

The Daily Collegian

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 111 No. 97

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010

ANY WAY YOU SLICE IT

Two reporters put State College pizza to the test | PAGE 14

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30 cents off campus

Residence halls to be alcohol-free

By Megan Rogers
and Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

Students signing housing contracts for the 2011-2012 academic year will agree to a new university policy to mitigate alcohol use: Alcohol-free residence halls.

Most on-campus living areas, including Eastview Terrace and Nittany Apartments, will be alcohol-free beginning in summer 2011, university spokeswoman Jill

Shockey said. The White Course Apartments will not be alcohol-free, because they mostly house graduate students who are at least 21, Shockey said.

Stan Latta, assistant vice president of the Penn State Office of Housing, Food Services and Residence Life, said enforcement will be "very clean and very easy."

The new policy will also make housing staff's lives easier, Latta said.

"Some of our staff do have to

handle what I would call some pretty disgusting situations," Latta said of situations involving drunk students.

Shockey said she is unsure of what the consequences will be for violating the policy.

This past fall, all residence halls with a concentration of first-year students transitioned to alcohol-free residences, Shockey said. She said the change mostly affected East Halls dorms, but there are some first-year student popula-

tions in South and Pollock Halls as well. It is too soon to tell whether the change was successful, Shockey said.

"It's just part of the university's overall plan to try and make sure students are healthy, safe and in an environment that they can receive the best educational experience," she said.

Because of the new rule, students more than 21 years living in the dorms will not be allowed to store or consume alcohol in their

rooms, Shockey said.

The decision was announced at September's Penn State Board of Trustees meeting, where Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims introduced the university's multi-pronged approach to combat alcohol use, Shockey said.

Input was taken from students before making the final decision, Shockey said.

And some students said they

See ALCOHOL, Page 2.

CHASE ELMER/COLLEGIAN



Jason Usdin (senior-education) sings a rendition of "Tik Tok" by Ke\$ha with fellow members of The Dreamers from the Alpha Zeta chapter on Monday night in the Forum. The group is a singing fraternity.

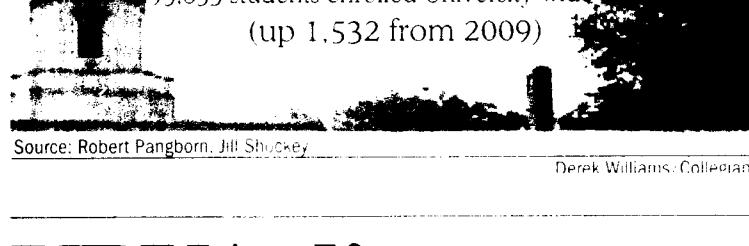
PSU reacts to increased applicants

Application inflation

Because of the rising number of students who apply to many colleges, Penn State is accepting more potential students but yielding the same number of enrolled students.

115,000 applications received university-wide (up 6,000 from 2009)

95,833 students enrolled University-wide (up 1,532 from 2009)



Source: Robert Pangborn, Jill Shubin

Derek Williams/COLLEGIAN

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For high school seniors brimming with anticipation about their acceptance to Penn State, the daily routine of checking the mailbox can be a nail-biting venture.

With the knowledge that there are no guarantees of acceptance, upcoming college students are applying to more and more colleges to better their chances of admission.

And Penn State admissions officials know that many of their accepted students have applied to other colleges.

Vice President and Dean for

Undergraduate Education Robert Pangborn wrote in an e-mail that as students apply to more and more colleges and universities, the rate of students accepting and attending a college they were accepted to has declined.

Admissions officials increase offers of acceptance to maintain the same yield rate, Pangborn said — a trend that holds true at Penn State.

"I think students are choosing to apply to more places so that they can maximize their options when ultimately deciding where to attend," Pangborn wrote. "The effort involved in applying to more places has declined with

See APPLICANTS, Page 2.

If you go

What: Penn State student Outback Bowl ticket sale

When: 8 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11.

Where: Bryce Jordan Center Ticket Office

Details: \$70 with student ID

Penn State students will be able to purchase tickets at 8 a.m. on Dec. 11 to see the Nittany Lions take on the Florida Gators at this year's Outback Bowl — set to take place on New Year's Day.

At least 550 tickets have been reserved for students, and more may be made available if possible on Saturday. Associate Athletic Director for Marketing and Communications Greg Myford said. Tickets went on sale for the public Monday.

Tickets are \$70 each, and with a limit of two tickets per person, each student can have a traveling partner. Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, unless the supply of tickets exceeds the number of students in line at the Bryce Jordan Center, Myford said.

"The lottery, if it comes to that, will work the same way that it did for the Alabama game. We

See DETAILS, Page 2.

UPUA discusses rights at meeting

By Jessica Tully
and Christina Gallagher
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

State College attorney Andrew Shubin said Centre County police officers are too concerned with generating a high number of student arrests for low-level offenses at the University

Park Undergraduate

Association

sponsored town

hall meeting

Monday night.

"What the students don't understand is

Shubin

that Penn State

is not Pittsburgh or Philadelphia.

State College is like Mississippi — the prosecutors, defense attorneys and jurors are very conservative," Shubin said.

Shubin, a guest attorney at the

meeting, said that if he was

defending a client in a

Philadelphia county, the first

thing that he would tell the judge

is that his client is a student at

Penn State because it is highly

recognized institution.

But he said if he were repre-

senting a student in Centre

County, it would not matter that

the student attended Penn State

because his client's background

would be nearly identical to that

of 40,000 other students.

Shubin said that it is important for students to realize that State College is a school zone, so low-level offenses, such as drinking and selling marijuana, are treated much more harshly. If his client lived in Philadelphia and was caught selling a quarter pound of marijuana, he would get a misdemeanor charge at the most, Shubin said. If his client was caught selling the illegal substance in State College, he would most likely receive a two to four year mandatory prison sentence.

"I hate that I am paying taxes to incarcerate engineering majors," Shubin said.

Shubin said he stresses the importance of students knowing their rights, which are the same for all citizens regardless of age. He also offered three rules for interacting with the police when questioned by authorities.

"Never give a statement to a police officer if you are the suspect of a crime. The answer to every question after you give your name should be lawyer, attorney or counselor. Always be cooperative with the police officer — anything you say will be used against you," he said.

UPUA President Christian Ragland said it is important that

students do not misinterpret

See UPUA, Page 2.



Courtesy of Networks Tour

Jim Hogan put his Penn State career on hold last spring to tour with the Broadway musical "Spring Awakening."

Student acts, travels in Broadway musical

By Hannah Rishel
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Last spring, Jim Hogan was attending classes, taking exams and living the life of the average Penn State freshman.

But this spring he will return to Happy Valley not as a student, but as an actor in a national theatrical tour.

Hogan put his Penn State career on hold last April, when he landed the role of Georg in the national tour of the Broadway musical "Spring Awakening."

He will resume his

studies in fall 2011 as a sophomore majoring in musical theatre.

"I'm having the time of my life, and I'm just getting started," he said.

Hogan said he never expected to take time out from college to do a national tour.

"I had planned on going to

Penn State for four years, getting

it all knocked out and then moving to New York City to do the whole theater thing," he said.

His plans changed when he heard about an open audition for

See BROADWAY, Page 2.

Florida coach Urban Meyer is thankful for his team's Outback

Bowl bid but also admitted surprised in receiving it after a mediocre season.

Like Florida, Joe Paterno and his Nittany Lions followed a similar path, one that started with high expectations and a top-25 ranking and led to 7-5 in the standings with a .500-conference record.

The two meet at 1 p.m. New Year's Day at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

"We're delighted to have an opportunity to play against Florida," Paterno said Monday.

"Urban is one of my favorite people in coaching, and it's going to be exciting to play against them, particularly in the setting that we're going to be in, the 25th anniversary of a great bowl game and a great city. So, it's an exciting time for us and going to

See COACHES, Page 2.