

The Daily Collegian

psucollegian.com

@dailycollegian

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 111 No. 27

Monday, Aug. 9, 2010

30 cents off campus

Onorato to visit PSU

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania Democratic gubernatorial candidate and Penn State alumnus Dan Onorato will make a stop on campus today to discuss his ideas for propelling the state's economic development.

Onorato will hold a press conference at 11:15 a.m. at RTD Embedded Technologies, a technology company located at 103 Innovation Blvd.

The RTD Embedded Technologies specializes in designing and manufacturing high-tech equipment for industrial, military, transportation and aerospace fields, according to its website.

Onorato campaign spokesman Chris Fetterman said the company was an ideal location for Onorato to present his plan for spurring job growth.

"We were looking for a manufacturing plant he could go to with local jobs produced in the U.S.A.,"

Fetterman said. "It ties in with his economic plan as far as kind of putting an emphasis on high-tech jobs and training for those jobs."

Onorato took a similar high-tech approach to economic recovery as Allegheny County Executive, focusing on technology, research and development-oriented job creation during his time in office, according to the Allegheny County website.

To Penn State College Democrats President Rob See ONORATO, Page 2.



Collegian file photo

Onorato visited Penn State last spring.

Plan sees push

Ragland to lobby council

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Christian Ragland will propose the addition of a non-voting student member to the State College Borough Council at tonight's council meeting — an effort designed to improve town-and-gown relations.

Ragland, president of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), said the proposal is part of an initiative to "bridge the gap" between State College and Penn State.

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said the proposal will either be put on the next agenda for a vote, sent to a work session or simply dismissed by the council.

Goreham said that no matter what is decided for the proposal, she hopes students remain interested in working with the borough council.

If the proposal receives the council's approval at a later meeting, UPUA would appoint a student who would attend borough councils meetings and work sessions — but who would not carry a vote.

Ragland (senior political science) said UPUA has not established any possible candidates for the position, but said the student representative on the council would not necessarily be a member of the UPUA.

While anyone can apply, the person selected for the position would probably be a resident of the community and live off-campus, Ragland said.

"Our goal is just to get the opportunity to get a student on council," Ragland said. "We're taking steps to enhance the relationship that is already there."

The proposal would provide a constant voice on the borough council to provide a student perspective on issues that concern the student body, Ragland said.

Council member Silvi Lawrence said she is open to the idea of a student on council, but is concerned with a few issues surrounding the possible appointment.

Lawrence said one concern is that State College voters would have no say in the student who is appointed to the council.

Lawrence said the student would still have an influence on See BOROUGH, Page 2.

If you go

What: State College Borough Council Meeting

Where: State College Municipal Building, 243 S. Allen St.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Details: Student member proposal by Christian Ragland



M. Antonio Silas/Collegian

A student does a flip off the diving board at the McCoy Natatorium during a pool party sponsored by LEAP on Sunday.

LEAP students make a splash

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Freshmen who braved the waters of summer session at Penn State took another plunge Sunday afternoon at the Learning Edge Academic Program pool party at McCoy Natatorium.

With summer session coming to a close, the pool party is a traditional send-off for the program, Patrick Ritsko (sophomore-meteorology).

"It's the final big celebration

where they can enjoy themselves before finals and move-out day," said Ritsko, a Learning Edge Academic Program (LEAP) mentor.

The LEAP pool party — which started at 6 p.m. and lasted until 8 p.m. — was open free of charge to all summer session LEAP freshmen with their Penn State ID, Ritsko said.

Dan Friscia (freshman-business administration) said that he enjoyed meeting people ahead of the fall semester through LEAP

The free food and hanging out with friends at the LEAP events were a few of the reasons to go to the pool party on Sunday, Friscia said.

Before the festivities started Sunday night, over 250 freshmen confirmed their attendance on the LEAP pool party Facebook event, Ritsko said. Even though all 250 were not in attendance, LEAP is able to quickly reach more students through the group's Facebook page that was created this summer, he said.

"It's a quick twenty-second solution to get the word out there," Ritsko said. "As a LEAP student from last year, I've personally noticed a big turnaround in participation from last year."

Even though the Facebook event was popular with the LEAP students, the pool remained relatively empty during the event. Numerous students took turns diving off of the high dive, but the majority of the crowd in attendance was catching some sun. See POOL PARTY, Page 2.



Peter Tesoniero/Collegian

Conklin gives an interview.

Conklin launches proposal

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State Rep. Scott Conklin proposed a new bill Friday designed to increase emergency response procedures in the Pennsylvania oil and natural gas industry.

Conklin, D-Centre, cited two recent events — the June blowout in Clearfork County and the death of two workers in an Indiana Township oil and natural gas well explosion in July — as the "warning flares" that called for the legislation.

The proposed legislation would allow the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to develop certain regulations and procedures at oil and natural gas wells and also provide standards for on-site emergency response teams, Conklin said.

Funding for the emergency See CONKLIN, Page 2.

Big Ten to talk tuition

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students will team up with other leaders from the Big Ten Conference to try to get their voices heard by federal legislators in Washington, D.C. next spring.

The plan for a multi-school lobbying trip was one of several collaborative initiatives proposed at last weekend's Association of Big Ten Students (ABTS) conference.



Ragland

At the biannual event, University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) officials met with student government officials from other Big Ten schools to share progress on projects at their individual schools and to brainstorm ways to use their status as representatives of more than 300,000 students to influence higher education issues.

The meeting was held at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

UPUA President Christian Ragland said the idea for the Washington, D.C. trip was something several ABTS schools

came into the conference wanting to pursue.

"A lot of us do 'Capitol Day' on our own, but we feel we can take a lead as a conference and as the Big Ten to show [legislators] we're trying to make a movement," Ragland (senior-political science) said.

Ragland said representatives from the newest ABTS member school — the University of Nebraska — participated in a seminar organized by students from the Big 12 Conference and are offering their expertise as the Big Ten schools begin to plan their trip. See ABTS, Page 2.

Student works for bike share independently

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

One Penn State student is planning to bring a bike share program to State College — without the student government's help.

Lienard Chang (sophomore-engineering) said he still wants a bike sharing program at Penn State even if his plan does not get the funding it would have under the University Park Undergraduate Association's jurisdiction.

The original bike share plan — called project rideBLUE — would have allocated \$15,000 of the UPUA budget to purchase ten bikes that could be checked out by Penn State students at no charge. That plan was vetoed in the

spring by UPUA President Christian Ragland.

Ragland said he liked the idea of project rideBLUE but vetoed the plan because there were too many unanswered questions.

"We wanted to be very careful and financially responsible," Ragland said. "I'm going to make sure we are held accountable for everything we do financially and that we do all the research before we spend money in vain."

Chang, who is also an on-campus representative in UPUA, said he wants to move forward with the plan independent of the student government because the plan's size and scope has become larger than what UPUA could fund with its budget.

Because Chang wants to bring

the bike share program into the borough as well as on-campus, he said his new plan will require more bikes and more money.

Though he said nothing has been set in stone, Chang said he would like to have 100 bikes in the program that could be checked out for free from both on-campus and off-campus locations.

State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said Chang's concept for a bike share program would be environmentally friendly.

"We made a commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas footprint by 20 percent [in State College]," Goreham said. "This is good for the planet, it's good exercise and it's another thread that binds the community together."

Though Chang said the plan is

moving ahead independently of UPUA, he said student leaders and student groups like UPUA will be essential in developing a solid proposal to present to borough and university officials.

He said he would like to see students from a broad range of academic backgrounds use their talents and knowledge to develop various aspects of the proposal.

Goreham said a student-developed bike share program would be a good example of students using their abilities for the community's good.

"Students have new ideas and we love it when they use their newfound talents in town," she said. "So I would welcome that."

To e-mail reporter: bwm5147@psu.edu