

Penn State honors veterans

By Louise Bennett

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Tablecloths, roses and balloons in the shades of red, white and blue filled Alumni Hall this morning as Penn State students, faculty and staff gathered for the annual military appreciation breakfast and Veterans Day ceremony.

While veterans and active-duty Penn Staters shared a breakfast, Vet-aLIONce highlighted resources for veterans within the university community and showed a short film honoring the life of Major Lewis Smith II, an Air Force veteran who went missing in action.

Jacob Gouge, a seven-year active duty member of the Marine Corps, said he attended Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) training during his service, which put service members in the perspective of a prisoner of war.

"You never look at the flag of the POW/MIA the same after

that because those guys — I can't imagine how alone they feel and just trying to keep the faith that people still care and are looking for you," Gouge, a third-year studying mechanical engineering, said.

With the crowd gathered in Alumni Hall and later in front of Old Main, Gouge said it was nice to see everyone together — no matter if they had served or came to show support.

"It's nice to know that you're not underappreciated and that it wasn't for nothing," Gouge said.

Alongside the student veterans, Vet-aLIONce also recognized veterans within faculty and staff. Rob Gavlock, a facility representative for the Department of Chemistry, said he looks forward to the military appreciation breakfast every year.

"There's a lot of faces here that I haven't seen in a year or so, and I really only talk to them when we have these breakfasts," Gavlock, an Army veteran who



Noah Aberegg/Collegian

Members of the Penn State Air Force ROTC lead the crowd in a march to the Penn State Veterans Plaza during a Veterans Day ceremony outside Old Main on Nov. 11, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

served for approximately seven years, said.

Gavlock is also a member of Vet-aLIONce, an organization with the mission to unite military-connected employees through advocacy, support and mentorship of student veterans.

"We want our ranks to increase, and I think this is fantastic," Gavlock said. "I'm really enthused."

Gavlock said Penn State has always been amazing supporting student veterans, Reserve Officers' Training Corps members and any student currently serving. Now, with Vet-aLIONce, they're making "pathways" for faculty and staff as well.

Sharon Lucas, who's helped organize the breakfast for the last 17 years and serves as one of the co-leads of Vet-aLIONce, said she realized the importance of the event the first year she helped.

"I had two Vietnam veterans,

older guys, and they came up to me, and they said 'this is the first time we've ever been thanked by somebody who wasn't a politician,'" Lucas said.

This is also the first year the organization received university-wide funding in order to hold the breakfast, which she said is similar to a family reunion.

"It's like that because the military becomes your family," Lucas said.

Following the breakfast, Penn Staters and community members joined together on the Old Main lawn to honor veterans, current service members, veterans missing in action and prisoners of war.

Jacob Jenkins, president of the Penn State Veterans Organization and a veteran who served in the Army for over four years, led the ceremony through a moment of silence and from the lawn to the Veterans Plaza to place a wreath honoring service

members, who "made the ultimate sacrifice."

One of his responsibilities is hosting the ceremony, but Jenkins, a fourth-year studying criminology, said the role that means everything to him is helping student veterans transition from active duty to the classroom.

"A lot of building has gone on since I first came here. I didn't even know there was an Office of Veterans Programs," Jenkins said. "Many of the resources were just unknown to me."

Now, Jenkins said what's most important is ensuring other veterans are aware of the resources and opportunities available for them.

"Getting them acclimated back to civilian life, coming back from duty, it's a big change," Jenkins said. "It's a big thing."

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Noah Aberegg/Collegian

State College Mayor Ezra Nanes shakes hands with Army Major General Matteo Martemucci during a Veterans Day ceremony.

THON dreams forward

Campaign raises \$1,926,461.87, doubles fundraising goal

By Gianna St. Thomas

FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State THON announced its sixth-annual Dream Forward Campaign raised \$1,926,461.87, nearly double its original goal, during the 100 Days 'Til THON event Wednesday in the HUB-Robeson Center.

The campaign aimed to raise \$1 million and surpassed last year's Dream Forward total of \$1,601,849.07.

THON is the world's largest student-run philanthropy that aims to provide emotional and financial support to Four Diamond families who have been impacted by childhood cancer.

THON's Dream Forward Campaign kicks off the year to 100 days until THON Weekend, with this year's theme "A Home For Hope."

Public Relations Director for THON 2025 Kaitlyn Wolfe said she oversees a committee of 20 captains across outlets of photography, video production and social media.

Wolfe, a fourth-year studying advertising/public relations, said THON is personal to her and she's dedicated her college life to the cause.

"Growing up, my dad was diagnosed with stage-four cancer, and just navigating that cancer journey, seeing amazing doctors and the community that was surrounding us, I wanted to be able to create that same community for other people," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said she got involved specifically with public relations because she was naturally drawn toward the written word and being able to share stories with the public.

"There's things people are

"There's things people are willing to sacrifice to do something bigger than themselves ... (that) is just unbelievable"

Kaitlyn Wolfe

THON Public Relations Director



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

The Dream Forward total is revealed during 100 Days 'Til THON on Nov. 13, 2024 in the HUB-Robeson Center in University Park, Pa.

willing to sacrifice to do something bigger than themselves... (that) is just unbelievable," Wolfe said.

According to the captain of the 100 Days 'Til THON event Barbara Smith, THON requires a lot of sacrifices that are "all worth it."

"Today was six to seven months of planning, but the second that 11 a.m. hit, it was all worth it," Smith, a fourth-year studying criminology, said. "When they say THON's student-run, they're not

kidding...but the rewarding aspect of it after it's all done is just breathtaking."

Smith said she's always been involved with THON ever since her first year at Penn State.

She started as a regular or-

ganization member and said meeting a Four Diamonds family changed her perspective, making her want to be a part of THON and make it a "home."

"I never realized how much a family's influence was going to impact me, and it changed my life for the better," Smith said.

The 100 Days 'Til THON event involved line dances, a pep rally and a performance by Joe Downs.

The crowd appeared enthusiastic for every person on the HUB stairs and their contribution to the 100 Days 'Til THON celebration. People were seen getting their haircut for donation, other committee captains spoke on updates and shared good news from Four Diamonds families.

Entertainment Director for THON 2025 Stephen Black said he oversees an entire captain committee that helps bring in talent and performers for THON. He said he gets the "highest level" of audio and visual entertain-

ment for all pre-THON events and THON Weekend.

Black, a fourth-year studying finance, said he wasn't involved during his first year at Penn State until THON Weekend.

"Being at the Bryce Jordan Center for the first time just really hooked me," Black said.

Black said he's passionate about entertainment, always loves the responsibilities and is grateful to have the opportunity with THON.

He said THON is a lot of service and volunteering toward families in need, and how much he values doing that with philanthropy.

"Throughout my entire life, service has been a tenant of the person I am," Black said. "I've had the incredible opportunity here at Penn State to be involved so deeply within this organization and further that personal part of me."

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Samantha Wilson/Collegian file photo

The Kunkle Lounge attached to the Sackett building.

Board votes on projects

By Steven Kister

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's Board of Trustees approved renovations and additions to Penn State's Sackett Building last Friday

The renovated building will hold 12 general purpose classrooms with 40-120 seats and a knowledge commons, according to Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Sarah Thorndike.

The project includes demolishing the building's existing wings, Kunkle Lounge and Engineering Units A, B and C.

Renovations are expected to begin this November, with completion targeted for fall 2027. It will be the building's first renovations since 1979.

The board also approved the construction of a new, 102,000 square-foot classroom building during last Friday's meeting. The building is set to be built adjacent to the Forest Resources Building. Construction is expected to cost \$96 million and be completed by August 2026, according to Thorndike.

Additionally, the board gave the green light to construct a new Applied Research Laboratory Building at Innovation Park during the meeting.

The 80,000-square-foot facility will be four stories tall and feature space for research programs, conference rooms, computing and offices. The project will cost \$91.1 million.

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# ROCK YOUR MOCS

**By Aria Eichhof**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

“Rock Your Mocs,” a worldwide, annual unity event, hosted a workshop for the first time at Penn State on Sunday in the HUB-Robeson Center.

The six-hour event was held by artists Samantha and Mary Jacobs from the Seneca Nation, two women who could make a pair of moccasins in about 40 minutes. The two women from western New York have been hosting workshops for a long time and traveling all over.

“It gives us a chance to interact with people and maybe share a little bit of history,” Mary Jacobs said. “That’s important to us.”

This step-by-step workshop ran overtime, so the 16 participants could see their work in its final result. Attendees worked on making traditional Haudenosaunee, meaning “People of the Long-house,” moosehide moccasins.

Doing similar workshops for high schoolers and college students over the years, Samantha Jacobs said the events are the most successful when the participants are attentive.

“I think it’s important because it gives them a better appreciation for the work that goes into the final product,” Mary Jacobs said. “I believe that if they make it themselves, they’ll probably take better care of the item they’re making.”

With lunch and dinner provided, and spending the day in a room without windows, some participants felt like the time flew by.

Sophia Anderson, a fourth-year studying geography, attended the workshop because of one of her classes. Anderson said this was her first time doing a workshop like this.

Anderson expected the workshop to be a “quick drop-in” – she’d make the moccasins and leave. But being the first one to finish, she still used the full time.

Anderson said it didn’t feel long or draining like a six-hour workshop might feel; she said it was fun.

“It’s very tedious, and takes a lot of concentration,” Anderson said. “All of the tracing, folding, cutting, measuring and sewing was definitely worth it.”

The event filled capacity within five hours of being published online, Jacinta Garcia, the Native and Indigenous Community Coordinator of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, said.

Throughout the day, students passing by the HUB stopped in to watch the creation of moccasins, and many signed an interest form for another moccasin-making event during the spring semester.

“We enjoy it,” Samantha Jacobs said. “We do this quite often throughout the year, and we are scheduled months in advance.”

Mary Jacobs echoed the sentiment.



Kayla McCullough/Collegian

**A student** sews a moccasin in the HUB-Robeson Center during a moccasin-making workshop for Native American Heritage Month on Nov. 10.

“I think that’s the hard part because once October, November rolls around, every weekend we’re somewhere,” Mary Jacobs said. “We’re busy all the way up until Christmas.”

Garcia said workshops like “Rock Your Mocs” are opportunities for more than sewing shoes.

“For Indigenous people, typically our teachings aren’t written down in books,” Garcia said. “The hands-on activities aren’t just ties to ancient practices; it’s also a time for storytelling and cultural teachings,” Garcia said.

Garcia said Penn State is “unique” because there are no federally recognized tribes in Pennsylvania.

“The school is an amalgamation of students representing different nations,” Garcia said.

Garcia said some students come from the reservation, born and raised in the culture, but others are tribally enrolled in their tribe and move away, never having an opportunity to engage with this sort of event.

Garcia said there are more opportunities to engage with before Native American Heritage Month

comes to an end.

A frybread-making and social event will take place from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday at Abba Java Coffeehouse, which Garcia describes as “just community in the kitchen.”

There will also be a Native American Heritage Month Fun Friday from noon-3 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, with Indigenous food and a corn husk ornament-making activity.

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Geraldine Cruz / Collegian

**A member of the Dungeons and Dragons Club** takes on the role of dungeon master while playing the game at a club meeting on Nov. 8.

## ‘Anything is possible’

*Dungeons and Dragons Club leaves real world behind*

**By Katie Herron**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Penn State Dungeons and Dragons Club spent Friday engrossed in a fantasy world full of magic, combat and strategy.

The students who spend their week attending classes in State College leave the real world behind and enter a place where anything is possible.

Vice President Edward Fabian believes the club helps members “come up with creative ways to solve a problem” during the collaborative storytelling game.

Fabian has noticed with the rise of Dungeons and Dragons being incorporated into popular media like “Stranger Things,” more people have been drawn toward the game.

“We’ve got plenty of people coming in and being introduced to what we do here, which is always fantastic,” Fabian, a fifth-year studying aerospace engineering, said.

Club president Glendon Rugova hopes that anyone interested in trying out the game feels welcome to attend, regardless of prior experience.

“One of the things that we really hoped to do with this club was to form a place where you can come in without knowing anything, without knowing anyone and still feel welcomed and engaged in whatever we do,” Rugova, a third-year studying management information systems, said.

Elizabeth Black has been in the club since her first year at Penn State, and she had never played Dungeons and Dragons before then. She said the other club members immediately accepted her as one of their own and taught her everything she knows now.

“If you just talk to anyone in the club, they’re happy to talk about any rules or past campaigns they were in,” Black, a third-year studying applied and industrial mathematics, said.

Salim Bastress believes the main barrier to playing a game of Dungeons and Dragons is scheduling. One of the main purposes of the club, according to Bastress, is to provide a time and space where students can organize future campaigns or participate in current games.

“Playing D&D can be very challenging because it relies on so many people being all together in the same place at the same time, and this club really helps people get a community where they can play games and meet one another,” Bastress, a third-year studying mechanical engineering, said.

Rugova thinks that Dungeons and Dragons has a place for anyone, catering to people interested in the storytelling, the improvisational aspect or the combat.

“It’s a collaborative storytelling game, and it’s led by the dungeon master. You go through the story that they’ve prepped for you, and your decisions affect what happens in the story,” Rugova said.

Although Black purchased a Dungeons and Dragons rulebook when she first joined the club, she thinks knowing all the rules isn’t necessary to play.

“The misconception is that it’s a hard game because it’s math, but it’s addition. That’s the most you’re doing. It’s very much like other strategy games. If you ever played chess or Monopoly, it’s the same thing,” Black said.

At the beginning of the weekly club meetings, members go over upcoming events, campaigns available to join and the rules of the game.

“We had a dungeon master’s workshop that showed people how to get into DMing or running games, which can be quite difficult without having some guidance,” Fabian said.

The club makes sure everyone has the opportunity to learn about the game, run their own game as a dungeon master and pitch ideas for future games.

“We’ve got a bunch of cool events everyone can hang out at, but if you have something that you want to do on your own, we make sure that you can find someone to play D&D with,” Fabian said.

The club frequently plans themed events for members to participate in. For Halloween in the fall semester, it created horror campaigns, and it already has plans for the spring.

“We do this thing called March Magic. It’s a tournament-style combat game where you take your character and face off against someone else at a high level, and whoever wins moves up in the bracket,” Rugova said. “Finally, the person who makes it on top wins the entire tournament.”

The Dungeons and Dragons Club meets at 6 p.m. every Friday in 101 Osmond Laboratory. Anyone is welcome to show up, or the club can be contacted through OrgCentral and its Discord server.

“It’s not about how much you know, it’s not about what you can do,” Rugova said. “It’s just a matter of how much fun you can have.”

**Glendon Rugova**  
President

## Comfort & Companionship

**Rubi Orellana**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For some college students, the idea of having a pet on campus seems like a distant dream — one filled with comfort and companionship. But for others, that dream has become a reality, despite the challenges with pet ownership in a dorm or shared living space.

To Quiznique Somoza, having a pet on campus means sharing her life with Noli, a playful 6-month-old calico cat.

“It wasn’t my ideal situation because of my allergies,” Somoza, a second-year studying kinesiology said. “But my roommate’s mom’s cat has babies, and we got the apartment’s permission to keep her, so we did.”

Despite her allergies, Somoza said having Noli around has been a positive experience for her.

While Noli is often left alone during the day, Somoza said she’s never entirely unattended. Somoza’s three roommates each have different class schedules, and they all help take care of Noli.

“She stays in the living room when we’re all gone, and when we’re home, she gets plenty of attention,” Somoza said.

However, having a kitten in a shared space isn’t without its challenges.

Noli, still in the mischievous phase, has caused a bit of chaos — tearing the shower curtain, unrolling toilet paper and even breaking a plate at 3 a.m.

Despite these moments, Somoza believes having a pet is worth the responsibility.

“I think it would be a great idea if Penn State allowed students who want the companionship of a pet,” Somoza said. “Animals can really help with stress and mental health, and as long as students can manage their responsibilities, there’s no reason why they shouldn’t be allowed.”

According to Somoza, students should take responsibility for any potential damages caused by their pets and pay a small fee to help cover any issues.

“I really think universities should recognize that and allow students who are responsible to bring their pets with them,” Somoza said.

Bryan Thelisma has chosen not to bring a pet to Penn State due to living on campus, as well as his demanding class schedule and work outside of school.

“I don’t think I could handle it, especially with my workload,” Thelisma, a second-year studying nursing, said. “Between classes and work, my schedule is already packed.”

However, Thelisma said he doesn’t dismiss the idea entirely. Thelisma said that if someone is committed and has a mindset to handle a pet, they can make it work.

“Pets can help with stress,

and they can bring comfort and warmth, but balancing them with schoolwork, social life and other commitments is a lot to handle,” Thelisma said.

If he could have a pet, Thelisma said he would choose a low-maintenance animal like a hamster.

“A hamster would be easier — feed it, water it, and it’s good. It seems less work compared to a dog,” Thelisma said.

Thelisma said Penn State should allow specific dorms, single or double rooms, to have pets. He said he feels that tuition is high enough, and students shouldn’t have to pay the fee.

Reese Belkins has a passion for having pets on campus, as she said her 2-year-old rabbit, Teddy, helps her manage the



Courtesy of Quiznique Somoza

**Quiznique Somoza’s 6-month-old calico kitten, Noli,** relaxes by the window in the glistening sun.

pressures of college life.

Belkins, a second-year studying criminology, got Teddy over a year ago and knew from the start that she wanted to bring her to campus.

“I knew I would bring her with me,” Belkins said.

Managing her busy schedule, Belkins ensures that Teddy stays entertained with toys and enrichment while she’s away for classes or social activities.

Having Teddy has been a source of emotional support, especially during stressful times, according to Belkins.

“She really helps me with my stress,” Belkins said. “She’s almost like everyone else’s pet — my friends love her too.”

While there are challenges like transporting Teddy back and forth from home, Belkins finds that overall there aren’t many difficulties when it comes to her pet.

“It’s a little difficult on car rides going back home because she doesn’t like her cage, but I manage it,” Belkins said.

Belkins said she believes that Penn State should allow pets in dorms as long as students can take responsibility for them.

“It sounds like a good idea,” Belkins said. “The only fee should be for damages or if a student is on a lease. Otherwise, it would be great if students could have their pets here.”

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# ‘A global bar tour’

## ANTH 140 rises in popularity among students

**By Rachael Keller**  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

ANTH 140: Anthropology of Alcohol is a Penn State course created by Kirk French, an assistant professor of anthropology and film production/media studies at Penn State.

French graduated from Texas State University with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and then from the University of Cincinnati with a master's degree in anthropology.

French said he began studying for a doctorate in anthropology at Penn State in 2003 because of its Mesoamerican program and several faculty members he wanted to study under.

In 2009, French got an opportunity to stay at Penn State to teach, but this position was on a year-to-year basis — meaning he found out every school year if he would still be on staff.

That same year, French said he received a DVD of “The Last One,” the documentary of famous moonshiner Popcorn Sutton, in his mailbox. To this day, he doesn’t know who put the DVD in his mailbox.

“They knew I liked weird alcohols and stuff, and I think they thought I’d just think it’s cool, and I did,” French said. “I decided to start using it in my intro to archeology class.”

French said building a moonshine still in the woods is still archeology, even though it’s not what people normally think of as archeology.

French said he found students

enjoyed the film, so the concept of archaeology of alcohol became a lecture he would give.

After he saw students engaging with the lecture, he started to think about what it would be like as a full course, and from there, he began creating ANTH 140.

Brooke Dougherty said she’s taking ANTH 140 this semester, and was intrigued by the idea of talking about alcohol in a school setting.

“Conceptually, it sounded really awesome,” Dougherty, a second-year studying advertising/ public relations, said. “Talking about alcohol in a classroom setting is something that is almost revolutionary, I feel like I’ve never heard of that before.”

Courses that have yet to be approved by the University Faculty Senate can still be taught under a 97 class title, so the course was considered ANTH 197 while under French’s development.

“It gives the professor an opportunity to start creating the class, seeing how it works, bouncing off ideas with the students — you can do that first year as you’re forming it,” French said. “So I did that, but the thing is, like 100 students signed up. Usually these things ... you might get 10 or 15 (students), but I had 100.”

He said he formed ANTH 140 based on a template that a television series would follow. The lectures all begin the same way and follow the same trajectory.

French said he stumbled upon an anthropology course at community college that changed his life’s trajectory. He said anthro-

pology helped him appreciate diversity, the importance of being civil and learning about how people are more alike than different.

“It’s not a secret that this is an intro to anthropology course, and it’s just dangling the carrot of alcohol to come and take a fun class,” French said. “But, while you’re learning about these different alcohols, you’re learning about different cultures.”

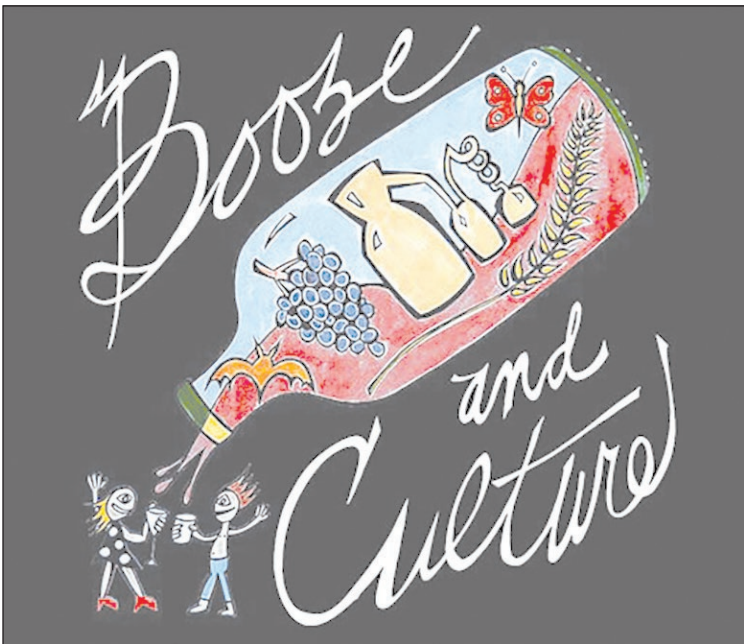
French said he loved Anthony Bourdain and the structure of his cooking show. Even though it was a food-centered program, it wasn’t just about the food — it shed a light on world issues and cultures, according to French.

“Everybody loves food, everybody eats food, so we watch it because it’s food, and then you learn something about the world,” French said.

Sophia Fernandez is currently taking ANTH 140 and said her favorite lecture of the semester was the anthropology of alcohol during tailgates at Penn State.

“If there was a beer can that had clearly been shotgunned by Beaver Stadium — picking that up and thinking who had that drink, what were they doing, were they excited, were they sad, who were they with — those kinds of things,” Fernandez, a second-year studying advertising/public relations, said. “It was cool because he tied it into our very simple lives here in State College.”

French also uses ANTH 140 to talk about alcohol abuse and how to drink responsibly. He dedicates the last two classes every semes-



Courtesy of Kirk French

**Anthropology of Alcohol creator and professor Kirk French’s “Booze and Culture” logo print .**

ter for guest lecturers to discuss these topics, though the themes can be seen throughout the entire class.

Each year, the parents of Timothy Piazza, a student who died in a hazing incident at Penn State in 2017, tell their son’s story in detail. A representative from the Gender Equity Center also teaches a lecture on sexual assault.

“There is this razor-thin line between everything being fine and everything being pretty responsible to everything going completely out of control,” French said.

French said multiple students have told him that this course gave them something to talk to their parents about, since many people enjoy alcohol and find the different types he teaches about to be intriguing.

He said students often ask if their parents can sit in on the class because they hear so much about it.

“It’s a global bar tour where you learn we’re much more alike than we are different,” French said.

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# 135 years of Penn State’s Glee Club

**By Claire Huss**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Penn State Glee Club is celebrating 135 years of harmonization and brotherhood this year. As the oldest student organiza-

tion on campus, the Glee Club has a rich history and active alumni network.

The Glee Club is a lower-voice ensemble comprising singers from a variety of majors university-wide. The chorus sings ar-

rangements intended for tenor, baritone and bass voices from the 16th to 21st centuries. A subset of Glee Club — the Hi-Lo’s — typically perform more contemporary pieces.

President Bobby Connolly said he joined the Glee Club in his second year at Penn State and sees his current role as a way of giving back.

“I had such a wonderful experience that year and my junior year,” Connolly, a fourth-year studying biobehavioral health, said. “I wanted to give back as much as I could as a senior — make sure that all new members and current members had as positive an experience as I did.”

Connolly said the club’s domestic and international travel fosters meaningful relationships between the singers.

“There’s some shared experience of music, but then also celebration outside of performances,” Connolly said. “To be all together representing Penn State in another country is something unique that I haven’t found anywhere else at this school,” Connolly said.

Thomas Foley, president of the Glee Club Alumni Interest Group and a 2010 Penn State alum, said his memories of Glee trips stay with him to this day.

“Oh, it was incredible,” Foley said. “You really get to know people. Good friendships last forever and memories last forever.”

Foley said the club’s trip to New Zealand in 2010 left a particularly lasting impression, especially as a State College native.

“I don’t think I could tell you the number of times I’ve told a Glee Club story of traveling to New Zealand. I couldn’t even count,” Foley said.

Past trips and experiences come up frequently at alumni reunions, such as the one on Oct. 26, Foley said. Every five years, the Alumni Interest Group hosts a reunion concert and a weekend of fun for current and former members of the Glee Club.

Dr. Christopher Kiver, director of the Glee Club, said conducting this year’s reunion concert was awe-inspiring. The 140-person ensemble of past and current members spanned nearly six

decades, Kiver said.

“It really is one of those hair-raising things,” Kiver said. “My biggest joy of these reunions is seeing the young students on the risers singing next to the alumni.”

Kiver said seeing a father and son singing together at the reunion concert was representative of how important of a role music plays in peoples’ lives.

“The magical thing about it is, this ensemble of people had never performed before,” Kiver said. “Then, just in the space of two hours of rehearsing, we create this new musical instrument.”

Connolly said he feels Glee Club creates lifelong loyalty to Penn State and connections he’ll never forget.

“There’s something really special about this group,” Connolly said. “I am proud, and I speak on behalf of everybody in the club to say that we are proud to be a part of something that brings joy to so many people.”

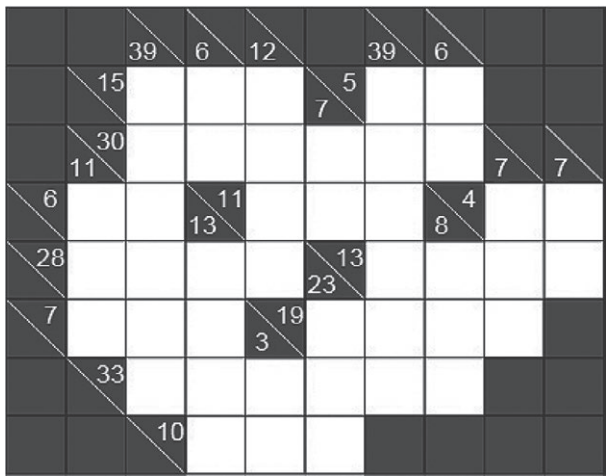
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Courtesy of John Barnhart

**The founding members** of the Penn State Glee Club gather in 1894. The club is celebrating its 135th anniversary this year.

### Kakuro

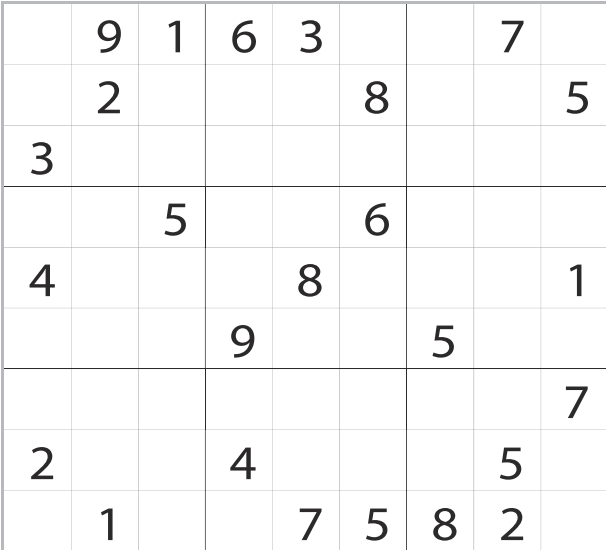


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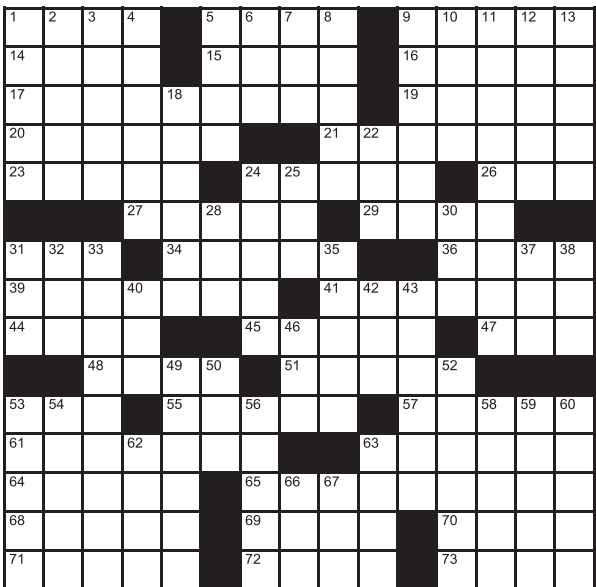
#### Crime Scene Investigation

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Evidence  
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Fingerprints  
Forensics  
Gun  
Hair  
Identify

Investigate  
Knife  
Microscope  
Murder  
Poison  
Police  
Residue  
Sample  
Scene  
Suspect  
Test  
Tissue  
Tracks  
Weapon  
Wounds

### Crossword



#### Across

- 1 Stew ingredients
- 5 Fast planes
- 9 The basic unit of money in Libya
- 14 Porcelain clay
- 15 Turn \_\_\_ profit
- 16 Building material
- 17 Common southcentral Asian mammal
- 19 Perfect, or normal, feather
- 20 Ford model
- 21 In writing
- 23 1976 Streisand flick, “\_\_\_ is Born”
- 24 Student
- 26 Escort’s offering
- 27 Rap sheet listing
- 29 It has a head and hops
- 31 Head honcho
- 34 Off-the-cuff
- 36 Sweetheart
- 39 Turn to one’s advantage
- 41 Leporides
- 44 Like centenarians
- 45 Bluenose
- 47 Linda \_\_\_, Supergirl’s alias
- 48 Abominable

#### Snowman

- 51 Where to get down
- 53 Cricket wicket
- 55 Club publication
- 57 Breakfast bread
- 61 Purchase order
- 63 Panhandle site
- 64 In the buff
- 65 Letter opener
- 68 Baseball datum
- 69 Lady of Spain
- 70 Mermaid feature
- 71 Stew seasoning
- 72 Catchall abbr.
- 73 Peccadilloes

#### Down

- 1 Kind of salad
- 2 Fitzgerald and others
- 3 More or less
- 4 Small-time dictator in ancient Persia
- 5 Barbed comments
- 6 Helm heading
- 7 Leaves in a bag
- 8 Razor sharpener
- 9 Color with streaks or blotches
- 10 Creative spark
- 11 One of a kind
- 12 Baseball’s Doubleday

- 13 Fortify again
- 18 Cry of triumph
- 22 Pen point
- 24 Small vascular growth
- 25 Mentalist Geller
- 28 Ore, neighbor
- 30 Outward flow
- 31 Actress Thurman
- 32 Henpeck
- 33 Comical approval
- 35 UCLA player
- 37 Did lunch
- 38 Draw upon
- 40 Dutch city
- 42 Recipe instruction
- 43 Weevil, e.g.
- 46 New Deal prog.
- 49 Walk unsteadily
- 50 Ill temper
- 52 Dinner choices
- 53 Pioneer in Surrealism
- 54 Poet’s “below”
- 56 Rank
- 58 Very, in music
- 59 Coil of yarn
- 60 Asian weight units
- 62 Paper purchase
- 63 \_\_\_ Sea (Amu Darya’s outlet)
- 66 Morse E
- 67 Morse E

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MY VIEW | JULIA FREDERICK

# Being an introvert at a ‘party school’

“You’re going to Penn State? Julia, that’s a party school.”

It’s no secret that I’m not exactly the most extroverted person in the world. My idea of a fun Friday night is eating ice cream while watching ‘80s coming-of-age movies in my pajamas.

Still, it stung a little bit to hear that while sitting at my high school lunch table in senior year. It made me feel like I was doing college wrong, and I hadn’t even set foot on campus yet.

According to Niche, Penn State is ranked No. 12 on its “2025 Top Party Schools in America.”

Thus, when I announced to

family and friends that I would spend the next four years in Happy Valley, I was met with a similar shocked reaction.

Since Penn State is home to 70 fraternities and sororities, I thought the perfect college experience involved going out every night. It seemed like the only way to have fun in college meant frat parties and beer pong.

At a school of over 40,000, it’s easy to feel that pressure. Sometimes, it felt like if you didn’t partake in the party culture, you were in the wrong place.

One of the many things I’ve learned as a third-year student is that you get to define what your ideal experience looks like. Don’t let someone else define your definition of fun.

If you enjoy going to frats and socials, have a blast! However, if

it isn’t your thing, that’s OK!

You don’t have to have any big parties lined up to have a good time. There’s nothing wrong with preferring a quiet night in.

Some of my fondest Penn State memories are weekends spent doing movie nights, laid-back pizza dinners and album-listening hangouts with a couple of friends.

Don’t think any less of yourself if you aren’t a fan of loud, crowded rooms with a bunch of people. Just because the media portrays college in that way, doesn’t mean you have

to conform to the stereotype.

Of course, every once in a while it’s important to try something new and venture outside your comfort zone.

You can’t say you don’t like something if you never try it. I’m forever grateful to my roommate for pushing me to break out of my shell.

Though it often takes a bit of convincing to get me to leave the comfort of the apartment, I appreciate her bringing me to tag along on her adventures.

I do love going to tailgates during football season and parties that my friends host. That being said, I also value having time to myself to relax and have a night of doing nothing.

It’s important to know yourself and to have that balance.

Everyone recharges their batteries differently. For some, that’s a big night out on the town. For others, it’s unwinding at home.

No matter what you choose to do on the weekend, as long as you feel happy and fulfilled, you’re doing college right.

**Julia Frederick** is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. She is a third-year majoring in English with a minor in technical writing and a business fundamentals certificate. Email her at [Jmf7052@psu.edu](mailto:Jmf7052@psu.edu) and follow her on X at [@julia75826](https://twitter.com/julia75826).



Cartoons by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | JADZIA SANTIAGO

# The importance of books

Whenever someone asks me how I developed my writing skills to the level they’re at

now, my answer is always quite simple: I read a lot as a kid.

People always tilt their heads at me when I say that, as if there’s got to be more to it. But besides the standard level of practice that allows any craft to develop, I owe it all to books.

Nothing else, just standard ink and paper.

Yes, I’m serious. When I was a kid, there were two things you could rely on me having in my little hands — my favorite stuffed animal and a book.

I think it goes without saying that I grew up relatively solitary. I was riddled with social anxiety and ended up a quiet kid, but my books made sure that my brain was still developing.

Whenever I talked to the people I was comfortable with, my reading habits made sure that I spoke fluently and expanded my vocabulary.

Books also developed my mind in other ways. The nonfiction I read answered questions my parents and teachers couldn’t, and expanded on what I was learning in science and history class.

The fiction I read also helped me recognize wrongdoing when it was happening. I grew up

with some bad examples around me, but I held true to the themes I saw in my books — themes of friendship, acceptance and social justice.

When push came to shove, reading and writing books and poetry also helped me accept myself when others didn’t.

Recently, I’ve seen conversations around censorship. It came up often with my colleagues when I was a reporter, and as the president of a slam poetry club, I know that we discuss this often in general body meetings.

Originally, I was going to point out how seemingly absurd some of the books on the American Library Association’s list of most frequently challenged books from 2010-2019 are.

I mean, the “Bad Kitty” series? What could possibly be wrong about that?

But then I stopped myself, not only because I could talk myself to death navigating all of the nuances and accounting for every counterargument, but also because it all comes down to one simple truth — banning any written work sets a dangerous precedent. Yes, you read that right.

Does that mean that I don’t think that there are some books, articles and more out there with deplorable messaging? Absolutely not.

However, I’m a firm believer in the First Amendment, which means that I don’t deny these pieces’ right to exist or be read. Because, truth be told, I’m not afraid of their ideas.

I believe that with media literacy and a strong foundation in respect, kindness and growth, written works themselves pose no danger. I don’t deny that they can have influence, but when they do, there are usually other factors at play.

More often than not, written works lead individuals closer to the truth, rather than away from it. Books were critical to my development as a child, and I’m sure I’m not the only one who feels that way.

There have also been written works that have changed the world and led us toward a more developed, compassionate society.

I also think that we should be allowed to criticize these works, which is impossible if we can’t read them. Even the most deplorable, disgusting pieces can spark productive conversation.

Thus, we cannot get rid of pieces of writing simply because we don’t like them or disagree with their ideas, because that’s all subjective.

I believe that within the parameters that already exist, such as age categories and content warnings, individuals should be able to choose what they read.

For me, reading books I both agreed and disagreed with helped me develop media literacy and discernment — skills that I apply to my everyday life. Reading nonfiction has helped me learn about myself and the world around me.

As a mental health and wellness reporter, I spoke to people who had limited access to information and media surrounding their experiences. From what they shared, I know that the consequences of this censorship are devastating.

I also know that the ability to share these stories is something that these individuals don’t take lightly, and something that they believe is crucial to ending stigma and helping others with similar experiences.

I’ve been warned by my peers that this column might be taken as a political stance. But arguing against the censorship of ideas should not be political or partisan — it’s in the United States Constitution.

As college students about to enter the workforce, free access to information and ideas affects all of us. The ability to spread our ideas is part of what allows us to not only function in our day-to-day lives, but also make strides forward.

Little kids reading books to their favorite stuffed animals are not a threat to a good society. In fact, they show us something that we all need to see — a path forward.

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for verification. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Members of organizations must include their titles if the topic they write about is connected with the aim of their groups. The Collegian reserves the right to edit letters. The Collegian cannot guarantee publication of all letters. Letters chosen run on The Daily Collegian website and may be selected for publication in the print edition. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

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# ‘I haven’t played my best yet’

*Abdul Carter’s full-circle journey from linebacker to defensive end at Penn State*

By Lyle Alenstein  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Abdul Carter screamed off the edge, stretching his arms and blocking a swing pass from the opposing quarterback during his freshman year at La Salle College High School.

“It kind of goes up in the air and it falls on the ground,” Carter’s former coach John Steinmetz recalled. “And I joke with him, I’m like, ‘next time just catch it.’”

Carter couldn’t come down with the pigskin that time, but shortly after, he did.

“In the second half of that game, they threw the same play going the other way, and he caught the ball in midair as an outside linebacker rushing,” Steinmetz said.

Before his freshman year, Carter toured La Salle with his dad. Steinmetz said Carter was a quiet kid doing his “due diligence” to figure out if it made sense to play football there. He was making the transition from a neighborhood school to a private school and was “shy” and “reserved.”

But nothing was reserved about his style of play, attacking everything he did with a purpose.

“When we were in the weight room, his squat was just off the charts,” Steinmetz said. “I think he broke the record for freshman squat and his high jump.”

The Glenside, Pennsylvania, native broke out on the recruiting scene during his junior year and began to rack up interest left and right. He picked up offers from schools like Ole Miss, Michigan, LSU and USC, but ultimately decided to remain in the Keystone State by taking his talents to Penn State.

Carter was recruited to become a defensive end by James Franklin, which wasn’t the vision he had in mind.

“He thought I was originally a defensive end, but me and my dad were adamant that I was a linebacker, which I was,” Carter said.

While he was being pitched to play a position he didn’t plan on switching over to, Franklin’s plan



Caleb Craig/Collegian file photo

**Linebacker Abdul Carter (11)** stands over a Purdue player during Penn State football’s win against Purdue on Sept. 1, 2022.

didn’t stray him from Penn State.

“I never changed my mind,” Carter said. “Once I felt like this was my home, this was the place that I wanted to be, I was going to be here.”

He debuted as a linebacker, starting in six games his freshman season and totaling 56 tackles with 10.5 for loss, a team-leading 6.5 sacks, five quarterback hurries, four pass breakups and two forced fumbles. The dominant rookie campaign landed him a spot on a handful of Freshman All-American Teams, but it was a tough start for his career wearing blue and white.

In his first game at Penn State, Carter stepped onto the gridiron on the road against Purdue and delivered a mean hit on Purdue playmaker Tyrone Tracy Jr. early in the second quarter. While the play broke up the pass, he was ejected for targeting.

“To be ejected on my first snap, it just felt like I was killed inside,” Carter said during the 2022 Rose Bowl media day. “I was just down, but I bounced back from it. I moved on. I got stronger. I learned from my mistake and was moving on from it.”

It was a learning moment for the young linebacker, but he didn’t let it affect him as he

dominated for the rest of the season and ended as a Rose Bowl champion.

His sophomore season was no different, where he started in all 13 games and tallied 48 tackles with 5.5 for loss, six pass breakups, five quarterback hurries, 4.5 sacks, a forced fumble and an interception. He was named first-team All-Big Ten from the coaches and was second-team All-American by Sports Illustrated.

After two successful years at linebacker, a position change for Carter was made public on Feb. 15. He switched to defensive end, the position he was initially recruited to play at Penn State.

“I remember when we recruited Abdul, I thought he was a defensive end,” Franklin said in February. “And Abdul and his dad were adamant that he was a linebacker. The reality is we just wanted (Carter) in our program and knew he was going to be a really good player wherever he decided to play. But this wasn’t really something from us. This was Abdul, he really wanted to make this move I think for a number of reasons, and we’re excited about it.”

The first look at Carter playing defensive end came in the Blue-

White Game. Following the game, he said the change gave him the ability to play to his strengths.

“This is a chance for me to do what I do best, which is get after the quarterback,” Carter said. “Play fast and I don’t have to think, just do what I do best and just get paid.”

It was an adjustment period for Carter at first. He was often penalized for being offside early in the season.

Additionally, he wasn’t putting up numbers that he usually produced. His impact on the game was still being felt, but he said early in the season that “the best is yet to come.”

As his comfort at defensive end grew, so did his production. In turn, he’s become a force to be reckoned with off the edge.

“Abdul is a terror, even still transitioning in his first year at D-end,” former Penn State linebacker Brandon Bell said. “With more time there, his production level and everything would just be higher than what it is now, but he still makes a difference. You see that the clock on the quarterbacks is kind of turned up — internal clock, the pressure rate is up. They feel him no matter where he’s at.”

Carter was recruited by for-

mer defensive coordinator Brent Pry and spent two seasons under Manny Diaz, who was also the linebackers coach. Now, he gets to work with Deion Barnes as a defensive lineman, which hits home a bit for Carter as the pair are both Philadelphia natives.

“He’s been one of the most important pieces to my success, the things he taught me, the mentality he has going about his business, the way he works, the way he pushes us to work,” Carter said.

With the help of Barnes, Carter has turned into a disruptive presence at his new position and has certainly turned up a notch as of late. In the last two games against Washington and Ohio State, the junior has piled up 10 tackles, four sacks and a forced fumble, giving opposing offensive lines headaches.

“Every time he goes out there he’s gonna embarrass them, and he does,” tackle Anthony Donkoh said.

His success on the gridiron has brought out a different version of himself. Safety Jaylen Reed said he’s seen “Abdul way more happier than he was in the past.” He followed it up with “damn, D-end was where he’s supposed to be at.”

But it’s not just his teammates noticing this. Carter also said he’s having a good time at his new spot.

“Just fun to be able to move around, being in different places, offenses not knowing where I’m at all the time,” Carter said.

It’s been a long road to becoming the caliber of player he is today. After two years of dominating at linebacker, Carter is doing the same in his first season at defensive end and will look to keep it rolling against Purdue this weekend, at the same stadium he faced his first collegiate action.

“Just feel like I’m still getting better,” Carter said. “There’s still much to learn and I haven’t played my best football yet.”

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# Puffing his chest

By Will Horstman  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Puff Johnson appears stronger three games into the 2024-25 season.

Johnson put his newly obtained strength on display Tuesday night, dropping a career-high 20 points that powered Penn State to a 92-62 victory over Saint Francis in the Bryce Jordan Center.

“(Puff’s) just stronger,” coach Mike Rhoades said. “He’s always played hard, he’s always been physical and tough. Now you’re stronger, tougher, with 15 (more) pounds of muscle behind you.”

Johnson made his presence known in more ways than one. Yanic Konan Niederhauser found himself in early foul trouble, forcing Rhoades to use a small-ball game plan with Johnson running the five.

“Puff was a warrior today,” Rhoades said. “Not just because he scored, but (because) he battled.”

At the five position, Johnson was a threat on the perimeter — a skill typical centers don’t possess. With Saint Francis’ defense often having to respect Johnson’s shooting ability, it opened up the court for the rest of the offense.

“I feel like it opens up the paint because I play on the perimeter,” Johnson said. “It opens up driving lanes for all of our perimeter guys. I’m not really on the block much, so it just opens up the game a little more and creates a lot of spacing for guys like Ace and Nick and Freddie and Zach to get downhill.”

Points in the paint was one key factor in the 30-point differential. Penn State’s 46 paint points outclassed the Red Flash, who totaled 26.

Beyond the arc, Johnson contributed to the 3-point efforts right away, sinking a 3-pointer to cap an 11-0 Penn State run to start the first half. Johnson cashed in two more threes throughout the game, shooting 75% from downtown.

One of his other threes came at the most crucial time of the game. Saint Francis took a 34-33 lead with 2:17 left in the first half, but Johnson sank a critical 3-pointer just 20 seconds later to retake the advantage.

The one-point deficit was the first time this season the Nittany Lions trailed in a game. It remained to be seen how they would respond to adversity, but Johnson silenced any doubts.

“That’s the number one thing we got to learn,” Rhoades said. “We got to deal with adversity at a high level.”

Just moments after his three to take back the lead, Johnson recorded a steal and layed in a basket despite getting fouled, shifting momentum to the blue and white.

While Saint Francis kept it close for a few more minutes, Penn State began to turn up the heat in the second half, powering it to a large advantage.

“We just had to pick up more full court and just turn and use our athleticism, use our depth,” Johnson said. “That’s one thing that we could have used more in the first half.”

After being held to just below the 20-point mark multiple times, Johnson shattered the milestone, reaching 20 points on two free throws late in the game.

“(Puff) just told me he had 19 (points) so many times,” Ace Baldwin Jr. said. “I’m proud of him, happy for him, and if it weren’t for him tonight, our 3-point percentage wouldn’t be so good.”

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Esteban Marengo/Collegian

**Carter Starocci** is declared the winner at 174 pounds during the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship on March 23, 2024.

# Class changes

By Andrew Deal  
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Following a historical national championship season, Penn State has made some changes to the weight classes, which means significant adjustments to the starting lineup.

“Even with losing some really good guys, I think this team could even be better,” Carter Starocci said.

Starocci made the jump from 174 to 184 pounds for his final season — a move the Erie, Pennsylvania, native has taken to heart.

“(Carter) won four national titles before at 174, but it’s getting tougher and tougher for him to keep that weight down,” coach Cael Sanderson said.

Starocci said he’s finally comfortable in his weight compared to always having to worry about making weight at 174 pounds for four seasons.

“I feel like it’s my natural weight,” Starocci said. “Coaches wanted me to go to 184 last year, but I get pretty stubborn at times with things like that.”

Now in his final year with the Nittany Lions, Starocci will be at the weight class that coaches have been wanting him to move to for years.

Another player that’s found instant success in the blue and white is Levi Haines. The Arundtsville, Pennsylvania, native is already a two-time Big Ten Champion and the reigning

NCAA Champion at 157 pounds.

However, Haines won’t be defending his championship in that weight class, making a major jump up two weight classes to compete at 174 pounds. Haines will replace Starocci’s legendary run in an attempt to tally a fifth straight season with a Penn State wrestler winning at 174 pounds.

“(Levi) is just disciplined enough and does everything right,” Sanderson said.

Sophomore Braeden Davis made the jump from 125 to 133 pounds. What makes this move interesting is the 133-pound weight class is more competitive in the Penn State wrestling room.

However, Davis has taken the competition by storm, as he battles it out with last year’s starter, Aaron Nagao.

“We have a lot of good kids that believe in themselves and are going to compete hard, and I think initially, Davis has definitely kind of jumped out as that frontrunner,” Sanderson said.

When allowing wrestlers to take a jump in weight classes, the Nittany Lions have found some success over the years.

“We’ve had a lot of success with our guys going up over the years,” Sanderson said. “There’s a lot of wrestling and for our kids to feel good enough to focus on improving every day instead of trying to manage their weight.”

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Katelyn Supancik/Collegian

**Forward Puff Johnson** goes up for a shot during open media practice at the Bryce Jordan Center on October 23, 2024.





Noah Aberegg/Collegian

**Penn State guard Freddie Dillione V** shoots the basketball during a game against St. Francis.



Ryan Copeland/Collegian

**Cecily Zhu**, the Sustainable Transportation Program manager, demonstrates how to use a bike rack during the Winter Bike Workshop at The Bike Den.

# WEEKLY SHUTTER



Joey Tiger/Collegian

**Lily Mayer**, a third-year studying data sciences and statistical modeling, ziplines on the HUB Lawn on Nov. 11, 2024. Penn State's Student Programming Association set up a pop-up zipline for students.



Jonah Richmond/Collegian

**The guitarist for Sam Barber** performs during a concert in Eisenhower Auditorium on Nov. 7, 2024.



jonah Richmond/Collegian

**Riley Schmidt and Kate Ross**, first-years in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, grab markers during a Letters of Love club meeting.



Kayla McCullough/Collegian

**A member of Penn State's Sketchbook Club** folds a sketchbook during a club meeting on Nov. 8, 2024 in University Park, Pa. Members of the club bind their own sketchbooks and draw together at weekly meetings.



Noah Aberegg/Collegian

**ROTC Cadets** stand in front of Old Main during a Veteran's Day ceremony.

*Performances,  
love letters and  
sketchbooks  
surround White Out*



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

**Ririka Kukori and Ronnie Spoto** perform as Johanna and Anthony in Penn State Centre Stage's production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."



Kate Hildebrand/Collegian

**Madeline Glave and Ethan Peterson** perform as Mrs. Lovett and Sweeney Todd in Penn State Centre Stage's production of "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

**The sun** sets over Beaver Stadium before the White Out game against Washington on Nov. 9, 2024 in University Park, Pa. Penn State beat Washington 35-6.



Luke Kupstas/Collegian

**A fan** tailgates outside Beaver Stadium before the White Out game.



Kevin Cheng/Collegian

**Tight end Tyler Warren** warms up before the White Out game.