

DAILY COLLEGIAN

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What to do if you get the coronavirus

Christina Baker
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As Penn State students began returning to campus this past weekend, some students and community members were dismayed to see large gatherings of people disregarding coronavirus mitigation guidelines. Given that other universities have seen dozens of coronavirus cases arise shortly after opening this fall, here's what Penn State students should do if they think they have contracted the virus, and what happens if they test positive.

What to do if you think you might have the coronavirus

According to Penn State's virus information website, students who think they are experiencing coronavirus symptoms should immediately begin isolating themselves and contact University Health Services to get a coronavirus test. According to Penn State spokesperson Lisa Powers, students experiencing symptoms "should begin the screening process over the phone by contacting the UHS Advice Nurse line at 814-863-4463." If you receive a positive test from a testing source outside of the university, you should "reach out to Contact Tracing and Student Support Services at 814-863-8800," according to a university press release. If you have been in contact with someone who has the coronavirus, the university requires that you quarantine for 14 days since you last had contact with the individual. Students who live on campus should quarantine in their dorms,



Collegian file photo

The Student Health Center provides many resources to students on campus.

and "case managers will evaluate needs" for off-campus students, according to the university's virus information website. If students develop symptoms while they are in quarantine, they should contact UHS or their primary care provider, although according to Powers, the university recommends that all students seek coronavirus treatment from UHS.

What happens if you get the coronavirus

Anyone who tests positive for the coronavirus must isolate for at least 10 days, and Penn State is housing students who have tested positive in the Eastview Terrace apartments.

The university said off-campus students who test positive for the virus can also stay in Eastview Terrace if there is room, although administrators have acknowledged that it is possible the buildings may run out of rooms. Once a student tests positive, they will be placed in isolation and receive "detailed instructions," for what to do, according to Powers. Students will also work individually with a case manager who will coordinate services for the student, including meal delivery and academic support. If off-campus students aren't able to stay in the university's isolation housing, they will still be assigned a case manager who can help them figure out a plan

for isolating safely, Powers said via email. Case managers will check on students in isolation daily to evaluate the status of their mental and physical health.

Recovering from the coronavirus

If a student is asymptomatic throughout their entire isolation process, they only need to isolate for 10 days. For those who did display symptoms, according to a university press release, students must isolate for at least 10 days since their symptoms first appear and "must have an improvement in symptoms and be fever-free for 24 hours without taking

fever-reducing medication" before leaving isolation. The press release recommends monitoring symptoms carefully and contacting a health care provider if they worsen. If students require serious medical care, they will receive treatment at Mount Nittany Medical Center. The press release said students should try to avoid contracting the coronavirus through wearing masks, following social distancing guidelines and washing their hands frequently. These practices also prevent students who are carrying the virus from spreading it to others.

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How students spent their summer in quarantine

Ariana Krammes
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When the spring semester ends and many students suddenly have free time, some choose to spend this time traveling. Whether it's going on vacation, hanging at the beach or traveling for an internship, many students are used to being on the move. However, like most other people, Penn State students had to adjust their plans for summer break this year and find new ways to spend time due to the spread of the coronavirus. Penn State student Kelly Warner said her summer internship with the State College Spikes, a minor league baseball team, was canceled. This gave her more free time than usual. "I've been doing a whole lot of nothing," Warner (junior-broadcast journalism) said. That "nothing" for Warner consisted of rereading old books and

listening to Taylor Swift's new album, "folklore." Moreover, Sarah Simpson used the summer quarantine as an opportunity to practice her favorite hobbies — bullet journaling and playing the ukulele. "[Bullet journaling] is like journaling, but super artistic. I'll map out my week and create a to-do list for myself, and track other habits and my mood and things like that," Simpson (junior-film) said. "[Journaling] was always kind of a hobby, and I think I've finally found a better outlet for it." Simpson said she would normally visit Kennywood, an amusement park near Pittsburgh, at least two to three times per summer, but she didn't feel safe going this season. In her last summer before college, Missy Campbell spent most of her time with her brother, cooking for her family and watching "Parks and Recreation." "My family has taken [the spread of the coronavirus] very



Graphic by Kaylyn McGrory/Collegian

seriously, and I spent a lot of time at home," Campbell (freshman-biomedical engineering) said. Additionally, Aidan Campbell — who is not related to Missy — said

his summer job was canceled, so he spent the past few months catching up on "Rick and Morty. He also taught photography skills over Zoom.

"I was supposed to work a summer job at a camp," Campbell (sophomore-finance) said. "You can't really have people camping together in close proximity, so that didn't really work out." Campbell said he also enjoyed rewatching "Avatar: The Last Airbender" and listening to older music like Fleetwood Mac and the Beatles. Like Campbell, Sam McGuire also watched "Avatar: The Last Airbender" during her summer at home. "My favorite show of the summer would have to be 'Avatar,'" McGuire (sophomore- secondary education and social studies) said. "Unfortunately, I didn't have cable growing up, so I didn't get to experience it as a child but I wanted to, and it was definitely worth the watch now."

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Will Penn State switch to online learning? Students weigh in

Melissa Manno
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State students are back on campus and their excitement is contagious — literally. Unmasked gatherings, parties without social distancing and a lack of accountability has led many students to believe the university will shift back to remote learning. Student Alaa Abdou said, "it's just a matter of time," before Penn State pulls the plug on in-person instruction — likely two to three weeks. "It just seems inevitable," Abdou (junior-biomedical engineering) said. "I know [Penn State President Eric Barron] has been working on a foolproof plan, but we have one of the largest student populations for a university, and there's only so much they can control." Abdou said she believes there is more the administration could do to prevent an outbreak. She compared Penn State's plan to that of other universities, which included climate-controlled dining halls, food trucks, coronavirus kits and apps that require students to scan in with their negative coronavirus test in order to enter certain buildings. She said her belief the administration will make the call to go remote is due largely to what she witnessed in State College this past week. "I live downtown so I'm seeing a combination of people wearing masks and people not," Abdou said. "There seemed to be day-longs and parties this weekend from walking around and seeing crowded porches and houses."

Abdou also mentioned the "twerk circle" — referencing the large, unmasked gathering of freshmen dancing outside East Halls during move-in weekend. Videos of the gathering surfaced on social media and circulated rapidly within the Penn State community, with some blaming a future closure of the campus on the class of 2024. Although Abdou said she thought freshmen would be smarter about their actions since they missed out on a large part of their high school experience, she also said these videos didn't come as a shock. "I'm not surprised about the partying and gatherings," Abdou said. "College students haven't seen each other for about six months at this point, and they have the mindset that if they get the coronavirus, they will be fine due to their age and health condition." Ronit Patel is a freshman who is local to State College and decided to opt out of on-campus living due to the pandemic. After seeing the actions of some freshmen, he said he was appalled. "It's been less than a week since they've moved in, and they're already acting so immaturity," Patel (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. "It's college — it's time to grow up a bit and understand that what you do — especially in the middle of a pandemic — can impact so many people around you." He said he believes this mindset of partying despite the pandemic is what will force Penn State to alter its current plan and go remote.



Noah Riffe/Collegian

A student spits into a vial at a voluntary testing station set up at Bigler Hall on Sunday, Aug. 23.

For this same reason, Avinash Bakshi doesn't see the university making it to September. His prediction is that Penn State will make the call shortly after Aug. 31, when tuition is due. "The university cannot regulate off-campus parties, and I don't trust Penn State students not to party," Bakshi (senior-biochemistry) said. "COVID spreads like wild-fire, so even if it's just a small minority of students partying, everyone is at risk." Bakshi said he was disappointed with more than just the students who were partying this past week — he was also disappointed by the inaction of the administration. He said he was frustrated

that the university didn't break up the freshmen gathering sooner, considering it was an "on-campus outdoor party." "It means as usual they are all talk and no action," Bakshi said. "A statement of 'we are looking into the situation' or 'action will be taken' is too weak, in my opinion." Instead, he said he'd like the university to come out and say any student caught partying in large groups without social distancing or wearing masks will be suspended. Hunter Donahoe agrees with this sentiment, saying he feels the university should "send all the rule breakers home" so the people who are abiding by the rules can enjoy their semester.

"I think the university will make the decision to go remote because of the widespread blatant disregard of the 'Mask Up or Pack Up' initiative," Donahoe (sophomore-meteorology) said. "There's parties on and off campus, large gatherings everywhere you look... it's not looking promising." Donahoe said he sees this call coming in about a week or so if everyone keeps breaking the rules without facing any accountability. "Be smarter," Donahoe said. "The people partying need to realize you are jeopardizing everyone else's time here at Penn State, including your own."

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Arts professors adapt to Zoom classes

By Josh Chu
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

While sitting down in front of her webcam last Friday, Penn State art professor Stephanie Snider provided a sneak preview into her new teaching situation brought on by the spread of the coronavirus.

She showed a messy table with art supplies and tools piled on top. Behind the table is a wide window adorned with blue curtains. Snider calls this her “TV studio.” She said she created this set-up in preparation for teaching her sculpting class over Zoom.

“I’m thinking about this like I’m on a cooking show,” Snider said, as she pointed to the tools behind her. “I have a set-up where I can switch from the laptop to an iPhone which is above, so if I’m doing something with my hands, everybody can see it.”

Snider is one of many arts professors who found it necessary to innovate as she moved her class online. She felt that despite the advantage of teaching ART 230: Beginning Sculpture in-person, it was important for the class to move to a synchronous web format to adhere to social distancing policies.

Like Snider, other arts professors knew it would not be possible to maintain social distancing in their classes and chose to teach remotely.

Penn State voice instructor Raymond Sage, who teaches MUSIC 113: Music Theatre — Class Voice I, moved his class online after deeming it impossible to conduct in-person lessons while maintaining social distancing.

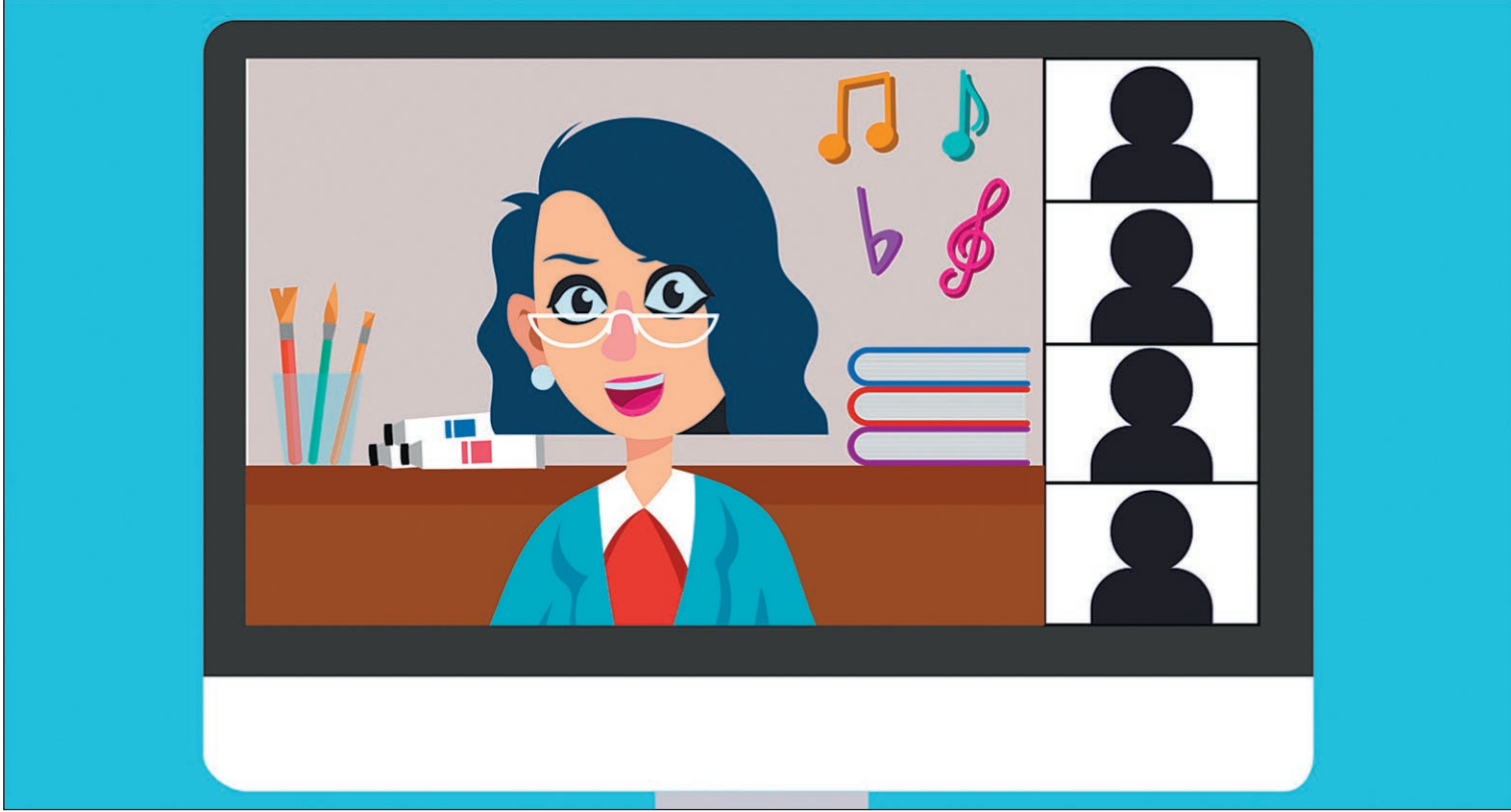
“Singing is the most dangerous thing you can actually do in person,” Sage said. “The rate of droplets and aerosolizations is greatly increased when you’re singing and actually projecting your voice.”

Sage said a well-trained singer can produce aerosols up to 50 feet, which significantly overrides the six feet required for social distancing.

Additionally, Sage said many Penn State voice teachers are over the age of 40.

This makes in-person classes a dangerous endeavor for the instructors as well.

“Honestly, we didn’t have a



Collegian Creative

choice but to go to Zoom,” Sage said.

To improve the class experience, Sage said he was looking into holding some outdoor classes in tents. He said no concrete plans have been made yet though.

Charlene Gross, a Penn State costume design professor, also felt the need to move her make-up class THEA 146: Basic Theatrical Makeup online.

Gross said the structure of her class, which consists of applying makeup on one’s face and other demonstrations, makes social distancing impossible by design.

“[Just like] in the spring when we went remote, we absolutely needed to, just like now,” Gross said via email. “It would be nearly impossible to teach this class in-person due to social distancing. I need to show students detail at a close range.”

While it may seem like these detail-oriented classes will not have the same impact as in-person instruction, each professor said they are confident they can still grant students a similar and valuable experience as they would under normal circumstances.

Gross said her class would

largely provide the same experience, with discussions to move her class online as a hybrid or World Campus course permanently. Pointing to the popularity of online makeup tutorials, Gross said there is a benefit to having an archive of online video recordings. These videos would allow students to go back and review the same material as many times as they need.

Snider agreed with Gross. She said centralizing her lessons into a video format would allow students to better see her art demonstrations at specific angles.

“In some ways, [video] gives students a closer view,” Snider said. “Sometimes, students may be 10 feet away and they can’t see exactly what I’m doing.”

In addition, Snider suggested students would gain certain skills that wouldn’t be acquired through normal instruction.

For instance, Snider’s altered curriculum includes the usage of certain hand tools that weren’t used during in-person instruction and the challenge of finding a suitable workplace. She said people often have to find ways to complete their work in

unorthodox places and situations.

Sage experienced a similar situation, as one of the challenges of vocal instruction for students is having a place to properly sing. He said students would sometimes take lessons in their cars, because the car provides a more private space for practice.

Gross said her curriculum has largely stayed the same, but plans on holding guest lectures from Penn State alumni and other professionals in the industry, with specialized lessons such as facial anatomy and drag make-up.

Online instruction, however, naturally brings challenges for both students and instructors alike, such as technical difficulties. But despite the challenges, these professors feel confident in their ability to teach online for the fall semester.

Sage has plans to provide a more complete experience for his voice students by adding more asynchronous aspects to his course. For example, students will watch certain videos of Broadway performances throughout the semester and create discussions around the videos.

Snider and Gross also said they are more confident compared to

the spring semester. They said the largest obstacle during the spring’s sudden shift to online learning was the art supplies and makeup tools students were forced to leave behind. With the ability to create a curriculum online from start to finish, Snider and Gross said students no longer face this challenge.

But, one of the largest downsides to online learning for these instructors is the reduced sense of community. Snider said she enjoyed getting to know her students personally and getting a sense of each student’s personality and work ethic.

Generally, however, the professors said they are excited about the upcoming semester, and are appreciative and understanding of their students given the extraordinary circumstances.

“The most important thing that [students] learn is how they think about their work,” Snider said. “The problem-solving piece happens no matter how or where you do it. Sometimes, limitations or restraints can really result in more creativity.”

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Penn State should offer a pass/fail option this fall

OUR VIEW

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, so should Penn State's grading leniency

The mental strain and financial struggles that Penn State students and their families experience — especially during these coronavirus-impacted semesters — should be met with compassion from the current administration.

To help alleviate some stress, Penn State should offer alternative grading options for a second consecutive semester.

Penn State offered pass/fail grading during the spring 2020 semester after moving online in March. Under this policy, any grade that was a C or higher was “satisfactory,” D grades were considered a “pass,” and a fail could be graded as “unsatisfactory.”

Selecting satisfactory and unsatisfactory

grades didn't impact students' grade point averages in the spring.

Similar to the spring, many Penn State students again have few or no in-person classes this fall.

Additionally, students' educational experiences have been impacted in more ways than one due to the coronavirus pandemic.

From being an international student unable to return to the county, to a student who is struggling financially or mentally, many have not completely adjusted to online learning — and may never adjust.

Whether students enjoy online learn-

ing or not, the quality of education they are receiving is just not the same as in-person learning. As hard as a professor tries to give students the same learning experience on Zoom, this experience cannot compare to an in-person one.

By implementing pass/fail grading before Penn State students leave for Thanksgiving break (or earlier), the university would relieve a lot of pressure from a lot of people.

Also, it wouldn't hurt Penn State to be more cautious and empathetic toward its students in the fall, just as it was in the spring.

Some students may utilize pass/fail for its purpose to help students during a difficult time, while others may take advantage of the option even though they don't need it. There is no way for the university to know which students need pass/fail and which ones will use it as an excuse to be lazy.

How students use an alternative grading option is up to them. The option should be given to everyone, regardless of reason for its use.

On Wednesday, Aug. 26, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill seemed to announce it would offer a

pass/fail grading option this fall semester after it shifted to remote learning amid a spike in coronavirus cases on campus, according to The Daily Tar Heel.

UNC swiftly took back the announcement after it was reported. The webpage that The Daily Tar Heel gathered its information from is now password protected.

Penn State should not wait if — or perhaps when — the semester is moved completely remote before making a similar announcement.

Coronavirus-impacted semesters have sucked for everyone: students, professors and the rest of the Penn State community.

By continuing a pass/fail option through this fall, the university would be doing a lot of people a massive favor.

MY VIEW | Caitlyn Frolo

Remember to check in on your friends this semester

A global pandemic. Synchronous and asynchronous learning. Undergraduate student irresponsibility. Coronavirus guidelines, restrictions and compacts.

These things are just a few of my already growing list of worries as we begin the fall 2020 semester.

Many young people have felt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic over the summer with the loss of internships, job prospects, athletics, recreation and travel.

I experienced the pandemic much like these people — my internship, while not canceled like many of my friends, was switched to a remote format, lessening the chance to network effectively.

My job as a server at a restaurant in my hometown was severely affected with the restaurant closing for almost two months due to restrictions in Pennsylvania.

With the announcement of no fall sports at Penn State, my job in video production for the university's athletics department will be affected, with no certain date of return.

All of my classes are online and over Zoom, except one, and with the way certain student groups are choosing to defy the guidelines in place to keep us safe, I don't even know how long that will last on campus.

All of this combined makes getting through 2020 so much harder, and I can't even imagine what other people my age are dealing with as we return to a foreign way of completing our educations almost fully remotely.

I can say, as someone diag-

“I can say, as someone diagnosed with depression and anxiety, that there doesn't seem to be a lot to feel positive about this year.”

Caitlyn Frolo

nosed with depression and anxiety, that there doesn't seem to be a lot to feel positive about this year.

According to a study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a mental health crisis has emerged from the pandemic, with one-fourth of young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 saying they have considered suicide in the past 30 days.

The study, which was conducted in late June on Qualtrics, surveyed 5,412 adults. The survey also found that a similar percentage of adults had begun or increased the use of substances to cope, with half of the responses indicating symptoms of depression and anxiety.

While the study did allow participants to self-report symptoms of anxiety and depression, instead of being medically diagnosed, it is a startling and sobering percentage of a population who will largely be returning to campuses across the United States this fall.

In another study conducted by the American College Health Association and the Healthy Minds Network, almost 41% of college students reported depression symptoms from the end of March through May.

I remember when I returned home from my spring break



Kaylyn McGrory/Collegian Creative

trip to Los Angeles, just before the coronavirus had reached pandemic status, and learned I would not be going back to school.

I had to completely change the way I learned and attempted to keep up with living at home with chores, the temporary loss of my server job and so much more.

I was full of despair as I watched my brother graduate high school without a prom, senior class day and all of the other traditions that came with senior status.

I tried to make the best of the summer, doing as much as I could with my internship and eventually starting back to work again.

However, for me, the most important aspect of my quarantined summer was reconnecting with friends and having people to talk to about my stress and anxiety.

In my time at home, I found that the FaceTime calls with friends from college, socially distanced pool days with hometown friends and late-night Sheetz runs with family were what held me together all along.

I guess what I am trying to say is, now more than ever it is

important to check in with your friends.

While you have no way of knowing what those around you are thinking, just calling and asking about their day or planning a virtual movie night through Netflix Party can help them and yourself in more ways than one.

Even though being with each other may be difficult because of the pandemic, a FaceTime or Snapchat video call can go a long way in bettering the mental health of yourself and those around you.

According to a study conducted by the Mayo Clinic, having good friendships can help to alleviate stress, help in coping with trauma and help you avoid unhealthy life decisions.

2020 has been a confusing, frustrating and unnerving experience for many of us, so why go through it alone?

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SEASON OF OPT-OUTS?

Analyzing the potential impact on Penn State's roster if the Big Ten plays a winter or spring college football season

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With a Big Ten fall season now in the rearview mirror and the potential of a winter or spring season on the horizon, college football teams may look very different from what was expected in 2020 — especially Penn State. Junior linebacker Micah Parsons opted out of the season earlier in August, the most notable name to set his sights on the 2021 NFL Draft. Many more could follow in his footsteps as the end of the calendar year approaches.

The prospect of a winter season being backup-laden has been brought up in recent weeks — with the thought being, any upperclassmen who believe they will be drafted would sit out the season to avoid any risk to their draft stock, via injury or other reason.

With that in mind, the Nittany Lions' projected roster for the upcoming season may see some big changes.

The linebacker position has already been shaken up by Parsons' departure.

The linebackers corps was supposed to include the Harrisburg native Parsons, sophomore Brandon Smith and junior Ellis Brooks.

It isn't likely that any other linebacker would opt to sit out of the upcoming season, so most of the depth chart would stay intact.

The void left by Parsons may still be felt, but Penn State has



Collegian File Photo

Linebacker Micah Parsons (11) warms up before the game against Indiana at Beaver Stadium.

a fitting replacement in junior Jesse Luketa.

Luketa got a decent amount of playing time in 2019, appearing in every game as a backup linebacker, frequently playing with Smith and Brooks.

Therefore, the transition should go smoothly and the chemistry between the players already exists.

One area where the Nittany Lions could have to make the most adjustments would be on the defensive line.

Shaka Toney is entering his senior season and is likely to be drafted in the spring.

Another name that is being eyed heavily by NFL scouts is

Jayson Oweh, which might come as a surprise due to his lack of experience.

Oweh didn't start at defensive end last year, but has been projected as a first round pick by some analysts in recent weeks after the Big Ten's cancellation of fall sports and put up the numbers to impress, totaling 21 tackles, five tackles for loss and five sacks in 13 games.

If Toney and Oweh opt to focus on the NFL draft, then Penn State would be down their two most reliable and starting pass rushers.

The next players up in the rotation would be sophomore Adisa Isaac and senior Shane

Simmons. Isaac came in as a highly-touted recruit, and the same goes for Simmons who has battled injuries throughout his career, keeping him from seeing the field as much as he might have liked.

To round out the possible departures on the defensive side, Lamont Wade and Tariq Castro-Fields are potential mid to late-round picks in the upcoming draft.

Wade has been outspoken on social media that he wants to play this season, and it's tough to think that Castro-Fields would opt out as he is in position to be the No. 1 option at cornerback.

As for the offense, Sean

Clifford will be the quarterback once again alongside the main running back core from a year ago.

Pat Freiermuth is the biggest name who has a tough decision to make — he's also a projected first round pick and arguably the best tight end in the country right now.

The junior tight end has said on social media that he isn't necessarily going to opt out in wake of Parsons' decision — but that was prior to the Big Ten's decision to cancel the fall season.

If Freiermuth opts out though, there is a lot of young talent at the tight end position behind him.

Zack Kuntz, a 6-foot-7 sophomore was listed as the second tight end on the spring depth chart, and incoming Canadian freshman Theo Johnson was one of the Nittany Lions' second-highest rated recruits in their class.

The offensive line is another area that could be affected by the change in season as all five starters are eligible for the draft.

Rasheed Walker is the lone sophomore on the line at left tackle, but he redshirted his true freshman season and is therefore eligible for the draft.

Will Fries, CJ Thorpe, Mike Miranda and Michal Menet all could opt out if they think they are locks to be drafted.

It's a safe bet that almost the entire group will return, as none opted to depart for the most recent NFL Draft in April, which most were eligible for.

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MY VIEW | ANDREW PORTERFIELD

Franklin leads through uncertainty

There are still many questions left unanswered for the Penn State program as it heads into its first fall without football since its inception.

But one thing remains clear — James Franklin is the right coach to lead his team through the coronavirus pandemic.

After a successful three-year stint at Vanderbilt in which he became the first Commodores head coach to lead the program to consecutive bowl games.

Franklin took the reins of the Nittany Lions in 2014 and has created an upward trajectory for the team ever since.

Penn State was set to potentially have one of its best teams in decades, with junior Micah Parsons leading the defense and a more experienced Sean Clifford facilitating a potent offense with plenty of weapons.

Parsons, along with junior tight end Pat Freiermuth were both named preseason All-Americans by USA Today after seasons in which both improved their NFL Draft stock in 2019.

If Franklin were to ever make the College Football Playoff, it likely would've been this year with the players he had on roster.

But then the Big Ten canceled all fall competition due to the coronavirus pandemic and left the status of the Nittany Lion program in purgatory.

Franklin could have thrown in the towel and let the situation get the best of him and his squad, but he's done quite the opposite so far.

Directly after the Big Ten's decision was released, Franklin began a dialogue with Penn State players and their parents to help them better understand the situation at hand and the opportunities afforded to them to get through the canceled season.

With those conversations taking place privately, Franklin has also voiced his concerns with the decision to cancel fall sports publicly as well.

In a conference call with media members, Franklin cited his displeasure with the decision-making process —

ultimately noting the decision was made far too in advance.

Franklin felt a temporary pause on the season would have been more beneficial for the conference and its 14 member programs.

"I don't necessarily have an issue with the decision, but I have an issue with the process and I got an issue with the timing," Franklin said in the call with the media.

It would have been easy for Franklin to sit back and fully accept the Big Ten's decision without expressing his converse opinions on the issue — but Franklin has never taken the easy way out.

He also conceded that the Big Ten's decision was difficult and there were likely no right answers, demonstrating his willingness to stand with the conference even if he doesn't completely agree with the final decision.

"While I appreciate the complexities and difficulties of this decision for the leaders of our conference, I'm extremely frustrated because we still have very few answers to communicate to our young men and their families about their futures," Franklin said.

Franklin is proving he is a players' coach, and he will continue to go to bat for his players, his parents and his program in the face of adversity and in this instance unknown.

When Franklin became the 16th head coach in Penn State's history, he took over a program that had seen massive adversity from NCAA sanctions that were handed down just two years prior.

Since then, though, Franklin's teams have gone on to have three 10-plus win seasons and have produced notable NFL players such as Saquon Barkley and Chris Godwin.

So, if Franklin can right the ship of a program sanctioned into oblivion, he can certainly lead the team in a time rife with uncertainty and struggle.

The Nittany Lions may not have a fall football season, but Franklin is the right man for the job of continuing the progression of his players and staff.

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Collegian File Photo

Former Miami (Ohio) softball coach Clarisa Crowell in the dugout during a game against Akron. Crowell was officially introduced as Penn State's softball coach on Friday, Aug. 21.

New Penn State softball coach brings new culture

By Alexis Yoder
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

If you've ever watched the Disney movie Lilo and Stitch, you know that the term Ohana means family — and family means that no one gets left behind.

A term also used by new head coach Clarisa Crowell when describing her team culture philosophy, Ohana defines the team as a family.

The Ohana philosophy was described by Crowell in her introductory press conference after being named Penn State's new softball coach on Aug. 3.

Crowell, a native of Hawaii, describes her childhood as one where she and her family lived by Aloha and Ohana — and how it has translated to a team philosophy.

"With Hawaiian people, the concept of you live by is Aloha which means you live by love and you are a family person. If you know anything about Polynesian culture, we are very family-oriented and those two things in my life drive me to operate the way that I do," Crowell said.

The philosophy is one she's grown up with and implemented with her previous teams, including Miami (Ohio).

"A couple years ago, I said I was going to be a little more intentional when it came to culture, what it is, what it

means," Crowell said. "Our student-athletes at Miami knew what we were about there, but it takes time to build that. First and foremost, we are building a culture of family and 'Ohana'. It's going to start with that. My kids will have to understand my standards and expectations, and one of those is a commitment to excellence."

At a time where team gatherings, workouts and bonding exercises are discouraged, Crowell and her coaching staff are not focused on the X's and O's of softball just yet.

"You need to win the people and you need to build a culture. That is my primary focus right now," Crowell said. "I need to bring our kids together, I need to create an atmosphere that they feel like they can thrive in — a family-like atmosphere."

These "family" gatherings among the athletes and coaching staff have started virtually over Zoom. Plans have been made for socially distanced campus tours, take-out dinners in the outfield of Beard Field and more.

Prioritizing getting to know the players as people off the field first before analyzing any of their on-field play is Crowell's main goal in the current climate, and one that fits well with the culture and mindset she wants her players to adapt.

"Obviously we are in some pretty tough times, but I feel great about the leadership here and I know that they're going to get us through this. Right now, I'm just really excited to meet

our student athletes in person," Crowell said.

In her previous head coaching position at Miami, Crowell was the 2019 Mid-American Conference Coach of the Year and is the winningest coach in school history.

Crowell described what she hopes to transition from Oxford to State College. Beyond the traditional five tools needed to excel at softball — arm strength, speed, fielding, hitting for power and hitting for average — Crowell is looking for certain intangible qualities in this crop of Nittany Lions: good work ethic, grittiness and respect.

"My student athletes at Miami were hard-working, gritty, resilient, respectful and they did things the right way," Crowell said. "That is something that I will look to build here eventually at Penn State. However I need to see where our team is at, so I can come in here with a vision and a plan."

Seeing where her team is at means virtual team meetings. As described by Crowell, she discusses important topics related to team culture with her student-athletes, including why they decided to attend Penn State and what Penn State softball culture looks like.

"Although I have a vision and a plan, I'm trying to see where our student-athletes are at and where our team is at," Crowell said.

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

‘#TheHeartOfHappyValley’ unites businesses, community members

By Courtney McGinley
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Though the ongoing pandemic has threatened the livelihoods of many small businesses, downtown State College is encouraging the community to stay positive.

Local businesses are sharing what makes their storefronts “#TheHeartOfHappyValley” by making homemade signs shared via the Instagram account @downtownstatecollege.

“The handmade posters were a way to recognize that they [the businesses] are small, local, and self made, the opposite of big box retail or national chains,” Lee Anne Jeffries, the marketing and communications director of Downtown State College, said.

“We wanted to show faces that we recognize when we shop or eat at these small downtown businesses, they are the heart of our community.”

The campaign aims to exemplify how businesses are “integral” to the State College community, according to one of the account’s posts.

“We started using this phrase earlier this year, but more in the idiomatic sense. Then COVID-19 changed everything,” Rob Schmidt, the director of Downtown State College, said.

“The focus of our campaign really changed to more of a tug-at-the-heartstrings effort.”

Schmidt said that there are many locally owned businesses in the State College and they have been assisting community members for several years.

“We have dozens of locally owned businesses. Some of them have been around for 50 years, even 100 years; second and third generation businesses,” Schmidt said. “Their roots are here, their families are here, their money stays here.”

Curtis Schulman, the

owner of The Corner Room, remembers when the State College community was very small. Now he said it is almost like a small city with all the students at Penn State.

“There has always been a strong sense of community support for local and small businesses,” Schulman said. “We have survived as a community through the Great Depression and many other challenges along the way. We survived because we have stuck through it all together.”

“We’re lucky to be in a community that we are in and to have people supporting us along the way.”

With the coronavirus still making its way through the area, Schulman believes The Corner Room will survive the pandemic by helping community members find strength.

“Happy Valley has always found a way to be happy,” Schulman said. “We want to provide the community with an outlet so people can get together in a safe environment where they



Lindsey Toomer/Collegian

The Corner Room sits closed with lights off during the coronavirus quarantine period Saturday, March 21, 2020.

feel comfortable, emotionally and physically.”

Similar to The Corner Room, McLanahan’s Downtown Market has been a part of the State College community for over 100 years, according to McLanahan’s website.

Greg Hooper, the manager of McLanahan’s, said business was slow during summer without the usual thousands of Penn State students roaming the streets.

Still, Hooper believes State College can handle the adversity. “If we can bring everyone together and on the same page working together, I think we can keep everyone happy and healthy,” Hooper said.

Business owner Angelo Card, a third generation shoemaker, said he and his family have been supporting the community since 1966, when his grandfather opened Custom Shoe Repair.

“State College has always been married to the university and that is what we like about it,” Card said. “It is a small-town feel, but it is a big atmosphere. It’s what

makes everything cool.”

Card said he wants to do his part to make sure the community is safe and that his business continues to abide by the coronavirus protocols.

“We are staying protected and playing by the rules so we can

all move forward together,” Card said. “Bottom line is that we all need to be healthy, and we need to build an economy, community and unite as one.”

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Courtesy of Rob Schmidt

Local businesses are sharing what makes their storefronts “#TheHeartOfHappyValley” by making homemade signs.

How international students are affected by COVID-19

By Madigan Lubold
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Some international students choose to attend school in North America to fully grasp what life is like as an American, according to Isabella Alves Ferreira Lopes.

However, this year poses many obstacles for international students amid the global coronavirus pandemic.

Lopes (freshman-psychology), an incoming freshman from Brazil, was supposed to begin her first-year experience this fall.

But due to the pandemic, she could not get a student visa from the U.S. government.

“I would definitely affirm that I, alongside all the international students, have been way more affected by COVID-19 than the U.S. students,” Lopes said.

International students have had to face border restrictions, unanticipated costs associated with having to quarantine in another country and the lingering risk of being deported — as Penn State sees fit, according to Lopes. Lopes had also paid for her plane ticket and visa fees prior to the U.S. closing its border to Brazil on May 27.

As of Aug. 14, the U.S. had implemented a level four travel advisory, “do not travel,” to Brazil due to the coronavirus.

Aside from the financial burdens accompanying the pandemic, some international students have experienced emotional setbacks, too, Lopes said.

“I have always wanted to meet new cultures and be able to live and experience it to the fullest,” Lopes said.

“But I saw my studies and life-long dream interrupted abruptly when the pandemic started. It’s not ideal to have your first college experience from Zoom.”

Lopes hopes that she will be able to travel to the U.S. soon so she can get a “real” college experience.

Enzo Duarte Garcia Costa Silva, who is also from Brazil, said his experience with the pandemic started last year when he was suddenly sent home.

All Silva (junior-industrial engineering) was able to bring home with him was one backpack filled with essentials, he said.

“I was sent back home to Brazil, which is a burden for my family,” Silva said.

Since Silva couldn’t return to State College, his friends helped him out by emptying out all the rotten food in his apartment.

“It was horrible,” Silva said.

Silva and his sister both contracted the coronavirus and had to quarantine in Brazil for two weeks.

Now that Penn State is allowing students to come back to campus, Silva — along with many other international students — wants to return.

He is scheduled to come back to State College on Sept. 10, but has to quarantine in Mexico for 14 days prior to his arrival.

“If I want to go back to the U.S.,



Collegian Creative

I can’t be in Brazil for 14 days before I get there,” Silva said.

“I had to sell all of my musical instruments to help pay for my stay in Mexico.”

Silva plans to either stay in an inexpensive Airbnb or in a friend’s basement, if he can find someone willing to let him do so.

However, even after quarantining in Mexico for 14 days, Silva runs the risk of being rejected at the border, forcing him to return to Brazil to take his Penn State classes.

“I was hoping to take a mix of in-person and online classes, but since I wasn’t able to get into the

U.S., all my classes were switched to online,” he said.

Fernando Munoz, though not an international student, had to leave his study abroad program in Barcelona early due to the pandemic.

Additionally, Penn State has yet to give Munoz (senior-international politics) his scholarship check, so he has been sleeping on friends’ couches in State College until he gets his money.

“It’s a big challenge when you don’t know your financial status,” Munoz said.

“And most of my international friends aren’t even [in State

College] and have been paying for apartments the whole time.”

The pandemic has affected students on a multitude of levels, some greater than others.

Ultimately, the adversity international students have to face during the pandemic are greater than those American students face, according to Silva.

“I have no structure in my home country to study and concentrate on my classes,” Silva said. “So I really need to get back to State College.”

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Intentions behind the petition to send freshmen home

By Kaitlyn Kudriavetz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following the large gathering of freshmen outside East Halls last week, Penn State sophomore Henrique Marchi decided to take matters into his own hands by publishing a petition to send the freshmen students home.

The petition, which currently has 7,454 signatures and a 7,500 signature goal, has been circulating online since its publication.

Marchi (sophomore-aerospace engineering) describes the response from the upperclassmen as “amazing.”

Marchi’s friend, sophomore Alayna Faison, helped him craft the petition.

“We all knew starting the

petition that Penn State was never going to send all the freshmen home,” Faison (sophomore-food science) said.

Still, the pair felt it was important that the class of 2024 knew their actions had consequences for the entire student body.

“My goal with this petition is not to send all freshmen home,” Marchi said, “but make it known to them that the upperclassmen and the university are watching their actions.”

Alyssa Genther said she did not think twice about signing the petition.

“Parties outside of East Halls were never a ‘thing’ so it makes no sense why now, during a pandemic, the freshman decided to go twerk outside the

commons,” Genther (junior-labor employee relations) said.

“Everyone signed an agreement and not even within the first day of class, [there was] a party on campus.”

Genther said she believes the freshmen students’ choice to break social distancing guidelines were selfish and irresponsible, and she fully supports the petition’s call to action.

“Freshmen need to be held accountable for what they did. I think they need to be sent home and be forced to [complete classes] online,” Genther said. “Students who break COVID safety guidelines need to be punished in the way that [Penn State] said they would.”

Marchi is still sympathetic —

he wants everyone to get to enjoy the full college experience, with partying included.

That said, however, he thinks following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s safety precautions should be a top priority.

“Do not get me wrong — I fully understand that Penn State has a partying culture, but I also know that everyone’s way of life has changed due to the pandemic,” Faison said.

“You can still hang out with your friends, you just need to make sure you follow the CDC guidelines.”

Even though the freshmen’s response to the petition has been mostly negative, some students from the class were still “willing to hear [Marchi] out,” he said.

Genther, however, thinks the negative responses were mainly “just freshmen who didn’t get their time to shine in the twerk circle.”

While Marchi and Faison knew their petition’s goal of getting the freshmen sent home was a long shot, they mainly want the student body to work to find the balance between safety and fun.

“What I want to come out of this experience is a sense of security,” Marchi said.

“I want to see COVID-19 guidelines more strictly enforced so we can all have an amazing fall semester.”

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