

Branch campus students react to funding cuts

By Kahlie Wray
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor's Note: One of the names in this story has been changed to protect the identity of the individual involved. The Daily Collegian has verified through fact checking this individual exists.

As Penn State looks to the future, President Neeli Bendapudi and her senior leadership team have announced plans to modernize the institution's business model.

According to a release, Bendapudi said she and her team "will continue to make strategic investments where they will have the most impact on our mission and

identify new revenue streams to build an even stronger future for Penn State."

While it's projected that budget reductions will be seen across the board, the commonwealth campuses will seemingly take the largest hit with a projected \$54 million reduction in funding.

Katri Marcus said the commonwealth campuses "need more funding," not less.

Marcus, a third-year studying plant sciences, attended Lehigh Valley, one of 20 commonwealth campuses before transferring to University Park as a part of the 2+2 program.

Because she initially didn't

know what she wanted to study, Marcus said starting at a smaller campus and paying less money was the smarter option.

Though she was at a smaller campus, she still felt like "a Penn State student," as campus engagement was high.

"It felt like Penn State high school because everybody knows everybody," she said. "You could gain a better connection with professors than (at University Park) because they were able to know you better."

However, Marcus said the small nature of the campus came with some faults.

She said often the dining hall

and restaurants like Starbucks would have to close early because "they didn't have the resources or students to keep it open."

Regardless, Marcus thinks Penn State should find a way "to expand Lehigh Valley and focus on getting more students enrolled."

In a release, Matt Melvin, vice president for enrollment management, said, "Penn State is focused on new strategies to grow enrollments at all campuses amid changing student expectations and preferences."

Melvin said marketing and recruitment efforts are just a few of many initiatives proposed to

combat the decline in enrollment at commonwealth campuses.

Jane, a student who wished to remain anonymous due to fear of retaliation, said she thinks Penn State shouldn't even "have the commonwealth campuses."

Jane began her Penn State journey at Altoona then transferred to University Park after two years for the remainder of her undergraduate career.

When Jane first came to University Park, she was under the impression that the campus had sufficient funding but "learned that's not the case."

See **BUDGET**, page 3.



Esteban Marceno/Organization

The audience awaits the commencement of the Women in Policing and Public Safety panel discussion in the HUB-Robeson Center on Jan. 18.

30x30 increases UPPS female representation

By Rachael Keller
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's University Police and Public Safety office signed on for the 30x30 initiative on Nov. 30, 2021, which went into effect across all of Penn State's campuses.

Currently, the national police force contains 12% female officers with 3% of these female officers in leadership positions. The 30x30 initiative's mission is to increase the female officer rate within recruiting classes to 30% by 2030.

The initiative provides UPPS with a six-, 12-, 18- and 24-month report, according to Iris Richardson, UPPS's director for diversity, equity and inclusion. In the following years, the precinct reports on demographic information and its progress.

Richardson has been working on the 30x30 initiative since the beginning after he and another colleague put together a proposal and presented it to their chief.

The 30x30 initiative is more than just hiring more female officers within the force, according to Richardson. Over the last two years, the UPPS has begun setting up many systems that align with the initiative's mission.

"There's action items that need to be completed," Richardson said. "From policies, to their uniforms, onboarding process, to promotion opportunities. Every tier there are opportunities to engage."

Recently, UPPS has implemented a "wellness room" for the female officers, which is located within the University Park's headquarters space.

Though there's not enough

space across all commonwealth campuses to implement a specific room, there's a locker room or private space for the women on the force. Along with this, the force also provides amenities for the female officers across all offices.

UPPS implemented female-cut vests, which are custom fitted for the officers, prior to several other departments.

Richardson also works closely with a small group to review policies to ensure there's nothing "targeting the ladies in our department."

Shelly Stevick, a community outreach officer within UPPS, said a colleague of hers was the only woman in her department.

"That's got to be awkward when you don't have anyone to talk to, not only about policing issues, but specifically female issues," Stevick said. "You don't have any supervisors or any co-workers that are on your same level that you can discuss something with as an officer or even just a female officer."

The 30x30 initiative has also prompted changes to "grooming" policies in the field.

"Now, our female officer's don't have to just wear nude-colored fingernail polish," Richardson said. "They can use whatever fingernail polish they want."

There's also been a push for more female-oriented events. UPPS recently held a women in policing event that 22 students with an interest in law enforcement attended.

Along with this, Richardson and Executive Deputy Chief Stephanie Delaney hold focus group sessions with female officers across all campuses.

"(It) is new, but something we are being very intentional about," Richardson said. "We meet with those ladies and talk about some of the things they want us to do."

Elyane said she never felt alienated as a female officer within UPPS, which has been a "comfort" for her throughout her career here.

Jacqueline Sheader, a public information officer, said it felt "really good" joining the force, knowing that it was a welcoming environment and the initiative was in progress.

"Everybody came out of the woodwork to help one another and support me as a woman," Sheader said.

Having worked with UPPS for a little over a year, Sheader felt reassured knowing that "everyone is (working) to make a difference".

"It's not an us versus them situation," Sheader said.

There are still six more years for the 30x30 initiative to reach its goal.

As of now, there are seven women out of 12 people within the department in leadership roles, 31 women working within the UPPS force and five women out of seven hired interns.

"That number is just a number to me, it's all of the other pieces that are important to me," Richardson said. "From the day they start to the day they leave our department ... that they feel supported, they feel good, and they are not dealing with all the nuances of being a minority within a majority."

To email reporter: rmk6131@psu.edu
Follow her on X [@ra_ch_ael](https://twitter.com/ra_ch_ael)

Lion's Pantry continues feeding community

By Reece Coren
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

With the withdrawal of COVID-19 programs underway, millions of college students across the country could potentially lose access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps, as life in the United States returns to normal.

During the pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture relaxed the requirements for college students to access SNAP benefits, adding as many as 3 million people to the program. But in July, those relaxed requirements expired, meaning the entire program will revert to pre-pandemic rules throughout 2024.

As food insecurity intensifies for students at campuses across the country, members of the Lion's Pantry are working to feed Penn State.

"The purpose of the Lion's Pantry is to serve any student or faculty member that has a Penn State ID," Nick DiPierro, the president of the Lion's Pantry, said. "The primary goal is to combat food insecurity, but we also support some federal programs — like SNAP"

DiPierro, a fourth-year studying finance, said SNAP eligibility is pivotal for college students experiencing food insecurity. He said the Lion's Pantry provides about 40,000 pounds of food per semester and serves about 9,000 clients each year.

"As college tuition increases, more and more students are going to be running into this problem of budgeting issues," DiPierro said. "It's a lot to handle — having a job, taking classes and then having to worry about basic dietary needs."

DiPierro said he understands some students may be uncomfortable asking for help or utilizing resources. He said the Lion's Pantry's top priority is to protect them.

"It's always completely anonymous to come and utilize the services of the pantry," DiPierro said. "All you need to do is present your ID."

He said members of the Lion's Pantry can even provide recommendations about what products to take and how much of each they might need, depending on the number of people in their household.

"We don't keep track of who you are or how many times you come," DiPierro said. "You can take as much as you want as frequently as you want."

To qualify for SNAP benefits, students must meet the following requirements: fall within certain income limits, not have a meal plan or have a meal plan that provides fewer than 10 meals per week on average per semester, and qualify for an exemption that can be based on their enrollment status, age, ability or status as a parent or a caretaker, among others.

"As long as nobody's claiming (them) as a dependent (on their tax forms), then most of the time that student is going to meet the income guidelines," Leanne Lenz, the associate director of Penn State's Student Care and Advocacy Office, said.

If a student's parent claims them as a dependent, she said their parents' income would then be evaluated based on the income guidelines.

Lenz said students may also be eligible for SNAP benefits if they qualify for and are using a work-study grant or if they have no expected family contribution on their federal student aid determination.

Students can apply for SNAP benefits online, over the phone by calling 1-866-550-4355 Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., or in person by submitting an application to their local county assistance office.

Once approved, the USDA's website provides both in-person and online locations — like Market East in Findlay Commons and Target at 201 W. Beaver Ave. — where students can use Electronic Benefit Transfer cards to access SNAP benefits.

Lenz said students who have questions or need assistance accessing SNAP benefits can visit the Student Care and Advocacy Office at 222 Boucke Building, call 814-863-2020 or email studentcare@psu.edu.

As food insecurity increases, DiPierro said it's crucial to get involved.

"Don't pass up opportunities to volunteer," DiPierro said. "For those of you in the community who haven't done as much volunteering as you might have liked, the door's always open."

See **SNAP**, page 3.



Chloe Trieff/Collegian

The Lion's Pantry is located on University Park's campus off of Big Hollow Road.

Memorial sparks conversation in SC

By Rivka Wolin
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Editor's Note: Some of the sources in this story have been granted anonymity to protect their identities. The Daily Collegian has verified through fact checking these individuals exist.

People's Defense Front, 3/20 Coalition and Penn State Students for Justice in Palestine hosted a rededication and community potluck event to speak about the life of Osaze Osagie and the war in Palestine.

Osagie, a 29-year-old Black man, died after being shot by a State College police officer serving a mental health warrant. More recently, a federal judge dismissed the family's lawsuit against the State College borough.

Yum Yum Abdul said Osaze Osagie's legacy is a "very big one."

"He was a Black autistic man with mental health issues. He was told he could never make it."

He went to Penn State. He also lived in a group home, and he was able to successfully leave the group home and get his own housing," Abdul, founder of 3/20 Coalition, said. "It's a shame that he was murdered so soon, because he wasn't done yet."

Abdul said Osagie's legacy lets "Black people with disabilities or people who have been minorities" know that "he can do these things, and that you can all do these things."

For Abdul, the rededication of Osagie's memorial means "revival, new life, new birth and justice" as it raises awareness for Penn State freshmen and sophomores who weren't students when Osagie was murdered.

"We're rededicating it so a whole group of new people know that your happy valley isn't always so happy," Abdul said.

According to Owen, Osagie's legacy is of "someone who was

trying to live a good life while being oppressed and disabled."

The community potluck was the second dedication of the memorial, according to Owen, and included pictures of Osagie, flowers and "pictures of other victims of police murder."

Cindy said she follows the People's Defense Front and saw a post about the support for Palestine event and Osagie memorial rededication.

"It is really sad how people don't know about Osaze especially since it is a college town," Cindy said.

Cindy said online, many people who aren't Black are disconnected from movements like Black Lives Matter because it isn't happening locally.

"It happens here, too, in your neighborhood," Cindy said.

According to Seonghek Kang, Osagie's legacy "rings resonant in the sense that this kind of macro structural oppression or injustice that we hear about police brutality or just any kind of occupational atrocities."

"They're not some kind of distant, far away world event that doesn't affect our community. It's right here in our face," Kang, a graduate student studying



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

A woman lays flowers next to a "Justice for Osaze" sign at the Rededication of the Justice for Osaze Memorial in State College.

history, said. "Which relates back to the issue of how Israel-Palestine falls together with the human rights issues in the U.S. ... They're inherently connected to each other."

Kang said this "systematic injustice or oppression" has "consequences," such as "political tumult," despite it happening

across the world.

"We as the people of conscience who come out for stuff like this are going to be the consequences for those kinds of actions," he said.

To email reporter: rbw5411@psu.edu.
Follow her on X at [@rivka_wolin](https://twitter.com/rivka_wolin).



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

The Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony Club hosts a Chanoyu Omotosenke event to teach students how to perform a traditional Japanese tea ceremony on Feb. 6 in University Park, Pa.

Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony Club hosts first ceremony

By Lara Schwartz
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State's Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony (Chanoyu) Club hosted its monthly Chanoyu Omotosenke Event on Feb. 6 in 34 Ritenour, the room dedicated to Penn State's three tea clubs.

Izumi Fothergill and Hiroko Tamanaha of The Omotosenke Domonkai Eastern Region USA travel to Penn State each month to host these events with the organization. This month, they showed students different ways to perform the ceremony while learning the art and etiquette of tea making.

There are three schools of Japanese Tea, and Penn State's Chanoyu Club explores two of them.

"We're actually the very first and the only organization that practices both schools at once,"

Sarah Leonard, a second-year studying graphic design, said. "During our normal lessons we learn the other school versus here at our events we learn Omotosenke."

During the event, attendees and club members were split into two groups, each learning a different level of Omotosenke with the instructors.

"This is the Hatsugama event, which is the first ceremony of the new year," Finn Burns said.

Burns, the club's education director, was "happy" with the participant turnout.

"Everyone loves to come once," they said.

Penn State also has two other tea clubs, Gongfu Cha, the traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony club, and Darye, the traditional Korean Tea Ceremony club. Burns is a member of all three.

"I think the biggest inherent difference is the tea is made differently," Burns said. "Chanoyu is powdered tea, Darye is loose leaf but its processing is different than Gongfu's, but Gongfu has the most amounts of tea."

Many members participated in multiple of the tea clubs.

"I joined (Japanese Tea Club) from the club fair and saw there's also the Korean Tea Club and Chinese Tea Club," Krizza Wilder said. "I was like, 'I'll just try them all.'"

After the event, attendees gather to eat a meal prepared by the visiting teachers.

"It's very tight knit, I felt very welcomed here," Wilder, a first-year studying criminology, said. "Everyone here is super nice."

To email reporter: lms7197@psu.edu.
Follow her on X at [@alaraschwartz27](https://twitter.com/alaraschwartz27).

Alum, artist crafts future in LA

By Kaitlyn Murphy
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Right in the heart of sunny Los Angeles, artist and Penn State alumna Erica Cruz spins a pottery wheel to craft her next work of art.

Ceramics, painted vinyl records, jewelry and more can be found at Cruz Creations, the small business she started in 2020.

"It's kind of limitless with the creations that I make," Cruz said. "That's why I like my business name, Cruz Creations. It's not just 'Erica the Ceramicist' or 'Erica the Painter,' it's broader than that spectrum."

Cruz graduated from Penn State in 2018, where she studied advertising and art history. The combination of the two gave her an opportunity to combine creativity and marketing — tools critical to opening a small business.

Also during her time at Penn State, Cruz said she served as the promotion team captain for Movin' On, the annual student-run music festival.

where she is.

The artist moved to Los Angeles after graduating from Penn State to work as a marketing manager at Paramount Pictures, when an unexpected curveball was thrown her way.

"I got laid off," Cruz said. "That was the push from the universe that I needed in order to do art full time."

Since then, she's explored different mediums of art depending on what she's curious about or finds joy in at that time.

A project especially close to her heart is her painted vinyl series, where she takes a person's favorite album and uses the color palette to paint abstractly on the disc.

"When I released the project, I feel like I connected with everyone," Cruz said. "We are all unique and different but have a similar love for art and music together."

Experimentation is a major aspect of Cruz's artistic journey, and trying new things led her to discover pottery. She committed herself to the challenge, even when the wheel would "humble" her at times.

Carlo Antonio, Cruz's high school best friend and first roommate in Los Angeles, commented on her driven attitude.

"She will always see a plan through, I think that's important to know," Antonio said. "She will finish the job, she will drive miles and miles for a friend, everything she does is about embracing the journey and celebrating the end product no matter how good or bad."

Continue reading here:



Penn State Women in Business paves the way to success and brings together students and alumni

By Kate Hildebrand
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Smeal College of Business is home to over 8,000 students at Penn State. For women in college, Smeal and the business world can seem daunting.

Since 1997, Women in Business has provided people of all genders, especially women, a community within the college.

"When I came onto campus, I was kind of shy," Malena Nassif said. "Women in Business has been an incredible way to meet people and find my confidence."

Women in Business at Penn State is just one chapter of a nationwide organization. Nassif, a second-year studying business management, said WiB holds conferences to bring together students and alumni of the organizations.

Nassif said in 2008, after members of Penn State's WiB chapter attended a national conference, they felt it was tough to connect with alumni much older than them. They went to advis-

ers within Smeal and proposed a conference of their own.

"It was really started from scratch," Nassif said.

The Powerful Women Paving the Way conference, co-hosted by WiB and the Smeal, was first held in 2008. It's WiB's biggest event of the year, and though Smeal provides funding, WiB members do almost all of the planning themselves, Chandler Morin, PWPW conference director, said.

Nassif, logistics chair, said the conference stemmed from a desire to have more personal connections with like-minded college students. It has provided learning opportunities for many of the students involved.

Morin, a third-year studying finance, began preparing in the summer for the conference, which will be held April 18-19 at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center.

"It's been a very big learning experience," Morin said. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the conference and is WiB's liaison to Smeal and The

Penn Stater. "I'm at the forefront of communication."

Contributions Chair Lena Montalbano said she didn't have any experience contacting professionals before her current role. As contributions chair, she reaches out to businesses and sends out proposals for sponsorships. She writes invoices and collects payments.

The students running the conference aren't doing it alone.

Montalbano, a second-year studying supply chain and information systems, said she gets support from Brian Black, Smeal's director of corporate engagement, especially when companies don't follow up.

"It's nice to have an adult to back you up," Montalbano said. "Some people don't want to listen to a 19 year old."

This year's conference features three keynote speakers who will discuss the theme of the conference: "Believe In You."

Angela Shakur, Smeal graduate and director of purchasing and administration at ALDI will

speak on Thursday evening. On Friday, motivational speaker Liz Murray and Johnna Hayward, head of strategy and partnership marketing for the WNBA's New York Liberty, will speak.

Morin said all three speakers bring a "diverse perspective" to the theme of the conference.

"(The theme is) broad on purpose," she said. "It allows us to cover so much."

Montalbano said she's excited to "see what it's like from the planning perspective."

Thais Guerra, a second-year studying marketing, said the PWPW conference was "a fantastic way to network with women in the business sector and gain insight on how to conduct yourself in a professional environment."

"I'm ready to be inspired," Nassif said.

Register for the Powerful Women Paving the Way Conference here.

To email reporter: keh6075@psu.edu.
Follow her on X at [@kateehildebrand](https://twitter.com/kateehildebrand).

JOIN THE DAILY COLLEGIAN'S NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE THE TOP STORIES OF THE DAY



PSU Coffee Club brews community

By Julie Ann Caro
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

During her first year of college, President Mackenna Yount remembered looking for a club that peaked her interest and met consistently during COVID-19, so she signed up for the Penn State Coffee Club.

“It ended up opening my eyes to the side of coffee I didn’t know existed,” Yount, a fourth-year studying food science, said. “I only had a Keurig. I didn’t know a lot about specialty coffee, which is what our club focuses on.”

The Coffee Club, which meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays in HUB-Robeson Center 102, was established in 2015 after “splitting from the tea club.”

According to Yount, during each meeting the members of the club are served coffee and engage in coffee related topics.

“This week we talked about water chemistry and how the water that you use affects how coffee tastes,” Yount said. “(We have) short presentations and the rest of the time we just hang out with people who also love coffee.”

The club aims to pair the coffee being served to the specific topic

of each week.

“If we’re talking about coffee from a specific region of the world, we serve coffee from that region,” Yount said.

Youssef Boshra-Riad, the club’s treasurer, said the Coffee Club is “very open” to introducing things they aren’t familiar with, like coffees of different cultures.

“We’ve talked about Ethiopian coffee ceremonies,” Boshra-Riad, a fourth-year studying computer science, said. “We are spearheading a meeting this semester on Turkish coffee, where it came from and how it’s done differently from region to region.”

When first joining, Boshra-Riad noticed how “warm” and “friendly” the Coffee Club was.

“As an exec, I think one of the things that has been most important to us is keeping that alive,” Boshra-Riad said. “We want to make sure that an integral part of our club is ... making everyone feel like this is a space where they can be and are wanted.”

Event planner Riley McKean said the “beauty” of the Coffee Club is that it works “hand in hand” with education.

The Coffee Club’s brew team is in charge of the different types



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

Members of Penn State Coffee Club interact during a meeting on Jan. 25 in the HUB-Robeson Center.

of brewing for each meeting and teaches members how they can do it at home.

“Everyone has hands-on brewing,” McKean, a third-year studying hospitality management, said.

According to McKean the Coffee Club will be hosting its annual coffee crawl for the third year in a row.

“I reached out to all of the cafés we’re doing, and they’re actually partnering with us,” McKean said. “There’s going to be a select menu for each cafe, and (members) will get a free drink.”

The club’s coffee crawl will include Sowers Harvest Café, Vibe Coffee Co., Webster’s Bookstore Cafe and other shops in State College.

This year McKean “hopes” each member participating can buy a shirt with all the cafes they will visit on the back.

The Coffee Club plans to also have a formal this semester and do “collaborative events” with Penn State’s School of Hospitality Management.

In the past, the Coffee Club has collaborated with the HUB | Galleries.

“We did an event with HUB Galleries where we served coffee in the HUB to anyone passing by,” Yount said. “We talked about an exhibit that was still related to coffee, climate change and the environment in a coffee producing country.”

Recently, the Coffee Club attended the New York Coffee Convention which McKean “hopes is a new tradition.”

In the future, the club is looking to expand its efforts to different experiences like visiting coffee roasteries, partnering with different coffee related organizations and continuing to build a “great community.”

Budget

FROM page 1.

Jane said after she transferred to University Park, she wasn’t able to keep one of her scholarships.

“I think (Penn State) gives too much money to the commonwealth campuses and then University Park doesn’t have the funds for like financial aid,” Jane said “I feel like they should only keep the top-performing branch campuses.”

Neither Bendapudi nor her leadership team have announced plans to close any of the commonwealth campuses.

Margo DelliCarpini, vice president for commonwealth campuses, said Penn State is looking into options such as partnering with local community colleges and renting out facilities to aid in offsetting costs at branch campuses.

DelliCarpini is also the dean of Penn State Abington, which Jeneya Kamara said does a great job of supporting its students.

Kamara, a first-year studying biobehavioral health, said she chose the Abington campus because “it was closer to home and one of the more diverse campuses.”

“The community here is very welcoming, and we’re provided with lots of on-campus resources,” she said.

Kamara said Penn State should refrain from cutting the budget at branch campuses, and she “wishes” Penn State would take more input from students about “where they want to see change.”

“People at branch campuses shouldn’t have to feel like they should have applied to (University Park) because of lack of funding,” Kamara said. “At the end of day you’re still a Penn State student, and you should be able to feel like one no matter what campus you’re on.”

The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2026 will go before the Board of Trustees this July.

To email reporter: **kaw6568@psu.edu**.
Follow her on X @ **_wrageous**.

SNAP

FROM page 1.

One student who took advantage of her opportunity to volunteer is Madison Jackson.

Jackson, a second-year studying microbiology, is the outreach director for the Lion’s Pantry. She said she started by volunteering for Sunday work days during her first year at Penn State.

Jackson said the Lion’s Pantry’s main facility can be found off University Drive, next to the Intramural Fields. She said directions can be found on the Lion’s Pantry’s Instagram, under the fall semester stories tab.

If that’s too far, the Lion’s Pantry website provides a list of Cub Pantries located across

campus. Some locations include University Health Services, Pattee Library, the Gender Equity Center and the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center.

In Jackson’s eyes, student support is essential for the Lion’s Pantry.

“We don’t run without the students,” Jackson said. “We need people who are going to help us.”

Jackson encouraged interested students to explore some of the links provided by the Lion’s Pantry. For those who want to donate, she suggested looking over the Pantry’s Amazon wish list.

“The No. 1 thing that you can do is come out and volunteer,” DiPierro said. “It doesn’t necessarily have to be for the Lion’s Pantry, (just) showing up and putting in the time to help somebody that’s

struggling means a lot.”

Along with the Lion’s Pantry, DiPierro said the State College Food Bank and the YMCA of Centre County can also help people dealing with food insecurity. He encouraged students battling food insecurity to use as many resources as possible.

“Just buying one or two of those and dropping them off at the pantry ... makes a huge difference,” DiPierro said.

The Lion’s Pantry is open Monday through Thursdays, and its hours can be found online. Jackson said the Lion’s Pantry’s main facility can be found off University Drive, next to the Intramural Fields. She said directions can be found on the Lion’s Pantry’s Instagram, under the fall semester stories tab.

If that’s too far, the Lion’s Pantry website provides a list of Cub Pantries located across campus. Some locations include University Health Services, Pattee Library, the Gender Equity Center and the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center.

In Jackson’s eyes, student support is essential for the Lion’s Pantry.

“We don’t run without the students,” Jackson said. “We need people who are going to help us.”

Jackson encouraged interested students to explore some of the links provided by the Lion’s Pantry. For those who want to donate, she suggested looking over the Pantry’s Amazon wish list.

“The No. 1 thing that you can do is come out and volunteer,” DiPierro said. “It doesn’t necessarily

have to be for the Lion’s Pantry, (just) showing up and putting in the time to help somebody that’s struggling means a lot.”

Along with the Lion’s Pantry, DiPierro said the State College Food Bank and the YMCA of Centre County can also help people dealing with food insecurity. He encouraged students battling food insecurity to use as many resources as possible.

“Just buying one or two of those and dropping them off at the pantry ... makes a huge difference,” DiPierro said.

The Lion’s Pantry is open Monday through Thursdays, and its hours can be found online.

To email reporter: **rmc6019@psu.edu**.
Follow them on X @ **reececoren**.



LION'S LIST

BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT

ATTENTION

State College Women's Club Thrift Shop
Open Thursdays 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
902 S Allen St.

Kakuro

		20	34	12	16		21	16	11	8
14						30				
29						10				
4										
31				11	24	8				
	29						11			
	15							13		
	12							8		

The rules are easy:

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 can only be used once in any sequence.

Word Search

U.S. Rivers

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

American
Brazos
Carson
Charles
Colorado
Feather
Gila
Green
Hood
Hudson
James
Milk
Missouri
Mystic
Napa
Ohio
Osage

Pecos
Potomac
Powder
Red
Rogue
Ruby
Russian
Shasta
Snake
Trinity
Wabash
White
Willamette
Wind
Yellowstone
Yukon

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13						14					15			16
17						18				19				
		20		21				22				23		
		24			25		26				27			
28				29		30			31					
32				33				34		35		36	37	38
39			40		41				42		43			
44				45		46				47		48		
			49		50		51					52		
53	54	55				56			57		58			
59				60					61					
62			63				64	65	66		67		68	69
70						71					72			
	73					74					75			

- Across**
1 It goes with the flow
5 Mideast leaders
10 Children's game
13 Disney's " " and "the Detectives"
14 Old gold coin
15 Pertaining to
17 Fizzy drink
18 Time period
20 Down Under bird
22 Bunk
23 Wranglers alternative
24 Prosperous periods
26 Angler's aids
28 Halloween decoration
29 Home to the Palazzo
31 Jack of "Barney Miller"
32 " " Point, Guam
33 Whirls
35 Boy with a bow
39 Gym set
41 Lustrous fabric
43 Kind of dropper
44 Sound from the fold
46 Bulls and bucks
48 Country singer
Tillis
- 49 de guerre
51 Hawkeye State
52 Psychoanalysis subject
53 Finger problem
57 Gawk
59 Colorado Indian
60 Get it wrong
61 And so forth (Abbr.)
62 Nitty-gritty, to some
67 Mixed bag
70 "Your majesty"
71 Small ornamental handbags
72 Oscar winner
Sorvino
73 Gray of "Gray's Manual of Botany"
74 Dweebs
75 Petty quarrel
- 11 Leg joint
12 Welcome
16 Fr. seasons
19 Specific (Legal)
21 Strike callers
24 Breakfast item
25 Nurses a drink
26 Afterdeck
27 Content word
28 Cutting remark
30 Thailand, once
34 Fodder holder
36 It holds things together
37 Corporate concern
38 Showroom model
40 Warbled
42 Tidings
45 Shades
47 Fill to the gills
50 Agile slender-bodied sable
53 Centers of activity
54 Places in the heart
55 Approaches
56 Livid
58 Itsy-bitsy bits
63 Where the buoys are
64 Blackguard
65 Youngster
66 Snake's sound
68 A Gershwin
69 Granola morsel
- Down**
1 " " Cayes, Haiti
2 "Love" (Lat.)
3 Recording medium
4 Memorable mission
5 Ship schedule (Abbr.)
6 Beer holder
7 Diamonds, to some
8 Spiritual leader
9 Emphasize
10 Twitch

Branch campus budget cuts blur Penn State’s vision

It’s no secret Penn State is facing budget cuts, and its commonwealth campuses are now in the strike zone. Despite making significant financial decisions, the university has failed to clearly outline its path.

After announcing a \$54 million budget slate to commonwealth campuses, Penn State President Neeli Bendapudi stressed a “need for change” within the university. But jargon and speculation dominated Penn State’s message, as no clear actions were proposed to combat the budget cuts.

Penn State’s 20 commonwealth campuses are essential to its business model — bringing in revenue and educating students across the state. These campuses enrolled 32.5% of university-wide students in 2023.

While a bulk of the undergraduate population resides at University Park, the

OUR VIEW

Budget cuts will cause imbalance in educational experience

commonwealth campuses allow students to pick which campus is the best fit for them, based on location, price and size.

Despite their value, the future for branch campuses doesn’t look promising as enrollment drops and budgets go out the back door. But Penn State has yet to admit what exactly the future looks like — providing no clear answer on if the campuses will close.

If these campuses cave in, it appears enrollment will either take a hit or shift primarily to University Park.

The university said it will not invest in University Park at the expense of the Commonwealth Campuses, yet it shared a goal to boost first-year enrollment to 10,000 at University Park.

The proposed enrollment increase is unrealistic for an already unsustainable university housing scene. Limited space, high prices and breakneck lease signing are only a few factors that students have stressed about housing.

Penn State’s goal to centralize places University Park in the driver’s seat for the most

resources and leave interest and investment in commonwealth campuses in the dust.

With this, the Penn State education will become more inaccessible, discouraging or directly cutting out a large population of students unable to access or afford it. Budget cuts will create more loss within the commonwealth campuses — especially in enrollment and campus resources.

Branch campus students shouldn’t feel like they’re missing out on priority resources and experiences found only at

University Park. This could pivot prospective students’ decisions on where to attend college.

Whatever the fate of these campuses may be, the university will have to adapt its business model and communicate.

As no changes are made for its president’s office or strategic communication departments, large cuts, especially to the commonwealth and student resources, feel unmatched and unexplained.

While Penn State stresses the importance of “prioritizing students at the forefront of every decision,” its words don’t align with its actions.

Currently, Penn State’s vision is blurry. It leaves students and families confused about the future of the institution. Change is necessary, yet this change feels uncalculated.

MY VIEW | ELLA FREDA

Tips to save humiliation in Paris

I landed at the Charles de Gaulle Airport in my typical airport fashion — disheveled, starving and already having been awake for more than 30 hours.

After my Uber driver took the long way around a protest (“Welcome to France” — or “WTF” around here), I arrived at the quaint, quiet street I’d get to call home.

Though I hoped I wouldn’t, I found myself having a very American reaction to its appearance. I was surprised to see it wasn’t somehow an amalgamation of every Hollywood set I’d seen before.

The buildings weren’t Haussmannien, but I was thrilled to be there.

After forcing my bulky bags through the windy stairwell, I entered my “sous les toits” (under the roof) attic apartment. There was only one problem.

I say the phrase “because it matters” when discussing height sometimes, to make fun of the men who make fun of women for thinking they care about height. However, in this case, height truly did matter because I was a 6-foot-2 individual moving into an apartment with 4-foot ceilings.

Since arriving, I have typed “concussion protocol” into my phone more than any other Google search.

As I looked around my new

place, I realized it was also lacking some necessities aside from headroom. Namely: toilet paper, towels and bedding. Thus, I was forced to venture into the streets of the 13th arrondissement in search of what I hoped would be a Walmart-adjacent establishment.

Before I go any further, I should mention my exchange program has been very accommodating in easing our transition — providing an all-day lecture about the do’s and don’ts of Paris life.

Unfortunately, though, the lecture was on Day 2. Here are all the things I learned on Day 1 — the hard way.

There is no Walmart

Right off the bat.

Grocery stores have rules

Just as I’d imagine a French person would be perplexed by our megastores and robot deliveries, there is some adjusting to do, even when buying food.

There is a scale that gives you a sticker for your fruit and veggies, and milk and eggs aren’t refrigerated items so you probably aren’t going to find them in the refrigerated section. Interestingly, shaving razors require an ID to purchase, and even over-the-counter medicine is often only sold at pharmacies.

The biggest grocery store rule, though, is that you bring

your own bag. As I found out, there isn’t much a worker can do for you when you’ve finished scanning 14 items only to discover there aren’t bags under the self-checkout machine.

If you want to buy a reusable bag, grab one before heading to check out.

Also, fair warning, grocery stores usually close around 8 p.m. and don’t open at all on Sundays.

Saying “Hello” has rules

The word “bonjour” doesn’t just mean hello. It means you exist. Therefore, you should say it every time you enter an establishment, even if it means saying it 50+ times a day. From the worker’s perspective, not saying bonjour either means you’re incredibly rude or are, worst case, casing the store.

You should also know that after a certain point (though it is up to you to guess when), you should switch from “bonjour” to “bonsoir” to say “good evening” instead.

If you say either too early or too late, you will be met with some forceful responses to what are, ultimately, kind words. I’ve been going off the amount of light outside and have still been corrected several times.

Don’t French-ify English words

There are many similarities between English and French and it’s fun to find the Latin links. However, when you’re in a conversation and can’t remember a word, do your best to circumvent it instead of using the English word with a Parisian accent.

French-speakers will thank you for this one because I accidentally said something overtly sexual to a sweet old woman. Remember that they are, after all, two separate languages.

Months and days are flipped

I knew this one going into it, but it didn’t stop me from showing up to an event on the wrong day.

Books: Great. Phone: OK. Computer: Never.

Unless you’re at a designated computer-friendly cafe, you should never use your computer in public. This was a shock to someone who used to only go to restaurants on Beaver Avenue when she needed to lock in and finish a bunch of essays.

In Paris, having a computer out at a restaurant is seen as disrespectful to the food and workers, and having a computer out on public transport means you’ve decided you don’t want your computer anymore. The nice part is that, as a result, I’ve seen more people reading than I ever have in my life. It’s incredibly charming to see hundreds of people reading on public transport, at cafés and in parks. I’ve found it’s the city of lights, the city of love and, unofficially, the city of livres (books).

Get yourself a good RBF

This is the most important rule. I learned that eye contact carries more weight here and definitively means you want the person to come up and talk to you. This is great at a restaurant when you want to request the check quickly, but less ideal when it is literally anyone else.

Therefore, around strangers, you should look as disinterested and generally off-putting as you can to protect yourself and also those around you. Employ your trusty Resting Bitch Face (RBF) on the street, in the metro and especially around tourists at famous sites.

This concept also applies to keeping your valuables in an inside pocket and never responding to questions. If anyone approaches you in public, you are to respond with “chez pas”

als. Penn State students write and edit both papers and solicit advertising for them.

During the fall and spring semesters as well as the second six-week summer session, The Daily Collegian publishes Monday through Friday. Issues are distributed by mail to other Penn State campuses and subscribers.

Complaints

News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager.

— a curt way of saying “I don’t know” which also won’t reveal a foreign accent. It’s a fun phrase to say and makes you feel like a local. You can also say, “Non, merci” (No, thank you).

It makes perfect sense to me as to why Billy on the Street has never been to Paris. He wouldn’t last a day.

Ella Freda is a junior majoring in English and film production and is an abroad columnist for The Daily Collegian. Email her at ebf5213@psu.edu or follow her on X at [@ellafreda2](https://twitter.com/ellafreda2).

Spotlight, the official Daily Collegian app for smartphones.

DAILY COLLEGIAN

Collegian Inc., 115 Carnegie Building, University Park, PA, 16802 ©2024 Collegian Inc.

BOARD OF EDITORS

- Editor-in-Chief**
Nick Stonesifer
- Managing Editor**
Olivia Estright
- Digital Managing Editor**
Sophia Montanye
- News Editors**
Ella Castronuovo
Mercedes Hamilton
- Lifestyle Editors**
Fernanda López
Milan Varia
- Sports Editors**
Sam Woloson
Daniel Mader
- Football Editor**
Seth Engle
- Wrestling Editor**
Zach Allen
- Social Media Editor**
Olivia Woodring
- Features and Investigations Editor**
Anjelica Rubin
- Opinion Editor**
Olivia Woodring
- Photo Editors**
Jackson Ranger
Sienna Pinney
- Multimedia Editors**
Brennan Axelson
Alex Osman

To contact News Division:
News, Opinions, Arts, Sports, Photo, Graphics, The Daily Collegian Online and The Weekly Collegian
Phone: 814-865-1828

BOARD OF MANAGERS

- Business Manager**
Luke Vargas
- Vice President**
Zack O’Brien
- Advertising Manager**
Scott Witham
- Fundraising Director**
Joseph Bruni
- Creative Director**
Emma Dilts
Emily Shank
- Marketing Director**
Julianna Ruzza
Katy Riley
- Business Insights Director**
Marcelo Santos
Jonathan Zavialov
- Sales Directors**
Sophia Sponaule
Chris Venzin

To contact Business Division:
Advertising, circulation, accounting and classifieds
Phone: 814-865-2531
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays



Ella Freda/Collegian

Living in a new country can bring many experiences. It can take time to adjust to your surroundings while abroad, Freda said.

We want to hear from you

Send us your comments on our coverage, editorial decisions and the Penn State community.

Email: editorinchief@psucollegian.com
Online: psucollegian.com

Postal Mail/In Person: 115 Carnegie Building, University Park, PA

Letters should be about 200 words. Student letters should include class year, major and campus. Letters from alumni should include graduation year. All writers should provide their address and phone number 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 also run on The Daily Collegian Online and may be selected for publication in The Weekly Collegian. All letters become property of Collegian Inc.

Who we are

The Daily Collegian’s editorial

opinion is determined by its Board of Opinion, which is made up of members of its Board of Editors, with the editor in chief holding final responsibility for content. The opinions expressed on the editorial page are not necessarily those of Collegian Inc., a separate institution from Penn State.

About the Collegian

The Daily Collegian and The Weekly Collegian are published by Collegian Inc., an independent, nonprofit corporation with a board of directors composed of students, faculty and profession-

Souliere's journey at PSU

By Greg Finberg
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Canadians represent 42% of active NHL players, an overwhelming majority of the league. So for

MEN'S HOCKEY

Ontario, Canada, native Liam Souliere, dreams of playing this national treasure of a sport made perfect sense.

Souliere has enjoyed a successful career in Happy Valley, appearing in 75 games over a four-year span. However, his goaltending journey began long before he donned the blue and white.

The 5-foot-11 goaltender got his start between the pipes at an early age, suiting up for several teams while moving up the ranks. That included stops with the Nepean Raiders and Brockville Braves of the CCHL, where Souliere developed as a goalie.

While playing for the Braves, Souliere committed to Penn State, the final piece in a long recruitment process. However, it was actually Souliere, not coach Guy Gadowsky, who initiated contact.

"I actually made the phone call myself," Souliere said. "They had a goalie committed, and he decided to go play major junior hockey in Ontario. My adviser told me, 'Hey, there's an open door here. You should probably call them.' So I called Gads, he answered, and a month later, I committed to Penn State."

Gadowsky couldn't help but smile when reflecting on Souliere's career in "Hockey Valley." The 24-year coaching veteran mentioned "Souly's" fun personality, as well as his competitive nature as qualities he loves about his goaltender.

"He's just such a fun guy to be around," Gadowsky said. "He's so competitive, and I love that he's like that."

Simon Mack, a junior at Penn State and Souliere's teammate on the Braves, had already committed to play for Gadowsky. One year later, when Souliere was about to take his official visit to



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

Goalie Liam Souliere (31) during the Penn State men's ice hockey game against Ohio State in Pegula Ice Arena on Jan. 27. The Nittany Lions beat the Buckeyes 4-3.

Happy Valley, he thought Mack's excitement would be through the roof — but it wasn't, according to Souliere.

"It's a funny story," Souliere said. "When I told Simon that I was going on a visit to Penn State, he didn't seem too excited. I thought that maybe he didn't want me to go. Then I committed and when I told him, he gave me a big hug. He told me he didn't want to act too excited because he was superstitious and didn't want to jinx it. That's just the kind of guy Simon Mack is."

Following a short stay with Brockville, Souliere traveled west to Victoria, Ontario, where the Victoria Grizzlies are located. As a member of this BCHL squad, the goaltender appeared in 15 games, saving 91.7% of shots faced en route to a 9-6 record.

It was in Victoria that Souliere linked up with respected goalie coach Jason Reimer. Reimer, a former goaltender in his own right, coached goaltenders during

Souliere's lone season in Victoria. The 16-year coaching veteran spoke glowingly about Souliere and what makes him special.

"Liam's an extremely, extremely great kid," Reimer told The Daily Collegian. "Very high character. Very hard working. A true student of the game ... He's just such a great kid to be around. Definitely one of my favorite goalies I've ever coached."

Reimer mentioned Souliere's leadership ability as a characteristic he didn't anticipate. The current Penn State goalie took the time to build relationships with his teammates both on and off the ice, including mentoring one of the team's younger players while Souliere dealt with injury.

"He would teach the other goalie we had (in Victoria)," Reimer said. "(Souliere) would really take him under his wing and help him learn."

Souliere's ability to lead, at a position not traditionally known for that skillset, set off early

indicators that he was special. While Reimer was supposed to be instructing the goaltenders, it was actually Souliere who taught his coach a few things.

"Every goalie I've ever coached has taught me something, and I've actually learned two things from Liam that I now use in my coaching," Reimer said.

The current head of Reimer Goaltender Development highlighted his former student's reaction time, as well as his "amazing" puck handling, as things he shows his current students. During film sessions, Reimer constantly references clips of when Souliere was in Victoria as learning points for young goalies looking to learn the position.

Souliere's quick reflexes led him to Penn State, where he watched from the bench early on. Penn State's No. 31 appeared in just five games his freshman year, allowing 4.6 goals per game.

"Souly" took a leap during his sophomore campaign, tripling

his appearances and lowering his goals-against average by nearly two goals per game. Then came junior year, a breakout season for Souliere that began by winning the starting job.

Souliere manned the posts a career-high 36 times during the 2022-23 season, averaging career bests in saves, save percentage and wins. Something seemed to click for Souliere, who had finally found his stride.

A senior now, Souliere's time at Penn State is nearing its end. Despite all the success he's seen on the ice as a Nittany Lion, the Ontario native had a quick, two-word answer when asked about the best part of his Penn State career.

"The guys," Souliere said. "And it's the only answer really. The group of people that Penn State recruits is amazing. I have friends I've made for a lifetime, and that's the most special part. You have a second family now, and it's just the greatest."



Maddy Perez/Collegian

Breast cancer survivors pose for a picture during halftime at the women's basketball game against Michigan on Feb. 3 in the Bryce Jordan Center. The Wolverines defeated the Nittany Lions 80-75.

Pink Out draws in 1,559 years of survivorship

By Noah Aberegg
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"On Feb. 3, we wear pink."

That motto was echoed through fans and athletes alike on Saturday, with Penn State's largest crowd of the season — 4,745 fans — repping

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

pink clothes for the Lady Lions' annual "Pink Zone" game in support of breast cancer awareness.

While the Lady Lions fell to Michigan 80-75, Saturday was about more than just basketball at the Bryce Jordan Center; it was about honoring the 42,500 individuals who die of breast cancer each year, according to the CDC, and the many survivors who conquer the life-threatening disease.

"It's a huge game to play in front of so many strong women like that," redshirt junior guard Leilani Kapinus said. "You just want to show half the amount of strength and grit that they had and make them proud."

Penn State began its annual "Pink Zone" game in 2007 after receiving permission from the Big Ten for one community outreach game, the first Division I team in the country to do so for breast cancer awareness.

Since then, many other programs have adapted similar awareness games, including Notre Dame, Purdue and Vanderbilt.

Before Saturday's game, survivors and families gathered in the Bryce Jordan Center's south annex for an event honoring the breast cancer survivors.

Those attending began with a pink carpet walk, holding up banners signaling how many years they have been cancer-free.

The Penn State women's soccer team also lined up alongside the pink carpet, cheering on the passing-by survivors.

"There is so much love in this room," the executive director of Pink Zone, Trish Fulvio, said. "Nothing else could be better."

Team announcers Joe Putnam and Justin Antweil hosted the pregame event on stage, interviewing Fulvio and former Lady Lions player, assistant coach and member of the 2,000-point club, Susan Robinson.

"Pink Zone started in 2007 when I was on the coaching staff,"

Robinson said. "Now with Kiegs, it's been growing along with the program."

Before tipoff, each of Penn State's five starters — Ashley Owusu, Shay Ciezki, Makenna Marisa, Leilani Kapinus and Ali Brigham — escorted a breast cancer survivor onto the floor.

The Lady Lions donned the white and pink uniforms amongst a sea of fans in pink.

During half-time, breast cancer survivors poured in from all corners of the court as they were honored with songs. The crowd cheered and applauded the many survivors, including

Leilani Kapinus
Guard

a survivor that was 35 years cancer-free and a survivor that was two months cancer-free.

Saturday's pregame and in-game events kept Penn State's "Pink Zone" tradition going, honoring the strength of those who have battled breast cancer.

To email reporter: nda5168@psu.edu.
Follow him on X at [@aberegg_noah](https://twitter.com/aberegg_noah).

Mesenbrink is a 'firecracker'

By Shannon Tanczos
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Going into the highest-ranked competition so far this season, a full house packed Rec Hall as

No. 1 Penn State faced No. 6 Ohio State.

The Nittany Lions came out on top 28-9, but it wasn't an easy feat.

"Ohio State always has a great team and they came ready to wrestle tonight," Cael Sanderson said. "They pushed us pretty dang good, which is something we can go back and work on some things."

Wrestlers that are typically known for their strength on the mat found difficulties in pulling away from their opponents due to the Buckeyes' hand-fighting and passive style of wrestling.

For example, No. 1 Carter Starocci faced off against No. 11 Rocco Welsh. Throughout the course of the season, he has secured wins through pins or tech falls. On Friday night, he won by a 4-2 decision.

Additionally, coming off of a win by fall at the 50-second mark last week, Mitchell Mesenbrink has proven to be a firecracker on the mat in his first year with Penn State.

While he earned a 10-4 decision, No. 7 Mesenbrink struggled to score as much as he has this season against No. 20 Bryce Hepner, due to Hepner wrestling extremely carefully.

"I'm gonna go back and have the best people in the world to help fix the problem and get better for the rest of my career to have that not happen again," Mesenbrink said.

Regardless, Mesenbrink still came out on top like he has all season, although he wasn't proud of his mid-match adjustments.

Something Mesenbrink has emphasized all season and has adjusted to, has been staying focused and tuning out the crowd.

Unfortunately, it's caused Mesenbrink to miss his teammates' matches.

"It's really unfortunate being in the middle because I miss, like, half of the dual," Mesenbrink said. "I'm in the back, I just remove myself. (With) how I wrestle, if I was like that 110 percent all the time, I would get really tired before I even step up there."

It was difficult to not detect the rivalry in the crowds as the highly-anticipated meet went on.

Mesenbrink doesn't consider practicing, cutting weight or wrestling matches as a job because he genuinely loves working on his game and wrestling opponents.

Trying not to play into the energy of the crowd is an entirely different story though.

"The only job that I feel I have is, it's not like going out there and wrestling. It's not making weight," Mesenbrink said. "The only thing that's a job is removing myself from all the hype in the arena and all that stuff."

Evidently Mesenbrink has figured out how to tune out the crowd and not get hyped up, as the offseason transfer is a perfect 15-0 this season.

To email reporter: smt5914@psu.edu.
Follow her on X at [@shannontanczos](https://twitter.com/shannontanczos).



Tyler Mantz/Collegian

At 165, Penn State's Mitchell Mesenbrink wrestles Indiana's Tyler Lillard, winning by injury.

‘Somebody fills that void’

Katie DeSa steps up big in veteran Josie Bothun’s absence

By Chase Mitchell
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

After winning its last three games, No. 15 Penn State remained at home to take on conference opponent Mercyhurst. In the first game of a must-win series looking forward to a postseason push, the blue and white picked up a 4-0 win and solidified its first-place spot in the CHA standings.

Penn State’s victory over the Lakers improves its record to 17-11-1 on the season, while sophomore goalie Katie DeSa improved to 4-1 in net.

The win over Mercyhurst saw an offensive explosion with the help of DeSa, who has been filling in for the veteran Josie Bothun, who went down Jan. 19 against Syracuse.

“If there’s a door open, somebody steps in and fills that void,” coach Jeff Kampersal said.

In her first collegiate appearance, which was a blowout loss to Wisconsin on September 9, 2022, DeSa allowed three goals in just under three minutes in a very forgettable game for the Nittany Lions.

Over a year later, DeSa has started four games in a



Esteban Moreno/Collegian

Goalie Katie DeSa (35) stares into the distance while defending the net at Pegula Ice Arena on Jan. 20. Penn State beat Syracuse 5-0.

row and has allowed just two goals, with two shutout performances against Syracuse and Mercyhurst.

“She feels good ... she feels a vibe,” Kampersal said.

One of the key components of Penn State’s game plan is to outshoot its opponent, and Kampersal is very clear on this.

“We outshoot teams ... it puts us in control of the game,”

Kampersal said.

In hockey, one way to make the goalie’s job easier is to do this exact thing and control the puck longer than your opponent. However, this doesn’t mean the goalie won’t see action for the rest of the game.

DeSa had 24 clutch saves on top of not allowing a goal Friday night, with many coming in rapid succession.

Morale around the locker room is at an all-time high looking toward a postseason push, with players elevating each others’ play and keeping spirits bright.

“The vibe is awesome. We have so much energy right now and positivity from everyone. We have a lot of confidence in Katie just like we did Josie. Everybody stepped up. There’s just that kick of energy,” forward Maddy

Christian said.

Having a mentor like Bothun to sit behind has clearly done wonders for the Connecticut native DeSa, who now has 110 career saves with only 10 goals allowed.

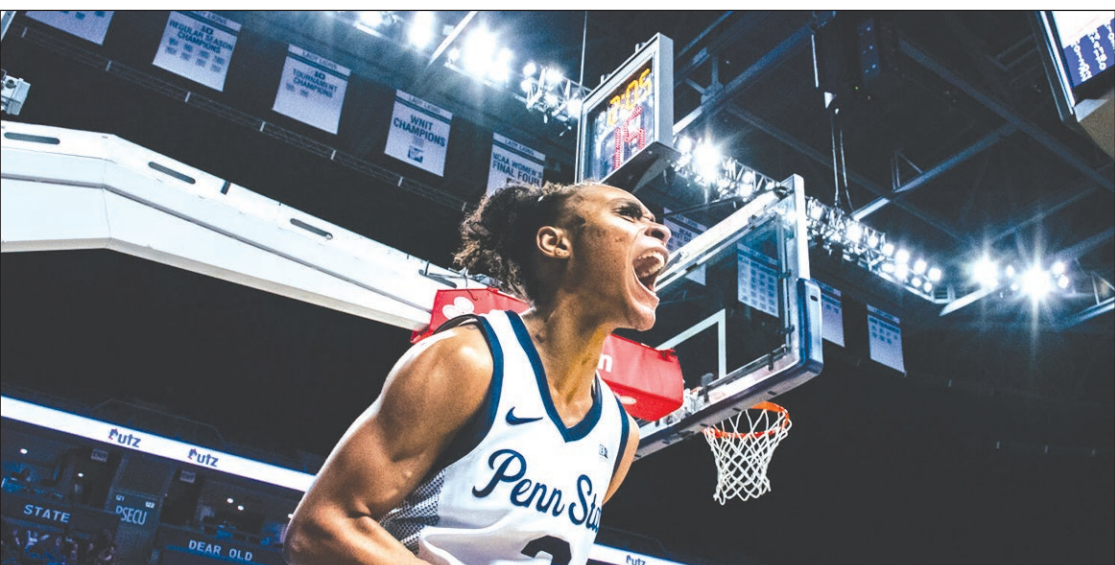
There is no doubt the young goalie will only get better with experience, despite the injured Bothun having another year of collegiate eligibility.

“Same for goaltenders as any skater. They’ll probably both be given the opportunity to take the net, but right now, Katie is definitely taking it and doing her job,” Kampersal said.

With Bothun out for the remainder of the season, the weight falls on the shoulders of the young DeSa, who looks to assist her team in getting to the promised land that it fell just short of last season.

Before getting too excited for a postseason push, DeSa looks to provide another stellar performance to pick up the series sweep against the Lakers at 2 p.m. Saturday.

To email reporter: cmm8773@psu.edu.
Follow him on X at [@theffifthem](https://twitter.com/theffifthem).



Esteban Moreno/Collegian

Guard Tay Valladay (2) screams in celebration after scoring a point at the Bryce Jordan Center on Sunday, Jan. 28. Penn State beat Maryland 112-76.

Tay Valladay’s long-term injury forces team to rethink rest of 2024 season

By Lyle Alenstein
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Early in the second quarter against Minnesota last Wednesday, Tay Valladay went down in agony as she collapsed to the floor.

The guard went to catch a long lob pass in transition, and instead of coming down with the ball, she came down crashing with force onto the hardwood.

Valladay’s screams could be heard through the broadcast.

Per a Penn State spokesperson at the game, the graduate student went down with a non-contact injury in the knee area — it seemed that something might have buckled.

“It’s pretty hard to put into words what Tay has meant to this program and to our identity as a team,” coach Carolyn Kieger said Sunday.

After being unavailable against Michigan on Sunday in her first absence of the season, the Lady Lions saw their six-game winning streak snapped, and Valladay’s presence was certainly missed.

The team got its first taste without her, as it prepares for her to be out for an extended period of time.

“We talk about lions a lot,

and she is a lion through and through,” Kieger said. “She’s lionhearted, and she is tough as nails, and we got to emulate that.”

In an uncharacteristic defensive showing against the Wolverines, the blue and white had several defensive lapses.

The Chicago native has been an engine on defense, and the squad certainly needed her leadership in that area on Sunday.

In addition to her established presence on defense, Valladay has been an all-around X factor on the court.

“Having a leader like that on the court, being benched is really hard,” guard Leilani Kapinus said Sunday.

The guard has averaged 11.5 points per game in addition to over two rebounds and assists per contest.

While her impact is evident as a player, the positive effect from her personality is crucial for the unit.

When the graduate student came on her recruiting visit, the tone was already established as the kind of influence that she would have on her team and final year of collegiate play.

“She does so many things for us in our press, our huddles, timeouts to talk to us,” Kapinus said. “She tells us the truth by

everything we need to hear in that moment.”

With the phenom expected to miss extended time, Shay Ciezki will return to the starting role after slotting in as the first player off the bench when Ashley Owusu came into the starting lineup.

This will bring a more offense-heavy lineup, as Ciezki is averaging 14.2 points per game, but it will provide a slight dip in production of defense. Guard Jayla Oden will have increased minutes off of the bench after performing well against Michigan in her enhanced role.

Valladay’s injury is a detrimental loss for the Lady Lions, as it heads into the heart of the season with the Big Ten tournament and hopes for a NCAA tournament bid. The group will need to step up and have players turn it up a notch in her absence.

“We missed her presence. We missed her intensity. We missed her influence on the court, and she’s gonna bring it,” Kieger said. “She’s gonna bring it in different ways, but we’ve got to figure out a way to disperse that amongst 12 other people.”

To email reporter: lca5223@psu.edu.
Follow him on X at [@LAlenstein](https://twitter.com/LAlenstein).

Top players for 2024

By Sam Woloson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State returned to the Lasch Building on Monday for the first day of winter workouts,

68 days away from the Blue-White game on April 13.

A trio of new coordinators led the Nittany Lions’ first practice — which began at 5 a.m. ET — and they praised a handful of players for their efforts.

Here are the 10 Penn State players who made an early impact on Day 1.

Quarterbacks: Beau Pribula

Beau Pribula got some love from graduate assistant Danny O’Brien, who has worked with the quarterbacks since the firing of offensive coordinator Mike Yurcich in November.

Pribula played in 11 games last season, primarily in garbage time and as a gadget player. He did most of his damage on the ground, averaging 5.9 yards per carry for 329 yards and six touchdowns.

Pribula is expected to hold a similar role next season, as incumbent starter Drew Allar will likely remain in command under new offensive coordinator Andy Kotelnicki.

Running Backs: Cameron Wallace

After redshirting as a freshman, Cameron Wallace caught the attention of running backs coach Ja’uan Seider on his first day back.

Wallace was a 3-star prospect coming out of Mount Vernon, Georgia. He and fellow 3-star London Montgomery redshirted in a stacked running back room.

With Kaytron Allen and Nicholas Singleton set to return for their junior seasons and Quinton Martin Jr., the top-ranked recruit in Pennsylvania, joining the fray, it’ll likely take a monster offseason for Wallace to see much of the field next year.

Wide Receivers: Liam Clifford

Penn State is looking for much more production from its wide receivers room in 2024, and

Liam Clifford was the first name to stand out this offseason.

Clifford primarily played out of the slot last season, tallying 13 catches for 130 yards. He failed to establish himself as a consistent option, though, as Penn State’s No. 3 receiver spot was a revolving door all year.

The Nittany Lions will return most of their talent in 2024 and added Ohio State transfer Julian Fleming. Clifford expects to be in contention for snaps once again in a very crowded position group.

Tight Ends: Joey Schlaffer

Speaking of crowded position groups, redshirt freshman Joey Schlaffer got a shoutout in a loaded tight end room.

Schlaffer redshirted last year and the former 3-star recruit will face an uphill battle to get on the field next year.

Veterans Tyler Warren and Khalil Dinkins figure to take the bulk of the snaps, while Schlaffer will have to compete with former 4-stars in Jerry Cross and Andrew Rappleyea. If that wasn’t enough, the top tight end prospect in the country, Luke Reynolds, is coming to town.

Offensive Line: Nick Dawkins

Redshirt senior Nick Dawkins will have an opportunity to claim a starting spot on Penn State’s offensive line for the first time in his career.

Dawkins played in all 12 regular season games last season, serving as a special teamer and the backup center behind Hunter Nourzad.

With Nourzad off to the pros, Dawkins is the Nittany Lions’ most experienced option at the position.

Defensive Line: Zuriah Fisher

Penn State will have a new-look pass rush in 2024 after Chop Robinson and Adisa Isaac’s departures. Zuriah Fisher will be one of the names looking to seize a bigger role on the defensive line.

Continue reading here:



PIN THE
MAT
RETURN
PODCAST
IN YOUR
ROTATION



Sienna Pinney/Collegian

Penn State quarterback Beau Pribula (9) does drills during a spring practice on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Holuba Hall.