPA’s ways of engaging its audience includes weekly artist playlists and videoclips of artists announcing their shows, according to Eichlin.

Although Eichlin said SPA would “love” to have in-person Noontime concerts, it isn’t feasible with either state or university restrictions. However, he said it could be a possibility next semester.

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Across

1 Optimistic

5 Nevada city

9 Table scraps

13 Pot builder

14 Dodge

16 Pinnacle

17 School peers

19 Entertainment award

20 Young fox

21 Quarries

22 Give a hoot

24 Compass dir.

25 Chowed down

26 Champion

29 Exams

31 Puff up

33 Altar avowal

34 Little devil

36 \_\_\_ vapour (steamed)

37 Exploit

38 Ariz. neighbor

40 Black ink item

42 Botanist Gray

43 One Beatle

44 Kind of instinct

45 Annex

47 Superlative ending

48 Gave up

50 Dog tether

54 Anxiety disorders

56 Lyrical Gershwin

58 Jacuzzi

59 Family group

60 Pudding fruit

61 Sweltering

62 Achy

64 Minstrel

67 Wistful word

68 Fry quickly

69 Gaelic

70 Guinea pigs, maybe

71 Summers on the Seine

72 Garden intruder

Down

1 Auditory annoyance

2 Surfing, in a way

3 Union members

4 Survey choice

5 Send, as payment

6 Delights

7 Bar freebies

8 Poetic tribute

9 La Scala offering

10 Curatives

11 Scottish cap

12 Wild blue yonder

15 Intensify

18 Involuntary twitch

23 Totally

26 Brazilian soccer legend

27 Brainchild

28 Silent assent

30 Cultivate, like land

32 Garbage

35 Some ceremonial displays

37 Chip’s partner

38 Before crop or register

39 Despot

41 Lather

43 Energy

46 Guanaco’s cousin

48 Cloak-and-dagger org.

49 Thin out

51 On dry land

52 Better half

53 Loathing

55 Sanctify

57 Bumpkins

60 Sulk

62 Tree juice

63 Corrida cry

65 Arctic explorer John

66 Morning drops on blades

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## WORD SEARCH

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### Italy

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ADRIATIC  
ALPS  
APENNINE  
CANAL  
COLOSSEUM  
ETNA  
EUROPE  
GONDOLA  
HOLY SEE

ISLANDS  
ITALY  
LASAGNA  
MEDITERRANEAN  
MONT BLANC  
MUSEUMS  
PASTA  
PENINSULA  
PITA

PIZZA  
PO RIVER  
POMPEII  
POPE  
TUSCANY  
VATICAN CITY  
VESUVIUS  
VINEYARDS  
WINE

## 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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PA’s COVID app has its quirks

Pennsylvania’s new “COVID Alert PA” is sleek, user-friendly and an informative way to share the commonwealth’s coronavirus cases, deaths and mitigation efforts.

However, though the app was made with good intentions, it has its quirks and will not make a lasting impact on the commonwealth.

At first glance, the app is visually pleasing and easy to navigate. Graphs showing cases and deaths across the commonwealth by day and a symptom check-in feature are both effective and important.

Additionally, putting statistics and information in an application format makes this information more accessible and understandable for younger generations.

Different from the Pennsylvania Department of Health’s online dashboard, the COVID Alert PA app allows users to opt into receiving

OUR VIEW

The app has good intentions, but it will not make a big impact on the commonwealth.

alerts if they have potentially been exposed to someone who tested positive for the coronavirus.

Through the feature called Exposure Alert, Pennsylvanians can be given alerts with advice on how to protect themselves and others from the virus. This feature was created to help “reduce [one’s] risk of unknowingly spreading the virus to your friends, family and larger community,” according to the app’s website.

However, the Exposure Alert feature of the app could be a breach of privacy. It is not required for Pennsylvanians to use the Exposure Alert feature, so if users wish not to share their information, they can still access the app’s

other features.

Despite this, the feature may deter people from using the app — and if people aren’t using it, then what’s the point of it being in the App Store?

Also, if the government and other apps already have tracking abilities on citizens’ phones, why not allow this ability to function for something as important as coronavirus tracing?

According to the app’s website, COVID Alert PA “protects your privacy and personal information.”

It says the app detects if a user is in close contact with other app users through Bluetooth Low Energy technology, or BLE.

This is the same technology phones use

to connect to car radios, speakers and wireless headphones.

The website says the app does not use GPS or any geographical information, and it will “never collect, transmit or store” personal information. All information is said to remain completely anonymous.

The website tells users that downloading the app is voluntary, but the more people who use and download it, the more successful the commonwealth can be in stopping the spread of the coronavirus

Even if Pennsylvanians decide to not use the Exposure Alert feature on COVID Alert PA, the data is still all available in the app. Additionally, people can opt

to tell the DOH how they feel daily and what symptoms they are experiencing via the app.

However, the audience using the app is far too small for statistics and information to be correct and relevant. For instance, out of the 12.8 million Pennsylvania citizens, just over 25,000 people checked into the app on Wednesday, Sept. 30 — which is less than 1% of the commonwealth’s population.

The app also lacks explanations regarding county-specific statistics, and an explanation as to why users must be 18 years or older to use the app.

Just because Pennsylvanians have the app, it doesn’t mean it is being used. And if it’s not being used by a large group of people, it’s not going to be truly effective.

Ultimately, this is an idealized method of mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

MY VIEW | David Tilli

Protect USPS from private greed

Corner a Libertarian and they’ll inevitably resort to the same verbal emission, like the world’s most tedious cuttlefish:



Tilli

“If the government can’t even take a decent photo for our driver licenses, pave our roads and deliver our mail, how can we expect them to handle something as vast and incomprehensible as healthcare or toaster regulation?”

True, it might be near impossible to take a decent photo of your average Libertarian, but the other points ring moot.

Infrastructure in America, besides being a hodge-podge of public funding and private execution, exists in such a state of despair precisely because of a lack of the aforementioned funding.

In a sane world, the United States Post Office would be free from such defamation of character.

Since Trump has spent more time trying to abolish TikTok rather than lessen the plague roiling our country, however, it’s safe to assume we reside in a world that’s a few marbles short of sanity.

To America’s credit, the vast majority of its citizens holds the post office in high regard, with a recent Pew survey showing that 91% of Americans have a favorable view of the agency.

While I’m only a communications major, my basic arithmetic skills tell me that this means only 9% of the country views the post office with disgust and/or disdain. Coincidentally, the percentage of Americans who believe being a neo-Nazi or white supremacist is acceptable also clocks in at 9%.

Again, surely just a coincidence.

What’s not a coincidence is the scorn that most conservative politicians reserve for the little agency that could.

The USPS’s very existence dispels one of modern-day conservatism’s central creeds: that the private sector is always more innovative and efficient than the public.

It’s why George W. Bush passed the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006, which stipulated that the agency raised every single cent for its pension fund for up to 75 years in the future. This is a heavy and unreasonable yoke, one that hasn’t been laid on any other government agency or private business.

Strip away this law — plus the added strain of a pandemic — and the agency would actually be seeing pretty profits rather than steep losses. And if not pretty, then definitely at least presentable.

Even in the face of this conspiracy of dunces, the USPS still finds the time to logistically thrive. In a refreshing change of pace from what most surveys comparing America to actual civilized countries conclude, a 2012 global study ranked our post office number one in terms of efficiency.

Still, the big wheel keeps on turning, and it keeps on turning in order to crush the USPS.

The latest spoke has actually come disturbingly close to finishing the job.

So close, in fact, that a slight correction to earlier in the article must be added: Trump has also spent more time trying to bankrupt the USPS than mitigating national coronavirus spread.

The Trump administration aims to bleed the post office dry and then allow vampiric private sector ghouls to drain the institution even further. This is not idle conjecture — a federal proposal titled “Delivering Govern-

“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night’ will prevent our precious boys and girls in blue from delivering their rounds.”

ment Solutions in the 21st Century” explicitly calls for “conversion from a government agency into a privately-held corporation.”

To advance this draconian goal, Trump appointed Louis DeJoy to the position of postmaster general. DeJoy, aside from earning millions in income from a company closely linked to the USPS, has pursued several measures meant to cripple the agency.

The most noticeable of these get-poor-quick schemes was his mandate to take apart hundreds of mail-sorting machines, a “cost-saving” decision that further clogged the postal service’s delivery capabilities. Even worse, it appears that DeJoy’s act of sabotage can’t be undone by the November election.

The title of Trump’s blueprint has its heart in the right place — the federal government should strive to deliver services in a way suited for the 21st century. It’s just that the actual proposals contained therein lack any heart at all.

Handing the reins over to monied interests is not a 21st century solution unless you’re a 21st century schizoid man.

Without the USPS, millions of rural Americans would live in a mail desert. FedEx and UPS have little economic incentive to deliver mail to such sparse locales, and in the absence of

government subsidies, these private services would solely cater to more densely-populated areas.

The USPS, therefore, offers a more streamlined and efficient way to deliver mail. Rather than allowing the free market to decide who deserves that letter from a friend or life-saving medication, mail is delivered in an equitable and efficient manner.

If Trump was actually interested in saving the Postal Service, he would expand the services delegated to the agency rather than limiting them. From 1911 to 1966, each post office also functioned as a bank and provided patrons basic banking abilities. These ranged from opening saving accounts to even taking out small loans.

A return to postal banking would not only be a return to form for the Postal Service, it would also expand the potential customer base of the USPS and thus make it easier for the agency to turn a profit. Moreover, the so-called “public option for banking” would allow the 68 million Americans currently underserved by private banking to get a fair shake at financial independence.

The famous Postal Service creed states that “neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night” will prevent our precious boys and girls in blue from delivering their rounds. The dark night of the soul that the agency is currently toiling through may be its gloomiest yet, but hope must endure and evil must be resisted.

If the USPS goes, so goes the nation.

David Tilli is a senior majoring in journalism and labor and employment relations and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email him at [dmt45@psu.edu](mailto:dmt45@psu.edu) or follow him on Twitter at [@davewithtilli](https://twitter.com/davewithtilli).



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# INDESCRIBABLE BOND

*How one Penn State athlete raised over \$10,000 for her brother and his school*

By Ben Serfass  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Since the moment she took to volleyball, Macy Van Den Elzen has been a special player, and her motivation stems from something far bigger than the sport itself.

## WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Off the court, her efforts make her a real-life superhero to her brother, Reid.

Reid Van Den Elzen was diagnosed with autism at an early age, but his sister Macy, a freshman on Penn State's women's volleyball team, has helped raise thousands of dollars through her volleyball play in support of him and his fellow classmates.

Reid is a 16-year-old student at Hogan Learning Academy, a licensed private special education school in Berks County for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder that currently educates 71 students year-round.

"Macy treasures her brother. She's truly the third parent of the house," her father Michael Van Den Elzen told The Daily Collegian.

"When she's away from him, the first question out of her mouth is always 'How is Reid?'" She wholeheartedly understands the challenges her brother faces every day. They have an indescribable bond."

Macy was introduced to the game of volleyball by way of the 2012 Summer Olympics.

It was Olympic gold medalists Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh-Jennings who grabbed the attention of the young Van Den Elzen.

"I did want to play a sport when I was younger, but I just didn't know which direction [I wanted to go in]," Macy said. "Watching the connection between Misty May Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings when they were playing, I just got this gut feeling like I want to be a part of that and I want to try that."

It was no more than a week later that Macy and her family received a call from their local church asking if Macy would be interested in playing for the church's team.

"They said, we're coming up with a volleyball team, like a small volleyball team, and we were wondering if your daughter



Photo courtesy of Michael Van Den Elzen

**Penn State women's volleyball outside hitter/middle blocker Macy Van Den Elzen (13)** sends the ball over the net during her time at Emmaus High School. Van Den Elzen started a charity to support her brother, Reid.

would like to join," Macy said. "So it was kind of fate."

From there, the sport opened the doors for Van Dan Elzen in ways neither she, nor anyone else, thought were possible.

Due to his sensitivity to noise, Reid was never able to attend any of Macy's volleyball games.

Macy's parents, Michael and Jennifer, would share the duties of traveling to and from volleyball tournaments with Macy and staying home with their son.

"We shared traveling time with Macy during her club volleyball career," Michael said. "One of us needed to stay at home to care for Reid. We were the Clark Kent and Superman of volleyball, you only ever saw one of us at a tournament. We were fortunate to livestream most of the games for each other and for Reid to watch."

Although the situation was challenging, the volleyball star understood why it was necessary. She also said the "indescribable bond" between her and her brother transcended, and was an integral part of everything she did on and off the court.

"I understood that I needed to be the big sister and protect him at all costs," Macy said.

"That was pretty much the gist of it. I love him so much and I never could imagine what he goes through every single day sensory

wise, and just socially."

Macy played all four years on the Emmaus High School volleyball team.

Once she was notified by her coach that she would serve as the team's outside hitter on the varsity squad as a freshman, she took it as a responsibility and a platform to help her younger brother in bringing awareness to the disorder.

"I was talking to my parents about how I wish I could just do more, because as a freshman, if I'm going to be playing all four years on varsity, there has to be a way where I can give back to my community," Macy said.

"Then my parents and I kind of came up with the idea of why not just raise money for my brother's autism support program and his school. So I counted every single kill that I got. For those four years at high school, I would donate one dollar [for every kill]."

Macy and her family were able to involve other family members and co-workers to participate in her cause by matching her number of kills with one dollar of their own.

While the donations ultimately helped Reid out, Van Den Elzen's father said he noticed that Macy's efforts to raise awareness paid off for her as well.

"At that time, she was strug-

gling with the fact that Reid could not be at the games due to his sensory needs," Michael said. "We couldn't have been more proud to hear her idea to include him. This was also her way of motivating herself."

"He has always been and continues to be a great source of inspiration to her. It was her very personal way of paying forward her gifts."

Over the course of her four-year varsity career, Macy raised approximately \$10,000 in support of Reid and his program.

The growing awareness of Macy's cause allowed more donors to join her charitable cause.

"Looking back, we never imagined she would raise over \$10,000 in her high school career," Michael said.

Brittney Miller is a behavioral analyst who has been employed by the Hogan Learning Academy for over six years and has worked with Reid for over a year and a half.

She and the rest of the staff at Hogan have been able to use Macy's donations to purchase equipment and materials to better the learning and social experiences for students.

Miller said many of these new materials the academy has been able to purchase with Macy's donations have enriched the learn-

ing experience for all of the students.

Technology is something the students at Hogan have expressed a specific interest in, not only from an educational standpoint but for recreational purposes as well.

Miller shared how prior to the donations, it was a struggle to incorporate technology for students, but the purchase of three additional iPads has allowed access to this technology for the desired purposes.

Along with this, Miller has also been fortunate enough to witness the benefits of Macy's donations first hand.

"Because we were able to purchase all of these items specific to the classroom and specific to the students, we have a lot more opportunity to really enhance our behavioral programming, and further reduce all of those problem behaviors that may be dangerous or unsafe," Miller said, "and really increase the alternative behaviors that are appropriate and safe for the students to be learning."

Over the course of her four-year charitable campaign, Macy was able to help install a small kitchen that was used to promote self-help skills and remodel the sensory room in Reid's classroom.

The money she raised also helped pay for special field trips that were not financially possible prior to her contributions.

"I love getting a text from this one teacher that my brother has and she's like, we were able to do whatever today, and it was all because of you," Macy said. "I just get choked up thinking about it because I'm like, 'Wow, I did that for those kids.'"

Macy Van Den Elzen's talents on the volleyball court have allowed for the chance to give back and help others, more than she or anyone originally thought was possible.

More than anything though, it gave her the ultimate sense of purpose.

"I love him so much. And I never could imagine what he goes through every single day..." Macy said. "So as a big sister, I've always wanted to protect him."

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Collegian file photo

**Head coach James Franklin** observes during a strength and conditioning session at the Lasch football building on Wednesday, March 4.

## Franklin going 'above and beyond' with safety measures

By Evan Patrick  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

All it could take for Penn State football to shut down for a week and at least miss one game is six players testing positive for the coronavirus.

## FOOTBALL

In the Big Ten's enhanced medical protocols, a 5% team positivity rate combined with a 7.5% population positivity rate will force a program to shut down for a minimum of seven days.

In the Nittany Lions' case, that 5% amounts to just six players out of the 120 currently on the roster, leaving little room for error.

That's why James Franklin has put a massive emphasis on controlling the variables his football team is faced with.

By social distancing, wearing masks and holding virtual meetings, the Nittany Lions' head coach isn't shying away from any precautions.

"One of the things we have to be careful of, that I think was a mistake in some of the other sports, is when you start testing every day, that's not a cure-all,"

Franklin said.

"That doesn't solve your issues, that's just another layer of protection, another layer of protocols."

The Big Ten implemented daily testing for all student-athletes this fall, and cited this implementation as a major reason for bringing back college football at the time it did.

And as beneficial as that testing is, Franklin knows it's just a small part of what will be required to play the nine games scheduled from late-October to mid-December.

Communication has been another key element in maintaining an operational program throughout the uncertainty in recent months.

Now, controlling behavior is the main focus.

"For us, we've gotten to a pretty good place and I think the communication has been the most important part of all of it," Franklin said.

"Our behaviors are the most important thing that we have got to continue working on, and I think some of the other leagues, once they started testing every day, it kind of gave everyone a

false sense of security."

Franklin and his team are taking more precautions than most teams around the country.

The Nittany Lions haven't had practice in full pads once yet, and they haven't practiced as a full team, either.

"For us, we went split practices longer than most pretty much everybody that I look at... everybody was practicing full practices for a long time," Franklin said.

"We weren't, we just started that last week. I don't see anybody wearing masks at practices..."

I would rather go above and beyond everything so we wear masks every practice, whether it's the full visor or the visor and the cloth."

Whether or not this provides his competitors with any sort of advantage, Franklin doesn't seem to mind.

He wants to keep his program as safe as possible no matter what measures need to be taken.

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

## Morett-Curtiss values teaching

By Alexis Yoder  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Char Morett-Curtiss has been a fixture at Penn State for over 35 years between her time as a coach and as a player.

## FIELD HOCKEY

But, the Olympian and 34th-year coach of the field hockey program almost never made it to Happy Valley.

A 1979 Penn State graduate, Morett-Curtiss was lucky that Penn State was so ahead of the curve in offering women athletic scholarships, one of the few Division I schools to do so at the time.

"When my high school coach came to me and said Penn State wanted to offer me a scholarship to play field hockey and lacrosse, I was really taken back because I didn't even know women were offered scholarships," Morett-Curtiss said. "

Penn State was one of the leaders in offering opportunities to women and I think that's why we are consistently successful throughout the years."

Morett-Curtiss frequently discusses women's rights and advocacy, acknowledging how Penn State took initiative in being one of the first universities offering scholarships to female athletes.

The importance of these topics to many was highlighted when former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on Sept. 18.

During a team-wide Zoom session, Morett-Curtiss and her staff discussed how significant Ginsburg was to the advancement of equal rights for women and other marginalized groups in the United States.

Ginsburg studied law at Cornell, Harvard and Columbia University, all of which she claimed the top spot in her class despite facing gender-based discrimination, and was one of very few women in her classes.

Upon graduation, Ginsburg

worked in New York City with various law firms, until she accepted an offer from Jimmy Carter to serve in the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1980, which would be her final position before being appointed to the Supreme Court by Bill Clinton in 1993.

"When you look back and watch Ruth Bader Ginsburg, she was speaking before the Supreme Court about equality in so many different areas," Morett-Curtiss said. "She's just someone that really sees things through an equality lens and is all about fairness, and so I think it's really important that we showcase these women that have really provided and fought for these opportunities for us to have today."

Even though her team couldn't always meet or practice together over the summer, Morett-Curtiss made sure her players were still growing off the field.

One activity the team took part in was the reading of books authored by mostly female leaders in an effort to further their education beyond field hockey and the classroom.

"I worry sometimes that they get a little focused on their Instagram and Netflix accounts, but I could be wrong. That's not the way that I grew up," Morett-Curtiss said.

"They each picked a book and took it home. We just lost this incredible leader in our country. It's important to know what she's done recently in their lifetimes and before."

While the educational aspect was important, there's also the aspect of gratitude behind Morett-Curtiss' lessons.

She wants her players to know and be grateful for the people who blazed the trail so they could have these opportunities.

While the educational aspect was important, there's also the aspect of gratitude behind Morett-Curtiss' lessons

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