

The Daily Collegian

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...



WE DIDN'T



Photos by Collegian Photo Staff

‘Stand up, fight back’

SCDS holds anti-ICE protest, sparking confrontation

By Mia Debelevich

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity (SCDS) held a protest downtown Thursday night in response to Penn State’s alleged ties to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), sparking a brief brawl.

Students and community members were among the protesters alongside Centre County Rapid Response Network, People’s Defense Front, Penn State Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and United Socialists at Penn State.

The group was minutes away from beginning their march to the Nittany Lion Inn — where they believed members of the Penn State Board of Trustees (BoT) were staying — when a man, in his 70s, approached and confronted them, swinging a large stick.

The verbal altercation between the protesters and the man soon spiraled into a physical confrontation, resulting in him being escorted away by State College police officers.

“It was really scary,” Lily McEntaffer, a second-year studying art history, said. “It’s definitely continuing to become a more fragile environment in the world today. (Protestors) handled it with such grace today.”



Geraldine Cruz/Collegian

Community members hold up signs during the Student Committee for Defense and Solidarity’s (SCDS) protest against mass deportations at the Allen Street Gates on Sept. 11, 2025 in State College, Pa.

McEntaffer went to the protest to support immigrants in State College and across the U.S.

“A lot of my friends that I grew up with are immigrants; the high school I went to was founded by immigrants,” McEntaffer said. “No one should be barring anyone from living on plain land.”

Isabella Davis said the disruption

was expected for rural Pennsylvania, and those in opposition to the anti-ICE protest have the privilege to speak up about said opposition.

“There’s some weirdos in State College,” Davis, a first-year studying political science, said. “They don’t want anything that isn’t their agenda to get around.”

The protest started at the Allen Street Gates before the group marched to the Nittany Lion Inn, all while chanting: “When immigrants are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back.”

Several State College police officers followed closely behind the protesters to the Inn.

Savannah Holes, a first-year

in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, said her family are immigrants, and she “wouldn’t be here without their bravery.”

Holes described the disruptors as “very violent,” and said the anti-ICE protestors were “in a peaceful protest,” while counter-protestors were “harassing” them.

“This land doesn’t belong to anyone; no one should have to feel exiled from a place where they belong.”

Savannah Holes

Elaina Toll, a third-year studying anthropology and classics and ancient Mediterranean studies, said standing in solidarity shows people that they’re willing to fight back.

“I don’t think people are immigrants on stolen land,” Toll said. “I don’t think it’s right to deport people, especially when they’ve built whole lives here. It’s politically and socially incorrect.”

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Turning Point USA, Penn State Republicans hold Charlie Kirk vigil

By Jonathon Chiu

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Penn State’s chapter of Turning Point USA and the College Republicans at University Park held a candlelight vigil Thursday at Old Main to honor conservative, political activist Charlie Kirk.

Kirk, who was shot and killed Wednesday during an event at Utah Valley University, was the founder and president of Turning Point USA, a conservative student organization which held several events on Penn State’s campus, with his “You’re Being Brainwashed Tour” drawing in both supporters and protesters alike.

The vigil began at 7 p.m. and hosted speeches given in memory of Kirk from both student and state leaders, with attendees also being led through prayer by Pastor Andy Hendry from Alliance Christian Fellowship.

Tristin Kilgore, president of College Republicans at University Park, said Kirk was someone who “connected so well” with young people, was dedicated to starting a civic dialogue and was

“He would let anyone walk up there, whether they were to the right of him, whether they were to the left of him, whether they agreed with everything.”

Tristan Kilgore



Alex Fischer/Collegian

A photo of Charlie Kirk sits on Old Main Lawn during a vigil for Kirk, hosted by the College Republicans and Turning Point USA, on Sept. 11, 2025 in University Park, Pa. Kirk, the founder of Turning Point USA.

able to find mutual understanding between those who disagreed.

“He would take their questions, he would talk with them (and) he would have a respectful conversation with them,” Kilgore, a third-year studying political science, said.

Kilgore said Kirk’s visit to University Park inspired increased bipartisanship amongst student organizations at Penn State, with Kilgore considering Kirk as a factor for the increased attendance of this year’s 9/11 memorial.

Kilgore said Kirk’s assassination, as well as other examples of political violence across the United States, was “tragic” to see and hopes there will be more efforts

to unify the country as more young people enter politics.

“It’s truly sad because if you ever listen to what he was saying, he was not promoting hate,” Kilgore said. “And that kind of rhetoric that is drawing up the opposition as being hateful, evil people who are trying to destroy you or destroy the country, has caused immense tragedy like what happened to Charlie Kirk, and like what happened here in Pennsylvania to President Trump.”

Kilgore said he’s looking forward to his generation getting older and becoming the ones to “bring the country together,” because the current officials aren’t

doing that.

Kalene Faircloth said Kirk’s use of social media was influential in connecting with college students and other people.

“Social media is a really huge thing on the campus here,” Faircloth, a fourth-year studying public relations, said. “Coming from a school that is not known as being Republican, I think that us coming out tonight ... just shows how many people there are that share that connection of the same values and beliefs.”

Faircloth said that Kirk’s death is “a turning point for our country (and) our generation” through inspiring others to express their beliefs openly.

“I think that he’s going to leave a legacy and people are going to start picking it up and we’re all going to be sharing our truth and pushing back and forth on each other in a good way that’s able to discuss and argue but respect each other at the same time,” Faircloth said.

Sen. Cris Dush said he appreciated how Turning Point USA has caused more college students to become politically active.

“I have been watching (Kirk) for years and when he started coming to the universities, I started seeing the impact that he was having on other young people (and) I was so encouraged for this country,” Dush said. “I’ve served in the military, I’ve been overseas, I’ve been in Iraq and all over the northern hemisphere and I’ve seen the blessings that we have in this country ... and Charlie was speaking about what makes America unique (and) what makes America special.”

Dush said Kirk’s influence upon Penn State is something that will not be long forgotten by the people that were impacted by him.

The vigil ended around 7:30 p.m. after Hendry gave a closing prayer followed by a moment of silence.

“What I’m seeing from the students at Penn State is giving me encouragement as a state senator and also somebody who has put my life on the line for this country,” Dush said. “It’s giving me a lot of encouragement for the future.”

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WPSU TO WIND DOWN

By Sara O’Connell

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Penn State Board of Trustees Finance and Investment Committee unanimously voted against transferring a subsidy fund of WPSU assets, leading to WPSU entering a wind-down period, on Thursday.

WPSU is set to officially close, at the latest, June 30, 2026.

The board rejected the proposal to transfer WPSU assets to WHYY, a public media organization in Philadelphia after receiving a support offer regarding

ing a subsidy of \$17 million over five years. The board considered Penn State’s proposal to WPSU to be a significant financial commitment.

The university had been looking at alternative funding models of WPSU, but ultimately the budget pressures intensified from the recent recession of federal funding for public media. WPSU was expected to lose around 17% of its overall budget in 2025-26 due to the recession as well.

While WPSU could’ve continued broadcasting with the proposal, most WPSU staff would’ve most likely laid off employees, with some offered positions at WHYY.

The university leaders are meeting with WPSU employees today to discuss the next course of action.

Board of Trustees approves 47% raise for Bendapudi

By Mia Debelevich

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

The Penn State Board of Trustees voted 34-1 on Friday to approve a new contract for President Neeli Bendapudi that increases her base salary, performance and retention bonuses and deferred compensation.

Under the new agreement, Bendapudi’s base salary will rise from \$950,000 to \$1.4 million, with annual 3.5% increases. Her deferred compensation — set aside for after her presidency — will increase from \$555,000 to \$650,000.

Tracy Riegel, an at-large member of the board, presented the action item by the board’s Equity and Human Resources Committee, which stated the committee had “reviewed the Presidential performance goals and objectives as well as market and equity considerations.”

The resolution adopted by the board affirmed that trustees approved the compensation terms as recommended by the committee.

“It’s clearly the hope of the board that President Bendapudi will be our leader for many years to come,” David Kleppinger, chair of the Board of Trustees, said.

The raise comes as Penn State moves forward with plans to close seven of its Commonwealth Campuses, which trustees say is a result of declining enrollment and financial strain on the university.

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Take a look

You might also like these:

Penn State Board of Trustees update 5-year Capital Plan

Twitter: @DailyCollegian

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The Collegian is collecting student perspectives on how COVID-19 has impacted our generation. Scan the QR code to take our short, anonymous survey and help us tell the story.

‘There’s plenty of produce’

Downtown State College Farmer’s Market celebrates 50 years

By **Sophie Ambrosina**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

A go-to spot for students and locals alike, the Downtown State College Farmer’s Market is celebrating its 50 year anniversary. The market is a fun spot that caters to all those who enjoy fresh produce and other local treats.

Their mission is to “create an environment for farmers and residents of Centre County to mutually benefit from a market of locally produced items,” according to their website.

Open every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the market hosts various vendors who are all required to grow or produce the items they sell. Some of these products include fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh cut flowers, indoor and outdoor plants, baked goods, salsa, jams, honey, coffee, pasta, ready-to-eat/drink items and health care products, according to the market’s website.

Owner of Piper’s Peck, Janet Robinson, said it’s a great market for locals and students alike.

“You’re not gonna find anything fresher,” Robinson said. “You can talk right to the vendor who grew the stuff, made the stuff, and created the stuff, and know exactly where it comes from. They’re your neighbors.”

Created in the summer of 1976 in a parking lot on Benner Pike, the market supports Centre County farmers, with every vendor having to be a local. The market has now moved to McAllister Street and extended its residency from just 10 weeks to seven months.

Mary Carol Frier, treasurer of the farmer’s market this year, attributes some of the vendor’s success to their proximity to Penn State.



Alina Lebedeva/Collegian file photo

Barrie Moser (State College), right, shows flowers to Laura Fulton, left, during the farmers’ market on Locust Lane on Friday, July 1, 2022.

“These are folks that prepare food in their apartments, and we provide some of the freshest and most interesting vegetables and fruits going through the season,” Frier said.

Vendors like Patchwork Farm and Greenhouse and Piper’s Peck work closely with the market, with Patchwork Farm providing a large range of organic vegetables and cut flowers, their most popular item.

“It brings a lot of joy to see the kids make their own bouquets,” Eda Case, the owner of Patchwork Farm, said. “I like working with flowers all day, but just to listen to them talk about, to each other, and to me about the flowers — it’s nice.”

Piper’s Peck has grown their own hot peppers, along with making homemade salsas and hot pepper jelly sauce since 1998. They also sell fruit jams, jellies and fudge.

“I started this business,” Robinson said. “It was small in the beginning, now it’s growing. I do this farmer’s market along with another, and some of the little local festivals.”

It’s important to have a community and gathering spot that provides a cost-free venue for people to come and experience local life, according to Case.

“It gives kids who are feeling homesick a chance to connect,” Case said. “They say, ‘Oh, my mom grows this, or my dad likes to cook with this.’ It gives them a place to chat and connect. Especially with international students, we have a lot of those folks (who) like the uniqueness of what we grow.”

Each year, what Patchwork Farm sells depends on the changing population of Penn State.

“We’re growing saffron as a unique offering for different food

palates,” Case said. “We grow ginger, and some really unique things, trying to give everybody a sense of home.”

This business, however, diminishes since they’re most bountiful time is in the summer months when students are home.

“There’s plenty of produce, but not very many customers living and traveling through State College,” Frier said. “That’s a dilemma, and that’s where we have always had a problem.”

Similarly, Robinson said students leaving for the summer takes away valuable business. She added that the summers have been getting even slower in recent years.

“I know all of downtown businesses struggle with this,” Robinson said. “There’s hardly anyone here, but we still try to keep it going. It has changed; it didn’t used to be as slow during the summer. It seemed like the summer kept

up pretty well, even though the students weren’t here.”

Case said another change at the market is in what the vendors are selling. Originally, the market was producer-only, meaning every product had to be grown from scratch; now, there is more variety.

“There are soaps and jewelry that people are still being creative with,” Case said. “They’re not reselling. Everybody is still essentially growing their own but overall, it is still a producer market, and that makes it very charming and worthwhile to the patrons of the market. They can look somebody in the eye and find out exactly how their food was produced.”

Frier also sees returning customers in the market as the vendors begin to build relationships and camaraderie with them.

“Customers like that firsthand relationship of buyer and seller,” Frier said. “That’s missing from a lot of our fast-paced big box stores.”

The market comes together as a community, as the staff is just as involved as the owners due to developed relationships from over the years, according to Case.

“Each week, people come back and they talk about what they did with their food, and what they like, what they didn’t like, and for more recommendations,” Case said. “We have that going back 20 years with some of our customers; it’s a really great community.”

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Hispanic Heritage Month Campus Events

By **Anisa Daniel-Oniko**
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

It’s that time of the year again. National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 each year, has officially begun.

To honor this month, a variety of events celebrating Hispanic and Latino communities and their cultural contributions will be held across Penn State campuses.

According to the University Park Hispanic Heritage Month organizing committee, this year’s theme is “History, Heritage, Hope.”

Here are some of the scheduled events:

Friday, September 19

Community Ofrenda at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center (PRCC)

From 12-3 p.m. an ofrenda will be held in the PRCC for all to view and add on to.

An ofrenda is an altar tradition-

ally dedicated to family members who have died, designed to make their presence felt and honor their memory with gratitude.

The PRCC has invited the student body to take part in a community ofrenda, where they can leave notes of gratitude, enjoy free food from vendors or just have a look. The ofrenda will be available for all to see until 10 p.m.

Friday, October 3

Fun Friday at the PRCC and Cultural Night

If you’re a fan of arts and crafts and social mixers, you might enjoy Fun Friday.

From 12-3 p.m. in the PRCC, Fun Friday reflects a PRCC tradition of cultural celebration, communal unwinding, connection and care.

Expect art, free food, games like Connect Four and Chess, and a vibrant paper-cutting experience called papel picado.

Hosted in the HUB-Robeson Center, the 2025 Hispanic Heritage Month Cultural Night al-

lowed students to step into a night of “History, Heritage, Hope.”

From 6-9 p.m. students can celebrate their heritage with music, dancing, and tasting an abundance of food.

Penn State alumni and former Board of Trustees member Abraham Amorós will be the keynote speaker.

Seats are limited on a first come, first serve basis.

Saturday, October 5

Part 1: The Penn State Dolores Huerta Day of Service: “¡Sí, se puede!”

Students can visit the Dr. Keiko Miwa Ross Student Farm from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. if they want to volunteer and give back to the community.

Dolores Huerta was a labor leader, civil rights activist and co-founder of the United Farm Workers. This event, named for her legendary cry of “¡Sí, se puede!” or “Yes, we can!” honors her service and legacy.

In part one of this event, students can volunteer by har-

vesting produce and flowers for St. Andrew’s Community Café.

Thursday, October 9

Part 2: Serve the Community – St. Andrew’s Café

In the second part of this event honoring Dolores Huerta, student volunteers will serve dinner at St. Andrew’s Community Café

from 5-7 p.m., which has offered free meals weekly since 2009.

If you’re interested in volunteering, or would just like to know more, reach out to Victoria Prewitt-Rodriguez at vjp111@psu.edu

To email reporter: aod5437@psu.edu



Sienna Pinney/Collegian file staff

Decorations hang on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024.

Kakuro

		3	38		12	31	8	16		
10					30					20
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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.

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Sudoku

		6	3			2		
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7					6			
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Word Search

They’re Part of You

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

Ankle

Aorta

Arms

Chin

Colon

Ears

Elbow

Esophagus

Eyes

Face

Feet

Fingers

Foot

Glands

Hair

Hands

Heart

Heel

Jugular

Kidney

Knees

Knuckles

Legs

Liver

Lungs

Muscles

Nails

Neck

Nose

Spine

Thumb

Tongue

Wrist

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Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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31	32	33		34						35		36	37	38
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50	51	52		53		54				55		56	57	58
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66						67					68			
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Across
1 Sunblock ingredient
5 Court worker
10 Circuits
14 Eve’s son
15 Wanderer
16 Promised land
17 Concern
19 Adjutant
20 Knitted fabric
21 Feminist Duncan
23 Beer mug
24 Explode
26 Turf
27 Actress
29 Consumed
31 Emulator
34 Provoke
35 Actor’s line
39 Dishonest
41 Ebbcd
43 Unnatural
44 Way of life
45 Admiration
46 Singleton
48 Terrestrial lizard
50 King of Judah
53 Social class

Down
1 Yesteryears
2 Terminate
3 Contradict
4 Actress Silverstone
5 Irritation
6 Child
7 Ostrich relative
8 Low-water mark
9 Ukrainian seaport
10 Toxic element
11 “So long!”
12 Argentina city, San
13 “Slamming Sammy” of golf
18 Harmony

Across
55 Organic compound
59 Air out
61 Store sign
62 Fem. suffix
63 Wolf spiders
66 Solar disk
67 Spam medium
68 Blanc
69 Variety
70 Answer
71 Conclusions

Down
22 Bond
24 Conveyor
25 Consumption
28 Pinch
30 Compass point
31 Hotshot
32 “The Bells” poet
33 Blunder
36 Crete mountain
37 Condensation
38 Dutch commune
40 Brazilian port
41 Storm
42 Greek letter
44 Caress
47 Religious holiday
49 Take for granted
50 Regions
51 Fight
52 Subsequently
54 Dishonor
56 Claw
57 Antelope
58 Reposes
60 Hire
61 Exclusively
64 Knock
65 Be in pain

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Everybody hurts: Having self-compassion while ill

Picture this: It's week two of the semester in my 8 a.m. nutrition class, and I already look like absolute trash.

My hair is in a bun I barely managed to slick back, I'm drowning in my oversized emotional support hoodie and because I fell asleep in my contacts the night before, I'm hiding my irritated eyes with my glasses.

The only mercy of my condition is that my face is covered partly by a mask, which also muffles the sound of me periodically clearing my throat. But still, I refuse to talk, because as my best friend puts it, I "sound like a pack of cigarettes smoked (me)."

In case you haven't put it together, I've caught the illness known as the "PSFlu," and I'm humiliatingly ill.

But wait a minute — let's go back to that word: humiliating. Because it's more than the fear

that comes with needing to sneeze in Thomas 100; there's a deep embarrassment here, regardless of the fact that about 20 percent of this room is coughing harder than I am.

But why? Everybody gets sick, and we're at a point on campus where it seems like everybody is sick. Doesn't it follow that we're lenient with the sick, whether it's ourselves or others? That we recognize that the human body, its functions and flaws, don't subtract from somebody's dignity?

The way many people see it, the answer is no.

As college students, especially, we're the demographic that is, culturally, supposed to be spry, quick-witted and beautiful. So when we fall ill, get injured, or start dealing with a chronic condition or disability, it almost feels — and looks to some people — like a failure of our basic function.

We're supposed to go out, have fun, do important things, be busy and look society's definition of good while doing it.

Aside from the pressure on our demographic specifically, we still live in a world allergic to acknowledging all the ways the human body can be. We're just supposed to pretend that we're all perpetually able-bodied, forever young, capable of looking (or being) one particular way and incapable of dying.

When these ideas are ingrained in us, we end up critical of those who don't fit the standard, including ourselves. For me, when a migraine or my iron deficiency sucks me into my bed, my eczema visibly flares, or more recently, my (probable) pinched nerve and foot injury make exercise impossible, I feel like I'm admitting to some sort of wrongdoing.

I'm lucky enough that the people around me are very compassionate about these things, but even still, I know I'm not alone when I say I still feel pressured to push through. It's like it would be better to suffer more than admit that I'm suffering, than to show up looking a little scraggly to class and wearing a mask for others' safety.

Hence, the people dragging themselves into Thomas 100, coughing into the open air with no masks, probably telling themselves I'm not sick, I promise. Hence, whoever probably got me sick (whyIoughta-).

Listen, as someone who's been there, I know that judgmental eyes, rude comments and attendance checks on the dreaded Top Hat exist. But I want to tell you that it's okay to feel like hell and look or act accordingly, no matter what you're dealing with.

It's okay to admit that you need the DayQuil, the day off, the helping hand, the prescription or mobility aid. No matter what or how visible your treatment is, it's all part of being human and says nothing about your character.

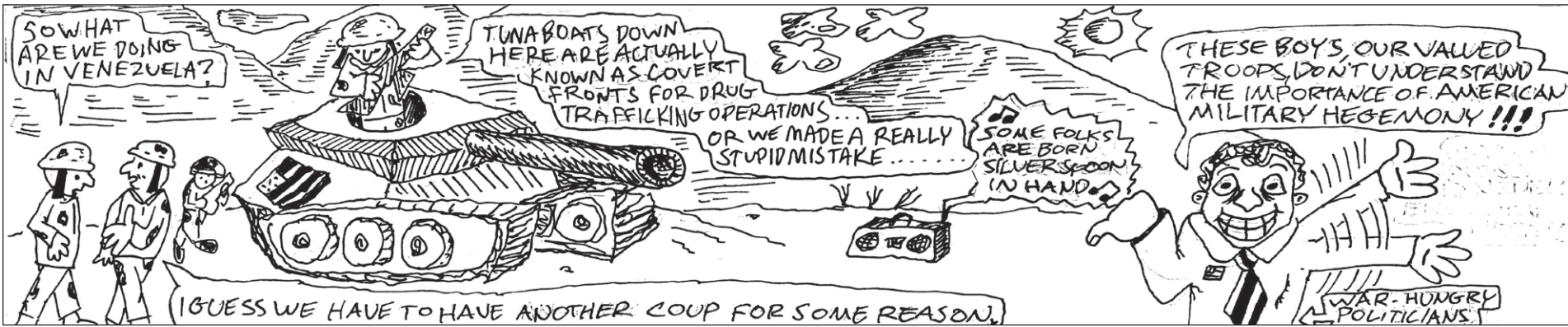
Because of that, we need to stop judging people for when their bodies don't function how we assume our peers' bodies should. Dealing with any sort of condition, acute or chronic, physical or mental, isn't an admission of failure.

Being compassionate to others is a solid way to make sure the world is compassionate to us — and I've seen many compassionate practices in my daily life already.

Whether it's an offer to share notes, a non-acknowledgement of the change in someone's attire (or a check-in, if they'd be cool with that), or even reassurance that it's okay to stay home and rest, everything goes a long way in helping someone feel a little better about feeling bad.

Being sick, missing out and generally not feeling great is never fun. So, that all said, I won't judge you if you sit a little further from me in class because you're under the weather. But if you know you're sick and cough on me, so help me-

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Cartoon by Nate Campbell

MY VIEW | Elbia Vidal

Why global conflicts matter everywhere

For decades, the language of "First World" and "Third World" has been used to draw sharp lines across the global map.

These terms, though outdated in academic and diplomatic circles, still carry weight in the public imagination. They suggest that certain nations — often labeled "First World" — hold the

economic, political and social power to shape world affairs, while others sit on the margins, as mere observers.

Historically, it's true that the most powerful economies have wielded disproportionate influence. Their technologies, policies and cultural exports have framed what the rest of the world consumes, admires or resists.

But this narrative oversimplifies the real complexity of global interactions.

To assume that "Third World" countries exist only in the shadow of "First World" dominance is to ignore how conflict, instability and resistance in these nations ripple outward, reshaping global politics in very real ways.

What happens in places often dismissed as peripheral frequently forces powerful nations to respond, negotiate and even reconfigure their strategies.

Taking Venezuela as a clear example: years of economic

collapse and political unrest have pushed millions of Venezuelans to migrate, seeking stability and resources their country can no longer provide.

This massive displacement has reshaped the demographics of neighboring nations like Colombia and Brazil, while also reaching the United States and Europe.

When economic instability or political crises force people to leave their homelands, migration becomes a global reality.

Students, workers and families cross borders not because they want to abandon their roots, but because scarce resources or unsafe conditions leave them with no choice.

These movements reshape the demographics, labor markets and even political debates in wealthier nations.

What may begin as a local shortage of food, medicine, or jobs in one country quickly becomes an international concern, proving once again that no society exists in isolation.

These clashes may appear isolated, tied to regional disputes and the politics of Latin America.

Yet, they underscore a broader truth: so-called "Third World" nations hold the capacity to draw global superpowers into confrontation.

A recent example would be the dispute off the Venezuelan coast that has quickly become a matter not just of national security but of international tension.

President Donald Trump warned last week that Venezue-

lan military aircraft could be shot down if they approached American naval ships and posed a risk. A sign of how seriously the U.S. monitors and responds to regional instability, treating Venezuela not just as a local issue but as a matter of national security and strategic vigilance.

The boundaries between "First" and "Third" blur when the actions of one nation reverberate across oceans, shaping foreign policy, military strategy and even public opinion abroad.

The persistence of labels blinds us to these realities. The reasons why some nations enjoy greater stability than others are complex and deeply rooted in history.

Colonial legacies, access to natural resources, systems of governance and global alliances all play roles in shaping a country's long-term trajectory.

Countries that industrialized early often developed stronger infrastructures and institutions, giving them a competitive advantage in the global economy.

By contrast, others were left dependent on exports, vulnerable to external shocks, or trapped in cycles of corruption and inequality.

Stability, then, is not simply a matter of current leadership but of structural conditions built over generations. Understanding these inequalities helps us see that global hierarchies are not natural — they are constructed, and therefore can also be transformed.

It assumes a one-directional

flow of influence, from the powerful to the powerless.

In truth, global history is far more entangled.

Countries often relegated to the margins play pivotal roles in shaping narratives, crises and solutions. Whether through resource struggles, migration flows, or conflicts that escalate into international incidents, their significance cannot be dismissed.

It is precisely for this reason that staying informed about what happens beyond one's own borders is so important.

The world is not a set of isolated nations but a network of lines constantly crossing and influencing each other.

A political crisis in one country can lead to migration waves in another; an economic collapse abroad can ripple through global markets and a regional conflict can reshape military strategies for powers like the United States.

Power is not only concentrated in economic centers but is constantly contested and redefined across the globe.

The world is interdependent, and to pretend otherwise risks misunderstanding how deeply connected our futures truly are.

Elbia Vidal is a columnist and part of the newsletter team for The Daily Collegian. They are a fourth-year studying sociology and digital and print journalism. Email them at ekv5127@psu.edu and follow them on X @[elbia_vidal](https://twitter.com/elbia_vidal)

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Daily Collegian

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Women's volleyball finding groove

By Andrew Deal
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Penn State entered the 2025 season with high expectations coming off a national championship and impressive recruiting and transfer portal classes.

However, after All-American setter Izzy Starck announced that she'll be stepping away from volleyball for the season due to mental health reasons, the outlook of the team drastically changed.

The Nittany Lions dropped their first match without Starck to No. 4 Kentucky, 3-0, but got back on track after a three-game losing streak.

Saint Louis transfer Addie Lyon stepped into the role and has commanded the offense well in her first three matches of the season.

"I think (Addie) has just been really good about communication and just trying to figure out what works, and done it in a really quick and timely manner," outside hitter Emmi Sellman said. "Coming in really fast and trying to work with us and work on patience and she's been really great about that."



Megan Miller/Collegian

The Nittany Lions huddle after a rally during the Penn State women's volleyball game against the University of Pittsburgh at Rec Hall on Sept. 17, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

Standing at 5-foot-9, Lyon makes the lineup on the court shorter. But, coach Katie Schumacher-Cawley has experimented in ways to add height to the front row.

An additional middle blocker would come in for Lyon, making Gillian Grimes, Ava Falduto or Jocelyn Nathan one of the likely "setters" with the lineup.

However, the trio of the "littles" have returned to the court to-

gether since Lyon's insertion into the lineup. This trio in a rotation was a major adjustment made last season that helped lead the Nittany Lions to the national championship.

The chemistry with Lyon and the hitters in matches has considerably grown in just five days. Additionally, the O'Fallon, Missouri, native became more comfortable in the offense, notching two kills of her own in the team's sweep of

Bucknell.

"Addie is a great human being, a great leader on the court and she runs the offense really well," middle blocker Maggie Mendelson said. "She's a great volleyball player, but even a better human, so I'm just excited to keep going with her and have her keep leading us."

An additional aspect of Lyon's game that'll be bigger is her serving game. The graduate stu-

dent was the most used serving specialist among players off the bench during the first four matches. Now, her serving will be a part of every set and has already become vital with two service aces in Penn State's most recent victory.

The Nittany Lions offense thrived with Lyon in control in their last two matches. The blue and white hit .430 and .375 in its most recent wins with the offense being more in-rhythm.

Even with the first unranked matchups of the season, Lyon's passes were in sync with all of her hitters, showcasing a strong response from the team's first setback of the season with its three-game losing streak.

The blue and white have an abundance of talented hitters around Lyon and could fully turn the corner after its recent skid.

Despite losing an All-American, Penn State still has an immense amount of talent, including First-Team All-American Kennedy Martin, with the squad still having the capability to go far in the NCAA Tournament.

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Men's soccer loses conference opener

By Ryan Stevenson
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

MEN'S SOCCER

The Nittany Lions were defeated by the Scarlet Knights 1-0 under the lights Friday in New Jersey, dropping their record to 2-3-1 on the season.

The Nittany Lions looked to build on a 5-0 win against Mercyhurst a week ago, but were unable to get the offense going against their Big Ten rival.

Rutgers had double the shots the blue and white had, and despite a strong showing from the defense and goalkeeping, the Scarlet Knights were able to find the back of the net once, which proved to be enough to get the win.

The first half was a scoreless battle, with both teams having multiple chances to score, but neither team would budge, keeping the game knotted up at nothing after 45 minutes.

In the first frame, Penn State stopper Jonathan Evans was the standout. He made two saves, including a point blank diving stop against the Big Ten leader in goals, Joschi Schelb. The box score doesn't tell the story for the Nittany Lion goalie, however, as Evans made countless big plays outside of his two saves.

The match opened in Penn State's favor, as the team had all the momentum in the first 10-15 minutes of play, but was unable to capitalize on any of the opportunities.

Midfielder Caden Grabfelder, the team's leading scorer, logged



Megan Miller/Collegian

The Nittany Lions line up during the National Anthem before the soccer game against Missouri State at Jeffrey Field on Sept. 1, 2025.

the only shot on goal of the half for the blue and white with a screamer from the top of the box. The shot went directly at Rutgers goalkeeper Ciaran Dalton, resulting in a save. The Nittany Lions continued to apply pressure to begin the match, but were unable to net one.

The momentum quickly flipped into Rutgers' favor, with the Scarlet Knights putting eight shots up, including two on goal, but were unable to send the ball past Evans. They also had four corners and several centering chances, but the Penn State defense stonewalled Rutgers every time.

The second half began similarly to the first, with both teams going back and forth, each having ample opportunities to strike first, but both Evans for Penn State, and Rutgers stopper Dalton were able to maintain the tie.

The scoreless deadlock finally broke at about the 78th minute

as Rutgers midfielder Joschi Schelb scored his sixth goal of the season on a penalty kick. The rocket goal, that went bar down, freezing the Nittany Lion goalie, came after a yellow card was shockingly upgraded to a red card. The penalty ejected defender Joe Sheridan for a denied scoring chance.

As a result of the red card, the blue and white had to finish the match a man down. The offense was unable to get things going, and frustration quickly set in. Despite having a few opportunities to even up the game, Penn State ultimately fell short, losing to Rutgers 1-0 on the road.

Up Next:

Penn State will host No. 11 Indiana at 7 p.m. Sept. 19 at Jeffrey Field. The match will be streamed on Big Ten Plus.

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On the rise



Alexandra Antoniono/Collegian

Florence Caron leads at Women's 6K race at the Spiked Shoe Invitational on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 in State College, Pa.

By Noah Aberegg
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

CROSS COUNTRY

Penn State is on the rise. After winning both the Dolan Duals and Harry Groves Spiked Shoe Invitational, the Nittany Lions rose to No. 14 in the latest USTFCCA poll on Tuesday.

The blue and white came into

the season ranked 15th, but with top performances from graduate student Florence Caron and freshman Lilliah Gordon, it has improved.

The Nittany Lions have two weeks off until their next competition, when they will compete at the Paul Short Run in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

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Levi Haines earns silver

By Andrew Deal
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

WRESTLING

Penn State's Levi Haines dropped his gold medal match at the 2025 Wrestling World Championships, but still earned a silver medal.

Haines looked strong in his path to the finals with a 5-2 and 10-0 victory in the first two rounds of the tournament.

In the quarterfinals, the Ardenstville, Pennsylvania, native took down Akhmed Usmanov of United World Wrestling, 3-2, earning a spot in the semifinals.

Haines defeated Mongolia's Suldkhuu Olonbayar, 4-1, with two takedowns late in the match.

The Penn State wrestler fell to Greece's Georgios Kougioumtsis in the gold medal match, 3-2, notching a takedown with just seconds remaining to pull to within a point. However, his "shot clock" point allowed, early in the match, was the difference maker.

Haines earned a silver medal at the Senior Level Wrestling World Championships capping off his strong summer of international wrestling.

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Way-too-early season predictions for women's basketball

MY VIEW

NOAH ABEREGG

"Despite finishing last in the Big Ten last season, much more is in store this year for the blue and white."

Penn State entered this summer in a rough position, barely able to put enough players on the court.

After a few weeks of big-name recruits committing to the Lady Lions and the arrival of its new freshmen, Penn State is in a better place this fall, entering the season as one of the better teams in the Big Ten.

Here are some way-too-early predictions for the Lady Lions' 2025-26 campaign.

'New' Lady Lions will lead team in scoring

Last season, the blue and white saw most of its scoring come from Gracie Merkle and Moriah Murray.

While the dynamic duo will be back in action this year, so will Rutgers transfer Kiyomi McMiller and freshman Shayla Smith.

McMiller led the Scarlet Knights in scoring during her freshman year, averaging 18.7 points per game. The Silver Springs, Maryland, native drew comparisons between her and NBA star Kyrie Irving, saying, "She has that flair and style to her game, and it's basically made to be a highlight reel."

This summer, the former Rutgers star played in the 2025 FIBA COCOPA Championship, where she put up 36 points in the bronze medal match.

Likely taking the court next to McMiller, Smith comes as one of Philadelphia's most decorated high school athletes.

Smith was the fastest player in her league to reach 1,000 points — a record previously held by

South Carolina coach Dawn Stanley — and became Philadelphia's all-time leading scorer, breaking the 2,500-point marker.

With Murray still in the lineup, expect these two new faces to make big gains for the blue and white and sit at the top of the team's stat sheet.

Finish top-five in Big Ten

The Lady Lions managed only one conference win in the 2024-25 season, yet seven of their losses were by single-digit margins.

Things will be different this season, however. In addition to McMiller's commitment to Penn State and Smith's arrival, it also retained Murray and Merkle, who both entered the transfer portal but ultimately returned to Happy Valley.

Murray announced to fans at Penn State's Be a Part from the Start — the school's annual freshman pep rally — that they will see the Lady Lions in the March Madness tournament this year. To do so, they will have to finish near the top of the Big Ten.

While taking down top teams like UCLA and USC will be dif-

ficult, Penn State can get wins over Rutgers, Purdue, Michigan, Wisconsin and other Big Ten teams it fell to last year.

Nationally-recognized guard room

Coming off a season where the team's only Big Ten honor was Merkle's honorable mention, the Lady Lions should be receiving more love this season.

The guard room specifically will boast several top Big Ten honors and even national honors as it makes itself known as one of the best backcourt rotations in college basketball.

Outside of the already mentioned Murray, Smith and McMiller, Penn State is home to 2023-24 NJCAA Defensive Player of the Year Vitoria Santana, who hasn't seen much court time for the Lady Lions.

In addition to Santana, Shaelyn Steele — Kentucky's No. 1 recruit from the Class of 2024 — will return to the blue and white after not seeing much playing time.

Last month, the Lady Lions



Kayla McCullough/Collegian

Center Gracie Merkle (44) shoots a free throw on Monday, Nov. 4, 2024 in University Park, Pa.

strengthened their guard room even more with a commitment from one of Switzerland's top guards, Viktoria Ranisavljevic. Ranisavljevic averaged 23.8 points during the 2024 FIBA European Championship.

Between these new faces and some veteran guards, Penn State will boast one of the best guard rooms in the country this season.

‘Results Will Vary*’ inspires students

By Ashlyn Kafer
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

From catchy choruses to conversations on consent, the New Student Orientation (NSO) performance “Results Will Vary*” welcomes incoming students to Penn State each summer.

The show is engineered every year by current Penn State students to interactively and comedically introduce resources available at Penn State and to offer methods for transitioning into the college atmosphere.

Nalia Ahmed, a cast member in this past summer’s rendition of “Results Will Vary*,” described the show as “joyous, energetic and goofy.”

“It’s really hard being thrown so much information starting at Penn State during orientation,” Ahmed, a second-year studying musical theatre, said. “I think (‘Results Will Vary*’) is a fun way

to sum up all the ways to stay safe and happy, and know the campus as a whole.”

The show offers the students involved the opportunity to enter a professional environment where they get to collaborate, express their talents and interact with future peers.

The cast helps to develop the script and sketches, updating to keep the show relevant based off of the script from the year prior, as cast member Daman Mills experienced.

“This year we didn’t add any new content,” Mills, a third-year studying musical theatre, said. “We always have the ability to adjust it. The music was already prewritten, and we get to put our own elements and our own kind of flavors into what was there before.”

The performance also is heavily intertwined with audience participation, focusing on engaging

the incoming students as they enter into an environment that can be overwhelming at first.

Kenikki Thompson, a cast member of “Results Will Vary*,” explained how the show thrived

“The more we related to them and the more we said ‘you’re going to mess up’ and ‘bad things are going to happen,’ the less fear they had about college.”

Kenikki Thompson

best on spontaneity, and the cast matched the audiences’ energy.

“One time we would have a

very tired audience, or we would have a very rowdy audience that was very participatory,” Thompson, a second-year studying musical theatre said. “I think every show was different based on our energy, but also the people that were watching.”

“Results Will Vary*” touches on a variety of concepts, such as building community, substance abuse, sexual assault prevention and the bystander effect, while presenting campus resources to combat potential negative experiences.

The performance combines musical theater aspects with sketch-comedy to make occasionally sensitive or complicated topics more digestible.

Cast member Kyler Beck reflected on the nature of the sketches present throughout the show, and how it related to media their audience may have seen previously.

“For all the sketches we’ve learned, they’re based off of some kind of silly sketch,” Beck, a third-year studying musical theatre, said. “For our ‘STI Guy’ sketch, it’s supposed to resemble ‘Sesame Street.’ The other one called ‘Classroom Zoo’ is supposed to resemble Steve Irwin.”

Thompson realized that throughout the show, the freshman would recognize that they are not alone.

“It’s meant to alleviate the whole fear of college,” Thompson said. “I think the whole mission is just to make the fear go away.”

As the cast worked on “Results Will Vary*,” they were able to see the impact that their show has on the community of incoming students at Penn State.

Ahmed realized the effect they could have on others through their talents after the conclusion of “Results Will Vary*” and receiving feedback from former audience members.

“A lot of people come up to you on campus afterwards and compliment you, which I didn’t expect,” Ahmed said. “People would come up to me and say ‘I

really loved you in the show, you inspired me,” and the fact that I’m able to do that for people just in a small show like this, it just makes my day.”

The experience is also very rewarding for its cast, giving them the chance to make new connections, gain valuable career experience and to develop their talent.

“We’ll do warm ups and exercises before the show starts everyday to get us in the right mindset and have synergy together,” Beck said. “Since we’re part of the New Student Orientation crew, we have a lot of close contact with the orientation leaders and we hang out with them a lot outside.”

Students can get involved with “Results Will Vary*” through an audition process that takes place during the spring semester, showing off their musical and acting skills.

Mills explained how the show can help connect you to new experiences and audiences, while also building strong bonds.

“The bonding experience, making friends and getting to work with people that maybe we don’t always get to was one of the most rewarding things,” Mills said. “Getting to reach a crowd you don’t typically reach and doing content that you don’t typically do, that was definitely pretty rewarding.”

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Take a look

You might also like these:

Live music locales in State College

Amelia and the Bad Men make their mark

Penn State Centre Stage 2025-26 performance lineup

Online: www.psucollegian.com
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Courtesy of Cassidy Brown

The cast of Results Will Vary* gathers together at Convocation on Aug. 25th, 2025 in the Bryce Jordan Center

Penn State TikTok reviews dining hall food

By Lily Groover
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

Known for his food reviews of many spots on campus, Zachary Calamita has amassed over 6,000 followers on TikTok since moving into his dorm.

“The very first time I did it, I was hungry in summer session,” Calamita, a first-year studying secondary English education, said. “I went to the dining hall without my two friends and I was like, ‘I don’t really want to eat here alone.’”

That day, the first video of Calamita reviewing pesto pasta, breadsticks and cauliflower from the East Food District Buffet got over 60,000 views.

“The next day, I went back and did another one, and then it just kind of spiraled into something,” Calamita said.

The dining hall always serves something different so this gives Calamita the opportunity to make lots of content in one place.

“My all-time favorite is the chicken parm, I will cancel so many plans to go and get that,” Calamita said.

Calamita’s academic schedule allows him to focus on his coursework, but still have the time to upload more content regularly.

“I am always prioritizing school and I have a really nice schedule this semester. All my classes start around 9 or 10 a.m., and I’m done by 1 p.m.,” Calamita said.

This gives him time for homework, friends and going to dinner to record. It takes 15 to 20 minutes to edit and post most of his content.

“Sometimes I have a friend record if it was a lot of food, I was trying to do something different or if it’s a more interesting place — I’ll have my friends try it with me,” Calamita said. “Sometimes, if we are all trying to eat quickly, I’ll just record in my own little corner.”

The people around Calamita said they weren’t surprised his content took off due to his outgoing personality.

“My mom, she can’t believe any of it, she is definitely my biggest supporter and teachers back at home are congratulating me,” Calamita said. “The response has been so, so positive.”

His sister Molly Calamita is very happy his videos have taken off.

“I think he has a great future administration, said. “Zac has always been so creative and has already found such a great community of people here at Penn State.”

Molly will occasionally make an appearance in Zac’s videos, and will sometimes give suggestions, supporting him in any way she can.

“I love having my brother here on campus with me, and seeing him thrive at Penn State has been so amazing to see,” Molly said.

Julie Gardner, one of Calamita’s closest childhood friends, said she was in shock at his first viral video.

“Zac has always liked posting content, but he never expected his content to become viral,” Gardner, a first-year studying elementary and early childhood education, said.

As his follower count climbed, so did the attention around him. Because of his new Penn State fame, Calamita gets stopped in public very often.

“People come up to him and want to take pictures,” Gardner said. “Also, people love to talk to him about his food reviews, and even give him suggestions on where to review next.”

Gardner believes Calamita has a big future in store for him, as he’s already been able to meet so many new people and have memorable experiences.

“I know one of Zac’s goals is to be able to partner with brands,”

Gardner said. “This may be a possibility for him in the near future.”

Gardner truly believes that over the next four years, Calamita will be doing big things at Penn State.

Other Penn State content creators have reached out to Calamita, helping him and welcoming him into the circle.

“There’s this other TikTok, Kaitlyn, who did summer session as well, so we’ve gotten close over TikTok,” Calamita said. “Also, one of my favorite creators, Riley Ruberton, followed me back and we DM’d a little bit.”

There are only so many food places at Penn State to try, but Calamita is happy to continue making whatever content he enjoys.

“I don’t know what this could turn into, I’ve done some ‘get ready with me’s’ that have also done pretty well,” Calamita said. “(I’m) definitely not sure if it’ll turn into a Katie Feeney career moment, but it’s just something really fun on the side.”

For now, Calamita is happy balancing schoolwork with TikToks. Whether it leads to brand deals or just more chicken parm reviews, he’s excited to see where the next plate takes him.

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Noah Aberegg/Collegian

Food influencer Zac Calamita poses with his food at Findlay Commons on Monday, Sept. 15, 2025 in University Park, Pa.

‘Full Throttle Tour’ coming to BJC

By Jocelyn Bilker
THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

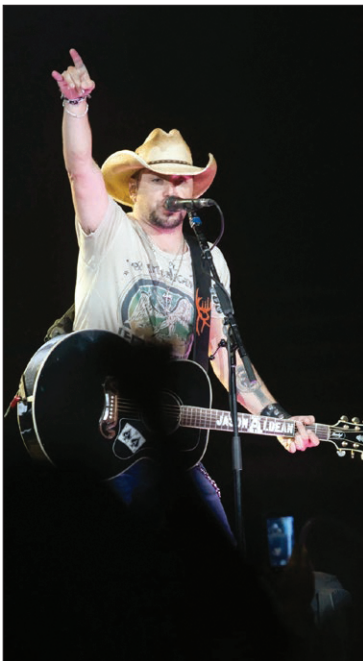
Jason Aldean is set to return to the Bryce Jordan Center as part of his “Full Throttle Tour,” with special guests Nate Smith, Lanie Gardner and Dee Jay Silver on Jan. 29, 2026.

The multi-platinum country star last performed at the BJC on September 21, 2019.

Known for chart-toppers like “Big Green Tractor,” “She’s Country” and “Trouble With A Heartbreak,” Aldean has been part of the country music scene for over a decade. His Full Throttle Tour comes on the heels of new music releases and a summer of major festival appearances.

Tickets go on sale Friday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. via Ticketmaster.

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Lily LaRegina/Collegian file photo

Jason Aldean brought his ‘Ride All Night Tour’ to the BJC in 2019.

THIS WEEK IN HAPPY VALLEY

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

- National Hazing Prevention Week Tabling: 10 a.m. 4 p.m. at HUB Information Table #4
- Mind Gym: Effective Self-Talk: 6–7 p.m. at HUB 132 Flex Theater
- Chess Club: 5:30 p.m. Schlow Library

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

- Dining on a Budget Webinar: Noon–1 p.m. on Zoom
- Men's Soccer vs. Maryland: 8 p.m. at Jeffrey Field
- Talk Saves Lives: 7–8 p.m. on Zoom
- Shinrin-Yoku, Forest Bathing: 4–5:30 p.m. at Hartley Wood, Arboretum (Must register online)
- Smeal on the Spot: 11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Business Building

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

- Feed The People Market Stand: 1:30–6 p.m. at HUB Main Lounge Table #5
- Well-Being Wednesday: 3–5 p.m. at IM Building
- Vibe Out x Mindful Making: 4–5 p.m. at HUB 134

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

- Women's Ice Hockey vs. St. Lawrence: 6 p.m. at Pegula Ice Arena
- Art After Hours: Journey to Nature’s Underworld: 5–8 p.m. at Palmer Museum of Art

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

- Women's Volleyball vs USC: 8 p.m. at Rec Hall
- National Hazing Prevention Week Banner Signing: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. at HUB 110