

'MISUNDERSTOOD'

Students react to perceived prejudice as the first Muslim woman enters the Pa. House of Representatives — detailing the need for societal growth

By Erin Hogge
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Democrat Movita Johnson-Harrell became Pennsylvania's first Muslim woman to serve in the commonwealth's House of Representatives on March 25.

But some of those within the legislature, as well as members of the public at Penn State and beyond, believe the historic moment was overshadowed by a controversial prayer given before a voting session that was heavily based in Christian principles and rhetoric.

Representing the 190th Congressional District, Johnson-Harrell was sworn in on Monday. The swearing in was preceded by an opening prayer delivered by Rep. Stephanie Borowicz. Borowicz used the term "Jesus" 13 times in the prayer, and was later criticized by Johnson-Harrell and other members of the House.

Johnson-Harrell said she felt the remarks by Borowicz shortly before the Muslim woman took the oath of office Monday used her religion against her, according to a report by CBS News. She took issue with the prayer, saying it "blatantly represents the Islamophobia that exists among some leaders."

"I thought that for the most part, the entire invocation was offensive," Johnson-Harrell told reporters, according to CBS News, while also noting that her religion respects Jesus.

"But to use Jesus as a weapon is not OK," Johnson-Harrell said.

The outlet also reported that Borowicz defended her remarks Monday, saying, "I pray every day. I prayed," though she did not comment on Johnson-Harrell's following remarks.

Emaan Bhutta, president of Penn State's Muslim Students'

Association at Penn State, said the "false things" people uneducated about Islam believe can cause them to act in ways such as Borowicz did. She said the news can alter people's misconstrued perceptions of the religion, as well.

"To be honest, situations like that are ones Muslims face daily," Bhutta (freshman-biochemistry) said via email. "Since they misunderstand the religion, they fear Muslims and in turn act hateful towards Muslims. Our religion teaches us to be peaceful and friendly, so even in a situation where a Muslim is being intimidated and targeted like Rep. Johnson-Harrell was, Muslims are taught to remain calm and not react in an aggressive manner. In cases like this, it is important that Muslims 'Take the high road' as Rep. Johnson-Harrell did because she was serving as a representative of Muslims in that situation."

Bhutta believes the situation shows that people in power, whether it be in the local, state or national level, aren't setting a good example for United States citizens, and should use their influence to positively impact their communities.

"America, as a whole, needs to vow to become more welcoming and understanding," Bhutta said. "We are fortunate to live in a country with such diversity and we need to recognize that what we all can learn things from each other and each other's experiences. Of course, prayer is appreciated, but a prayer that targets a representative the way that one did was completely uncalled for. There must be a clear dividing line between separating church and state."

Rafay Nasir, president of the Penn State College Independents, shared Bhutta's

sentiments, and said the only way to make societal progress is to allow diverse people in power to be seen in the same light as those who have a longer history of influence.

"As much as it hurts me to say this about my home state, Pennsylvania is an [abhorrent and] racist state, as crystal clear by our current elected officials," Nasir (sophomore-biology and health policy and administration) said via email. "A Muslim congresswoman from Philadelphia is an important step to recognizing this massive issue. This will absolutely help bring important issues regarding race to the state level."

As far as the Muslim community at Penn State goes, Bhutta said there are many resources for Muslim students to feel welcome. Her organization, the Muslim Students' Association, hands out free pizza to passers-bys on the first Friday of each month outside of the Forum Building during its "Free Pizza Friday" initiative, which aims to combat the "negative stigma that many associate with Islam."

"We also open our events to all students throughout the year and love when people join us," Bhutta said. "Being a welcoming and inclusive group is something we will continue to enhance in the coming years."

Nasir thinks the university's resources for minority groups and marginalized communities, when compared to other schools, is competitive.

"I think it is important for Penn State to not only provide



resources to [current students], but also spend time and money in certain communities to recruit diverse students," Nasir said. "I believe Penn State is on par with many other universities, even excelling in certain areas."

The swearing in of Johnson-Harrell is a good thing for the commonwealth and the country, according to Anna Culotta.

"Her election diversifies the government because it will allow Movita Johnson-Harrell to bring a new perspective and different ideas," Culotta (freshman-psychology) said. "It will also be encouraging for other Muslims and other women to see someone representing them in the government."

Overall, Bhutta said MSA sends its "heartiest congratulations" to Johnson-Harrell for her new position.

"We need more Muslims to start to be political leaders in

their community," Bhutta said. "It is important we continue seeing more Muslims being elected in their communities."

Nasir believes the election of Johnson-Harrell is good progress, but isn't enough long-term.

"Though I do not agree completely with the policies of Representative Johnson-Harrell, I do believe that this is an important point in the history of [Pennsylvania's] politics," Nasir said. "Though this is a step in the right direction, this election does not mean that Pennsylvania is now not racist, just as the election of President Obama did not indicate that the country is not racist. It is a step in the right direction, but the fight for [minority] communities is far from over."

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Graphic by Caroline Essex

BETA THETA PI HAZING CASE

Former fraternity brothers get jail time

By Maddie Aiken
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After two years and countless court dates, it appeared the stiffest penalty a Beta Theta Pi brother would face was probation, community service or fines — what seemed to some as a mere slap on the wrist.

But now, three former brothers will head to jail for their roles in the February 2017 hazing death of sophomore pledge Timothy Piazza.

Joshua Kurczewski, Luke Visser and Michael Bonatucci were sentenced in court Tuesday. In addition, Joseph Sala, who was also sentenced, will not go to jail but was sentenced to house arrest.

On Feb. 2, 2017, Piazza, a pledge for the now-banned Beta Theta Pi fraternity, suffered a fractured skull and lacerated spleen after consuming at least 18 drinks in 82 minutes and falling head-first down the house's stairs. For hours, Piazza was left unattended before the former brothers called 911.

Parents Jim and Evelyn Piazza have long been urging various judges involved in the case to level jail time.

"Today was a significant step forward in the long road to justice for the parents of Tim Piazza."

Tom Kline
Piazza Family Attorney

All four brothers previously pleaded guilty to hazing and conspiracy to commit hazing. Kurczewski, 20, also pleaded guilty to furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Kurczewski was sentenced to three- to nine months in jail and one year of probation. Video footage recovered from the night of Piazza's death showed Kurczewski, who was 18 at the time, hand Piazza and fellow pledges cans of beer to shotgun. Kurczewski also allegedly watched Piazza fall down the basement stairs.

Visser, 21, received two- to six months in jail. Visser worked at one of the drinking stations during the "gauntlet" drinking obstacle course.

Footage revealed that Piazza walked past Visser just before the pledge fell down the basement stairs. Visser also helped carry Piazza back up the stairs and place the pledge on a couch.

Bonatucci, 21, was sentenced to 30 days to six months in jail and two years of probation. A 19-year-old freshman on bid-acceptance night, Bonatucci also worked at one of the drinking stations during the "gauntlet" obstacle course. Footage showed Bonatucci handing pledges beer cans to shotgun.

Sala, 20, the fraternity's assistant pledge master, received three months of house arrest, seven months of supervision and two years of probation. Also a freshman at the time, Sala helped plan and facilitate the drinking games during bid-acceptance night.

All the brothers must serve 100 hours of community service and pay fines ranging from \$1,750 to \$2,500.

The four brothers previously faced charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person — all of which were dropped in preliminary hearings.

Since Piazza's death, 17 former brothers have pleaded guilty. Former fraternity president Brendan Young and pledge master Daniel Casey have not yet entered guilty pleas. They face charges of recklessly endangering another person, tampering with evidence, hazing and furnishing. While initially scheduled for trial this month, their cases have been appealed and are being reviewed by Superior Court.

With the two-year anniversary of Piazza's death, his name has resurfaced in headlines regarding anti-hazing measures. In October 2018, the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law was signed into Pennsylvania law, in an attempt to educate, prevent and punish statewide hazing. Penn State released its first hazing report in accordance with the law in January.

In January, Penn State also announced it will create and house the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform — a research center that will study greek life culture nationwide.

On Feb. 1, the Piazza family announced they are suing 28 former brothers, who have been named individual defendants in a wrongful death, negligence and conspiracy complaint.

In March, Piazza's family traveled to Washington, D.C., to advocate for similar legislation on a national level. Three Senators have introduced an anti-hazing bill in Congress, hoping to enforce nationwide anti-hazing legislation.

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Associated Press

Carolyn Kieger will serve as the next women's basketball coach, after Penn State Athletics and Coquese Washington parted ways last month.

Kieger named next Lady Lions coach

By Evan Patrick
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State women's basketball has a new coach just under a month after parting ways with Coquese Washington.

Carolyn Kieger is leaving Marquette and is set to be announced as the new Lady Lions' head coach, the program announced on Wednesday.

"We are thrilled to have Carolyn Kieger joining the Penn State family as the leader of our women's basketball program," Vice President of Athletics Sandy Barbour said in a statement.

"Carolyn has rapidly established herself as one of the nation's premier head coaches, leading Marquette to two Big East Championships, a Big East Tournament title and three NCAA Tournaments in the past three years."

The statement also mentioned that as head coach at Marquette and an assistant coach at Miami, Kieger "demonstrated the ability to recruit and develop outstanding young women on and off the court, including the last two Big East Player of the Year recipients."

"We are excited about the

expertise, passion, compassion, leadership and enthusiasm Carolyn will bring to our program and its students, and to her engagement with recruits, our Lady Lion alumni and fans in returning Penn State to a position of competing for championships, with continued academic achievement and community impact," the statement continued.

Kieger led the Golden Eagles to a 27-8 record this past season and landed in the tournament as a No. 5 seed.

Kieger's career record is 72-56. Marquette went on to win its first game of the tournament against Rice before its season came to an end after a loss to Texas A&M.

Kieger was named Big East Co-Coach of the Year in 2017-18 after leading the Golden Eagles to a program best 15-3 conference record and their first Big East regular season title.

Kieger graduated from Marquette in 2006 and has five seasons of head coaching experience under her belt. Prior to her time coaching Marquette, Kieger was the assistant coach at the University of Miami for six years.

See **COACH**, Page 2.

HOPPY DAYS



A man dressed up as the Easter Bunny waves at people crossing College Avenue at the Allen Street Gates on April 3.

Eric Firestine/Collegian

Coach

FROM Page 1.

When Kieger took over the Golden Eagles program in 2014, they were in desperate need of a rebuild, and that’s exactly what was provided.

“As a competitor, you want to challenge yourself to become your very best and to compete at the highest level and for a chance to win national championships every season,” Kieger told GoP-SU sports.

“I’m thrilled for the next challenge of my career to compete for national championships as a part of the Penn State family, and I am incredibly grateful to President Barron and Sandy Barbour for this opportunity.

“I’m excited to build upon the Penn State women’s basketball legacy. Penn State has a rich tradition and I look forward to doing

my part to enhance that tradition and bring the program back to national prominence. My staff and I will work relentlessly to help our student-athletes become the best people, students and players they can be and through that process we will win at the highest level.”

In that 2014-2015 season Marquette finished with a record of just 9-22, but the next season the team finished just under .500, and the following year brought a 25-8 record, the program’s first 20 win season since 2013-2014.

Penn State is in a situation very similar to that of when Kieger took over the Golden Eagles, and that’s what sparked the need for change.

The Lady Lions finished just 12-18 this season, their worst record since 2014-15, and exited the Big Ten Tournament on the first day.

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Ambassadors combat on-campus smoking

By Shannon Harney
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Last year, Penn State was the 11th school in the Big Ten to implement a tobacco-free policy, beating out only three other colleges in the conference.

Health Promotion and Wellness and the University Park Undergraduate Association partnered to start a tobacco-free ambassador program to help execute the anti-smoking and tobacco policy that launched in fall 2018.

But with the increased popularity of juuling within the younger generation, University Park students are struggling to stick to the anti-tobacco policy.

In the original announcement, Penn State said the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars and other nicotine and tobacco products would be prohibited on all campuses.

“Smoking is something that can end not only on campus, but around the world,” Penn State student and tobacco-free ambassador Carla Stillwagon said. “Penn State needs to operate at higher standards in alignment with our strong, collective values.”

For Brett Green, a third-year graduate student at Penn State and fellow tobacco-free ambassador, this matter hits close to home.

“Carcinogen exposure in public is especially important to me because I survived brain cancer seven years ago,” Green (graduate-physics) said. “To the best of our knowledge, my diagnosis was not related to exposure to carcinogens, but the point remains that I’ve experienced cancer once and never want to experience it again.”

A carcinogen is any substance capable of causing cancer, and



Zack Gething/Collegian

A student smokes a cigarette on campus on Sunday, Aug. 26, 2018. Penn State started a tobacco-free ambassador program to help execute the anti-smoking and tobacco policy that launched in fall 2018.

smoke inhalation falls into the category.

Green’s advice to fellow Penn State students: don’t start smoking.

“It’s not worth the risk,” he said. “I had a comparatively light regimen of chemotherapy and radiation, and even at that level, the nicotine highs already wouldn’t have been worth the damage and pain.”

Former Assistant Director of Health Promotion and Wellness Ame Golaszewski said the ambassadors aim to educate Penn State students, faculty or staff members who use tobacco products.

Tobacco-free ambassadors

attend meetings to discuss ways to reduce smoking on campus.

Green said tactics include tabling, or manning information tables in public spaces, and approaching people smoking to inform them of the ban and free cessation services.

According to the Penn State Student Health Assessment, student cigarette use decreased from 9.3 percent in 2016 to 8.1 percent in 2018.

However, students who reported using e-cigarettes increased from 3.8 percent in 2016 to 16.2 percent in 2018.

Stillwagon (senior-health policy and administration and labor and employment relations) said she’s

noticed the increase in vaping.

“Because it’s so new, research and data hasn’t caught up to the Juul generation,” she said. “I’m afraid for the associated health outcomes.”

Stillwagon added she’s “especially saddened” when students vape inside campus buildings because it’s unfair to others in the building.

Golaszewski said Penn State President Eric Barron has encouraged all members of the Penn State community to help enforce this policy by educating and supporting peers.

The goal is for Penn State to be able to offer a smoke-free environment and encourage healthy

behaviors for lifelong well-being, she said.

Stillwagon urges students to say something when they see others smoking on campus.

“We can’t make change by ourselves,” she said. “It’s going to take much more than a small group of involved students to make our collective air and health better.”

Green said smoking on campus does seem to have decreased, but he can’t see the habit ever fully stopping at University Park.

Tobacco-free ambassadors are instructed by the university to tell people smoking about the tobacco ban on campus, Green said. If a person continues to smoke and does not comply, the ambassador is expected to walk away.

“In other words, there is minimal enforcement,” he said.

Green said he has reached out to the university about providing more effective enforcement of the smoking ban several times, but said he’s had “mixed results.”

“There’s such an importance for us as students to help other students lead healthier lives,” Stillwagon said. “These programs are all about doing just that, and I got involved to help improve our community.”

Green said students who have already started smoking should find friends to support them in their attempt to quit.

“Tobacco and other drugs can seem like a way to escape from pains in life, but they will only ever replace those pains with new ones,” he said. “There are much healthier options out there — look for social groups that can help you find new outlets. Penn State has over 1,000 registered student organizations, and those would be a great place to start.”

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A social media resource for bathroom queries

By Ashley Hayford
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

On Feb. 8, @psubathrooms’ first post hit Instagram feeds and explore pages across the Penn State community.

The account posts photos of bathrooms from around campus and downtown, ranging from clean and modern to grimy and outdated. However, the page’s intentions and owner remained anonymous — until now.

Although posts are mainly by

submission, Spencer Burns is responsible for sharing content many find random and hilarious on the page @psubathrooms.

“I came up with the idea for @psubathrooms when I was just scrolling through my phone as I passed a food review,” Burns (freshman-energy engineering) said. “At the same time, for some reason, my friends said something about bathrooms and I said, ‘Wait, what if I made a bathroom review page?’ They said that was probably the stupidest thing

they’d ever heard, so I created the page a few minutes later.”

Submissions Burns likes to post on the account include funny bathroom videos, pictures and ratings of restrooms.

“I encourage everybody to send in anything that goes on or happens within a bathroom environment. People could send in anything from funny moments to just regular pictures or videos, whether it’s on campus, downtown or past frat row,” Burns said.

“Some posts come from pictures or videos I take, but all the captions are self-written.”

Burns said he thought the idea for the account was so out of the ordinary that it would gain a large following fairly quickly.

“On April 1, I hit 1,000 followers, which was about seven weeks after I made the account,” Burns said. “I somewhat expected the account to grow at a decent rate, but was not expecting the amount of followers, likes and submissions that are flowing in now.”

On the bathroom debate, Burns favors newly renovated bathrooms to older ones on campus and downtown.

“It is once you head downtown and to some of the older buildings built in the early 1900s where you’re going to find the worst bathrooms,” Burns said. “The great thing about the terrible bathrooms is that, sure they might be disgusting or weird, but they’re the posts that are going to make people laugh.”

Nicole Dunkley uses the Instagram account to determine which restrooms on campus would be the nicest ones to use.

“I think it’s really funny, and I actually followed it because I am picky about my bathrooms and would like to know where

the good ones are,” Dunkley (freshman-nursing) said. “Maybe they should post about Pollock’s communal bathrooms or the HUB’s because they aren’t always the cleanest.”

Similar to Dunkley, Nick Moose thinks that @psubathrooms should post more about Pollock’s restrooms.

“The worst bathroom is definitely in the Pollock Testing Center,” Moose (sophomore-biorenewable systems) said. “Maybe the owner could highlight the

bathroom in the agricultural engineering building outside of the administration office. That one is really nice.”

Faith Busanic thinks that the uncleanness of the restrooms around campus shown on @psubathrooms is not solely the result of lack of consistent maintenance, but also mistreatment by students.

“Students should be more respectful while using the bathrooms,” Busanic (freshman-hospitality management) said.



Courtesy of Spencer Burns

An @psubathrooms Instagram post pictures a bathroom in the Osmond Lab, partially captioned, “It is an old, original building so I’m gonna have to put the PBR (Professional Bathroom Rating) at 4.3/10.”



Courtesy of Spencer Burns

An @psubathrooms Instagram post pictures, according to the caption, an “amazing bathroom.” The bathroom was rated 8.9/10.

Jail sentences in Beta Theta Pi case are a first step

OUR VIEW

With jail time looming for former brothers, it finally feels like some justice is being served

Change could be on the horizon with regard to greek life after three former brothers of the now-banned Beta Theta Pi fraternity were given the harshest penalties of any of the brothers sentenced in the 2017 hazing death of Timothy Piazza.

The three brothers — Joshua Kurczewski, Luke Visser and Michael Bonatucci — were all given jail sentences of various lengths, marking the first time any brothers associated with Piazza’s death will be incarcerated in some capacity after pleading guilty to hazing and conspiracy to commit hazing.

Since Piazza’s death, 17 former brothers pleaded guilty and several have been given lesser charges such as fines, community service or probation.

In January, Penn State announced the creation of the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform and Pennsylvania

State Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman introduced the Timothy J. Piazza Antihazing Law which Governor Tom Wolf then signed.

The center was also a good start, but can’t be merely a hollow gesture the same way the sentence is certainly a good first step and is worlds better than a meager sentence of probation or community service.

It’s also important to realize these sentences and the time it took to hand them down are all the product of much needed due process.

The other key point is however guilty these brothers may have been in the court of public opinion, through due process and the laws on the books,

they may not have actually been guilty of charges like manslaughter and they are only as guilty as the law says they are.

Having said that, it seems hard to imagine a scenario in which jail will act as a deterrent in the future because of how long justice took to get handed down and because social clout and the perks of greek life are viewed as more critical than any possible criminal prosecution.

The other silver lining is the sentence shows these brothers are no longer above the law.

The fact that other members of other greek life organizations could also go to jail is a necessary message to send, even if it does nothing more than scare these

members into thinking about the ramifications of their actions and how jail or bad publicity could adversely affect their lives.

But even with the sentences or potential newfound deterrence or anything else, there is a real reason to believe a culture change is underway.

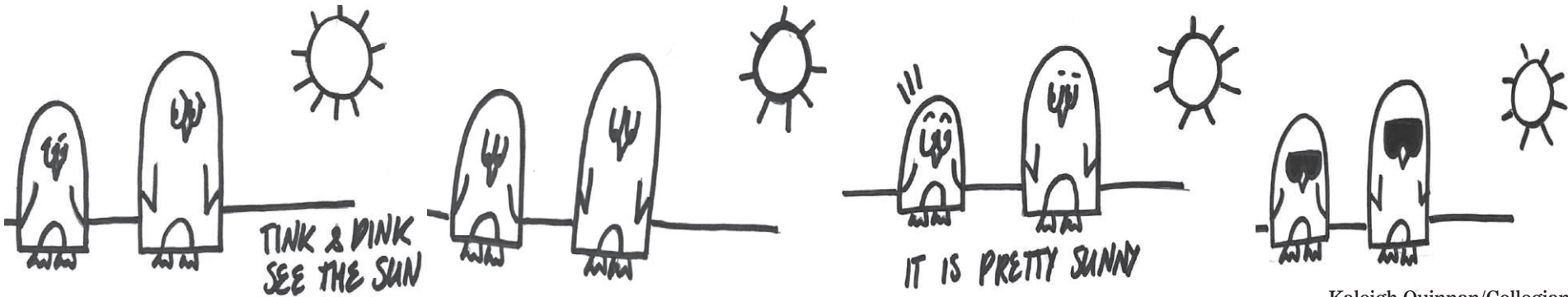
For starters, freshmen and other new pledges now perhaps understand the power dynamic better and realize if they’re being asked to do something they don’t want to, they can finally say no and won’t have to fear being punitively hazed or physically harmed because of the potential fallout and headlines that would generate.

That’s not to say there’d

be no retribution, it likely just would not manifest itself in the form of hazing and even if this isn’t occurring for the noblest of reasons or is even intentional, it is good to see people challenging the status quo and sticking it to the proverbial man.

Overall, the three brothers going to jail represents a first step toward the Piazzas receiving some semblance of justice and if enough members of greek life start talking about the prospects of what could happen to them, maybe then hazing and initiations will become less enticing and fall by the wayside.

But until then, it’s important to remember there is no single person responsible for Tim Piazza’s death and a larger cultural change needs to continue and that just because some kids are getting punished doesn’t mean the systemic issues will suddenly stop — in fact, they’re likely as pervasive as ever.



Kaleigh Quinnan/Collegian

MY VIEW | Madeline Messa

Nazi allegations on campus undercut UPUA’s achievements in diversity

Just days after the University Park Undergraduate Association was applauded for finally diversifying its general assembly, the campus was in an uproar over posters accusing a group of students of being Nazis.

The 180-degree turn from a progressive election to a supposed link between members of our own community and swastikas bleakly demonstrates the ongoing struggle to keep hate out of Penn State.

While these events are of course not directly related to each other as a cause-and-effect situation, it’s upsetting to see our university take one step forward in diversity and then two steps back with the news of students spreading hate.

Flyers throughout the HUB-Robeson Center had photos, social media handles and screenshots of lewd messages.

The posters alleged that 10 students, who were named and allegedly belong to an organization called American Student Front, are “modern-day Nazis.” ASF is not a recognized by

Penn State as an official club, and its social media accounts have since been deleted. According to the flyers, ASF is an alt-right and white nationalist organization.

The students’ identities were clear, but they will not be shared by the Collegian unless the claims are confirmed.

Whoever posted the flyers remains anonymous, but their purpose was made clear on the flyers: make everyone “aware of the dark threat lurking quietly on campus.”

I will not say the allegations are true, because that would put me at risk for defamation.

However, I have met a couple of the exposed faces, and I am personally inclined to believe the case is substantiated.

I recognize them from their involvement in other extremist organizations on campus and for their hateful, public bigotry.

This extreme intolerance is

unacceptable and should be dealt with.

Though Penn State responded to the news on social media, the university has to get out of its pattern of meaningless responses and do something worthwhile.

Another ‘All In’ initiative is not going to cut it, nor is a tweet.

Students have the voice to demand action, but Penn State has the power to actually go forward with it.”

Madeline Messa
Columnist

well as multiple people of color in other college representative and at-large positions, were elected last week.

That alone is praiseworthy and something we should continue to celebrate despite this hatred being exposed.

But we cannot stop to smell

the roses.

We have to continue to push for change. We have to reflect on what we can do better, and disassociate ourselves and our university from people who want to spread hate.

We condemn anti-Semites quickly, but many organizations are still slow to improve inclusion by means other than just conversation.

Inclusion on campus is hard to achieve when threats are posed to underrepresented groups’ overall security.

I have previously received emails from Penn State faculty thanking me for pointing out problems with our university. As flattering as those are, they are not enough.

I want to see more from Penn State than a statement that it is not a place for hate.

Action needs to be taken to make it clear that groups of students, like those allegedly in ASF, are not supported or welcome at this university.

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Messa

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AN OLYMPIAN'S ROAD TO SUCCESS

Through hard work and tragedy, alumnus Matt Anderson was destined for glory

By Grace Vocalina
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

0.7 percent. That's the amount of high school volleyball players who go on to play at the Division I level. Even fewer — only 1 in every 4,168 players — have a chance at becoming an Olympic athlete.

Combine these two statistics, and it can seem nearly impossible to even have the thought of being an Olympian, let alone winning a medal.

It takes a certain type of person willing to not listen to these odds stacked against them, and an even stronger person to push through the failure, heartache and setbacks to still achieve these dreams.

Penn State men's volleyball player alumnus and Olympian Matt Anderson had this drive to not only accomplish these ambitions, but to want more than what he has already succeeded at.

Anderson was born and raised in Buffalo, New York, in a family of seven. He is the youngest of his four siblings, and grew up in a family that lived and breathed volleyball.

"Volleyball has been in my family for a very long time. My grandfather on my mother's side has played in the Senior Olympics. He played all the time, and recreationally as well. My older sisters — two of them — played in college. I was always going to the big tournaments," Anderson told The Daily Collegian.

Originally, Anderson was not set on becoming a professional volleyball player. He had his eyes set on other sports, but one day decided to try out for his high school team with a friend. From then on, his passion for volleyball started to flourish.

"He was trying to do basketball, but either he was not liked by the coach or he did not think he was tall enough. It was always there. It was just something we did not know was going to go this far," Nancy Anderson, Matt's mother, said.

It was almost rare for a kid from Western New York to end up at a school with a big name and reputation, such as Penn State. Yet, Anderson proceeded to defy the odds and continue his volleyball journey to University Park.

From the beginning, coach Mark Pavlik knew Anderson was someone special. Not only does he stand at 6-foot-8, but also his arm could be used for mass destruction on the court. The instillation of a strong work ethic from Anderson's family helped



AP file photo

Former Penn State men's volleyball player Matt Anderson celebrates after helping the United States to victory over Brazil at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

him thrive in the Nittany Lion community.

Current freshman middle blocker Sam Marsh wears the same No. 14 that Anderson wore while at Penn State, and commented on the honor it is to wear the number of someone who has had such a big impact on the program.

"I think it is quite inspiring wearing Matt Anderson's number because he came from the same school and coaches, and has gone on to do amazing things. It is nice because it is really big shoes to fill," Marsh said.

Anderson's college career was impactful on the program. He won AVCA Co-Player of the Year, a National Championship and the tournament's Most Outstanding Player — all in 2008.

But a National Championship medal was just the beginning of Anderson's accomplishments. Anderson was not stopping there, and the volleyball world knew it had a talent on its hands when a professional program in South Korea offered him a spot to play. Anderson accepted the offer and turned down his senior season at Penn State.

Everything was going well for Anderson; he was fresh off of a National Championship, had an offer to play on the other side of the world playing the sport he loves and was experiencing life in his early 20s. However, all of that was short lived.

After playing in a match in Korea, Anderson got a text message from his sister telling him to call his brother immediately. What he heard next was something he

could have never anticipated.

"He said, 'Dad passed away.' It was really tough. You are told some of the hardest news of your life. My dad was like a patriarch to the family, so it was tough," Anderson said.

One of Anderson's biggest supporters throughout his entire volleyball career suddenly passed, and the loss of his father did not fully hit Anderson until he saw his mother awaiting his return.

"I remember the first time I really cried about it was when I walked through the door and gave my mom a hug. I did not think I really accepted it for a long time," Anderson said.

After the funeral processions, Anderson was stuck at a crossroads.

He was faced with a decision that could completely alter his life: Anderson could either walk away from the sport that has grown to be more than just a sport, or go back across the world to continue his passion with someone missing in the stands.

For a while, Anderson took a break from volleyball to deal with one of the greatest tragedies he has ever experienced.

He struggled with personal issues for some time, and almost closed the door on his professional career for good.

But Anderson said his mother encouraged him to go back to volleyball, and to not give up because of the hardship he was living through.

"My mother was pretty adamant that I had to go back at that point in time. She was afraid that if I did not, I would never go back and I would never play again. Knowing me, it probably would

have been the end of my career if I did not go back," Anderson said.

Anderson hopped back on a plane to finish what he started, a motto the Anderson family has preached throughout its children's lives.

Upon returning to South Korea, Anderson's contract finished a couple months early and he left to prepare with the United States national team.

From that moment on, Anderson had a new found strength in him that embodied him on and off the court. He worked tirelessly and trusted the unknown process of what was to come. This never-ending drive led Anderson to a spot as a right-side hitter for the 2012 United States Olympic team.

Anderson was the youngest player on the team at 25 years old, and felt he had a lot to live up to with the high level competition to come. Yet, Anderson proceeded to showcase his tremendous volleyball abilities in London with poise and maturity.

The hard work Anderson had been putting in for years was starting to become evident as the team kept making its way through the tournament. Then it came to a halt. The team lost in the quarterfinals of the 2012 Olympics — something he avoids rewatching.

"I have never watched that match again and I do not think I ever will because it is a thorn stuck in my ribs. It was a tough to get over," Anderson said.

The loss sparked a fire in Anderson to push himself — mentally and physically — even harder to earn what he aspired with the experience. In a tireless and persistent off-season, Anderson's return on the USA Olympic team resulted in winning a bronze medal in the 2016 Rio Olympics, a moment Anderson will never forget for the rest of his life.

"On top of being at the Olympics and being a part of that community worldwide with such a small percentage of people — and athletes alike — and then to say that we were medalists at the end of the day is just incredible," Anderson said.

Since then, Anderson has been the leading scorer every season since 2011, and finished second among all scorers in the 2016 Olympics with 128 points consisting of 108 kills, 10 blocks and 10 aces. And still, Anderson wants more of this intimate community he fell in love with merely 11 years ago.

Now, Anderson continues to fulfill his passion everyday as he prepares for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, with an even stronger focus to achieve the ultimate goal of winning the gold medal alongside his teammates.

About a year away from the games, Anderson holds onto the biggest life lesson he has learned to persist through the challenges and doubts he faces.

"A moment that really changed my life was finally learning how to be empathetic towards people. You do not know everyone's story. I try to go into every situation with an open mind, and once you do that you actually realize who you are," Anderson said.

As Anderson continues to leave his mark on the volleyball world, at heart he remains the boy from West Seneca who pursues his passions wholeheartedly and faces his challenges with strength.

"I remember when he was 16 or 17, he told me 'Mom, I'm not going to be around here much.' He said, 'I think I am going to do this, and I think I am going to do well,'" Nancy said.

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Finding an American connection

By Ryan Lam
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Christos Antonopoulos was one of the few foreign players that settled into this edition of Penn State men's tennis team well.

However, before he came over, there was an interest that helped him get an easier grasp of life in the United States — basketball.

Hailing from Athens, Greece, Antonopoulos has been a Panathinaikos fan and have been to games whenever he had the chance.

It is one of the more storied franchises and sporting clubs in Greece and even all of Europe.

As a basketball fan, he is well-aware of the difference in the ways America and Europe approach the game of basketball.

"Of course, NBA players are more skilled and give a better show," he said.

"In EuroLeague, there's more defense and they play in their system and create and involve the whole team. You can't have just a superstar who does everything like LeBron. It's a full team effort that gets you the win."

This perception and almost stereotype matched what fans have in mind with European players coming over, but it does not seem to apply to a very special athlete from the country lodged at the Balkans.

Giannis Antetokounmpo is the rising star of the NBA, with heavy consideration for MVP this regular season on top of averaging a



Ken Minamoto/Collegian

Christos Antonopoulos returns the ball during his singles match against Chase Colton of Wisconsin at the Penn State Tennis Center on March 31.

double-double.

Antonopoulos is glad to see his compatriot succeed in the largest stage of basketball.

"I'm happy for my country. I'm happy for a guy who came from nothing to become [possible] MVP of the league. Hopefully be one of the best players in the NBA and I'm really happy for him," he said.

The largest difference for Greek and American basketball fans, though, is the level of support and craziness.

In Greece, it is totally normal to see lit fireworks in the basketball

arena. Things get even crazier when it comes to the "Derby of the Eternal Enemies" — a matchup between Panathinaikos and Olympiacos.

"The support is so much different. When Olympiacos plays Panathinaikos, you can't go to Olympiacos' stadium as a Panathinaikos fan, you're going to get killed there. It's so different," Antonopoulos said.

"This past couple of years, Panathinaikos is doing better and all the beef between them just got bigger and bigger. This year, there was a game where

they stopped the game because Olympiacos didn't like the referees."

It was indeed a bizarre scene when Olympiacos, led by EuroLeague-winning coach David Blatt, forfeited their match against Panathinaikos in the Greek Cup semifinals because of the owners and management not being satisfied by the referees after going down by 15 in the halftime and demanded non-Greek refs to call the game. Antonopoulos has something to say about that.

"It happens all time. With the referees, it happens all the time.

When we play with bad refs, we just keep playing. I don't know why they just stopped playing and left the arena. They were also playing for the championship and I thought it was unprofessional," he said.

But that also could be because of Dimitris Giannakopoulos.

He is the owner of Panathinaikos after the passing of his father and he continued the radicality and brashness in tradition.

There were allegations that he threatened the lives of referees and opposing fans, and he was fined and banned from games plenty of times. It all came out of Giannakopoulos' love for the team, though, so much so that he was willing to splash the Euros to hire disgraced legendary coach Rick Pitino to steer the team toward the right direction.

Antonopoulos could not stress the important of the experience Pitino has brought over for his team.

"That guy has experience. He was with Boston previously and he was in Louisville. He brought experience to the team along with some NBA players like [Nick] Calathes from the Grizzlies, [Kostas] Koufos and [Georgios] Papagiannis from Sacramento, he said.

"He has experience and it shows from the first time he came in. He just made the team win. We are 10-2 since he came in and we also played tough games against CSKA Moscow and Fenerbahce. His contribution is huge to the team."

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"I think it's definitely made me

"He is sneaky good just because he seems like he always just has those quiet two goals, two assists, but it's not really quiet when he's hitting those fourth quarter goals," Keenan said. "When you're playing with him, you kind of recognize it, but

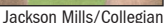
"Nick is a very poised player, very smart," Keenan said. "He really feels out a defense and really understands what they're doing, and by the end of the game in that third and fourth quarter, his composure and his lacrosse IQ just comes out where he's able to make those plays and understand what the defense is going to do. In a chess match, he usually wins because he knows what they're going to do in each situation."



The feeling would not last forever, though.

"I hope what [MLL general managers] saw is someone that can be a total utility guy. You can pretty much put him in any position on the offensive end, and he will find a way to succeed. I know he has done that for us," Tambroni said. "He has been a joy to watch grow certainly from his freshman year on. But in the last couple of years, he's really developed into one of Penn State's finest lacrosse players."

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Ryan Keenan (16) sets a pick for Nick Spillane (13) against Hobart.

Bigar's Stars

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

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ARIES (3/21-4/19) ★★★★★ You say what's on your mind. Don't push another person too far. You could be surprised by how he or she reacts. You could walk through this person's reaction. You might find that this person is more easygoing than you anticipated. **Tonight:** Be spontaneous.

TAURUS (4/20-5/20) ★★★ Gather more information. There's a lot going on behind the scenes that you prefer to ignore. You could find that the cost of a project or daily activity might be escalating before your very eyes. **Tonight:** Keep a secret just that.

GEMINI (5/21-6/20) ★★★★★ You always exhibit energy and personality. At this point, you could be feistier than you have been in the recent past. Try not to fly off the handle. Use your insightful sarcasm effectively. **Tonight:** Choose your company and place.

CANCER (6/21-7/22) ★★★★★ Take your place in the limelight. Others seek you out and want your feedback. You might not realize how angry you can be as a personal matter. Keep the restraint that you've had until now. Your anger could be more challenging than you initially thought. **Tonight:** To the wee hours.

LEO (7/23-8/22) ★★★★★ You could be debating whether taking the lead on a matter that you feel strongly about is worthwhile. A friend cheers you on. Plunge in, knowing that this action works for you. Clear out a misunderstanding, but don't lose sight of the big picture. **Tonight:** Where your friends are.

VIRGO (8/23-9/22) ★★★★★ You could feel pressured by a boss or authority figure who wants what he or she wants. One-on-one relating proves more effective in clearing out a misunderstanding. Your sense of direction helps forge an agreement with a partner. **Tonight:** Be part of a team.

LIBRA (9/23-10/22) ★★★★★ Defer to an assertive associate or friend. This person has good ideas, but won't tolerate others playing devil's advocate. Try to grasp where others come from. You'll have a way of understanding some of the hot ideas kicking around. **Tonight:** Meet a friend for dinner.

SCORPIO (10/23-11/21) ★★★★★ Your effectiveness could be tested. You might not know which is the best way to proceed. You're smart enough to be able to test out different theories or explanations. Direct your energy toward the person who can make a difference. **Tonight:** Share with a key loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (11/22-12/21) ★★★★★ Another person charges toward you and has an idea that works for them. Your way to get past a problem with this person will be to acknowledge how the approach works for the party in question; also, state your case. **Tonight:** Let the other party decide.

CAPRICORN (12/22-1/19) ★★★★★ You could decide to head in a new direction. You have all the energy that you need to pursue a goal. If anyone blocks you, you're likely to lose your temper. Use care around your home, investments and a personal matter. **Tonight:** Indulge in a favorite game.

AQUARIUS (1/20-2/18) ★★★★★ You see a situation far differently from those around you. You're willing to take a stand and manage a loved one or child with wit and emotion. Good feelings and caring flow back and forth. Your sense of caring and general friendship draws others. **Tonight:** At a favorite spot.

PISCES (2/19-3/20) ★★★★★ Stay in touch with your spending. It easily can get out of hand. Financial issues could cause a problem with a personal or domestic matter. Once you loosen the reins on your checkbook, you might go overboard. **Tonight:** Keep your budget.

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.

‘The classroom without walls’

Penn State students and fifth graders explore, learn about nature with one another at the Outdoor School at Shaver’s Creek

By Grace Miller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

When Danae Roles was a child, her best friend’s grandfather used to call her “butterfly.”

Now, Roles (freshman-early childhood education) is a counselor for Outdoor School, with the nature name of Butterfly.

Outdoor School is a program in which Penn State students can earn credits by learning about the outdoors and acting as counselors for fifth graders. The fifth graders stay at the camp for a week, gaining hands-on experiences and learning about nature.

Penn State students get two credits and the fifth graders incorporate Outdoor School into their curriculum.

Counselors and other camp workers all go by “nature names” which the kids use to address them instead of their real names.

“It’s just so cool for the kids,” Roles said. “We get to dig up dirt and they sit there and they learn the different levels of dirt, which is like something that you’d just look at pictures in the classroom.”

Roles said that they often call Outdoor School the “classroom without walls” and that there’s no limit to what the kids can learn.

“They’re growing up in the generation of phones and technology and they get to go outside where there’s no service and be away and stuff,” Roles said. “It’s just nice for them to kind of go back in time and learn without any technology.”

For many kids, Outdoor School is their first time staying away from home, so part of Roles’ job involves helping kids who might feel homesick. She says she loves working with kids and hearing their positive reactions at the end of the week.

“It’s just nice to know that I could’ve changed their lives just in the days I was with them,” Roles said.

“[It is] absolutely the best community at Penn State, in my opinion. Just full of super accepting, open-minded, fun-loving people who are always down for new adventures.”

Emily Akers
Senior

it’s something that I know that I’ll forever look back on as one of the best parts of Penn State,” Roles said.

Caitlin Teti, 23, is a Penn State graduate and program assistant for Outdoor School. Teti’s nature name is Tiger Lily. She said that each semester, Outdoor School hosts about four to seven different schools from Pennsylvania with about 40 to 100 kids each week. Teti said being able to foster connections between the kids has been extremely rewarding for her.

“I really care about the environment,” she said, “so to be able to have a positive impact on the younger generation and be able to kind of influence them to care about the environment,

I think that’s brought a lot of personal satisfaction to me and my overall career goals and everything.”

One of her favorite parts of being involved with Outdoor School is mentoring the counselors.

“It’s really cool to be able to like help them and help them have a good time and just be a part of their experience and help them realize that it’s cool to be at camp and be a little silly with the kids,” Teti said.

Teti said Outdoor School can be both fifth graders and Penn State students’ first up-close experiences with nature. She worked as a counselor during her undergraduate studies at Penn State and recalled one of her favorite memories: One of her students told her “I’ve never seen so many trees before” while still in the parking lot of the camp.

“It’s just really cool to be able to facilitate those connections and the kids are pretty funny about it sometimes,” she said.

Another one of her favorite memories is having to memorize the children’s book “The Lorax,” which she has to recite at the last campfire of the week.

“Just having that experience and having the kids come up and talk to me after and the counselors be like, ‘oh my god, how did you memorize a whole book?’ is just really cool,” Teti said.

Emily Akers has been involved with Outdoor School for three seasons. She was a counselor for the first two, but this semester she’s a learning group leader. Akers is from New York, so she picked Hudson as her nature name.

“[It’s] exciting because this is a community that’s given me a lot, and I’m excited to give back to them,” Akers (senior-theatre)



Courtesy of Danae Roles

Kids and a counselor walk on a trail together on Oct. 2, 2018.

said. “But also nerve-racking because you’re doing stuff for the first time and you know, that’s how it kind of feels with everything.”

Akers said she’s gained a “great” community of people through Outdoor School in addition to leadership experience.

“[It is] absolutely the best community at Penn State in my opinion,” Akers said. “Just full of super accepting, open-minded, fun-loving people who are always down for new adventures.”

Akers enjoys teaching the kids things new things, like

how wasting food is bad for the environment.

“It’s really interesting to see them have these realizations and then like actually prioritize them... and then taking on these ideas at Outdoor School and taking them home,” she said.

Penn State students of any major are welcome to be a part of Outdoor School and can find more information at www.shaver-screek.org/ODS.

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PSU Outing Club celebrates 99th anniversary

By Kaitlyn Kudriavetz
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

After an emotional year in which the club was nearly shut down, the Penn State Outing Club is now celebrating its 99th anniversary.

Former president Christina Platt has been involved with the club since October 2017, and has maintained her passion for the club’s mission throughout the ups and downs of her presidency.

“The Outing Club is a club for people who want to experience the outdoors, particularly in the State College area,” Platt (senior-

recreation, park and tourism management) said. “There are so many students on this campus who do not know that that exists, and there has to be a way for them to see it.”

In 2018, Penn State attempted to reduce liability risks by preventing the club from going on backpacking trips, and many on-campus and beyond were outraged by the decision. Despite worrying that Penn State would end the club for good, they returned this academic year.

Platt said the club currently participates in day-hiking trips within a 50-mile radius of the university. They go to local

state forests, where there are about 900,000 acres of public land. For the members, the 99th anniversary seems to represent the strength of transition.

“The past year was a lot to navigate, but we are heading into this year with lots of enthusiastic people who want to go hiking and hang out on campus, like during study sessions, we host or the brand new book club, focusing on adventure literature,” current president Nancy Weinheimer (sophomore- geoscience) said. “We have evolved from running historic, landmark expeditions to a club that can function within our limits and still promote the values of responsible outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation.”

James McGovern, the club secretary, described the 99th anniversary as a year of “transition and change.”

“We have had an outpouring of support from Outing Clubs throughout the country, and past alumni that have helped us immensely,” McGovern (junior-aerospace engineering) said.

For Platt, the anniversary “represents really just hanging on as an organization.”

“[For all of us who were officers last year, it really was tough [to have] something that you have so much pride in almost taken away from you [and then] having to come back and figure out, ‘How do we make this club operate?’”

he said. “We had to transition [from backpacking trips] to day hiking... we were really worried that people just wouldn’t be into it.”

The members of the PSOC were pleasantly surprised to find that membership did not take a hit — on the contrary, their numbers have increased. Last year, Platt said the club had 136 members. This year, the club got 150 people outside in just one semester.

Looking ahead at the 100th year of PSOC and beyond, the club has a lot to look forward to. The Outing Club is working on a partnership with Penn State’s Outdoor Adventure program — and ideally, bringing the PSOC community to the students who are paying to take those trips. More than anything, the club wants to see backpacking trips come back.

“If the 99th year of the club was about growing, and getting reconnected with the roots of the club, the 100th will be a year to

commemorate all that has been done and provide a sustainable model going forward,” McGovern said. “My biggest hope is that I can attend another Outing Club overnight backpacking trip before I graduate next June.”

Platt added he also doesn’t want to give up the backpacking trips. “[Backpacking is] a totally different experience because you really have the opportunity to disconnect,” he said. “I really want to see it come back, and we’re working on it.”

He described the Outing Club as a “really amazing community,”

and said he is glad the club was able to continue as it faced an end last year.

“It was really cool realizing how much students are capable of,” Platt said. “Running a big organization is hard... But students have a lot more power than they realize. It was three of us managing an international PR campaign [last year when the school came down on us, and we realized that] people do care.”



Courtesy of Nancy Weinheimer

The Penn State Outing Club poses after a hike.

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