

# Local man sentenced for role in drug ring

A State College man received five to 10 years in state prison on three felony drug charges.

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A State College man received five to 10 years in state prison for his involvement in a local cocaine ring run out of his former gas station.

Greg Palazzari, 54, of 2243 Bristol Ave., was sentenced on three felony drug charges Monday, Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller wrote

in an e-mail. Palazzari was arrested Aug. 21, 2009 at his former gas station, Greg's Sunoco, 605 University Dr., after officers from the Centre County Drug Task Force surrounded the location.

After conducting a two-month investigation, police determined that Mario Rincon, 28, of 621 Elmwood St., sold the cocaine to Palazzari.

Palazzari bought an ounce of cocaine from Rincon every three days, according to court documents. Police said Palazzari sold about \$50,000 worth of cocaine per month throughout State College.

The state's request to seize control of Palazzari's gas station was granted by Centre County Judge

Bradley Lunsford in Sept. 2009.

The two other men involved in the case — Rincon and his roommate, Curtis Vonada — were previously sentenced for their involvement in the drug trafficking operation.

Rincon is serving an aggregate sentence of 10 to 20 years, Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller said in September. He turned himself in on Aug. 25, 2009 after a four-day manhunt and was found guilty on one count of fleeing or attempting to elude an officer and five counts of delivery of cocaine, Parks Miller said.

Vonada fled following Palazzari's arrest. During a police chase, he threw

away 20 ounces of cocaine valued at \$28,500.

A former Centre County Correctional Facility employee, Vonada was charged with possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance, felony conspiracy and misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance. In 2009 he pleaded guilty in exchange for one year's probation.

An ounce and a half of cocaine, about \$16,000 in cash and other drugs and paraphernalia were recovered from Rincon's apartment.

The drugs seized from the apartment were valued at \$37,000.

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## Timeline

**Aug. 21, 2009:** Greg Palazzari is arrested at his former gas station at 605 University Dr.

**Aug. 25, 2009:** Mario Rincon, who police say sold cocaine to Palazzari, turns himself in after a four-day manhunt.

**Sept. 2009:** Judge Bradley Lunsford grants the state's request to seize control of Palazzari's gas station.

**Oct. 18, 2010:** Palazzari is sentenced to five to 10 years in state prison on three felony drug charges.

# Spanier supports service

By Micah Wintner  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Members of Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity presented Penn State President Graham Spanier with a check Tuesday morning.

But the check was not for money: It was good for one community service project.

About 10 members of the fraternity's executive board met in Spanier's conference room in Old Main to present the check.

Sydney Fitzgerald, president of the co-ed fraternity, said it is not like a traditional fraternity and doesn't have a house.

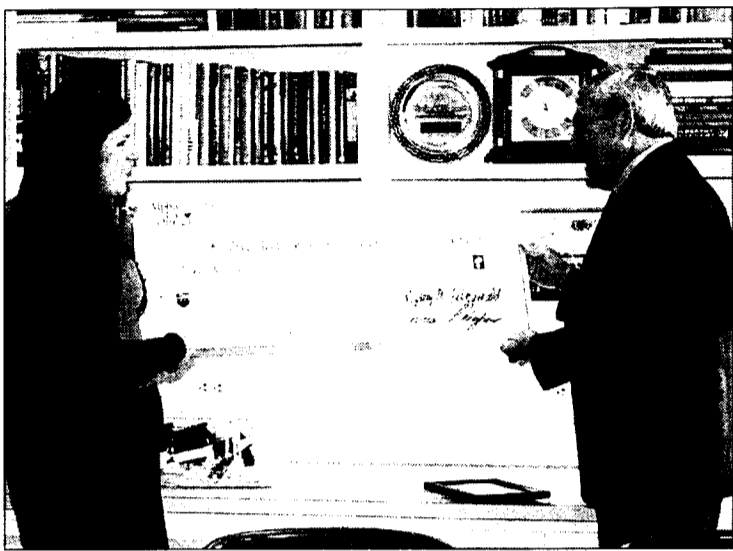
"We build friendships through our [community] service," Fitzgerald (senior-education and public policy) said.

So far this semester the fraternity has volunteered at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center, the Bennett Family Center and D.C. Central Kitchen, a soup kitchen in the nation's capitol, Fitzgerald said.

Spanier, an honorary member of the fraternity since 2003, cashed his check by asking the fraternity to volunteer at the non-profit corporation Centre Volunteers in Medicine.

Though Centre County is "affluent," Spanier said, people don't realize many of its residents are still people in need.

The fraternity will send out a



Katie Silvis/Collegian

Sydney Fitzgerald (senior-education and public policy) and Chris Leighow (senior-mechanical engineering) of Alpha Phi Omega present Penn State President Graham Spanier with a check that is redeemable for one service project Tuesday morning.

"We build friendships through our [community] service."

Sydney Fitzgerald  
(senior-education and public policy)

mailing of nearly 5,000 letters for the corporation, fraternity service vice president Chris Leighow said.

The fraternity will be responsible for folding and stuffing the envelopes as well as organizing them by zip code, Leighow (senior-mechanical engineering) said.

Spanier, who described the work as "a lot of physical labor," offered some advice to the fraternity.

"Don't get any paper cuts," he said.

Spanier said he sends the fraternity a check every year to

show his support for what they do for the community.

The fraternity has a no-hazing policy.

It requires 20 hours of community service from prospective members during the pledging semester.

Gary Langsdale, an adviser for the fraternity, said its mission is to better the community.

Presenting the check to Spanier was a "token of their willingness" to serve, Langsdale said.

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# LGBTQA to host vigil for students

By Matt Scorzafave  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State's LGBTQA Student Alliance is sponsoring a candlelight vigil from 7 to 9 tonight at the Allen Street Gates in memory of the gay students who recently committed suicide across the country.

"It's going to be a ceremony with a spiritual feel to it," Jordan Darosh (sophomore-liberal arts) said.

Darosh, the co-vice president of the LGBTQA Student Alliance, said the idea to hold a vigil in honor of suicide victims came up a few weeks ago.

The event comes after recent events where nine boys across the country committed suicide as a result of bullying and discrimination from their peers.

"We discussed it at one of our executive meetings three weeks ago and decided to go for it," Darosh said. "We sort of just started spreading the word about it and it's really been picked up." Darosh said he created a Facebook group for the event and invited 112 of his personal friends.

By press time Tuesday, the event had 198 confirmed attendees.

The event will feature an introduction and candle-lighting ceremony, as well as a time for the public to share thoughts, poems and readings, Darosh said.

"I'm hoping it's powerful

## If you go

**What:** LGBTQA Student Alliance candlelight vigil for suicide victims

**When:** 7 to 9 tonight

**Where:** Allen Street Gates

enough to really reach people," he said.

Some students said they are happy to see the LGBTQA community come together to spread awareness about bullying.

"I definitely support gay rights," Gabbi Heath (sophomore-marketing) said. "I think that everyone has a right to happiness and shouldn't be discriminated against for the choices they make."

Heath said she likes the idea of the vigil.

"It will bring nationwide issue onto Penn State's campus and students will see that the issue is affecting everyone, not just those involved in the recent suicides," she said.

Darosh said the LGBTQA Student Alliance chose to hold the event at the Allen Street Gates so that it would be visible to the off-campus community.

"It's visual," he said. "When you drive down College Avenue and see a group of people congregated for a common purpose, it really proves our cause."

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# Tours to illuminate PSU history

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Taking a tour from a backwards-walking Lion Ambassador isn't just for high school seniors — students attending tonight's Lantern Tours can learn some Penn State trivia through the interactive tours.

The tours, which last about 30 minutes, run from 6 to 9 p.m. at Old Main.

Tours will begin at Old Main and walk through important Penn State landmarks, like the library, Lion Shrine and HUB-Robeson Center.

The annual Lantern Tours illuminate both the important events and dates in Penn State history as well as some more unique tidbits — like the history of dating at the university.

Prior to the 1950s, a male would have to write a letter to the dean of the women's college to ask for permission to take her on a date, event marketing chairwoman Kat

## If you go

**What:** Lion Ambassadors Lantern Tours

**When:** 6 to 9 tonight

**Where:** Old Main

**Details:** The tours are free and open to the public.

Staargaard said. If approved, the couple could canoodle on a park bench for half an hour, Staargaard (senior-business management) said.

As a Penn State student, it's important to know about the history of the school, said Eileen Barno, entertainment chairwoman for the event. She said the tour will be a crash course in the subject. The event is popular with both students and the community, Lion Ambassadors Vice President Jimmy Gibbons said.

"It's great way for students to get to know the campus beyond

the classrooms, campus and professors," Gibbons (senior-film and video) said.

Lantern Tours aren't just average tours, he added — they're interactive, with figures from Penn State's past popping up to narrate. Gibbons said former university president George Atherton and alma mater author Fred Pattee may make appearances during the tours.

But it won't just be history tonight, he said. Student groups like Blue in the Face, RAM Squad and Whiplash dance team will perform as students wait for tours.

And once they end the tour — with plenty of newly acquired knowledge Penn State history — students can climb the Old Main bell tower to get a view of State College at dusk in the fall.

"The view from the bell tower, especially at night, is absolutely stunning," Barno (senior-kinesiology) said.

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Ryan Loh/Collegian

Students enter Old Main in October 2009 for the Lion Ambassadors Lantern Tours. The tours will be held from 6 to 9 tonight and will feature historical anecdotes and characters from Penn State's past.

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