

AUTUMN ARRIVES



Collegian/Sarah Finnegan

Leaves on trees around campus are still changing color despite weeks of extended warm weather. However, temperatures are expected to drop into the mid-50s this week.

# Officials discuss town-gown issues

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As students mark the midway point of the semester this week, Penn State and borough officials met to discuss issues of importance in State College and to look ahead to a strong second half.

F8, short for First Eight, is a collection of town and gown officials who meet weekly at the State College Municipal Building and discuss ways to improve the quality of life in the borough, said Greg Koehle, State College Police community relations officer.

The group, which has met behind closed doors since 2007, is comprised of law enforcement, borough, planning, zoning, Penn State and Judicial Affairs officials, Koehle said.

The group's main goal at the start of the semester — to prevent problems from developing — extends beyond the first eight weeks the group's name suggests, Koehle said.

"The larger issues in the community tend to occur during the first weeks of the semester," Borough Manager Tom Fountaine said.

Everything from disorderly conduct, assault, and noise and code violations are discussed at the meetings, Koehle said.

"We're aggressive in terms of enforcement," he said.

Preventative measures, such as the Living In One Neighborhood (LION) Walk — where town and gown officials visit downtown residences — are helpful in establishing a presence in the borough, Koehle said.

F8 members also coordinate with Student Affairs and the Office of Greek Life when dealing with issues concerning students, he said.

If the group is aware of a location with increased calls and noise violations, police can initiate a pre-party contact where an officer speaks to the residents to inform them about local laws, Penn State Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Joe Puzycki said.

Though the group's name is F8, Koehle said the weekly meetings are held throughout the first 12 weeks of the fall semester.

Currently there is no plan to extend the group into the spring semester.

But, Koehle said, collaboration between multiple agencies in State College is one of the biggest benefits of the meetings that extends beyond the basic 12-week timeframe.

"In a mixed community, there's ongoing challenges," Puzycki said. "We'll be struggling with these for a long time."

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# Student leaders travel to sexual assault conference

By Kathleen Loughran  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student body president Christian Ragland won't be at tonight's University Park Undergraduate Association meeting. But he's not taking a vacation.

Ragland (senior-political science), along with three other male student leaders, are traveling to Tacoma, Wash. for a sexual assault conference held at Pacific Lutheran University.

The trip — sponsored by Penn State's Center for Women Students — affords Penn State student leaders the opportunity to learn more about sexual assault and hear how other schools are trying to combat the issue.

"It's a great opportunity to get some new initiatives that hopefully we can see come to fruition throughout the rest of the year," Ragland said.



Ragland

At the conference, sessions will be held to educate attendees about sexual assault. In addition, schools will be able to exchange ideas on what male groups are doing about the issue.

Susan DelPonte, Center for Women Students' student affairs specialist, said she hopes the students gain knowledge through the multiple educational sessions that

will occur during the conference.

"While men alone certainly are not the solution, we can't have change without large numbers of men and women working together," she said. "We see what happened in town this weekend, so if we had more active bystanders, certainly a lot more can happen before they get to the point of being a crime."

Ragland said the educational component of the conference is an important aspect to mitigating sexual assault — a problem Ragland said is not black and white.

He said he realized the importance of education after holding the first all-male meeting earlier this year, where he brought

"If we're going to be passionate male leaders, we need to be educated."

Christian Ragland

University Park Undergraduate Association president

together male student leaders interested in addressing the issue.

"The key thing that came out [of the meeting] is we need to be educated," Ragland said. "If we're going to be passionate male leaders, we need to be educated."

Tanner Fitzgerald, an active member of Men Against Violence, said he is looking forward to attending the conference in Washington.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Fitzgerald (sophomore-finance)

said. "[The conference] is a good sign that people are willing to engage in this."

Fitzgerald said he hopes to gain new initiatives he can bring back to Penn State.

"It's really just a perspective on other men groups and what they're doing because we're always trying to look for new things to do and things to improve," he said.

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Audition on Saturday, October 23rd  
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PA announcer must be available to work all home games. (PA and Emcee announcer is a paid position)

... National Anthem Singer?  
Auditions will begin around 3:30pm  
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