

The Campus

Volume 147, Issue 1
Friday, September 2, 2022

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

ASG: ‘Trend of discrimination’ *Financial guidelines fundraising for large expenses pass, ‘Loop’ canceled*

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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In their opening General Assembly of the academic year, Allegheny Student Government discussed allegations of discrimination against members of the college administration and faculty, passed new financial guidelines to ease budgetary concerns and announced the end of the Loop’s transportation services

through the Crawford Area Transportation Authority.

After the meeting was called to order, the floor was opened for constituent comments, and Syd Hammerman, ’25, asked about high turnover and recent departures of BIPOC faculty and staff.

“My understanding is that there is a trend of faculty and administration experiencing discrimination, that is what we’ve been told,” ASG Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jaelyn Valentin, ’25,

said in response. “I’ve currently been speaking with some of the administrators about this phenomenon and what we can do to stop that and make sure that that doesn’t affect students in any way.”

In an interview after the assembly, ASG President Veronica Green, ’23, pointed to four recent departures from the Allegheny payroll of BIPOC faculty and staff as a part of this trend.

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Involvement fair returns to Gator Quad



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Students checked out Allegheny’s dozens of student organizations in the Involvement Fair Thursday. The fair was held on the Gator Quad for the first time since the pandemic began.

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Work study pay rates increase

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Allegheny College students now have the opportunity to work less hours and earn at higher rates as student employees.

An Aug. 19 email by Financial Aid Counselor Jade Allen of the Student Employment Office announced changes to the pay rate structure, stating, “student academic pay rates will be increasing starting in the Fall 2022 semester.”

The email further clarified the establishment of different pay rates from \$9 to \$13 as compared with previous rates between \$6 and \$8.

Vice-President for Enrollment Ellen Johnson emphasized that changes to the student pay rate have come primarily from the college’s need to compete businesses in Meadville.

“Truthfully, we are being out-competed by off-campus employers when it comes to attracting students,” Johnson said. “Students look at the benefits of higher pay and no limit to working hours and choose to work off-campus instead.”

Johnson hopes that higher pay rates will be enough to compel students to find employment on campus.

According to Johnson, the changes to the student pay rate are significant as there has never been such a drastic increase in the school’s history.

“We usually entertain smaller increases of \$0.25 or \$0.50,” Johnson said.

“This increase is sizable and comes at a time when many people complained about the previous pay rates being too low.”

The last review of student pay rates came in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Johnson, the pandemic had a considerable impact on student attitudes in regard to employment on campus.

Consequently, Student Employment reported being unable to successfully fill open positions on campus and deems the increase in the pay rate to be a step in the right direction.

Allen said that the college also hopes to allow students more time to explore different aspects of college life due to this change.

“Students no longer have to work as many hours to earn their awarded \$2,500 in student work-study,” Allen said. “Since students are being paid more, they will be required and permitted to work fewer hours.”

Allen clarified that, depending on the pay rate, students will have more restrictive time limits on the amount of work they are allowed to do weekly.

Alexa Isaguirre Portillo, ’24, who is a member of the Bonner Program and serves as a program intern hopes that the pay rate will allow students to earn their full \$2,500 in student work-study more successfully.

“At times over the last two years, many of my peers and I have felt that despite working significantly, we were still

struggling to make enough at the end of the month,” Portillo said. “Bonner is a program that requires a lot of student commitment and contains a range of responsibilities, so I’m hoping students will be fairly compensated.”

According to the Federal Work-Study Program, “In a normal year, your school must use at least 7% of its FWS allocation to employ students in community service jobs.”

Consequently, the pay rate of Bonner students, who work in community service roles as part of the service-focused program, has doubled to \$13 from \$6.45, the highest offered pay rate.

Under the new system, Johnson said that not all student jobs will be paid at the same rate.

“Every year, supervisors from different offices on campus review their staff records and determine how many student workers they require,” Johnson said. “Similarly, depending on the job description and the skills required to fill the position, student employment along with supervisors determine the rate a job earns.”

Students will have the opportunity to earn higher rates upon working a role repeatedly over time and at the discretion of their supervisor, according to Johnson.

Nahayan Minhas, ’24, who works in the Athletics and Recreation Department and is an international student, believes that students are promised but do not earn the full \$2,500 in student

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Aramark at Allegheny

A look at Gators’ new dining experience



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Students line up to order from the new “Smart Plate” station at McKinley’s Food Court.

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Allegheny College entered into a partnership with Aramark Higher Education over the summer and announced their official appointment as the new dining service provider on July 1, ending their previous partnership with Parkhurst dining.

Chief of Staff Kevin Kovalycsik said that the change in dining service providers came as a result of President Hillary Link’s response to community feedback.

“I started my role at Allegheny formally in November 2021 and it was made clear to me from day one that the dining experience at the college was something that I was to put my focus on,” Kovalycsik said. “(Link) met with me and emphasized that the community has consistently demanded a more fulfilling dining experience.”

According to Kovalycsik, Allegheny extensively researched the market for dining service providers and received proposals from many regional, national and international caterers.

“We decided to enter into a partnership with Aramark after carefully considering all our options,” Kovalycsik said. “It became evident that both parties had similar ambitions for the future of dining services at Allegheny.”

The changes in dining have resulted in the renovation of both Brooks Dining Hall and McKinley’s Food Court.

Brooks Hall has seen the induction of more food stations, providing students with extensive options. Physical changes such as a change of decor and theme are also prevalent.

Whereas McKinley’s Food Court has experienced a complete overhaul with all previous food stations being replaced by new additions. Furthermore, the food court has been rebranded and renovated accordingly.

Among the new editions at McKinley’s is the Bento Sushi station.

“Bento is indeed present in many other campuses across the country and at many locations,” Kovalycsik said. “Having established restaurants and franchises become a dining option at Allegheny is something we would be open to experimenting with depending on the wants and needs of the community.”

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Link joins Highmark board

By **ROMAN HLADIO**
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A July 28 Highmark Health press release announced Allegheny College President Hilary Link’s appointment to the Highmark Incorporated Board of Directors.

“We’re looking forward to Hilary’s contributions to the Highmark Inc. board of directors,” President and CEO of Highmark Health and chairman of the board for Highmark Inc. David Holmberg is quoted in the release. “Her extensive experience in the education field is pivotal as we prepare for the future of our organization and improving the health care experience for all.”

Link explained that the job of a college or university president stretches beyond their institution and requires them to be an ambassador for their institution. This appointment provides publicity for Allegheny College in a primary city-center of Alumni and future students — Pittsburgh.

“Highmark is one of the largest and most prominent businesses nationally, but specifically in Pittsburgh, and the board is really made up of important, well-connected people in Pittsburgh,” Link said. “So this is an amazing opportunity for — not to use the cliché but for Allegheny to have a seat at that table.”

Re-engaging with the Pittsburgh base of Alumni was a priority, and Link’s appointment made it much easier, she explained. According to Link, Highmark employs many Allegheny graduates and friends of Allegheny as well, and having the pPresident of the college reside on their board is a huge and immediate boost to Allegheny’s reputation in and out of the greater Pittsburgh area.

Director of Editorial Services Josh Tysiachney clarified in an email to The Campus that Link’s duties as the institution’s president would be unaffected by her appointment.

“Like many college and university presidents, President Link has been invited to serve on the board of directors

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YOU CAN’T ALWAYS FAKE IT ‘TIL YOU MAKE IT

Opinion editor Sydney Emerson, ’23 discusses the downsides of the trendy “growth mindset” and the dangers of a “fixed mindset.”

AN URSCA SUMMER

70 students kept the campus company this summer during their URSCA research projects.

GATORS REBRANDED

Allegheny returns to the Presidents Athletic Conference with a new brand identity.



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work-study aid.

“I feel that with the working limits along with the extensive taxes on our wages, we don’t end up earning as much as we are ‘awarded’ in our financial aid packages,” Minhas said.

Johnson clarified that Minhas’ claim has volume to it as, after tax, students cannot earn the full \$2,500.

“It does state in financial aid packages that student work-study must be earned by the student but I do think it’s a good idea also to include a statement which tells students that they will be taxed on that part of the package and not earn the full stated amount,” Johnson said.

Johnson added that the college and the government both contribute to the funds that facilitate the federal work-study program on campus.

“We do not want to send the message that Allegheny is not being proactive and initiating more changes to student employment,” Johnson said. “Federal work-study is funded simultaneously by the school and by the federal government and so we must make decisions together.”

Johnson hopes that these changes, and future changes, will compel students to seek employment on campus and learn valuable life skills in doing so.

“The biggest value in student-employment is that students earn a living in a setting where they are students first,” Johnson said. “We want students to learn invaluable time management skills and how to prioritize their different involvements in college.”

Johnson also emphasized that students should reach out to either the Student Employment Office or the Financial Aid Office for any inquiries regarding student employment.

DINING *from page 1*

Kovalycsik maintained that the school administration is fully invested in the dining experience on campus and that he sees it to be one of the most important aspects of his work.

“My experience is in sports and entertainment catering, so I have a lot of experience in working directly with catering and dining services at stadiums and arenas,” Kovalycsik said. “Students will often see me eating meals on campus as I want to be getting feedback from students myself.”

Ryan Crosier, ’24, is hopeful that the changes in dining on campus will be fruitful for students.

“I had become very frustrated with the dining situation towards the end of last semester,” Crosier said. “I am excited about the changes because it makes me feel that the administration cares about the students and the community.”

Crosier also believes that ample time and patience are needed before judgments can be made on the new dining experience.

“I think it would be unfair for students to have one or two meals at Brooks or McKinley’s and make their mind up ... that would be biased,” Crosier said. “I think Aramark needs at least one whole semester, if not a year, to get used to our tastes and us to their service.”

Kovalycsik echoed Crosier’s sentiments.

“People also need to understand that we plan to have a long-term partnership with Aramark and so we must give them time to prove their quality which I believe they most certainly will,”

Kovalycsik said. “Nobody likes making changes to something as significant as dining services regularly so we are hopeful that Aramark will be able to fulfill our vision and stay with us for the foreseeable future.”

Dawit Kahesay, ’24, said he has already seen improvements in the dining experience at Allegheny.

“I’ve been on campus for a while now due to Resident Advisor training and I have to admit that the food quality has improved,” Kahesay said. “McKinley’s is a more attractive area and has many exciting food options,”

Kahesay added that certain improvements can still be made, specifically in regards to the pricing and overall quality in some locations

“I think the amount of money charged, for example for a Donburi bowl, is not proportionate to the serving size,” Kahesay said. “Brooks’ food has been better but it hasn’t been consistent enough. I do believe that the potential for the food at Brooks is promising.”

Kovalycsik added that students can expect more changes related to dining services in the near and considerable future.

“We want things to change gradually and overtime but effectively at the same time,” Kovalycsik said. “So we plan to introduce small changes consistently with an ambition to highly consider community feedback,”

Kovalycsik revealed that the school is also focusing on increasing community involvement in decision-making when it comes to topics of interest such as dining services.

“We are going to make dining committees more inclusive and wide-ranging along with introducing community scale surveys,” Kovalycsik said. “There will also be suggestion boards present in both dining areas along with managers who will be constantly on the lookout for feedback.”

Kovalycsik said he understands the frustrations that can arise from poor quality of dining services as a student in college. He added that dining is at the core of not only a fulfilling college experience but also integral to every other aspect of life.

“We want students to wake up every day and want to eat their meals rather than needing to eat their meals,” Kovalycsik said. “We want dining to be an attraction for existing and prospective students.”

—KEVIN KOVALYCSIK
Chief of Staff
Allegheny College

LINK *from page 1*

of other prominent organizations,” Tysiachney wrote. “These director positions typically involve a few meetings per year and other commitments that do not have a significant impact on her responsibilities as Allegheny president.”

A position on Highmark’s Board of Directors is not something that Link sought out, but was rather sought for, she explained. Link still went through a months-long interview process before her appointment.

Both Tysiachney and Highmark’s release echoed the sentiment that Link’s background in education was heavily sought after as Highmark selected its new board members. Highmark had a number of criteria when searching for their new board member, specifically someone from Northwestern PA and a woman to offset the male-dominated field, according to Link. Her background in education provided her an external lens with which to reexamine the Highmark systems.

“Highmark’s an interesting company (because) they’re really a hybrid between (a) hospital system and insurance and lots of other other businesses,” Link said. “The more that I’ve spoken with them, the more we’ve actually realized there are really interesting parallels between higher education and health care in this particular moment especially. Even though Allegheny College is a much smaller entity than Highmark, we are, for a small institution, a really complex business.”

Link explained that the structure of both institutions is very similar, with the primary product or service being fully controlled by a separate party — faculty or doctors.

“Then you’ve got the CEO trying to balance (everything),” Link said. “You’ve got students who are maybe like the patients. You’ve got families involved. You’ve got local communities that you’re serving. You’ve got governmental agencies.”

While Link is excited for everything she can bring to Highmark, she’s equally excited for the opportunities these new connections will present to Allegheny students. With Allegheny’s large base of pre-med students, Link hopes that many internship and career opportunities, and also more connections with master’s programs in Pittsburgh will become much more accessible through Highmark.

“The other day, as I was walking across campus, one of our students actually came up to me and said, ‘I read about your appointment on the Highmark board. I’m really interested in Highmark as a company. Is that ever something you think might be possible for an internship?’ and I was so excited because that is also a piece of this.”

As Link begins her term, she looks forward to all these paths for the college, its students, and also her own growth.

“It’ll be a huge learning experience to learn how another really complicated business model functions as we are constantly trying to figure out ... how to make Allegheny’s model not just viable, but thriving into the future,” Link said.

ASG *from page 1*

Dean for Institutional Diversity Kristin Dukes left in May, Assistant Professor of Psychology Lupita Gonzalez left at the end of last academic year, Director of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and Social Justice Center Darnell Tucker left in early July, and Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Tevis Bryant resigned on Aug. 23.

“I know specifically — because I’ve talked to two of those four — that two of the four left because of discrimination issues and alluded that a third had also left because of discrimination,” Green said. “So there is an issue on this campus — specifically at the higher levels — of discrimination against BIPOC and members of the LGBTQ+ community. As ASG president, that is at the top of the meeting list with President Link next week.”

After the meeting, Valentin said that these allegations have two sides, and that just hearing from one group does not tell the full story.

“I feel like I can only know the truth and corroborate the things that are being told to me by figuring out who does have the other side of these stories and figuring out what the facts are,” Valentin said. “Is that my responsibility and is that my place? No. But that is my plan. So can I corroborate it as fact? No, but I am trying to figure out what other conversations need to be had so I can get a clear picture of what actually happened.”

Valetin added that specific incidents she’s aware of have happened over the last week and a half, though she feels that discrimination has been taking place against faculty last semester.

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“The students have known,” Valentin said. “I feel like just now that more administrators are leaving, we’re taking a little bit more notice.”

While she said her goal is not to “call certain people out,” Valentin wants to keep speaking publicly about the allegations.

“In the (ASG presidential) campaign last year, something that we stressed was transparency, and in my role (as DEI director) that is something that I am intending to continue,” Valentin said. “In having these conversations about discrimination amongst faculty, my intention is to bring a little bit of pressure, because without that, there will be no change.”

She also told students to speak out if they had concerns about the departures of faculty or staff.

“As far as the students are concerned, I would encourage students to apply that pressure as well, because at the end of the day, these students do have close relationships with these faculty who are leaving,” Valentin said. “That does bring a certain level of distrust and a level of miscommunication between students and the administration.”

Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington, who attended the assembly alongside Interim Dean of Students Trae Yeckley, said he did not expect the constituent question or its response.

“I’m not disputing what Jaelyn said,” Binnington said. “I don’t have enough information to make a substantive comment on that.”

ASG Senators also unanimously approved a new set of financial guidelines. Under the

new guidelines, any off-campus trips and conferences and all events costing over \$4,000 are not included in a club’s budget, and funding for them must come through a financial request.

“That doesn’t mean you’re not getting the money,” ASG Vice-President Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23, told representatives from the college’s chapter of the United State Institute for Theatre Technology, who attended the meeting to ask about their funding. “That just means that you have to come through with the request later on in order to get that approval for it just because we don’t have the funding to be able to make those allocations so early on in the year.”

If ASG approves funds to be used for a trip, conference, or large event, the organization requesting the money will be required to provide 30% of the trip or event’s budget through fundraising or member contributions. The remaining 70% would be provided by ASG.

The new policy comes amid uncertainty in the exact size of ASG’s budget for the upcoming year. The body has two primary sources of income: the \$290 “Student Activities Fee” charged to all full-time students and surplus funds from the previous year.

Last year, the Student Activities Fee brought in between \$433,000 and \$456,000 in revenue for ASG, and, according to minutes from the first ASG GA of last academic year, unused funds from the year prior added around \$531,000 to the 2021-22 operating budget, bringing the total to between \$964,000 and \$987,000.

However, enrollment has

shrunk since this time last year; in the fall of 2021, 1,575 students attended Allegheny. This fall, that number is estimated to be around 1,300, and the drop in students means a drop in revenue. Green said that the current administration is expecting around \$380,000 in revenue from the Student Activities Fee, and the rollover from last year’s budget has not yet been communicated to ASG by the college’s Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration, Linda Wetsell.

“If we stuck with the financial policies of last year, we would have to say no to everything besides t-shirts and graduation stoles,” Green said.

Green also announced that the Loop — a free shuttle from Allegheny’s campus to stores in Meadville, including Walmart, Giant Eagle and The Movies at Meadville — would be discontinued.

“We do have CATA buses that run through campus regularly,” Green said. “We will be sharing the schedule of the CATA buses, but the Loop is no more.”

ASG General Assembly’s next meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the Campus Center. Green expects to conduct a second round of voting on a pair of constitutional amendments, appoint senators to fill the eight empty Senatorial seats for the classes of 2024 and 2023, and vote on appointees to key cabinet positions, which remain unfilled after their nominees were voted down in the final GA of last semester.

THE CAMPUS

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

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 26, 2022 Burglary Robertson Complex	August 27, 2022 Theft College-owned House	August 28, 2022 Disorderly Conduct Murray Hall	September 1, 2022 Criminal Mischief Delta Tau Delta
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===== 'Allegheny has entered an age of chaos' =====

Editor reflects on the new semester's staffing changes and challenges

By **ROMAN HLADIO**

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On Tuesday, August 23, Allegheny College President Hilary Link announced via email to the campus community that Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students Tevis Bryant had resigned from his position. Bryant took up the role when April Thompson resigned on Feb. 28, and his brief tenure is now archived in our Allegheny inboxes under yet another “Staffing Update” subject line.

In an op-ed I published earlier this summer, I questioned whether the new restructuring of offices planned out in Link’s “Renaissance Vision” were actually “synergies” — as she referred to them in earlier reporting. A “synergy” at Allegheny College is no longer something that helps students, it is something that places unnecessary pressure on those who support students.

The email announcing Bryant’s departure listed each department under management of the Dean of Students: Class Deans, the IDEAS center, Residence Life and Spiritual and Religious Life. Many of these offices were moved to the Dean of Students’ portfolio through Link’s plan, and others were placed there after Link and her administration created her plan.

Sure, one could argue that all of these offices fall under the umbrella of “Student Life,” but with so many staffing changes and so many positions unfilled, it looks as though the college is providing the illusion of progress. That is, administrators have found a way to make everything look tidy on paper even though the internal structure is still deeply flawed. For example, the Director of Spiritual and Religious Life, Jane Ellen Nickell — who ran SRL in its entirety when I began at Allegheny in 2019 — retired in 2021, and the position has remained unfilled until recently when Assistant Professor of Arabic Sami Alkayam assumed the role.

Here is the crux: Allegheny has a corporate crunch problem, and it’s gotten to the point where everyone — students, staff and faculty — is affected.

Often, especially near the beginning of the semester, I tell my writers that when an article doesn’t get written, the work doesn’t go away, it just falls on someone else. Now, as more and more professors and administrators leave, those remaining are asked to fill empty roles as requests for more employees either drag on or are ignored. I can feel this strain. In fact, I think more students have noticed the gaps than administrators care to admit.

The completion of my Journalism minor was delayed semester after semester as I patiently waited for a political science or English professor to cram the required courses one by one into their already-packed schedules. At this moment, I have completed all the requirements for my major — 48 credits across a number of courses varying in topic and skill level — yet my 20 credit minor remains unfinished. I’m not even sure I’ll be able to finish without negotiating with the registrar as the only professor who teaches the capstone course is retiring. This is a program with only one full-time faculty member, held together by an ecumenical group of professors.

Allegheny has entered an age of chaos where the only thing that matters to administrators is a bottom line that is appealing on paper. Another full-time professor for any department might solve the lack of labor, but it’s better for the college’s financial situation if someone on the tenure track can fulfill the duties of two people across two departments for half the price. Sure, we’re saving money right now, but if this brain drain keeps up, we’ll run out of faculty and staff long before we burn through the donor dollars.

How can we achieve holistic student success and create solid touchpoints for lost students when all those touchpoints

change semester by semester? How can we promote inclusive excellence when so many women, LGBT+ individuals and Black, Indigenous and People of Color staff and faculty members are leaving? How can we make the best Allegheny experience, the typical liberal arts experience Allegheny advertises, when so many of those who directly create that experience feel like they don’t belong here?

There is a simple answer: we can’t. Allegheny is currently careening toward Link’s “pillars of success” in such a reckless way that by the time we achieve them, there will be no Allegheny left. If the goal is to create solid points of contact for students, then the first step should have been to provide staff and faculty with strict, well-thought-out duties and descriptions for their positions. Their job should be one job, and they should be able to do it well. A liberal arts school should provide students an all-encompassing education, not requiring individuals to fill multiple roles, often working outside their area of exper-

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Holistic student success is not telling a student to attend class or else. It is asking a student what is stopping them from attending class, carefully listening to understand their issues and amending them..”

—ROMAN HLADIO
Class of 2023

===== Growth mindset is unhealthy =====

Sometimes you cannot fake it 'til you make it

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**

Opinion Editor

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You can be anything you want to be. Good vibes only. Think lovely thoughts. Fake it ‘til you make it. Radiate positivity. You can always do better.

Online platforms abound with catchy mantras designed to motivate and inspire. They’re tinged with a fiercely positive, borderline manic attitude of capital-S “Success” above all else and the unlimited power of growth mindset as a lifestyle. All of it holds up to a certain degree, but there’s a limit to everything, positivity included. So, what happens when you meet that ceiling?

I spent the summer trying to bring myself back from the brink after a very difficult six months. In between all of my attempts to get better – therapy, meditating, medication, working and resting – I was trying to glean any comfort I could from the world’s favorite toxic trash heap: the internet, which advised me that I simply had the wrong

mindset. Silly me, if only I had known it was that simple! Pinterest reminded me to be positive and always grow, grow, grow. It told me that I can change anything about myself if I put my mind to it. For some people, I’m sure this statement is the ultimate comfort. I, however, found it incredibly disheartening.

Psychologist Carol Dweck proposed the terms “growth mindset” and “fixed mindset” and popularized them in her 2006 book “Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.” Essentially, a fixed mindset is an attitude in which a person believes that they are unchangeable.

A failure is a failure and frustration is a sign to give up. Meanwhile, a growth mindset is the opposite — an attitude that promotes learning from failure, tackling challenges with vigor and fearlessly trying new things.

The fact of the matter is that growth and fixed mindset are not as mutually exclusive as we would like to believe. Rather than two sides of a coin, they are two ends of a spectrum. A healthy approach to life exists somewhere in the

middle. We hear so much about how terrible a fixed mindset is — how it creates stagnant, stubborn people — but there is something wonderful to be said about accepting yourself for who you are, especially after years of trying to change yourself in the name of growth.

It takes a lot of courage — and, arguably, growth — to admit that there are some things you cannot change through sheer force of willpower, that the fixed parts of life aren’t so terrible after all.

“

It takes a lot of courage — and, arguably, growth — to admit that there are some things you cannot change through sheer force of willpower, that the fixed parts of life aren’t so terrible after all.”

—SYDNEY EMERSON
Class of 2023

Here is a more extreme example from my life: depression. This is a chronic condition. Even with therapy, medica-

tion, and the power of positive thinking, there will still be days when I struggle terribly. Does this mean that I have not attempted to grow? That I have not tried my hardest to have a good life despite my illness? Surely not. There is no use, in this case, feeling guilty or frustrated that I cannot change. For years, though, I did. I wondered why I couldn’t muscle through my low moods, why I fell victim to my nature time and time again. I felt like a bad person for being unable to grow. I wanted myself to change so badly, and when I couldn’t, I hated myself all the more for it. The most empowering choice for me was not to grow, but rather to adopt a fixed mindset — to accept the parts of me that cannot change and work with them as begrudging partners.

The dogged insistence on growth that I found plastered across the internet is dangerous. It feeds directly into a culture of ceaseless climbing, the endless pursuit of betterment. See, you can be anybody you want if you’re willing to sacrifice enough of yourself. For a

tise, all for the sake of the bottom line. Upper-level administrators must acknowledge that hosting Class Gatherings to scold students for not making use of all the college’s systems is entirely disrespectful to both the students, who are effectively their customer base, and the faculty and staff who have been shuffled around from year to year — especially when these administrators are the ones who broke down all of those systems in the first place. Holistic student success is not telling a student to attend class or else. It is asking a student what is stopping them from attending class, carefully listening to understand their issues and amending them.

I love Allegheny College. I know a lot of people do. But, I am also at a point in my career here where the connections I have made far outweigh the assignments and grades. Once my class graduates, I’m sure less and less of them will look back as fondly, and the tight Allegheny community — the thing that makes this place so special — will fall away with them.

long time, I thought that was the way that everybody lived — with enough willpower to ignore their true disposition, their true instincts, and instead become infallible. I thought that life was a ladder to climb and that the prize at the end was perfection. But, at the end of the day, faking it ‘til you make it just leaves you hollow. The person who has succeeded, who has attained perfection or status, is not you. It is somebody else. There is no glory in that.

A fixed mindset — not a stubborn surrender, but instead a cathartic acceptance — is sometimes the only path forward. It is not a fool’s approach to life, nor is it an outdated school of thought. It is an empowering thought to accept the parts of you that, try as you might, you can never change. When you start celebrating that which you used to despise, you will be surprised how good it feels. I am what I am; I can pretend otherwise, I can try to contort myself into new shapes, but I will always spring back, fixed into myself. Maybe that’s not such a bad thing after all.

URSCA students wrap on summer research

By **LOTTIE MATEYAK**
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Campus was abuzz this past summer with students participating in the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities program at Allegheny. The URSCA program was created to offer unique and individual research opportunities to undergraduate students before reaching the graduate level.

URSCA was originally founded in 2008 by Emeritus Professor of Biology Lee Coates. Associate Professor of Biology Matthew Venesky took up the role in January following the departure of his predecessor, Associate Professor of Neuroscience Aimee Knupsky.

This summer, around 70 students participated in research projects ranging four to eight weeks in length.

“We had a smaller group than in previous years, but for a lot of reasons I think that was good,” said Venesky. “It led to a really intimate experience between faculty and students, and also students and students.”

Students work on a wide range of research, including projects based in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

“This isn’t typical research you would see of a first year going into second year,” said Hunter Goerman, ’25, a participant in the program.

Goerman’s project, done in collaboration with Ray Cola-

bawalla, ’25, worked to highlight the natural ecotourist attractions present in Western Pennsylvania, as well as the local hotspots and attractions.

“This is a very large collaborative project that we’re working on, that most people don’t get the opportunity to do,” Goerman said.

The work consisted largely of traveling to the nine different counties that make up the “Glacier’s Edge,” a term used to describe much of Western Pennsylvania.

“I am an international student, and I’ve seen a fair bit of the U.S., but I have not seen a fair bit of Pennsylvania,” said Colabawalla. “This project has allowed me to see firsthand a lot of what Northwestern PA is really about.”



Photo contributed by Matthew Venesky

A student presents their research at an ACRoS panel over the summer. Presentations were open to the campus community, and complimentary lunch was provided.

Their work was done under the advisory of Professor of Communication, Film and Theatre Ishita Sinha Roy, as well as Michael Williams, director of community engaged learning and research.

According to Sinha Roy, Goerman and Colabawalla’s work contributed to a larger regional effort to highlight natural assets and local communities.

“This initiative is really thinking about how we could combine environmental sustainability with economic initiatives that would attract ecotourism and support local initiatives,” said Sinha Roy.

Students participating in the URSCA program are able to get hands-on experience, not just in a lab, but out in communities.

“I feel like it kind of puts our names out there but it also puts Allegheny College’s name out

there,” said Colabawalla. “What we’ve got from this URSCA experience is a wholly different understanding of Pennsylvania, and we’ve also got the opportunity to work very closely with our community partners.”

While URSCA project goals are primarily directed by students, there are often existing projects that advisors bring students on to help complete. Projects are sometimes years in the making, with multiple students contributing to them.

“The experience isn’t over yet,” said Colabawalla. “We have a long way to go.”

Dawson Thomas, ’23, spent their summer URSCA experience making a documentary for the Railroad Depot Museum in Downtown Meadville.

“I learned how to take my practices from Allegheny in my film classes and try to put forth a meaningful project for people

to see, publicly,” Thomas said.

For many students, including Thomas, the URSCA program provides support — primarily financial — so they have the space to focus on their work.

“Their funding helped me be able to sustain myself over the summer and put all of my efforts into this project,” said Thomas. “It was very helpful in allowing me to have the creative liberty to put together something for the community”

Students interested in the URSCA summer program are invited to reach out to professors and faculty to discuss possible projects.

“Most students don’t realize that they can ask any faculty to work on a project with them, it doesn’t have to be from their major,” Sinha Roy said. “It’s not the one-shoe-fits-all model, and I really appreciate that. It allows enough room for different faculty and students to work on different types of projects.”

All students are invited to apply for the URSCA program, across all ages and disciplines. Sinha Roy explained that she often seeks out students who have not previously had the opportunity to perform independent research, much with the spirit of the program itself.

“Go and have that conversation,” Sinha Roy continued. “You’d be surprised at how you can be the star of your own show.”

Students participating in URSCA are also taught how

“Go and have that conversation. You’d be surprised at how you can be the star of your own show.”

—ISHITA SINHA ROY
Professor of Communication,
Film and Theatre
Allegheny College

to communicate their project with peers both in and outside of their discipline. The Allegheny College Research Seminar Series, held weekly over the summer, gives students the opportunity to present their projects’ progress or findings over a complimentary lunch.

“We get an opportunity to build some community, conversing with students or faculty that you may not typically converse with during the academic year,” Venesky said.

Students are also encouraged to participate or tune in to Venesky’s upcoming Gator TAILS —Talking About Inquiry, Learning and Scholarship — podcast, where he plans to interview summer research students on their experience and the work they completed. The podcast will be available to the public beginning sometime this semester.

Venesky encouraged students interested in joining the URSCA program to reach out to him.

“I am available to talk with students on a very regular basis,” he said.

Allegheny joins NWPA sustainable innovation network

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Allegheny College announced in a press release on Monday, Aug. 22, that it joined the Northwest Pennsylvania Innovation Beehive network with the Allegheny Center for Sustainable Development.

The Beehive network centers around innovating and encouraging entrepreneurship through institutions. According to the NWPA Beehive Network website, the centers connected to institutions exist to benefit the outside community as well as those part of the universities. Combining students and outside businesses, the Beehive Network is able to enhance student experiences and boost economic growth in the Northwest Pennsylvania area.

Every institution involved with the Beehive Network has a different center relating to that university’s needs and goals. The Beehive includes the Idea Lab at the Erie County Public Library, the Center for Business Ingenuity at Gannon University, the Innovation Entente Lab at Mercyhurst University, the Innovation Commons at Penn State Behrend and the Center for Branding and Strategic Communication at Edinboro University.

At Allegheny College, the Center for Sustainable Development combines the Beehive Network goal to increase entrepreneurship and innovation with the college’s sustainability goals. Students will be able to use innovative thinking to build sustainable solutions. According to the press release, the center will operate collaboratively with the Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity and other programs focused around sustainability.

Allegheny Director of Academic Innovation Partnerships Byron Rich explained how sustainability goals and innovation will progress through the Allegheny Center for Sustainable Development.

“Sustainability is about acknowledging that we live in a capitalist society and the ways in which we can build products and services that aren’t that detrimental to ecological systems,” Rich said. “Meadville doesn’t have a lot of startup culture at the moment because it’s a much smaller community. We are try-

ing to foster that sense of possibility within this community.”

Director of the Innovation Entente Lab at Mercyhurst University Abbey Lesniewski described how Innovation Entente Lab has made a difference for entrepreneurs in her community.

“Essentially what we do is competitive market research so we look at competitors within the industry with the client and evaluate what they have done successfully and what they’ve failed at,” Lesniewski said. “The small business can use those successes and failures as something to benefit them and not lose money on advertising in a way that won’t be effective.”

Centers that are a part of the Beehive Network have seen growth in entrepreneurial attitudes and collaboration.

Jacob Marsh, industry relations coordinator at Penn State Behrend, described the growth he has witnessed in his area partially as a result of the Beehive Network.



We are trying to foster that sense of possibility within this community.”

—BYRON RICH
Director of Academic Innovation Partnerships,
Allegheny College



Photo courtesy of NWPA Innovation Beehive Network
The logo of NWPA Innovation Beehive Network.

“Entrepreneurial cultures are hard to build and they are hard to build in a way that’s really effective,” Marsh said. “What we have been doing in Erie is trying to be a part of building that ecosystem and try to drive that. What we have seen, and we are not entirely responsible for this, is a growth of that ecosystem to one where entrepreneurs are helping each other instead of working alone.”

Although Allegheny’s Center for Sustainable Development has just been established, businesses have started to reach out. Because the center is new, each client will have different needs where students in the Environmental Science program will be able to assist.

“Every client will have different needs,” Rich said. “Some businesses will want to build energy sustainability into their business and others will be interested in a sustainable supply chain so that will take on a different set of students and professors to oversee that research.”

Rich explained that the work students involved with the center will be doing will mainly be based around research under the direction of faculty.

According to Marsh, organizations that had not worked together in the past started collaborating through centers in the Beehive Network. As a result, the businesses have been able to have a bigger effect through their services.

In order for the Beehive to continue being successful, they actively pursue economic development grants and investments.

“We have had money from the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (and) funds from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Federal Economic Development Administration,” Marsh said. “Universities have invested in this as well so we have skin in the game.”

Director of Entrepreneurial Operations at Gannon University Brad Gleason added that a big part of the economic growth for the Beehive Network is making sure the start-ups are supported so that they can start to make revenue.

“Our goal has always been to collaborate, refer, keep the customers interested in getting to market because eventually they pay taxes, hire employees and they give back to the economy,” Gleason said.

The Beehive seeks to boost economic growth and entrepreneurship through universities and collaborations throughout Northwest Pennsylvania.

“The knowledge power universities have is enormous and we want to share that with the communities that surround us because we care about them and Allegheny is no different,” Marsh said.

Back to campus

By **KAI MARIES**
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Have a laugh, Gator

With **ROMAN HLADIO** and **SARAH BRAMMELL**
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In 1947, a New Jersey man checked out a copy of “Hitler” from the James J. Ferris High School branch of the Jersey City Free Public Library. The same man, Bob Jablonski, found the book while cleaning his home 75 years after checking out the book, though it was still unclear whether he had finished reading it. The most shocking turn: New Jersey residents apparently still have the ability to read.

Joseph Henney, 69, of Jonestown, PA, found comfort in an unusual emotional support animal: a 7-year-old alligator named WallyGator. WallyGator and Henney do a little bit of everything, from watching TV together to visiting the local retirement home. WallyGator also has his very own leash and harness, and he loves to go on walks. This runs contrary to Allegheny’s recent announcement on emotional support animals, who they believe should remain in students’ dorms at all times. As of yet, Henney has not been asked

to cease and desist in exercising his gator in public areas or on any college campuses.

More than 150,000 tomatoes spilled on California’s Interstate 80 after a collision on the highway. Three motorists suffered minor injuries and another suffered a broken leg. Thankfully, no casualties were caused by the biblical tidal wave of red juices. However, multiple children in cars on the road-way have reported a new, deep-seeded fear of Veggie Tales. In other news, Brooks Dining Hall has had to cancel its first annual Tomato Soup Appreciation Day due to a sudden issue with the supply chain.

After two years off due to COVID-19, Rossendale, Lancashire residents are once again presented with the opportunity to wrestle their neighbors in a vat of gravy. Participants are scored based on how fancy they dress, their entertainment value in the gravy and their wrestling ability. Personally, I’d add categories for how well they hid their public intoxication and how long they continued finding gravy in all those nooks and crannies. It is unclear whether the number of drinks purchased offsets the

George Yancy talks philosophy, race, upcoming Allegheny visit

By **MO MANSOUR**
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When George Yancy was a teenager, he wanted to be a pilot. He took his fascination with the profession and went to an encyclopedia to learn more about piloting and planes. In his search he came across the word “philosophy” which literally means “love of wisdom.” When he looked deeper, he realized that philosophy was a practice that he had already been engaging with intellectually since young childhood, asking questions in the abstract.

Yancy decided when he went to the University of Pittsburgh that this would be his field of study, and as he learned more and entered further into academia, he realized that the questions he could be asking and the issues he could be facing were not only abstract, but could have real consequences in the world.

Yancy attributes his transition from studying the issues presented by the philosophers of old to studying the philosophical issues of race to the first hand experiences he had growing up Black in “the inner city ghettos of America.”

“I came to realize that there is something more at stake philosophically for me than, let’s say, abstract ideas,” Yancy said.

According to Yancy, the problems presented in the philosophy he was studying were “not as concrete, and they didn’t speak to me of who I was in a deeper sense in terms of my racialized identity as Black. So once that consciousness took a hold of me, then it was at that moment

that pretty much my entire philosophical passions were directed toward a more social-justice oriented, anti-hegemonic direction.”

Yancy has spent the summer working on a book that he continues to work on as he visits Allegheny’s campus, where he will be co-teaching Philosophy 290: Whiteness and the Conceptualization of Race with Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies Bill Bywater. Yancy will teach the class on Mondays and Bywater will teach on Wednesdays. Yancy will also sit in on Monday sessions of a Community Justice Group Study, as well as engage in a series of lectures with the campus community, the first being at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 5, in the Tillotson Room.

The overall goal of his visit, in Yancy’s words, is to “engage in courageous conversations.”

Courageous conversations, to Yancy, means conversations that challenge all participants, conversations that address the tough questions to be concise.

In 2015, Yancy authored a letter published in the New York Times philoso-

phy column, “The Stone,” titled “Dear White America.” The letter garnered backlash from several individuals and groups on the right, landing him on “Professor Watchlist” — a website run by conservative nonprofit Turning Point USA. This led to a follow up by Yancy titled “I am a Dangerous Professor.”

Yancy thinks of his own work as following in the steps of great philosophers like Socrates, essentially functioning as a gadfly by asking the public critical questions.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to Yancy not visiting Allegheny since 2019 despite having a long history of interaction with the college. Since then, there have been nationwide protests and greater public conversations focused on racism and anti-blackness in America, and Yancy stated that while he is not optimistic for the future of “the delicate experiment that is American democracy.”

“(My) projection (for) the future is that we have not seen the full terror ... of what white supremacy and what forms of xenophobia will do,” Yancy said. “We’re still waiting to see what that’s like and I am not optimistic at all.”

Though Yancy believes that there is not much optimism to be had, he holds onto a different word — hope.

“I prefer to use the term hope, because optimism suggests an extrapolation from past instances of what’s positive,” Yancy said. “Hope stares in the face of the almost impossible or perhaps even the impossible, and says ‘I will continue to fight,’ even if it’s impossible.”

Yancy’s ideas of hope are partially what bring him to Allegheny, his view being that hope is what allows for the teaching of “anti-racism and critical whiteness.” While Allegheny is a Primarily White Institution, Yancy believes it is hope that will be the door to increasing a critical understanding of race and its place in the world and in the United States that continues to bring him here and elsewhere to teach.

“Since I’ve been coming to Allegheny, I have found that the studenw at Allegheny are exceptionally bright,” Yancy said. “The times that I’ve been there they have engaged me, challenged me, and it’s just been a wonderful dialogical exchange where all of us grow.”

ADVERTISEMENT

Fall 2022, Visiting Scholar George Yancy on Campus

George Yancy is the Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Philosophy at Emory University; he is a prolific public intellectual and a prominent philosopher.

Professor Yancy will arrive on campus each Monday this fall to visit classes and engage with the campus. Allegheny students are invited to join his class, Philosophy 290, Whiteness and the Concept of Race, Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12:15.

Professor Yancy’s visit is sponsored by the Bill Bywater fund for social justice programming. Scan the QR code below for his schedule ↓



Sign up! Clubs, SLI talk fall Involvement Fair

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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With the start of a new semester comes new classes — and new extracurriculars. There are few opportunities more ideal or more concentrated for choosing new clubs and organizations than the annual Involvement Fair.

This year, the fair took place on Thursday, September 1, from 5-7 p.m. on the Gator Quad. Allegheny’s more-than-100 student organizations and clubs set up tables advertising what they had to offer, collecting names and email addresses from interested students who stopped by. Students could walk away with not only new knowledge on each club’s purpose, but also a plethora of stickers, flags and pins.

Allegheny has several “big” happenings during each academic year. The college is not without its major events, most notably Springfest, that bring big crowds. But according to Gloria Burgess, student life coordinator for student programming, the Involvement Fair is a uniquely major event — there are very few students who sit this one out.

“It’s honestly one of the only times that we’re able to have a majority of the students in one area,” Burgess said.

The responsibility of coordinating the Involvement Fair rests with the Student Leadership and Involvement department. Preparation for the event includes sending registration forms to all of the clubs that have re-registered for the fall semester, ensuring that refreshments are available when students are exploring Allegheny’s extracurriculars, and setting up the tables so that clubs can hang their banners.

Said banners are not an insignificant part of Allegheny Outing Club’s preparation process.

“We have to make a poster ... which has the intention of drawing people in,” said Molly Todd, ’23, president of the Outing Club. “Last year we had a little gator and a ... hiking boot.”

Todd added that reaching out to other Outing Club leaders to get them to table at the fair, and setting out gear that will entice students to stop by, are other aspects of the process.

Prior to the involvement fair the Student Experimental Theatre’s executive board convenes to discuss the events on this semester’s docket.

“We figure out if we want any promotional materials on the table, and we figure out who we want to be there to represent the club,” said SET Vice President Sarah Brammell, ’23 added.

Leading up to the fair, SET also organized its annual all-day theatre fest on Saturday, August 27. Both teams and

single participants were invited to register and challenged to create a short play and evening performance in one day.

If students did not test their theatre chops at this fest during their first year at Allegheny, SET encourages them to do it in coming years. It acts as a preview of sorts to what SET is as a club.

“We want people to ... meet and have a time to get to know other people who are into theatre, especially since it’s the first weekend of college — it can be daunting,” Brammell explained. “So we want to make sure that people are aware that they have these events to get to know people.”

Changes with Allegheny Student Government club budgeting means that the Outing Club may have to alter some things internally this year, while still being able to promote activities that get students out into nature.

“We might have to broadcast the club a little bit differently,” Todd said. “Sometimes (outings) may come at a little bit more of a cost than (they) did previously. However, it’s still completely manageable ... and it should be just as accessible as it used to be.”

The past few years, the Outing Club has been limited in terms of its offerings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Breakouts of positive cases meant activity restrictions. But Todd hopes that this year, with regulations loosening, the club will be less inhibited in its possibilities and thus be able to advertise new outdoor opportunities.

SET has also experienced setbacks due to the pandemic, Brammell said. Being an experimental theatre group, it has been difficult amid COVID-19 to put on events other than short plays. With this academic year’s return to a new normal of sorts, Brammell said that “we’re trying to have more exciting things to market to get people involved in.”

This spring marks the second year that SLI is organizing a winter Involvement Fair, named so because Meadville has been known to receive snow in the early spring months. Students and faculty had reached out initially because of the popularity of the fall Involvement Fair, Burgess explained, hoping to replicate the large crowd that this event brings. The success of this latter fair has led the department to want to try it again.

“It went a lot better than we had imagined it going, for a spring involvement fair, so we’re hoping to incorporate that into the future (fairs),” Burgess said. “I know the students enjoy being involved and having the opportunities to connect.”

Another reason behind hosting the Involvement Fair in the spring semester was to reflect students’ changing interests. What students had signed up for in the fall might

not appeal to them anymore, so they may want to explore other clubs and organizations.

“People grow, and their ideas change, and what they want to be involved in (changes),” Burgess said.

One thing different at this Involvement Fair that has not been seen at fairs past, with the exception of the spring edition, is the inclusion of departments as well as extracurriculars. Burgess explained that sometimes a student does not want to get involved in a club, so having academic departments present provides extra opportunities.

Ensuring a successful Involvement Fair starts with the students, Burgess explained, and the promotion that they do for their clubs. Otherwise students would find empty tables set up on the Gator Quad.

Club leaders are cognizant of their role in the fair’s ability to run smoothly. Due to the enthusiasm they have for the event and their respective organizations, though, their efforts oftentimes come naturally.

Todd enjoys bringing new students into the Outing Club and getting them to register.

“The Involvement Fair is one of my favorite things to do as a club,” Todd said. “You get to interact with so many new people.”

Brammell echoed a similar sentiment about the fair, an event that they said is “very special and exciting.”

“It’s a time where I get to meet new students who I will likely be working with in the future with SET if they’re interested in theatre in any aspect,” Brammell said. “I’ve connected with some really great people that have done work with us at the involvement fair.”

Although, as indicated by its name, the involvement fair is partially designed for students to join clubs, Burgess said that the social aspect — students mingling, getting passionate about shared interests — is equally important.

“Especially for first year students, when they come to an event like that, it can be overwhelming because there are so many people, and so for the students who are not involved and sitting at a table and registering people, we hope that they’re able to just meet a new face,” Burgess said.

Both Brammell and Todd are aware of and appreciate the social side of the involvement fair.

“It’s just always a good opportunity to see new faces and get acclimated to who might be involved in our productions in the future,” Brammell said.

“A lot of people will come looking for us,” Todd said. “It’s a lot of fun to just talk with likeminded people about a thing that I really enjoy and getting people to come and join us on our trips.”



ANNALIESE STONE/THE CAMPUS

A student signs up for the Skating Club during the Involvement Fair on Thursday, Sept. 1.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Elizabeth Dolan, ’23, of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, keeps her eye on the ball as she holds a miniature basketball hoop for FCA’s booth.



ANNALIESE STONE/THE CAMPUS

A view of the fair just before it began from the Henderson Campus Center.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Another view of the Gator Quad during the Involvement Fair, from the steps of the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Henry Smith, ’26, watches the board during a chess match against Kobe Coleman, ’23 (seated) at the Chess Club’s table during the Involvement Fair.

Gators back in the PAC with new brand identity

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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For the first time in nearly four decades, the Allegheny Gators will make their return to the Presidents Athletic Conference, and with it comes a new brand identity.

“I thought that it would be a point of pride for myself and for our department,” said Brian Martone, assistant director of art and publications. “I hope it gives the Allegheny community as a whole a greater sense of pride.”

Martone was the lead designer of the rebrand project, and had been working vigorously to encapsulate the true meaning of being a Gator.

For months, Martone was in his office studying the minute details of alligator movements, as well as the aggressive nature behind the reptiles while hunting for prey. Martone also made it a point to maintain an accurate representation of the reptile anatomically, and referred to the “scales” you would see on an alligator’s back, as body armor.

Martone had always been a potential prospect for claiming this role. Since the day he

stepped foot on campus, Martone has advocated to take the reins of a rebrand project. For 11 years he waited, lurking in the depths of the swamp. When finally given approval to be the lead architect, his love for athletics and pride for the community all came out in the design, as he created a total of three canvases with dozens of variations representing each sport.

“It was my baby from the beginning,” Martone said.

While Martone provided an insightful thought process behind the design, coaches, students, alumni and other faculty and staff members of the Allegheny Community were all giving their opinions and feedback on what they thought the rebrand should represent.

“This feels like a rebirth of Allegheny athletics, coming out of a pandemic,” said Athletic Director Bill Ross.

Ross was enthused to describe the effect of using an in-house design and the impact it had on the overall quality the rebrand empowered. There are other schools that decide to choose an external firm to delineate the blueprints. However, Allegheny’s marketing department

felt very confident that they could create something more unique and in line with what the team was looking for.

The college previously experimented with a rebrand opportunity, but it was held up when the pandemic struck. The community unloaded their ammunition this year as they rallied together and completed nearly the whole project. Martone created a total of five new designs, while most notably changing the Gator mascot to look more intimidating, and the patented “A” representing the school.

“I think each (of the rebranded designs) have their place, and that’s what I like about it,” said Sean King, assistant athletic director.

King has also been working hands on with this experience from the beginning. From an athletics standpoint, it was important for him to capture a message that can instill the competitive atmosphere the Gator culture has always brought, but with more pizzazz. King described the new rebrand as “bold” and “fierce,” as a new light of Allegheny culture comes to life.

The rebrand was also important for overall competitiveness in school representa-



BRIAN MARTONE/ALLEGHENY ATHLETICS

The revamped Gator mascot designed by Brian Martone, who wanted a rebrand that would bring a “intimidating” look to the new symbol.

tion. Matthew Betush, one of two faculty athletics representatives proactively involved within the rebrand process, felt the rebrand distinctively reintroduced Allegheny into the PAC, and claimed the fresh start will provide a reenergized “Allegheny 2.0”.

“I am very excited the final product became what it was,” Betush said.

While most of the rebrand has already made its presence known, it is not yet known when the full effects will be felt. While the marketing team and administration has advertised the rebrand since the summer months before the school year started, there are still items on the agenda



BRIAN MARTONE/ALLEGHENY ATHLETICS

The new “A” representing the college. The right side’s rough edge symbolizes an alligator’s body armor.

that will take time, and more funds to cross off, including items such as the logo engraved into the turf football field.

Nevertheless, it is an overall positive atmosphere that

faculty and students are feeling on campus. Everyone is gearing up for another season of Gator Pride, as the college has made tremendous strides in their programs over the past couple of years.

Mens basketball’s head coaching position endowed

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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With a \$1 million gift, Allegheny Trustee John Sutphen, ’78, and Jaime Sutphen, ’79, have endowed the head coaching position for Allegheny’s men’s basketball team.

The donation, announced via press release last month, was made in honor of former hoops coaches Phil Ness and John Reynnders, ’75, who both took teams to the Men’s NCAA Tournament during their tenures.

The new endowment joins the more than 600 other funds that comprise the college’s total endowment of roughly \$260 million.

“Our hope is that the James H. Mullen, Jr. Arena becomes a place to reinvigorate students — a place where they can enjoy the fun of winning on cold, dark winter evenings,” Sutphen said in the Aug. 16 press release. “We also hope this investment in the student experience will help Allegheny become more distinctive as a college of choice in higher education.”

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matt Stinson said that the investment will bring prestige to the Men’s Basketball squad, while

freeing up funds from the team’s operating expenses to be used in other areas by the college.

“\$1 million dollars is a significant and meaningful investment, and we’re grateful for that,” Stinson said.

A college’s endowment consists of the institution’s investments, and the Board of Trustees determines how much the college will receive from the endowment to go to operating expenses.

According to Stinson, Allegheny aims to spend around 4.25% of its endowment every year, meaning that the Sutphens’ \$1 million gift will translate to around \$42,500 towards the head coaching position every year.

“It’s offsetting costs that were already being spent in the basketball program,” Stinson said. “It’s not like (head coach (Bob) Simmons got a raise as a result of this.”

However, Stinson explained the offset costs may not be immediately visible in the way the college operates.

“You won’t see ‘here’s \$40,000 in a project over here,’” Stinson said. “What you will start to see is some budgetary relief which allows (Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Finance and Administration Linda Wet-

sell) to escalate the time frame on some of the other things, like bathrooms in dorms ... the more funds that we can free up, the more we can reinvest in the campus.”

Stinson also said that a new endowment for an athletics program does not mean that money is being taken away from other extracurricular programs at the college.

“I’ll use the choir as an example,” Stinson said. “The choir has a fund that they have at their disposal as well. So it’s not athletics over the arts, it’s athletics and the arts. We’re not picking one or the other.”

Allegheny’s athletic programs already have two endowments, Stinson said. Funding from one focuses on maintaining the Frank B. Fuhrer Field and Robertson Athletic Complex, while the other offsets costs from a tournament for both Men’s and Women’s Basketball. Other schools within the Presidents’ Athletic Conference — which Allegheny joined in July of this year — have also established endowments for athletic purposes.

In early August of this year, Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh received an anonymous \$1.25 million donation in honor of former



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

Allegheny Trustee John Sutphen, ’78, with President Hilary Link in an April 2022 photo provided by the college.

CMU football head coach Rich Lackner. The gift established an endowment supporting diversity, equity and inclusion efforts within the school’s athletics.

The position of Athletic Director at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland is named after CWRU alumnus James Wyant, whose October 2020 gift of \$2 million established an endowment fund supporting the Ohio school’s athletics.

At Allegheny, athletic endowments are far outnumbered by funds devoted to academic programs. Stinson said that the college offers around 360 endowed scholarships, and around 140 endowments for a variety of programs from student-fac-

ulty research to Gator Success Grants — a program offering supplemental financial assistance of up to \$1,000 for students.

“We’re getting a lot of support right now for Gator Success Grants as alumni learn more about them,” Stinson said. “We have 22 endowed professorships and I imagine that in our next (fundraising) campaign, we’ll get even more.”

Stinson also said that while the Sutphens’ gift towards the head coaching position was announced and celebrated, other, more private gifts provide key funding to other forms of student support.

“I just had a lovely lunch on Friday with a family that was creating an endowed

fund to go towards Gator Success Grants in honor of their father’s 80th birthday,” Stinson said. “My team does that sort of stuff on a daily basis. So we’re always doing this. It doesn’t always get the publicity of the million dollar endowed fund, but collectively, they’re all just as important.”



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—MATT STINSON
Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Allegheny College

