

UPUA adds new liaisons to committee

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland established a new method, designed in an effort to improve communication between student organizations and the student government.



Ragland

Ragland said that with this initiative, Michal Berns will serve as the student life and diversity director on UPUA's executive board, which has six confirmed members and five to be nominated in the fall.

Under Berns (senior-media studies), 12 to 15 students will act as liaisons for various student organizations.

Ragland (senior-political sci-

ence) said UPUA decided on this method because it wants to ensure that "student life and diversity covers everything."

"I have been examining the executive board for the past two years, and it just didn't seem like it was effective from my end, being a former student life and diversity chairman," Ragland said. "[It's a] nice formal way in having everybody in the same room and being able to reach out to them frequently."

Berns said she met with Ragland to discuss and recruit the current liaisons that they thought would be best able to reach out to student organizations. She said they also wanted to make sure that they had a liaison for each aspect of student life and diversity.

"They're able to reach out to a lot more students than one person can," she said. "With this, we're able to make more students aware of UPUA and how we can be there

"[It's a] nice formal way in having everybody in the same room and being able to reach out to them frequently."

Christian Ragland
UPUA president

But UPUA is not waiting until fall to begin plans for student life and diversity. Two conference calls — with a third scheduled for later this week — have already been held, Ragland said.

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Liaisons

1. Woman Affairs
2. Religious Affairs
3. Greek Life Affairs
4. Sports Liaison
5. Health Services Affairs
6. University and Alumni Affairs
7. Arts Affairs
8. International Student Affairs
9. LGBTQA Affairs
10. Multicultural Affairs
11. Community Service Affairs

for student groups. I will be meeting with the liaisons once a week and passing along the information they give me to the executive board."

Nick Mittereder, who will serve as the arts affairs liaison, said he became a liaison through Ragland.

"My organization, Penn State Thespians, was working with him on how we could make student life and diversity better," Mittereder (senior-broadcast journalism and communication arts and science) said. "And when he told me he was running for president, I told him if he needed help with the arts, I

would help. Then when he won, he got me in touch with the student life and diversity director."

Though Mittereder said he is not "entirely sure" what all his goals are as a liaison, he does want to ensure communication between the student organizations and UPUA.

"We want to open up communication and make sure all students and all organizations are heard," he said. "It's my goal to do that for the arts organizations. [We want to] find out how student government can be an advocate for the student organizations in the university."

StoryCorps to make stop in Bellefonte

By Sky Friedlander
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

StoryCorps is coming to Central Pennsylvania — Bellefonte, to be exact.

From Thursday to Sept. 4, a StoryCorps vehicle will be in Bellefonte to record the stories of pre-scheduled participants.

The nonprofit organization will collect the stories of Pennsylvanians to be preserved in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and possibly for broadcast on the radio.

The first participants for the local StoryCorps will be family members: Sue Paterno and her granddaughter, Olivia, will kick off the interviews, according to a press release.

"Our mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of their lives," senior com-

munications coordinator Sacha Evans said.

StoryCorps has mobile booths that travel around the entire country.

The booths are there to record a participant telling a story, and the set-up of the interviews is often one person interviewing a loved one, asking questions about one of the participants' lives.

Participants can schedule a reservation with StoryCorps, Evans said.

The interview process takes about an hour.

Many people come in pairs, but if someone comes alone, a facilitator will guide the recording, she said.

People can use the interviews to learn about their loved ones, Evans said.

Participants receive a CD of their interview to keep and the interview is also archived in the Library of Congress. While partic-



Courtesy of stanthonyf.org

StoryCorps is set to make a stop in Bellefonte Thursday.

ipants can opt to not have their story archived, about 99 percent choose to, Evans said.

She said the archive has accrued about 30,000 interviews since 2003.

The radio station will run edited versions of some of the local inter-

views on WPSU-FM, associate WPSU producer for radio Emily Reddy said.

National Public Radio (NPR) also airs a small portion of the StoryCorps interviews on the Friday "Morning Edition" show, Evans said.

About six of the Central Pennsylvania interviews will end up airing nationally, said Greg Petersen, WPSU-FM station manager.

He said he hopes to get as many local interviews to air on WPSU-FM as possible.

Petersen said public radio is a great venue for StoryCorps because "telling stories is what it's all about."

"The shared experience is sometimes closer than you think," Petersen said.

He thinks conversations between generations are very "poignant," because it puts elders and mentors in a different light, he said.

Evans said people like to talk about the biggest, most meaningful moments in their lives, like the birth of a child, wedding or a traumatic event.

"[We] are trying to tell the story of America," she said.

Penn State alumnus killed during York shooting

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Never missing a Penn State football game or the tailgate with his best friends are only two of the things that James Walmuth's father remembers about his son's time at Penn State.

He would do everything he could to get tickets for his friends from back home in York so they could visit campus and enjoy the game, his father said.

James Walmuth III, Class of 2004, died on Wednesday after a

gunshot wound proved fatal.

The York City Police Department said Walmuth suffered a fatal gunshot wound to his back at about 11 p.m. Wednesday in York, Pa.

He was transported to York Hospital where he was pronounced dead at 1:31 a.m. Thursday, police said.

Witnesses of the shooting told police that a group of men approached Walmuth, 28, and told him to hand over his cell phone, police said.

One of the men — who police

have identified as Jordan Wallick, 15 — then shot Walmuth in the back and ran away.

Wallick was arrested Friday morning, police said.

More arrests are pending, police said.

Walmuth was a York native and graduated from Penn State University Park with a double major in history and English, his father James Walmuth, Jr. said.

With the class load of a double major, Walmuth spent the majority of his free time at Penn State studying, his father said.

"He spent a few minutes in a Paterno Reading Room," Walmuth Jr. said.

On the night he was shot, Walmuth was speaking with a friend on his cell phone when Wallick approached him, police said.

He was sitting on a bench in an area called the "Boat Basin" by the corner of Clarke Avenue and Grant Street, in York, police said.

Witnesses of the shooting were able to positively identify Wallick as the shooter, police said.

After graduating from Penn

State, Walmuth was certified as a paralegal and worked as a case manager for the York County District Attorney.

He began studying law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in August of 2009, Walmuth Jr. said.

But he'll always be a Penn Stater, his father said.

"He really enjoyed his time at Penn State," Walmuth's father said. "He was always proud to be a Nittany Lion."

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Lawyers plead for reduced sentences

By Patrick Walters
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — Defense attorneys for two men convicted of first-degree murder in a police officer's slaying pleaded with a jury Monday to spare their clients' lives and sentence them to life in prison.

Levon Warner, 41, and Eric Floyd, 35, were convicted on all counts last week in the May 3, 2008, shooting death of Sgt. Stephen Liczbinski after a bank robbery. The two were in the getaway car when a third man, Howard Cain, shot the pursuing Liczbinski. Cain died later that day in a shootout with police.

The trial for Warner and Floyd lasted more than a month. The penalty phase, which began Monday, is expected to last at least a week.

Prosecutors on Monday argued that the men should be executed, citing the fact that a police officer was killed, that they endangered other people and that they have violent criminal histories.

But the defense attorneys asked jurors to consider that, even though both men have been convicted of first-degree murder, neither fired the shots that killed Liczbinski and both have difficult life histories.

"You still don't execute somebody who doesn't pull the trigger," said Floyd's attorney, Earl Kauffman. "You'll never hear anybody say Eric Floyd shot and killed anybody."

As with the first part of the trial, Floyd is watching the penalty phase via closed-circuit TV in a courthouse holding cell. He had been banished from the courtroom because he punched one of his lawyers during jury selection.

In their verdict last week, the jury found that Warner and Floyd shared in the blame for the officer's death, which followed a daytime bank robbery inside a supermarket in the city's Port Richmond section.

Both men took part in the robbery and were in the getaway car when Cain got out and shot Liczbinski, who was tailing them in his squad car.

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