

‘BREAK THE CYCLE’

19%

of UP students are first-generation

College is hard enough — especially if you’re the first

By Lauren Lee  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

In today’s world, many consider attending college after graduating from high school a natural and expected next step.

But for others who are the first members of their family to attend a higher education institution, it’s more than just a big transition — it’s something new altogether.

For Penn State student Taylor Young, getting accepted into the university and the Schreyer Honors College likely meant more to her than most. As the first in her family to go to college, Young’s achievement was a major breakthrough for her and her family.

Her mom, Christina Hazzard, had Young right after she graduated from high school.

“I was a bad kid, so having Taylor completely changed my outlook on life,” Hazzard said. “She’s my saving grace.”

A few months after Young (sophomore-secondary education English) was born, her father left the family. Young’s grandparents helped to raise her.

“My mom is one of the hardest workers I’ve met in my life. She’s my inspiration for everything and I’m proud of her for raising me,” Young said.

As a young single mom, Hazzard’s biggest obstacle was finances. Without a college degree, finding a job with high pay and good benefits was even more challenging.

Young said her mother would sometimes “feel guilty” because she wasn’t able to provide luxuries other families could give to their children.

“I wish I could write a check like other families can,” Hazzard, who is a head custodian at North Penn School District, said with a shaky voice. “I don’t know what I’d do without Taylor applying for scholarships and grants.”

By the time Young could “listen and understand,” Hazzard said she taught her daughter the importance of getting a higher education.

“I wanted her to break the cycle,” Hazzard said. “To go to college, and not be a young single mom.”

From the beginning, her entire family wanted Young and her cousins to go to college, as they would become the first generation to go to a university.

“They said ‘You’re going to college no matter what. We don’t know how the process works to get there, but we’ll figure it out,’” Young said.

### ‘Still a big stigma’

For most college students, applying to colleges is stressful. For a first generation student like Young, the application process was “very emotional.”

“Just because I had no idea where to start,” Young said. “But luckily I had a college and career office at my high school.”

As a freshman, Young was looking up organizations to join when she came across “First Gen Advocates” and immediately thought “how cool” it was to have such a group.

During her time as a member, Young has been able to attend panels made up of professors who were first-generation students and become peer mentors. The mentorship program is a way for students to check in with each other once a month for support.

“Sometimes I worry as a first gen student that I’m kind of alone,” Young said. “Because some of the things just seem very obvious to other students because they have their families’ knowledge to help them, so it’s good to have other people who can help me who have gone through the same thing.”

Beth Gilfillan, the president of First Gen Advocates, started

the organization based off of her experiences as a high school counselor for 10 years in Chicago. Gilfillan said most of her job was helping students with career readiness after graduation. She realized “quickly” the students whose parents didn’t attend college had different needs than others.

Now a graduate student at Penn State with a focus of counselor education, Gilfillan wanted to continue mentoring first-generation college students but realized there wasn’t a central resource group on campus. As a result, Gilfillan created her own organization.

“If they’re on campus, they belong,” Gilfillan said.

In total, Gilfillan said 19 percent of students at Penn State’s University Park campus are first-generation students.

“First-generation students overcome a lot more barriers, which is something to be proud of,” Gilfillan said.

Questions of finances or not knowing how to register and enroll into classes without a parent who has been through a similar situation can be “overwhelming and intimidating,” Gilfillan said.

Initially, paying tuition seemed like an impossible task for Young. After a semester went by, Young said she received a notification on LionPath stating she was on academic probation because she did not pay her tuition. “I didn’t even know where to pay my tuition,” Young said.

Additionally, one of the biggest problems Gilfillan has noticed is that often times

students do not know where to turn for help.

“Unfortunately there’s still a big stigma surrounding being first gen,” Gilfillan said. “A lot of first-gen students don’t feel comfortable letting others know because sometimes people view it as a sign of weakness, when really they’ve overcome a lot more barriers than continuing gen students have.”

### Pressure to be perfect

As the first of her family to go to college, Young has set personal high expectations for herself. Currently, Young is the secretary of the College of Education Student Council, a member of the outing club, was a teacher’s assistant and tutored at State College High School.

“I worry a lot because I would never want to let my family down,” Young said. “They’ve worked so hard and sacrificed so much for me to be able to be here. My mom could have very well saved her money and bought things for herself but instead gives me money for groceries and books.”

Because Hazzard wanted her daughter to succeed in school, she wonders if she was “too strict on Taylor,” when she was growing up — even though she had good intentions.

Gilfillan said in most situations she sees the student’s parents being “so supportive” of their child as the first of the family to attend college that it ends up putting more pressure there.

“Not only is the student navigating it alone, there is a pressure to graduate on time and find

a good paying job because a lot of times the family are really relying on you then,” Gilfillan said.

The pressure also comes from the student themselves to get straight A’s and balance a social life, Gilfillan said.

When students do run into problems in college, they can sometimes “feel ashamed” to tell their families they are struggling, Gilfillan said.

“Sometimes I worry that if I don’t do perfect in college and if I’m not the best at everything, I’ll let them down,” Young said.

Other times, families of first generation students try to approach issues differently.

“First gen families are more likely to say ‘You tried this, it’s OK to come home,’” Gilfillan said, “versus we see continuing generation parents are more likely to push the student and help them find resources.”

What can help aide first-generation students from the pressure is to normalize it and understand that college is hard in general, Gilfillan said. “It’s okay to get a B,” Gilfillan said.

### An invisible identity

For Young, there is no specific type of person who looks like a first-generation student.

Her professors did not realize she was a first-generation student until she told them.

“I think people are good at hiding it,” Young said. “We’re all just normal people.”

In the beginning, Young said she wasn’t embarrassed to be a first-generation student at Penn State, but felt she wasn’t able to express that with her friends.

“I felt a little bit different,” Young said. “Now, I’ve been able to embrace my first-gen status. It’s something that I’m proud of now.”

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EDITOR’S VIEW | KELLY POWERS

# Big Move: The Collegian’s future home

Diane Davis Otter was the first full-term Daily Collegian editor in the James Building.

That came after she and her fellow colleagues were forced to leave their “home” in the Carnegie Building, about 30 years ago.

It’s hard to imagine that when they moved into the now 100-year-old university structure, there were no rows of bulky desks with signatures in swoops of white out and various shades of permanent marker. There was no patch-work of old paper scraps, poorly photoshopped memes or photographs coating the walls.

Uprooted from their corner of the College of Communication’s hub, they had to start fresh.

Davis Otter also came over with just a print product — no website, no social media, no digital editors and no staff dedicated to multimedia. Yet.

I would wager the James Building era of the Collegian came with the biggest challenges, risks and innovations for the news outlet in its 131 years. The paper launched a website from those walls, initiated social media platforms, instilled a

robust push for multimedia and video — and even executed a contested decision to cut the once-daily print product to just twice weekly as 2017 closed.

All of this was in active aims to chase the ever-evolving nature of a field we prepare students to enter — putting them through many shifts in a short period. And times do not stop changing.

The outlet is preparing once again to jump into a new space.

Last June, Penn State released its plan to demolish the James Building’s 29,910 square feet, filled currently by the Collegian as well as floors of university offices, and replace it with a \$52.8 million structure, with an intended completion date of 2020.

This new space has been allotted to serve as the epicenter for the Invent Penn State entrepreneurial and innovation initiative — a different hub set to function “as a center for innovation and knowledge sharing,” as the university’s request to architects read back in June.

Lines have been signed, firms have been hired and plans have been made for the incoming building. But — shockingly — that is not the only construction slated for University Park in the near future. And, the university

has not been the only one making plans.

The Collegian intends to move in on an “external invitation” brought down by Dean Marie Hardin, to rent space within the incoming Donald P. Bellisario Media Center, set to open where present-day Willard stands by roughly December 2020.

To be situated in a closed, 852-square-foot corner of its third floor, in the heart of the very campus we strive to cover — the new space will provide many challenges as well as new opportunity.

The private “Collegian Suite,” will face a large open newsroom with designated Collegian desk space. However, other student news organizations have been invited to utilize said newsroom as well.

We can look forward to being closer to students coming from all around campus, directly in view, constantly in full-swing.

More details have to be ironed out before we share more concretes with you, our audience, but it should come without surprise that the security of both information and editorial independence will remain uncompromised.

Our immediate focus will rest in determining intermediate transition space if construction plans continue as forecasted on



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

The Daily Collegian staff poses in front of the James Building on April 17.

both sides of the equation — about as predictable as the weather.

I would be remiss not to note that some of the staff feel hesitant about the seemingly forced exodus and limited options. The culture of the office will surely shift with the decrease in space, as students often spend a sizable amount of time on the sunken couches and pass time working at the open desks of the James Building.

And, it does sadden me that my fellow colleagues and I will never get the chance to wander back into the office again to reminisce — whether that’s after 30 years or just one.

But there is so much optimism here as well.

Behind me I can already feel the clock ticking on my own run as the editor in chief of this tremendous student news organization, but an immense amount of continued planning lies ahead before the next editor is prepared to lead the Collegian into new waters yet again.

Who knows what a group of kids thrown into a new space will do.

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## 'YAKING IN THE POOL



Jonah Rosen/Collegian

**Mike Nemchik (senior-mathematics)** paddles around during a “try kayaking” event held by Campus Recreation at McCoy Natatorium on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

# Where to give back in State College during the holidays

By Caitlyn Frolo  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After Thanksgiving, many transition into gift giving season and spending time with loved ones to spread holiday cheer. For people looking to give back in State College this holiday season, many organizations are looking for volunteers and donations to make the holidays brighter for those in need.

Depending on an individual’s charitable donation interests, food banks, animal shelters, blood banks and homeless shelters in Centre County are some of the resources always in need of contributions during the holiday season.

### Out of the Cold: Centre County

Out of the Cold: Centre County is an emergency shelter open from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. every day from mid-October through early May, according to the organization’s website.

The shelter is entirely staffed by volunteers and the host site rotates to various churches and meeting houses in the area. Guests can register through Out of the Cold’s phone number and are given a meal, place to sleep, blankets and are served breakfast in the morning.

Beckie Romig, the program manager for Out of the Cold: Centre County, noted certain donations to the foundation are more practical than others.

“[Non-monetary] donations are a bit challenging as our shelter rotates sites every two weeks, so we literally have no storage space,” Romig said via email.

Romig said she encourages clothing donations be given to Saint Vincent de Paul in State College and the Faith Centre in Bellefonte. Both places agree to let shelter guests use vouchers to purchase whatever they may need.

“Our greatest needs are for bus tokens, quarters for laundry and gift certificates in small denominations for places in downtown State College,” Romig said.

Romig said these types of donations allow guests to get out of winter weather conditions for some time until they need to arrive at the shelter.

However, Romig said their most needed item right now is volunteers, being that the program is completely run through volunteer support. According to Romig, the best to way to get connected to volunteering is to email [ootccentreco@gmail.com](mailto:ootccentreco@gmail.com) and indicate whether you prefer day, night or either shift.

### Central Pennsylvania Food Bank

When grocery shopping, it can be easy to go overboard and buy too much food. Untouched leftovers, such as non-perishables, can be donated through organizations like the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank this holiday season.

Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributes food to 27 counties in central Pennsylvania.

The food bank has two main locations in Harrisburg and Williamsport, but is also affiliated with around 1,000 food banks in central Pennsylvania counties, including the State College Food Bank.

Jennifer Sands, a communications manager with Central Pennsylvania Foodbank, said this is the “perfect time of year” to make food donations.

According to Sands, a \$1 donation will provide

six meals to those in need.

Donations can be made on the food-bank’s website, by telephone or by mailed checks.

Sands recommends people donate non-perishable items like canned corn, green beans and fruit, as well as boxed stuffing and boxed mashed potatoes. The food bank will take any nonperishable items, but strongly encourages donations of “protein-rich” items to help nourish recipients throughout the winter.

Some protein-rich foods Sands suggests to donate are peanut butter, shelf-stable 100 percent fruit juice, canned chicken and tuna, single-serve macaroni, eight ounce shelf stable milk, almonds and fruit cups.

She also suggests people donate cardboard boxes to pack food up.

“Odds are, if you need it on your holiday table, we probably need it too,” Sands said.

Sands said to volunteer at the food bank, it is recommended to view the State College Foodbank’s website on how to become a volunteer and if desired, travel to Williamsport or Harrisburg to help out.

Volunteers are in charge of packing boxes, stocking shelves and collecting donations, Sands said.

### Give blood

Penn State students may have seen recent blood drives on campus in buildings like the HUB-Robeson Center and the Business Building.

Some may not recognize the extent to which blood can help the lives of others, though.

Melissa Wolf, an account manager for Penn State at American Red Cross, said Red Cross urgently needs blood and platelet donors because medical treatments and emergencies that require blood don’t stop for the holidays.

“Blood and platelet donations often decline during the holidays when regular donors are busy with holiday activities and travel,” Wolf said.

“Snowstorms and severe winter weather may also cause blood drive cancellations [which] further impact donations.”

According to Wolf, Type O-positive and Type O-negative are especially needed this season because of the transfusion properties in O-positive and universal blood type that is O-negative.

Individuals are encouraged to schedule an appointment through the Red Cross website, using the zip code 16802 for State College.

Those who donate between now and Dec. 19 will receive a \$5 Amazon gift card via email.

Wolf said donating blood takes an hour of a donor’s time.

Rachel Hansen, president of PSU Student Red Cross Club, said the club offers scheduled blood drives throughout the school year on campus. The drives can be found at [volunteer.psu.edu](http://volunteer.psu.edu).

“Over break we do not have any drives since the campus is closed,” Hansen (sophomore-biochemistry and molecular biology) said. “If anyone wants to donate in preparation for the holiday season, these next two weeks are the time to do it.”

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Samantha Wilson/Collegian

**State College Presbyterian Church** is a participating congregation for the Out of the Cold Homeless Shelter.



Collegian file photo

**Maggie Carlie (senior-mathematics)** donates blood at the HUB-Robeson Center on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2017.

# Stocking Stuffer market to kick off holiday season

By Natalie Schield  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Stocking Stuffer holiday market will be held at the Centre Furnace Mansion this weekend to kick off the holiday shopping season.

The sale will be held between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, as well as between noon and 4 p.m. on Dec. 2. There will be a \$5 general admission fee, which will include hot cider and dessert to all shoppers.

With over 50 vendors such as various artists and antique dealers, “proceeds from the annual fundraiser will benefit the Centre County Historical Society to support its preservation and public programming efforts,” according to a press release.

“We hope that the Stocking Stuffer provides a fun way to inspire people to visit again and learn more about the Centre Furnace Mansion and what the Historical Society does,” Mary So-

renson, executive director of the Centre County Historical Society, said.

Sorenson said gifts including fresh wreaths and arrangements, fine paper arts, photography, jewelry, antique collectibles and more will be sold at the event.

Last year, Susan Bowser, a local artist, was a popular vendor. Bowser creates lifelike birds and small wildlife creatures from felted wool.

Along with the vendors, there will also be book signings by local authors and

demonstrations by the Centre Furnace Gardeners.

Authors including Roger Williams, who wrote “Evan

Pugh’s Penn State,” Jodi Moore, who wrote, “When a Dragon Moves In,” and Ron Smith, author of “Nailed to the Crossbar” will be in attendance. Book signing times can be found on the Centre History website.

Each year, the event tries to bring in anywhere from five to 10 new vendors to keep the event fresh.

This year, local business Still Not a Hippie, will be attending the event. This new vendor will be selling all-natural homemade lotion and balms.

“Coffee lip balm is one of my favorites because it is a collaboration between [Still Not a Hippie] and a Nanticoke roaster, Grateful Roast,” Still Not a Hippie owner Pamela Luu said. “I love seeing the coffee lovers stop in their tracks when they read ‘coffee lip balm’ on my sign.”

Deb McManus, secretary of the Centre County Historical Society, suggested people “come and experience the beauty of the Victorian style mansion decorated for the season.”

“We...carry on in the tradition of those who first envisioned it,” she said. “We strive to grow it each year.”

The mansion is located at 1001 E. College Ave. Parking will be available in front of the grounds, off Porter Road and behind the Esber Rugs building. A full list of vendors can be found at [centre-history.org](http://centre-history.org).

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Collegian file photo

**Centre County Historical Society's Furnace Mansion** is located at the corner of College Avenue and Porter Road.



# Spread positivity, kindness

Maybe it's the holidays or maybe it's the after effects of Giving Tuesday, but people across the United States have made generous donations and have offered random acts of kindness to their fellow citizens. Not every person has the feasibility to be as generous as these individuals as they all have a monetary component. In Vermont, a mystery man took the time to pay off all of the items put on layaway at a Walmart. He didn't ask for notoriety, he just made people's days a bit brighter. In Southern California, a Bob Wilson gave a \$1,000 check to every student and faculty member at Paradise High School. Many of the recipients were affected by the Camp Fire, which became the most deadly wildfires in California's history. The 89-year-old gentleman had no personal connection to the cause, and his donation totalled \$1.1 million. Even if we're not directly

## OUR VIEW

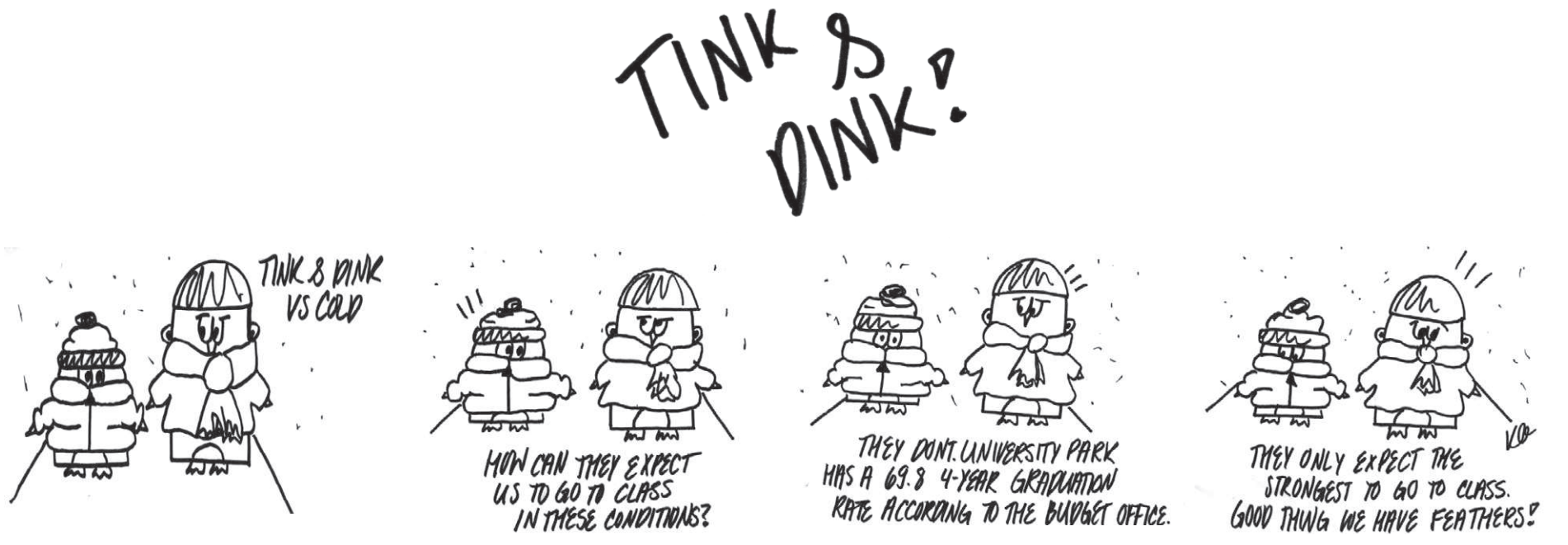
### Even though most cannot make a grand gesture, we can perform small acts of kindness

impacted by one of these acts of kindness, it's wonderful to see people using their resources for good. One nice, grand, gesture affected the Big Ten this past week. As we all sadly know, the Big Ten Championship football game is scheduled for this weekend between Northwestern University and Ohio State University. The entire country — with the exception of Ohio — will be on Northwestern's side. They are coming into the game as a clear underdog, having never made a trip to the championship game when Ohio State has won it multiple times.

In celebration of this momentous event, an anonymous donor gave 3,400 Northwestern students tickets to the game. That is enough tickets for 45 percent of the student population to make the trip to Indianapolis. These examples are obviously not feasible for everyone, but it is possible for us, as students at Penn State, to help fellow students get through the end of the semester, and fellow people get through the holidays. You don't know what people are going through, and maybe you won't change anything in their life, but perhaps you'll bring a ray of sunshine to a

cloudy day. Think about what you can do to make someone smile for a second. On that note, check in on your friends because even if they seem OK, they may not be completely fine. Take time to check up on yourself and your friends during this stressful portion of the year, and do something nice or uplifting for yourself and others. If you buy yourself a cup of coffee everyday and you have the means, purchase one for someone you know is having a rough day or week. If a cashier at a grocery store asks if you want to donate a dollar to a charity, do it.

If you have spare change or cash, put it in a Salvation Army donation bucket. A dollar or two may not mean a lot to you, but it could make a difference to someone. Also, if you can afford to leave a nice tip for servers or bartenders, do so. Don't be THAT guy. And, if you do complete an act of kindness, there's no reason to look for notoriety. You should genuinely want to do something nice, not for recognition. It can be hard some days, but spread positivity and enjoy the celebration of the holidays with friends, family, classmates and strangers alike. Don't wish away the build up to winter break; instead, use it as a chance to give back. And, if you're feeling down about humanity, think about these major and minor acts of kindness to remind yourself that not everyone sucks.



MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

# Thank you to everyone who has read my writing

When I started writing columns, I was hesitant. Columns give me the freedom to write in first-person and mean I do not have to avoid bias since the point of them is to express my opinion. However, I was afraid putting my words out for the public would leave me vulnerable to backlash. Over the past semester, however, my readers have surprised me with the opposite. A few months ago, I received an email in response to the first column I wrote this year, which was about how time starts counting down the second you enroll in college. I did not want to open it because I worried it would be critical and discourage me in my future writings. Instead, it was a kind message expressing that what I wrote resonated with them, and they even said they would become a dedicated reader of mine. A series of sequential gener-



Messa

ous emails built up my confidence to publish something I was terrified to discuss even with close friends. Last month, the Collegian printed a special edition of its newspaper titled "Moment on Mental Health," and I volunteered to contribute to it with a personal story of my own. It was titled "Autism and Me: The atypical story I never thought I would tell." For anyone who has not read it, it gives my account of being on the autism spectrum and the social difficulties that come along with it. I deleted and rewrote that column multiple times, I considered telling my editor to scrap it at the last minute and I woke up shaking from nerves the morning it was released. I had taken a secret few people knew and made it visible to everyone. My phone lit up constantly that day with emails, text messages, voicemails and social media notifications. My stomach dropped at every one of them. Relatives of people with autism and people who suspected they might have it themselves told me their own

stories and thanked me for spreading awareness. One of my professors read it silently before starting class and gave me a nod of approval. My family members from Texas, who did not know I am autistic, bombarded my parents with emotional phone calls. People from my high school finally understood why I could never fit into their cliques, my running teammates realized why I hung behind them when I had enough energy to catch up or pass them. Somebody even nominated me to speak for State of State because of my columns. It was an offer I was proud to get, but I decided not to audition because something tells me I might not be ready to talk on a stage in front of hundreds of people. Although it has been less than two months since that column went out, I know a lot has changed for me. Because of my readers and their kind-hearted feedback, I no longer feel like I constantly have to hide who I am. There are some critics here

and there, but when they aren't helpful they at least give me a little laugh — such as when someone who disagreed with a political piece of mine called me a young Nancy Pelosi. As the semester soon comes to an end, I want to give my readers a massive thanks. I am not guaranteed to write columns next semester, nor am I sure if I will be able to have them published in print like they are now. But since Thanksgiving recently passed, and it is UPUA's Mental Health and Wellness Week at Penn State, I decided now would be a better time than ever to convey just how much my readers have impacted me. Rather than being distressed, I am eager to see the responses I get — even critical ones — because they help me develop as a writer. So if you read this piece or anything I've written before, thank you. Madeline Messa is a junior majoring in print and digital journalism and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at [mgm5413@psu.edu](mailto:mgm5413@psu.edu) or follow her on Twitter at [@madelline\\_messa](https://twitter.com/madelline_messa).



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# Stevens makes defensive impact in upset

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It was not the usual dominant performance for Lamar Stevens on Tuesday against Virginia Tech.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

The junior forward recorded his season-low point total, finishing with 14 while going 6-for-16 from the field.

Even with below average scoring numbers, Stevens still made a huge impact in Penn State's 63-62 upset victory over the 13th-ranked Hokies.

Down the stretch, Stevens and the rest of the Nittany Lions were superb on the defensive end, as Virginia Tech had more turnovers than field goals in the last five minutes.

"It was a little bit ugly at times, which I don't mind ugly," coach Pat Chambers said. "I want to defend. I want to rebound. I want to dive. I want to take charges. All that good stuff."

Late in the game, Penn State put Stevens at center to match up with Kerry Blackshear Jr., and that move paid dividends.

Penn State shut down Virginia Tech late, with the Hokies missing their last five field goal attempts in the final three minutes, and the swap was a big reason for that.

"I think it worked for us because we were able to switch one



Caitlin Lee/Collegian

**Forward Lamar Stevens (11)** stretches to make a pass during the game against Virginia Tech at the Bryce Jordan Center on Tuesday, Nov. 27. Penn State defeated No. 13 Virginia Tech 63-62.

through five and they weren't able to attack a five man off a ball screen," Stevens said.

It's a move that Chambers has made previously, but with Mike Watkins back in the fold, it made sense to think Stevens would stay at his normal forward position.

But when the Hokies got on a little run in the middle of the second half, and Chambers not wanting to overwork Watkins, the Nittany Lions made the switch, which helped turn the game in Penn State's favor.

"I think when they switched

me to the five it messed up their game plan," Stevens said. "I thought that was a great decision by coach. It got them out of their flow and we were able to really pressure the ball. I think Josh [Reaves] came up with big plays, Jamari [Wheeler] did and John

[Harrar] too. It was a total team effort."

It had to be a team effort on the defensive end, because Virginia Tech had four players who each scored at least 13 points.

Leading the way was guard Justin Robinson, who scored 19 points in the game. He also turned the ball over six times showcasing the attention Penn State put on him.

When asked about how moving Stevens to guard Blackshear, Chambers quickly moved away from that, saying "It really wasn't about that match up but it was about Robinson. Everything was about Robinson for me."

Many players saw time guarding Robinson, from Reaves to Wheeler.

And whether it's on the defensive or offensive side, everyone stepping up put the Nittany Lions in a position to win.

"I think it's a great testament to how good of a team we can really be," Stevens said. "We have so much depth and when everybody is really clicking we are a big time team."

No team can ever sleep on us with as much firepower as we have. I think it really showed how good we can be."

To email reporter: [dkj5109@psu.edu](mailto:dkj5109@psu.edu).  
Follow him on Twitter at [@DylJacob](https://twitter.com/DylJacob).

# Fidler's freshman success forecasts a bright future for Nittany Lions

By Jason Shulman  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Even though she's only a freshman, forward Loli Fidler is already putting the necessary people on notice both on and off the ice.

## WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Just 14 games into her collegiate career, Fidler already has seven points on two goals and five assists and is tied for third on the team in points.

The Edina, Minnesota, native has been a catalyst on the offensive end and her efforts haven't gone unnoticed to second year head coach Jeff Kampersal.

"Loli's just an extremely talented player; a player that has really good vision," Kampersal said.

Her combination of vision and talent were on full display in her breakout game against Mercyhurst on Oct. 27.

She scored two goals just four minutes apart, demonstrating a knack for finding the back of the net and perhaps giving a glimpse into her future as an offensive powerhouse for the Nittany Lions.

Fidler added an assist in Penn State's 5-4 overtime loss in what was her most impressive showing so far.

But it's her talent and vision, couple with her work ethic that has really impressed Kampersal.

"Watching her play hockey, you can tell she loves to compete," he said. "[She's] a 60-minute compete person all the time and someone that will bring it every day in practice, and she's doing that right now."

\*\*\*

Fidler's transition from high school to college was different than most athletes, many of whom may often have a top choice and

commit to just one school.

But Fidler was first committed to Harvard before ending up in Happy Valley.

Looking to make an immediate impact, she ultimately chose Penn State's program.

Fidler's already adapting well to the new atmosphere and Nittany Lions' culture, where she looks to continue her success and help build a championship contender.

"The school pride was a huge part in my decision [to come to Penn State]," Fidler said. "I think it's so cool going out to every sports game and seeing how much support each team has."

While Penn State might not be on the same academic level of Harvard, arguably the top Ivy League school in the nation, Fidler doesn't seem to mind.

"The academics are definitely a big part as well and having such a big alumni group that will help after college," she said.

With the Edina Hornets, she won back-to-back Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Class AA State Championships in 2017 and 2018.

Fidler proved to be a major offensive threat for the Hornets, scoring well over a point per game average with 197 points (80g, 117a) in 120 games played (including 22 postseason games).

"I think we had a lot of really good competition back in Minnesota," Fidler said. "We played with the best of the best and college hockey is all of the best players in the country."

Sometimes as a freshman player, it can be hard to quickly adapt to the new fast-paced collegiate style of hockey.

It's clear to assistant coach Allison Coomey that Fidler's more than prepared for this stage, and

is hoping Fidler can continue her effectiveness in all aspects of the game.

"[Loli] has been a great addition...she's a very smart player," Coomey said. "She sees the ice very well, her work down low and in the offensive zone is great."

Already, Fidler has made a tremendous impression on the program.

Her willingness to adjust to new strategies and schemes has aided her development that can hopefully turn her into the star player Penn State desperately needs.

"I think as a freshman, it's really her adapting to our style that we play," Coomey said. "She should be a big contributor to us moving forward."

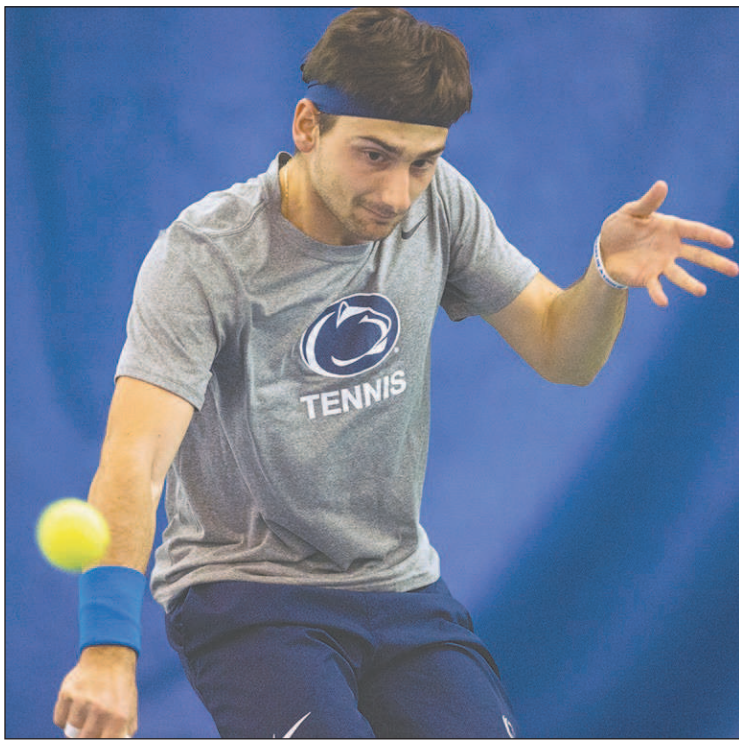
Winning CHA Rookie of the Week and Minnesota High School Athlete of the Year are two accomplishments Fidler can add to her distinguished resume throughout her long hockey career.

Even Kampersal couldn't help but be impressed with her achievements.

"It's actually a pretty incredible honor considering the elite hockey players they have in Minnesota and she's obviously one of those elite players," Kampersal said.

Not only do the coaches love Fidler's presence in the locker room, but even her teammate and freshman defenseman Jessica Adolfsson had nothing but praise for Fidler, admitting she sees huge potential in her future.

"I think she can be a great player for us," Adolfsson said. "I've seen great tendencies in her game and I feel like I can rely on her in the future. I wanna push her to be the best she can be."



Collegian file photo

**Christos Antonopoulos** drops to hit the ball during a men's tennis match against Bucknell in the Indoor Tennis Center on March 18.

# Life changes had little effect on Antonopoulos

By Ethan Bittner  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For most of his life, Christos Antonopoulos was coached by his dad in Greece but since tennis isn't very popular in his home country, the motivation and interest to play tennis came almost exclusively from his father.

"I would for sure do another sport if my dad wasn't the coach," Antonopoulos said. "He just put me on a court. I started liking it and it just became a habit."

In Greece, Antonopoulos quickly established himself as quality tennis player; he was a member of Greece's junior national team from 2012-16 and earned a No. 170 ITF Junior ranking.

When he came to Penn State in January 2017, Antonopoulos had to deal with an entirely new country and losing his father as a coach.

Coach Jeff Zinn mentioned Antonopoulos was thrown right into the middle of a Happy Valley winter when he arrived.

"It's a big adjustment," Zinn said. "When you come from a very warm country and you come here in January, you're in a little bit of a shock."

If Antonopoulos was in shock, it certainly wasn't because of anything that occurred on the court.

Throughout his freshman year, Antonopoulos was shuffled between the No. 1, 2 and 3 doubles spots and put together an impressive 15-8 record and proved his worth to Zinn and the Nittany Lions.

In singles, Antonopoulos had a 13-10 freshman campaign playing at the No. 3 and 4 slots.

Antonopoulos had a slight dip

with his sophomore performance, going 11-9 in doubles and 11-12 singles.

He was also going up against better competition more consistently, as he was firmly in the No. 3 spot for singles in his second season.

Despite the dip in record, Zinn has seen growth in Antonopoulos' game.

"He's improved quite a bit," Zinn said.

"Especially he had some deficiencies in a couple of his strokes that we've worked really hard on the last two years."

This fall, Antonopoulos had limited play in competition, with most of the semester being spent on training for the spring season.

Seeing how he's practiced and played throughout his college career, Zinn has never been as confident in Antonopoulos as he is currently.

"Right now, Christos is playing the best he has since he came on campus," Zinn said.

Heading into his third spring season, Antonopoulos has the confidence of his coaching staff behind him, just like he did with his father in Greece.

Even though he has earned respect and comfort with his coaches at Penn State, it's still odd for Antonopoulos to not have his dad mentoring him.

"It's strange," Antonopoulos said. "He was the only coach I used to have for my whole life, since I started playing tennis from five to 18. He's not here to give me advice on how to play, how to get better"

He has had to look at his dad in a completely different way since coming to college as their relationship shifted.

"I talk to him pretty much every day," Antonopoulos said. "Like we're more like friends right now, not coach and player."



John Stinely/Collegian

**Forward Loli Fidler (12)** attempts to steal the puck from Providence player during the women's hockey game vs. Providence at Pegula Ice Arena on Friday, Oct. 19. Providence defeated Penn State 3-2 in overtime.



MY VIEW | CALEB WILFINGER

# Final Four still possible for Rose’s squad

What a difference a year makes for Penn State. A year ago at this time, the Nittany Lions had just concluded the 2017 regular season with a record of 29-1 and wrapped up the program’s 17th Big Ten championship with a victory over Minnesota.

It was a season in which Penn State was in sole possession of the No. 1 ranking for most of the campaign, and was the overwhelming favorite to capture its eighth national title. This time around, things are a little different for the Nittany Lions. Unlike last year, Penn State enters the tournament with a 23-7 record and the No. 8 overall seed, meaning that the Nittany Lions will not host all four potential matches en route to the Final Four. The blue and white open the postseason with a home match against Howard on Friday, before potentially facing off against Syracuse or Yale on Saturday.

If Penn State is able to prevail in each of those matches, the Nittany Lions will likely need to fly across the country to Palo Alto, California, where they could have to play No. 9 Creighton and No. 1 Stanford on consecutive nights. It certainly won’t be an easy road to Minneapolis, the spot of the 2018 Final Four. Sporting a roster primarily composed of freshmen, there have been no shortage of inconsistencies in the play of this team throughout the season, something coach Russ Rose has lamented on numerous occasions. “This year is a lot different from years past, I don’t think we’ve ever had a team that can put five or six freshmen on the floor at the same time,” Rose said. “I think we’ve had flashes where we’ve been really good on both sides of the ball, and other times where we haven’t looked good. That comes with the inexperience of this team.” Penn State will have to win on the road, away from the friendly confines of Rec Hall in order to do it, which has been a challenge this season. The road woes for the Nittany

Lions have been well-documented this season. Five of their seven losses have come away from Happy Valley, including a straight set defeat to Stanford back in September. The margin of error is already razor-thin when it comes to the single-elimination nature of the

NCAA tournament, and Penn State will need to limit its errors away from home if it wants to be successful in this sudden-death setting. This is especially imperative for the many freshmen on its roster, all of which who will be playing in the postseason for the

first time in their college careers. “It’s definitely a lot different coming from high school,” freshman middle blocker Kaitlyn Hord said. “The talent level is a lot different, and I think that took a little getting used to for some of us. At this point, I think we’ve shown that when we play as a team, a cohesive unit, we can beat anyone.” With all of that being said, it is still possible that the Nittany Lions can make the Final Four for the second straight season. If there is a silver lining to potentially needing to win two matches against top-10 opponents away from home, it is that the Nittany Lions are more than prepared for any challenge. Penn State has spent the last three months playing against the best that the Big Ten has had to offer, which has included going into some of the toughest gyms in the country in the Bob Devaney Sports Center (Nebraska) and the Maturi Pavilion (Minnesota). The Nittany Lions not only played the Cardinal this season, but in each of the last five years. Visit [collegian.psu.edu](http://collegian.psu.edu) to read the full story.



# LION'S LIST

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INDIVIDUALS WITH DEPRESSION Between 28-65yo Needed for Paid MRI Research Study. Depression ongoing. No metal in body (titanium ok). Contact: [depression.imaging.study@gmail.com](mailto:depression.imaging.study@gmail.com)

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## FOR RENT 1 BEDRM

SPRING 2019- 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom for 1-3 people, Hetzel plaza, \$1245 per month. Parking spot included directly next to building. Email [mes6193@psu.edu](mailto:mes6193@psu.edu) if interested.

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## FOR RENT

3&4 BEDROOM APARTMENT & houses available starting August 2019. Walk to campus. Parking included. [www.pennair.net](http://www.pennair.net). 814-571-5230.

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# Bigar’s Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018

[www.jacquelinebigar.com](http://www.jacquelinebigar.com)

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**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★★ You can almost count on someone not understanding what you say. A great deal of activity could be triggered as a result of this miscommunication. A boss could be unusually distant or cold. Worrying won’t do you any good. Tonight: Clear out some paperwork and errands.

**TAURUS (April 20- May 20)**  
★★★★ When your creativity surges, you have little to be worried about. Today, you exhibit unusual imagination and have the ability to focus on whatever issue is at hand. You can’t seem to detach from a problem that has been quietly nagging at you. Tonight: Be naughty and nice.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★ You could need some time to relax in order to stay on top of a situation. You might not see the logic of slowing down. Try a slower pace, at least for a day. Confusion surrounds your home. Do not be surprised if you are caught in the middle of a disagreement. Tonight: Be a couch potato!

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★ Honor a fast change of pace. Several people are determined to find you, no matter what! Stop for a moment and listen to what each person is sharing. Slowing down and listening will help you to center yourself. Be more of an observer right now. Tonight: The less said, the better.

**YOUR BIRTHDAY MESSAGE:**

This year you make waves just because you can. When you focus on a goal, you might be difficult to stop. People who do not know you well often misread you. You are precise and detail-oriented, yet you also love a good risk.

If you are single, this year could be the year you meet a life partner. If you are attached, the two of you seem to come to agreements only after you air out each of your points of view.

VIRGO can be critical and fussy.

**BORN TODAY**

TV host Howie Mandel (1955), football player Russell Wilson (1988), actress Diane Ladd (1935)

# Crossword

Across

1	Chart anew
6	Fat unit
10	Church nook
14	___ acid
15	Home to Columbus
16	Mutual fund fee
17	Suffering
19	“___ of the Flies”
20	Priest’s robe
21	Worked the soil
22	Spain and Portugal
24	Country dance
26	In short
28	Kind of boot
30	Bottom line
31	Grammarians’ concern
35	Noah’s landfall
38	Winter hand warmer
40	Not of the cloth
41	Capital of Cuba
42	Burning
44	Manage, with “out”
45	Parched
48	Brought up
49	Doc
51	“___ Miniver”
53	Monk’s title
54	Work out
57	Diagnostic test
60	Mouthed off
63	Czech or Serb
65	Filmmaker Spike
66	In ___ of (replacing)
67	Final chance
70	Inactive
71	Conception
72	Silent
73	Pinocle combo
74	Kind of loser
75	In tune

Down

18	Unruly crowd
23	Deceived, in poker
25	The euro replaced it
27	Cousin of an ostrich
29	Grand style
32	Sleep interrupter
33	Cops and robbers, e.g.
34	Ogled
35	Throat-clearing sound
36	Gardener’s tool
37	Driveway material
39	Distant
43	Neighbor of Vietnam
46	Mischief-maker
47	Chest of drawers
50	Gave out
52	Mideast V.I.P.
55	Improvise
56	Golfer’s goal
58	Eagle’s nest
59	Meshlike
60	Svelte
61	Campaign worker
62	Auction off
64	Kind of power
68	Big fuss
69	___ Quentin

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# WORD SEARCH

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Parades

Animals	X	Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	L	L	D	A	Y	D	P	T	M	O
Applause	S	B	B	G	D	Y	A	K	J	D	O	R	N	K	X	R	I	Y
Balloons	B	F	U	C	Q	G	R	A	N	D	M	A	R	S	H	A	L	C
Bands	B	A	L	L	O	O	N	S	J	S	B	D	T	O	E	D	I	H
Banners	C	T	N	H	C	R	A	M	D	T	B	E	Z	M	A	I	T	I
Bikes	E	S	N	N	N	Y	T	V	A	U	Y	M	C	K	E	T	A	L
Cheering	C	G	R	G	E	Z	D	R	N	O	S	E	T	P	Z	I	R	D
Children	I	I	B	G	L	R	L	Q	C	C	E	E	B	A	I	O	Y	R
Clowns	S	M	U	R	D	G	S	N	I	S	C	I	R	D	U	N	D	E
Crowds	U	S	A	Q	N	K	H	F	N	G	K	C	Q	U	P	T	O	N
Dancing	M	V	G	S	E	T	Z	R	G	E	Q	F	R	M	T	D	A	S
Drums	E	S	U	A	L	P	P	A	S	Y	C	F	T	O	L	C	N	Z
Emcee	A	T	H	F	L	C	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	Q	W	W	I	F
Flags	K	Z	H	O	C	F	S	M	I	L	E	S	Z	H	O	D	J	P
Float	V	M	V	E	T	E	R	A	N	S	C	K	O	L	B	W	S	H
Flowers	V	F	N	E	M	L	Z	T	G	S	U	O	C	Z	H	L	U	X
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Music																		
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Pictures																		
Scouts																		
Smiles																		
Theme																		
Tradition																		
Veterans																		

# 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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			23				9		

Answers [bit.ly/1CBcyRi](http://bit.ly/1CBcyRi)

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# Reflecting on the creator of a childhood staple

By Lilly Forsyth

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

He lives in a pineapple under the sea, absorbent and yellow and porous is he.

A theme song lyric known by all fans of the iconic Nickelodeon cartoon, “SpongeBob SquarePants” was a staple in many childhood homes.

On Monday, “SpongeBob SquarePants” creator Stephen Hillenburg died of Lou Gehrig’s disease at the age of 57, leaving the television show’s audience reminiscient.

The mind behind the Bikini Bottom world, Hillenburg’s show — first televised May 1999 — has won several Emmy Awards and was transformed into a Broadway show.

At the Emmy Awards in April, Tom Kenny — who voices SpongeBob — presented a

lifetime achievement award to Hillenburg.

“SpongeBob’s vocal chords might be mine,” Kenny said during the show, “but SpongeBob’s playful spirit of gentle anarchy, his humor and the joy he takes in his vibrant, colorful, music-filled world come directly 100 percent from my good buddy, Mr. Stephen Hillenburg.”

To Amy Schmoeller, administrative support assistant in the Penn State Department of Sociology and Criminology, such characteristics are part of what kept the show running for nearly 20 years.

“SpongeBob was sweet and had his little snail pet, so it was very relatable,” Schmoeller said, “and we all have the weird friend.”

Schmoeller’s three sons — now 18, 20 and 24 years old — watched the show when they were young-

er and enjoyed the comedic side of the show. When she watched along with her sons, however, she recalled picking up on the more mature jokes in the show.

“If you look back at some of those shows they’re not all...” Schmoeller said, laughing before she could finish her sentence. “I don’t know if they’re just trying to put adult humor in it too.”

Chris Scalies also remembered the subtly mature content but now understands that type of content would have made it more enjoyable for his parents to watch the show with him.

“It’s something I could watch ... with my parents and there could be jokes for them in there too,” Scalies (freshman-risk analysis) said. “It was just really well-written. I didn’t appreciate it as much as a kid, but I can look back now and see how much work was put in to make that show what it was.”

After the show’s 2004 feature film, “The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie,” Hillenburg wanted to end the series, but the network insisted on making more episodes. Soon after, Hillenburg stepped down as a main writer and took on a less involved position.

As the show progressed, the style of animation developed from a grainier version filled with visual puns to sharper animation with more meta moments that broke the fourth wall.

“I didn’t watch it as much as I grew up, but the beginning seasons were very special to me,” Scalies said. “As it went on it just became more and more, like, low-hanging fruit maybe? [The producers] were just picking up anything that a kid could possibly laugh at, maximizing it almost to the extent that ‘Family Guy’ would do.”

One of Scalies’ favorite episodes is “Band Geeks” — season two, episode 15b — in which SpongeBob and friends manage to shape themselves into a marching band worthy of performing at the prestigious “Bubble Bowl.”

“I get goosebumps every time SpongeBob starts singing that song at the end,” Scalies said. “I’ll never think of that episode ... in a

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Associated Press  
**Stephen Hillenburg** attends the world premiere of “The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water” on New York on Jan. 31, 2015.

bad way.”

Though the yellow fry cook was a large part of Scalies’ childhood, there are some who are growing up without it.

Assistant Teaching Professor of Sociology Martha Sherman found studies which suggested the fast-paced scene changes of the series poorly affected young children.

In 2011, the New York Times reported on the study, highlighting its findings that the rapid changes caused 4-year-old test subjects to do worse on an administered test versus those not watching the show.

In response, Sherman has not encouraged her five- and eight-year-old children from watching the show, though they have asked about it. Sherman joked that she preferred a household with children who are “slower, calmer [and] quieter.”

Before studying experimental animation at the California Institute of Art, Hillenburg taught marine biology in Dana Point, California.

Hillenburg, at the time, created a comic titled “The Intertidal Zone,” in which the comic featured a co-host named Bob the Sponge.

Similarly, Associate Professor of Biology Iliana Baums helped publish a comic as part of a research consortium studying the effects of oil spills on deep-sea ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico.

“You try to reach a broad audience by using more types of channels of communications,” Baums said. “There are certain types of people you can reach with a comic and there’s other folk that you reach with a documentary.”

Baums said the comic has been well-received, though it is fairly new.

Hillenburg’s scientific background influenced the show.

This was seen in the more-accurate shape of SpongeBob’s parents as well as Patrick’s unintelligence — sea stars do not have a centralized brain system to control nervous systems.

Though the show was not accurate in most respects, it remains a beloved part of many childhoods.

“I would thank [Hillenburg] for providing me with so many laughs,” Scalies said. “So many good times. So many quotable moments. So many things I can look back on fondly.”

To email reporter: [Inf5121@psu.edu](mailto:Inf5121@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@lillyforsyth\\_](https://twitter.com/lillyforsyth_).

# Hillel aims once again to comfort sick PSU students

By Caitlyn Frolo

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With flu season in full swing — and often leaving students bed ridden — Penn State Hillel wants help students recuperate.

The organization, a foundation for Jewish campus life at Penn State, created the Chicken Soup Hotline in hopes of bringing sick students comfort food while they rest.

The hotline is available to students residing on campus and in the downtown area, and runs Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Matt Altman, springboard fellow for Penn State Hillel, is in charge of overseeing the students involved with the hotline.

“We offer kosher-style matzah ball soup in chicken and vegetable options, at no cost to students,” Altman said.

According to OK Kosher Certification’s website, kosher refers to “a set of intricate biblical laws that detail the types of food that a Jewish person may eat and the ways in which it may be prepared.”

Altman said the soup is prepared once a month in large

batches in the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center’s kosher kitchen. The soup is prepared with Wegman’s kosher meat and vegetables, and is frozen in batches until reheated for deliveries, Altman said.

While Altman oversees the hotline operation from a distance, Noah Bender is the leader of the student-led initiative.

Bender (senior-hospitality management) said Penn State Hillel receives donations from people all over the country to create different organizations like the Chicken Soup Hotline.

“The soup is for anyone who is sick,” Bender said. “They don’t have to be Jewish.”

As student supervisor, Bender is in charge of helping prepare the soup, creating schedules, hiring deliverers and telling the deliverers where to go every day.

“[The hotline] is actually mixing two of my passions,” Bender said. “I’ve always been active in the Jewish community throughout my whole life and since I’m a hospitality manager, I thought it was a good idea to mix two of my passions.”

Bender said his favorite part of being the student supervisor is

having managerial experience before graduating and helping sick students feel better.

Amanda Silverstein is a deliverer for the hotline and joined Penn State Hillel her freshman year.

Silverstein (senior-education and public policy) said she wanted to be a deliverer because she needed a job that allowed her to have flexible hours. She said her involvement in Hillel made that easy.

She also said the hotline receives four to five orders a day, depending on the week.

“I’m surprised people haven’t taken more advantage of it because it’s really great and the soup is really good,” Silverstein said.

Courtesy of Matt Altman  
**Adam Lambert (senior-agribusiness management)** poses while taking soup out of the refrigerator.

A lot of students get soup that was ordered by their parents, Silverstein noted, and it is often a surprise to those who receive it.

She recalls the best part of being a deliverer is the response she gets from students who “really need the soup,” Silverstein said.

“We send an email afterwards

to whoever ordered the soup thanking them,” Silverstein said. “The responses we get are so nice. It’s the smallest thing we do and we get this huge, amazing response from the parents who ordered it.”

To email reporter: [cmf5906@psu.edu](mailto:cmf5906@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@caitlynfrolo](https://twitter.com/caitlynfrolo).

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# The gift that keeps on giving: food

By Lilly Forsyth

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Over a thousand students visit Abba Java Coffeehouse each week for various reasons: hanging out with friends, finding a quiet place to study or because the free food and beverages help them make it through the week.

During holiday breaks, however, places like this are closed, leaving students who depend on the complimentary food without a sustainable source of sustenance.

To counter this issue, Abba Java Coffeehouse, the Lion’s Pantry and Central Pennsylvania Food Bank partnered to create “Break Boxes” — packages of non-perishable foods to support students and families staying in the area during winter vacation.

Gift cards to local grocery stores may also be provided.

Those interested in receiving a box can fill out the form, which asks for an email, name, the number of people in the household and any dietary restrictions.

Boxes can be picked up the week of Dec. 10 at the coffeehouse, which located at 250 E. College Ave.

Campus minister and Director of the Wesley Foundation, Jen Gruendler is one

of the leaders on the project. Gruendler was inspired to begin the project by a similar practice done in some elementary schools.

Fifteen years ago, Feeding America created the Backpack Program, in which over 450,000 children go home each week-end with bags full of food, according to the organization’s website.

Feeding America is responsible for a network of food banks to provide support nationwide.

Gruendler expressed excitement for the project, though she understands the boxes of food will only address food insecurity, not any other issues students may face.

“We wish we could take all the problems away,” Gruendler said. “We want to hear what the needs are and respond as we are able but not tell students what they need.”

The food will derive mainly from the pantry and food bank, while gift cards will stem from the Wesley Foundation congregation.

The moment the idea was presented to the foundation’s members, “the congregation was all in,” Gruendler said.

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