

# DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### Edition



Photos are Collegian file photos and by Ken Minamoto, Jonah Rosen, Caitlin Lee, Aabha Vora, Noah Riffe and James Leavy



# PRCC highlights community, history

By **Becky Marcinko**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

As an American singer, actor and political activist, Paul Robeson left a legacy full of civil rights advancements that opened possibilities for black Americans and other marginalized groups.

Now, Robeson's life and accomplishments are honored daily at Penn State as many students utilize the Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC) in the HUB-Robeson Center.

The PRCC provides programs and activities for students of color and other marginalized groups, while also providing a space for students to congregate, socialize and complete schoolwork.

"There's always something going on with all the opportunities provided to the minority community at Penn State," Othman Gbadamassi, a student who frequents the PRCC, said.

Carlos Wiley, the director of the PRCC, said the center first came to life during the civil rights and Black Power movements. The Black Cultural Center was born as a student-run enterprise in the Walnut Building because students requested a space where they would be able to "organize and plan."

In 1972, the Black Cultural Center was officially designated as the campus's cultural center. The name was eventually changed in 1986 to the Paul Robeson Cultural Center as students, faculty and staff decided Robeson embodied inspiration for college students.

The PRCC moved to its current

HUB location in 1999.

Wiley said the PRCC has evolved because, while there were only white and black students at Penn State at the time of the center's opening, the PRCC today serves "all students' interests and needs, specifically students of color."

The PRCC works with students of all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds, including black, Asian, Latino and LGBTQ students, according to Wiley.

"Being a staff member here means that I get to work with young adults and help them understand who they are and what they want out of life and what they can do to achieve that," Wiley said. "I'm actually making a difference in the world."

Students Lexie Wells and Kennedy Jackson became involved in the PRCC through BLUEprint, a peer mentoring organization run out of the PRCC that is focused on helping freshman students of color transition to changes associated with starting college, according to Wells. The program consists of mentors and mentees.

"It establishes an early sense of diversity and being in a community, because, as you can probably tell, the minority community at Penn State is really small," Wells (freshman-management information systems) said. "It creates a sense of inclusivity, and it's a really nice thing to be a part of."

Wells said the PRCC provides many informational sessions about advancement within marginalized communities through

various programs and speakers.

Jackson (freshman-kinesiology) said her mentor brought her to the PRCC, where she was able to meet faculty, staff and members of BLUEprint and other organizations. She said there are many other organizations who frequent the PRCC, and people who aren't in any of these organizations still come to the PRCC to meet and interact with other students and do homework.

"I come here almost every day. Sometimes it's really crowded, so it's not the best place to do homework," Jackson said. "But then other times, there's plenty of time when you can get a lot of work done, and spend quality time with quality people."

Gbadamassi (junior-information science and technology) is a mentor for BLUEprint, a member of the National Society of Black Engineers, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

He said many members of each of these groups have built a community to hang out at the PRCC. Gbadamassi said he appreciates the people at the PRCC, as well as the wide range of programs available.

"If you haven't come in here, and you're looking for your place on campus, this is definitely one place where you can get started with that," Wells said.

To email reporter: [rnm5187@psu.edu](mailto:rnm5187@psu.edu).  
 Follow her on Twitter at [@BeckyMarcinko](#).



From left, James Avery, Will Smith and Janet Hubert in "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."

## Black students on favorite childhood TV shows, music

By **Jade Campos**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The media that children grow up with can make a large impact on their lives. For many black students on Penn State's campus, a few of their fondest memories came from simply seeing people in the media who looked like them.

A variety of different shows and music genres have influenced the lives of students of color.

Kyle Carroll said the "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" is his favorite show of all time, primarily because he identifies closely with Will Smith. With roots in West Philadelphia, Carroll (junior-communication arts & sciences) explained that Smith has always been an "easy" person for him to look up to.

"In the show, being able to go to Bel-Air and experience these things, [Will Smith] in real life is actually from West Philly," Carroll said. "[He's] able to go to Hollywood and make shows and make movies."

"The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" is more than just the show's main character. With an emphasis on family, some students said the show is important to black communities because it portrays what a "healthy" family looks like.

"My whole family will come together and watch the "Fresh Prince" every day," Carroll said. "Even though this is a show that came out in the 90s, it still resonates."

"Martin," "In Living Color" and "My Wife and Kids" were several other shows black students recalled watching throughout their childhoods.

"They paint a better picture of what a black family is instead of the stereotypes that are always portrayed," Nate Abate (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said. "They're very wholesome and they bring the family together to show that we're a unit. We're not all these stereotypes."

Bori Mitchell said many black families represented in television are depicted as unhappy

and broken. Mitchell (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) explained that there are typically single mothers, absent dads and a struggling household, which isn't "relatable" to the entire black community.

For many students, the black music they grew up listening to ranges across genres and generations, like Michael Jackson and Kanye West. Whether it was soul, rap or gospel, students also described their favorite artists as giving them a sense of nostalgia.

Carroll said Kanye West and Jay-Z have inspired him to "be his own," because they've always "stayed true to themselves" while being highly successful.

Kendrick Lamar has been one of the most influential black musicians for Emmanuel Houndo. Houndo (senior-health policy and music) said he's "still growing up," so he considers Lamar to continue to be an influence on his upbringing as a black man.

"To Pimp A Butterfly" was one of Lamar's most impactful albums for Houndo. He described it as a "celebration of what it means to be black" in a modern society.

Originally from West Africa, Houndo said American musicians are more political than African musicians. Ultimately, he said his perspective of the world is different from black students who grew up surrounded by black role models who frequently spoke up about politics.

When it comes to media content created specifically for children, though, students agree that there isn't enough representation for the black community.

"There's always far and few between," Carroll said about black representation for children.

In terms of children's shows with a strong black lead and or cast, most students could only remember watching "That's So Raven" and "The Proud Family." Although they have fond memories with the shows and characters, students expressed disappointment that there wasn't more representation for them as they grew up.

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



Students study in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center library on Friday, Jan. 31.

# Community reflects on role of African American spirituals

By **Braden Dyreson**  
 THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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To email reporter: [bsd5216@psu.edu](mailto:bsd5216@psu.edu).  
 Follow him on Twitter at [@BradenDyreson](#).



The Essence of Joy choir sings spiritual songs in the Pattee Library on Jan. 19, 2015.

## Predicting the future

Improving lives and communities through modeling

The lecture series was founded by Abhay Ashtekar, founding Director of the Institute for Gravitation and the Cosmos and a member of the National Academy of Sciences. It owes its success to Barbara Kennedy who presided over the series during its first twenty-five years, making it one of the most successful Science outreach events in Pennsylvania.

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### Disease outbreak control:

Harnessing the power of multiple models to work smarter, not harder

**KATRIONA SHEA**  
Alumni Professor in the Biological Sciences and Professor of Ecology, Penn State

Disease outbreaks are a source of immense human, wildlife, and agricultural concern. They threaten our health, our environment, and our food security. When new outbreaks such as Ebola occur, scientists rush to help. Even so, often relatively little may be known about a disease, even as policy makers must make critical decisions about how to best to manage it. Quantitative models that describe biological processes in terms of mathematics or statistics can be incredibly helpful in such cases. They allow us to summarize what we do know while highlighting where our important knowledge gaps lie. Shea will overview the use of mathematical modeling approaches in disease settings—drawing examples from human, wildlife, livestock, and agricultural scenarios—along with cautionary tales, and ways to streamline decision-making when time is of the essence.

**Saturday, February 15**  
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# ‘More Rivers To Cross’

A 93-page report, prepared by two Penn State professors outlines the obstacles black professors have faced

By Melissa Manno  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

To biobehavioral health professor Gary King, an in-depth report highlighting the various obstacles many African American professors have faced at Penn State over the last 15 years raised the question, “Are we really all in?”

King hopes to bring this question to light among the community by sharing the “More Rivers To Cross” report, prepared by himself and African American studies associate professor Darryl Thomas.

The 93-page report examines issues spanning from representation and tenure to student evaluations and administrative opportunities.

The two professors began preparing the report following an event held on April 4, 2019 where 50 black Penn State professors met on the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination to examine historical and current trends of representation at the university.

The event titled, “An Afternoon with African American Professors,” discussed issues relating to the climate and culture of being a black instructor at predominantly white universities.

These conversations inspired King and Thomas to begin compiling an in-depth report on the status of African American professors at Penn State.

“This report was intended to present these areas of concern to the university and begin to have some serious discussions on where we go from here,” King said. “Penn State can and must do better.”

The report operates on a variety of scales — examining issues at predominantly white universities through a nationwide lens and demonstrating how these issues are relevant to the Penn State community.

## African American faculty and tenure

According to Penn State’s Office of Planning and Assessment, there were 112 black professors at Penn State in 2018, a 2.8 percent increase from 2012.

The report examines how numbers like these are misleading, since Penn State implemented a new system in 2018 in which postdoctoral scholars and fellows were reclassified as full-time faculty.

This change might make it

appear as though the university’s faculty is becoming more racially diverse, but the report says the unadjusted number of black professors is 103 — a decrease of 1.9 percent from 2004 to 2018.

The report individually examines each of the 13 academic colleges at University Park based on data from 2018:

- College of the Liberal Arts: Of the 771 faculty members, 36 (4.7 percent) were black — increasing by 12.5 percent since 2004 — while non-black faculty rose by 63 percent. The report notes that it is important to consider the number of African American faculty in the Department of African American studies or diaspora studies — which is made up almost entirely of African American faculty members — when examining the number of black faculty in this college.
- College of Education: Of 202 professors in 2018, 12 (5.9 percent) identified as African American — an increase of 25 percent since 2004.
- College of Arts and Architecture: Of the 217 faculty members, 13 (6 percent) were black — increasing by 18.2 percent since 2004, while non-black faculty rose by 22.2 percent.
- Smeal College of Business: Two of Smeal professors (1.3 percent) were black — decreasing by 50 percent since 2004, while non-black faculty increased by 22 percent.
- College of Health and Human Development/Nursing: Of the 341 faculty members, nine (2.7 percent) were black — decreasing by 47 percent since 2004, while non-black faculty increased by 25 percent.
- College of Engineering: Of 428 faculty members, six (1.4 percent) were black.
- Eberly College of Science: Of 615 faculty members, 12 members (1.9 percent) were black.
- College of Earth and Mineral Sciences: Of the 265 faculty members, five (1.9 percent) were black.
- Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications: Two professors (3.1 percent) were black.
- College of Agricultural Sciences: Four professors (1.1 percent) were black.

- College of Information Sciences: 3 percent of professors were black, while non-black faculty increased by 81 percent.

These numbers reveal how individual colleges are falling short in increasing their representation, according to King, especially in white-dominated fields such as the sciences and business.

Further, King noted that, a student could potentially receive his or her Penn State degree without ever having a black professor, and a black student could go through their college education without ever having an instructor who might look like them.

“Being few in number means there’s no critical mass or group that you might consult with, and that creates issues,” King said. “It isn’t good for African American faculty, and it isn’t good for the university as a whole.”

The report showed the percent of black professors who were tenured or tenure-track had decreased the most from 2004 to 2018 compared to any other race or ethnicity.

“When you have tenured and tenure track professors decreasing by 22 percent for black faculty, that’s certainly not diverse,” King said.

King said that in the College of Health and Human Development, he is the only black male professor and the only black full professor.

When asked why Penn State’s numbers were so low, King attributed it to “leadership, the lack of commitment from certain departments and the lack of upper levels of the administration holding individual colleges responsible.”

## Representation

King and Thomas highlighted how the lack of representation on a university-level has caused many black professors to strive to perform “twice as good” in their positions compared to their white counterparts.

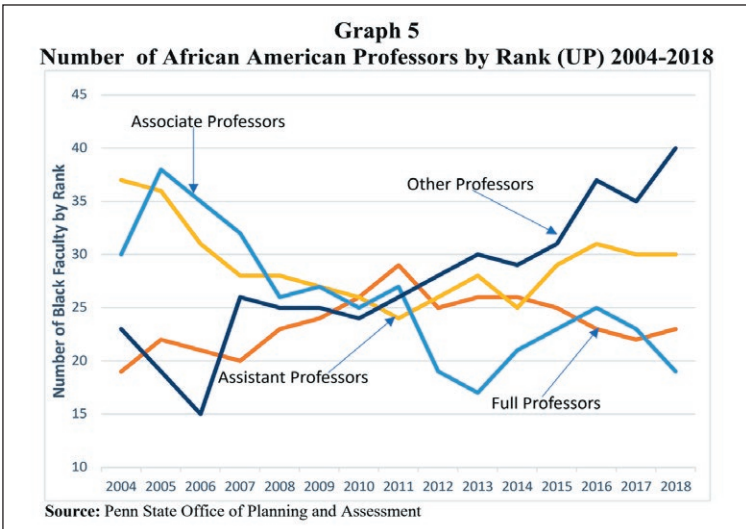
“I think all African American faculty at Penn State feel that in one way or another,” King said. “I think it has continued to be a conscious or unconscious feeling among many of us — and it’s something that wears on you after a while.”

Additionally, “More Rivers to Cross” addresses that a black faculty member may feel obligated to act as a mentor to black students at a predominantly white university.

Further, the report notes how circumstances like that may have the potential to place extra responsibility on black faculty members their white counterparts likely don’t have to bear, according to the report.

“I think that’s a role many black faculty readily accept and want to accept, not just with black students, but all students, as well,” King said.

“But there’s an additional responsibility — sometimes obligation — on black professors to help mentor and share our own experiences with black students that are many times first generation and are experiencing an environment that’s very different than what they grew up in.”



## Student evaluations

The report highlighted how racial prejudices — whether conscious or not — play a role in how students rate the performances of their professors in their student evaluations of teaching (SRTEs).

The report demonstrated the disparities between how students rate professors who “fit common stereotypes about the professoriate” — or “bearded, bespectacled, white men” — versus those who do not. It stated that African American faculty members are among those negatively impacted by these evaluations, noting that they are more likely to be faulted for classroom policies regarding technology, tardiness, late work and attendance in comparison to their white counterparts.

King said he has personally seen these trends reflected in his own SRTEs.

The report also said students tend to view African American faculty members as “more biased and subjected” when teaching classes related to racial issues. The report says black faculty members receive lower ratings in classes that discuss white privilege to white students, versus white faculty members who discuss the same topic to white students.

Further, the report proposes recommendations related to improving SRTEs, such as making the evaluations more based on written feedback versus feedback by ratings.

Various universities have done away with student evaluations for biased-related reasons, and King said he believes Penn State should follow suit.

“They’ve said they’re not going to accept that as a way of promoting people because they recognize that there’s some intrinsic bias, and they’re not going to accept that as a way of determining annual raises — and that’s where it becomes a matter of equity,” King said. “There’s other innovative ways of evaluation that are more effective.”

## Faculty Senate Report

The Penn State Faculty Senate met on Jan. 28 to discuss the report and the various areas of concern highlighted within it.

King said these discussions were what he and Thomas hoped the report would spark among faculty leaders. The senate

meeting consisted of various proposals, including changes to university policies that would allow for more effective hiring procedures, as well as increasing administrative opportunities.

“The report is very worthwhile reading, and an important reminder of challenges that we face, not only at Penn State but in higher education nationally,” Penn State President Eric Barron said in a press release.

By acknowledging racism, bias and lack of representation in the Penn State community, King said there’s hope that the university can become more inclusive for faculty members who fall outside of the white male norm. He emphasized that these issues are not unique to black faculty, but also impact professors of many marginalized communities.

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Ultimately, King said that as the world becomes more diverse, it is critical that Penn State follows suit and fosters a more inclusive environment that is representative of the diversifying society.

The report highlights how, although the university has progressed in certain areas, there are still “more rivers to cross.”

“The cultural climate and challenges that African American [faculty and] other faculty of color face at Penn State with respect to bias and systemic obstacles deserve a robust and candid discussion,” the report reads.

To email reporter: [mzm607@psu.edu](mailto:mzm607@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@melissm8](https://twitter.com/melissm8).

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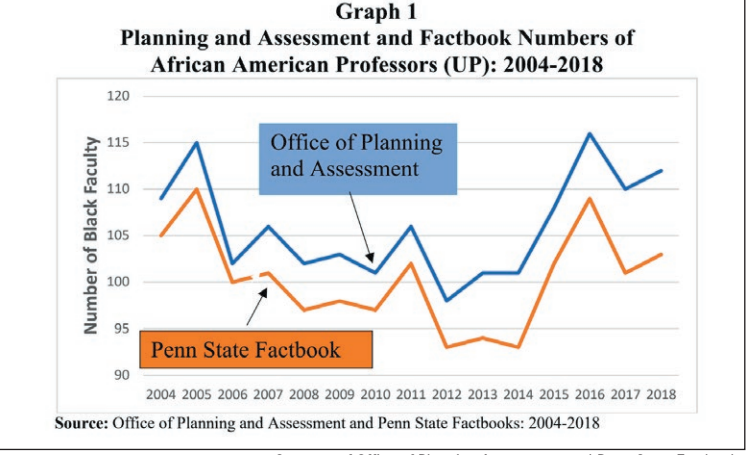
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# Penn State and the Divine Nine

The university is pushing to bring back a group of nine historically black fraternities and sororities

By Kira Mohr  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, eight of the nine fraternities and sororities within the Divine Nine — a group of nine historically black fraternities and sororities — were represented on Penn State’s campus.

Only the Iota Phi Theta fraternity was not represented at the university.

However, over the past decade, these organizations have disappeared from Penn State greek life — sparking a push to bring them back.

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) is the governing body for the nine greek organizations referred to as the “Divine Nine.” Though nine fraternities and sororities are represented in the NPHC nationally, only five are currently present at Penn State: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi and Zeta Phi Beta.

According to Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers, due to the selective nature of these organizations, their memberships

have remained smaller in size over the years in comparison to other fraternities and sororities at Penn State.

As members began to graduate, the populations of certain groups dwindled until they no longer held presence within university greek life.

In addition, over the past decade, some groups within The Divine Nine received sanctions due to hazing violations, Powers said. Due to these penalties, their national organizations were no longer able to recognize them, leading to their removal from Penn State.

However, Powers said the university continues to push for the return of all fraternities and sororities within The Divine Nine. Alongside the university, national greek organizations are working to implement this goal for the future.

Chris Jefferson, Penn State’s director of fraternity and sorority life, is one of many who supports the return of all nine of these historically black greek-letter organizations.

As a member of the historically

African American Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, Jefferson emphasized that the return of The Divine Nine is a joint effort between Penn State and its greek life community.

“We are excited to work with the affiliate organizations of the [NPHC] in facilitating their return to Penn State’s University Park campus,” Jefferson said via email. “As we work with each organization upon their return, our goal is to establish infrastructures for sustainable success.”

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life is currently in collaboration with several NPHC organizations to establish a timeline for a potential return to campus, according to Jefferson.

Historically, fraternities and sororities within the NPHC have been known for their involvement in the community and their dedication to philanthropy.

“[The Divine Nine] provides forums for members to realize the values of sisterhood/brotherhood, leadership, service, scholarship, community uplift and achievement through their events, initiatives and actions,”

Jefferson said. “As a fraternity man, and a proud member of an NPHC organization, I am excited for the return of these groups to University Park and for the positive impact they will have throughout the fraternity and sorority community at Penn State.”

Throughout the past decade, Penn State has worked alongside the NPHC to return the entirety of The Divine Nine back to the university, according to spokeswoman Lisa Powers.

At a 2010 event, Michael Capehart, the past president of Penn State’s former Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, discussed the importance of the Divine Nine and the opportunities it had provided him with.

“Everything I have done here at school has been influenced some way by my Divine Nine membership,” Capehart said in 2010. “The whole network in part is allowing me to interact with people who are trying to make a positive influence.”

To email reporter: [kjm6453@psu.edu](mailto:kjm6453@psu.edu).  
Follow her on Twitter at [@kirajessa](https://twitter.com/kirajessa).



Collegian file photo

# ‘PLAYING THE SAME SPORT’

*Penn State men’s hockey’s first black player, Liam Folkes broke barriers to become a superstar for the Nittany Lions*

By Dylan Jacobs  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Liam Folkes has always stood out to the casual fan.

He wears No. 26, often leading to Saquon Barkley-inspired comparisons.

He has scored two of the biggest goals in program history, ones that every Penn State fan would know.

But most importantly, he stands out because he looks different than all of his teammates — and the ones that came before him.

Folkes is the first and only black player to take the ice for Penn State, but he feels that he’s just like everyone else, one piece of a larger puzzle.

And while he has been treated the same as his fellow Nittany Lions during his time in Happy Valley, that wasn’t always the case.

Liam and his brother Tre had played together their entire lives, and during a tournament back when they were kids, an opposing player expressed his opinions loud and clear.

“The N-word just kept being thrown, and you can only take it for so long,” Folkes’ father, Carl, said.

“Tre retaliated, smacked him

with his hockey stick and got thrown out of the tournament. He felt terrible about it and thought he did something that was terribly wrong...”

“I always try and preach humbleness, turning the other cheek, but it’s torture when it’s always in your face and it never ends.”

At that moment, Carl wanted to let his sons know that standing up in the face of hate was vitally important.

But he also wanted his sons to set an example for others.

“I let him know that what he did was absolutely right. I don’t condone violence, but there comes a time when you have to stand up for yourself...” Carl said. “Tre lent a voice to other young hockey players that want to play at a high level.”

Tre was the one to fight back, but Liam was affected as well.

If it wasn’t for Tre, it might have been Liam exiting the tournament early.

“Liam’s a bit more aggressive than Tre, and Liam basically said ‘Tre, thanks for doing that so I

didn’t have to.” Carl said.

“Because Liam would have done it.”

While this incident mostly involved Tre, Liam was certainly a part of it, and even at that young age, he was aware of the situation he was in.

“I for sure noticed I was always the one or two — because of my brother — people of color [play-

ing hockey],” Liam said. “But it was always nice to see one on the other team.”

While he didn’t see players like him too often on the ice, he was able to see some older players off the ice that made a huge impact.

Carl, an Olympic track star for Canada in 1988, trained Liam and Tre off the ice, using the methods that he used to train for the track.

Word spread of the work he was doing, and some up-and-coming NHLers took notice.

Wayne Simmonds, Chris Stewart, Joel Ward and Devante Smith-Pelly, among others, sought out the work of Carl.

Through that work, Liam and Tre got to meet those players, an experience that was

extremely worthwhile.

“They were mentors to the boys. There are not many black players in the NHL,” Carl said. “For me to work with the black players in the NHL, it gave great hope to my boys that they too can also do it.”

Liam always looks at himself as just one of the guys, just like everyone else.

But, according to the NCAA’s Demographic Database, in 2018, only one percent of college hockey players were classified as black.

That’s nine players. Out of 1,100 players.

In 2008, there were six black players.

That’s three more players. In 10 years.

With only a handful of black hockey players in college and in the NHL, Liam realized how special it was to be in the presence of these NHL stars.

“Just knowing those guys, it really opened my eyes to be like ‘Wow, these guys are in my house eating breakfast and dinner with me.” Liam said.

“It really just put things in perspective, like if you really want it, then it doesn’t matter what skin color you are. Just keep going forward.”

Experiences like the one the Folkes family had to deal with are far from uncommon, even for NHL players.

Liam was able to relate with some of the NHL’s best.

“They also said they faced adversity too, but that ‘It’s going to be everywhere. It’s going to happen,’” Liam said.

“They really opened my eyes and made me feel like I can actually play professional hockey.”

When he progressed into more elite competition, it became clear that he wasn’t just a black hockey player — he was an excellent black hockey player.

Dustin Traylen, Liam’s coach at the Brockville Braves of the CCHL, just saw him as an excellent player.

“I’m sure he has pride being a very elite black hockey player, and he should take pride in that,” Traylen told The Daily Collegian. “But the reality is for us he was just an elite player.”

Liam would agree with that sentiment — he’s just like everyone else.

“Looking back at it, it’s cool that I was the first black player to play at Penn State,” Liam said. “I don’t really look into the color barrier. I just look at we’re all playing the same sport. That’s the way that I look at it but I know other people may be like ‘It’s pretty cool that you’re the first to do it.’”

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

# Stevens takes inspiration from legend Jesse Arnelle

By Caleb Wilfonger  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Less than two weeks ago, Lamar Stevens became the third Penn State player in program history to score

2,000 career points, joining some elite company in the process.

Stevens is ultimately chasing Talor Battle for the right to become the all-time scoring leader at Penn State, and he’s only 149 points away from doing so.

However, before he can set his sights on eclipsing Battle’s record, the senior forward will first move ahead of a name that may be less familiar to most current fans of the Nittany Lions.

Heading into Tuesday night’s game against Purdue, Stevens currently sits at 2,064 points for his career and is 93 points away from moving into second place over Jesse Arnelle. Arnelle was an accomplished student-athlete in Happy Valley during the 1950s, as he earned All-American honorable mentions on the football field, was the first basketball player at Penn State to be given All-American honors and was even the first Nittany Lion to play in the NBA.

“I was not [previously] aware of it, but I think it’s a blessing and a special thing,” Stevens said. “He was someone that really paved the way for me and a lot of African Americans that came to this program and this university.”

But it’s how Arnelle used his platform off the court that made him one of the most groundbreaking student athletes to ever wear a Penn State uniform.

As a junior in 1954, Arnelle was elected as the first African



Aabha Vora/Collegian

**Forward Lamar Stevens (11)** maneuvers around defenders during the game against Indiana at the Bryce Jordan Center on Wednesday, Jan. 29. Then No. 24 Penn State defeated the Hoosiers 64-49.

American student body president of a major white university. That same year, he would lead the Nittany Lions to their first, and only, NCAA Final Four appearance.

“I think what strikes me most about [Arnelle] was his fearlessness and his courage,” Stevens said. “Just to be a leader in two sports and for African-American people in general is huge for me... Looking back on his courage and strength, to even go through that is special.”

Fourteen years later, Arnelle was presented with the first ever Alumni Association Award, but he publicly turned it down in protest of Penn State’s poor minority recruitment. The fol-

lowing year, he became the first African American person elected to Penn State’s Board of Trustees and worked to change the minority recruitment process that he had heavily criticized.

Until recently, Stevens didn’t know much about Arnelle. However, the Philadelphia native has made it a point to learn about Arnelle’s contributions to Penn State off the court, and believes that student-athletes have the power to create positive change.

“As a student-athlete at Penn State, you have a platform to set an example for generations to come,” Stevens said. “You’re someone that can determine what is okay and what isn’t okay.”

As someone that has observed Stevens over the course of his four years at Penn State, Pat Chambers doesn’t have an issue with linking Stevens with a program legend like Arnelle.

“I don’t know Jesse [Arnelle] personally, but I know of him, and I’ve seen the record books and what he’s meant to this program,” Chambers said. “I think Lamar is right there with a guy like Jesse in how he carries himself.”

Taking inspiration from Arnelle, Stevens has already made it a point to use his platform for good. Outside of being a four-year starter and leading the Nittany Lions to one of their best seasons in program history this year, the

senior also recently helped put out a children’s book highlighting his journey from Philadelphia to State College.

The book featured illustrations from six children with special needs and was released in conjunction with Penn State’s “Everyone is Awesome” day last Saturday, in which more than 70 organizations supporting individuals with special needs were involved with the gameday festivities. Stevens hopes that through his actions, he can set an example for others to follow in the program for years to come.

“For me, it’s about being a good person and using the platform I have as a positive,” Stevens said. “Hopefully that means it’ll trickle down to the younger generations.”

After Penn State’s victory over Minnesota last Saturday, Stevens spoke with the media and then stayed behind to sign autographs and take pictures with fans.

However, this particular autograph session was a little different. Nearly three hours after most fans headed for the exits, Chambers still couldn’t believe that Stevens had it in him to sign each and every autograph and not turn away a single fan. That only further solidified Stevens’ commitment to making a positive impact on the Penn State program, and everything it touches.

“We can look at the stats, we can look at the numbers all you want, but [his character] to me is the most important thing,” Chambers said. “He’s a pretty special young man.”

To email reporter: [cjw5768@psu.edu](mailto:cjw5768@psu.edu).  
Follow him on Twitter at [@caleb\\_wilfonger](https://twitter.com/caleb_wilfonger).



# Maya Moore serves as a role model for PSU

**By David Pollak**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Basketball star Maya Moore is sitting out her second-straight season to fight for Jonathan Irons’ rights, who she believes is innocent. Moore has appeared at numerous court hearings and has helped pay for his defense team. In the process, Moore will also miss the 2020 Olympics, but her actions have set an example for others to follow.

Coach Carolyn Kieger acknowledges how her position at Penn State helps give her the opportunity to give back, too. “Women’s basketball is such a diverse sport and I love being a part of it,” Kieger said. “I love giving young women the chance to do what they love and give them a platform to not only impact Penn State, but to impact the community.”

“I think our team has done a phenomenal job giving back and doing a lot of community service, especially with our diverse population.”

Kieger also noted how she really takes pride in how her team can set an example.

“Looking at different clubs on campus and backgrounds of where people are from and I would think that women’s basketball is one of the more diverse groups on campus,” Kieger said.

“I love that we can set an example and that our young women can become confident and believe that they can conquer anything, regardless of race, age, sex. We have that platform here at Penn State and anything is possible.”

Sophomore forward Lauren Ebo recognizes that Black History Month is for more than just African-Americans.

“We’ve been celebrating it for many years now; it’s important to carry on that tradition, embrace



AP file photo

**Maya Moore, a professional basketball player for the Minnesota Lynx in the WNBA,** is sitting out her second-straight season to fight for Jonathan Irons’ rights, who she believes is innocent. To this point, Moore has appeared at numerous court hearings and has helped pay for Irons’ defense team.

the month and for all people to learn about the culture and its importance,” Ebo said.

Kamaria McDaniel appreciates those that came before her and have set the standard for everyone to be treated equally.

“It’s huge because people paved the way for us to even have this opportunity,” McDaniel said.

“I wouldn’t be here without the pioneers, paving the way for black people as a community has created a lot of other good things.”

“It’s not just for our race, so it’s key that we celebrate those individuals.”

Senior guard Siyeh Frazier feels that Black History Month is “a huge part of our society and something that should be

important to us.”

“It’s important to realize the relevance that it has to people in America and athletes in America,” Frazier said.

Frazier also noted that Moore’s actions off the court exemplifies standing up for something, despite what others may think.

“I think it’s important to stand up for what you believe in and take what you believe as the most important thing to you, regardless of how others view it,” Frazier said.

Ebo looks at Moore’s actions as an inspiration and views it as a similar act to Colin Kaepernick’s stance with the NFL.

“I think that’s extremely important for the basketball community

and it’s key to show what you believe in and have that belief, even if you have to sit out in the sport that you love,” Ebo said.

“It really shows that you believe in something and everyone knows that.”

McDaniel has also recognized the impact that Moore has had and how her actions are selfless and makes her a model citizen.

“I think that’s huge because a lot of people put their value on the things that they shouldn’t and she’s sacrificed something for a greater cause,” McDaniel said.

“That’s Black History Month and that’s what all those individuals did that made an impact.”

“I really commend her for that and she’s a great example for

someone like me.”

In Kieger’s opinion, Moore has served as a pioneer for women’s basketball.

“Obviously to her it’s bigger than basketball and she wants to take her platform and use it for the greater good,” Kieger said.

“I don’t think there’s anyone that doesn’t respect her on and off the court. She’s a great example for our young women as they move forward in their basketball careers but post-basketball as well.

“At some point the game is done and the ball stops bouncing.”

To email reporter: [dbp5295@psu.edu](mailto:dbp5295@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@David\\_Pollak097](https://twitter.com/David_Pollak097).

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**Bigar's Stars**

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

[www.jacquelinebigar.com](http://www.jacquelinebigar.com)  
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**AQUARIUS** (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ You may have looked at an issue every way possible only to see that idea fall apart. You keep finding a new reason not to proceed in a certain direction. Call a halt to your meanderings. Tonight: Out and about.

**PISCES** (2/19-3/20) ★★★ One-on-one relating is highlighted. You see a personal matter from another perspective given time. What is clear is that you cannot force your ideas or another person's ideas to work. Give the issue in question some space. Tonight: Escape to the movies.

**ARIES** (3/21-4/19) ★★★ You give off a sense of intensity and determination as the day proceeds. You could find a key person challenging yet charming. Some of the more positive qualities will wear off as the day ages. Tonight: Settle in for a determined talk.

**TAURUS** (4/20-5/20) ★★★★★ You might feel as if you are making a statement with your work and attitude. Do not forget to make a much-needed appointment. You can put certain matters on the back burner for only so long. Tonight: Listen to what a dear friend suggests.

**GEMINI** (5/21-6/20) ★★★★★ Your sense of humor returns, allowing you to quickly clear the air if you hit a misunderstanding. Try not to take others' comments so per-

sonally; remain upbeat. Someone is pushing you to get certain tasks done. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

**CANCER** (6/21-7/22) ★★★ You might feel restricted by another person and his or her suggestions. This person seems to hold you back and is not in touch with your personal needs. Soon enough you will see eye to eye with this person. Tonight: As you like it.

**LEO** (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★ Return calls. Reach out for another person and manifest more of what you need or desire. A conversation reminds you how much you have in common with this person and why you are heading in the right direction. Tonight: Relax. Stay close to home.

**VIRGO** (8/23-9/22) ★★★ You become more aware of the financial implications of continuing down a specific path. You also have a clearer view of the big picture. With this information in mind, you will make better choices. Tonight: Kick back and relax.

**LIBRA** (9/23-10/22) ★★★★★ You can make a difference wherever you go. You have an extremely diplomatic style that helps you moderate a conversation. Others listen. You find that you have a receptive audience. Make an important move now. Tonight: Run an errand on the way home.

**SCORPIO** (10/23-11/21) ★★★ As odd as you might feel during the daylight hours, you could feel just as great later. If you feel uneasy making a decision, postpone doing so until evening at the earliest. Tonight: Let a dear friend play devil's advocate.

**SAGITTARIUS** (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★ Make an extra effort toward your friends. You could be too tired to continue on a predetermined path. Slow down. Get others' opinions. Sometimes when stepping back, you gain important information. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

**CAPRICORN** (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★ You have been so uneasy trying to make a decision that you could opt to rethink the whole matter. Some of you will choose to make time to have a conversation with someone who has more expertise than you do. Tonight: Letting off steam.

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**Across**

1 They can be yellow, black or chocolate

5 "Silas Marner" novelist

10 In addition

14 Pearl Mosque locale

15 Latin dance

16 Eat like a bird

17 Babe in the woods

18 Boy with a bow

19 Brandy flavor

20 Feared

22 TV's "\_\_\_ and Greg"

24 Eggs

25 More bashful

27 Bit of parsley

30 Sticky stuff

31 Honeydew, e.g.

35 Caffeine source

36 Washer setting

39 On or to the left

40 And so forth

41 Words of praise

42 Moldovan cash

44 File folder feature

45 Demeanor

47 Edmonton hockey team

49 Colorado Indian

50 Scarecrow stuffing

52 Knight's title

53 Motivate

55 Get up

57 Modern courtroom evidence

58 Panic

61 Constrict

65 Part of the eye

66 Start

69 Vermin

70 Top-quality

71 Mentally quick

72 Drops the ball

73 Get the pot going

74 Jottings

75 Defeat decisively

**Down**

1 Realtor's offering

2 Gelatin substitute

3 French cheese

4 African expedition

5 Run the show

6 Glorify

7 Little troublemaker

8 Kimono tie

9 Some like it hot

10 Habiliments

11 Scornful expression

12 Ponzi scheme, e.g.

13 Stew ingredient

21 In hiding

23 Bottom line?

25 Tippler

26 Yell

27 Flower holders?

28 \_\_\_ four

29 Indy entrant

30 Metamorphic rock

32 Abate

33 Not perfectly round

34 Dynamite inventor

37 Tokyo, once

38 Always, poetically

43 Employing

46 Recount

48 Tell a whopper

51 Go a-courting

54 Austrian composer and conductor

56 Kind of renewal

57 Uses the good china

58 Marching band member

59 Neck and neck

60 Catch one's breath

61 Scramble piece

62 Novice (Var.)

63 Light beige

64 Egg holder

67 Psychoanalysis subject

68 Skedaddle, Old West style

**su | do | ku**

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**WORD SEARCH**

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Good Luck Symbols

Amber  
Amulet  
Ankh  
Bamboo  
Buddha  
Cats Eye  
Charms  
Circle  
Crystals  
Dice  
Dolphin  
Dragon  
Eight  
Elephant  
Falling Star  
Four Leaf Clover  
Goldfish  
Horseshoe  
Lady Bug  
Penny  
Rabbit Foot  
Rainbow  
Scarab  
Seven  
Tiger  
Turtle  
Wishbone

M R I L A D Y B U G V X E R J Q U D  
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W E Z C J P M L D H O U L V F Z E P  
E I G H T B A V E I S P E N N Y I E  
Y Q Y Y E F D U Z Y C S D K C H D L  
N F N R E V O L C F A E L R U O F E

**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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# Inspiring the next generation

Former Penn State wrestlers Kerry McCoy and Ed Ruth and coach Kevin Jackson are trying to increase diversity in the sport and paved the way for today’s black wrestlers

By Jake Aferiat  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Kerry McCoy, Ed Ruth and Kevin Jackson were all impressive wrestlers who put together illustrious careers. The trio combined has 11 All-American nods, five national titles, three Olympic appearances and an Olympic gold medal between them among other accolades.

## WRESTLING

They did it all, visualized their success and reached the pinnacle of the sport despite having very few people who looked like them who did the same.

McCoy is the first black national champion in Penn State wrestling history, Jackson is the second-ever black Olympic gold medalist in American history and Ruth is the only black three-time NCAA champion in Penn State history.

But it’s in part because of what Bobby Douglas — the first black Olympic wrestler in history — and Kenny Monday, the first black Olympic gold medalist in history, as well as Nate Carr and others did that enabled McCoy, Ruth and Jackson to realize their goals were possible.

“As people in general when you see someone that looks like you accomplishing great things or accomplishing goals, or just being on that platform, it does motivate you to be able to visualize believe that you’re capable as well,” Jackson told the Daily Collegian.

It was Monday and others who inspired McCoy and helped him visualize the possibility for success in a sport that has been predominantly white for almost all of its existence.

But there was one place where wrestlers of color hadn’t yet ascended to the top of their sport — inside the Penn State wrestling room.

Prior to McCoy’s arrival in 1992, there were no black national champions in the first 84 years of the program’s history.

It wasn’t something that weighed heavily on McCoy’s mind at first.

“My freshman year when we were warming up for practice, everyday I’d look at the wall of national champions and I pictured my picture on the wall,” McCoy told the Daily Collegian. “It didn’t necessarily ring to me that there

were no black wrestlers on the wall, I just wanted to be on the wall of national champions.”

However, as time went on and his career in a blue and white singlet progressed, McCoy began to better appreciate what it meant to finally have his picture up there on that wall.

Since McCoy graduated in 1997, Penn State has crowned several other black national champions including Phil Davis, Ruth, who captured three titles, and Mark Hall who became just the second freshman in program history to win a title back in 2017.

“When I got my picture on the wall, it wasn’t something that was overwhelming that you see and think about every second, but then you go in and it’s like ‘wow that’s the only one,’” McCoy said. “A couple years later, when Phil Davis won it was like ‘Okay, now there’s two,’ and then Ed Ruth won so there’s still more diversity. It wasn’t an overt thing like ‘Wow there aren’t many of us out there, but it was one of those



Collegian file photo

**Former Nittany Lion Ed Ruth** looks into the crowd before his last match at Penn State. Ruth wrestled at Penn State from 2011-14 and won three national championships.

things where it’s like ‘wow there aren’t many of us up there.’”

McCoy doesn’t mind if you refer to him as one of the best black wrestlers of all-time or one of the best of all-time who happens to be black, just put him on equal footing and compare him on his merits to his white counterparts.

“As long as there’s no judgement with it, I think it’s fine however you want to categorize me,” he said. “But if the situation where like, ‘oh, he’s one of the most impressive black wrestlers, but that puts him on the bottom of it so you’ve got all the non-black wrestlers and then you’re at the top of the list of all black wrestlers but you’re below everyone else in there that doesn’t that, that makes it makes it more difficult to really hold that flag.’”

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McCoy and Kevin Jackson have experienced both sides of being among the few people of color in a wrestling room.

There weren’t — and still aren’t — many black coaches in wrestlers’ corners, but McCoy and Jackson got that chance.

Both spent time as NCAA Division I head coaches and both were successful — McCoy spent three years at Stanford and the last 11 at Maryland before stepping down at the end of last season, while Jackson spent eight years leading Iowa State.

McCoy went 131-130-1 over his career, captured three ACC Coach of the Year honors and coached 14 All-Americans.

“I feel like I had a really good reason to be named a head coach and in this position. I worked hard and had success as an assistant. So it was something that I was overtly aware of that there were not a whole lot of people of color coaching Division I and overall in the sport of wrestling percentage wise,” McCoy said. “It wasn’t one of those things I thought about everyday, but it was a thing.”

Jackson went 68-57 leading the Cyclones from 2010-17 and

coached four NCAA champions, nine Big 12 champs and 14 All-Americans.

It’s not exclusive to the last decade, but over the decade where McCoy and Jackson helmed their programs, they were among the only coaches of color at the Division I level.

According to the NCAA’s demographic database, wrestling has been one of the whitest sports at the collegiate level.

From 2008-18, the median percentage of white coaches was 92 percent while the median percentage of white wrestlers was 79 percent.

“I believe in confident capable people doing jobs as opposed to just it being a race issue,” Jackson said. “But I do believe quite a few minorities have been overlooked or underestimated or not given the opportunity that others have received. And I also believe that they’re not that minorities aren’t giving the same leeway to reach their goals and to accomplish what others have.”

To be clear, Jackson isn’t making excuses.

He recognizes the nature of college athletics and how winning and losing reign supreme and that he fell short of the goal he set out to accomplish at Iowa State — winning a national title.

“I know what performance looks like and I didn’t reach my goal,” he said.

McCoy and Jackson said the NCAA needs to take steps to remedy this situation and needs to take the commitment to expanding diversity seriously and can’t just use it as a buzzword.

Though both were quick to point out that malice and malintent often likely aren’t in play, but rather systemic and implicit biases exist which have precluded coaches of color from advancing.

“It can’t be a situation of okay, let’s just throw a bunch of diverse candidates in the pool and we’ve done our job. It’s starting with having young coaches, having young athletes that are looking into the pipeline and saying ‘yes this is a viable option for me later in my life,’” McCoy said.

“How do you do that? When it comes to diversity, it will happen over time but it’s going to take longer because it takes much more time and energy for people to say ‘oh wait a minute I’m in a room with a bunch of people that look just like me and we need to make an adjustment to get some more diversity in this room but right now I’m comfortable with this situation.’”

McCoy also encourages people to have the potentially uncomfortable conversations about race, as they provide for opportunities for growth and reflection, two things he feels are necessary to combating the current system.

“The more conversations people have and talk about it — and it’s a sensitive thing you know.

Not many people want to talk about diversity because you say the wrong thing and you say it the wrong way and it’s like, well you didn’t have any intention, but now you offended somebody,” McCoy said. “And I think the reality is, we have to have the conversation you have to risk offending somebody so somebody can respond and if you said something you didn’t realize it was offensive and now you’re more educated about why it was offensive.”

But, he also said it’s imperative that these conversations about race and diversity aren’t just had among diverse people but rather with white people at the table as well, otherwise the conversation doesn’t get amplified.

Jackson feels the way to curb this issue extends far beyond any wrestling room.

“I think the biggest thing we suffer from in this country is a lack of empathy,” he said. “Being able to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and really empathize, really try to listen and understand where that person is coming from without our own judgment or our own opinion on what we believe or what we think.”

McCoy echoed a similar feeling and dispelled the notion of people “not seeing color.”

“People come out and say ‘Oh, we don’t see color.’ And, you know, it’s nice to have that sentiment, you know we’re all just the same,” McCoy said.

“Well yes, we’re all human beings, but there are certain things that different cultures experience that you have to recognize and embrace and celebrate those differences. That’s the one thing I kind of take issue with when people are like ‘Oh, I don’t see any colors.’ No, that doesn’t help the situation, you have to see the color recognize the differences but not judge, one way or the other based on what you’re seeing.”

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It’s clear by most objective

measures, Kerry McCoy, Ed Ruth and Kevin Jackson are among the best to ever step foot on a wrestling mat, bar none and without any qualifier necessary.

And after all of their accomplishments, the three will continue to serve as role models and inspirations for the next generation in their communities and beyond, something they all relish.

“I relish that being a being a model and being an example being something that, you know, all people look to, in general, but especially people in my community, it’s great to be able to accept that role and to be proactive with it,” McCoy said.

As a coach of color and wrestler of color, Jackson knows he has a unique opportunity to inspire people and act as a role model and become for so many what he had growing up.

“I would hope white kids would look at me the same way and say Kevin Jackson’s a great wrestler, he’s a good guy and I want to emulate what he’s accomplished in the sports world and possibly be a head coach at the Division I level and coach the Olympic team and coach Olympic champions,” Jackson said. “It’s just not me wanting people of color and African Americans to look up to me, but I do think it’s important to have someone that looks like you, that you can visualize yourself doing that. That’s what I had.”

While Ruth said race didn’t play a huge part in his wrestling career, it’s the opportunity he has isn’t lost him

In fact, he wants people to strive for more than what he accomplished and hopes to be an example of why to never settle and get complacent.

“I’m so proud to see that. It makes me proud of it, that they can relate to me and see themselves as me,” Ruth told the Collegian. “I want them to look up to me but I also want them to see me as more of a stepping stone. Most guys don’t know they can do it until they see someone else do it. ‘It’s not impossible, he did it.’”

To email reporter: [jxa5415@psu.edu](mailto:jxa5415@psu.edu). Follow him on Twitter at [@Jake\\_Aferiat51](https://twitter.com/Jake_Aferiat51).



Collegian file photo

**Ed Ruth** competes against Tanner Lynde during Penn State’s dual against Purdue at Rec Hall.



Collegian file photo

**PSU wrestler Kerry McCoy** tries to roll his Ohio State opponent over. The Lions and the Buckeyes clashed at Rec Hall on Friday night.