

Meyer steps down as coach

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A coach in the 2011 Outback Bowl will be walking the sidelines for the final time at a nationally prominent football program, concluding a historically successful tenure.

And no, it's not Joe Paterno. In a press conference Wednesday evening, Florida's Urban Meyer announced he will retire from coaching following the bowl game on Jan. 1.

His last game will come against Penn State in Tampa, adding more pizzazz to an already intriguing bowl matchup. Meyer, who turned 46 before this sea-

son, will coach against Paterno, who will be 84 Dec. 21 and has been the coach at Penn State for 45 years, for the first time.

"If Joe Paterno would have stepped down at my age it would have been 1972 or something like that," Meyer said. "We're actually great friends and I can't wait to see him."

Last year, in what he termed a "knee-jerk" decision, Meyer resigned as coach, citing health issues. This time, Meyer pointed to his family, specifically referring to his two daughters and son. He said he won't coach any time in the immediate future, and he hasn't thought long-term yet.



Associated Press photo
Florida coach Urban Meyer announced his decision to retire yesterday.

"I'm stepping down as head football coach at the University of Florida to See MEYER, Page 2.

THON releases totals

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the second year, the Interfraternity/Panhellenic Dance Marathon released a summary of its fundraising activities — revealing that the organization donates more than 90 percent of its total funds to the Four Diamonds Fund.

THON donated \$7,447,671.33 of the total money raised to the Four Diamonds Fund, according to the fundraising report released Wednesday afternoon.

The \$7,447,671.33 represents 92.4 percent of money raised, THON Public Relations Overall Chairwoman Jony Rommel said — a feat that reflects the efforts of students throughout the year.

"THON's really proud of its efficiency level and the fact that we're able to give so much of the money to the Four Diamonds Fund," Rommel (senior-philosophy) said.

The American Institute of Philanthropy regards philanthropies that donate at least 75 percent of their funds as highly efficient charities, according to the report.

The THON 2011 Overall Committee released the summary — which encompasses the fiscal year of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 — to ensure transparency and let people know THON is a reliable philanthropy, Rommel said.

"Transparency is extremely important to build trust with donors and the students who fundraise for THON," THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly said.

The report details the amount of money given in various gifts to THON as individual gifts, corporate, foundation and small business gifts, and the amount raised through the THON store and fundraising events. It also details how much money THON spent on THON store inventory, event management, administration, development, account balance and the Four Diamonds Fund.

Of the total gift income, 82.20 percent came from individual gifts, Rommel said. Individual gifts include alternative fundraisers held by student organizations, THONvelopes, online donations and canning efforts, she said.

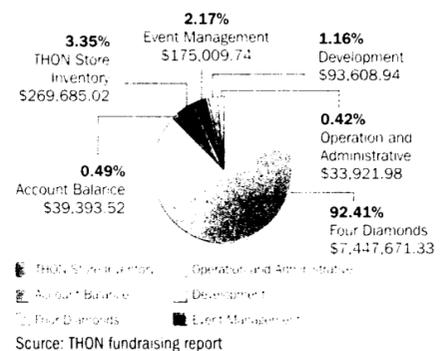
Last year, THON donated \$7,093,777.66 — 94.55 percent of money fundraised — to the Four Diamonds Fund, Kelly (senior-marketing) said. Though a lesser percentage of the total money was donated to the Four Diamonds Fund this year, the percentage donated equates to a larger sum of money, she said.

The main difference between the 2008-2009 fiscal year and the 2009-2010 fiscal year is that more money was spent on stocking the THON store, Kelly said — but the THON store garnered more money for the philanthropy this year.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

THON summary of fundraising activities

THON released data on how funds were used.



The Lionettes Dance Team rehearse a new holiday routine during a Monday night practice in the White Building.

Dancers boost team morale

By Erika Spicer
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

While the Lionettes dance team won't perform in front of 110,000 fans again until next fall, the basketball season provides the dancers with different things to be excited about.

The self-coached dance team is known for its high-energy performance of kick lines, jazz, hip-hop and pom.

On the sidelines of Tuesday night's Penn State mens' basketball home game against Mount St. Mary's, the Lionettes did pom routines to energize the audience. They were awaiting their big moment — dancing to "Livin' on a Prayer," a routine that highlights their trademark kick line.

For this dance, the kick line was performed in a pinwheel formation and included a crowd-shocking jump split.

"We definitely get the strongest reaction from the 'Livin' On A Prayer' routine," Lionette Alyssa Guttendorf (senior-public relations and English) said. "Especially like tonight, when the audience was excited by the game, it makes us more excited and the performance quality is better."

The dance team is continually working toward new and innovative ways to engage their audience at basketball games, said Marisa Pollack, one of three Lionettes co-captains.

"At basketball games, we're more up-close and personal with our audience," she said. "It's a huge thrill when people

are closer, and we want to start getting the crowd involved to spark interest."

Pollack (senior-elementary education) said the audience interaction can involve anything from incorporating the Lion mascot into routines or getting audience members to participate. The team is still brainstorming, she said.

The team has also started alternating with cheerleaders on the concourse in the Bryce Jordan Center for meet-and-greet sessions with basketball game attendees, said Lionette adviser Sue Sherburne, also an instructor in the biobehavioral health department.

Even though the hectic football and basketball seasons' overlap has ended, the team continues to be just as busy as See MORALE, Page 2.

Theatre to host wedding

By Lauren Ingeno
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

This June, a couple from Ridgway, Pa., will stand on stage in front of more than 150-people at the State Theatre.

But the pair won't be singing, dancing or acting — instead, they'll be saying their "I do's."

The planning has begun for Matt Frank and Sara Gerber's wedding — the first wedding to ever take place at the State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

Gerber said she and Frank spent weeks looking for a venue but nothing seemed right. They wanted to find somewhere unique.

"One night in August we sat down and brainstormed and we



Courtesy of Matt Frank
Engaged couple Matt Frank and Sara Gerber plan to get married at The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

both agreed a theater was an untapped resource," Frank said. "Like, why wouldn't other people do this type of thing?"

Susan Shedd, the operations manager of the State Theatre, said everyone was on board with the idea when the couple contacted her.

"We were looking for new and

exciting ways to use the theater for the community, so this was right up our alley," Shedd said.

Shedd said she, the staff and the couple all brainstormed together to think of ways to use the space for the wedding.

"It was really neat the way it happened. It all made sense,"

See WEDDING, Page 2.

UPUA selects test prep group

By Alyssa Sweeney
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The University Park Undergraduate Association chose The Princeton Review to help provide graduate test preparation courses to Penn State students at discounted rates.

The Princeton Review contract passed over the Kaplan contract by a vote of 32-3-4 at the meeting in the HUB-Robeson Center.

"In this economy, there are more students now than ever enrolling in graduate school," UPUA President Christian Rughland said. "This is a really great program, and we're really excited to get it up and running."

UPUA Chairman of the Assembly Mark Cannon said the preparation classes will be avail-

able to students at the beginning of next semester.

The Princeton Review will offer students and faculty significant discounts on retail MCAT, LSAT, GRE, GMAT, DAT, OAT preparation courses, and provide all materials required—including books, practice tests, and online tools.

The UPUA will provide and reserve classrooms, practice tests and informational sessions at no additional cost.

UPUA Vice President Colleen Smith said working with The Princeton Review will not only cut down costs, but provide more options to students.

"We're all on tight budgets as college students, and these are much more reasonable rates," Smith (junior-history) said. "It See UPUA, Page 2.