

# The Campus



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## Reunion Weekend to return this summer

By **HASSAN JAVED**  
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Reunion Weekend is a longstanding tradition at Allegheny that brings together alumni and community members. However, the last two reunion weekends were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reunion Weekend will return this year over June 2-5.

Director of Alumni Relations Sally Barrett, '92, believes that reunion weekend is among the best events on the college calendar.

"Reunion Weekend is the best and most fun time," Barrett said. "It is a time where everyone gathers together and rejoices in their unique memories of Allegheny."

Barrett explained that reunion weekend consists of six landmark reunions.

"We celebrate the 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th and 50th reunion classes each year," Barrett said. "During a typical reunion year, the six classes spend the whole year planning activities for their reunion."

Barrett also added that members of each of the landmark classes also fundraise throughout the year to facilitate their reunion plans.

In addition to the landmark reunion classes, this year's event also reunites graduates of or before the class of 1969, — known as "college torchbearers" — members of the Association of Black Collegians/Association for the Advancement of Black Culture and the alumni, current students and friends of the Allegheny Choirs.

Amanda Harris, '01, will be chairing the ABC reunion for this reunion weekend.

"Typically, ABC alumni meet every two or three years on reunion weekend," Harris said. "2020 was supposed to celebrate 50 years of ABC's existence."

Harris said that the ABC reunion will be organized on a much smaller scale as the overall event will be sizable.

"Since three years worth of reunion classes are meeting, the event will already be very happening and populated," Harris said. "(ABC) is hoping to do more low-key events such as meet and greets which will allow members to connect."

The reunion class for 2020, 2021 and 2022 will be meeting at the reunion weekend year.

Barrett believes that the most significant attraction of reunion weekend is attendees staying on campus.

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### In this week's Campus...

#### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

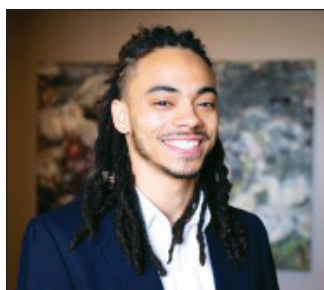
The Allegheny College Coalition for Labor demands transparency in the college's process of selecting a new dining services company.

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#### GSOCS HOSTS ENERGY EQUITY LECTURE

Dominic Bednar, a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University, spoke about his research into the effects of energy poverty across the United States and around the world.

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#### SYMPOSIUM CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Students and faculty can now submit proposals for a March 2023 symposium examining Allegheny's history with the United Methodist Church.

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## Watershed conservation research center preps for inaugural summer



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Assistant Professors of Environmental Science and Sustainability Casey Bradshaw-Wilson and Kelly Pearce cut the ribbon on the college's new Watershed Conservation Research Center on May 8. Also present were some students, Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, '87, and President Hilary Link.

By **SAMI MIRZA**  
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The newly renovated room 101 in the basement of Carr Hall will now be known as the Allegheny College Watershed Conservation Research Center.

First announced in October of last year, the WCRC, as it is known, aims to provide a space for undergraduate research, partnerships with other local conservation organizations and provide educational outreach on the French Creek and its watershed. It officially

opened after a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, May 9.

"The WCRC mission is ... to engage in strategic conservation activities, and train future watershed stewards, to protect, restore and enhance our land and water resources for future generations in the upper Allegheny River, focusing on the French Creek watershed," said Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability and incoming co-Director of WCRC Casey Bradshaw-Wilson.

Joining Bradshaw-Wilson as co-director is Assistant Professor of Environ-

mental Science and Sustainability Kelly Pearce, who introduced the event and the physical space of the WCRC.

"Previously, this room was designated as an optics lab for the physics department," Pearce said. "We're thankful for their willingness to provide us this space, which will help to create a space where research staff, faculty and students (can) work collaboratively on interdisciplinary projects that help us to conserve the upper Allegheny River basin."

The room itself is the size of a classroom, and will serve as a home base for WCRC's efforts, Bradshaw-Wilson said.

See [WCRC](#) | page 3

## Letters from the Editors

White, Woodfill reflect on their time on staff



KAI MARIES/THE CAMPUS

Members of the Campus staff gather in front of the newsroom on the third floor of the Henderson Campus Center after the final staff meeting of the year on May 9. We thank you for reading!

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**FRIDAY** H: 79° L: 62°  
Rain: 2%  
Sunrise: 6:03 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:31 p.m.

**SATURDAY** H: 78° L: 61°  
T-storm: 70%  
Sunrise: 6:02 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:32 p.m.

**SUNDAY** H: 72° L: 57°  
T-storm: 80%  
Sunrise: 6:01 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:33 p.m.

WCRC from page 1



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

ABOVE: Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matthew Stinson (far left) speaks with Richard King Mellon Foundation Program Officers Brian Hill, (center right) and Curan Bonham (far right) prior to the ribbon cutting ceremony. RIGHT: Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, '87, addresses the crowd during the ceremony. BOTTOM RIGHT: In the foreground, Cole speaks with Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Kelly Pearce in room 101 of Carr Hall. In the background, a news crew from Erie News Now sets their camera up for coverage of the ceremony. BOTTOM LEFT: Brenda Costa, '94, executive director of the French Creek Valley Conservancy, speaks during the ceremony.



HEAT WAVE



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

TOP LEFT: Students relax on the Gator Quad on Wednesday, May 11. Temperatures peaked at 77 degrees Fahrenheit the day before. TOP RIGHT: Two Adirondack chairs hide on the front step of Arter Hall. According to the travel guide adirondack.net, Adirondack chairs – known as “Muskoka” chairs in Canada – were invented by Thomas Lee of Westport, NY in the opening years of the 20th century, and were originally called “Westport” chairs after their town of origin. As the chairs grew in popularity across the United States, the name changed to reflect the chair’s origin in the Adirondack Mountains of New England. RIGHT: Mountains of shade in hammocks slung from the grove of trees between the Arnold Hall of Music and Murray Hall.

"We'll be set up in here to look through microscope systems and get servers prepped for analysis of water chemistry that we send off, those types of things," Bradshaw-Wilson said. "It'll be mostly a workstation — a lot of our work is out in the field, so this is just a place for all of our data collection and processing, grant writing, all that type of stuff."

WCRC is funded by a \$1.25 million grant from the Pittsburgh-based Richard King Mellon Foundation, which describes itself as investing, "in the competitive future and quality of life of Southwestern Pennsylvania, and in the protection, preservation and restoration of America's environmental heritage."

The Mellon Foundation has a long history of donating to Allegheny College, giving more than \$6 million in grants to the college since 1962. In 2016, the Mellon Foundation gave \$1.6 million for continued funding of the Allegheny College Creek Connections program and a renovation of Carnegie Hall, and in 2020 provided a \$210,000 grant to pay for regular COVID-19 antigen tests provided by the Allegheny College Health Agency.

"(The Mellon Foundation was) very interested in having or starting a research institute similar to ones that they funded in other places, because the French Creek watershed is so important biologically for those living in the area," Bradshaw-Wilson said. "It made sense to start another center here."

In addition to funding Allegheny's WCRC, the Mellon Foundation donated more than \$2 million to Susquehanna Uni-

versity in 2014 to establish the school's Freshwater Research Institute.

"FRI at Susquehanna has a research center similar to ours, although theirs is just focused on what's in the water, not the whole watershed," Bradshaw-Wilson said. "We anticipate working closely with them on some shared data between Western Pennsylvania and what's happening in the center of the state."

Another key collaborator is the French Creek Valley Conservancy, a non-profit organization that is focused on, "permanent land protection efforts throughout the French Creek Watershed."

The Conservancy is run by Brenda Costa, '94, who noted that the WCRC's research will help guide conservation efforts in the Conservancy's 3,100 acres of protected land.

"The work here will have a significant impact on the Conservancy's mission to protect French Creek and the watershed," Costa said. "(Bradshaw-Wilson and (Pearce) and I had a meeting a few weeks ago, and we probably came up with a year's worth of projects that could be done with students and staff to help us in our conservation work."

In addition to working with other institutes, Bradshaw-Wilson also noted that the program is open to working in other formats.

"While many of our goals are ecologically based, the center is aimed to be interdisciplinary, which is why we have established a mini-grant program through which faculty and students can apply from any discipline or

background," Bradshaw-Wilson said. "For example, an Allegheny faculty member this year, (Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability) Jesse Swan-Quinn is working with an Allegheny student to develop a video-based digital exploration of the French Creek watershed, some of its communities, and people's relationships with the ecosystem."

Among the disciplines involved in the center will be GIS.

"GIS is an acronym for geographic information systems," said Chris Shaffer, GIS Manager and Instructor at Allegheny College and head of WCRC's GIS program. "Basically what we do is we do computer mapping; we take individual maps of different things, maybe like soils, and land cover and distance to roads and things like that, and we overlay them or layer them on top of each other, and when we do that different patterns and relationships between those data are revealed."

To further advance GIS projects, WCRC has invested in drones for conducting local research.

"(This summer) we're gonna do a lot of base mapping of our properties like the Bousson Experimental Forest and Robertson (Athletic Complex), and some of the French Creek Valley Conservancy properties as well," Shaffer said. "We'll do flyovers this year, probably go back next year for another flyover and see how the land has changed over those time periods. We'll be doing a lot of baseline mapping and then supporting any kind of research that's being done from a geographic standpoint."

Shaffer invited students interested in working with WCRC's GIS program to take his introductory GIS course, offered every fall semester.

"That's a really good introduction to GIS, and it really gives students some exposure to what the technology is," Shaffer said. "If they're interested in (GIS), and they want to learn more about work-study opportunities, there are other classes in the department that we use GIS in, the context of the research in those classes."

Bradshaw-Wilson also encouraged students interested in working with the WCRC to open up conversations with herself and Pearce.

"First and foremost, come talk with (Pearce) and I if you have any interest at all regarding any type of work that we're doing," Bradshaw-Wilson said. "If you have any project that's related (to) our goals and our mission at the WCRC, you can apply with a faculty member and get a mini-grant either during the summer or during the semesters and work on projects."

Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole, '87, hailed the WCRC as a representative of Allegheny's local sustainability efforts.

"To me the goals of the center, which include experiential and collaborative learning with students, faculty and community partners, epitomize the work that we do at Allegheny with focusing on restoration efforts in the French Creek watershed," Cole said.

## REUNION *from page 1*

"Alumni are given the opportunity to stay in the room they occupied as students at Allegheny for the duration of their stay," Barrett said. "The rooms are allocated on a first come, first served basis based on when someone registers."

Barrett mentioned that there will be an event planned for every hour during reunion weekend.

"Those who attend will have to pick and choose what they can attend as it won't be possible to go to every event since there's so many of them," Barrett said.

Senior Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement Sara Pineo added that the reunion will offer an event for everyone.

"No matter what it is, someone is interested in learning about or connecting with others over, we plan to have it at reunion weekend," Pineo said. "For example, if someone wants to learn about sourdough bread, (Christine Scott Nelson, '73, Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability) Eric Pallant will be holding an exhibition."

Barrett noted that other activities such as yoga and tours of Bentley Hall will also be offered over reunion weekend.

Harris believes that reunion weekend is a great way for alumni and the administration to connect and catch up with each other.

"I know that ABC will be holding a meeting with President (Hilary) Link over the reunion weekend," Harris said.

On April 10, a MyAllegheny announcement asked for student workers for reunion weekend. According to Pineo, this is

common practice at the college in relation to the event.

"We've always hired student workers for reunion weekend because that's what the college prefers," Pineo said. "It's sort of meaningful in the sense that current students make the arrangements to welcome the alumni that have long before been in their place."

Student-workers for reunion weekend will be responsible for the logistics of the event, explained Pineo.

"Students will move tables and chairs, help decorate for events and dinners, and even be asked to participate in events," Pineo said.

Barrett thinks students contribute to the great evening present at reunion weekend.

"Everyone is always very excited about catching up with their friends," Barrett said. "Having the students there is refreshing and almost promotes a sense of nostalgia."

Harris agrees with Barrett and believes that reunion weekend is also a time of reflection.

"It's such a special experience to return together as a group and observe all the changes that have occurred since our time at Allegheny and the things that have remained the same," Harris said. "It's really a time of sitting together and reminiscing old memories."

Pineo noted that students can learn more about reunion weekend and alumni affairs by contacting the alumni affairs office in the Patricia Bush Tipton Alumni Center.

Alumni can register for reunion weekend by filling out an online form available on the Allegheny College website.

## ASG *from page 1*

"It's really important to me that the college committees stay fully staffed with students," Pena added. "That's the only way that we have a connection between admin and us."

President of the Class of 2025 Abigail Estrada-Hernandez reminded everyone of her class's study hall event, to take place Wednesday, May 11, from 6-8 p.m. in room 206 of the campus center. The class of 2025 would also be tabling Wednesday and Thursday to hand out goodie bags for finals.

Voting for the 2022-23 academic year cabinet commenced. A motion to approve William Lowther, '23, as Director of Community Relations passed amid an unfolding discussion as to the ethics of President-elect Veronica Green, '23, and Vice President-elect Rudra Schultz-Ray, '23, voting on what would be their cabinet.

As President Noah Tart, '22, explained, Robert's Rules of Order dictates that being senators, Green and Schultz-Ray are still voting members and are therefore allowed to vote, but if

anyone thinks this is "ethically uncouth" then they can make a motion for the president-elect and vice president-elect to bring in proxies to vote in their place.

President of the Class of 2022 Dory-Sarah Debrosse and Vice President of the Class of 2022 Skyler Roemele raised the concern that there could be a conflict of interest with the proxies themselves, given that Green and Schultz-Ray would be selecting these proxies.

Green reminded ASG members that she and Schultz-Ray had not been sworn in yet at that point and so were still senators of their class, therefore still able to vote on these cabinet appointments.

Parker mentioned that from his experience in his year-and-a-half as attorney general, then-president-elect Jason Ferrante, '20, abstained from voting. "I've been thinking in terms of precedents and how we've done things in the past," Parker said. "Frankly, this is something that we've never touched before, so ... it's going to be difficult either way."

Dean of Students Tevis Bryant pointed out that what members decided upon would set the precedent going forward.

"But we can't remove (Green's and Schultz-Ray's votes), regardless," Bryant said. "How you count that vote, that's what you should be talking about."

Members ultimately decided to proceed with voting, with Green and Schultz-Ray still casting their votes.

Motions to approve Haley Hersh, '23, as Director of Sustainability, and Kori Bower, '23, for Director of Organizational Development did not pass.

A motion to table voting until a later date did not pass.

Doniz was approved to assume the position of Director of Communications.

A motion to approve Cam Lesh, '24, and Destiny Perkins, '24, as Co-Directors of Student Affairs did not pass, but when a motion to approve Lesh as the sole holder of the position was brought forth, it did pass.

A motion to approve Ankitha Pamula, '24, as Parliamentarian did not pass.

Motions to approve Jaelyn Valentin, '25, as Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and Estrada-Hernandez as Attorney General passed.

A motion to approve Senator Ray Colabawalla, '25, as Chief of Staff did not pass.

Vice President Sophie Adams, '22, announced that she and Green would be meeting with the Board of Trustees that weekend. She also encouraged everyone to continue getting tested for COVID-19.

President Noah Tart, '22, thanked ASG members for their efforts this year.

"I know that jobs like this are often thankless," Tart said. "There's little reward, a lot of criticism, and a pinch of Yik-Yaks."

He then swore in Green as president for the 2022-23 academic year. Green swore in Schultz-Ray as vice president, as well as the appointed cabinet members.

The assembly adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

### CRIME BLOTTER

*Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation.*

*Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.*

**May 8, 2022**  
**Alcohol Violation**  
Ravine Hall

**May 10-11, 2022**  
**Theft**  
On Campus

**May 9-10, 2022**  
**Crimal Mischief**  
Parking Lot 11

## THE CAMPUS

*Since 1876*

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# From the Editor: Building back Allegheny through resilience



Column by **ETHAN WOODFILL**  
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There is no way to sugarcoat it. The class of 2022 has had a tumultuous and unfortunate college experience.

We entered Allegheny in the fall of 2018, bright-eyed and ready for the opportunities that awaited us. The quad and dining halls buzzed with some 2,100 students, Gator pride and excitement.

Fast forward to May 2022. Prior to the recent COVID-19 outbreak, campus felt as close to fall 2018 as it had in a long time, but it is still not the same. We have lost nearly 600 students, the walkways are quiet and that energy from just a few years ago feels lost.

I do not believe that the loss of community feel is a uniquely Allegheny problem. The pandemic seems to have caused a global rift in the traditional college experience. However, the pandemic paired with financial challenges and growing pains of a 207-year-old institution have created concerns among the community over the future of Allegheny.

The relationship between the City of Meadville and the college remains strained and hostile, students feel as though they are not involved in decision-making processes about their education, and the administration has struggled for several years to build confidence among the student body.

My first story in *The Campus* was "Link elected as 22nd Allegheny president." As a nervous and shy first-year student, I sat down virtually with then-Chair of the Board of Trustees Mark Campbell, '82, to discuss his hopes for then-President-elect Hilary Link. Even then, Campbell said, "The value of a liberal arts education is under challenge. In a world that is more and more fixated on skills and transference of education

directly to the job marketplace, I think that people increasingly wrongly underestimate the importance of a liberal arts education."

The financial challenges of this institution were by no means unexpected. What was unexpected was a global challenge to the economy and our way of life as we know it.

I have seen the college change drastically over the past four years. Students used to be proud to say, "Allegheny College is home." While I do not think that this sense of pride is lost completely, I think it is fundamentally lessened.

The grievances against the college are fully warranted. I have covered the administration and have seen their struggles to effectively and transparently communicate substantial changes to the campus community. I have seen them and the trustees brush off students' concerns and cut successful programs that enhance DEI initiatives and programs that our students say are a huge part of their communities.

I also think that students feel unheard and defeated. After two long years of not having control over anything — on top of burnout, loneliness, anxiety and depression on the rise nationwide — I commiserate with my peers.

I struggled with some of the worst mental health of my life during the pandemic. It came at a time when I was newly trying to run a newspaper — meeting strangers completely online and creating layout in a small space, afraid that I would contract COVID. I lost my creativity and my eagerness to write, and I saw that among our staff. But we continued, meeting weekly and doing the newspaper layout with only a few people in the newsroom during any given week.

It was incredibly difficult. Few events were going on on campus, people did not want to talk to our reporters, and stress was high. The November 2020 election cycle further added to stress and Zoom fatigue quickly set in.

But we did it. We put out two dozen issues during the 2020-21 academic year, just as we always do, and have done in some form since 1876. In addition, we rebranded *The Campus* and put more focus on online engagement and news videos — even mukbangs.

What I saw among my staff as well as myself was this desire to continue, to persevere and to provide some sense of normalcy to the campus community. Plus, I think we realized the gravity of the pandemic — many years down the road students of Allegheny will look back and see what campus life was like

during COVID-19.

What I am trying to say is, we are persevering. It is more important than ever to build back the Allegheny community. Our student organizations are on the front lines of this effort, organizing events to combat loneliness, curb stress and to offer good old college fun. I think it is imperative for the college to work together with our students to address their needs in this pandemic-fatigued, omnipresent media world and to find a way to create a more meaningful Allegheny experience.

Working with an organization like *The Campus* teaches you how to deal with crises. Former Editor-in-Chief Marley Parish, '19, called it being a "crisis manager," and this could not be more true. Many students have never even picked up a paper and are completely unaware of just what it entails.

Despite the unpaid 10-20 hours of work we do each week, we have dealt with burnt newspapers delivered to our office, newspapers stolen from racks across campus, threats of lawsuits, blackmailing, angry readers and disgruntled staff members. We have had administrators pressure us and disagree with our content, local politicians share our work out of context to promote false narratives and have been faced with threats to our budget and the realities of the challenges of a print newspaper in 2022.

It is often scary to know that what we put out has consequences. We get things wrong and we upset people, but it is always through trying to find the truth. Because at the end of the day, we do what we do because we love this little place called Allegheny.

After problems arise again and again, you learn how to trust your instinct. You learn to trust yourself; that no matter what anyone else says — you know that you did your best.

Next week, I will be able to say that I am a proud Allegheny graduate. It is because of my mentors, my professors, my colleagues and my friends. I want to thank my predecessors, Marley, Matt Steinberg, '20 and Lauren Trimmer, '20, for your guidance. I also want to thank my former co-Editor-in-Chief Sara Holthouse, '21, and all of my colleagues who have worked with me on *The Campus* over the past four years. Thank you to Eric Pallant for pushing me and for always reading.

I would like to give a special thanks to Mike Crowley for his journalistic wisdom and for giving me the ability to make decisions. Crowley has given me confidence that I can trust my instinct and ensure the paper is strong.

Finally, I would like to thank one of my best friends, co-Editor-in-Chief Roman Hladio, '23, who always keeps things lighthearted and the process moving. The newspaper is in excellent hands, along with journalist superstar Sami Mirza, '24. Keep muckraking, keep pushing to find answers and always trust your gut.

I have loved working on this paper. It has been exciting, stressful, emotional, consequential, exhausting and fun. I have poured my heart into every decision I have ever made — as insignificant as a comma or as consequential as deciding to not publish damning stories over fears of a lawsuit. Staff members have quit, people have told me off and I have learned that each decision you make as a leader may not be well-received. I have learned to love the em dash — thanks, Marley — hate the Oxford comma and to never forget to double-check class years by checking Instagram profiles — thanks for putting them in your bios, we use them frequently.

I have overseen 48 issues, designed and edited nearly 400 pages and have been a part of nearly 100 issues these past four years. I have met so many people I would not have otherwise met, pissed some people off, learned more about how Allegheny works in more ways than I ever intended to (seriously, some people do not check MyAllegheny?) and published over 40 articles appearing in every section — yes, most recently I finally wrote for sports.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with such talented writers, photographers and creators. The unassuming, ever-changing code-locked newsroom on the third floor of the campus center has been my second home these past four years, and I will miss it terribly.

This is a wonderful institution that warrants our full attention and hard work across the board to improve it for BIPOC students, LGBTQ+ students and other disadvantaged communities. We need to continue to pressure those who make decisions for this institution to make decisions that work for us. There is no better outlet to do so than *The Campus*, Allegheny Student Government and peaceful organizing. Keep speaking out and keep demanding the experience we all deserve.

Be kind to one another and thanks for reading.

## Open letter to Link, cabinet

By **COALITION FOR LABOR**

To the President and the President's Cabinet,

It has recently come to the attention of the Coalition for Labor that Allegheny College is considering new contracts for dining service providers on campus. This process has been conducted without the knowledge of the student body, and we have many concerns and questions as to how it is being handled.

Allegheny College is dedicated to sustainable practices, especially by achieving carbon neutral status in 2020. How will a new company affect our sustainability efforts? Will they commit to sourcing local food? Has Kelly Boulton, the Director of Sustainability, been consulted?

Do any of the companies being considered provide their services to prisons? We are aware that some companies that use prison labor to prepare and package food do not directly use that labor for the specific good services provided to college campuses. However, such companies are still using prison labor as part of their larger business model. If Allegheny is planning to work with a company engaged in these practices, it would constitute a violation of the College's values and warrant an explanation. Will automation be introduced on campus in a way that will alienate the dining hall workers from students and weaken our sense of community?

Has the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee been involved? This is well within their purview to consider "matters related to the residential college experience," and they have worked on dining services in the past.

We are aware that a few representatives of Allegheny Student Government have been consulted. Why has the administration not sought input from the student body more broadly about its values, preferences and concerns? How will a potential new company respect the workers on campus and make sure they are supported? The workers are an incredibly important part of our community and it is crucial that we make sure their needs are met.

What is the timeline of this process? When will a decision be made?

We, the students of Allegheny College, are incredibly disappointed with the lack of transparency shown in this process. There are many groups and relevant parties that should be able to affect this decision, and it is unclear to the extent that anyone has been consulted. Dining hall services play a huge role in shaping our community and we deserve to be informed and to provide input. It is not in the tradition of Allegheny College to make decisions behind closed doors, but this process has troubling implications for the future of community decision making. In light of these concerns, we believe it is your responsibility to provide a public response to our questions.

The Coalition for Labor

### Interested in writing an op-ed or letter to the editors?

Letter to the Editors: Please address your letter in response to a previous article or situation on campus in no more than 500 words to newspaper@allegheny.edu.

#### Op-Eds:

Write about any topic you are interested in with no fewer than 750 words and no more than 1200 words. Email to newspaper@allegheny.edu

All submissions are subject to editorial approval and style edits.

## Opinion Editor reflects on college experience

By **KALEIGH WHITE**  
Opinion Editor  
whitek2@allegheny.edu

I really never thought I would get this far. I am not sure where I thought I would be, but it was certainly not here.

When I started at Allegheny, I did so with the intention of transferring elsewhere after my freshman year. After some changes to my original plans, I decided I liked it here more than I thought I would and I wanted to stay.

I came in knowing that I wanted to major in theatre. I loved performing, and that was all I wanted to do. My mother, who was paying my tuition, asked that I pair it with "something practical" — which I thought was entirely fair — so I jumped headfirst into an economics minor. Shortly thereafter, I discovered the shiny new integrative informatics major, and realized that I wanted to do that, as well. It seemed more like what I wanted compared to the economics minor, so I picked that up when I declared my major in fall 2019. I made the decision to keep my economics minor, as it was "only six classes." I do not regret keeping the minor, although I do feel like a bit of a crazy person when I explain to my peers that I do indeed have two majors in addition to a minor.

Fast forward to my senior year. It is now about a week from graduation, and it simply does not feel real.

I have had many problems during my time at Allegheny. I have struggled

with uncaring professors, discriminatory professors, seemingly constant medical problems and an overall sense of not belonging. Looking back, while there is certainly a lot that I regret, I do not think I would change any of it to get to this outcome.

If I could tell my underclassman self one thing, it would simply be that I belonged here, and that I was wanted and welcome in many spaces. I did a lot of telling myself that I was not, and I definitely think that that hindered me in many ways. There are some things I did not join until later, such as the newspaper staff, that I genuinely wished I had been a part of sooner. The friends I have made here are incredible, and some of the best connections I have been able to make on this campus.

I am of course happy for the clubs that I have been able to be a part of since my early years at Allegheny. I have been on the board for Dumbledore's Army since my sophomore year, and I truly do love those weirdos. I have been president of the Knitting Club since then as well, and I essentially built that club up from nothing. I am endlessly proud of the work that I put into that club to make it what it is today, and I am so thankful for the members who make it worth it.

My theatre experience has not been what I initially envisioned, but it would not have been anything without my work study position in the costume shop. I truly would have dropped out

with uncaring professors, discriminatory professors, seemingly constant medical problems and an overall sense of not belonging. Looking back, while there is certainly a lot that I regret, I do not think I would change any of it to get to this outcome.

Kaleigh doesn't like falling on her butt, okay? She also doesn't like when you make it the pullquote."

—ROMAN HLADIO, '23  
Editor-in-Chief,  
*The Campus*

had I not gotten that job and discovered that I did indeed love costuming, and that while I wish I could be performing, I could be perfectly happy working in theatre tech as well. The friends I have made through working in the Playshop are some of the funniest and brightest people I know, and it has been so fun to work with them and get to know them over the last four years.

The last club I would like to highlight my involvement with is Allegheny Christian Outreach. While I did not always see eye to eye with everyone, I am thankful for the safe space they have provided for me to be myself and feel loved for who I am. I have grown significantly in my faith, and I hold everyone in ACO close to my heart.

I have said all of that to say this: there is a definite trend here: the best parts of my college experience came from getting involved with campus organizations. As my time here went on, I got involved in more clubs, went to more

events and found several places on campus I now call home. I stopped sitting in my room feeling sorry for myself, and I went out and made something of my college career. Anyone who talks to me knows that I have not had the most stellar experience with academics and professors on campus, but what I am most thankful for is the organizations that made it worth staying at this school.

This piece is for the first year and sophomore students who desperately wish to be involved. The best advice I can give you is do not wait. Stop sitting in your room and moping about how you wish you could be in clubs. Go out and join something, anything. One thing will lead to another, and another and another until suddenly you find yourself all but overcommitted. Despite how heavy the workload may feel, you will certainly find yourself surrounded by friends and peers who love you for who you are. I think that is ultimately all any of us could want.

Thank you, readers, for your support of student journalism. Writing for *The Campus* has been a highlight of my college experience, and it is in no small part to the readers who stop me in the halls to ask me if I truly think Batman is a furry, or that "Hawkeye" was a good and valid Marvel show. (He is, and it is.) As I said when being unmasked as Overheard @ Allegheny, all I really want to say to the people here in my life is thank you, for everything.

# Green SOCS, Bednar talk energy disparities

## *Bednar conducting energy poverty research on fellowship in Chile*

By SOFIA HASSAN  
News Editor  
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BEDNAR

The Green Students of Color Society met with Arizona State University Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow Dominc Bednar over Google Meet on Thursday, May 5, to discuss energy equity and energy justice.

“My research principally looks at energy poverty recognition and response in the United States,” Bednar said. “I draw comparisons to the United Kingdom, and then now, also, doing so here in Chile.”

Bednar explained that in his position, he has time to carry out independent research after earning his Ph.D., but after about two years this will convert into a faculty position at Arizona State. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2021, and he estimated that he will be an assistant professor by the fall of 2023.

Bednar, who is currently located in Chile, has engaged in energy-related projects in Detroit and Arizona. Recently, he said, he was invited to join an advisory board that examines energy justice and equity in the United States.

In a situation where a family is experiencing energy poverty, they may be forced

to prevent people’s utilities from being turned off.

“In some of my previous work, during my master’s program, just before my Ph.D., I looked at the spatial, racial and socioeconomic disparities of energy consumption, efficiency and affordability,” Bednar said.

This work showed that in Detroit, low-income individuals and communities of color are more likely to live in energy-inefficient homes. Their energy bills are consequently higher in proportion to their income, which Bednar said is termed “energy burden.”

Chile is not a large country, but it is a long country that includes multiple climate regions. Bednar’s initiatives in Chile are meant to see how its government policies support the unique energy demands of people who live in these regions.

According to Bednar, there are three tenets of energy justice: distributive justice, or determining how inequities are spread across various states and identities; procedural justice, or figuring out the part individuals play in their energy decision making; and recognition justice, or acknowledging and responding to the aforementioned inequities.



My work takes an approach of energy vulnerability to understand, ‘what are these various items or factors that influence the likelihood of people falling into energy poverty?’”

—DOMINC BEDNAR  
Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Arizona State University

Bianca Sanchez, ’24, President of Green SOCS, drew a connection between Bednar’s work and the organization’s passions.

“At Green SOCS, a lot of what we try to focus on are the disproportionate impacts of various levels of systemic and environmental justice issues and how they impact communities of color especially, lower income communities,” Sanchez said to Bednar. “So it was very exciting for us to meet with you today because a lot of your research is very similar to some of the things we love to learn about and stand for.”

Green SOCS had prepared a list of questions to ask, the first of which being the most serious effects of energy justice issues on low-income communities of color.

In his response, Bednar mentioned energy poverty and high energy bills as pressing issues. He also pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic hit

people of color especially hard because they often live with many family members, which may interfere with having a learning space in the home, not to mention the fact that Wi-Fi is not universally accessible.

“I think we take for granted that energy literally provides us with much of (these) new-age societal energy services,” Bednar said. “If you live in an energy-inefficient home, and your house is really hot or really cold, it’s not particularly conducive to learning.”

Another question asked for the role of systemic racism in energy injustices. Bednar explained that his work has demonstrated that low-income households tend to be in energy-inefficient homes with out-of-date infrastructure, and these households have the highest energy burdens. Oftentimes, these are formerly-redlined communities, where banks and lenders refused to grant

credit and home loans based on a person’s race or ethnicity, or the race or ethnicity of their community. Although there is not a lot of research connecting redlining with high energy burdens, Bednar said, his research has illustrated that connection — literally. He shared photos to support his point. For instance, in the city of Detroit, the oldest homes house the families with the lowest incomes, and Black and Hispanic individuals have the highest energy burdens.

Towards the end of the discussion, Bednar asked students what they want to see in the energy future. Renewable energy proved to be a common wish among several attendants, including Vice President of Green SOCS Gloria Ulloa-Soto, ’25. She hopes to see this energy accessible to everyone.

“In Green SOCS, we talk a lot about this idea of intersectionality,” Ulloa-Soto said. “We talk a lot about the disproportionate effects that are towards low-income communities, communities of color. So even in terms of energy, I think moving forward for the future, I wouldn’t only want to see that improvement in more renewable energy, but accessibility for those communities who we see these effects towards.”

# Tokyo to Meadville: reflections on a year at Allegheny

By EMI ARIGA  
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A year ago, I was at the American Embassy to get a visa for my dream journey to the United States. However, I was in between the sense of accomplishment to get a chance to study abroad that I had dreamed of since when I was an elementary school student and the reality that I might not be able to go to study abroad due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the time, I couldn’t imagine I would be living such a fulfilling life in the United States a year later. Now, reflecting on those days, I am deeply moved.

Hello Gators! My name is Emi Ariga. I was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. I am majoring in Sociology and minoring in Journalism at Keio University. I have been studying at Allegheny College as an exchange student since last August.

Studying abroad in the United States has been my huge dream since I was an elementary school student.

Coming to Allegheny College, I had a number of hopes. I have been studying at a very large university located in the center of Tokyo, and Allegheny

was filled with everything I wanted to experience, such as taking classes with a small number of students, easy-to-access faculty members and living in a college town, to name a few. I still cannot believe I am here. It is as if I am dreaming.

I am delighted to share what I have experienced in these past nine months, knowing how hard it is to recap everything I’ve done.

I have been able to participate in several activities here which I had never done back in Japan. I have not only made various friends, but also participated in some dance performances, performed in a piano recital, participated in a Model United Nations conference, traveled around the US, modeled, took part in some events led by the outing club and worked as a reporter and photographer for The Campus. It was an irreplaceable nine months where I was able to meet versions of myself I did not know previously. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both Keio University and Allegheny College for giving me such a wonderful opportunity. I am also very grateful to all professors, staff and friends who kindly supported me as

an international student at Allegheny College as well as my family, friends and dance teammates who supported me far away from Japan.

What I have learned here was filled with something new for me, and my college life was completely different from the days I was in Japan.

I experienced dormitory life and room sharing for the first time. The nine months I spent in the beautiful, brick Brooks Halls, feeling the rich nature around me, was wonderful.

There are also some great things that I felt when I lived in a college town. I felt that it was easier for me to concentrate on my studies and club activities because of my living environment which has everything I need. I commute to my university from home where I live with my family, and since I am a member of a dance team, I often get tired of using many transportation systems to get to a studio, so life here was very compact.

I was very impressed with the liberal arts system.

For a student who had never taken classes in a small-sized class before, I was surprised at the atmosphere that all the students passionately contributed to, creating a class

with the professor. In Japan, we usually take classes with about two hundred students in a large classroom. There are few remarks in the class. By comparison, I still remember being very impressed with the students who actively expressed their opinions in many of the classes I took at Allegheny.

As an international student who hasn’t studied outside of Japan, connections between professors and students helped me a lot not only with my classwork, but for my research project. Most professors came to contact me as if I am part of their family, both inside and outside the class, which made me feel a wonderful connection between professors and students that can only be experienced in the liberal arts system. At the very beginning of the last semester, I struggled with expressing my opinion, and sometimes I had a hard time dealing with a lot of reading assignments, but thanks to the professor’s kind support, I was able to get through. Again, I would thank all professors from the bottom of my heart.

Having said that, I have faced a lot of unexpected cultural differences, and having many opportunities to know



I’m glad I picked Allegheny College as my dream stage and I still can’t believe I actually did it, something I have dreamt of as a little girl.”

—EMI ARIGA

what I used to take for granted was not normal here on a daily basis.

For example, in Japan, we have a unique culture of not communicating so actively and feeling each other’s thoughts without talking. Since I was not accustomed to saying what I thought straightforwardly, it was a bit hard for me to get used to. Besides that, we usually take off our shoes when we enter the house and take a bath filled with hot water, but I was surprised that baths are not here at all.

On the other hand, I have found some wonderful discoveries that I would not have known if I had not lived in the United States. For instance, people having small talk when you meet your friends or acquaintances on campus was very surprising for me. No matter how close your friends are, we do not often talk that much in Japan.

Also, I feel that it is nice to say positive words casually such as, “I like your clothes!” and, “You look amazing!” In this way, I would think that there are several discoveries that I can not see in Japan that are also the harvest of this study abroad program.

I am glad I picked Allegheny College as my dream stage and I still can’t believe I actually did it, something I have dreamt of as a little girl.

Sadly, I have to leave this wonderful college in a week, but again, I would love to send a massive appreciation to all those who were part of my dream journey. If you have any questions about Keio University or if you are planning to come to Japan, please reach me out at my email address. I am more than welcome and would love to interact with incredibly inspiring Gators even if I go back to Japan. Go Gators!

# Hepler conducts final wind symphony concert

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**  
Features Writer  
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The Allegheny College Wind Symphony has been a part of Meadville since Carlton Woods started the ensemble in 1972, and has continued to provide a community for musicians and concerts for Meadville since then. The symphony and ensemble are open for audition to all Allegheny students, alumni, faculty and community members.

Professor of Music and Director of Bands Lowell Hepler directed his last concert on May 8 in the Shafer Auditorium. Hepler is retiring after 48 years of teaching music at Allegheny, entering the community when he was 23 years old for his background in piano and experience with bands.

“At the time, I wasn’t all that enthusiastic about it because I was in bands all

through college,” Hepler said. “To be really honest with you, the band program became the last thing that I would ever want to give up because it gave me a chance to conduct and get to know people really well and grow it throughout the years.”

Hepler explained that despite the band being an afterthought, it ended up becoming his primary connection to the community.

“I guess it really goes to show that when we are young we can’t be closed off to other opportunities that present themselves because very often they are what really become essential for us,” Hepler said.

Because the symphony is open to all students regardless of major and minor, many students are able to be a part of the musical community at the college without having to pursue a degree in music.

Mollie Cochran, ’24, plays the flute in the Wind Symphony. She has been in the

symphony since her first year and is majoring in biology and minoring in psychology.

“We had some challenges with everything happening with COVID, but Hepler is a really great conductor and director,” Cochran said. “It was really hard at first because I hadn’t played with an ensemble, but I think that when you play in an ensemble like that where everybody truly wants to be there there is a lot to learn from playing together instead of playing individually.”

Cochran explained that the ensemble frequently refers to themselves as a family, which has allowed them to play well together and listen to each other.

Since the symphony is open to everyone, students who participate in it have had unique learning experiences.

“We have some alumni and (family),” Cochran said. “There’s such a learning experience that goes along with



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS

The Allegheny College Wind Symphony played their final show with Professor of Music Lowell Hepler on May 8.

that. I know that we have a flute player with us who has had a lot more experience than we do and she has been able to teach us so much and it has just been a different kind of dynamic when it is not just students playing.”

Lynnsey Winchell, ’22, recounted how she first became a part of the symphony when she was a first-year student.

“I came to college thinking that I wasn’t going to play

because I didn’t think I was good enough and because I thought I had too much going on,” Winchell said. “I had met a kid that was in the symphony at the time and he encouraged me to come and meet (Hepler) and before I knew it I had an email from (Hepler) telling me to check it out. And the rest is history.”

In order for the symphony to have a big concert each semester, members make a large

time commitment. According to Winchell, members play together three times a week during lunch for an hour. The Wind Symphony is one of the biggest music groups in the college next to the Civic Symphony. The Civic Symphony includes string instruments such as the violin.

“We banter back and forth, we tell stories and it really makes it a community as well as a family,” Winchell said.

## ‘Chomping’ the comp Seniors celebrate capstone projects

By **JORDAN GREYNOLDS**  
Features Writer  
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As the end of the 2021-22 academic year approaches, most Allegheny students are thinking about what classes they need to register for next semester. For seniors, though, their comprehensive projects fill the time they would have spent searching for classes and then some.

This capstone project is a staple to an Allegheny education and requires students to put their academic prowess to use as they work towards a published research paper.

Final projects vary by department and some students must combine elements from multiple fields if they are a double major. This allows for students to be creative and think critically about how different fields inform each other in ways we may not often recognize.

“I’m a double major in Economics and Environmental Science and Sustainability, so for my comp I looked to see how knowledge affects the purchasing habits of anglers regarding biodegradable lures,” Connor Mastalerz, ’22, said.

Research is not confined to Google searches for many students. Surveys, lab tests and field work are often means of conducting research as well, allowing students to gain experience working with their topic.

“I used a survey to obtain my data and so one of the biggest challenges was wording my survey questions correct-

ly to make sure participants understood what I was asking them,” Mastalerz said. “I also had some setbacks with the (Institutional Review Board) approval process which delayed my data collection period and limited my responses.”

Students conducting human research must first complete the appropriate Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative courses before submitting a proposal plan to the Allegheny IRB. Over the course of these semester- or year-long projects, challenges are inevitable and arise in many ways.

“Articulating what I did in lab over a whole school year and putting it into words was tough,” Maddy Hill, ’22, said. “Your comp has to be explained in a way that people can understand and it’s hard to put all your work in a complete story line sometimes.”

Though students spend day after day on their work, not all of their time spent is able to yield results.

“Sometimes all the lab work you do equals one or two sentences in writing and other times your work means nothing at all and that can be frustrating,” Hill said.

Though the day-to-day grind may not always be fruitful, by the end of the process students often find themselves faced with more information than their final projects can hold.

“The biggest challenge I faced was taking the information from my research and process sections, and then analyzing all at once,” Tully Taylor, ’22, said. “There

was so much good information and so many interesting things that happened that I just couldn’t fit it all in my final comp and I wish I could have included it all.”

As a theatre major, Taylor’s project was centered around The Playshop Theatre’s “She Kills Monsters” performance which took place April 28 through May 1. Taylor stage managed the show and documented the work she did along the way for her project that focused on fostering inclusive spaces in the theatre.

“I implemented different aspects that positively impacted the inclusivity of the space such as integrating music, having open office hours that my peers in the show could attend and establishing a system of open communication with everyone,” Taylor said. “I also tried to focus on how to create those inclusive spaces while we had actors participating in stage intimacy and stage combat — two things that require the actors to be vulnerable. It was important to me that we kept this a safe space and allowed questions, concerns and feelings come through no matter what.”

Through these projects, students are able to get a glimpse into what their peers in different majors are doing. While the work may seem routine to those who have spent four years in the field, the resulting projects offer many nuances to those less familiar with the subject.

“I don’t necessarily think that my comp is unique from others who complete theirs in theatre, but it may be per-

ceived as different from another majors’ point of view,” Taylor said. “It’s unique because I stage managed a show, but at the same time it’s similar to other comps because that could be considered the active research or survey portion that other people gathered.”

Through all the ups and downs that these intensive projects can present, many students walk away with a sense of accomplishment when they finally get to hold their completed work in hand.

“The most rewarding part of the process was getting to see my finished comp typed up and printed out after a year of working on it,” Hill said.

Many students work on topics that are meaningful to them and this allows their work, the contents of their projects and the feedback they receive all a reward within itself. But as senioritis kicks in and graduation day approaches, everyone knows there is nothing more satisfying than being done.

“There were two really rewarding aspects of my project,” Taylor said. “The first is that I helped foster a space where everyone felt welcome and safe. The second is that I finally submitted it!”

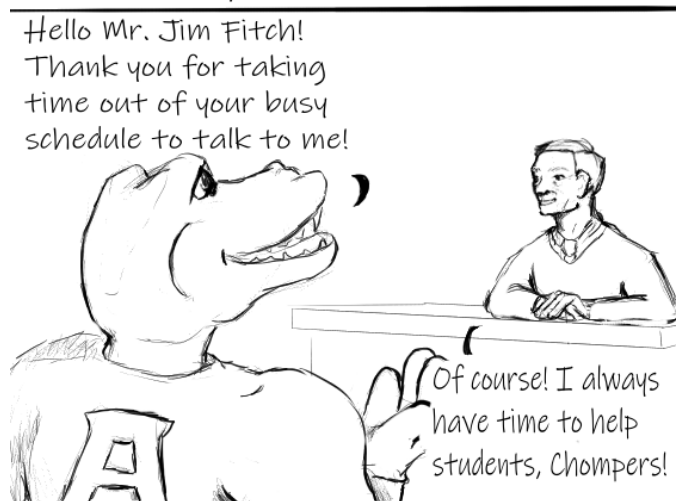
“The most rewarding part of the process was getting to see my finished comp typed up and printed out after a year of working on it.”

—TULLY TAYLOR  
Class of 2022

## Comic

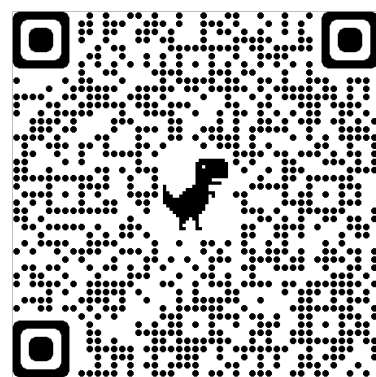
By **KAI MARIES**  
Editorial Cartoonist  
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### Chompers's Senior Year



Congratulations Grads!

Join staff this fall!



# 'Patchwork' features Allegheny's graduating art students



Kaung Myat Htet, '22, made stickers using Inklet Print. Visitors were invited to create their own stickers to add to the wall and Htet himself participated in his work.

By **EMI ARIGA**  
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## Class of 2022 showcases work



Twelve senior students exhibited their final project at "The Patchwork" exhibition on May 10 in the Doane Hall of Art in the Henderson Campus Center. The exhibition was filled with students and faculty members.



Gracie Keener, '22, explains the concept of her artwork to visitors.



A visitor looks at photography pieces by Ivory Marcucci, '22.

# 'Meeting This Moment'

## Methodist affiliation symposium calls for research proposals

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**  
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For almost 200 years, Allegheny has been affiliated with the United Methodist Church. Now, with fractures in the church and the Allegheny community's approach toward religion, the college will play host to a symposium on Methodist affiliation in March of 2023.

"This is a project we started talking about in 2020 when someone reached out to us about this grant," said Jane Ellen Nickell, Chaplain Emerita and project director. "It was encouraging colleges to look at what they were founded to do and what they are doing now, and it seemed really timely."

The college's Methodist affiliation garnered criticism from the campus community following the church's controversial 2019 "Traditional Plan" that placed penalties on openly queer clergy members and clergy members who agreed to perform same-sex marriages. Faculty and students lobbied for the Board of Trustees to officially disaffiliate the college from the United Methodist Church. Currently, Allegheny's affiliation is suspended — the college is not accepting any funding from the church — until the church revokes this legislation and becomes more supportive of the LGBTQ community.

"There has been an uneasy relationship [with the church] as the college has become more progressive [and] more secular," Nickell said.

Rather than being a forum for debate on whether or not the college should remain affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the symposium is meant to be a scholarly conversation that encapsulates a variety of approaches to affiliation and disaffiliation.

"The symposium is a scholarly examination, via historical frames, of the relationship between the United Methodist Church and Allegheny College," Dara Delgado, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and member of the symposium's review team wrote in an email to *The Campus*.

As a member of the review committee, Delgado will be working with other members, both faculty and Methodist clergy, to select research proposals to be developed, funded and presented at the symposium.

"I am a scholar whose research interests and expertise are in American religious history," Delgado wrote. "As such, my role in this current work is academic and wholly restricted to a scholarly religio-historical perspective."

Nickell hopes that the symposium will prove to be a useful platform for students to examine the college's Methodist affiliation while also getting experience in having

scholarly work presented and eventually published.

"With the grant money, we've been able to pay a stipend to anyone who's selected to write a paper, so there would be compensation," Nickell said. "It is going to be a reviewed presentation. For students who are thinking about academic careers, to be able to present at an academic symposium and to have their paper published is a nice thing to be able to put on your resume."

Charlie Waid, '25, is helping Nickell research the history of Allegheny's Methodist affiliation for the symposium.

"I've always been interested in religious studies," Waid said. "This being my first year of college, I wanted to dive into how to do research properly and be able to work with people on campus and make connections that way."

After writers are notified of their research proposal's acceptance on Aug. 1, 2022, they will then have until Jan. 31, 2023, to write a paper for the March 2023 symposium. The event itself is modeled after a 1991 symposium on Church-College Relations that took place at Allegheny. The 1991 symposium focused more broadly on all church-college relations rather than Allegheny's specific affiliation but followed a similar path of scholarship.

The symposium will feature two or three keynote speakers who, ac-



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Ford Chapel has been the center of religious life on campus for over 100 years.

According to Nickell, will be picked based on the paper topics that are accepted and will be presented at the symposium. Following the end of the symposium, the papers will be edited and published together in a volume that will be used to document contemporary thought and scholarship on Allegheny's Methodist affiliation.

All are invited to propose a scholarly paper surrounding Allegheny's Methodist affiliation for the "Meeting the Moment" symposium. The deadline for research proposals is June 30, and those accepted will be notified by Aug. 1. For prompt ideas and instructions on how to submit a research proposal, visit [www.allegheny.edu/meetingthismoment](http://www.allegheny.edu/meetingthismoment).

# TRACK AND FIELD TEAM MEMBERS BREAK ALLEGHENY RECORDS

## Men reflect on NCAC Conference Championship performances

By **KYLE CHANDLER**  
Sports Writer  
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The Allegheny Men's Track and Field team brought home the gold with three titles in the NCAC Conference Championships this past week, finishing with a team score of 76 points, good for sixth place in the event.

One of the most thrilling stories of championship week was seeing Jacob Boord, '25, back in the pit. After going down with a high ankle injury while competing in the Bucknell Bison Invitational April 15th and 16th, Boord was expected to miss six to 12 weeks of action, and was likely to miss the remainder of the season.

Working with the Allegheny College trainers as well as his sports psychologist, he nursed the sprain back to health in three weeks, and finished in first place for the javelin throw with a distance of 53.09, defending his title now in back-to-back years, proving he is the best in the conference.

"Given everything that's transpired within the last couple of weeks, it was really refreshing to go out and compete again," Boord said.

Boord expressed the frustrations he encountered during the event, claiming



Given everything that's transpired within the last couple of weeks, it was really refreshing to go out and compete again."

—JACOB BOORD,  
Class of 2025

that although he won, his throws were not up to his distance standards. During the Bucknell Bison Invitational, he broke the school record with a throw of 62.58, edging out the previous throw that was held for almost three decades from Warren Phillips in 1996.

Though it was not a perfect weekend in the eyes of Boord, he still has three more tournaments to go out and leave his mark. He is also currently ranked as the seventh best thrower in the nation for the javelin, and is a favorite to compete well in the National Championship at the end of the year.

"Come nationals, if I'm fully healthy, I can do some damage and get on the podium," Boord said.

In addition to Boord's title, Tylir Shannon, '22, also earned two pieces of hardware as he led the Gators in the 4x100 meter relay and in the individual 200 me-

ter dash. He set the second fastest time in school history during the 200, crossing the line with a time of 21.68. He also earned second place in the 100 meter dash, as his impact was felt on the track after competing well in multiple events during the two day stretch.

"I had to go execute," Shannon said. "It's really cool to see out of anyone that's ever ran track here that it's the second fastest time."

It has been a goal of Shannon's to hit the 21 second mark all season. With his previous best time coming at 22.17, his hard work paid off as he checkmarked that task during the preliminary round on Wednesday, then beating his time in the final to win the gold.

The Gators have been put in good hands with head coach Justin Linzy. Linzy was a two sport athlete at Ohio Northern University, where he ran in the National Championship during the 2009 season and brought a conference title to the school in the outdoor championship. He knows what it takes to win, and pushes his team while training to get the best out of them.

"I know that if I put my trust in him, he will lead me in the right direction," Shannon said.

## Women's captain closes out high-performing season with more wins

By **KYLE CHANDLER**  
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In what will be her final year in the North Coast Athletic Conference, Mihaela Toader, '23, left her mark once again, as she won the conference title for the Gators in the 400 meter race, while also placing second and breaking the school record in the 200 meter race this past weekend.

"I really wanted that 400 win," Toader said. "There is definitely a huge mental component to that race because you're coming down that last 100 meters and it hurts, it's hard, and I think it really just comes down to who wants it the most."

After finishing in second place during the preliminary rounds for the 400, Toader put her foot on the gas, and kicked her legs into high gear for Championship Thursday. Beating her Wednesday score by over a second, Toader crossed the line with a time of 58.32 to win the title — her time is also the second fastest in Allegheny school history.

During the 200 meter, she arguably performed better than in the 400, breaking the school record in the preliminary round with a time of 25.53, a record that has been held by Becky Ritzenhouse, for almost two decades, when she broke the record in 2003 with a time of 25.80. The next day, Toader bested her own time in the finals, breaking the record again and earning a podium



I actually hadn't even looked at the school record. Didn't even know (I broke it) until the next morning. It put me in a good head space and I was ready to get it done for the second day."

—MIHAELA TOADER  
Class of 2023



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position with a time of 25.48. Although she earned second in the finals of the 200, it was a phenomenal weekend with positive results to reflect on moving forward.

"I actually hadn't even looked at the school record," Toader said. "Didn't even know (I broke it) until the next morning. It put me in a good head space and I was ready to get it done for the second day."

In addition to her already impressive resume, Toader also competed in the triple jump and placed fifth, while also finishing fourth in the 4x400 and 4x100 team relay.

Toader has led the Gators in multiple facets of the game this season. After being named captain in her sophomore year, she took that role to heart, putting in two to three practices a day and setting an example for the rest of the team on what it takes to be a champion. Moving into her junior campaign, she shined brighter than a diamond as she was a top performer in numerous events throughout the season. She earned her teammates respect and proved her worth for the blue and gold.

"She played a huge role,"

said Julietta Schworm, '24, who ran with Toader in the 4x400. "I know a lot of people on the team, including myself, look up to her and her work ethic."

Closing out the season, Toader will have a chance to compete for a spot in the National Championship, pending her performance in the North Central Qualifier taking place May 17 in Naperville, Illinois. With rigorous competition ahead, she will have to rank within the top 22 across the country in either event to make it. Having conversations with head coach Justin Linzy, and after performing exceptionally well in both events last weekend, Toader is now debating on whether to compete in the 200 or 400, and will make her decision in the near future. As of now, she is leaning towards the 200.

"My goal was always to make it to Nationals and score," Toader said. "It would be awesome to go to nationals, and I'm ready to get it."

As the year comes to a close, Toader has already made plans to continue her hard work into the offseason. She will be working with one of her former coaches at Mount Lebanon High School, who was a decathlon athlete in college and grad school, and is very knowledgeable about sprinting. Both parties are excited to get to work, and once Toader returns to Pittsburgh she will immediately be back to the grind.

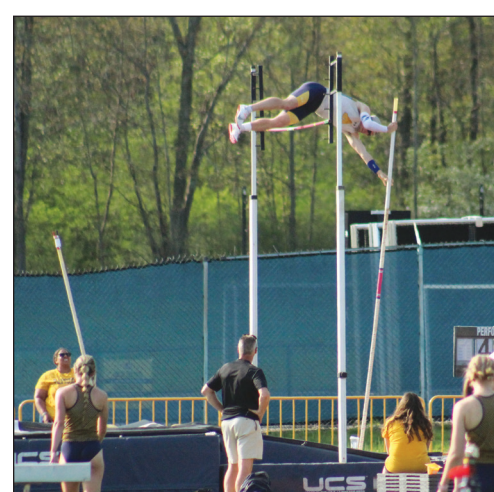


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**TOP:** Tylir Shannon, '22, sprints the final stretch of the men's 200 meter race at the Marty Goldberg Invitation at Robertson Athletic Complex on Thursday, May 12. Shannon finished third in 22.49 seconds.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Shyler Kreitz, '22, jumps a hurdle on the turn to the final stretch in the men's 400 meter hurdle race. Kreitz finished third in 1:01.63.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Toader sprints the final stretch of the women's 400 meter race. Toader won the 400 in 58.53 seconds.



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**RIGHT:** Stephen Cullinan, '23 clears the bar in the men's pole vault.  
**BOTTOM:** Joseph McAuliffe, '24 rounds the final curve in second place. McAuliffe went on to catch the runner from Point Park University (far left) in the final 100 meters and win the race in 1:56.85.

