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# The Daily Collegian

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30 cents off campus



President Barack Obama delivers remarks on health insurance reform during his event at the University of Iowa.

## Pell grants to rise

State legislators are applauding a bill that will put \$36B into Pell grants over ten years.

By Terhea Doaty  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The U.S. Senate passed a bill Thursday that will invest \$36 billion dollars over 10 years into Pell grants, increasing the maximum given to \$5,550 this year and moving to \$5,975 by 2017.

Penn State officials said they look forward to the increase in funds available to help students pay for their college education, university spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said.

"The additional Pell grant money will be very helpful to students as students and families struggle to afford higher education," she said.

Cutting subsidies to large banks that give student loans, the bill will redirect money to invest in the grants, which directly affects students and their families. Private commercial banks will in turn be dropped from the federal student loan equation.

State legislators applaud the effort to increase funds.

"Education is one of our nation's greatest capital assets," said Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa. "This bill will make college more accessible and more affordable to students and their families."

Tor Michaels, chief of staff for state Rep. Scott Conklin, D-Centre, said the congressman agrees with the increase in funds allotted to Pell grants. Any time the student population can be helped to achieve an education, it improves the country as a whole, he said.

"Clearly we are in a global economy, and Penn State is a very important component in that economy," Michaels said. "Any time our future leaders have the chance to receive a higher education — especially those that cannot afford a college education but are bright

See PELL GRANTS, Page 2.

## UPUA to offer legal services

Penn State will open its new Office of Legal Services on Monday.

By Paige Minemyer  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

University officials announced Thursday that the Office of Legal Services will open its doors Monday, according to a press release from Student Affairs.

Attorney Carolyn Larrabee, who served as a Centre County assistant district attorney for four years and is a 2004 graduate of the Dickinson School of Law, will lead the new division.

University spokesman Geoff Rushton commended the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) for its efforts in establishing the Legal Services and said administrators are fully behind the program.

"It was a great demonstration of leadership by UPUA to advocate for this," he said.

The Office of Legal Services would provide students with free legal advice and also will help them find lawyers and other counsel.

This service will be funded by the student activity fee, costing students about \$2 a semester.

Establishing Legal Services has been a key part of current

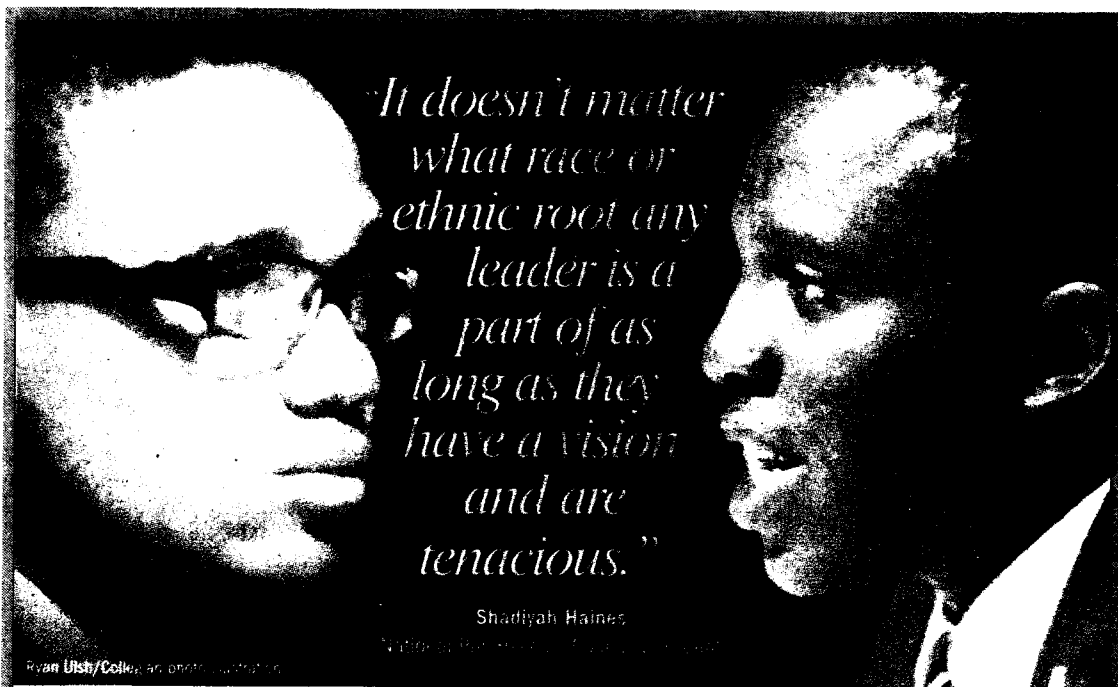
UPUA President Gavin Keirans' platform during his two terms in office.

He said he's thrilled to see it finally happen after two years of hard work.

"It's really progressed from an idea into reality," Keirans (senior-business management) said.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Philip Burlingame said Keirans' efforts have been

See LEGAL OFFICE, Page 2.



Shadiyah Haines

## RUNNING WITHOUT RACE

UPUA to elect first black pres.

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On March 31, Penn State students will elect the fourth-ever black student body president and the first in UPUA history — a situation some are proud to say is generating little controversy.

To Vice Provost for Educational Equity Terrell Jones, the relatively small role race has played in the election is a testament to the progress that has occurred throughout Penn State's history.

"The fact that [the current election] has gone through with so little fanfare makes a statement about where we were 20 years ago compared to where we're at now," Jones said. "If it wasn't for your generation, Obama wouldn't be president, so you've made it very clear that we see things differently."

But that progress didn't come without some resistance and hard work.

Seth Williams, who became the first black Philadelphia district attorney last year, was the most recent black student body president, taking office more than two decades ago.

Having attended Penn State as a second-generation undergraduate and now looking at the school from an alumnus' perspective, he said he understands how much the campus climate has improved for minorities, even in the last half-century.

Williams recalled his father's experience at Penn State in the 1940s, when despite being a varsity track athlete, he and other black students were prohibited from living on campus.

Even during Williams' college career in the late 1980s, he witnessed racial tension and said he received multiple race-related death threats when serving as student body president.

But even for the difficulties he and his father encountered, Williams said the university has made strides for each generation.

"The world is much different than it was that short period of time ago," Williams said. "It's progressed very far from the time I was there to the time that we have now, and I hope we can continue to move forward."

Indeed, moving forward is foremost in the candidates' minds. Current presidential

See ELECTIONS, Page 2.



Chris Donadio/Collegian

UPUA candidate David Adewumi rebuts an issue in a debate held on Tuesday.



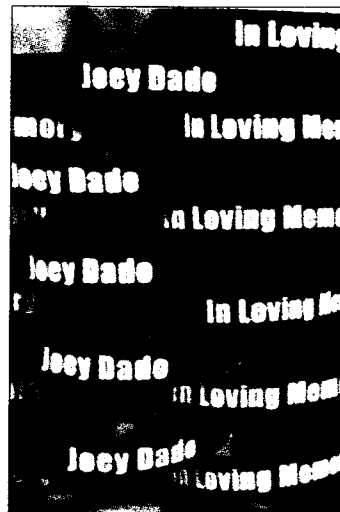
Chloe Elmer/Collegian

David Adewumi and Christian Ragland speak with students in the HUB-Robeson Center on Thursday.



Steph Witt/Collegian

UPUA candidates answer questions at IFC/PHC Presidents meeting.



Nigel Graham/Collegian

Students sell wrist bands that read: "In Loving Memory" and "Joe Dado." Profits from the sale go to a scholarship fund endowed by Joe Dado's parents.



Steph Witt/Collegian

Atlas' Soundtrack performs during last year's Battle of the Bands. This year's battle begins Saturday.

## Bands prepare to battle on stage

By Lindsay Cryer  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State musicians: Prepare for battle.

Movin' On's Battle of the Bands will take place at 9 p.m. Saturday in the HUB-Robeson Center's Alumni Hall.

Twelve performers will compete to receive playing time at this year's Movin' On spring music festival, which

will take place April 17 on the HUB lawn.

The second-, third- and fourth-place winners will play at Movin' On for 45 minutes each toward the beginning of the festival. The winner will play a 55-minute set closer to the end of the day.

Battle of the Bands Co-Chairman Katie Colvin said this year's talent is worth coming to see.

"These people who are

playing, you listen to them and you'd think that they'd be on the radio — and I go to class with these people," Colvin (senior-advertising) said. "It's an amazing amount of talent that we have at Penn State."

The competition brings back several bands that have battled before, including Ground Breaking Ceremony and So Long, Pluto.

See BATTLE, Page 2.

### If you go

**What:** Movin' On's Battle of the Bands

**When:** 9 p.m. Saturday  
**Where:** HUB-Robeson Center's Alumni Hall

**Details:** Free and open to the public. For a list of bands and a schedule, visit [movinon.org/battle](http://movinon.org/battle).