

1876

THE

2020

CAMPUS

Volume 144, Issue 14

– FRIDAY, January 24, 2020 –

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

Discussions regarding UMC continue at Allegheny

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
News Editor
holthouses@allegheny.edu

For months, the United Methodist Church’s decision to uphold the Traditional Plan in March 2019 has been a prominent discussion on campus — the plan would exclude members of the LGBTQ community from certain church rites. With the beginning of a new semester, the college’s work surrounding this significant decision continues.

The UMC has also continued to work on the problem in the form of new proposals passed over winter break. Taking the new proposals into consideration, administrators and Allegheny Student Government continue to meet and discuss what comes next for Allegheny, a United Methodist-affiliated school.

Jane Ellen Nickell, college chaplain, discussed the changes made amongst the UMC over break, and how they add additional factors to be considered before Allegheny can make a firm decision over what to do next regarding disaffiliation.

Nickell described a new plan that was passed called Protocol of Grace and Reconciliation through Separation. This plan makes two things possible: conservative members of the church would be allowed to split off and form their own body, and the United States would be able to become its own region of the church.

“What this was, was a negotiated plan where conservatives could leave and form a separate denomination,” Nickell said. “This made a lot of news. It’s not a done deal. It would have to be approved by the United Methodist General Conference in May.”

Nickell added that a significant number of the negotiations were done by people and representatives outside of the U.S., regions which had not previously been considered in these discussions.

“People are cautiously optimistic that this might signal an end, but it’s something that would have to be voted on by the General Conference,” Nickell said. “They would be able to make amendments to it and would be able to change some of the things that were negotiated during this process.”

See **UMC** | page 3

Kutz talks anatomy of a recession

By **HANNAH SCHAFER**
News Editor
schafferh@allegheny.edu

Allegheny’s Center for Business and Economics kicked off its spring semester’s lunchtime learning lecture series on at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, in Quigley Hall Auditorium by welcoming Trustee John Kutz, ’83, to give a presentation titled “Anatomy of a Recession.”

The presentation was centered on three main questions: How close could we be to the next recession? Will growth hold steady, weaken or pick up by the end of the year? What factors are most important to watch to help keep people on track?

Shannon Putnam, ’20, began the lunchtime learning lecture by introducing Kutz.

“While at Allegheny, (Kutz) was a double major in economics and German, and a member of Delta Tau Delta,” Putnam said. “After his graduation from Allegheny, (Kutz) received his MBA from the (Joseph M.) Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.”

Putnam said one of Kutz’s favorite memories of Allegheny is the relationships he built with professors at the school.

“Additionally, one of (Kutz’s) proudest moments with Allegheny is his son, Tim, ’18, carrying on his family’s Allegheny legacy and finding success after graduation,” Putnam said.

Like his father, Tim Kutz was a double major in economics and German, and a member of Delta Tau Delta.

Kutz began in the investment industry in 1998, and spent nearly 18 years as managing director of retirement plan services at Victory Capital Management before serving the Ohio Valley region as sales director for Legg Mason.

See **KUTZ** | page 2



EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS

The sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma cheer on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, for Run Out in Brooks Circle.

◆◆◆◆◆ In the Snow ◆◆◆◆◆

Fraternity and Sorority Life holds spring Run Out

See **RUN OUT** | page 7

Police continue investigation of December assault

By **MATTHEW STEINBERG**
Editor-in-Chief
steinbergm@allegheny.edu

Stefanucci said he could not confirm or deny whether or not Meadville police have a suspect at this time.

According to a campus-wide email sent out around 5 a.m., the assault occurred at approximately 1:30 a.m. on Dec. 10, 2019, in Ravine Hall. The Office of Public Safety was informed of the incident at 3:30 a.m. The assailant was described as a man approximately 20 years old with light brown skin and more than 5 feet, 7 inches tall. The description also said the man had a handgun.

Since the incident, Allegheny College has increased its safety protocols on campus. In a campus-wide email sent at 10:26 p.m. the day of the incident, President of the College Hilary Link said 24-hour public safety patrols had been increased and would remain increased through the end of the fall 2019 semester, and issues with on-campus doors and locks had been and will continue to be addressed. Residents of Ravine Hall were also checked on by staff members of Student Life, and available resources including counseling and academic support were communicated to students, parents and all members of the Allegheny community, the email read.

Dean of Students April Thompson sent a campus-wide email on Jan. 8 regarding the safety and security of the Allegheny community.

“I am writing to let you and your loved ones know of the many steps we have taken on campus to prepare the campus for (the students’) upcoming return and for the (Spring 2020) semester,” the email read.

See **ASSAULT** | page 3

IN THIS WEEK’S CAMPUS



AUSTRALIA
The wildfires in Australia need to serve as a wake-up call for strong environmental legislation.

Page 4



HAYWOOD
Assistant Professor of Environmental Science Ben Haywood leaves Allegheny.

Page 5

SWIMMING
Allegheny’s Women’s Swim and Dive team discusses their new season.

Page 8

ASG passes resolution regarding UMC disaffiliation

Additional security measures, possibility of campus cameras discussed

By ALANA SABOL
News Writer
sabola@allegheny.edu

During the weekly Allegheny Student Government general assembly meeting, a large number of announcements were made and a discussion about campus safety was held.

Since there was not a guest speaker, assembly began with cabinet reports, shortly following attendance at 7:04 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the Henderson Campus Center lobby.

Before cabinet reports, a call for constituent comments was made by Vice President Elyse Cinquino, '20, prompting Maximus Levinsky, '21, to bring up the college's involvement with the United Methodist Church. Levinsky said he hoped to reach a resolution on the issue and leave the UMC to promote inclusivity in the college.

Cabinet reports commenced shortly after, with the Director of Communication and Press David Roach, '21, making an announcement on their efforts to move forward with the creation of "How to: ASG" videos by getting in touch with the class presidents after the next weekly assembly.

"It will help get the word out on how to be involved with ASG," Roach said. "We're really looking forward to that."

Following Roach, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Taylor Marzouca, '20, reported that her committee meetings have been moved to 1 p.m. on Fridays. Marzouca continued by announcing that they were looking for speakers to host an event this semester.

To conclude her report, Marzouca said her committee will send out the application for the ex-officios event.

"We're looking for people who, above everything, are just super organized and have a knack for event planning," Marzouca said.

Following Marzouca, Cinquino made a quick, important announcement about the Director of Community Relations position being available. Cinquino encourages interested students to send an

email to President Jason Ferrante by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23.

The next report came from Ashley Leonard, vice president of the class of 2020 and Secretary of Community Relations. She started the report by revealing that the committee discussed hosting another town hall in the near future, possibly including the new members of Meadville City Council, Autumn Vogel and Larry Mcknight.

"(We want to) talk to the community about their concerns and bettering the relationship with the Meadville community and Allegheny College as a whole," Leonard said. "(It's) important to have the townspeople like our college and for us to support them and their businesses also."

Leonard also announced that the committee hopes to collaborate with the Political Science Department to have more diverse locations as polling places for the next election. To finish her report, Leonard stated that they were planning on creating a pamphlet for 2020 summer orientation to give to families and students to get them acquainted with businesses in and around Meadville.

After a few short announcements by Attorney General Brandon Zabo, '22, and Chief of Staff Jared McHale, '20, Co-Director of Student Affairs Genesis Pena, '22, began her report by announcing that the Safety Committee's Finance Consultant Linda Wetsell informed her and Co-Director of Student Affairs Kelsey Evans, '20, about the new security on campus and additional safety measures the college was taking.

"(Wetsell said) they're really focusing first on residence halls and then branching out to academic buildings and common buildings," Pena said. "But they are making sure to do everything over time."

To complete her report, Pena made two announcements. The first being about the Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution and moving toward a vote in the upcoming meet-



ALANA SABOL/THE CAMPUS

Top: Allegheny Student Government discusses the United Methodist Church resolution, along with the need for a new Director of Community Relations at General Assembly at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020, in the Henderson Campus Center lobby.

Bottom: Allegheny Student Government fills the Henderson Campus Center lobby for its general assembly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020.

ings, and the second about the free feminine products stocked in the campus center bathrooms, which is part of a larger initiative to provide free sanitary products to students on campus. This last announcement received overwhelming approval from the attendees.

After Pena, the Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Cat Lord, '20, announced a possible collaboration with Students for Environmental Action and the Environmental Science Department to plan events for the 50th annual Earth Day.

Following Lord, there were a few additional cabinet reports before ASG moved into class reports, which centered primarily around upcoming events. Class of 2022 also plans to send out an interest form in hopes to fill the available senate position and discussed proposals to include more TVs in the common lounges.

During her vice president's report, Cinquino announced that she attended a Campus Life and Community Standards meeting to discuss ASG's Indigenous Peoples' Day proposal and the next steps if it were to be approved.

Ferrante, '20, reported that the major concert artist for this year will be announced on Jan. 27, as well as the \$7 tickets for the event that will be available the same day. Ferrante also announced that President



of Allegheny Hilary Link will be the guest speaker for the Feb. 18 ASG general assembly. Finally, to complete his report, Ferrante informed the attendees that he will be meeting with the new Director of Public Safety, James B Basinger, on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Moving into unfinished business, member of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Quinn Broussard, '22, motioned to vote on and approve Resolution 19-06, which is a proposal for the college to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Resolution 19-06 passed with a vote of 14-3.

Moving into new business, Cinquino offered to discuss

the possibility of having security cameras on campus in future meetings.

"I would recommend talking to your constituents about this being in what capacity," Cinquino said. "That could be parking lots, just outside of dorms, near entrances, that kind of thing."

Surveillance on campus seemed to be a highly debated topic, as Ferrante explained that in years past, ASG voted against the installation of security cameras. He encouraged ASG members to talk to their constituents about any concerns or ideas regarding the possible new security measures.

As the meeting came to a close, Cinquino made a final call for any constituent comments. Student Manny Soares, '21, voiced his concerns on the potential security cameras. He explained that he believed security cameras should only be placed outside of dorms.

"We need to be very clear on when the cameras can be utilized and when they can't be utilized," Soares said. "My biggest fear as a person of color is that they would only be utilized to further incriminate people of color."

Following this, ASG finished the meeting with adviser announcements. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

“It’s important to have the townspeople like our college and for us to support them and their businesses also.”

—ASHLEY LEONARD
Class of 2020

KUTZ *from page 1*

Kutz began his presentation by asking students and faculty in the audience to raise their hands if they knew his son.

"I am very proud of him," Kutz said, "(Tim) is killing it, and that is what happens when you have a great liberal arts education from Allegheny College."

Kutz's presentation focused on capital markets and reviewed where the United States economy stands, relative to a possible recession.

However, Kutz first introduced the audience to Legg Mason's program, Anatomy of a Recession.

"(Anatomy of a Recession) is a program we update on a monthly basis to the extent that the variables that we will cover that tend to foreshadow economic change," Kutz said.

Kutz first asked audience members if they knew the definition of "recession," before explaining that recession is two consecutive quarters of GDP decline.

"We are trying to do whatever we can in this economy to avoid a recession," Kutz said. "This is why we created (Anatomy of a Recession)."

Kutz continued by defining the vocabulary terms, "market crash" and "pullback."

"A market crash is defined as a decline in the market by more than 20%, and it is a duration of more than a year," Kutz said.

Kutz said that the U.S. has experienced six market crashes since the 1960s. All, except for one, of these market crashes resulted in a recession.

Declines in the market that are fewer than 20% and last

less than a year are considered pullbacks, according to Kutz.

"Market crashes are nearly three times more likely to result in a recession," Kutz said. "Market crashes and recessions go hand-in-hand."

Kutz explained that the U.S. is in the 11th year of a full market coming out of the financial crisis. Kutz also mentioned that the recovery from the financial crisis of the early 2000s has been shallow compared to other recession recoveries the U.S. has had since World War II.

"As a result, businesses and consumers don't feel good about this recovery," Kutz said. "There is a myth that because (the U.S.) is so long into this economic cycle — this is what you are hearing on television — it has to come to an end, and that is not the case whatsoever."

Countries such as Canada and Japan have experienced much longer economic cycles, according to Kutz.

"Time is not a reason for an economic expansion to stop," Kutz said.

Kutz also discussed what is referred to as the recession-risk dashboard, which is comprised of four main pillars.

The first of these four pillars is financial indicators.

"(Financial indicators) tend to be the first to weaken when our economy starts to go into a downturn," Kutz said.

In addition to financial indicators, the pillars also include inflation variables and the consumer sector. Finally, the fourth pillar is business activity.

“Market crashes are nearly three times more likely to result in a recession. Market crashes and recession go hand-in-hand.”

—JOHN KUTZ, '83
Trustee,
Allegheny College

Using a stoplight analogy, Kutz described the U.S. economy in terms of red, yellow and green. Kutz labeled the current U.S. economy as yellow, meaning cautionary. Red is used to mark a recessionary economy, and green an expansionary.

"(The recession-risk dashboard) was designed to give

investors and consultants ample time to act," Kutz said. "(The economy) doesn't flip overnight from green to yellow to red. There is a time horizon that should allow people to do things within their portfolio to take the risk out of their portfolio."

UMC

from page 1

Additionally, Nickell said after this proposed new plan, the original Traditional Plan, which states that church members of the LGBTQ community would not be allowed to get married, have a Methodist pastor preside over their wedding or be ordained as a pastor, would most likely be overturned.

Another part of the proposed plan, according to Nickell, is for the U.S. to become a separate regional conference, which was voted on by the presidents of Methodist Affiliated colleges in January.

“This means (the United States) could set their own policy,” Nickell said. “Whereas the votes to keep the Traditional Plan that we’ve had around sexuality have been largely influenced by regions outside the U.S. where they have more conservative cultural norms around sexuality. ... It’s likely that if either of these plans are passed, the Traditional Plan would be overturned.”

Nickell said that what is left for Allegheny now is to decide whether or not to wait and see what happens in May with the United Methodist Church when the vote is taken and the group of people supporting the Traditional Plan are given the option to leave, or if it makes sense for the college to remain affiliated at all.

“I think the issue that Allegheny is still thinking about is whether it wants to remain church affiliated at all,” Nickell said. “I think this sort of has raised this larger question of, ‘is this a time that we want to be affiliated with any religion?’”

In an email to The Campus, President of Allegheny Hilary Link stated that the ultimate decision is for the Board of Trustees to make, but the college would keep the community updated as the semester continues.

“We are continuing to engage the community about the best decision forward for Allegheny,” the email read. “This is a board decision, so we will be engaging the board at upcoming meetings. We will be continuing to involve the Allegheny community in our decision-making process.”

Due to traveling abroad for the college, Link was unavailable for further comment.

ASG also discussed the UMC updates and what that meant for Allegheny during its first general assembly meeting of the semester, where resolution 1906, stating that disaffiliation from the church was in the best interests of the students, was brought to the table.

A five-minute moderated discussion was held to discuss the resolution before ASG called for a vote.

ASG President Jason Ferrante, ’20, reminded the room that the discussion was supposed to happen at ASG’s meeting last semester which was canceled. This was due to the meetings held with Link and other administrators before winter break about this topic. Additionally, Ferrante informed senators about the new decision to split, but said that it most likely will not happen until May.

Noah Tart, ’22, shared with ASG the conversation he had with a Methodist pastor regarding where church members in the U.S. stands in favor of the LGBTQ community in the church, specifically on a previous vote in 2016.

“(The pastor) said that the Methodist church is one of the largest non-Catholic churches in the world,” Tart said. “The votes for America (on this topic in 2016) were 2-1 in favor of the LGBTQ community. Other countries that have

laws against this; like China I think was one of them; that voted against this. But it does look like the church intends to split into three parties.”

Quin Broussard, ’22, added that the resolution did not mean the college would immediately disaffiliate with the Methodist Church. It just meant that ASG would be putting its support behind disaffiliation, according to Broussard.

“So this wouldn’t automatically disaffiliate us, it’s just confirming our support, along with (the support of) several other committees of the college,” Broussard said.

Members of ASG pointed out that Allegheny’s affiliation with the United Methodist Church is the college’s only religious affiliation, and that the Traditional Plan goes against Allegheny’s statement of community.

A petition that was sent around campus and signed by many students was also brought up, showing that there is strong support from the student body toward disaffiliation.

After the resolution was read aloud by Attorney General, Brandon Zabo, ’22, senators voted to table the resolution until the Jan. 21, 2020, meeting. The resolution is now passed.

Following the meeting, Ferrante and ASG Vice President Elyse Cinquino, ’20, expanded on what passing the resolution would mean.

“We were supposed to take up this resolution which would call upon the Board of Trustees from ASG, which is the official student voice on campus, to call for them to vote in their next meeting to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church,” Ferrante said. “This resolution we were originally hoping to consider on Dec. 10, but that was the same night and time as the meetings with President Link and Missy Feeley, so we canceled that meeting.”

The resolution is the result of attendance at those meetings along with constituent comments and internal discussions amongst ASG, according to Ferrante.

“We and the senators and committee that made the resolution feel there is a multi-pronged reason for why the



Photo contributed by ABC30Fresno

Methodist churches across the United States fly LGBTQ pride flags to show support for members of the LGBTQ community in church congregations.

college should disaffiliate,” Ferrante said. “Part of that was the Traditional Plan, but there was also a sentiment that we as a college are not that strongly affiliated with the United Methodist Church as is. They don’t provide much financial ability, and in some ways it can hinder non-Methodist students’ expression of faith, or lack thereof, on campus.”

Cinquino added that there is also not a strong knowledge on campus that the college is affiliated in the first place.

“I mean, I didn’t even know when I toured at Allegheny, or came to an overnight, or when I got accepted and decided I was going to come here,” Cinquino said. “So it’s not a very prominent thing.”

The resolution was created after a great deal of talk and research, including last semester’s listening sessions, Cinquino said, and now that it has been passed it stands as the official voice of the students to the Board of Trustees.

“This was something that we thought upon, and we did research, we talked to students, there were listening sessions, that kind of thing, and this was the resolution that was passed,” Cinquino said.

Now that ASG’s resolution has been passed, Ferrante and Cinquino will take it to the Board of Trustees at the meeting, in conjunction with other things already passed by the Faculty Committee and the Finance and Facilities Committee, according to Ferrante.

“Again, the Board of Trustees holds the sole power to do it,” Ferrante said. “They’re not bound by our recommendation, they’re not bound by faculty’s recommendation. The Board of Trustees holds the ultimate decision. They can vote however they please.”

Cinquino said that this was “definitely a very important stance that we want to take.”

Additionally, Cinquino said that from what ASG has heard, there is a general consensus among students to disaffiliate.

“From what we’ve heard at listening sessions or from senators and their constituents, there doesn’t seem to be a very strong voice to stay, or even just in general a reason to stay,” Cinquino said.

Other reasons for the lack of a strong voice include the comfortability of LGBTQ students at Allegheny, according to Cinquino.

“Looking at the petition that was started last year, going to the listening sessions, listening to feedback, having our website open for feedback, having general assembly meetings on this, listening to all of the concerns that have been brought up, reading the Traditional Plan, we feel like we’ve done our due diligence, but we always want to make sure that what we do is in the best interest and with the support of the student body,” Ferrante said.

Ferrante added that the resolution will be available on ASG’s website and Facebook page.

“So, seriously, any feedback anyone has, this is a big decision that the college will be making, so we want as much feedback as possible,” Ferrante said.

“

We and the senators and committee that made the resolution feel there is a multi-pronged reason for why the college should disaffiliate.”

—JASON FERRANTE
Class of 2020

ASSAULT

from page 1

The email listed 13 steps Allegheny administration has taken to further increase safety on campus. Among these steps are hiring safety and security consultants, installing alarms on “exterior doors” around campus, maintaining the increased security presence from last semester and installing new hardware on “interior residential doors” where needed, according to the email.

“We’re working as close as we can with the college,” Stefanucci said. “The college is actively pursuing avenues to protect the students further in the wake of this incident — that’s something I can positively say.”

Regarding the ongoing investigation, Stefanucci said Meadville police are still weighing evidence and developing leads.

Since the incident, six reports have been logged on Allegheny’s daily crime log, and one filed at approximately noon on Dec. 18, 2019, was for the possession of weapons in Ravine Hall. William Merchbaker, interim director of public safety, said during a routine room check a resident adviser confiscated a machete-like weapon. Merchbaker said the weapons report was not related to the on-campus rape.

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.

December 18, 2019
Weapons-Carrying-Possession
Ravine Hall

January 2, 2020
Drugs/marijuana
Brooks Hall

January 20, 2020
Criminal Mischief
North Village II

THE CAMPUS

since 1876

EDITORIAL STAFF

Matthew Steinberg	Editor-in-Chief
Lauren Trimber	Editor-in-Chief
Sara Hothouse	News editor
Hannah Schaffer	News editor
Alana Sabol	News writer
Olivia Blakeslee	Features editor
Shaelyn Ursida	Features editor
Blair Proteau	Features writer
Willy Walker	Science/International editor
Kaleigh White	Science/International editor
Ethan Woodfill	Opinion editor
Henry Sutter	Sports editor
Kelsey Evans	Photographer
Emily Rice	Photographer
Shaelyn Ursida	Photographer
Matthew Steinberg	Copy editor
Matthew Steinberg	Web manager
Lindsey Basse	Web manager
Lauren Trimber	Business manager
Michael Crowley	Faculty Adviser

Advertising (412) 865-7758
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

Super Bowl LIV: making predictions

By **HENRY SUTTER**
Sports Editor
sutterh@allegheny.edu

When the Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers face off in Super Bowl LIV at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, tens of millions of people across the globe will tune in to watch.

Leading up to the game, hundreds, if not thousands, of articles will be written in the attempt to predict which team will win the game and why; this is not one of those articles. This article will compare the two teams on the levels of quarterback, defense and head coach. It will then be up to the reader to make a judgment on the outcome of the game.

At the quarterback position, the Chiefs will trot out third-year quarterback Patrick Mahomes. He was the NFL's Most Valuable Player and Offensive Player of the Year in 2018 and had over 5,000 yards passing and 50 passing touchdowns.

For the 49ers, 28-year-old Jimmy Garoppolo will take the field for his third Super Bowl, having won his first two as a backup for the New England Patriots. He led the team to a 13-3 regular season record by tossing 27 touchdowns on nearly 4,000 yards passing.

The matchup between Mahomes and Garoppolo may be the most striking difference between the two teams; through their first two playoff games, Mahomes has over 600 yards passing and eight touchdowns while Garoppolo has just over 200 yards passing and a single touchdown.

One of the determining factors of the game will be how well the two quarterbacks can represent their teams. If one plays particularly poorly, it will be difficult to raise the Lombardi Trophy as Super Bowl LIV champions.

The decided advantage that

the 49ers will have over the Chiefs lies on the defensive side of the ball. The defensive line of the 49ers boasts five former first-round picks, including potential 2019 Defensive Rookie of the Year Nick Bosa, who had nine sacks in the regular season and has added three more in the post-season.

The 49ers have had one of the most impressive defenses in the league throughout the season. Their secondary is led by Super Bowl champion Richard Sherman, formerly of the Seattle Seahawks, who provides the young team with veteran leadership.

The Chiefs defense has been particularly impressive this season especially when compared to past seasons, but it does not match up to the firepower that the 49ers boast.

Kansas City struggled throughout the regular season to contain opposing running backs, but they were able to hold the NFL's 2019 rushing leader Derrick Henry to under 100 yards rushing in their victory over the Tennessee Titans in the divisional round of the playoffs.

For Kansas City to beat San Francisco, their defense will have to contain the 49ers' potent rushing attack, and their offensive line will have to keep Mahomes upright in the face of the 49ers' premier pass rush. For the 49ers to topple the Chiefs, their young defense will have to contain Mahomes, and Garoppolo will have to take advantage of an improved yet imperfect Chiefs defense.

While the players on both teams will have a tremendous impact on the game, their head coaches will be instrumental in deciding the outcome of Super Bowl LIV.

The Chiefs are led by Andy Reid, who took the Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl in 2004, but ultimately lost



Photo courtesy of **The Associated Press**

Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, will face off against San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, right, in Super Bowl LIV Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020.

to the New England Patriots. Kyle Shanahan is at the helm for the 49ers, and his only Super Bowl experience came as the offensive coordinator for the Atlanta Falcons in their 2017 loss to the Patriots.

Reid has been criticized throughout his career for poor game management and for falling short in the playoffs. Reid has the most career wins of any coach who has not won a Super Bowl, and although he is considered to be a great offensive strategist, another loss could hurt his legacy as a coach.

On the other hand, Shanahan is considered to be an up-and-coming offensive guru who finds creative ways to attack defenses with the running game. His inexperience will likely be a hindrance against Reid, but he could cement himself as an NFL head coach for years to come with a victory on Feb. 2.

For Kansas City to emerge victorious, Reid will have to commit to running the ball and will have to manage the clock late in the game to hold off the 49ers. San Francisco's path to victory includes a stellar defensive performance aided by Shanahan's creativity running the ball.

It is nearly impossible to predict the outcome of the Super Bowl, but that will not stop numerous articles and

news clips from claiming to have the answer. This article does not do that. This game between a high-powered Kansas City offense and a stubborn, tenacious San Francisco defense is gearing up to be a classic game.

If Mahomes can continue his dominant playoff performance, he will most likely exit the game as a Super Bowl champion and MVP. If the 49ers' defensive line can hold him to a mediocre performance, Garoppolo will have a chance to win the game for San Francisco.

If Kansas City's defense cannot limit the rushing attack of the 49ers and Reid mismanages the game, Shanahan will win his first Super Bowl. If the moment is too large for the young Shanahan and Reid can silence his critics with a win, the Chiefs can hoist the Lombardi trophy for the first time since Super Bowl IV in 1970.

At approximately 10 p.m. on Feb. 2, either the Kansas City Chiefs or the San Francisco 49ers will be crowned champion of the NFL. While there is a chance that neither of these teams are familiar to some students, this article can help even the most casual fans make a more informed decision when predicting the outcome of the game.

Australian fires are just the beginning

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
Opinion Editor
woodfille@allegheny.edu

If you haven't heard of the devastating wildfires that have been plaguing the continent of Australia, you have probably been living in a bubble. Though the fires have been burning since early July, media coverage of the tragic loss of at least 28 lives and millions of flora and fauna has exploded in recent weeks, with politicians and celebrities urging donations to help those affected by the fires.

According to BBC News, about 10 million hectares have burned across Australia. New South Wales has been hardest hit, with 5 million hectares gone and 2,000 homes destroyed. Walter Jetz, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at Yale University, stated that at least six species including birds, frogs and fish experienced habitat loss of between 50-100%.

Some climate deniers like the president of the United States think that meticulously raking underbrush will prevent wildfires. Rupert Darwall, in an op-ed published in The Hill, thinks that land management is solely to blame for these tremendous wildfires and that worrying about climate change is a distraction. It is well-known that climate change creates a hotter and drier climate in already dry areas like California and Australia. Hot, dry conditions are the perfect recipe for wildfires to roar and devastate an ecosystem.

The Australian wildfires must serve as a wake-up call to governments to enact quick and sweeping environmental legislation. Climate change will cause more frequent and severe wildfires and increased flooding, as we've seen in recent years in Western Pennsylvania.

The effects of these irregular weather patterns will have dire consequences: a myriad of people living in coastal regions will be forced to migrate due to sea-level rise. Something climate deniers should be asking: what will be the effect of millions of displaced populations around the globe? While some are worried about caravans coming to the U.S.-Mexico border, how about 143 million people seeking refuge from the effects of climate change, according to a 2018 World Bank estimate. In contrast, approximately 11 million Syrians emigrated from their home country after 2011.

But why aren't Americans more alarmed about this? Perhaps it's because they don't even know about it.

The media's lack of climate coverage is nothing new. Political controversies including the ongoing impeachment trial of Donald Trump constantly dominate the news cycle. It seems to take a 16-year-old from Sweden, or the toxicity of debate surrounding the Green New Deal, to get any sort of coverage of climate change.

Thus, the largest issue getting people to support

climate mitigation is the hyper-politicized nature of words like "carbon," "warming" and "coal." Climate change isn't political. It's personal.

More people will die and lose their way of life as a result of rising temperatures. So, it's understandable that people are hesitant to believe the "doom and gloom" nature of environmental politics. And if they do buy it, it's hard to get out of the psychology of despair or learned hopelessness.

That's not the approach we need. We need to garner widespread media coverage of youth, like those involved with the Sunrise Movement. This will help educate the public about the problem, but more importantly, the solutions and ideas that will propel society into an economically and environmentally sustainable era.

“

The Australian wildfires must serve as a wake-up call to governments to enact quick and sweeping environmental legislation.”

—**ETHAN WOODFILL**
Class of 2022

Much like the coverage of mass shootings, which relies on tragedy to strike first and a reactionary response from social media, climate disasters seem to follow the same pattern. While it is of utmost importance that people help Australian victim of the wildfires, why don't we talk about how the fires are not surprising? We must end the cycle of tragedy, an outraged reaction and then no further action.

Nothing perpetuates nothing.

No action perpetuates the status quo. The status quo is becoming that people across the globe lose their livelihoods and their lives in exchange for short-term economic growth. The solution is not thoughts and prayers. The solution is a well-thought-out policy that will equally benefit our economy, health and environment.

Instead of donating a measly \$690,000 to help Australians, perhaps the multi-billion dollar Amazon corporation could reduce climate impacts in its global supply chain. Instead of suggesting that "poor land management" is to blame for fires, we must re-examine our management of unceasingly pumping heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere. We must be able to communicate with those who don't understand the magnitude of the threats that are before us. We must be able to speak in a non-condescending way which is relatable to evoke a personal response to the environment.

Because, if we don't, you'd better believe that the Australian wildfires are only the beginning of what catastrophes are to come.

Becoming more compassionate in 2020

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
Opinion Editor
woodfille@allegheny.edu

I thought of the idea for this piece over break after several encounters with some impatient people. Namely, the barista at Starbucks greeted me, and then an older gentleman who I had not noticed off to the side exclaimed, "Excuse me, I was here first! It's my turn." I apologized and offered for him to go ahead, to which he begrudgingly reiterated that it was his turn.

In this instance, my dad looked over at me and joked, "OK, Boomer," and I laughed it off as well. But it's definitely something I've noticed over the course of the last decade: increasing generational rifts and fewer instances of "random acts of kindness," let alone common courtesy. I think it is hypocritical for Baby Boomers to get angry with millennials and members of Generation Z about being self-entitled when "Karens"

“

Practice empathy, kindness and compassion. Treat strangers with the respect that they deserve as a fellow human.”

—**ETHAN WOODFILL**
Class of 2022

ask to speak to the manager if their food takes a little bit longer than expected.

I've worked in both food-service and retail — they both suck — and not because the work itself is hard. Rather, some people expect you to serve them with a silver platter the instant they walk in with no real regard for how your day is going or care that the person behind them verbally abused you. I think that working in these environments has given me extra patience when I'm waiting in line and more empathy for the employees who are doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Understandably, people get frustrated when things take too long; people have professions to get to and kids to tend to. But it is not fair to transmit your dissatisfaction and your stress onto the kid just working to save up money for college.

This article is not intended to rant about baby boomers.

The past decade saw an enormous number of crises, turmoil and hurt. Mass shootings, racial tensions, cyberbullying and political riots defined much of the 2010s, especially what we saw in the second half of the decade. Emotions run high, people are tense, and, generally, it feels as though people have lost trust in their neighbors.

In the era of social media, it makes sense that trust is less and less common in our everyday lives. Anyone can hide behind the mask of a pseudonym online — their intentions are completely unknown — and the distrust of online strangers seems to have been perpetuated in the real world, creating a stronger sense of "stranger danger."

We are all so obsessed with how we are different from one another — ideology, appearance, identity and the like. We forget how we are similar. If you have a genuine conversation with someone — if you break down your preconceived biases toward the other person and actually listen — you will find that, while your problems may not be exactly the same, you both have problems. We must learn to be content with our common humanity while celebrating our differences.

I often make fun of my friend who will try to start a conversation with anyone walking around campus. It doesn't matter if they woke up

two minutes ago, are terribly hungover or are just having the worst day imaginable. He genuinely tries to create a human connection that I think, for most of us, feels uncomfortable. But, it shouldn't have to feel uncomfortable. In an ever-connected world, we find ourselves less connected than ever. I think that has huge implications for mental health among youth and societal problems.

Rather than setting a New Year's resolution that will flop within the next week, I charge everyone to be more compassionate in 2020. Practice empathy, kindness and compassion. Treat strangers with the respect they deserve as a fellow human. You don't have to like everyone you come across, but in the words of the late Fred Rogers, "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors — in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

Be kind in the '20s. And not just to others — practice self-compassion, first. Take care of your mental and physical well-being when and before you are burnt-out. We will not solve any of our crises if we are constantly engrossed in self-destruction, fear and hate.

Former professor transfers to Furman University

Increase in ES faculty in wake of open position, interest generated

By **WILLY WALKER**
Science/International Editor
walkerw@allegheny.edu

In the wake of departing professors and an increase of student majors, Allegheny College’s Environmental Science and Sustainability Department will be adding some new faculty members to the department.

According to Eric Pallant, professor and chair of environmental science and sustainability, the department plans to hire at least two full-time, tenure-track faculty members. An additional position opened up upon the departure of Benjamin Haywood, former assistant professor of environmental science and sustainability.

“As you can imagine, I wrestled with this decision for some time, and it was not easy to make,” Haywood said in an email to environmental science and sustainability majors. “I am tremendously grateful for my time at Allegheny and have especially appreciated teaching at Allegheny.”

He is the new director of teaching and learning at Furman University in South Carolina, according to the email read. Haywood was at the Allegheny for five and a half years.

The first order of business for the department was to cover the classes Haywood was supposed to teach this spring.

“What we do in any situation that catches us by surprise is we move as few students around as possible and move as many faculty pieces as possible to cover what courses he needed to have covered,” Pallant said.

Haywood was supposed to team-teach the class “Introduction to Environmental Science” with Casey Bradshaw-Wilson, assistant professor of environmental science and sustainability. The number of stu-



EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS

Benjamin Haywood, assistant professor of environmental science and sustainability, gives a lecture entitled “Citizen Science, Civic Action, and the Power of Place,” on February 6, 2019, as a part of the Karl W. Weiss, ’87, Faculty Lecture Series. Haywood was a tenure track professor at Allegheny for five years before accepting an administrative position at Furman University in South Carolina in December 2019.

dents in the course was reduced to accomodate for Haywood’s departure. Additionally, Haywood was signed up to teach an FS 201 course, which has been given to Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Kelly Pearce, who gave up an FS 102 class.

“His (senior comprehensive) students we had to redistribute to other faculty,” Pallant said.

The remaining members of the department immediately began working with the application process. More than 70 applications were received for the open positions.

“We have a committee of faculty in the ES department, plus two faculty who are outside the ES de-

partment to serve as more objective lenses,” Pallant said. “On our search process, we have a very extensive scoring sheet that we evaluate candidates on six different categories, and then draw down the number of applicants to the highest scores and the combination of all six categories to around 20 candidates.”

Twenty candidates were then reduced to 12, which were interviewed by the panel via Skype. The five best candidates will be invited to Allegheny to give open presentations, which will begin Monday, Jan. 27. The department strives to hiring interdisciplinary professors.

“We always look for (interdisciplinary professors), and we always

look for the very best and most interesting and exciting teacher we can find, almost without regard to what their specialty is,” Pallant said. “(Haywood) was that person when we interviewed him six years ago, and his specialty happened to be birds.”

Pallant pointed out that the college was not originally looking for an ornithologist when hiring Haywood due to the small number of students wishing to pursue the field right out of high school. He emphasized Haywood’s excellence as an instructor that interested various students in ornithology.

“

... we always look for the very best and most interesting and exciting teacher we can find ...”

—ERIC PALLANT
Professor and chair of Environmental Science and Sustainability
Allegheny College

“Likewise, (Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability) Beth Choate is a brilliant teacher — we wouldn’t go out even to this day to look for an entomologist because the number of students in high school who really want to study insects is even smaller than the number of students who want to study birds,” Pallant said. “But again, she is such a good teacher and can see the big picture on the environment and is so interdisciplinary. That was what we’re looking for and continues to be what we’re looking for as we do this search.”

In addition to Haywood, the department will be smaller next year due to several conflicting schedules. Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Rich Bowden will be on sabbatical for the entirety of the 2020-21 school year, and Bradshaw-Wilson will be on maternity leave next fall.

“The goal is to hire two tenure-track positions, one of which is to replace (Haywood), one of which is an additional position,” Pallant said. “We may hire somebody on a temporary basis to replace Bowden and keep the numbers up.”

Presentations for the five prospective new faculty members will begin at 12:15 p.m. Monday in Carr Hall.

Candidate evaluation dates				
Monday January 27 @ 12:15 Carr Hall 238	Wednesday January 29 @ 12:15 Carr Hall 238	Friday January 31 @ 12:15 Carr Hall 239	Monday February 3 @ 12:15 Carr Hall 239	Thursday February 6 @ 12:15 Carr Hall 238

Birding Club ASG-recognized, begins with new board

Organization plans directions of activities with faculty, student support

By **WILLY WALKER**
Science/International Editor
walkerw@allegheny.edu

With the new semester brings a new organization for avian enthusiasts at Allegheny.

This spring semester will be the first for the new Allegheny College Bird Club. The club was formed with the help of Benjamin Haywood, former assistant professor of environmental science and sustainability, upon meeting Joshua Heiser, ’23, while birding.

“The first weekend on campus right after orientation, I went birding up at Robertson (Athletic Complex) and I ran into Professor Haywood, who was walking his dog,” Heiser said. “It turned out he was teaching my environmental science class, so I was really excited that I had a bird professor because I have been interested in birds for a really long time.”

After conversing with Haywood about the possibility of a bird club, Heiser decided to pursue the creation of the club and received a great deal of support from students and faculty.

“I researched the process and went to Professor Haywood, and he started guiding me through it,” Heiser said. “I wrote a constitution and signed a petition and went through the whole process and got it started.”

As the founder of the club, Heiser serves as club president. The vice president is Will Harrod, ’21, who frequently does work with Tamarack Wildlife Rehab Center.

“When they were talking about board positions during the first meeting, I had already met (Heiser), and he was looking for (someone) to be a vice president, so I kind of stepped into that role,” Harrod said. “For the most part, it’s just planning a lot of the meetings with (Heiser).”

As president, Heiser oversees most club functions and plans the direction the club will go in. As vice president, Harrod assists with any work that needs to be done. The club is still in search of a secretary.

Now that the club is established, Heiser must redirect his attention from starting the club to running it. This includes holding meetings, planning events, coordinating supplies and setting up guest speaking events.

“Obviously, I think the main

things that we will offer meetings and trips,” Heiser said. “I think we want to have bird identification stuff and help people learn more about birds. I think we want to have speakers come in, there’s a lot of places we can go bird watching and stuff like that.”

Additionally, Heiser hoped to affiliate the club with the Audubon Campus Chapter run by the National Audubon Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to avian preservation.

“What’s really cool about the program is that your club gets affiliated with the National Audubon Society, and you get funding to do conservation projects and stuff, so you’re sort of like an environmental advocacy group for birds,” Heiser said. “I think that’s something that I’d really like to see the club do, and that’s what we’re working on right now.”

As someone who works with Tamarack Wildlife Rehab Center regularly, Harrod noted the great educational opportunities the center could provide the club.

“Tamarack does a lot of programs with stuff like this, and I think it would be a really cool thing to get them to come to campus, and maybe

have it as a way to bring people who hadn’t been exposed to birds before into this world,” Harrod said. “Raptors are really cool and very visually striking, and people love to see them. I think it could do a lot to bring new people into the movement if we had the raptors out there. People could interact with them.”

In regards to faculty, Haywood was intended to be the adviser for the club and worked with Heiser to form it. Haywood recently accepted an administrative position at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. Ronald Mumme, professor of biology, is the new faculty adviser for the club.

“

Raptors are really cool and very visually striking, and people love to see them. I think it could do a lot to bring new people into the movement if we had the raptors out there. People could interact with them.”

—WILL HARROD
Class of 2021

Fiction writing professor joins English Department

Christmas begins first semester at Allegheny, fills need for fiction writing faculty

By OLIVIA BLAKESLEE
Features Editor
blakeslee@allegheny.edu

When Assistant Professor of English Mari Christmas first took a creative writing class — her only one as an undergraduate — she said, laughing, that she “didn’t do so well in it.” Fast forward to December 2019, and those early explorations have evolved to a career in writing fiction and a place as the Allegheny English Department’s newest full-time faculty member.

“The Department of English couldn’t be happier, and we were just absolutely thrilled that she was willing to come join this community,” said Matthew Ferrence, department chair and associate professor of English.

Christmas said her path to joining that community began with reading Kurt Vonnegut, particularly “Cat’s Cradle,” and being inspired to try her hand at creative writing.

“I remember when I was reading (Vonnegut), it crossing my mind that he was having a lot of fun doing what he was doing,” Christmas said. “You could just tell in the language and in the story.”

For years after this early inspiration, Christmas did very little writing outside of her singular undergraduate course. It was not until a few years after graduation that she resumed writing and realized she wanted to pursue it as a full-time profession.

Reflecting on her non-linear path from a bachelor’s degree in Philosophy at Haverford College to a formal education in creative writing, Christmas said she believes writers don’t have to come directly from an English or

writing-only background.

“As a writer, every experience counts, and you find your way,” Christmas said. “If you want to be a writer, you’ll find your way.”

In fact, Christmas expressed her appreciation for her own background of unusual combinations.

“I think Philosophy was a really great major to have in terms of really devoting yourself to large questions about what it means to be human and to be alive,” Christmas said. “It was a good foundation for this other work that I would do later.”

Christmas graduated with her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Notre Dame and went on to receive her doctoral degree from the University of Albany, SUNY.

“That shows that level of accomplishment and attention, and she also has teaching experience along the way,” Ferrence said, referring to the teaching Christmas did while completing her doctoral degree.

Teaching, Christmas found, was yet another avenue for personal growth as she developed her teaching style without the “obvious foundation” of having taken multiple undergraduate creative writing courses. Without that foundation, Christmas decided to design the type of course she wished she had as an undergraduate student. She said it was an opportunity for her to learn alongside her students.

“It was a great way to sort of patch up those holes in my own academic career by teaching myself and teaching students these skills and really becoming reflective of my own process and being able



Photo contributed by MARI CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS

to articulate what it was that I was doing to them,” Christmas said. “Writing takes a lot of effort and it’s not easy. Being a little bit more open with that healed a lot of the insecurities I had about my own writing.”

Christmas decided to apply that model of mutually beneficial learning to Allegheny when she submitted her dissertation and began seeking teaching positions. When she found a job listing for Allegheny, she was delighted to realize that the college’s community is very similar to the one she experienced at Haverford.

“Allegheny’s interest in social justice and ethics and the community and the environment — seeing that was really exciting to me,” Christmas said. “There was a moment that I thought this was sort of like a dream situation.”

The excitement was mutual, according to Ferrence. He said the hiring process began

with a need for a permanent fiction writer as a result of the popularity of the fiction track. Ferrence estimates that the majority of senior projects in the English department are in fiction.

For the past five years, Ferrence said that the department has met this demand through adjunct professors, visiting professors and occasionally through his stepping in to teach fiction courses.

In addition to finding someone who was an “active writer of literary fiction” with a passion for teaching at the undergraduate level, the department was seeking someone who could contribute to other programs, Ferrence said. The English department is one of multiple departments hiring professors to also be part of Black Studies; Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; and Community and Justice Studies.

Responses to the initial job posting were reviewed by

a committee of three English faculty members and two non-English faculty members. After a round of Skype interviews, three candidates were then brought to Allegheny’s campus to demonstrate how they would teach a class. Ferrence describes this part of the hiring process as particularly challenging for those candidates.

“What’s so weird about it is that we’re sitting in this arc in the back of the room, and then there’s a class happening in the front of the room,” Ferrence said. “And then the candidate doesn’t know the students, and that’s a hard thing to do, too.”

It was a test that Hannah Adsit, ’23, one of the students who was asked to sit in on the mock class, said Christmas passed with flying colors.

“(Christmas) just came in, and she was very inviting,” Adsit said. “It was really interesting, the dynamic in the room. She already felt like a professor.”

Ferrence concurred, adding that responses like Adsit’s are a crucial part of the hiring process and that student response remains important to faculty as they make final decisions.

The visit also solidified Christmas’s desire to join the faculty. Officially hired in

December 2019, Christmas is currently teaching two sections of English 205: Writing Fiction in her first semester at Allegheny.

Christmas said she looks forward to potentially teaching new courses in the English department. She hopes to teach a course in Post-Soul Satire, drawing on writers like Ishamel Reed, Percevel Everett and Paul Beatty and exploring themes of racism, as well as police and state-sanctioned violence. She also hopes to teach a course on women writing sex that would explore the language given to pleasure and trauma in a world influenced by movements like the #MeToo movement.

Christmas also expressed her eagerness to be a part of existing courses. Ferrence said he is confident that Christmas will excel in her courses and her career at Allegheny.

“I think it’s those interpersonal skills, her desire and ability to be a mentor to young fiction writers, I think sets her up really well for success here,” Ferrence said.

Adsit shares Ferrence’s feelings on Christmas’s readiness to join Allegheny’s community.

“It takes a special person, and I think she’s definitely right,” Adsit said.

“I think it’s those interpersonal skills, her desire and ability to be a mentor to young fiction writers, I think sets her up really well for success here.”

—MATTHEW FERRENCE
Assistant Professor of English,
Allegheny College

Netflix’s ‘The Circle’: authentic, unique reality show

By SHAELYN URSIDA
Features Editor
ursidas@allegheny.edu

Netflix kicked off the decade with an all-new reality show, “The Circle.” In a very un-Netflix-like fashion, the episodes were released in a series of waves. The first wave was released on Jan. 1, 2020, with episodes one through four, with the second wave following on Jan. 8, 2020, with episodes five through eight and the final wave coming on Jan. 15, 2020, with episodes nine through twelve.

“The Circle” is immediately different from every other reality show out there because of its massive use of social media as the show’s main premise. Players move into the same apartment building, each in their own individual penthouse that is strategically spread out so that there is no chance of face-to-face interaction with one another.

Every penthouse apartment is fully equipped with TVs in each room that are all tuned into the show’s voice activated system called “the Circle.” Each player must create an online Circle profile, which is their only way of presenting themselves to the other players.

The special twist is that since the show has an extra layer of anonymity with the players being forbidden to make real-life connections, players are given the option of coming on the show as a Catfish.

A Catfish is a player who uses someone else’s photos and information to disguise who they really are to trick

another person online. Since players are given this option, paying attention and reading into what each person says is a crucial part of the game. The other players never truly know if someone they are forming connections with are really who they say they are.

The point of the game is to form connections with as many people as possible. Players want people to like them so that every time there is a rating, players are held in high regard and placed higher on their ratings list. If a player gets a high rating average from the group, the people in first and second places become influencers.

Influencers are people who ultimately get to decide who gets eliminated from the game, nicknamed “blocked” in the show. The two influencers have to agree on who to send home after deliberating the pros and cons of each player in a separate group chat.

Every time a player is blocked, that player has the option to meet one of the remaining players face to face. Another part of being eliminated is that the eliminated player has to make a goodbye video that will be sent to the group chat in the morning.

If a player is a Catfish and an eliminated player comes to visit the Catfish’s apartment, there is a chance the eliminated player could hint that the Catfish is not who they pretend to be in their final video to the group chat. It could also be revealed that the eliminated player is a Catfish. Who the eliminated player chooses

to visit is not made common knowledge to the group.

The day following an elimination, a new player joins the group chat. These new players are safe from the next rating and elimination. After a while of swapping players in and out, the numbers go from eight or nine players to the top five.

The top five compete to win \$100,000 and also have the pleasure of meeting each other face to face at a celebratory dinner. There, it is revealed who among the top five are who they say they are, and who are the Catfish.

The finale consists of one-on-one interviews with the final five, with all the eliminated players cheering them on from the sidelines. The person with the highest rating from the final rankings will emerge as winner of the Circle.

Although the show is complicated and revolves solely around the creation of an online profile to win a popularity contest, “The Circle” is not nearly as bad as it sounds. For some reason, the show is pretty entertaining.

Looking at “The Circle” as a whole, the idea of basing likability on online chat interactions and profile pictures seems shallow, but it also speaks to the times. Social media is as prevalent as it has ever been in our society. When people meet each other for the first time, the first thing they often do is check out their social media pages to pass judgement about what kind of person they are.

Nothing about that is truly authentic — people are

looking at a finely manicured presentation of what someone wants you to see, but people buy into it because, in all honesty, they are probably doing the same thing with their own profiles. So, to see a show like “The Circle” not only exploiting this flaw of society, but embracing it arguably makes the show the most realistic reality show I’ve ever seen.

“The Circle” allows viewers a luxury the players on the show do not get. Viewers get to see every physical interaction between the players and the screen. Whether their motivation stems from a place of calculated manipulation or genuine emotion, viewers are given a sense of who each player is and watch as the other players draw the same conclusions or not.

Authenticity is a huge part of playing the game. Throughout the season, players are exposed to the slightest hint of fakeness. If someone’s pictures do not match the personality they had while conversing, they are labeled as a Catfish and sent home.

Lying on social media is no joke — people can detect a fake account or an insincere comment from miles away. One of the themes of the show is that people who are authentic and genuine with their feelings and open up to the group are held at a higher standard among the other players.

Players who are catfish are respected for their decision but ultimately frowned upon for not being themselves from the start. The players who are truthful from the beginning

attack the people who are revealed as Catfish.

From what I gather, the people who disguise themselves and decide to be a Catfish do so for one of two reasons. One, they are there to play the game and get the money, and they believe if they have to be fake and try to please people, then that is what they are there to do. Or two: they feel as if their own true physical appearance does not uphold the standards that society holds as being beautiful, so they feel the need to put on a mask.

Again, what show could speak more to the modern era than this? Social media beauty standards and societal beauty standards have always been a point of hardship for society. Players Sean and Karen have similar reasoning for why they decide to catfish as slimmer, more stereotypically beautiful women. It all boils down to the fact that they both assumed that while their bodies didn’t meet societal standards, their personalities would blow people away.

When a professional basketball player named Antonio isn’t home, he goes to see Mercedes, also known as Karen, and discovers she is a Catfish. She asks him if he would have spoken to her had she gone into the game as herself, and his immediate response was that he did not know.

The show definitely highlights the problems that come with social media and the stigmas that accompany body image. Catfish Sean reveals her true self when she is still in the game, and some peo-

ple are genuinely accepting, but others get upset that she wasn’t honest, which severs trust between Sean and those players.

Another example of authenticity playing a huge role is shown in the first episode when fan-favorite Shubham was ranked eight overall, and then proceeds to receive an influencer spot four weeks in a row. That moment is important in showing that the more the players get to know each other on a level past superficiality, they are forming real, personal connections.

Overall, the show is not as heavy as I might make it seem, and it is not one of those shows that is trying to be outstandingly different. It just so happens that it works that way. “The Circle” is hilarious and had me bursting out laughing at least five times an episode, if not more. The way these people say things and are so energetic about the challenges is what makes the show addictive.

I think Netflix has produced something that has the potential to make people think if they want to. If viewers want to watch this show simply for the entertainment that is reality television, “The Circle” can do that, too. It is all up to the viewers and if they want to stop and think about what the show plays with here in terms of social media. The next time you are bored and need a new show to binge watch, give “The Circle” a try.

Run Out

from page 1

By SHAELYN URSIDA
Features Editor
ursidas@allegheny.edu

Brooks Circle was teeming with members of Allegheny College Sorority and Fraternity Life as the organizations' active members introduced their newest ones for the annual Bid Day Run Out event on Sunday, Jan. 19.

Run Out is an event that happens each semester following recruitment to recognize and welcome the new members. New members participate in Bid Day as a celebration of accepting a bid, or invitation, into one of the 12 fraternity and sorority chapters on campus.

The Panhellenic Council is the governing body for sororities on campus and works frequently with the chapters.

Erin Hartwiger, '21, is Allegheny's Panhellenic Council president for the 2020-21 school year. The Panhellenic Council, in collaboration with sororities, helps to create a new community at Allegheny, according to Hartwiger.

"I think in general the Panhellenic community is really great because sororities in general are groups focused on uplifting and supporting other women, and (the Panhellenic Council) just brings all those communities together to create an even bigger one," Hartwiger said.

While Bid Day celebrates new members of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the event also allows the chapters' current members to dress up and chant their organization's anthems.

For some students, this was their last Bid Day. Jillian Stiver, '20, has been in Kappa Alpha Theta since 2017.

"It was sad because it was my last one, and that was the last time I'll ever get to deck myself out in glitter and run in Brooks Circle and chant and sing with some of my best friends," Stiver said.

Stiver added that she is excited to welcome her new sisters.

"It was exciting to get new members because I sit on the recruitment committee for my sorority and it was exciting to see all of our hard work pay off and to get really awesome girls who were super excited to join our organization and just see how they grow within the organization," Stiver said.

Members of fraternities at Allegheny were also excited to get new members. David Roach '21 has been in Delta Tau Delta since 2017.

"This Bid Day was the most fun I've had at Run Out since my freshman year. There was a really big sense of sorority and fraternity community life there. It just felt like everyone was just there to have a really good time, everyone was cheering on everyone," Roach said.

Roach surprised himself by joining a fraternity his freshman year, and has not been disappointed with his choice.

"I came to Allegheny not really thinking that I was going to join a fraternity at all. I just think that sorority and fraternity life at Allegheny is so different than anywhere else because you aren't just defined by your organization, you make so many other connections between other organizations," Roach said.



EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS

Top: Sisters of Delta Delta Delta carry their letters on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, into Brooks Circle.

Above: Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta join together on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, for Run Out in Brooks Circle.

Top left: Theta Chi welcomes their newest brothers on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020, in Brooks Circle.



EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS

Middle left: The fraternities and sororities of Allegheny College come together on Jan. 19, 2020, in Brooks Circle to continue the tradition of welcoming their newest members.

Bottom left: The sisters of Alpha Chi Omega bring their new members into Brooks Circle on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Above: Brothers of Phi Kappa Psi gather together to celebrate their newest members in Brooks Circle on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020.

Allegheny swim heads into last meet with winning records

By HENRY SUTTER
Sports Editor
sutterh@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving teams started the spring semester with wins against Ohio Wesleyan University and Wooster College on Saturday, Jan. 18, in Wooster, Ohio.

The women's team won 233-54 over Ohio Wesleyan and 163-131 over Wooster. The men's team defeated the same opponents 167-112 and 147-144 respectively.

On the season, the men's team sits at 4-2 heading into their last meet, and the women's team remains undefeated at 6-0.

Under Head Coach Max Niggel, the Gators have improved in each of his first two seasons leading the team.

"The program has subjectively improved as far as our win-loss record and our standing in the conference," Niggel said. "I don't put that as the foremost measure of a program's success. I think our

culture and atmosphere have improved. I try to run it like a family instead of just being results oriented. I think the results come from that. I look at the individuals and how they're doing, how they're feeling, and I judge our success off of that."

The Gators have been led throughout the season by their 12 combined seniors, eight on the women's team and four on the men's. Maddie Janvrin, '20, said the team's success is a result of their connectedness and teamwork.

"We've been having really good momentum," Janvrin said. "The team is really unified. A lot of the women's team was nervous heading into the meet (against Wooster and Ohio Wesleyan). We were high energy, but we were cautious because we didn't know what to expect or how we would do. Once we got in the pool, we all came together and said, 'We got this. It's go time.' We really got up for each other."

Logan Indest, '21, attributed the team's success to a familiarity with Niggel after a late start to his coaching tenure last season.

"The second year with (Niggel) helps a lot," Indest said. "Last year we didn't have a coach until the week before the season started."

The Gators do not lack leadership between their veteran swimmers and established head coach. The team will look to compete for improved results within the conference as the season comes to a close, and the team has multiple chances to break school record times, according to Niggel.

According to Niggel, the unity and leadership exhibited by the team have come through team building activities and workouts. This includes the team's trip to Puerto Rico from Dec. 31, 2019, to Jan. 8, 2020. While in Puerto Rico, the team worked out in an Olympic-size pool and on the beach and had off days to bond, according to Janvrin.

"It was super fun," Janvrin said. "We did beach workout and beach runs, tons of abs and core (workouts) on the beach. The workouts were really hard, but you're looking at this beautiful view and the waves are crashing. Being in Puerto Rico gave (the workouts) such a positive energy."

The Gators traveled to Florida and Arizona for winter training over the past two seasons, according to Indest. Niggel said the yearly trip is necessary for the team's workouts heading into the end of the season, but the change of scenery helps to keep the swimmers motivated.

At 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 7, the morning before the team's departure, a 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico, according to the United States Geological Survey.

"It was a little unsettling to get woken up by an earthquake, but the team was safe, and that's really what matters," Indest said. "It was a little freaky. I was already awake, but other people described it as someone shaking the bed."

Niggel said that he cancelled the team's final three practices and advised the team to remain at the hotel. Some team members had previous experience with earthquakes and were able to reassure teammates like Janvrin and Indest who had not encountered them.

Indest said that although the Gators were startled by the earthquake, they were able to rally around one another for support heading into the remainder of the season.

"In a lot of respects, it brought the team closer together," Indest said. "Misery loves company. Now that we've been through this, it builds confidence. At least for me, I've been through all this with the trip, and I have confidence that I can make it through whatever race is next."

Niggel also noted that the team was able to stay positive and unified during the earthquake. He said that the team's shared struggle will help to motivate them as a team moving into their conference championship meet.

"We were able to adapt, refocus and get over that," Niggel said. "Now we can use that as adversity that we went through, and adversity makes you stronger. I think it will pull us all together, and it will be a story that they tell their kids and grandchildren, and we got past it."

The team will have its senior meet and final home meet of the season at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Mellon Pool against Fredonia College. The team will then move on to the North Coast Athletic Conference championships at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, from Wednesday, Feb. 12, through Saturday, Feb. 15.

The Men's team will look to finish the season 5-2 and the Women's team will attempt to go undefeated for the season on Saturday.

"Next week we have our senior meet," Janvrin said. "We're slated to win that one, so we should go completely undefeated and it's super exciting. It's going to be a bitter-sweet meet, but I think we're ready for it as a team."

ADVERTISEMENT



ZINGALE BIG IDEA COMPETITION

APRIL 24-25, 2020

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WIN \$8,000 FOR FIRST PRIZE!

**The Zingale Big Idea Competition is a
funding request presentation contest**

Student teams present concepts in one of three areas: for-profit business, non-profit business, or hybrid social venture. The annual competition will award students with a whopping total of \$20,000 in total prize money, with a top prize of \$8,000! The contest emulates the experiences seen on the popular CNBC broadcast, Shark Tank. Unlike Shark Tank, the Zingale Big Idea distinguished panel of judges do more than evaluate the student teams' business models — they offer constructive feedback, coach, and encourage students.



WORKSHOPS

Not sure how to prepare for this competition? Attend these planning workshops hosted by Chris Allison, Entrepreneur in Residence.

FEB 4 | FEB 20 | MARCH 24

All workshops 12:30-1:15 pm

Quigley Hall

Lunch will be provided

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

TO REGISTER, EMAIL:

Sarah Holt | Quigley Hall Coordinator | sholt@allegheny.edu

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

BRUCE R. THOMPSON
CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Supported in part by

