

# The Campus



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
Students at the ‘All -Campus Celebration and Pep Rally, the last event of Week of Welcome on August 23. Classes began, all in-person, the following day.

## Clubs return at Involvement Fair

By EVELYN ZAVALA  
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The Henderson Campus Center was transformed into the Involvement Fair on Thursday, Aug. 24, where more than 100 clubs gathered for the first time since COVID-19 made Allegheny College limit in-person events.

Tricha Young, the Student Life office manager, described the importance of the fair to student life in an email to The Campus.

“The lively setting of the fair provides clubs and organizations an excellent opportunity to showcase their club/organization, recruit new members and network with others,” Young wrote.

The upbeat setting and announcements were provided by student organizations. Hundreds of students enjoyed the refreshments and snacks provided at the fair.

“The line-up includes ASG, GAP, GFC, FSL, Civic Engagement, IDEAS Center student representative and WARC,” Young wrote. “WARC will also provide music during the event.”

*In this week’s Campus...*

### MULTISYSTEM INFLAMMATORY SYNDROME AND COVID-19

A look at a rare yet severe complication of COVID-19 in children.

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Breanna Bowden, ’22, president of Clay Club, talked about the significance the fair has on the student body.

“The fair is a really great way for everybody to meet friends and get involved,” Bowden said. “I found Clay Club when I was a freshman and went to the fair. I just signed up for the email list and fell in love with it right away.”

The success of the fair relied on the preparation done months in advance. Getting in touch with student organizations was an important part of planning the fair.

“The involvement fair is hosted and planned by student life,” Young wrote. “Planning begins early in the summer with organization outreach, and establishing the date of the event. By the end of July, refreshments are ordered and the registration form is prepared.”

The fair is an annual tradition for the school, but there were still obstacles Student Life had to overcome.

“The greatest challenge is the time spent contacting organizations who have not updated their organization information though ASG and/or Student Leadership and Involvement,” Young wrote.

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### RAISING HELL(BENDERS)

The Hellbenders are Allegheny’s Ultimate Frisbee team, and they’re looking to rebuild as the school reopens.

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## Gators flock to Week of Welcome

### High vaccination rates chase away masks, distancing

By SAMI MIRZA  
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Following last week’s successful move-in, Student Life hosted a wide variety of on-campus events as a part of the “Week of Welcome.” Students flocked to the semester’s first Late Night Breakfast on Brooks Walk, an event traditionally held on Study Day, where the line for donuts stretched from the Samuel Lord Gate to the Brooks Circle. On Friday, a vendor on the Gator Quad was giving out custom street signs, and had to stop taking orders early due to the high demand. So many Baldwin students attended the “Go for Gold” Capture the Flag event on Sunday night that every other hall represented had to join together to equal the Baldwin team.

Dr. Trae Yeckley, associate dean of students for community standards and wellness, noted this marked uptick in

student participation since last year. “We’re seeing a lot of students that (last year) we kind of lost track of,” Yeckley said. “Sometimes our students, especially first-years coming in, have a hard time finding friends. We’ve done so much programming at the start of this semester to make sure that these students connect, that they know what it means to be a Gator.”

Yeckley hopes that Allegheny’s distinctive student experience will continue once classes begin and students get more busy.

“We are really hoping to create this sense of community with Allegheny, especially coming out of COVID and all the restrictions last year,” Yeckley said. “We really want students to be out of their rooms, making connections, feeling a part of the campus. So yes, there will be more events, maybe not to the scale that we’ve had — five days in

a row of events — but we are hoping to have quite a few events throughout the rest of the semester.”

These events will fall less on Niki Fjeldal, who joined the school in July as the First Year Class Dean. Fjeldal helped organize most of the events the first week back but is now looking forward to the academic year. “The position of the first-year class dean will start moving more to how I can support students on an individual basis and things that already exist on campus,” Fjeldal said. “Student life will take over in terms of the involvement fair and WingFest and some other events that are happening, and I think our student organizations are finally in a place so that they’re able to program and start doing things as well.”

At the same time, Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington cautioned against swamping students with events and activities they may not be particularly interested in.

“We don’t want to ‘overprogram’ and we also want to be sensitive to what students want as opposed to what we want,” Binnington said. “Week of Welcome is largely about what we want, but it’s also largely about Dean Fjeldal’s long experience in orientation and transition programming. We do need to be mindful of what students want and so that’s going to be a part of the ongoing conversation with ASG and with other student bodies.”

*See WELCOME | page 2*



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
Students play ‘Kan-Jam ‘ on the Gator Quad during a Week of Welcome event, August 19.

### A RETURN TO FALL SPORTS

Athletic Director Bill Ross talks COVID-19 protocols for fall sports, including rules for spectators and team travel

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# FAIR

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Clubs and organizations are excited about how the fair will positively affect the amount of students who join and participate.

“We’re just hoping to show people who we are and continue to grow in size,” Bowden said. “It is just one of those things that everyone has something to gain from. Even seniors I know still go to the fair.” Heather Amancio, ’23, vice president and treasurer for the Student Art Society, described the significance of the return of the involvement fair for her club.



We are happy that we are able to bring back this showcase of the diverse array of clubs and organizations at Allegheny.”

—APRIL THOMPSON  
Dean of Students,  
Allegheny College

“Our club is coming from this resurrection stage; we were dormant for a while because clubs couldn’t really meet or do anything,” Amancio said. “The involvement fair is a really good way for clubs to put their name out there, especially since we weren’t able to have it last year. I think the involvement fair is really important for helping people find things that they are passionate about.”

School returning back to normal has given clubs full opportunities to reach new and returning members. Organizations are able to advertise themselves to the student body more with the return of the fair.

“Being able to plan in-person events is a huge deal for most clubs. It’s just so much more exciting to plan something that you know you can go to. There’s so many more options than doing it over Zoom,” Amancio said. Dean of Students April Thompson commended the fair

for its ability to bring the student body back together in an email to The Campus.

“We are happy that we are able to bring back this showcase of the diverse array of clubs and organizations at Allegheny,” Thompson wrote.

Second and first year students enjoyed their first in-person Involvement Fair. Second-year students experienced an online involvement fair last year.

Hussain Minhas, ’24, shared his thoughts about fair and how it will change this semester.

“It’s really fun and welcoming,” Minhas said. “I am excited that there is going to be more stuff to do on campus this semester.”

Similarly, Lindsey Kutz, ’25, commended the fair for its friendly environment.

“I’m really enjoying the social environment at the fair and it’s nice that there are in person events again,” said Kutz.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
ASG President Noah Tart, ’22, address attendees at the Involvement Fair. Tart thanked Student Life for organizing the event and pointed out where the snacks were located.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
A view down the middle of the Campus Center lobby. Tables ringed the first and second floors of the lobby, while another set took the middle of the room.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
Top: A student signs up for a club at the Involvement Fair  
Bottom: Attendees weave their way through the packed crowd of students

# WELCOME

from page 1

Most students attending Week of Welcome events were unmasked, with only a handful choosing to wear face coverings. Yeckley noted that students who mask do not seem to be ostracized by unmasked students.

“The people that I have seen masked are interacting with people who aren’t masked and no one’s been saying anything like, ‘Hey, why are you wearing

your mask?’ or ‘You shouldn’t be wearing your mask,’” Yeckley said. “It seems like people are being really respectful of each other’s decisions, and I think that’s going to continue on into the classroom, across campus, into the dining halls.”

Indeed, according to Fjeldal, COVID has not been something that she’s seen come up as a topic of conversation at the events

she’s attended.

“We’ve tried to do a lot of activities outside, and I think people decide to mask or not mask as their comfort level with all of that,” Fjeldal said. “I think most students have been really excited to get together and just be together.”

Kapilashrami, for his part, is not too worried about the col-

lege’s ability to handle new variants.

“The delta variant is pretty scary, obviously, but I feel like a decent amount of our population is vaxxed where it shouldn’t be a huge issue,” Kapilashrami said. “If it does become an issue, then that’s just something we’re going to have to deal with.”

Fjeldal wants to see this programming expanded and developed for following classes, based on Allegheny’s specific tradi-

tions.

“I’ve met with a lot of different upper-classmen to understand what their experiences were like, to make sure that we’re making the true best first-year experience for an Allegheny student,” said Fjeldal.

Binnington also acknowledged the work that goes into such programming, work that often required multiple 18-hour workdays.

“I want to make sure that I thank Dean Fjeldal and Dean Foxman and just so many people whose names students often don’t know but who have been here long into the evenings, in the weekends, setting up the testing environment, making sure that students can move in,” Binnington said. “We really want this to be as close to a normal semester as we can make it, recognizing that we have to pay attention to health conditions.”



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
President Hillary Link grooves to the music of ‘Credit/No-Credit,’ Allegheny’s faculty band, at the ‘All Campus Celebration and Pep Rally’ on Bicentennial Plaza.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS  
A first-year student throws a football on the Gator Quad during Week of Welcome programming. Most students elected not to mask, given the college’s high vaccination rates

# URSCA offers on-campus summer research experiences

## Program connects students and faculty with greater Meadville community

By **HASSAN JAVED**  
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Allegheny College offers students the opportunity to conduct student-faculty collaborative summer research via the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Program. The Allegheny College Research Seminar Series allows students to connect with faculty members and members of the local community and present their research to the wider Allegheny community and alumni at presentation seminars.

Director of URSCA and Professor of Psychology Aimee Knupsky explained the role of ACROSS in the Allegheny College summer experience.

“In the summer, students have the opportunity to work with faculty members on research that they are conducting or develop their own idea to present at ACROSS,” Knupsky said. “Students stay on campus anywhere between six and 10 weeks to perform this research for which they are stipended.”

ACROSS works under the supervision of the URSCA office which is the key coordinator of undergraduate research at Allegheny College. Knupsky explained the role of URSCA.

“The URSCA office provides programming so that students can learn what others are researching on campus in the summer and so that they have an opportunity to share their work with the community, this is why (URSCA) created ACROSS.”

Knupsky mentioned that ACROSS serves as the platform on which students can present their research to the Allegheny and Meadville community and also attend other student’s presentations.

“ACROSS took place every Tuesday this summer and we invited three students to present their work every week,” Knupsky said. “The nice thing about ACROSS is that it is only students presenting their work and no one else.”

Knupsky stated that ACROSS has historically taken place as a luncheon presentation but could not follow its traditional format due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“Unfortunately, ACROSS sessions took place virtually this summer,” Knupsky said. “Usually we have these ACROSS sessions in the Tillotson room (in the Tippie Alumni Center at Cochran Hall) and it’s jam packed. We’ve had up to a hundred people visiting in the past.”

Knupsky mentioned that students conducting summer

research are funded and paid by the Provost office via several donors.

“The URSCA office works closely with the Provost’s office to connect students with faculty members and make projects possible by allocating funds and stipends to students,” Knupsky said. “We never want affordability to be a factor when a student is determining whether or not to consider summer research.”

URSCA works alongside the Gateway Network to collaborate with the local community in conducting research. Knupsky clarified the role of the Gateway Network in summer research on campus.

“(Director of the Gateway Network) Michael Williams, ’98, works to connect students, faculty members, and local community members for them to set up research projects,” Knupsky said. “This is important because Allegheny is really committed to playing its role in the local community and because Allegheny’s undergraduate is truly a great strength of the college.”

Williams explained that the Gateway Network provides community-focused projects for students throughout the year.

“During the summer we are able to provide students with a stipend to conduct in-depth

research in collaboration with members of the Meadville community under the supervision of faculty members,” Williams said. “We also have projects, internships and research opportunities during the academic year that students can take part in for credits.”

Williams commented on the Gateway Network’s focus on five different areas when establishing research projects.

“We received funding from an anonymous source in Pittsburgh to focus, as a college, on creating partnerships with the community that assist the community in regard to economic development, environmental sustainability, educational initiatives, health and wellbeing, and arts and culture initiatives,” said Williams.

Williams explained the process through which the Gateway Network communicates with community members and the URSCA office to create partnerships between the students, the faculty and the community members.

“It is basically my job to regularly reach out to community members such as local business owners and farmers to understand their needs and communicate them with the URSCA office,” Williams said. “We are then



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The front entrance of Carnegie Hall, the new home of the URSCA after it moved from what is now the Maytum Center for Student Success in Pelletier Library

able to find a student-faculty member match that collectively works with community members to produce different types of projects.”

Students working with the Gateway Network on research projects are able to produce different types of research. Williams mentioned.

“Some students were working to provide economic statistics and data for the Meadville region whereas others were working to create a roster with the Erie bird observatory,” said Williams.

Katherine Perez, ’24, conducted student-faculty research over the summer under the Gateway Network.

“This summer I worked with the Gateway Network, Professor (of Communication, Film and Theatre) Ishita Sinha Roy, and

two other students on creating the course COMM 386,” Perez said. “We conducted interviews with 15 local businesses downtown to investigate what the terms ‘local’ and ‘community’ mean and how rural towns stay afloat.”

According to Perez, the focus of her research was how local businesses partner with the community, view their position within the community and how they brand themselves.

“Our research was used to design a class that Professor Sinha Roy will be teaching this fall,” Perez said. “Students will not only get to learn about the Meadville community but will also have a chance to collaborate with local businesses through this class. We even have a local business owner that will be guest-teaching a few of those classes.”

# Class assemblies debut during WoW

By **SAMI MIRZA**  
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Matriculation is the traditional beginning of students’ academic journey at Allegheny College. Last year, pursuant to COVID-19 health guidelines, the ceremony was conducted virtually as a prerecorded message from President Hilary Link. This year, matriculation returned in-person and unmasked — bringing with it class assemblies for the other three academic years. The first and second-years met on Saturday, Aug. 21, while the junior and senior classes met Monday, Aug. 23.

According to First Year Class Dean Niki Fjeldal, matriculation — or convocation as it is known at some schools — is a key way for the college to kick-start the student experience.

“Matriculation during the first year is very much focused on setting the stage for us in terms of the Allegheny community and welcoming them to the academic community,” Fjeldal

said. “I think it’s really important to not just be an Allegheny student, but have a ceremonial Allegheny experience and welcome you to the academic community.”

Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington noted that the sophomore class assembly in particular was designed to make up for last year’s student experience. That assembly included a class photo and the singing of the alma mater, traditions typically reserved for first-year matriculation.

“One of our goals was to have the sophomore class at least experience some of the things they couldn’t experience last year,” Binnington said. “The bigger picture, and I think this is the thing we’re going to want to continue doing, we need to think about how we welcome all students back to campus.”

Beyond the assemblies, Binnington pointed to the move-in process as another way the college is trying to welcome the entire school back.

“We usually do this big move-in event for first year students; we did it for all students this year,” Binnington said. “We had folks to help them move in and again I would anticipate us continuing to do that. It’s a big lift on our part in terms of getting the staff to do it, but it really sets a tone. We get told so many times, particularly by parents who have students at other colleges and universities ... that we are just friendlier, that we are more welcoming, and they just really feel like there’s a great sense of community that they’re coming into.”

According to Ryan Sesler, ’23, however, third- and fourth-year students do not see the assemblies as a part of that school-wide welcome, noting most juniors didn’t attend their assembly.

“They didn’t find a purpose for (the assembly),” Sesler said. “It wasn’t ‘required.’ There are a few people that I know of that chose to not come and of course that I will be the one filling them in or that someone else will fill them in, but it would have been nice to see most of the junior class there.”

However, Sesler does not think that the attendance (or lack thereof) will translate to other events later in the semester.

“Definitely if we’re talking about football games or Wing-Fest or things of that nature, I think people will be coming out,” Sesler said. “It’s just I don’t think that a lot of people want to spend the last day before classes start sitting in Shafer listening to people talk.”

The assemblies themselves were unusual for the pandemic. First, students gathered on the second floor of the Campus Center, or ‘Main St.’ Then, they

processed into the Shafer Auditorium, where they sat undistanced, unmasked, and in large numbers. According to Binnington, around 300 students attended the sophomore assembly, not including the support staff, faculty, and administrators that also were present.

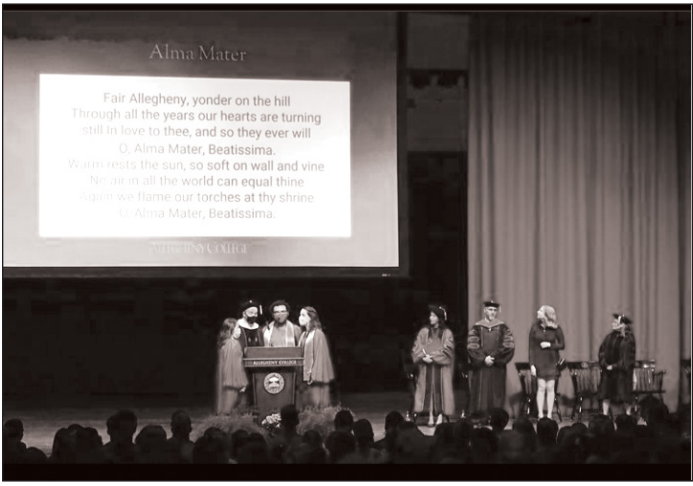
Nevertheless, Binnington insisted that the assemblies were safe for all who participated. He noted that the events were limited to the Allegheny community, of which vaccination status is a known quantity.

“I discussed the class assemblies with Dr. Morrow like four or five times as different CDC guidance came out,” Binnington said. “Remember that among the student population, we’re talking about 99-point-something % vaccination. Among faculty, we’re talking vaccinations in the mid-90s. If you compare us to the situation in Crawford County right now, we are about twice as vaccinated.”

Sesler is not worried about having to remask due to the delta variant, given that the college has already done so for a full academic year.

“I have no problem putting on another mask so long as I can keep having classes in person,” Sesler said. “Online learning just is not something that works for me, so having in-person classes is very important. If I have to wear a mask to have that, then so be it.”

Binnington hopes that by next fall, the class of 2026 will matriculate with their parents and family members present, but noted that such a decision will have to wait until the nation’s vaccination and public health status becomes clearer.



@alleghenycollege/INSTAGRAM

Professor James Niblock and three choir students introduce the Class of 2024 to Allegheny’s Alma Mater, a tradition the second-years were denied last year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

## 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.*

**August 22, 2021**  
**Alcohol Violation**  
Parking Lot 25

**August 23, 2021**  
**Alcohol Violation**  
Parking Lot 30

**August 22, 2021**  
**False ID Card**  
Parking Lot 25

**August 22, 2021**  
**Alcohol Violation**  
Highland Ave

**August 23, 2021**  
**Criminal Mischief**  
Caflich Hall

**August 24, 2021**  
**Harassment**  
Baldwin Hall

**August 24, 2021**  
**Theft**  
Brooks Walk West

**Advertising** (814) 332-5386  
**Box 12, Allegheny College**  
**520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335**

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# Why OnlyFans’ plan to ban sexually explicit content should scare us

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*Editor’s Note: As of Aug. 25, OnlyFans has decided not to go forward with the intended changes to content guidelines due to backlash. However, I believe that my comments regarding the gross power of banks and my discussion of workers’ rights issues remain valid and relevant.*

On Aug. 19, OnlyFans, the online subscription-based service best known for hosting adult content, announced that it will ban “sexually explicit content” from its site. The changes in content guidelines are to take effect on Oct. 1. Although OnlyFans hosts content ranging from cooking videos to pornography, sex work has brought the platform from relative obscurity to mainstream awareness.

The pandemic especially catalyzed this growth. As workers were laid off or forced to stay at home, internet sex work became a quite appealing avenue for staying alive for many people. Online sex workers are able to work at home safely, creating their own hours and establishing their own boundaries and limitations. Being your own boss, you can avoid the fear of potentially being fired, or contracting COVID-19 from coworkers or patrons.

Quarantine also led to an increase in demand for adult content — we all had to keep our hands busy one way or another! Thus, COVID-19 hit, and OnlyFans exploded. A perhaps larger-than-ever number of people became sex workers or consumers of their content, at least in the relatively open sense of posting content online, where it may remain forever. There is a conversation to be had about how this may impact the futures of OnlyFans creators, as well as the morality of sex work as whole, but let us put that aside for now and return

to the expression “sexually explicit content.”

One might hear the phrase “sexually explicit content” and think of the commercial porn available for free all over the internet, which is reasonable. OnlyFans, however, differs from your run-of-the-mill porn site in at least one crucial way: it gives sex workers total control. Commercial adult stars may find themselves dealing with seedy managers or producers who urge them to violate their boundaries for extra money, or even be pressured into signing inflexible contracts that will dictate what will happen to their bodies. If they want their content removed from a site, they may face legal barriers or difficulties with careless customer service. They must accept the idea that anyone, anywhere can access their content. They may have little say in what particular sexual acts they must engage in.

An OnlyFans creator, however, can not only upload and take down content at will, but also set their own prices, regulate who consumes their content and set firm boundaries. In this sense, the platform has afforded great freedom to their creators. During the pandemic, the site was a lifeline for many users who may have otherwise turned to more drastic measures to earn a living.

By drastic measures, I do not mean only the sob stories you hear about people forced into prostitution — or worse — for survival. I also mean working for minimum wage, working under a cruel boss who does not allow bathroom breaks, working under dangerous conditions without hazard pay, working obscenely long hours or any of the other million poor working conditions normalized by capitalism.

In light of the impending ban on sexually explicit content, it is clear that OnlyFans was never interested in protecting

vulnerable people from unjust exploitation. They are merely another heartless corporation, and one that is loyal to the banks above all else. They stated that the reason for the changes to content guidelines was “to comply with the requests of our banking partners and payout providers.” To paraphrase, banks and credit card companies told OnlyFans to ban porn, so OnlyFans banned porn. If we recall when Tumblr made a similar move in 2018, subsequently dropping in value from \$1.1 billion to \$33 million, it is really more like banks said jump, and OnlyFans said off of which cliff?

Regardless of what your position on sex work is, the implications here should scare you. Although there is a case to be made for particular forms of censorship, like hate speech or child pornography, banks and credit card companies are absolutely not the appropriate means by which this should occur. In an increasingly digital world, it is chilling to know that tech companies are ultimately beholden to payment processors.

The OnlyFans decision has set a precedent for banks to dictate what sort of content websites host. If they have the influence to get porn taken off of OnlyFans, then they also have the influence to control what you can post on social media sites, what news media outlets will cover and more.

Although the immense influence of money over the internet is nothing new, OnlyFans has essentially told the majority of their user base that they will be laid off come October. These people will be without work, without unemployment benefits and without the means for survival on which they have depended for the duration of the pandemic.

OnlyFans knows that in siding with the banks over their creators, they are robbing people of their livelihoods. They know that they could never have

seen the success that they have enjoyed without sex workers. They know that they will likely lose a significant portion of their user base, but they do not care. They have benefitted from the labor of sex workers and now will leave them in the dust without a second thought — how senseless.

At its core, this is not only a censorship issue, but also a workers’ rights issue. As an internet user, I am genuinely fearful of the can of worms that OnlyFans has opened. As a communist, I am horrified by the inescapable influence over the digital world that big banks have and disgusted with OnlyFans’ compliance. As someone who wholeheartedly believes that internet sex work is a legitimate and moral avenue for employment, I am furious on behalf of the content creators who will be harmed by these changes.

Let us not forget that the world at large has a history of being enormously hostile toward sex workers. Sex workers of all kinds — OnlyFans models, commercial porn actors, strippers and full service sex workers alike — face discrimination and the threat of violence and harrassment on a daily basis. They are hated for monetizing sex, despite the fact that “sex sells” is an age-old marketing slogan we can all acknowledge as simple truth and see in practice. I can only imagine the vitriol sex workers have to put up with, the insults and death threats the internet allows people to spew anonymously.

If you care at all about the well-being of your fellow human beings, your freedom of expression or your rights as a person who unfortunately needs money to survive, you should view what OnlyFans has done with nothing but dismay and outrage.

Now, perhaps more than ever, workers of the world need to unite and fight

“

We must understand that sex work is work, regardless of whether one sees it as liberating or degrading.”

—PEYTON BRITT  
Class of 2022

back against the looming, dystopian future that may be upon us. We must set aside debates about whether or not sex work is liberating or oppressive, as dividing ourselves based on particular choices of employment ignores the larger threat. We must understand that sex work is work, regardless of whether one sees it as liberating or degrading.

We must remember that OnlyFans’ decision is partially a result of the Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act and Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act, which, despite how they are named, have done little to stop sex trafficking yet a whole lot to crack down on sex workers who freely chose to make adult content on their own terms.

Sex work will not cease to exist. Porn sites make up 30% of the internet — they get more traffic than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined. Pushing sex workers into the shadows will get us nowhere as a society. We need to abandon the puritanical denial of how much sex we collectively have, record, consume, desire and buy, regardless of if you think it should be less. What we need is formal legal protection for the rights and freedoms of sex workers, for they are our friends and family and a valued part of our society whether we acknowledge it or not.

# Crawford Co.'s best local attractions, restaurants and hangouts

## Kaleigh's list of top places to visit in the greater Meadville area

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*Editor’s Note: None of the businesses mentioned in this article are paid endorsements.*

I have lived in Crawford County my entire life. That being so, I am a self-proclaimed expert on local places to visit and explore in Crawford County and the surrounding area. Whether you like to try new restaurants, enjoy the outdoors or go shopping, there are plenty of local places you can go to in the area.

The first suggestion I would like to make is small-scale sports, namely mini golf and bowling. There are a number of courses in the area, but when it comes to getting the most bang for your buck, my suggestion for a mini golf course is Putt-It Miniature Golf.

If you have ever been to the local Walmart, you have certainly seen this course before. Located next to Palmiero Toyota and directly across from one

of the main entrances to Walmart, Putt-It is a small, fenced-in golf course with two separate courses. The first course is considered the easy one, and the second is supposedly more advanced. Indeed, when I went with my sister and my cousin a few weeks ago, the second course was harder. We spent at least twenty minutes trying to get our balls around a figure-eight, even though we were significantly over par. In my opinion, mini golf is much more fun when you are not great at it and do plenty of ball moving.

As of the time of writing, you can play both courses for \$7. Additionally, you do not have to play both courses at once; you are able to pay for two games, and you are given a ticket with which you can come back and play a single course. Each course has a full 18 holes, making the game long enough to be worth playing but short enough that you do not get bored. With three players, we got through each course in well under an hour (apart from the figure-eight incident). Overall, Putt-It is a

great course to visit for a fun weekend out with friends. And when you are finished, you can go to Casey’s Ice Cream next to Walmart. (link to ice cream article online)

While I for one could not bowl a strike if my life depended on it, I happen to think that bowling is still a great group activity. There’s something very cathartic about throwing the ball down the lane and watching it roll into the gutter along with your hopes and dreams.

The alley I would suggest is Plaza Lanes in Meadville, adjacent to Hoss’s Steak and Sea House. There are a number of other bowling alleys I have been to in my life, and for some reason, a lot of them feel dirty to me. Whether it is because I think too much about the balls being handled by so many people or the god awful colors of the bowling shoes making me sick to my stomach, I am unsure. But Plaza Lanes is a very clean facility that regularly sanitizes frequently touched surfaces, and as someone who struggles with OCD, I have never felt unsafe when visiting. They also often have specials, which feature different prices per person or shoes. They are currently on a summer recess, and will return to regular hours on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

If you enjoy being outdoors, I must suggest visiting Ernst Trail. A five-mile long trail, it can either be traversed on foot or on bicycle. My sister adores the trail, and the scenery is absolutely gorgeous. There are a number of bridges and other landmarks to look at along the way, making for some very aesthetic Instagram photos. I also recommend looking into the history of Ernst Trail, as the local history in Crawford County is very rich and well worth exploring.

If hiking, bowling and mini-golf are not your style, but you do enjoy being outside, you can take a trip to the Pymatuning Spillway. People who know me very well may note that I am always willing to talk about the Pymatuning Spillway, as it is located in my hometown of Linesville, approximately 20 minutes from campus.

Pymatuning Reservoir is a man-made body of water originally created to lessen damage caused by floods in the area. Since its creation, it has become home to thousands of carp. For those who do not know, carp are a rather ugly bottom-feeder with funny little mustache pieces on their mouth. While a delicacy in some countries, carp are all but invasive in the United States.

These fish are not very smart, but they are certainly entertaining. Visitors to the Spillway bring bread — usually moldy or stale, or generally no longer edible to humans — and throw it at the fish. The carp come up to the surface and slop up the bread into their gaping mouths, their thoughtless eyes glazed over as they indulge in the delicious treat. This has been a thing for decades. In fact, the carp in Pymatuning are not the color of most other carp; these bottom-feeding fish are actually somewhat sunburnt from spending so much time at the surface and eating bread.

The Pymatuning Spillway experience really combines things that are vaguely disgusting with things that are downright fun in a way that not many activities can. While I actively complain about tourists causing traffic and their seeming inability to drive, I will never not recommend people visit the Spillway. It is certainly something everyone should see before leaving Allegheny.

There are a lot of incredible, locally-owned restaurants in the Meadville

area. While I have previously shared my opinions on the best pizza and ice cream places, there are a number of restaurants in the area that have more diverse menus and are worth going to. The ones that every student needs to visit before they graduate are Julian’s Bar & Grill, Smoky Martin’s BBQ, and The Whole Darn Thing Sub Shop.

Julian’s, while a smaller restaurant, has an incredibly cozy atmosphere while still feeling like an upscale establishment. Their prices are a little bit higher than some other restaurants, but the portion sizes are ginormous. I went there for the first time last semester, and I am very much looking forward to the next time I am able to go.

Smoky Martin’s BBQ is some of the best barbecue I have had in my life. I do not like pork, but their barbecue pork is delicious. My usual qualm with pork is that it can be very dry if cooked wrong, and it is much easier to mess up than beef or chicken. Smoky Martin’s is smooth and tender, and I cannot recommend it more.

Lastly, Whole Darn Thing is a local restaurant that specializes in subs. The biggest reason I am often opposed to eating at Subway is because I cannot stand a mediocre sandwich of any kind. Going to Whole Darn Thing, I never face this problem. While they are obviously a little more expensive than Subway, the quality is more than worth it. Additionally, you are able to order a quarter sub, a half sub, or a whole sub, so whether you are a dainty eater or you can eat the house down boots, Whole Darn Thing has got you covered.

All in all, while Crawford County may not seem the most interesting place in the world, there are definitely many things to do in the area that are worth your time.



Look at this carp’s funny little mustache!

Photo courtesy of pxfuel.com.

# Syndrome found in children diagnosed with COVID-19

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**

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Medical researchers at the Mount Sinai Health System in New York discovered a rare yet severe inflammatory syndrome in children, who had previously been diagnosed with COVID-19, in April of this year.

According to the CDC, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children is an immune condition that impacts different parts of the body including the hearts, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or even gastrointestinal organs.

Some of the symptoms of this rare syndrome include abdominal pain, bloodshot eyes, chest tightness or pain, low blood pressure, neck pain, a rash, feeling fatigued or even severe inflammation of the organs impacted by the syndrome.

Similarly to COVID-19, these symptoms present themselves differently in children, meaning that not every child will have all of the same

symptoms.

It was discovered that this syndrome does not just impact children. Since June of last year, several reports of the syndrome have been made by adults. This syndrome is known as MIS-A and only impacts adults.

“In terms of symptomatology, it’s pretty similar for adults and children,” stated Michael Loncharich, MD, of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

The CDC warns that MIS can appear more complicated in adults than in children.

Despite the differences in the complications of this syndrome, both MIS-A (Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults) and MIS-C (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children) can develop in those diagnosed with COVID-19 days to weeks after being diagnosed with COVID-19.

In a study published in Nature Communications, researchers discovered that there was a lower prevalence

of a particular type of cell in the immune system than in those who were not diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome after a COVID-19 diagnosis.

According to the Louisiana Department of Health, the number of MIS-C deaths in Louisiana alone makes up about 20% of all cases of MIS-C in the United States.

However, this syndrome is not exclusive to the United States.

In Malda, 22 children between the ages of two and eight years were diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome.

In fact, the principal of the Malda Medical College and Hospital, Parthapratim Mukherjee, spoke on the subject when interviewed by The Telegraph.

“We suspect these children contracted COVID-19 during the second wave and didn’t manifest any symptoms,” Mukherjee said. “That is why they might have got MIS-C. As they are not infected with COVID-19 now and MIS-C

is not, they have been admitted to the pediatric ward and not in the special COVID-19 ward.”

After these diagnoses became more prevalent, doctors recommended that any child with flu-like symptoms for 72 hours should be taken to a doctor.

Because of the increase in cases of this rare inflammatory syndrome, scientists believed that it was of extreme importance that they start to determine why the children are being diagnosed with this syndrome and how they would be able to treat it.

“As this was and remains a major disease related to the ongoing pandemic, we thought it would be essential to investigate its etiology,” said Dr. Noam D. Beckmann, a correspondent of the study. “Follow-up studies could identify drug targets that could prevent COVID-19 from progressing into MIS-C.”

According to the study, there were lower levels of natural killer cells, a type of cell that is meant to kill tumor

cells and cells infected with a particular type of virus such as COVID-19, in the individual’s immune system.

A volunteer team of more than 100 nurses, doctors and researchers was created to determine the best ways of treating this syndrome.

This team started to evaluate this syndrome by collecting blood samples from hundreds of COVID-19 patients, who were admitted to Mount Sinai hospitals.

Scientists discovered that “exhausted cytotoxic T cells” may be key to treating MIS-C.

According to a Mount Sinai study, CD8+ cells, or cells that are responsible for immune defense against intracellular pathogens, are persistently exposed to pathogens. Because of this, the cells enter an

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**Follow-up studies could identify drug targets that could prevent COVID-19 from progressing into MIS-C.”**

—DR. NOAM D. BECKMANN  
Researcher

“exhaustion” state, meaning that they are less effective and are unable to proliferate.

However, based on the research done in this study, the team has discovered that the regulator, TBX21, which is responsible for regulating the network associated with natural killer cells and exhausted CD8+ T cell functionality, could also possibly be a way of treating MIS-C. According to Medical News Today, TBX21 is a promising therapeutic target because, “it serves as a master coordinator of the transition of CD8+ T cells from effective to exhausted.”

Since COVID-19 first appeared, scientists concerned themselves with the possibility of different illnesses that might appear in the days that someone has COVID-19 and the days after.

If you or someone you know start to display the symptoms for MIS-C or MIS-A during or after a COVID-19 diagnosis, a doctor visit might help to determine if one of these two syndromes has presented itself.

# Rain showers in Greenland linked to climate change

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**

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Rising sea levels, shrinking mountain glaciers and ice melting at a faster-than-normal rate in the Arctic and Antarctic regions are all signs that climate change is occurring. But climate change can present itself in many other ways, such as rain in Greenland.

According to the New York Times, rainfall was recorded by the Summit Research Station for the first time in recorded history. On August 14 and 15 of this year, 7 billion tons of water fell on the ice sheet.

“It’s incredible, because it does write a new chapter in the book of Greenland,” Marco Tedesco, a researcher at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, said. “This is really new.”

Thomas Mote, a climate scientist at the University of Georgia, explained that at

the Summit Research Station, there has been no record of rainfall in Greenland since the establishment of observation in the 1980s.

“What is going on is not simply a warm decade or two in a wandering climate pattern,” said Ted Scambos, a scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. “This is unprecedented. We are crossing thresholds not seen in millennia, and frankly this is not going to change until we adjust what we’re doing to the air.”

The scientists who have studied this phenomenon attribute the cause of the rainfall to an anticyclone — an atmospheric event known for high pressure — that causes air to sink, and warm as it sinks.

Computer simulations from before the establishment of rainfall observation also show that there was no rain even before the 1980s.

But rainfall was not the only unusual weather obser-

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**This is unprecedented. We are crossing thresholds not seen in millennia, and frankly this is not going to change until we adjust what we’re doing to the air.”**

—TED SCAMBOS  
Scientist,  
National Snow and Ice Data Center

vation that occurred at the research station.

In Summit, above-freezing conditions are almost as rare as rainfall. According to Martin Stendel, a senior researcher at the Danish Meteorological Institute, ice cores showed that above-freezing temperatures only occurred six times in the past 2,000 years.

However, above-freezing temperatures have occurred in this area in 2012, 2019 and 2021 — three times in fewer than 10 years.

Joe Hernandez, a reporter for National Public Radio, stated that the Arctic region is warming twice as quickly as the rest of the planet under climate change.

Because of the higher than normal temperatures, melting

and warned that heat waves, droughts and floods would become more common as the planet warms.

Because of the rise in temperatures in Greenland, approximately 872,000 square kilometers of ice melted on August 14, alone.

In fact, the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center reported that 2021 is the second

year to have a melting event that resulted in more than 800,000 square kilometers being lost to a rise in temperatures. According to scientists, large-scale melt events in Greenland are growing more and more common as the years come and go.

“That is happening more frequently with climate change, and it’s bad for the ice sheet,” William Colgan, a senior researcher for the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, said.

This has become even more concerning when scientists discovered that the ice in Greenland is melting faster

than it has ever melted in any time in the past 12,000 years.

It is said that as of today, around 40% of the Arctic is greener than it was in 1986.

As the ice continues to melt, more and more problems reveal themselves.

As polar ice is lost, there is a higher likelihood that a positive feedback loop would occur.

This means that as the amount of ice on the planet decreases, the Earth becomes less and less reflective of sunlight. Because of this, more sunlight is absorbed, resulting in even more global warming.

But global warming is not the only problem that results from the melting of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic Circles. In fact, Greenland and Antarctica have lost enough ice within the last 16 years to fill all of Lake Michigan.

If the proper precautions are not taken, it is reported that if all of Greenland’s ice melted, the global sea level would rise by approximately six meters (19.685 feet).

— — — — — ‘Centered in teaching’ — — — — —

Sarah Buckner discusses benefits of liberal arts instruction

By JORDAN GREYNOLDS  
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In light of the pandemic that seems to be sputtering but not yet fully squashed, Allegheny College has recently announced that 36 administrative and staff positions have been or will be cut. However, there will still be new faces among faculty as there were new hires made prior to these cuts.

One of those hires comes from the English department which received around 150 applications as they began their search for a new literature professor in the summer of 2020.

Assistant Professor of English Sarah Buckner rose to the top of the applicants through both her resume and the way she handled the hiring process, according to Department Chair and Associate Professor of English Matt Ferrence. While excelling in those areas may be common for most who get hired for a

job, her road through college and her mid-pandemic hiring made her journey different from most.

“I went a route that’s not very usual for people who end up being professors and I actually went to community college first,” Buckner said.

Despite a college-worthy high school resume that included good grades along with various extracurriculars, Buckner realized she did not have a way to pay for college. As a first generation college student she also did not know how to apply for scholarships at the time.

This led her to the College of Southern Nevada before ultimately completing her bachelor’s degree at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

After receiving her PhD from University of California, Riverside, Buckner was in search of a college where she could teach.

“One of the things that was important to me was to find a place to work where I’d be



BUCKNER

centered in teaching,” Buckner said. “What happens if you go to a big research university is that usually they want you to focus only on research. You will teach but it’s really on the backburner and I love to teach. It’s a big part of my research too so I wanted that to be at the center of my job and that was offered here.”

Aside from a focus on teaching, there were certain characteristics that Buckner was looking for in a college. “It was also important for me to find a place that isn’t massively, massively white,” Buckner said. “It’s hard to find that at liberal arts colleges so that was one of the things that brought me here. (Allegheny) has a thing called the polar

program here where they try to hire faculty from diverse perspectives.”

The perspective that Buckner brings seems to fit with what the English department intends to instill in its students.

“One of the crucial parts of the expertise that she brings, and that we recognize as a department, is that you can’t divide American literature from Black American literature,” Ferrence said. “It’s not a subset from American literature, they’re all part of what makes our American literature amazing.”

The English department makes two distinctions for their major tracks. One track is the study of literature and the other is creative writing.

“

One of the crucial parts of the expertise that she brings, and that we recognize as a department, is that you can’t divide American literature from Black American literature.”

—MATT FERRENCE  
Department Chair and Associate Professor of English,  
Allegheny College

Though Buckner is a professor of literature, she will get to see English students who focus on either distinction, as the department emphasises the value of their symbiotic relationship.

“The study of the books, poems and plays are part of the apprenticeship of becoming a writer,” Ferrence said.

This focus on dual immersion has not gone unnoticed by students who have been the beneficiary of learning how to both study and produce literature.

“I really like creative writing and poetry,” Lauren Hagens, ’22, said. “But the English department will definitely help you reach your full potential by diversifying what you experience and that’s

something I’ve enjoyed being a part of.”

Buckner was able to be a part of this experience before even arriving on campus. Just as her path through undergraduate college was unusual, so were the world’s circumstances at the time of her hire.

“Campus visits were done over Zoom so Professor Buckner was in California on the computer for a whole day having meetings with us, our students and teaching a Zoom class to Allegheny students,” Ferrence said.

As Allegheny returns to traditional in-person classes, Buckner’s ability to teach remotely may not be utilized but will be appreciated among her other abilities.

“Among the talents that Professor Buckner brings is that she’s a terrific writer in her own right,” Ferrence said. “She’s a scholar so she’s writing scholarship that is examining literature but from the beauty of prose — she’s a terrific stylist.”

~~~~~ A long-awaited return to normalcy ~~~~~

Students react to living on campus post-vaccine

By KRISTEN CADHAM  
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For most students, it is very strange transitioning back to a semi-normal school year. Some students have only ever experienced college amidst COVID-19, while others have been able to see what Allegheny has been like before, during and after the pandemic.

“It was super weird because I felt like I was a freshman again,” Sara Adams, ’23, said. “Everything changed because I was online most of my sophomore year. I had to really re-adjust to the dining and everything due to all of the changes. I had to re-familiarize myself with the campus. [I did this by walking] around campus and find[ing] all of the buildings again. ... Now

“

It was super weird because I felt like a freshman again.”

—SARA ADAMS  
Class of 2023

I’m just happy to be back on campus because I definitely like learning in-person more than online.”

Adams also mentioned the change between what was offered her first and third year.

“My living situation has changed drastically from freshman year,” Adams said. “I have my own room and am [living] in an apartment-styled living instead of sharing a communal bathroom. That was a really weird change.”

Although her living arrangement has changed, Adams still recognizes areas where Allegheny has remained unchanged. After all of the past year’s adversity, students still feel a sense of belonging at Allegheny.

“[On the other hand], there is not really a lot of difference,” Adams said. “I still feel like the classes and professors are giving the same amount of education. I feel just as comfortable on campus as I did freshman year due to the safety and COVID

protocols this year.”

With this return to semi-normalcy, some are worried that it might change as quickly as it came. With the COVID-19 virus mutating, students are taking precautions in case Allegheny has to switch back to online classes.

“I’m kind of on edge about suddenly being uprooted like we were my freshman year [due to the delta variant],” Adams said. “I actually didn’t pack a lot. I packed really light clothing-wise because I didn’t want to bring all of my stuff for it to have to be brought back home. I am worried about the year being cut short again.”

Safiatou Compaore, ’23, agrees with Adams, arguing that in order to maintain a semblance of normalcy, students need to continue to stay vigilant.

“I feel like it changed a lot,” Compaore said. “The dining hall, academics and environment. I’m excited to go back to class. I feel like academically, I would work better. But I

am worried about Crawford County’s (rising COVID cases) and just in general because I know that we’re not wearing masks. We have to wear masks when we leave campus, but I feel like after a time, people forget that because we don’t have to (usually) wear masks. It’s kind of worrisome.”

Many students have felt isolated due to necessary physical distancing measures and have tried to make the most of it. Compaore commented on the changing social dynamics as a result of the pandemic.

“There’s a huge difference (between before COVID and this year at Allegheny),” Compaore said. “I feel like before COVID, people were more interactive with each other. When COVID happened, people had to build little groups that they could stay

around. They’ve gotten comfortable with their little pods of groups so friend groups are a little more spread out and people are not really interacting with each other.”

Class of 2025 students like A.J. Kimbrough are positioned uniquely, as their only college experience is within the confines of Allegheny’s “new normal.”

“I guess it’s the sense of community and everyone is trying to get back to that,” Kimbrough said. “COVID kind of robbed people of that. Just being around people trying to learn in a classroom environment ... you don’t understand how important that is until it’s taken away. People have been very welcoming to me, reaching out, and saying that if I need anything to just tell them. It’s a sense of community and at-home feeling. I definitely appreciate it.”

The welcome students receive help with the transition to college, according to Kimbrough.

“The transition to college, especially only being here for a day when everyone moved in last week, has been hard navigating, getting around, getting all logged in on everything, and getting used to

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Just being around people trying to learn in a classroom environment ... you don’t understand how important that is until it’s taken away.”

—A.J. KIMBROUGH  
Class of 2025

everything, Kimbrough said. “I know it’ll be a process, but with the help of everyone, it should be smoother.”

The faculty and staff have noticed the change in atmosphere as well. They are keen to help students in any way possible. Yvonne Longstreth, an employee at Pine Market in Brooks, has seen vast positive changes compared to last year.

“It’s been very positive,” Longstreth said, “A lot of people come in smiling, they’re happy to get back to a little bit of normal. Back to sports, back to student events on campus, back to coming down to the dining hall and sitting down with all their friends. It’s been very positive so far.”

# Hellbenders welcome fun, sportsmanship and the disc

By MO MANSOUR  
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There’s no shortage of ways to get involved at Allegheny; a multitude of clubs, organizations and sports teams exist on campus, but some are more well known than others. For example, Allegheny’s Ultimate Frisbee — or “Ultimate” — team, the Hellbenders, is relatively elusive despite being as active as any other organization.

“(Ultimate is) an accessible sport to people,” said Men’s Captain, and Mixed co-Captain Owen Jacobsen, ’23.

This sentiment was echoed by the women’s captain and mixed co-cap-

more established sports such as basketball or football.

The goal of each game is to get the disc or frisbee into the endzone in order to score a point, with the first team to 15 points being the winner. The disc cannot be carried, only passed. According to Genewick, Ultimate can be thought of as a sport not unlike a combination of soccer, football and early basketball.

The Ultimate team is different from other sports in that it can be split into three sorts of sections within the organization itself: the men’s team, the women’s team (Hellbenderitas) and the mixed team, which is comprised of members from both teams.



Photo courtesy of Owen Jacobsen

The Allegheny Hellbenders pose during their annual trip to the High Tide tournament in July in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

tain Paige Genewick, ’22. The accessibility of the sport seems to be tied to the closeness and trust among the team members, since — according to both captains — Ultimate fosters a culture of fellowship and mutual support with everyone being in a position to learn from and help one another. With the opportunity to learn from anyone on the team at any point, the sport has a very low barrier of entry, which both captains cite as one of the team’s draws.

The Hellbenders take their name from Allegheny’s original mascot, before it was decided that the alligator fit better for the school. The team attributed their relatively quiet presence on campus to the newness of the sport of Ultimate Frisbee itself, especially in comparison to other

The sport’s unique schedules also contribute to its ease of accessibility. Unlike other sports, the Hellbenders only have three to four practices a week; the men’s and women’s team each practice twice a week, the mixed team practices once a week and both try to also have conditioning once a week. Similarly, the main season for the Hellbenders is during the spring and is focused on tournaments, with only about three each season. The consensus among the captains is that while the team is always looking for committed players, the actual level of commitment is not so high as to be discouraging.

With the pandemic affecting every part of life in the past 18 months, the Hellbenders were no different; both captains commented on how



Liam Black, ’23, catches the disc in mid-air during High Tide.

Photo courtesy of Owen Jacobsen

the pandemic made tournaments impossible and how practice was severely impacted as well, in the same way that that other clubs and sports were, in terms of social distancing and masking. While these policies were good for the health and wellbeing of the community, they were bad for the cultivation of the Ultimate team.

“It wasn’t the same,” Jacobsen said. “It wasn’t the sport that the people on the team had grown to love, so for that reason I think there was less interest in playing last year.”

The pandemic ultimately affected the team by diminishing their ability to recruit due to the cancelling or minimization of various recruiting opportunities like the Involvement Fair.

“It was definitely hard getting new people for both of the teams because I feel like the environment was like ‘be super cautious, stay super safe, don’t go near people that you wouldn’t normally associate with,’” Genewick said, referencing what she sees as a reason that the Ultimate team was lacking slightly in participation last year. “We’re gonna try to be a lot better with recruiting (this year). Not having the Involvement Fair was really hard.”

The team, however, hopes to bounce back from that this year.

“It’s definitely a mission of mine to grow the team, to grow campus awareness of the team, so that we can be better,” Jacobsen said.

The biggest draws for the Hellbenders’ Ultimate team, according to members, would seem to be the

connections and culture of Ultimate. Angelina Cottril, ’24, described the culture as a robust sense of sportsmanship.

“Ultimate as a whole is a really welcoming community,” Cottril said. Cottril went on to comment on how the whole of Ultimate believes in an idea of “being spirited,” in terms of not only sportsmanship but also the

Genewick shared a similar belief, explaining that the team must have a shared trust between their own teammates as well as their opponents facilitated by the very nature of the sport. Ultimate matches have no referees, so any and all discrepancies during play must be settled properly and professionally between the teams. This seems to be the core of Ultimate here at Allegheny, and also apparently elsewhere: the ethos

of personality, culture of compassion and commitment to the sport and one another.

“Since day one of playing on Allegheny Ultimate I’ve felt accepted, and it feels like you’re on a team; you’re not on your own,” Jacobsen said. “I think people care, that’s the bottom line.”



Ultimate as a whole is a really welcoming community.”

—ANGLEINA COTTRILL  
Class of 2024



Photo courtesy of Owen Jacobsen

Nathan Loria, ’22 (left), looks to teammate Ben Ramsey, ’22 (right) to pass to during a High Tide tournament.



Photo courtesy of Owen Jacobsen

Nathan Loria, ’22, catches the disc during High Tide.



Photo courtesy of Owen Jacobsen

The Allegheny Hellbenders use Allegheny’s original mascot, a giant salamander that lives in French Creek.

# Bill Ross discusses updated plans for 2021-22 sports season

By ADAM COHEN  
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Bill Ross, the Director of Athletics and Recreation, answers questions regarding Allegheny’s COVID-19 plan for the upcoming sports season.

## How is Allegheny protecting their student-athletes from COVID-19 this school year?

Allegheny is one of many schools that strongly recommend vaccines for all of our



Photo courtesy of Allegheny Athletics  
Bill Ross, Director of Athletics and Recreation

students, so that holds true for all our student-athletes as well. If you’re back on campus, you are most likely vaccinated and

we appreciate all the efforts that the students have gone through to be vaccinated. It certainly makes all our lives easier, not only with the vaccine, but also with some of the steps the health agency has put into place this year for us. We will be testing our student-athletes probably three days after they return from away trips. Obviously, we want to create a bubble on campus with all the vaccinated people, but some of these students have to leave campus. So, testing all the traveling student-athletes will help detect if there are any issues COVID-19 related or not. It’s just another layer of protection for the entire campus and we are happy to do that.

## Similar to last year, will the student-athletes be tested more frequently than non-student-athletes?

The concern is that student athletes interact with either the visiting team or when the student athletes are traveling and having close contact with students from other colleges.

Our way of protecting our athletes is to test every single student athlete for the away games. However, the students who are being tested for the away games at the time will not have to do the bi-weekly test that is administered on campus during that two week span.

## What is the vaccination status for the other colleges in the NCAC?

I think that you will see a 99% vaccination rate at most colleges and with the FDA approval of the Pfizer (now called the Comirnaty) vaccine, it will be a lot easier and more comforting for folks to get the vaccine. In the NCAA, their guidelines anticipate that most college campuses are around 80% vaccinated. In another way to protect students from the spread of COVID-19, the NCAA expects student athletes to be tested at least once a week. Those opponents that are not at 99% like Allegheny will be tested more frequently.

## What are some other precautions student-athletes need to take while traveling on the road?

The visiting team will defer to the hosting team’s protocols. If they are requiring that Allegheny student-athletes enter into their town and facilities masked, they will follow these guidelines. If they are requiring that masks are to be worn during the sport of volleyball, for example, our student-athletes will oblige.

## What is Allegheny’s policy of having off campus fans attend sporting events?

Allegheny has a visitors’ policy in place that fans need to remain masked at all times, regardless of vaccination status. The seating capacity for outdoor events might be more than indoor sports. Meanwhile, for the seating capacity of indoor events, we will need to work with ACHA for clarification.

## What is the contingency plan for Allegheny sports if enough students acquire COVID-19?

Allegheny has a visitors’ policy in place that fans need to remain masked at all times, regardless of vaccination status.”

—Bill Ross  
Director of Athletics and Recreation

Right now the protocol is that if someone tests positive, they must undergo a ten-day isolation period. There will also be contact tracing that will take place, which will determine whether or not someone needs to be in quarantine. This will be pretty much the same protocol in place that we had last year. Because of the vaccination status at Allegheny, the time that someone needs to spend in isolation would be reduced. Also, with the contact tracing, let’s say if a student brushes by someone that got COVID-19, the protocol will not be as strict. We would also be able to continue practices and competitions based upon the ACHA’s recommendations. Last year if enough students received COVID-19, the competition

would be postponed. This year there will be full schedules, and to make sure that colleges are keeping pace with the schedule, depending on the percentage of players that have the virus, there will be games that are forfeited. To clarify, if a team has under 50 players, and three percent or more of their athletes have ongoing COVID-19 cases, they will be subject to forfeitures. For teams with greater than 50 players, if five percent or more of their athletes have ongoing COVID-19 cases, they will then be subject to forfeitures. This is why we are thrilled that Allegheny has a 99% vaccination rate, compared to other schools that are not at that threshold; our chances of being shut down are pretty slim because we have that many people vaccinated.

## FALL SPORTS ARE BACK EVENTS AT ALLEGHENY

|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                    |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Women’s Field Hockey</b><br>Wednesday, September 1<br>vs. Washington and Jefferson<br>@ 7 PM | <b>Men’s and Women’s Tennis</b><br>Saturday, September 4<br>vs. Washington and Jefferson<br>@ 1 PM | <b>Women’s Soccer</b><br>Wednesday, September 8<br>vs. Mount Union @ 7 PM |
| <b>Women’s Volleyball</b><br>Wednesday, September 1<br>vs. Westminster @ 7 PM                   | <b>Men’s Football</b><br>Saturday, September 4<br>vs. Thiel @ 1 PM                                 | Saturday, September 11<br>vs. John Carroll @ 4 PM                         |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                                    | <b>Men’s Soccer</b><br>Saturday, September 11<br>vs. Marietta @ 1 PM      |

LET’S GET SOCIAL!



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