



Kelsey Morris/Collegian

Timmy Strait (junior-engineering), left, and Lauren Rodriguez (junior-animal science) show off their moves at Saturday's Coming Out Dance.

## Coming Out Dance provides community

By Matt Scorzafave  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After attending Saturday night's Coming Out Dance, Timmy Strait said he's happy with Penn State's attempts to reach out to the LGBTQA community.

"The Penn State community is making an effort to kids who are struggling," Strait (junior-engineering science) said. "They're concerned."

The Rainbow Roundtable sponsored the Coming Out Dance — part of its celebration of National Coming Out Week, said Allison Jones, the group's president. The dance, held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Atherton Hotel, is just one of many events being held this week under the theme of "Bonded by the Rainbow."

Jones (senior-nursing) said the dance was a place for students who are struggling with their identity to feel comfortable.

"This event in particular really enables both Penn State students and the community to come together," Jones said.

Dozens of students and members of the LGBTQA community attended the dance to show support in preparation of this week's events. Julian Haas (junior-sociology) said the event was not

strictly intended for members of the LGBTQA community, but rather to anyone who wanted to participate.

"We want to show that if you want to come out, you have an entire community backing you up," Haas said.

Haas, an intern at Penn State's LGBTQA Student Resource Center, said a major goal of the event was also to provide a semi-formal event for students who couldn't take their same-sex partners to other events, namely high school dances.

"This offers students a chance to go to a formal dance that they couldn't necessarily go to before," he said.

Jones said the dance provided a judgment-free environment where students could wear whatever they wanted without a second glance.

"It's OK for a girl to wear a tie," she said.

In light of six suicides by gay students around the country in the last few weeks, Jones said this year's National Coming Out Week will be a bit different.

"I think this is important because there's a different vibe," she said. "It's a mix of both sorrow and excitement."

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## TEDx speakers share ideas

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Speakers at Sunday's TEDxPSU event only had 10 minutes each to enlighten those who attended to listen to their creative and innovative ideas.

The Technology Entertainment and Design (TED) conference was held throughout the day in Schwab Auditorium. The term "TEDx" refers to an independently organized TED event that brings together speakers with thought-provoking ideas to showcase and spread their knowledge to communities.

Schreyer Honors College Dean Christian Brady hosted the event at Penn State, where 15 speakers took the stage. Assistant architecture professor David Celento talked about the future of moving and housing, which he said culmi-

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Jonathan Ring

junior-information sciences and technology and security and risk analysis

nates in the idea of a "Jump Box," a kind of portable architecture.

"It would be a jump drive, shipping container and RV, and somehow they would get together and make little babies," he said.

During TEDxPSU, Penn State Outreach Health Initiatives Director Chris Calkins spoke about America's unsustainable level of spending.

"Decide how you want to die and let everyone know," he said. "Fundamentally this recommendation is not about costs, it's about the tremendous amount of emotional impact." Calkins also recommended that families to teach younger children to combat

education expenditures. Finally, he said to "listen into being."

"By carefully listening to the dreams [of children], you create a space in the world to make these dreams real," he said.

Attendee Jonathan Ring said he enjoyed TEDxPSU.

"I've been really impressed," said Ring (junior-information sciences and technology and security and risk analysis). "There's been a lot of great, innovative ideas that I think are important for us to think about."

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## HOMECOMING

### Overall winners celebrate hard work

By Vera Greene  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After months of preparation, weeks of meetings and endless hours of pumping, Alpha Kappa Lambda and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) emerged victorious during halftime at the football game against Illinois, where they were named Homecoming's overall winners.

But Brad Boyle (junior-journalism) said his fraternity's aim wasn't to win.

"We didn't really care if we came in first, second, third or fourth," said Boyle, Alpha Kappa Lambda Homecoming chairman. "We just wanted to put in enough work and effort to be proud of what we've done."

Danielle DaSilva, SWE president, said she found out her organization won while she was on the field being presented as 2010 Homecoming queen.

"I was jumping up and down, just so excited," DaSilva (senior-bioengineering and mechanical engineering) said. "I knew we had a lot of girls who were working so



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Homecoming overall winners Alpha Kappa Lambda and the Society of Women Engineers created a Finding Nemo float for Friday's parade.

hard at getting all the spirit points, and it was good to see that all of our hard work and effort paid off."

As of Friday night, DaSilva said no one knew who won since it was so close with last year's winners — Gamma Sigma Sigma sorority and Sigma Nu fraternity. DaSilva said some SWE members were talking about the win on Saturday night and were still giddy.

"They said when they found out they were so full of joy and stood

up in Beaver Stadium and screamed," she said.

Alpha Kappa Lambda Assistant Homecoming Chairman Dickson Obi-Tabot said technology was a key factor in the groups' success.

Keeping every member of his fraternity informed of all the events through text message, Obi-Tabot said people were more accountable.

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