

Professor receives Fulbright Award

Mattiace uses award to teach in Chile next year

By STEVEN HEINE
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Shannan Mattiace, professor and department chair of political science, received a Fulbright Award. She plans to use the award to teach in Chile for five months starting in February 2019.

Mattiace said she received a Fulbright once before when she taught in Mexico as a graduate student from 1995 to 1996.

“Some of the best friends that I still have in [academia] I made during that year,” Mattiace said.

After her experience in Mexico, Mattiace said she wanted to win a Fulbright as a professor.

“A couple of years ago, I felt like the time had come, that I was ready to really begin seriously considering the Fulbright application,” Mattiace said. “It takes a lot of time, so you have to really set aside time and headspace to do a very good application. Because it’s not worthwhile applying if you don’t have time and space and motivation. Because it’s very time consuming.”

Mattiace said she wanted to use the Fulbright to travel to Latin America. She considered using her award in Mexico again but realized it would be difficult for her to complete her fieldwork in that country.

“I just decided that I wanted to do something a little bit different from my work in Mexico,” Mattiace said. “I should also confess that I looked very seriously at the Mexican Fulbright awards. The work I do in Mexico has to do with drug trafficking, and I would not be allowed to do my work under a Fulbright in Mexico because the U.S. State Department travel advisories apply to Fulbright scholars.”

Because of these concerns, Mattiace eventually decided to apply for a Fulbright in Chile.

“I had been a U.S. State Department student intern when I was just graduating from college in 1990, in Chile, I spent three months there,” Mattiace said. “I’ve always wanted to go back.”

“

I’ve always wanted to go back [to Chile].

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Shannan Mattiace
Department chair of Political Science

Mattiace said the biggest difference between her new Fulbright and the one she obtained in graduate school was the amount of teaching required.

“With what they call the Fulbright Core program for professors, virtually everyone is doing some teaching,” Mattiace said.

Mattiace had to think about what course she wanted to teach in Chile.

At Allegheny, Mattiace teaches courses about Latin America, specifically Mexico and the Caribbean. She felt these sorts of courses would not be quite as compelling for Latin American students. “They don’t need me to teach them about Chile, right?” Mattiace said. “I am best suited to teach you all, American students, about Chile, or Latin America, not the other way around.”

Eventually, Mattiace realized a course on immigration might be interesting.

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Photo contributed by MARK MYERS

Students sign pledges and write love letters during the Why Not Us Survivor Love Letter event in the Henderson Campus Center lobby Feb. 15, 2018.

Love Letter event offers support to survivors of sexual assault, Title IX

By DAKOTAH MANSON
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Why Not Us started Valentine’s Day off by hosting a Survivor Love Letter event in the Henderson Campus Center on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

This three day event is filled with information about Title IX and gives passersby the opportunity to write a letter to survivors of sexual assault on a postcard.

“The stigma towards sexual assault and rape is incredibly evident and survivors need the support,” Ashlyne Lawrence, ’20, said.

Everyone is encouraged to write a letter whether it is to themselves, a friend, family member or even to the community as a whole. Participants can sign the cards or leave the cards anonymous if they do not feel comfortable disclosing their name.

“Students have been excited to write while others have been

hesitant and need time to think it over,” Why Not Us Co-President Anna Meyer, ’20, said. “Professors have especially been weary when it comes to writing. It takes time.”

After the letters have been written and collected, members of Why Not Us and their advisers, Gilly Ford Title IX coordinator and Robert Ippolito residence life area coordinator, will get together to compile them and create a project, according to Meyer. Individual pictures will be taken of each letter and put into a slideshow which will be displayed on a projector in the campus center during lunch on Friday. Some of the pictures will even have students holding their own cards to show support.

Why Not Us was inspired by Megan Lenherr, a counselor from Women’s Services, to host this event. Lenherr has hosted the event before, according to Meyer.

“Meg has become the Allegheny College liaison and



LAUREN TRIMBER/THE CAMPUS

Valerie Calvo, ’21, holds up a heart as she tables for the Why Not Us event in the Henderson Campus Center lobby Feb. 15, 2018.

takes care of college students,” Meyer said. “She’s awesome.”

Why Not Us also asked Allegheny Student Government to partner with them to host this event, according to Class of 2018 President Kierra Price.

“ASG has been doing a lot to take action against Title IX, and working with Why Not Us has been a great way to show support,” said Price.

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ASG approves new senator, fills proxy spot

President MacStudy swears Jayabalan into Class of 2019 Senate



KELSEY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny Student Government President Mark MacStudy, ’18, swears Monessha Jayabalan, ’19, into the Class of 2019 Senate during the ASG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018.

By LAUREN TRIMBER
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Allegheny Student Government President Mark MacStudy, ’18, swore Monessha Jayabalan, ’19, into the Class of 2019 Senate during the ASG meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Before swearing Jayabalan in, Class of 2019 proxy Senator Catrina Steckler announced the class’s support of Jayabalan.

“We’re swearing in [Monessha], who we found fit to be our new senator,” Steckler said.

Jayabalan said she initially became interested in ASG last year, when one of the senate

members had to take a leave of absence. She applied for the open position, and though she was not chosen, her application and contact with the Class of 2019 president made her the top choice when a proxy position opened up. Jayabalan acted as a proxy senator for a full semester before she was officially voted into a senator position.

“I heard about the initial proxy position from MyAllegheny,” Jayabalan said. “I’m a science person, so I never dealt with the non-science part of Allegheny. I thought it would be nice to try something new. When I saw the proxy position, I thought why not?”

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Mattiace

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“The Chilean state is currently receiving a lot of immigrants, but it’s a recent phenomenon,” Mattiace said. “They do not have classes about immigration, and very few people work on that right now.”

Mattiace believes there are parallels between the American and Chilean situations in regards to immigration.

“To Chilean students, Chile is a very wealthy country in Latin America, so they are experiencing a lot of what the U.S. experienced, I would say in the 1970s,” Mattiace said. “Chile right now is similarly poised as the United States [was] in the 1970s.”

In addition to teaching Chilean students about America, Mattiace plans to use her Fulbright award to teach American students about Chile.

“At Allegheny, our Latin American studies is heavily focused on Mexico and the Caribbean,” Mattiace said. “We don’t have anyone who specializes on the Southern Cone [the countries of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay].”

Mattiace said while she normally tries to discuss the Southern Cone in her classes, she feels the Fulbright will give her an opportunity to enhance her teaching.

Mattiace said she was

overwhelmed by the positive reaction she has received from students and faculty.

“

The first thing I would say is that this is an opportunity.

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Shannan Mattiace
Department chair of Political Science

“I feel actually very humbled by it,” Mattiace said. “I didn’t think that, I guess I just didn’t expect it. It was really beautiful.”

Patrick Jackson, director of fellowship advising at Allegheny, said the Fulbright was a program funded by the U.S. State Department for the purposes of cultural exchange.

“The Fulbright is a program designed to get interesting and intelligent Americans out into the world, sort of to be interesting and intelligent,” Jackson said.

Jackson said the applica-

tion, which is available every year from March to August, asked applicants to write a five to seven page description of their project idea.

“So you pick a country, there’s teaching awards, there’s teaching and research awards, and there’s research awards,” Jackson said. “You pick the country where you want to go, and then you describe to Fulbright why you want to go to that country, what you plan to do there, how you’re going to adapt, ... what you’re going to bring back to the United States.”

Robert G. Seddig Chair and Professor of Political Science Brian Harward said the department was excited for Mattiace.

“The first thing I would say is this is an opportunity,” Harward said. “This is the premier fellowship in the world. Any opportunity we have for a faculty member from Allegheny College to take advantage of that fellowship, we ought to make it possible.”

Harward said the department would be able to cover Mattiace’s Allegheny responsibilities while she was in Chile.

“I mean we’ll miss her while she’s gone, but it’s pretty stan-



Mattiace

dard practice to have faculty gone from time to time for sabbatical leaves and other things,” Harward said. “It’s not out of the ordinary for that to happen.”

Harward said the department was looking forward to Mattiace being able to bring back valuable insights to Allegheny students after she returns to campus.

“It’s an investment,” Harward said. “When she comes back, she’s going to be able to offer things to this community that we haven’t been able to offer in the past. I mean, she’s going to have a really interesting perspective to share with us as a result of this experience, so we’ll be a better department for it.”

JAYABALAN

from page 1

Jayabalan said she had been to a few ASG meetings and knew senators before she applied. This aspect of familiarity encouraged her to apply, she said.

Jayabalan plans to focus on the constituency by making sure she gives others a chance to voice their thoughts and opinions.

“

Personally, I put my everything in last semester.

”

Monessa Jayabalan
Class of 2019

“Wherever we go as senators, our opinion is valued just because we are in ASG, so I would like to start bringing in constituent comments, just from various aspects of our campus,” Jayabalan said. “I know a lot of science majors do not really know they can have a say.”

Along with her plan to focus on constituents, Jayabalan

is excited to work with experienced senators, since she interacted with a number of proxies, she said.

“We had three [out of five] proxies in the Class of 2019, so a lot of us were knew and didn’t know what was going on,” Jayabalan said. “But this semester, our official senators are back.”

Class of 2019 Senator Noah Dawgiello, who has also worked with Jayabalan in the South Asian club, talked about the difficulties the Class of 2019 Senate has last semester with so many new senators.

“Our senate has been a bit of a mess. We had a lot of study abroad people, so there were only two elected senators last semester. It really threw a wrench in it, but we’re coming back in force this year,” Dawgiello said. “I am thrilled Monessa is the one to take the proxy spot. She is a wonderful woman. I have only the highest regard for her.”

Although Jayabalan has made the change from proxy to official senator over half-way through the academic year, she does not foresee any significant challenges.

“Personally, I put my everything in last semester,” Jayabalan said.

Ford visits Allegheny Student Government meeting to review college’s Title IX policy

By LAUREN TRIMBER
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Title IX Coordinator Gillian Ford visited Allegheny Student Government during its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 13 to give a presentation titled “What you need to know about Title IX.”

Ford discussed students’ options when they choose to report a case to the Title IX office. She said there are four options: speak with the Title IX office, or file a formal, informal or criminal complaint.

When students come to the Title IX office, Ford said she must decide if she is able to keep the student’s desire for confidentiality.

“Sometimes somebody will bring a concern forward, and they really want to keep that information confidential. They want it to stay within the Title IX office, [and] they don’t want any action taken,” Ford said. “We really consider whether we honor that request or not.”

Granting a student’s request for confidentiality could limit the college’s ability to respond to the situation, according to Ford. She also stressed that there is a difference between privacy and confidentiality. The information brought to her in her office is never completely confidential, Ford said.

“I only share that information with people who really need to know and need to be involved in the situation,” Ford said.

Since students’ first reporting option deals directly with the Title IX office, Class of 2021 President David Roach asked a constituent’s question concerning their relationship with the office.

“How can you bridge the animosity some students feel between themselves and the Title IX office?” Roach asked.

Ford said she never thought of the office’s relationship with students in that way.

“There’s a real desire from the Title IX office to work

collaboratively not only with students, but with other partners on campus,” Ford said. “If there is animosity, I would want to understand that better so that we can mediate that.”

The second option Ford reviewed is the informal process, in which both parties have a desire to resolve the situation in a cooperative way, Ford said. Although the goal of the informal process is cooperation, survivors of sexual violence or assault will not be expected to sit through a mediated discussion with the perpetrator, according to Ford.

“We’re definitely going to be looking at no-contact orders ... [and] referrals outside of the Title IX office,” Ford said. “If a student decides they want to skip this option or end the process, they can do that at any time and begin a formal process.”

The formal process is an educational rather than criminal process, Ford said.

“Through an education process, we’re really looking at violations of policy as opposed to criminal behavior,” Ford said. “It’s not is somebody guilty or not, it’s has our policy been violated or not.”

The policy includes sexual assault, discriminatory harassment and any forms of sexual, dating or domestic violence, according to Ford.

With this option, the Title IX office is required to make sure the process a prompt, thorough and equitable, according to Ford. This includes making sure both parties have an adviser of choice present if they desire and have an equal chance to be heard, Ford said.

“Any time there’s an outcome—deciding if the individual who has been accused is found guilty or not guilty of violating policy—both parties involved will be made aware of that decisions, and both parties will be able to appeal that decisions,” Ford said.

If there is an appeal, the case will go to the Campus Life and Community Standards hearing board. The

hearing board is made up of a panel of three individuals, two of whom are trained volunteers, Ford said. The third person is a faculty member who has been assigned to the committee through the Campus Life and Community Standards process.

The goal of the formal process is to have the investigation complete within 60 days, according to Ford.

The final option for students is filing a criminal complaint with the Meadville City Police Department or Allegheny’s Office of Public Safety.

“This is a completely separate and different process than what’s used on campus,” Ford said. “The complainant will meet with Meadville City Police Department to help the person decide if criminal charges will be pursued.”

Concerning the Allegheny’s reported sex crime statistics, Class of 2020 President Jason Ferrante pointed to the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and

Campus Crime Statistics Act. The Clery Act is a federal law that requires college and universities to report annual information about crime that occurs on and around campus, according to Allegheny’s Dean of Students website.

Allegheny’s Clery Act uses the broad term “forcible sex acts” beneath its Uniform Crime Statistics section, according to Ferrante.

“That doesn’t break down specifically was it a rape, was it a sexual assault,” Ferrante said. “But if you go under our hate crime statistics, rape is spelled out. Should we know how many rapes there were on campus last year?”

Ford said she has to report things according to the way the crime categories are defined but is unsure as to why crimes such as rape is only specifically listed beneath hate crimes.

During an investigation, Ford said accommodations such as room or class changes can be made. Trevor Mahan,

’21, voiced his concern over moving those accused of discriminatory and sexual harassment from one residence hall to another.

“Because we are a small campus, when we change someone’s room, people in the [receiving] dorm are not welcoming because it makes them scared,” Mahan said. “These measures, to me, say we tolerate [these actions], because the [accused] are still here. It makes me concerned, it makes the people in my building concerned and it makes other students concerned.”

Ford said automatic suspension of accused persons is difficult, as due process is required during the investigation.

Following the investigation into a crime, Ford said the school looks at various punishments if there is a violation. Punishments depend on the violation. “Generally speaking, if someone is found responsible for violating the

policy against discriminatory and sexual harassment, and it is one of those higher level situations, that’s a suspension or expulsion,” Ford said.

Other options include warning, probation, counseling or educational components, according to Ford. The punishment depends on the type of violation. Students found responsible of violating school policy against discriminatory and sexual harassment during an informal process will not have anything placed on their permanent record, according to Ford. Instead, the Title IX office will focus on resolving complaints between students.

Allegheny’s Title IX policy encompasses students, faculty, members of Allegheny’s community and anyone visiting the college campus.

For further information concerning Title IX, Allegheny’s Title IX policy is in “The Compass” and is available on the Title IX website.



KELSEY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Title IX Coordinator Gillian Ford visits Allegheny Student Government to review Allegheny’s Title IX policy during ASG’s weekly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018.

ASG presidential candidates preparing for approaching election, discuss platforms

By LAUREN TRIMBER
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With Allegheny Student Government elections fast approaching, the official candidates discussed their platforms, expectations for the elections and decisions that led them to run. For the first time in five years, the six candidates will participate in primary elections before the general election is held March 7 through March 9.

ASG Chief of Staff and presidential candidate Camila Gomez, '19, talked about what she expected to see in the primary election, since it was the first one she is involved in.

"The fact that it's the first primary we've had in several years will definitely be a learning experience for everybody," Gomez said. "All of us currently serve on ASG, so we'll be learning, not just as candidates, but as current student representatives."

Director of Finance Gillian Greene and vice presidential candidate, '20, was chosen as Gomez's running mate. Greene agreed with Gomez's interest in seeing how the primary elections will go.

"I'm excited," Greene said. "I think it'll be a really positive experience for everyone involved."

Gomez and Greene said they became interested in running because of their love for Allegheny.

"We both really love and care about Allegheny, and we're very grateful for every opportunity that has been presented to us here," Gomez said. "We decided to run because we love it. We decided there are areas that need improvement and that could definitely use the student voice."

Gomez said she and Greene have had a positive working relationship for two years, which resulted in them choosing to run together.

Two of Gomez and Greene's opponents, presidential candidate Noah Dawgiello, '19, and vice presidential candidate Trevor Day, '20, talked about how their relationship has grown through the election process.

"I have seen how wise and benevolent he is, and I would like to spend all my working days alongside him, bouncing off ideas and making the world a better place," Dawgiello said.

Day agreed with Dawgiello and explained how their close relationship could help them as a political pair.

"Since meeting Noah, I think we've both grown to respect one another as both friends and colleagues," Day said. "We work very well together to influence great change to Allegheny Student Government and the Allegheny community."

The third pair entered in the election, Class of 2020 President and presidential candidate Jason Ferrante and vice presidential candidate Zach Rohan, '20, have experienced a similar grow in respect toward one another.

"Zach and I have known each other from day one, [and] we've know each other on a personal level as well," Ferrante said. "In our freshman year we took two different paths in a way and I took a more heavy role into government my freshman year, we've always had strong ideas on how to make campus better. Zach has the outside experience and I have the inside experience. Student government needs a strong advocate for student voices and someone to say this is what students want, this is the voice of the students."

Rohan agreed with Ferrante, saying he decided to run in the election because of his outside experience.

"[Jason and I] are in clubs together, [but] I'm involved in so many different things," Rohan said. "I bring the perspective of someone that hasn't been involved in ASG. [I] know what is going on outside of that, and [I] know the problems that need to be fixed."

Concerning his platform, Ferrante said he and Rohan spent a lot time making sure they encompassed many different issues, though their priority is with Title IX.

"When we talk to people in passing, there's a lot of concern about the process," Ferrante said. "A common thing is we want to get student voice active. I've always been big on having people questioning us, voicing their concerns. We represent them and not just our own best interest."

Rohan also stressed their desire to know what the student body wants.

"Between the two of us, we know the issues going on around campus," Rohan said. "Student body has the voice."

While Ferrante and Rohan focus on giving the student body a voice, Dawgiello and Day are searching for solutions to one of the biggest problems they have noticed on campus. Dawgiello said enrollment on campus is shrinking, which led to the creation of one of their most important policy proposals in their platform.

Lower enrollment has resulted in fewer student-run clubs and participation in current clubs, according to Dawgiello. Dawgiello said the clubs, which offer community and inclusiveness to students, are quickly disappearing.

"One of the ways we want to counteract that is to support cornerstone organizations, like the Outing Club and Grounds

for Change, but also to advertise and support greater start-up funding for new clubs," Dawgiello said. "That can bring some life to the campus, bring people together and get them out of their dorms to show their passions."

Another problem Dawgiello and Day noticed was a dissatisfaction amongst the student body concerning the impact of their voice on campus, according to Day.

"We'd like to see a greater co-governance between ASG and administration," Day said. "There's a large section of the student body that feels that their thoughts or comments aren't being met by administrators. The fault there, it really comes down to ASG. Students feel [ASG] is not adequately meeting with those administrators and representing them."

As Dawgiello and Day look to student voices, Gomez and Greene are focusing on student wellness as the foundation of their campaign.

"Camila and I really try to focus on is student wellness in several different forms, like mental health and making sure Title IX processes are handled carefully," Greene said. "We also want to focus on the students as individuals. We all have different experiences, we're all different people. We should be treated like we're the same person."

Gomez also said she and Greene are being mindful of how they acted throughout the election.

"The most important thing for Gillian and I has been carrying ourselves with dignity and confidence throughout the entire election process," Gomez said. "Of course we want to get our names out there, but we want to be recognized for the things we're already doing. In a way, it's business as usual. It's most about continuing excellence in the current positions we hold and all the positions we hold on campus outside of ASG, as well."

Similarly, Ferrante said he is hoping for a worthwhile and clean campaign.

"People should reach out, ask question, Facebook message [us] if needed. As a result of this election, all the candidates should continue to push for their ideas," Ferrante said. "We can all keep making changes."

Rohan added how important the election is.

"It's too important of a time," Rohan said. "Vote for someone because believe in their ideas."

Voting for the primary election will be available on WebAdvisor Feb. 22 at 8 a.m. and will end Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. Candidate platforms are available on the ASG website.

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"ASG hopes to continue working with this organization. It's not just a one semester thing."

On Feb. 6, ASG partnered with Why Not Us for a pledge signing event where students and faculty were asked to sign a pledge to help keep women and men safe from sexual assault. The pledge was a personal commitment and promise not to be a bystander to the problem, but to be part of the solution.

Recently, Why Not Us trav-

eled to the District of Columbia to attend a conference hosted by Know Your IX, an organization founded in 2013 to empower students to end sexual and dating violence in their schools, where they learned the legal structure of Title IX, according to Lawrence.

"Title IX is being changed under Betsy DeVos so we were taught our rights," said Meyer. "I feel like I have Title IX memorized, so if anybody has ques-

tions or needs help, I'm here."

On Sep. 7, 2017 DeVos, the United States Secretary of Education, announced that she plans to roll back years of civil rights protections for students across the country, according to Know Your IX.

"The conference was very inspiring, and it's why I wanted to participate in Why Not Us," Lawrence said. "It's very important for survivors to know that they are supported."

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CRIME BLOTTER

Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available in the Office of Public Safety. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

Feb. 10, 2018
Brooks Hall
Alcohol Violation.

Feb. 11, 2018
Near East College Street
Attempted theft.

Feb. 10, 2018
Walker Hall
Alcohol Violation.

Feb. 13, 2018
Brooks parking lot 24
Bias Incident Harassment.

Curing seasonal heartbreak

How ‘Moulin Rouge’ teaches timeless lessons on love



CHRISTINE ZENINO/flickr.com

By CAMERON NEIBLUM
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The dark winter months carry a series of different body-aching illnesses, plaguing the college with fatigue, coughing fits, stuffy noses and worst of all, heartache. It is during this time, when the snow continues to fall and the sun refuses to come out, when the greatest cure for one’s sorrows does not come in tiny pill bottles or cough syrups but rather in the form of a movie called “Moulin Rouge!”

When endless streams of lonely nights turn into long, sunless, work-filled days, hearts commonly fill with sorrow and perhaps, in the worst cases, people give up on looking for love. Maybe after a particularly hurtful ending of a relationship this seems like the best solution, and maybe college just appears to be a wasteland where the bloom of love could never grow.

This may be true, but it does not mean that one can-

not still find the most powerful, beautiful, rich feeling that a human can feel, even if it is in a more minute form. The time I first thought I found love, at the age of four years old, my mother doubted my feelings not because I was too young, but because I did not yet understand the extent and maturity it takes to fully give one’s heart and life to another. To teach me, she sat me down and showed me “Moulin Rouge!”

“Moulin Rouge!” is a musical directed by Baz Luhrmann and features Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor. It is a romantic drama about a writer named Christian who falls in love with a young beautiful courtesan, Satine.

Having worked her whole life as a prostitute, Satine believed love was a frivolous notion. She thought the only way to “feel” love was to pay for it. Christian was a member of the bohemian revolution who believed in freedom, beauty, truth and above all things, love.

The movie takes place in the Moulin Rouge, a cabaret where wealthy men in early 20th century Paris would watch women dance and then purchase their “affection” for the night. Christian and a crew of other artists desired the afamed can-can dancers and the diamond dog, Satine, to be in their play. In a chaotic and humorous moment of identity confusion between a wealthy Duke, who was planning to purchase the cabaret, and Christian, Satine accepts the Christian’s offer and convinces the Duke to pay for the whole show.

The movie follows the antics of putting on a show about a princess who must marry a wealthy Sultan, when she is in fact in love with the penniless sitar player — a summary that describes the stories of the characters real lives as well. Satine balances her job dealing with the Duke and her newfound feelings for the penniless writer, Christian,

all the while becoming terribly ill with a disease only her maiden and doctor know about.

The film’s story leads people to long for a romance as pure as Satine’s and Christian’s and understand how foolish the barriers of life are when their only purpose is to keep people from happiness.

Having grown up with musicals, I often forget that other people do not enjoy watching other people sporadically break into song. I can understand why potential viewers may be deterred from seeing the movie. Perhaps I can sway those naysayers by telling them the songs in the movie are renditions of famous songs such as Elton John’s song, “Your Song,” and Christina Aguilera’s song, “Lady Marmalade,” which are older pop songs that can still yank listeners’ heartstrings today.

The actors voices are that of angels. Most importantly, if you are watching with an

open mind and allow yourself to feel like Satine did, this movie will make you see the world as Christian sees it — a beautiful place filled to the brim with soul wrenching, mind reeling, skin pricking and heart fulfilling love.

After speaking with many people, I am aware my opinions on love are in the minority. That said, I recommend anyone and everyone should take two hours, grab a pint, or even a gallon of ice cream, a cup of coffee and watch the greatest love story humans have ever known.

All humans who feel emotion can relate to the sorrows of Satine. Though they may not be courtesans, I think the feeling of being trapped by financial burdens and obligations towards other people is universal.

“

When capturing a sense of love, it feels like new stars are formed, unexplored lands appear out of nowhere, and what was once bland is now the most exciting.

”

Cameron Neiblum
Class 2020

Through the slings and arrows of life, it can be easy to throw love out with the

grime of everything else, thinking of it as nothing more than just a game or even a frivolous addition of unnecessary stress that is not ideal to add onto an already massive workload. Instead of thinking about finding love, people under stress think of getting as far away from it as possible.

What people who think this way may not understand is that one does not actually have to travel to open up a whole new world. When capturing a sense of love, it feels like new stars are formed, unexplored lands appear out of nowhere, and what was once bland is now the most exciting thing or place in the world.

Christian affectionately says the world should be filled with silly love songs, and it is not crazy for two people to fall in love in the same night. It is then, when love consumes the brain, where we are lifted up to where we belong.

Having been there myself, knowing what love is, I cannot help but agree with him.

The best way to cure the sorrows of winter heart pains is to feed yourself a healthy dose of true love with “Moulin Rouge.” It is there, in the red windmilled building, where dancing, laughing, tragedy, greed, singing, friendship and the feeling of love can be rediscovered. It is not until after you have seen this movie, will you know, “that the greatest thing you will ever learn, is just to love and be loved in return.”

Want to submit an opinion article to The Campus? Email opinion@alleghenycampus.com

From bookshelves to big screens

‘Maze Runner’ proves great stories survive the transition

By MARGARET MALLEY
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Fans of James Dashner’s award winning book series, “The Maze Runner,” anxiously waited for Jan. 17, when the third and final movie adaptation of the series was released, “The Death Cure.” I was among them, but after seeing the first two movies, I was skeptical of how closely the producers would follow the book, since the first two movies in the series departed from the storyline.

“

Although the movie did not follow the plot of the book at all, it still told an exciting story filled with adventure, love and loss.

”

Margaret Malley
Class of 2021

The first movie in the trilogy, “The Maze Runner” strayed from the book while on the other hand, the second movie, “The Scorch Trials,” seemed like a completely different story. You could not tell

this movie was modeled after a book at all, so fans had good reason to be unsure of how this last movie would be.

I am one who likes when movies actually follow the books they are modeled after.

It is heartbreaking to go into a movie after absolutely falling in love with the book only to see the movie totally rip your heart out because they completely changed the plot from the book.

If I had not read “The Death Cure” book prior to seeing the movie, I would have thought the movie was excellent. I even watched it with someone who had no prior knowledge of the book series, and they were able to understand what was happening and get invested in the movie.

The directors really made the movie pull you in even if you had no attachment to the characters or previous movies.

But the movie was overall unimpressive. Yes, it told a good story, but it did not tell the actual story of “The Death Cure.” I did not completely hate the movie because I really had an attachment to the characters, so I was bound to at least tolerate the movie.

The directors most likely knew fans like me existed, which makes me wonder if that is why they crafted

the movie how they did — making it exciting and easy enough to follow for people who did not read the books but still good enough for long time fans to pay money to see.

Although the movie did not follow the plot of the book at all, it still told an exciting story filled with adventure, love and loss. The movie grabbed your attention right from the start, pulling you in with an intense action scene, and the action did not stop there.

One aspect I really liked about the movie was how real it seemed. The special effects were awesome and left me awestruck. They made what was on screen come to life. There are a lot of really intense scenes throughout the movie that had me on the edge of my seat the entire time.

Dashner did a great job at making readers feel connected while reading his book series. He really plays with your emotions as you read. The directors did a similar thing, so many raw emotions were felt while watching this movie. There were a lot of tear jerking moments where it was far too difficult to hold back your feelings because the directors produced the movie in such a perfect way that it almost felt like the events happening on the screen were happening in



BagoGames/flickr.com

real life right in front of you.

The ending of the movie was packed with action as the city around the characters was collapsing. Buildings were crumbling in vivid detail. Adrenaline was pumping while people were trying to steal the serum that would provide a cure from the Flare, a virus plaguing the population, away from the main character, Thomas. It was truly heartbreaking to see Thomas’ best friend, Newt die from the Flare only moments before Thomas found out that he could have saved him.

Although the ending was

great, it could have avoided typical movie fallacies. There was the super cheesy kiss between Thomas and his love interest, Tessa. Then, when Thomas was rescued when a jet flew over to the top of building they were on, he was able to get onto the jet, but Teresa was not. Unfortunately, it looked like she made no effort at all to get on the jet, which detracted from the moment.

After we watched her tumble to the ground with the rest of the building, we see a little bit into the future where all of the people who survived the Flare gathered and began to

start a new society. It is a very touching ending scene because Thomas finds a letter that Newt had wrote him before he died and that letter played as the movie came to an end.

Despite the changes in plot and the typical mistakes that are often made when adapting a book series to the big screen, “The Death Cure” serves as proof that truly good stories survive the transition because they are just that good.

The movie was exciting despite being nothing like the book. I guess a story this good cannot be completely ruined on screen.

A love story: Explicable systems, inexplicable feelings

Neuropsychology provides insight into this ‘Crazy Little Thing Called Love’

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Mystery chocolates disgust or delight, roses dance across the country and drug store shelves are ravaged for cards containing strangers’ poetry. Together, these breed a frenzied phenomenon — Valentine’s Day.

American consumers were expected to spend a total of \$19.6 billion on Wednesday, according to the National Retail Federation’s annual Valentine’s Day survey.

Quantifying Valentine’s Day in any way may be adversarial to feelings of love and romance, but exploring the neurological science of love may contribute to a greater understanding of human relationships and of \$19.6 billion in consumer spending.

The current leader in love research is Helen Fisher, biological anthropologist, senior research fellow at the Kinsey Institute of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, and chief scientific adviser for Match.com.

A 2006 study titled “Romantic Love: A Mammalian Brain System for Mate Choice” — led by Fisher and published in the U.K. journal, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B — used MRI technology to analyze the brains and behaviors of people in love relative to the brains and behaviors of people not in love.

A person in love may feel energized, emotionally dependent and will often have an active sympathetic nervous system, commonly identified as the “fight or flight” response, according to the 2006 study.

“Smitten humans also exhibit empathy for the beloved; many are willing to sacrifice, even die for this ‘special’ other,” the study reports.

Based on the MRI results and these behaviors, as well as evidence from other studies, Fisher and her colleagues determined the specific brain structures and neurological pathways activated by love.

Three categories of love are associated with three different, yet connected, brain structures in the limbic system, according to the study.

Fisher separates activity in the amygdala for sex drive, activity in the caudate nucleus and nucleus accumbens for attraction and activity in the ventral pallidum for attachment and explains the role of each category in mate choice for mammals.

“The sex drive evolved to motivate individuals to seek a range of mating partners;

attraction evolved to motivate individuals to prefer and pursue specific partners; and attachment evolved to motivate individuals to remain together long enough to complete species-specific parenting duties,” the study reports.

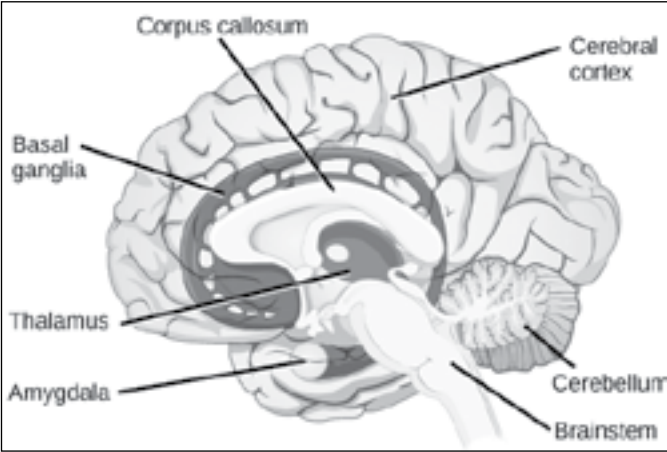
These categories overlap with American psychologist Robert Sternberg’s theory of love, which combines intimacy, passion and commitment to generate seven types of love, according to Juvia Heuchert, professor of psychology and clinical psychologist.

The compounds most responsible for components of love are dopamine, norepinephrine and serotonin, according to Fisher.

In Fisher’s 2004 book, “Why We Love: The Nature and Chemistry of Romantic Love,” Fisher hypothesizes elevated levels of dopamine are responsible for symptoms of craving for and dependency on one’s love.

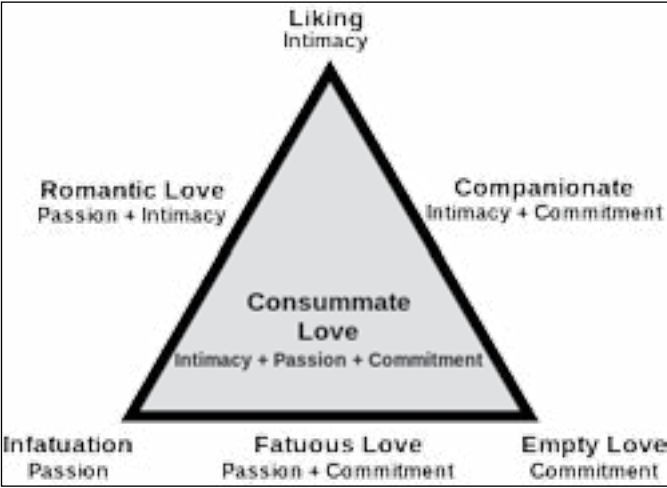
In fact, these elevated levels of dopamine are nearly identical to the brain activity that occurs when one is addicted to drugs, according to Sarah Conklin, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience chair. While drug abuse and romantic love are both tied closely to dopamine activity in the brain, society’s reaction to the two are radically different, Conklin said.

“You know that while that’s a wonderful thing that you’re experiencing, it’s interesting that the same neurological pathway that governs these two really different kinds of behaviors are so differential



CNX OpenStax/WikimediaCommons

Reactions and feelings of love begin in limbic system structures, especially in the basal ganglia.



Lnesa/WikimediaCommons

Robert Sternberg’s theory of love involves three basic components: intimacy, passion and commitment. Combinations of these components generate distinct types of love.

accepted by society,” Conklin said. “We judge people who are addicted to meth, but we think it’s wonderful when you’re addicted to another person.”

In addition to dopamine’s addictive properties, Fisher hypothesizes that norepinephrine’s stimulation of energy as well as the obsessiveness associated with low levels

of serotonin are also important in feelings of romantic love.

The limbic system and these compounds, however, cannot provide the fullest profile of love and are not exhaustive characterizations, Fisher argues.

“Regardless of what one knows about this subject,

we all feel the magic,” Fisher writes in her 2004 book. “Romantic love is deeply threaded into our human spirit. If humanity survives on this planet another million million years, this primordial mating force will still prevail.”

Other biological pathways and psychological principles help characterize love, and one need only read a book, watch a film or listen to a song to discover the historical and cultural pervasiveness of romantic love.

“So the poets and the songwriters have succeeded in describing aspects of love, but for each individual that love is so unique and so complex that they have to write their own poetry in order to describe what it feels like,” Heuchert said. “And some of that poetry comes, I think, through the lovely experience of emotional intimacy with another person.”

Fisher posits love is emotional and can elicit heroic, even sacrificial behavior. A person may die on behalf of their beloved, and great storytellers have also brought love in conversation with death.

Romeo and Juliet, Pyramus and Thisbe and Cleopatra and Mark Antony famously died so they would not have to live without their respective lovers.

Love is present in such stories, in real celebrations of 50-year wedding anniversaries, in any way a person feels most loved, in two pairs of eyes meeting — perhaps for the first or thousandth time — and especially in contemporary music.

Song, as a means of communication, is intimate and inspires feelings of love. Love songs make internal chemical processes visible. A smile, a tear, many tears, a sigh or a laugh are manifestations of the love built in the brain.

When artists sing about sex, their words reflect Fisher’s sex drive component of love. “You Really Got Me” by the Kinks and Marvin Gaye’s “Let’s Get it On” are two examples among countless others.

“Measurement of human behavior is messy and complicated. It is a big beautiful mess.”

Sarah Conklin
Associate Professor
of Psychology

Songs about love and craziness indicate the addictive properties of dopamine-dependent love as well as the attraction component Fisher describes in her work.

Beyonce’s song, “Crazy in Love,” from her album “Dangerously in Love,” Queen’s song, “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” and Willie Nelson’s song, “Crazy,” made famous by Patsy Kline, all have lyrics reflective of addictive attraction.

Other artists sing about love’s timelessness.

Whitney Houston’s iconic performance of “I Will Always Love You” in the 1992 film “The Bodyguard” gives power to long-term feelings of love. Similarly, “Come What May” from the 2001 film “Moulin Rouge!” repeats, “I will love you, until the end of time.”

The love in each of these songs is so different, indicative of Heuchert’s belief that love is different for each character, artist and person.

While love may vary greatly from person to person, it should not discourage us from attempting to come to a greater understanding, according to Conklin.

“Just because something’s difficult to measure, doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be measured,” Conklin said. “It just means it has to be measured carefully. Measurement of human behavior is messy and complicated. It is a big beautiful mess.”

Heuchert echoed Conklin’s reflections.

“Love is a beautiful — and the most enjoyable — mystery,” Heuchert said.



MARK KETTENHOFFEN/WikimediaCommons

Written by Willie Nelson and originally performed by Dolly Parton, “I Will Always Love You” became one of Whitney Houston’s most famous ballads.



CARL LENDER/WikimediaCommons

Queen’s Freddie Mercury wrote “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” in 1979, which helped launch the band’s “Crazy Tour” in the United Kingdom.

“Love is something difficult to define because it means something different to every person.”

Jason Ferrante, ’20

“Love is thinking about someone over yourself.”

Stephanie Lang
Director of Board Operations

“Love is the way you feel about the most important people in your life.”

Akeem Adesiji, ’20

“Love is something that makes you happy, people that make you happy, a smile.”

Yvonne Longstreth
Brooks Dining Hall Greeter

“Commitment. Commitment no matter what.”

Lindy Jackson
Department Coordinator, Biology and Chemistry

“I think it’s an indescribable feeling that you’re either in or out of. It’s something that connects us on a deeper level.”

Valerie Hurst, ’18

♥ What is love? ♥



Left: Jim Fitch, director of career education, shows off his magic skills Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, in Schultz Banquet Hall. **Right:** Students, faculty and community members listen to Bolan Graham, '18, play the guitar and sing during the Mardi Gras celebration held Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018, in Schultz Banquet Hall.

SHROVE TUESDAY FEATURES FOOD, MUSIC AND MAGIC

Fitch displays his magic abilities at Mardi Gras celebration

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Photos by MATTHEW STEINBERG/The Campus

‘A hidden gem’

Allegheny College bridge club offers an outlet for players of all ages and experience levels

By HANNAH SCHAFFER
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Allegheny College offers its students a number of different clubs and extracurricular activities, such as Alpha Pi Omega, Student Athlete Advisory Committee, the Game Room Pool League and multiple other organizations. While some of these clubs are well-known, some clubs on campus are not.

For example, many students are unaware Allegheny College even has a Bridge Club, let alone an award-winning Bridge Club.

The Bridge Club has met in McKinley’s Private Dining every Tuesday at 7 p.m. for the past four years and is open to all students. Students who have no prior experience playing bridge are encouraged to join.

Although the club has only been in existence for the past four years, there is a much richer history surrounding students playing bridge on the college campus.

“There used to be a grille on campus. In the bottom of where the alumni center is now, there used to be a grille with tables and tables of students playing cards. That’s where I learned to play,” Barbara Grzegorzewski, ’73, said.

The club was brought back to the campus four years ago by Grzegorzewski, her husband and Professor Phillip Wolfe.

“We wanted to encourage students to play,” Grzegorzewski said.

The American Contract Bridge League offers various scholarships to students who express an interest in playing bridge. In fact, there are numerous students at Allegheny who have received these prestigious scholarships.

Bill Gates and Warren Buffett are two avid bridge players who have made generous donations to develop more programs for students to learn bridge in college.

“It’s a card game where four players sit down at a table and there is a North, South,

East and West,” Grzegorzewski said.

Although bridge might seem like a complex and challenging card game, it can be easily simplified into three different phases.

“Each deal consists of three parts – the auction, where the four players bid in a clockwise rotation describing their hands, the play, where the side that wins the bidding auction tries to take the tricks necessary to fulfill their contract, and scoring,” according to the American Contract Bridge League website.

Every Tuesday night you can expect McKinley’s Private Dining to be separated into two tables, which will compete against one another. The two tables plug their bids into computers that compare the numbers to generate scores that will show how well each table is competing and distribute rankings.

Allegheny College is one of a handful of colleges with a successful bridge club that has been granted the opportunity to enroll in the American Contract Bridge League’s Bridge Initiative.

The members of the Bridge Club have even been given the opportunity to play against robots. “Basically you just play some hands, except everybody else but you is a robot,” Grace Connolly, ’18, said

Once each student has had the opportunity to play against the robots, the scores are compared to see who competed the best against the robots.

“It’s pretty fun. Sometimes the robots are annoying, if I’m being honest,” Connolly said.

Although the two tables are competing, you won’t find any tense energy. Instead, the room is filled with laughter.

“Here, it’s more of a social arrangement,” Grzegorzewski said; “we talk, eat candy and animal crackers, have pizza parties,”

“I’ve been playing bridge for four years. It’s a good time,” said the President of the bridge club, Allison Ganger, ’18, who is hoping to get more first-year and sophomore stu-

dents involved in the club.

“

People come here, and they either decide after a meeting or two that it’s not their thing or if they stay, they stay for years.

”

Allison Ganger
Class of 2018

“It’s fun once you start,” Grzegorzewski said.

“It seems like we have a pretty high retention rate,” Ganger said. “People come here, and they either decide after a meeting or two that it’s not their thing or if they stay, they stay for years.”

The Bridge Club even hosts a tournament once a year. At the end of each school year, members of the Meadville Bridge Club are brought to the Pelletier Library to match professional-ameature.

“We make a big tournament out of it. We play in the library, eat pizza and make it individual,” Grzegorzewski said.

While bridge club can be socially engaging and competitive, many do not know the game or how it is played.

“Most people don’t know what bridge is, or that’s fun,” Grzegorzewski said.

In a CBS News interview in 2008, Warren Buffett said, “If I’m playing bridge and a naked woman walks by, I don’t even see her.”

Buffett has also been known to say that he would not mind going to jail as long as he had three cellmates so that they could play bridge all day.

“It’s a chill club. It’s fun,” Ganger said.

‘50 Shades Freed’ fails to satisfy fans in final film

By MATTHEW STEINBERG
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The end of the infamous “50 Shades” trilogy hit theatres on Friday, Feb. 9. As I anticipated, the film continued to misrepresent the real nature of bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism in a plot featuring various cliché and boring elements that reminded me of a low budget CW series. To top it off, the acting performances of Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson are monotonous, and if there are any inconsistencies in this review, it is probably because the tape holding my eyelids open wore off, and I accidentally snoozed for a few minutes.

First and foremost, regardless of my dislike for this movie, I would like to state that the idea behind the “50 Shades” trilogy is unique and certainly should be more prevalent in mainstream films. It serves as a “revival of another genre that has all but disappeared from Hollywood: the erotic thriller,” according to a review published in Time Magazine.

Nudity and sensuality, not to be confused with the aggressive and hurried sex scenes which are commonplace in 21st century American films, are not widely explored. I am glad E.L. James re-introduced the mainstream audience to an erotic based story because it is important to understand sexuality is a beautiful aspect of life.

However, I truly believe all of the “50 Shades” movies incorrectly depict the BDSM practice, and show an abusive and power-driven relationship.

Contrary to popular belief, no, the two are not synonymous.

“50 Shades Freed” was a bit less erotic and sexually-graphic than the previously released films. Right from the beginning, it was obvious that true love is a central theme, as the film opens with Christian and Ana’s wedding.

While this motion picture appeared to calm down on the abusive and carnal nature it falsely claims to be BDSM, Christian still displayed his

forceful tendencies during their honeymoon when he refused to let Steele sunbathe topless.

After returning to Seattle, his inclinations became more disgusting when he refused to let his wife drive their Audi R8 to meet architect Gia Matteo. However, do not worry, because she proved worthy of driving the big-boy sports car after putting Gia in her place for flirting with Christian. But hey, at least she ditched the menace Jack Hyde in the exciting high-speed chase which followed, right?

Oh, this is awkward. It seems I have gotten pretty far into the plot and forgot to mention Jack is back. What a surprise!

The former editor of Seattle Independent Publishing returned for revenge after being fired in “50 Shades Darker” after he tried to assault Ana. He first attempted arson in Christian’s office building and was behind the wheel of the blue Durango with the fake license plates that mysteriously tailed the couple to and from their new house.

Shortly following the pursuit, Christian left for a business trip and insisted Ana go straight home from work every day, staying close to their personal bodyguards. Instead, she went to the bar with her best friend Kate Kavanagh.

The same night, she arrived home and Jack was waiting in her room with a knife. The second big shocker of the flick.

Jack was quickly apprehended by Ana’s bodyguards in an actionless and uneventful effort to create suspense and drama. From this point on, Jack did not appear on screen until his court hearing and a brief appearance in one of Ana’s dreams.

As if the movie was not already empty enough, a few subplots began to emerge that did not come close to full development. When the couple flew to Aspen for a quick getaway with friends, Steele was adamant she witnessed Elliot Grey, who is dating Kate, flirting with another woman. Then, out of nowhere and with very little explanation, Elliott proposed to Kate. The moment

was rushed and has no significance.

On a more exciting note, the Greys found out Ana is pregnant, and Christian threw a drunken temper tantrum about his wife “choosing the baby over him.” Surprisingly, the most interesting part of the movie was during this spat, when Ana found out he paid a visit to his former mistress, Elena Robinson.

Even though my disapproval of this movie has spoiled just about every aspect of it, I will leave the ending untouched. Please, trust me when I say it is predictable, not well thought out and unsatisfactory.

Behind the thoughtless story were disappointing acting performances in a large portion of the movie. To be honest, I am not sure if Jamie’s acting was bad because he managed to play an emotionless character poorly, or if he was playing the part so well that it simply came off that way. Regardless, he reminds me of a more attractive Nicholas Cage during the whole film.

I saw more emotion from Dakota in “50 Shades Freed,” but it was still hard to connect with her, especially in her multiple moments of peril. When Jack held the knife to her neck in his attempted kidnapping, her response was bland and did not change the mood of the film in that moment. I do not necessarily know what it is like to have a knife to my neck, but I am assuming I would be rather distraught.

On a brighter note, I want to give a shout out to Brant Daugherty, who played Sawyer, one of Ana’s bodyguards. I genuinely thought he played his character very well, and I hope to see him in more major films in the future.

The “50 Shades” franchise had an incredible amount of potential, and “50 Shades Freed” could have been a fantastic film. A plethora of excellent stories could surface out of the erotic thriller genre, but sadly this movie is not an example of such a tale. With a misrepresented sexual custom, inadequate plot and mostly subpar acting, I highly doubt Mr. Grey will be seen for much longer.

ABC hosts Black History Month with ‘Avant Black’ celebrations

By JEN RODRIGUEZ
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Since 1976, the United States has identified February as the historical Black History Month. This month of recognition for African-Americans evolved from “Negro History Week” started by historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African-Americans in 1926. This commemoration of African-Americans throughout history is one of the key celebrations for the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture.

In honor of Black History Month, ABC will be holding multiple events, some in collaboration with the Association for Caribbean Students and Black Girl Magic. Each year, Black History Month has a specific theme for the events and celebrations. This year’s theme is ‘Avant Black’.

The theme was coined by the Black History Month Chair of ABC, Jaimena Wheel, ’20. Wheel is in charge of ABC’s Black History Month event planning and the creation of the theme. ‘Avant Black’ is a spin-off of ‘Avant Garde’ and where Wheel got most of her inspiration for the month’s theme.

“[Avant Garde] which is kind of like the experimental, radical and orthodox works of people in culture and society. When I thought about black culture, I just thought like, any type of black movement is seen as radical and unorthodox in society,” Wheel said. “In my head, I wanted to celebrate the arts of black culture, and that’s where I got the term ‘Avant Black.’”

The theme is focused on the arts of black culture and society. Each week will contain events that focus on a specific form of art. The first week was film and media, including movies and television shows. The second week is centered around art, such as sculptures and painting. The third week is focused on music and dance and the fourth week is concentrated on literature.

The first week kicked off with ABC’s Highlighter Party and a Super Bowl watch party. The second week had the Soul Food Dinner.

“ABC does a phenomenal job with the Soul Food Dinner. They did all the work, the planning, shopping, and cooking,” Darnell Epps, associate director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center, said.

The Soul Food Dinner is a student-run event. Students, using their own recipes, cook and serve the food at the dinner. They prepare for about 150 attendees or more, according to Isis Offutt, ’20, the president of ABC.

Following the Soul Food Dinner, the art focused week will be a Graffiti Mural event. The Graffiti Mural event will be held on Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. in the ABC House and later will be posted in the Henderson Campus Center lobby. The mural will be dedicated to black culture and important black figures in society.

“It’s kind of like whatever you think about black culture and art in society and just maybe prominent figures in black culture. It’s basically going to represent all that, and we’re going to ask students to openly draw and create whatever they want,” Wheel said.

The music and dance week follows the art week. Partnering with ACS, the week’s event is the Afro-Caribbean Zumba event on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. in the David V. Wise Center. The next event, also on Feb. 18, is Sister Sunday. Sister Sunday is partnered with ACS and BGM, and will be held in the Pelletier Library Collabora-



tory at 6:30 p.m. The event is focused on self-care.

“[It’s] a time of self-care, like people getting to know each other.” Offutt said. “We’ll do self-care stuff, facials, show you how to take care of your skin, and take care of your hair.”

“
I love that it continues to bring people together. Everyone learns something through these events. I’m still learning things too.”

Isis Offutt
Class of 2019

The last week of February is dedicated to literature. An event will be held with Alex the Poet, who is coming to perform and talk on her works to students in the Patricia Bush Tippie Alumni Center on Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

The last event to finish off Black History Month is the Ebony Ball. The Ebony Ball is on Feb. 23 at 7: 30 p.m. in Schultz Banquet Hall. The theme for this year’s ball is “Coming to America,” inspired by the film starring Eddie Murphy. The Ebony Ball is one of ABC’s formal events and has everyone gather for one final celebration.

“The Ebony Ball is just a time to get bad and boujee, to look nice since we don’t have a lot of opportunities to [dress] in formal attire. That’s something I miss from high school,” Offutt said.

With these events, ABC is also hoping to get the Meadville community involved. One event Offutt and Wheel are hoping to have Allegheny students and the Meadville community involved in together is a showing of “Black Panther.”

“A lot of people in the community can’t afford to go see ‘Black Panther,’ but they want to,” Offutt said. “We’re trying to raise money. We can pay for them to go and pay for some students to go see the movie together. It would create a bond between the community and the students.”

The upcoming Marvel movie is heavily focused on black culture and community. “Black Panther” features a prominent African-Amer-

ican cast, including Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan and Lupita Nyong’o, and an African influenced soundtrack with Kendrick Lamar, SZA and other African-American artists.

“That was one of the things I said in the beginning like when I started coming up for the idea [for Black History Month]. Honestly, I would say ‘Black Panther’ inspired me to make this theme for the month,” Wheel said.

The trailer for “Black Panther” was released last summer and inspired Wheel to think about black superheroes, black comic book writers and other forms of art in black communities.

“It’s crazy that we don’t know a lot about black literature, and it just got me thinking. It feels like I don’t know forms of art in black culture other than maybe rap, some type of dance and R&B. That’s all well and cool, but I want to celebrate all of black culture and art,” Wheel said.

Through Black History Month, Offutt and Wheel can connect their passions for black history and culture with organizing events for the month.

For Wheel, the month is a great way to learn and explore black history and the achievements of prominent black figures which students would not usually be taught.

“It’s a great time to reflect on history that we don’t always get to learn about everyday in school,” Wheel said.

For Offutt, Black History Month is a great way to not only learn about a history that usually is not taught in courses but also in bringing communities together.

“I love that it continues to bring people together, like people who may not always have come to meetings but come to these events to learn more. Everyone learns something through these events. I’m still learning things too.” Offutt said.

Offutt and Wheel agree there should be more than one month for the celebration of black history and culture, ABC’s “Avant Black” is a celebration which involves both the Allegheny and Meadville communities in exploring a history and culture often swept aside.



Photos by JEVON COOPER/THE CAMPUS

Top: Association for the Advancement of Black Culture members serve food at the Soul Food Dinner, an event part of ABC’s celebration of Black History Month at Schultz Banquet Hall on Sunday, Feb. 11.

Above: ABC Vice President Allen Baugh, ’18, and President James Mullen shake hands at the Soul Food Dinner at Schultz Banquet Hall on Sunday, Feb. 11.

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REMINDER:
Students

It is not too late to participate in SIPS, the Student Integration, Persistence & Satisfaction Survey. It asks students important questions about their college experience. Please check your email for a link to the SIPS and tell us about your experiences at Allegheny.

Students who complete the online questionnaire will be sent a \$3.50 coupon for the Wrecking Ball Café.

Questions?
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Allegheny’s Institutional Review Board, irb@allegheny.edu

SWIM TEAM

DIVES INTO

CONFERENCES



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH TINGLEY/THE CAMPUS



Top: Members of the Allegheny Swim Team cheer on their teammates during Conference Championships on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018.
Center left: Devin Nelson, '20, dives at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships.
Center right: Logan Indest, '21, swims in the 800 Freestyle Relay at the NCAC Championships.
Above: Maddie Janvrin, '20, celebrates after competing in a race.

Forner battles against tough times to break school women’s track record

By Jake Reidenbach
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At The Big Meet hosted by Grand Valley State University, a long-standing Allegheny women’s track record was broken. Emily Forner, '19, ran a time of 9:48.06 in the 3,000 meters on Feb. 9 in Allendale, Michigan. Her performance beat the previous school record set thirty years ago by All-American and Allegheny Athletics Hall of Famer Christine Dudeck, '88. Forner’s success has not come easy. After winning Allegheny College’s Female Newcomer of the Year Award following her rookie campaign, Forner experienced some health issues. “My health wasn’t right where it needed to be. I had an iron deficiency and was running really poorly,” Forner said. Head Cross Country Coach Ben Mourer, '07, also recognized Forner’s struggles both athletic-

ly and physically. “Her sophomore year, she had some injuries and some illness,” Mourer said. “She had a lot of setbacks, and she really struggled,” These tough times tested Forner’s dedication to the sport as well. Forner considered giving up athletics to recover, rest and heal. “I thought about quitting and taking time away from the sport,” Forner said. Instead of quitting, Forner began to seek treatment from a doctor for her condition and decided to stick with running. Mourer and Allegheny Head Track and Field Coach Justin Linzy said they were glad she did. “I have to give Emily credit for sticking with it through her frustrations,” Mourer said. Linzy said Forner’s attitude stood out to him. Despite her setbacks, he said she brings a positive attitude and uplifting energy to the team. “Her attitude is always great.

It seems as though the young woman is always in a great mood,” Linzy said. Linzy also praised Forner on her work ethic, saying that although she faced health issues and adversity, she has the drive to persevere and overcome obstacles. “Her work ethic speaks for itself,” Linzy said. “She’s very determined.” As Forner began to right her condition, she said her running times and athletic performance began to improve. Mourer said her times “skyrocketed” and Forner’s hard work and perseverance paid off at The Big Meet. Forner’s time was fast enough to place eighth out of 43 runners despite running against a number of Division I and II athletes who are also talented in the sport and receive scholarships for their abilities. “It can be scary, but these people are [on athletic scholarships],

and I’m right up there with them,” Forner said. Forner’s record-breaking time is likely to get her into the NCAA Division 3 Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championship, according to her coaches, but Mourer and Linzy have much higher goals than just getting to that meet. “She’s going to be competing to be an All-American,” Mourer said. The Championships are still a few weeks away, but Forner is not focused on them right now. Instead, she wants to focus on the remaining meets of the season. “We still have a few more weeks until then. [I’m focused on] just getting out there and competing in upper level meets and competing well,” Forner said. Forner and the Allegheny Women’s Track and Field team will compete on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Mount Union University Raider Tune-up Meet in Alliance, Ohio.

GATOR UPDATER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

Swim and Dive at NCAC Championships
Granville, OH
10 a.m.

Men’s Tennis vs Franciscan
Erie, PA
6:00 p.m.

Women’s Tennis vs Westminster College
(PA)
Erie, PA
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

Track & Field at Mount Union Raider
Tune-up
Alliance, OH

Swim and Dive at NCAC Championships
Granville, OH
10 a.m.

Women’s Basketball at Ohio Wesleyan
Delaware, OH
1 p.m.

Men’s Basketball at Ohio Wesleyan
Delaware, OH
3 p.m.