

The Campus

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“A bump in the road” Masks optional as cases halved

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Less than a week after the highest COVID-19 case count on campus since the beginning of the pandemic, the Allegheny College Health Agency has once again loosened masking requirements on campus. The most recent mask mandate was put in place after more than 100 students tested positive between Monday, April 25, and Wednesday, April 27. The mandate expired on Wednesday, May 4, as announced by Gabrielle Morrow in an email to the campus community that day.

“Given the downslope in cases, the mask mandate will expire today at 5 p.m.,” Morrow wrote. “Those who would like to keep masking are encouraged to do so.”

Morrow’s email struck a positive tone; the subject line was “What a stellar community!” and congratulated students for stopping the spread of the virus.

“You have turned the recent uptick in cases into a bump in the road,” Morrow wrote. “Look at our numbers — rephrase — look at YOUR numbers.”

The numbers Morrow provided were a far cry from the peak of the outbreak a week ago. On Wednesday, April 27, 48 students tested positive; a week later, on Wednesday, May 4, 8 tested positive.

The number of active cases has also dropped; Wednesday, May 4 saw 82 active cases stood at half of the Friday, April 29, peak of 165 students.

“I think they did a really good job handling it, compared to the amount of cases we had last week,” Ethan Nychae, ’25 said. “It’s looking pretty good right now.”

Nychae was not unique in his positive attitude. Joel Pszczolkowski, ’24, thought that the amount of information being shared was enough to keep students informed.

“I think the emails are informative enough for what we need to know about COVID on campus,” Pszczolkowski said. “I don’t think they’re hiding anything from us”

One common agreement though: masks should be mandated for the rest of the semester. Pszczolkowski thought that given there are still cases on campus, it would be a good idea.

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Students rally for abortion rights Leaked opinion from Supreme Court sparks outrage



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Students carry signs during a May 5 protest in support of abortion rights on the Gator Quad. The protest was specifically in response to a Monday evening leak of a draft opinion that would overturn the decision in the 1973 Supreme Court case “Roe v. Wade,” which holds that a pregnant woman’s right to choose an abortion is constitutionally protected under the Fourteenth Amendment.

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George Yancy to teach next semester



YANCY

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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An interviewer for the New York Times opinion section and author or editor of more than a dozen books on the study of race and whiteness will be teaching at Allegheny College this fall.

A MyAllegheny announcement on April 18 highlighted that George Yancy will be visiting and conducting a lecture-style course.

Yancy is a highly regarded philosopher in the focus area of race and whiteness, and is currently the Samuel Dobbs professor of philosophy at Emory University.

The visit is sponsored by the Bywater Fund for Social Justice Programming, according to the post.

“My sister (Barbara A. Creed) wanted to commemorate my time at Allegheny,”

said Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Bill Bywater. “So she decided to create a fund when I retired from the college in 2012.”

The Bywater Fund is used primarily to provide support for undergraduate philosophy conferences at Allegheny College.

The Bywater Fund helped organize Yancy’s first visit to campus during the one-day conference on social justice in honor of Bywater’s retirement on April 20, 2012, where he talked about “courageous listening and the importance of a white ally.”

“Yancy has been here several times previously,” said Eric Palmer, professor of philosophy and chair of philosophy and religious studies. “He came here in 2012, 2014 and even 2019.”

Some of Yancy’s visits were a part of the Bywater Philosophy Conferences.

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Prof., Alum, snag PNMA awards

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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Two of Allegheny’s own journalists snagged awards.

The annual professional Keystone Media Awards are meant to identify “journalism that consistently provides relevance, integrity, and initiative in serving readers and audiences, and faithfully fulfills its First Amendment rights/responsibilities,” its website states.

Categories range from ongoing news coverage to personality profile, and publications are split into divisions by circulation.

Michael Crowley, assistant professor of English and faculty adviser for The Campus, won an honorable mention in the News Beat Reporting category and first place in the Feature Story category for Division IV.

His article “Dixon reflects on life of educational leadership” took home the Feature award, while his article “COVID one year later: Crawford County residents reflect on effects of shutdown,” earned him the News Beat award.

Crowley was excited to be a winner. “Sometimes, when you’re writing stories, it feels a little isolated,” he said, “but that kind of recognition makes you feel like somebody noticed.”

Crowley is not a stranger to receiving Keystone Media Awards.

See [PNMA](#) | page 2

ASG hears ideas for Blue and Gold Weekend

By **SOFIA HASSAN**
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Allegheny Student Government featured a guest speaker at this week’s general assembly, which commenced on Zoom at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.

Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, introduced Associate Vice President for Institutional Advancement Phil Foxman of Developmental and Alumni Affairs. Foxman was looking for students’ input on what they would like to see for Blue and Gold Weekend, slated to take place

Sept. 23-25.

Blue and Gold Weekend is when alumni return to Allegheny and families come to visit students. As Foxman explained, Friday, Sept. 23, is meant for student-alumni interaction, whether that takes place in classrooms or on panels. Saturday, Sept. 24, will focus more on events for families, including a football game.

“(We’re) thinking about ... core competency skills, thinking about expertise that relates to an academic discipline, thinking a little bit about interviewing — potentially job hiring — and then some kind of network event,” Foxman said.

Vice President-elect Rudra Schultz-Ray asked if the college was planning to take any precautions to create a safe environment for survivors of sexual assault on campus, given that certain alumni have Title IX cases against them.

Foxman agreed that safety measures should be taken with offenders, including checking in with the Title IX office, and said he would do what he could to make students feel safe.

Director of Community Relations Kyrié Doniz, ’23, and Senator Ray Colabawalla, ’25, also suggested having alumni from a variety of different academic sectors come in, so that students

can have someone to talk to regardless of what they are studying.

Senator Elle Hudson, ’23, asked about what measures would be taken regarding COVID-19 during Blue and Gold Weekend. He wondered if guests would be required to wear masks.

“I think right now is a really pertinent time for us to start thinking critically about how our school handles outbreaks,” he said, “and this seems like this could be an opportunity for one,” Hudson said.

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COLLEGE TO HOST WSSDU

Allegheny will host the Fifth World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities next month.

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ANNUAL CHOIR CONCERT

Despite the threat of COVID-19, the college’s choir was still able to put their performance on Saturday, April 30.

Page 6



‘WE KNOW WE’RE WINNERS’

Baseball takes aim at playoff bid with two games left in the season. The squad, who sit at 6th in the NCAC, split their double-header with Denison on Wednesday.

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COVID

from page 1

“I think we should just wear masks till the end of the semester,” Pszczolkowski said. “I just think it’s beneficial for everybody.”

Becca Winton, ’23, considered ACHA’s decision not to extend the mask mandate “silly.”

“We’re in the middle of a pandemic,” Winton said. “Just because cases have gone down doesn’t mean that COVID has left our campus.”

Desmond Corrado, ’25, also thought that it was better to be safe than prematurely celebrate.

“It sucks in the short term, but it’s pretty important in stopping the long-term spread,” Corrado said. “We shouldn’t call victory before we’re absolutely sure.”

However, Corrado, who had just exited quarantine, called his



They are trying really hard to have a narrative of ‘everything is fine, don’t worry,’ and belittling students who have concerns.”

—BECCA WINTON
Class of 2023

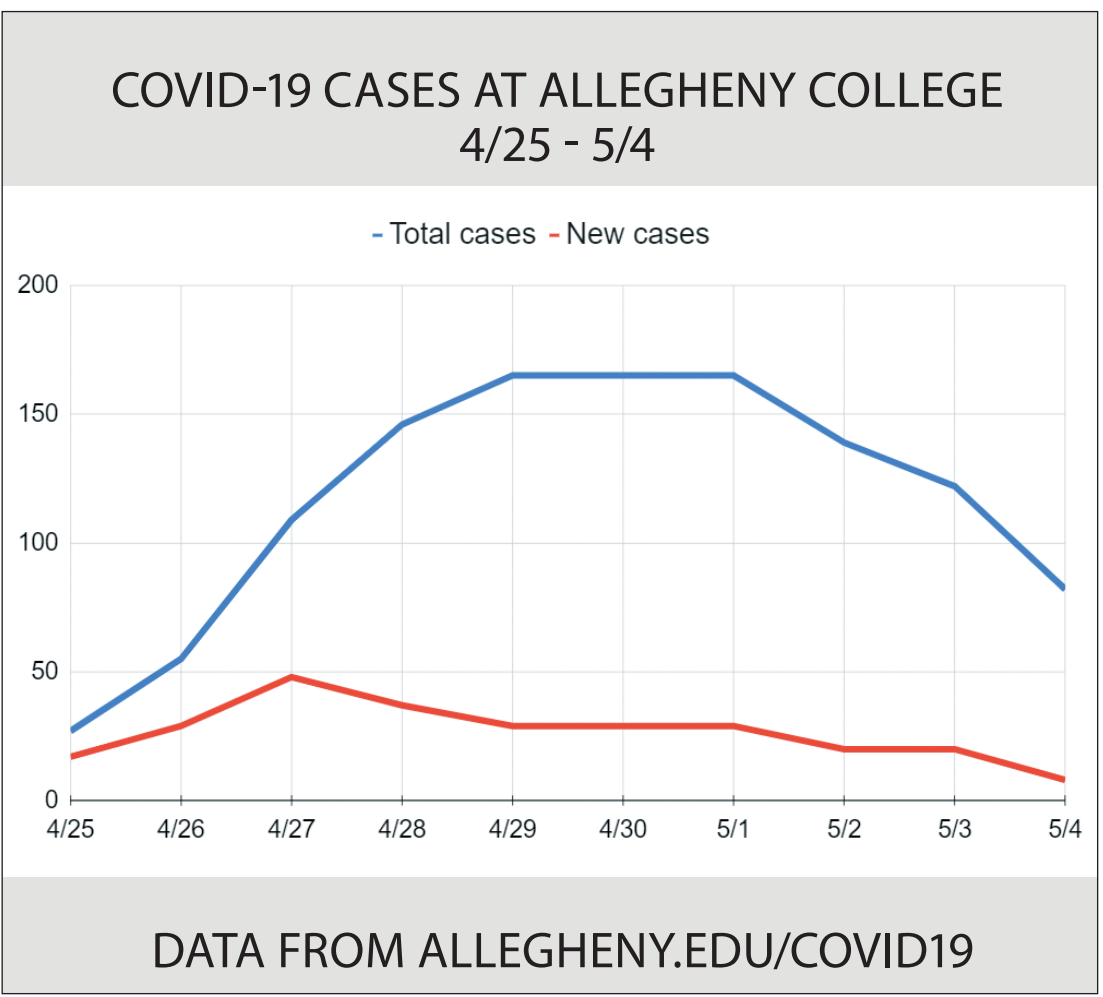
experience there “confusing,” and said that while transparency was comforting, it felt sporadic. He pointed to gaps in the email updates sent by ACHA; no updates were sent Thursday, April 28, over the weekend — April 30 - May 1 — or on Tuesday, May 3.

Winton also thought that ACHA was not responsive to student concerns about their safety.

“They are trying really hard to have a narrative of ‘everything is fine, don’t worry,’ and belittling students who have concerns,” Winton said. “Their dashboard

is purposefully confusing so that we don’t have access to info, and they don’t communicate their reasoning and thought processes with students.”

ACHA declined to comment to The Campus, saying that no members of the agency were available for comment. The agency has not given an interview to The Campus despite dozens of requests for comment since its establishment in 2020, and often does not reply to requests for comment at all.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

COVID-19 cases on Allegheny’s campus over the past week. The blue line indicates the total number of cases and the red line indicates the daily new number of cases, which has fallen over the course of the week.

RALLY

from page 1

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Madison Kermis, ’25, prepares to address the crowd during time provided for students to speak about their reactions to the leaked opinion. “I am here because I’m angry, I’m a woman and I want more f---ing rights than a gun does,” Kermis said.



Students listen to speakers in the foreground as red dresses hang from a tree near the Doane Hall of Art as a part of an art installation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Day, which takes place on May 5. Organizer Syd Hammerman, ’25, acknowledged both that day and the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo before starting to speak.



Students hold signs during the protest. One was splattered with green handprints; another read, “F--- Sam Alito,” in reference to Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Samuel Alito, who drafted the leaked opinion overturning “Roe.” One student later lead a chant echoing the sign.



Attendees kneel and chalk the sidewalk leading into the Henderson Campus Center during the event. In addition to signs, chalk and speeches, the organizers also provided protection for sexual activities like male condoms, female condoms, and dental dams.



Participants were invited to put handprints on a banner titled, “My Body, My Choice.” According to Hammerman, the green coloring of both the handprints and banner were inspired by the “Green Wave” an Argentinian abortion-rights movement that succeeded in legalizing the practice in August of 2018.



TOP: Pete Siebler, ’25, confronts Matthew Sigler, ’25, after Sigler shouted “Abortion is murder,” while walking past the protesters and into the Henderson Campus Center. Siebler and Sigler were seen shouting and cursing at each other in the atrium before another protestor pulled Siebler out of the atrium.
BOTTOM: A view of the crowd, from the entrance of the campus center.



PNMA

from page 1

Just last year, he earned two first place prizes, one for News Beat Reporting and the other for Business or Consumer Story.

This year, he was optimistic about his odds and felt good about the work he had done, but he added, “I didn’t necessarily think that I was going to win.”

Crowley elaborated on the submission process for the Professional Keystone Media Awards. His editor announced that he was looking for submissions, and Crowley compiled a list of what he thought were his best articles and to what category they belonged.

“I assume he forwarded at least two of them,” Crowley said with a chuckle.

Beating out Crowley for first place in the News Beat Reporting category was Marley Parish, ’19, of the “Pennsylvania Cap-

ital-Star” for multiple pieces covering the Pennsylvania State Senate’s attempts to investigate the 2020 election. Parish served as Editor-in-Chief of The Campus from 2017-2019 and got to know Crowley as a result.

“He also was a resource to me when I was doing my senior comprehensive project, and we have stayed in touch since I graduated ... he has been an incredible mentor to me,” Parish said.

Parish felt that she was “in good company” alongside said mentor in the News Beat Reporting category.

“I’ve stayed up-to-date in his reporting with ‘The Meadville Tribune,’” Parish added. “I thought his story on Armendia Dixon was phenomenal.”

Parish expressed her congratulations in regards to Crowley’s

win, as well as her gratitude in being able to learn from him. If Parish needs advice, or if she just wants to catch up, she knows he is only a phone call away.

“I know Allegheny is lucky to have him as a professor,” Parish said. “The Meadville community is lucky to have him as a reporter and telling such important stories.”

As for her own award, Parish was both humbled and surprised to win. She explained that although the point of journalism is not to expect awards and that it is not about the journalists themselves, to have her work recognized nevertheless felt good.

Ethan Woodfill, ’22, co-Editor-in-Chief of The Campus, has a Keystone Media Award under his belt himself. Last year, he won an honorable mention prize

in the “Column” category, which requires applicants to submit a trio of editorial pieces.

Woodfill explained that Crowley encourages staff members to not only apply for awards but to do the best journalistic work that they can.

“He is a very respectable journalist and I look up to him very much,” Woodfill said.

According to Woodfill, Crowley’s wins were well deserved, especially considering the fact that his work was evaluated alongside that of journalists for Pittsburgh publications.

“He’s always running from our meetings out into Meadville and the surrounding area, picking up just the craziest stories,” Woodfill added. “I’m really happy to see that his work is recognized among a pretty competitive group.”

Earning these awards felt validating for Crowley in terms of his journalism moving forward.

“I think it gives me some confidence that I’m going about this work the right way, and that helps make the next story a little bit easier,” Crowley said.

In addition to these accolades, Crowley has been named a finalist in three Golden Quill Categories, “News Feature,” “Science/Environment” and “Traditional Feature.” He rose to prominence in this last category with his Dixon article.

Winners for the Keystone Media Awards will be honored at a brunch, starting at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Sheraton Hershey Harrisburg Hotel.



CROWLEY



PARISH

ASG *from page 1*

Foxman answered that he would be in contact with the Allegheny College Health Agency to see what they would advise, but the specific actions would depend on where the college is in terms of the virus.

Students with further questions were encouraged to contact Foxman at pfoxman@allegheny.edu.

According to Director of Finance Olivia Brophy, ’23, finance requests for the week totaled \$1,573 from the general fund. A motion to approve these requests was passed.

Brophy also explained that for the past two semesters, ASG Senate has approved \$30,500 from the student action fund. Due to missed accounting as a result of money not being transferred for last semester’s projects, the finance committee approved money from the fund that was not available. A motion to move \$19,000 from the general fund to the student action fund was passed.

The first round of budget hearings for the 2022-23 academic year went well, Brophy said. The next round will occur Sunday, May 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jennifer Peralta, ’22, announced that the furniture for the multicultural lounge will be delivered by the end of the week.

“I’m really excited about this project,” Peralta said. “It’s been

in the works for a minute.”

Director of Student Affairs Elizabeth Graham, ’22, said that Saturday, May 7, is the last day to complete the Student Life Survey.

Director of Communications and Press Ryder Sullivan, ’22, said that the ASG shirts have been ordered and will be delivered by the end of the month.

As Doniz stated, the business of the week is Indigo Boutique and Botanica, located at 945 Market St.

According to Director of Organizational Development Crystal Hernandez, ’23, the tentative new date for the ASG formal will be Friday, May 13.

Parliamentarian Rachael Harris, ’22, announced that the 2022-23 senate guidelines for the 2022-23 Senate elections are live. Parliamentarian Rachael Harris, ’23, Harris explained that the deadline for candidates to submit their reasons for running, a short biography, and a candidate photo is 11:59 p.m. on May 9. Candidates can email these items to Harris and Attorney General Jack Parker, ’22.

President of the Class of 2022 Dory-Sarah Debrosse said her class’s event with Career Education and the Maytum Center for Student Success, which took place that day in the Henderson Campus Center lobby, earned a “great turnout.”

The first-year formal has been postponed to the fall.

President of the Class of 2025 Abigail Estrada-Hernandez explained that it will be changed to a welcome-back event for sophomores.

ASG heard from two nominees for the 2022-23 cabinet: first, Adriana Solis, ’23, for Director of Finance; and then Haley Hersh, ’23, for Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs. Solis introduced herself and cited her experience with accounting, including taking accounting competitively in high school and holding accounting internships post-high school. After a discussion period in which ASG members asked her questions, a motion to approve Solis to the position did not pass.

Hersh then introduced herself and explained ideas she had concerning sustainability, including reusable grocery bags and an e-waste drive. A discussion period then followed, after which a motion to approve her to the position did not pass.

A motion to table cabinet nominations for next week passed.

Vice President Sophie Adams, ’22, congratulated seniors who have finished their senior comprehensive projects and wished those who are defending their comps good luck.

The assembly adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Liquor license bid denied
College planned to install taps at McKinley’s

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**

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By **SAMI MIRZA**

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Allegheny College’s bid for a transfer of liquor license from West Mead Township into Meadville was unanimously denied by the Meadville City Council on Wednesday, May 4.

The council voted 5-0 to deny the college’s request for a liquor license, once held by Yukon Ron’s Bar & Grill Inc., between the two Crawford County municipalities. The vote came after an April 21 public hearing in which several Meadville citizens spoke in opposition to the move and the council subsequently tabled the vote until the May 4 council meeting.

Prior to the vote, during the allotted time for public comment, Allegheny College President Hilary Link responded to concerns raised during the initial hearing.

“Public drunkenness was brought up; our (Office of Public Safety) ran all the numbers and the cases of public drunk-

enness over the last nine months — when we’ve been doing the exact type of events that we are asking for this liquor license to do — (the numbers) have gone down,” Link said.

During the April 21 hearing, Link said that the license would be used to provide alcohol at sporting events and pop-up events like the Sycamore. Previously, the college had borrowed the statewide catering license owned by Parkhurst Dining, but during the May 4 meeting, Link said that as the college is “examining the food and beverage program on campus,” and having its own liquor license would grant additional flexibility in hosting events.

However, other public comments reiterated strong opposition to the transfer. Alysia Mowad provided the council with a survey that showed that 82.9% of Meadville residents opposed the transfer, though the exact methodology of this survey was not disclosed.

The vote itself was divided into two items on the agenda: a resolution to approve the transfer and another to deny it.



When we’ve been doing the exact type of events that we are asking for this liquor license to do — (the numbers) have gone down.”

—HILARY LINK
President,
Allegheny College

When the resolution to approve came forward, no councilmember made a motion to vote on it, and the agenda moved forward.

On the resolution to deny the transfer, Councilman Jim Roha moved for a roll call vote, and Deputy Mayor Larry McKnight seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The resolution itself stated that the transfer of the liquor license would, “negatively and adversely affect the welfare, health, peace, and morals of the municipality of the City of Meadville and its residents.”

Link and Allegheny College Chief of Staff Kevin Kovalcysik, who attended the meeting, declined to comment to The Campus.

YANCY *from page 1*

Bywater confirmed that it was Yancy who reached out to him to organize his upcoming visiting spell at Allegheny.

“I have known Yancy for a while now and have had plenty of opportunities to collaborate with him on and off campus,” Bywater said. “He contacted me and proposed the idea of co-teaching a course.”

As such, Bywater and Yancy will be working together to bring to students a special course offering in fall 2022 — Philosophy 290: Whiteness and the Conceptualization of Race.

The lectures will take place from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday.

“Yancy will be lecturing the class on Monday whereas I will be taking the lead on Wednesday since Yancy is only here in a visiting capacity,” Bywater said.

According to Palmer, the course will offer a critical study of race as a structure of American society and will explore the racial binary of Black and white through the lenses of African American philosophy, feminist theory, literature and pedagogy.

Palmer also mentioned that Yancy will participate in other activities apart from lecturing during his time at Allegheny.

“Yancy’s days will be organized in such a way that will allow him to interact with the campus community,” Palmer said. “We hope to possibly set up an office hours system, allow him to navigate his way through the campus and even help set up

a collaboration with clubs and organizations on campus.”

Bywater said that Yancy is an important part of raising awareness about important topics related directly to students on campus and the wider community.

“Yancy is so honest and patient with everything he does that I consider him to be a natural teacher,” Bywater said. “He encourages discourse regarding the experiences of different groups from a philosophical point of view, in particular the experiences of (people of color).”

Palmer and Bywater agreed that any community can reap the benefits of being aware and learning about their history and considering different perspectives.

“Given that Allegheny is a primarily white institution, Yancy’s area of focus — race and whiteness — is even more so relevant to our community,” Palmer said.

According to Bywater, Allegheny has always positively reacted to Yancy.

“I’ve worked with Yancy during all his visits to Allegheny,” Bywater said. “Although many audiences have negatively reacted to his work, Allegheny never fails to accept his words with open arms.”

Allegheny’s affiliation with Yancy is such that he was part of the Diversity Scholar in Residence program of the philosophy department. According to the Allegheny College website,

“Diversity Scholar in Residence was a program created to bring in talented, diverse, and contemporary scholars to Allegheny. These scholars would visit classes, participate in class discussions, and give lectures on issues of social justice throughout their stay at the college.”

Moreover, Yancy’s work is often cited in philosophy courses at Allegheny. For example, Bywater will be teaching Philosophy 275: Black American Thinkers in the fall as well — a complementary course to Philosophy 290.

Palmer emphasized special topics philosophy courses that focus on relevant areas such as global justice, Black studies and feminism are part of a progression of the philosophy department.

“Philosophy is often understood as being ancient or classical,” Palmer said. “It is important to note that philosophy is modern, as presently we offer courses that ponder deeply about events more relevant to our time.”

Bywater agreed with Palmer and made note of his observa-

tions over 55 years at Allegheny.

“Our philosophy program has changed dramatically over time,” Bywater said. “(Former college President Lawrence Lee) Pelletier asked me during my early years here to establish the women studies program.”

Palmer, who has been at the college for over 30 years, commented that despite all the changes that have occurred during his time at Allegheny, the rate of enrollment in the philosophy program has maintained steady.

“Although the philosophy department is small at Allegheny — usually about 12 majors per class — we are consistent with our numbers and a lot of students from other disciplines love to take a philosophy class,” Palmer said.

Bywater hopes to participate at Allegheny in the future and hopes that initiatives, such as Yancy’s upcoming course, can continue to help the philosophy department grow and influence change in the community.



Given that Allegheny is a primarily white institution, Yancy’s area of focus — race and whiteness — is even more so relevant to our community.”

— ERIC PALMER
Professor of Philosophy,
Allegheny College

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.

April 27, 2022
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Since 1876

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Musk's purchase of Twitter may lead to positive outcome

By **HUNTER GOERMAN**
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When people think of Elon Musk, they tend to associate him with his most successful companies, Tesla Motors or SpaceX. Some people might associate him with PayPal, of which he founded by merging his online banking company X.com with Peter Thiel's software company Confinity. But now, Musk has added another title to his throne as the new owner of Twitter

Musk began to buy shares of Twitter on January 31, and on April 4, he announced that in March he had purchased \$2.64 billion worth of Twitter's shares. This purchase was equivalent to 9.1 percent of Twitter's ownership share, which subsequently made him the company's largest shareholder.

“

While I'm all for free speech, a platform that everyone can use and have their opinions valued can be dangerous.”

—HUNTER GOERMAN
Class of 2025

This led up to Musk's buyout offer of Twitter — roughly \$44 billion on April 25, which equivalates to \$54.20 a share. With this offer's acceptance, Twitter will become a private company, making Musk the sole owner.

But why buy Twitter? Musk is currently the CEO of both SpaceX and Tesla with SpaceX being valued at over \$100 billion and Tesla valued at over a trillion dollars. Musk is a very active Twitter user, posting several times a day.

One of the more known influences Musk has had while on Twitter, was the influence in the Crypto market. DOGE coin, a form of Crypto, has first hand experience of Musk's Twitter influence.

The value of a DOGE coin has spiked several times after he has tweeted about it. Musk's Tweets from February to May 2021, resulted in a massive increase in value, from being valued at less then one cent to being worth upwards of sev-

enty cents. Besides his influence in the Crypto market, he has been a strong supporter of the First Amendment's freedom of speech, being known to criticize Twitter's censoring an as well as tweet about potential plans regarding his ownership of Twitter.

One of such goals is to make Twitter politically neutral, where people from all sides and countries can share their opinions and have them respected. Another goal is changing its ad system, by potentially removing ads on Twitter as well as trying to monetize tweets by popular accounts.

Besides these, Musk has presented multiple ideas for the company even before its purchase.

One opinion people have regarding his ownership over Twitter is that he owns too much, however Musk owning Twitter may result in good things, especially with his main focus being a platform safe for all opinions and sides.

A main question with his free speech policy is unbanning accounts that have spread misinformation as well as forms of hate speech. While I'm all for free speech, a platform that everyone can

“

Overall, Elon Musk's ownership of Twitter is a hot topic, but it will be for the better, making it a more user friendly platform and making it more of a social site versus sites such as Instagram and Facebook.”

—HUNTER GOERMAN
Class of 2025

use and have their opinions valued can be dangerous.

Unbanning accounts that have conducted such behavior is not a good thing, they were banned for a reason. I think his plan should be to create an environment where everyone has a fair share in the say, but have some restrictions and guidelines on what can and cannot be posted.

Along with that, I think he can bring more users to Twitter, making it a better

platform. In one of his tweets, he called out the top ten most followed accounts for how little they tweet and encouraged them to tweet more.

This is a smart move, as they're the most followed and, therefore, they would attract more attention to the platform. Overall, Elon Musk's ownership of Twitter is a hot topic, but it will be for the better, making it a more user friendly platform and making it more of a social site versus sites such as Instagram and Facebook.

Send Letters to the Editors and Op-Eds to newspaper@allegheny.edu

Must include name, class year or faculty/staff position.

Letters to the editors should be 500 words or less.

Op-eds should be at least 750 words, no more than 1200 words.

All submissions subject to approval and edits by The Campus staff.

• • • • • Allegheny is stuck in 'the Sad Gap' • • • • •

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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Allow me to paint you a picture. Tell me if it sounds familiar. You are reading the news or Twitter or Facebook or this week's edition of The Campus. Everywhere you look, every new Tweet or article or post, all you see are bad news and crises: COVID-19 cases surging, the war in Ukraine worsening, climate change, midterm elections, political corruption, migrant bans, train accidents, religious strife and sexual harassment.

I should point out at this juncture that it may seem like I am exaggerating — writing an exhaustive list to illustrate my point — but these are, in fact, all stories in the New York Times on the day that I am writing this article.

We live in a unique era of disaster and strife. It seems that everything is both perpetually bad and broken beyond repair. Discordance is nothing new to planet Earth, but the heavy cloak of anxiety and despair that we all now wear is a relatively recent development, and the reason why is simple: we now have unprecedented, firsthand, boots-on-the-ground access to the trouble. Problems halfway across the world are pinged to our pockets in a second, and we are expected to make every problem our problem.

Aside from the other problems of modern life, there is an onus on the average person — every person — to crusade for a utopian world where no conflict exists, devoting every spare minute of your life to ethical consumption, moral practices and thoughtful protest. We put pressure on ourselves to be perfect, to have the smallest negative

impact possible and treat every decision as if it were the trolley problem. Like Chidi in “The Good Place,” we become paralyzed by the burden of trying to be a decent person in an increasingly indecent environment.

This is when we fall into what online personality and author Hank Green calls the “Sad Gap”: the space between learning about the “definite, real, concrete, inexcusable, terrible, frightening consequences” of a problem and constructively working toward a solution. In the Sad Gap, problems are not only terrifying, they are also overwhelming — created and prolonged by evil people. In the Sad Gap, it looks like there will never be a solution. It is all too easy to become blindly terrified and angry, lashing out at the world, and far too difficult to dig deep, think critically and engage meaningfully.

In Green's words, “It's easier to make people aware of the definite, obvious, clear problem than it is the misty, vague and uncertain solutions.” This is the world we live in, a world of oversimplification and manipulation of belief and emotion. When you are in the Sad Gap, you believe that a problem has no solution. You are discouraged, beaten down and disenchanted. It is easier to curl up into the fetal position or take to the woods and live off the grid. These are, oddly enough, the people that will find their way out of the Sad Gap — but more on that later.

Meanwhile, in my eyes, there is a second group that sits in the Sad Gap: the people who have set up camp down there. These are people that relish being in the Sad Gap. They will get very loud about a problem without understanding the nuance. They will take Sharpie to

cardboard at a protest and draw on sidewalks, making sure to have their photo taken. They might post something on their Instagram story to demonstrate how much they care. These are the performative activists who want everybody to know just how deep they have borrowed into the Sad Gap. They want to prove to the world how many problems they know about but very rarely offer any productive solutions or meaningful engagement — only the outward appearance of involvement and devotion.

Allegheny College is in the Sad Gap, and I worry that most of us are the second type: the Sad Gap-dwellers who are very comfortable in their smug despair, thank you very much. It is a blatant fact that there are problems on our campus: the recent spike in COVID-19 cases, the restructuring of academic departments and the impending loss of a whole slough of faculty members, to name a few. In some cases, strong actions have been taken. Students have taken a stand and gotten loud.

But sit in McKinley's or Brooks and listen to the conversations. For the most part, we are addicted to complaining loudly about our problems and allergic to any meaningful involvement beyond signing a petition and standing outside of the Campus Center for an hour. When we do anything more than that, it is big, performative, made-to-post actions like taking over the halls of Bentley — actions which are all well and good, but only if they are coupled with or followed by the unglamorous work that gets things done such as meetings, open dialogues and forums.

See, the permanent residents of the Sad Gap are a species born out of a different kind of fear, I think. Rather than

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Too many people on this campus are afraid of being wrong. They are afraid of the dimensionality of life, a problem heightened by the flatness of internet culture. They are well-intentioned — we all, I think, want to be responsible and helpful members of society at the end of the day. ”

—SYDNEY EMERSON
Class of 2023

existential despair, it is fear of the complexity of the world and fear of being proven wrong that fuels this group. To research a problem, to think about it complexly, is to find a way out of the Sad Gap. As Green points out, “It is too easy to get to the place in knowledge where you are sad and angry and (it is) too hard to cross the gap over to being engaged and helpful.”

Too many people on this campus are afraid of being wrong. They are afraid of the dimensionality of life, a problem heightened by the flatness of internet culture. They are well-intentioned — we all, I think, want to be responsible and helpful members of society at the end of the day. But we turn to scapegoating and blind anger as a solution when it clearly, vehemently, absolutely is not one. We blame authority figures for systemic injustices because they are the public face. Instead of deconstructing structural problems, we angrily and insistently point them out over and over again, asking louder and louder why, oh why, isn't anybody doing something about this?

The way to cross the Sad Gap and enter the world of constructive problem-solving is to be enlightened and focused. Do research — good, broad research, not the first YouTube video that pops up — and think hard, really hard. Open dialogues with the people you are opposed to. Sit down at a table rather

than yelling across a crowded room, or, worse, typing in ALL CAPS on an anonymous social network. Take responsibility for your own actions, your own emotions, and your own personal Sad Gap. Embrace the fact that you are going to be confused, scared and disenchanted in the meantime, and acknowledge the fact that you are never going to solve every problem — perhaps not even any. That is okay. The importance is in trying and helping others to try.

Crossing the Sad Gap is never going to be an easy task. It requires dedicated work — internal and external, personal and public. The first step to getting our campus community to the other side of the Sad Gap is to start examining ourselves: our fears and our prejudices. We must give up on the surface-level skimming that populates much of our public discourse and consciously choose to tunnel deeper and imagine other places, people and problems with all the complexity they contain. We must take misdirected anger and turn it into a productive discussion, and then, slowly but surely, we will build a sort of rope bridge. It may be fragile, it may not support all of us at once. The fall down will probably look pretty scary, the crossing treacherous and rickety, but what lies on the other side is far better than what we will leave behind.

Accolades for Environmental Science and Sustainability

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**
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Members of the Department of Environmental Science and Sustainability were recognized for some of the sustainability projects that are taking place on campus.

In April, Molly Tarvin, ’22, Ashlynn Peachey, ’23, and Christine Scott Nelson, ’73, Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Eric Pallant, were recognized as Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium Campus Sustainability Champions.

PERC was originally founded in 2000 as a way to allow for faculty and students involved in environmental studies to connect with others in the field across the state of Pennsylvania.

From its origin, the organization has accomplished a variety of different things.

PERC is one of the first two statewide environmental organizations for higher education,

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The reason Allegheny College is a global leader in sustainability is because of the extraordinary commitment of a community of faculty, staff, administrators, and students who care about the earth.”

—ERIC PALLANT
Christine Scott Nelson, ’73, Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability, Allegheny College

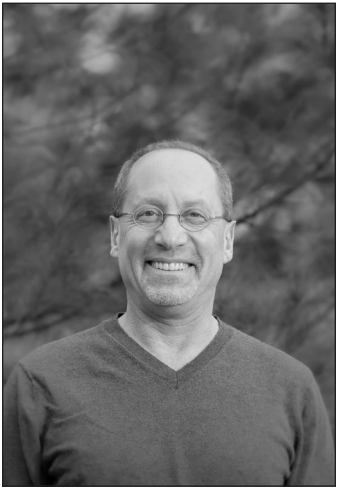
and is one of the most successful and effective in the entirety of the United States.

Other key accomplishments of PERC include the development of a program dedicated to greenhouse gas inventories and reduction strategies, the establishment of a sustainable development network for Pennsylvania, the creation of a market solely meant for wind power, and it worked alongside the Sustainability Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania to create the Solar Scholars Program.

Because of the organization’s close connections with colleges and universities across the state of Pennsylvania, PERC has established an award meant to celebrate the sustainability efforts of students and faculty involved in the environmental studies program at their respective schools.

Each year, roughly 10 students are recognized as PERC Campus Sustainability Champions.

Tarvin, one of the students



PALLANT

Pallant photo courtesy of John Mangine; Tarvin and Peachey photos courtesy of Paige Penfield
Christine Scott Nelson, ’73, Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Eric Pallant, along with Molly Tarvin, ’22, and Ashlynn Peachey, ’23, were recently recognized as PERC Campus Sustainability Champions.

selected as champion, has worked closely with the department of environmental science and sustainability since her first year.

For the past two years, Tarvin was a staff member of the ESS newsletter, and for her senior year, was selected as the newsletter’s editor.

Tarvin explained what topics were included in each publication of the ESS newsletter.

“The newsletter is just basically about getting the information about the sustainability department out to the people who live in it and around it,” Tarvin said. “So alumni could read it, prospective students, current students and faculty. It talks about what projects we’re doing and in junior seminars, the awards we have, the sustainability projects that (Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, ’02,) might be working on.”

In addition to her contributions to the ESS newsletter,



TARVIN

Tarvin was also accepted to take part in an interview with Second Nature, a nonprofit organization that helps to organize and assist a network of colleges and universities to achieve their goal of carbon neutrality.

Tarvin discussed her feelings about being recognized as one of the students recognized with this title.

“I had just finished a really good workout,” Tarvin said. “I was jumping up and down. I’m like ‘wow this is so exciting,’ because I had written the article. So I knew how prestigious the award was.”

Tarvin mentioned that she was the one who wrote the article about Peachey, who was also recognized by PERC.

Peachey, similarly to Tarvin, is highly involved in the ESS department.

During her time at Allegheny, Peachey has been an active member of the Allegheny Sustainable Design Team, an



PEACHEY

organization that is working to design and implement a food forest on campus, and was elected as president of the organization in the fall 2021 semester.

In addition to contributing to the Allegheny Sustainable Design Team, Peachey has also been an active member of Students for Environmental Action, and is currently also the co-president of that group.

Some of the projects that Peachey has contributed to include the promotion of reusable food containers on campus, the coordination of trash cleanup events on and around campus, and she is currently investigating the logistics of re-starting a program dedicated to food rescue that would allow for unused food from the cafeteria’s campus to the Meadville community.

Peachey mentioned how she felt after receiving notice of her award.

“I had actually just finished the Trashion Show,” Peachey said. “We got out of that, and I checked my email and I was like, ‘Wow! That’s awesome!’”

In addition to Peachey and Tarvin, Pallant was also recognized as one of the PERC Campus Sustainability Champions.

During his time as a professor at Allegheny, Pallant has served as chair of the department twice, has led several internal and external reviews within the department and has helped to shape the ESS into the nationally-recognized model that it is known for.

He has helped to make Allegheny the eighth college or university nationwide to become carbon neutral, and also assists in the Allegheny Energy Challenge, a program that is meant to reduce the amount of energy that is being used on campus, and led the former Allegheny Center for Economic and Environmental Development for more than a decade.

“I greatly appreciate the honor, but sustainability is genuinely a team effort,” Pallant wrote in an email to The Campus. “I could not have done anything for the campus or the environment without the support, friendship, hard work, and intelligence of my students and colleagues. The reason Allegheny College is a global leader in sustainability is because of the extraordinary commitment of a community of faculty, staff, administrators, and students who care about the earth.”

Allegheny to host global sustainability conference *Fifth World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities convenes June 16 - 17*

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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Allegheny College will host the Fifth World Symposium on Sustainable Development at Universities from June 16 to 17.

“The event is a series of conferences meant to gather those in higher education from around the world to talk about sustainable development in the future,” said Christine Scott Nelson, ’73, Endowed Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Eric Pallant.

Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Department Chair Beth Choate and Pallant will be co-chairing WSSD-U — as the symposium is known — with Professor Walter Leal of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany.

“As conference chairs, (Pallant) and I have to mediate the different presentations and talks,” Choate said. “We are also responsible for compiling the participant’s papers in a collaborative book.”

The book will be named after the theme of WSSD-U-2022: “Educating the Sustainability

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We chose this theme for the conference because this is what we do at Allegheny.”

—BETH CHOATE
Chair of Environmental Science and Sustainability, Allegheny College

Leaders of the Future.”

“We chose this theme for the conference because that is what we do at Allegheny,” Choate said. “Many other participating institutions are larger than us and focus more on research with graduate students whereas Allegheny prepares its environmental science undergraduates for work in the future.”

Allegheny will be entering six papers into the conference with Choate being one of the entries.

“I’ve been working on a paper with two students over the past four semesters,” Choate said. “The focus of the paper is student knowledge and perceptions of a green campus.”

The two students collaborating with Choate on the paper

are Lauren Schrock, ’23, and Lydia Giannini, ’23.

Schrock collected various data and statistics regarding the research topic.

“I had an independent study class with (Choate) in spring 2021 where I gathered different data on how aware students are about the environmental sustainability initiatives and programs on campus,” Schrock said.

Giannini compiled and described the aforementioned data and statistics.

“(Choate) and I worked on an independent study project during fall 2021 where I had access to the data (Schrock) collected,” Giannini said. “(Choate) and I co-authored the findings of the research and the summary of the data.”

Allegheny has frequented WSSD-U in the past and has entered the conference with papers each year.

Choate, Pallant and former Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Ben Haywood — who now teaches at Furman University — were recipients of the

best research entry at the Third WSSD-U in Malaysia in 2019.

“I think that our winning entry paper in 2019 was what secured our designation as hosts,” Pallant said. “Allegheny has developed a very good reputation in the conference by continuing to provide high-quality research to the forum.”

Previous hosts of the WSSD-U include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Malaya.

“Allegheny has worked considerably to earn a spot at the table,” Choate said. “We are one of the few carbon-neutral schools in the nation and are considered to have one of the best environmental science programs.”

Pallant believes that hosting the WSSD-U will help Allegheny grow its environmental science program.

“A lot of the institutions attending are massive structures with huge endowments and organized funding,” Pallant said. “Allegheny is now in a great position to showcase its abilities

on the international stage and beyond.”

Pallant also mentioned the challenges associated with hosting such an event.

“When it comes to events like this, the bigger and more well-known the venue, the easier it is to organize,” Pallant said. “It is difficult to arrange delegations from around the world and bring them to Meadville, Pennsylvania.”

Transporting participants from Pittsburgh International Airport and organizing food and refreshments were some of the organizational responsibilities that Pallant brought up.

“I do think it is refreshing to host an international conference in rural America, as it is not what many envision when thinking of traveling to America,” Pallant said.

Choate made note that participants will have the option to live on or off-campus for the duration of the conference and that participants opting to stay on-campus will be accommodated at North Village II.

Along with presentations, teams will also be offered field

trips around the Crawford County region.

“We are looking to take the teams out to an exploration of French Creek,” Pallant said. “I think we have a strong advantage with our location as we have a lot of interesting landscapes around the area.”

Pallant also confirmed that President Hilary Link will be opening the conference with an address.

“We hope to have two days of in-depth discussion and analysis,” Pallant said. “At the closing, we will be announcing the winners of the conference and summarizing key findings.”

Although there are no present developments to broadcast the event to the Allegheny community, Choate hopes to find a way to get the student body involved in the conference.

“Having student and community involvement and viewership is important to us as that is what we stand for at Allegheny,” Choate said.

More details regarding the WSSD-U-2022 will be released to the campus community soon.

Allegheny College Choirs return to indoor concerts



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

The all-college choir performs during their annual spring concert on April 30.

By **JORDAN GREYNOLDS**
Features Writer
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The Allegheny College Choirs held their annual spring concert in Raymond P. Shafer Auditorium on April 30, which included performances from the Allegheny women’s, men’s and college choirs.

While many genres of music were represented through the performance of Estonian chants and Brazilian samba, the show also represented the resiliency of the choirs.

“It was a journey because of the COVID outbreak at the start of the week,” Luis Mendoza, ’22, said. “It was stressful. Everybody started to go get tested because of all the contact tracing and I would go to rehearsal and just think, ‘I really hope everyone shows up.’”

This is not the first time that the choirs have had to deal with the challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic. Rehearsals were conducted via Zoom last year as choir members attempted to harmonize in breakout rooms

or by layering isolated vocals, neither of which have been missed this year.

“It has been amazing this year because last year was all on Zoom,” Mendoza said. “I’ve been so grateful that we’ve been able to go back to the choir room and be in person again because I’d missed the social aspect of singing. Being back in the choir room is so fun because I get to hear my friends’ voices and I love getting to hear my friends sing.”

However, after enjoying two semesters of in-person rehearsals, the choirs’ spring concert was put in jeopardy when the recent campus outbreak began.

“Right before the performance about three or four people tested positive and were unable to take part in it,” Madison Boring, ’25, said. “We weren’t sure how many people they were going to let test positive before canceling the concert so I’m glad we still ended up being able to do it.”

For many students, it felt like a marathon to get to Friday without testing positive.

“I remember testing on Friday and just thinking ‘I made it to the concert!’ when I got my negative result,” Mendoza said.

While the uncertainty of the week leading up to the performance made the show harder to take for granted, the occasion was especially monumental for the graduating choir members.

“We recognized the seniors that are graduating and it was kind of a bittersweet highlight of the concert,” Boring said. “I’ve gotten very close with a lot of them but they were also really excited and energetic about doing their last show.”

That bittersweet feeling was felt by non-seniors and seniors alike as they sang together for the last time as a choir.

“We sang a song called ‘Mis on Inimene,’ which was my favorite piece we performed,” Mendoza said. “During the concert that song actually had me crying while I was singing because it was my last concert. The song is about what it means to be human and what it means to care for each other

and it’s just a really serene and beautiful piece.”

The music was not the only thing beautiful about the afternoon as the usual overcast Meadville skies parted to allow for some sunny weather. The choir took advantage and moved the show outside to the Gator Quad where they found a dunk tank left up from a fraternity event.

“The weather was so nice that we actually went out on the quad and our choir director conducted the Alma Mater from the dunk tank,” Mendoza said.

Although choir is an important and fulfilling commitment for many choir members, it is often not the only extracurricular activity on students’ plates.

For Isabella James, ’24, the choir performance took place in the middle of a weekend of acting in the Playshop Theatre’s production of “She Kills Monsters.” James not only played the part of two different speaking characters in the show but she also plays saxophone in the Allegheny Jazz Band and sings in the Wom-



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

After the concert, Profesor and Chair of the Music Department James Niblock followed the choir outside and conducted their rendition of the alma mater from atop a dunk tank.

en’s Ensemble.

Finding time for all these commitments has been challenging yet manageable thanks to the flexibility of each department.

“Both the directors — our choir director (Niblock) and kt (shorb), the Playshop director — they were both very understanding,” James said. “I’ve always liked to sing and act and be involved in lots of things but it was different in high school because my choir and band director were married so things worked out easily. Even when things were stressful this year though everyone was really understanding and it seemed like because it was music and the arts, everyone involved was supportive of me doing both.”

As many choir students can attest, their decision to get involved with choir in college has been rewarding

within itself and also helped open them up to new opportunities.

“I definitely think more people should do choir especially because I don’t think most people know you can get class credit for it,” Boring said. “You get to meet people and it’s helped me get out of my shell really fast. Choir is the only thing that I knew I wanted to take part in and I met so many people that introduced me to other things.”

For those interested in joining or at least hearing the choir, there is one more performance before the end of the academic year. On May 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Ford Chapel, a select group of choir members will be acting and singing opera scenes. Admission is free to students and masks will be required for the duration of the performance.

Revamped Market House recruits student volunteers

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Located at 910 Market St. in downtown Meadville, the Meadville Market House has been a part of the community since it was built in 1870. With its selection of local produce, craft goods and small restaur-

rants, the Market House is the go-to place for members of the community to buy quality products and enjoy a meal.

In preparation for the summer, the Market House is looking for student summer volunteers for the farmers market that will be taking place every Saturday starting May 7.

Market House Manager and former Carrden General Manager Kerstin Ams described the purpose of the market and the responsibilities a summer volunteer would have.

“The market itself runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and takes place outside the market house,” Ams said. “It is an

opportunity for farmers and other vendors to seek their goods directly to the customers. What we would like from our volunteers is for them to work in the two shifts with the first from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and the second from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.”

According to Ams, the first shift will be helping set up the market, helping vendors unload and answering customer questions. The second shift will be the same but the volunteer will help with wrapping up the day.

Shannon Ferguson, ’22, is an Allegheny student who works at the Market House.

“This has been probably the best part-time job I have ever had,” Ferguson said. “(Ams) is very understanding and willing to work with my schedule to make things work. I connect with a lot of random folks over stuff that people want to come in and talk about so it’s just fun to hear their stories.”

In addition to the return of the market, the Market House has implemented a few changes in the layout of the store and the payment options at the farmers market. Ams explained that for customers without cash, the new “Market Money” program will allow the customer to use debit, credit or EBT benefits inside the market house to get a token to pay the farmer.

Acting Chair of the Market Authority Board Paula Burleigh shared the thought process behind the new market layout.

“

This has been probably the best part-time job I have ever had.”

—SHANNON FERGUSON
Class of 2022

“The interior space had suffered from a little bit of disorganization in the past so there was a lot of deep cleaning that happened,” Burleigh said. “We wanted to present a cleaner space that would be inviting and organized so people would not come in and feel confused.”

According to Burleigh, the Market House obtained new shelving and lowered the height of the shelves. Burleigh said that new shelving techniques are meant to allow the customer to see throughout the store instead of being confronted by large shelves they can not see over.

Because the Market House is a big part of the Meadville community, students have been involved with it in the past.

“We have had Allegheny students work in different capacities at the Market House,” Burleigh said. “With the Bonner Scholars program, we have had students come work with us to help consult on projects.”

According to Burleigh, London Dejarrette, ’22, did research around local farms to help the Market House to help educate people why pay-

ing a little more for a locally raised chicken can be more beneficial to the consumer.

In addition to the benefits to the consumer, Ferguson explained why buying from the Market House benefits the vendors.

“With the Market House, people who are bringing in their goods are getting like 70-80 cents of their dollar for what they are selling which is fantastic and a huge difference from selling to a grocery store,” Ferguson said. “Part of it is just taking out the middleman.”

The Market House hopes to continue bringing value to the community as they continue to improve the market and think of new ways to invite more customers.

“The mission statement of the Market House is that it is an institution that is meant to connect local individuals with local food vendors and support regional farms and food growers,” Burleigh said.

The Meadville Market House is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The farmer’s market will be open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from May 7 to Oct. 29.



Photo contributed by Kerstin Ams

Meadville’s historic Market House is located at 910 Market Street. The Market house is currently preparing for its summer farmer’s markets, which will run from May 7 until Oct. 29.

Spring Dance Concert

By **EMI ARIGA**
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The Dance and Movement Studies program performed its annual Spring Dance Concert April 21-23 in the Montgomery Performance Space. The program included dances from dance instructor Gretchen Myers' Upper Level Ballet as well as guest coreographer Jill Hyatt, '99.



In the performance "Swing Into Me," dancers bewitchingly performed ballroom dance.



Doug Lodge performed a solo showcase titled "Plywood Pavanne" with a wood board.



Katelyn Thompson, '22, performed ballet with puddles.



Teona Bagashvili, '22, portrays a scene in a performance of "Swing Into Me," during the Spring Dance Concert on April 21.

The power of peer consulting 'speaks' for itself

Speaking consultants help students gain confidence

By **EMI ARIGA**
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In the back of the Pelletier Library, there is a service of which few students take advantage: the speaking consultants. The goal of a speaking consultant is to talk with students about choices that they make as a speaker and then give them feedback that will improve their oral presentations. They help with all parts of the process of speaking, including brainstorming ideas, organizing thoughts and helping students practice and rehearse to improve their speaking skills.

Usually, the speaking consultants are composed of nine to eleven members. Currently, the staff includes one sophomore, three juniors and six seniors. Isabel Loch, '24, is one of them. She started working as a speaking consultant during the fall 2021 semester without any previous teaching experience. At first, working as a speaking consultant was nerve-racking for her. She got used to it after she had completed her third or fourth shift.

"I feel my work is rewarding when I see students coming in and when I'm asking them some questions about where we are going through and when they are excited about it," Loch said. "What I can see about the wheels turning about, you know, is there something specifically and struggling with and watching

them and have that recommended to get it better and to lead where they wanted to be led."

Ryan Martinez, '22, is another member of the staff. He became a speaking consultant because he wanted to learn more about public speaking.

"As a peer consultant, I primarily work with students to review and help them elaborate their ideas when it comes to public speaking," Martinez said. "I allow for students to really discuss and analyze their ideas in a judgment-free format that (enables) them to get a feel for how a listener may interpret their speech."

Assistant Professor of Communications Jon Wiebel started working as Allegheny's director of speaking in the fall of 2012. There are three main facets to his job: mentoring speaking consultants, collaborating with director of writing Professor Alexis Hart on the oral communication curricular program for FS courses and professional development for faculty, which is primarily

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I feel my work is rewarding when I see students coming in and...when they are excited about it.”

—ISABEL LOCH
Class of 2024

centered on teaching oral communication.

According to Wiebel, when hiring, he looks for applicants who communicate well and demonstrate strong interpersonal skills. Consultants are required to work with other students, making active listening a big part of their job. Currently, Wiebel is looking for student applicants who are interested in becoming a speaking consultant. Applications are opened once a year, and staff members are hired through a formal interview process.

The speaking consultants share their space in the library with the writing consultants and typically have less appointments than their counterparts. Wiebel mentioned there are two possible reasons to explain this gap. First, there is more written homework than oral homework assigned on campus. Given that many of the tasks students face throughout the semester are written, Wiebel said it was natural for students to use writing consultants' services more than speaking consultants'.

"If oral communication was as widespread as written communication was in the curriculum, then I would think we would have more students using the peer speaking consultants," Wiebel said.



SYDNEY EMERSON/THE CAMPUS

Speaking consultations are available at Pelletier Library for students who need assistance with speaking assignments.

He also shared that there is some hesitation among students in making consultation appointments, not only for speaking but also for writing.

"One thing to deemphasize is only going to the peer consultants or the writing consultants if you are a bad speaker or a bad writer," Wiebel said. "We want to work with all levels of students, it doesn't matter how good at speaking you are, you always benefit from it."

He is interested in making the speaking consultants' services more appealing and accessible. A redesign of the group's website or making a short video of what the consultants do at work might make the writing and speaking center more comfortable for students to come in, while also providing different types of resources for different students, according to Wiebel.

"I would encourage students to take advantage of writing and peer consultants, and we are here to support you as you think about preparing and delivering your various different kinds of oral presentations you might have been asked to give, not only in your classes, but also outside of classes," Wiebel said.

Speaking consultants are available to all Allegheny students for drop-in and scheduled appointments. The appointment calendar can be found at <https://sites.allegheny.edu/studentsuccess/writing-speech>. They are open Sunday through Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 11 p.m. in the back of the ground floor of the Pelletier Library.

Baseball eyes conference tournament as Crum earns 100th win

By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
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The Allegheny baseball team faced Kenyon College on May 4 in an NCAC double header at the Robertson baseball field.

The Lords won game one 8-4, but the Gators took game two in a close 7-6. Outfielder Ben Kosbie, '22, earned hits in game one and two for a total hit streak of 15 games.

“This is the most talented team we’ve had in maybe 20 years,” said Head Coach Brandon Crum, who just recently passed 100 career wins as head coach with the two April 26 wins over Fredonia. “We started on February 11 down in North Carolina. We dropped the first two games of the year and then went on a tear. It wasn’t until last weekend that we hit double digits in the loss column despite losing three games in the first seven.”

Outfielder Ryan Dougherty, '24, noted that the team has improved steadily over the season.

“We started off a little bit slow, at the beginning of the season,” Dougherty said. “We couldn’t get out to practice much due to the weather.”

The team has only practiced seven times on a baseball field, and last week seven players were out due to COVID-19 protocol, according to Crum. Despite this, the Gators are 9-7 in NCAC conference play and 24-13 overall.

“I’m just completely overwhelmed with the resolve and resilience of the team,” Crum said. “(We got) a lot of firsts for the program. We’re getting votes for the top 25 for the first time in 17 or 18 years. We got votes for three straight weeks in April. We were regionally ranked for the NCAC tournament, something that hasn’t hap-



CRUM

pened in the last at least 15 years.”

Crum was named head coach in 2017. He served as the assistant coach from 2012-16 and briefly served as the head coach at Mercyhurst University-North East in 2017. As head coach, Crum produced four All-NCAC East Honors in 2021 three All-NCAC Honors in 2019 and two All-NCAC honors in 2018. The team had an NCAC Championship appearance in 2019 as well.

Crum’s 100th win comes in his fifth season after most games were canceled in spring 2020 due to the pandemic.

“It feels good to be on the winning side of things,” Crum said. “We talk about representing our college and representing the athletic department. The number means very little to me. Being able to celebrate it with my first class that I recruited means the world.”

Dougherty said that he was proud of Crum’s achievement.

“I was really happy I was able to be a part of that,” Dougherty said. “The past couple years, especially with like COVID and stuff like he’s still able to connect with us really well. And even outside of baseball, he’s a great person to talk to.”

Dougherty also noted the accomplishments of several



EMI ARIGA/THE CAMPUS

Bobby Kusinsky, '23, pitches to Kenyon during the Gators’ doubleheader on May 4.



EMI ARIGA/THE CAMPUS

Ben Kosbie, '22, tags a Kenyon runner who touches up on first base during a May 4 doubleheader game.

graduating seniors.

“Our senior class is really good this year,” Dougherty said. “Brett Heckert, ('22), (Kosbie), and Jacob Budnar, ('22), are three people that really stand out offensively in our lineup. We have a really deep freshman and sophomore class. So I’m really excited to see what we’re capable of doing the next couple years, especially moving to the (Presidents’ Athletic

Conference) next year.”

The Gators need two games to work out in their favor this Saturday — they need to win over Depauw and Wooster to lose to Kenyon — to make the NCAC tournament.

Heckert is hopeful they can pull it off.

“I think we had a very successful season considering all the obstacles and challenges we had to face

throughout,” Heckert said in an email to The Campus. “With the weather being as bad as it was, we were seemingly never able to practice on our field making it almost impossible to simulate game-like situations. With all that being said, we were still able to put together a winning season. We are still hopeful we will have the chance to play for a conference tournament in the coming weeks.”

Crum said that Depauw should look out for the Gators’ competitive play.

“We’ve been talking as a team like every game we play from here on out is a playoff game,” Crum said. “We got to take care of business and that’s what we’ve been focusing on. We know what kind of team we are. We know how dangerous we can get when we start playing our kind of baseball.”

First-year softball pitcher makes name for herself

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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No two sports have more superstitious athletes than baseball and softball. Being two of some of the most mentally challenging sports players can partake in, they are always looking for an edge to deal with “the game of failure.”

After pitching over 100 innings along with accumulating 85 at bats, as well as earning time in the diamond at second base, Aleya Belardinelli, '25, was Ms. Dependable as she guided the Gators throughout the season, maintaining peak performance thanks to multiple boxes of Reese’s Puffs cereal.

“It actually gets kind of bad because I’m always popping them in (my mouth) when I’m in the dugout,” Belardinelli said with a laugh.

Through the 32 games played this season, the Flor-



BELARDINELLI

ida native proved more than serviceable as she made tremendous strides through her first-year campaign. The ceiling is high as her overpowering fastball racked up 85 strikeouts and led her to elite play on the mound with a 3.86 Earned Run Average.

Belardinelli settled right in, feeling comfortable in all aspects of the game and making the switch from high school to collegiate ball look easy.

“Florida has very competitive travel ball organiza-

tions,” Belardinelli said. “I was very used to that style or rigor of playing, and I think it really helped me prepare for college.”

The transition can be difficult for many young first-years, as they dawn upon a new chapter of their lives. Batting averages can fall, mechanics can fall out of whack and the mental game can discombobulate newcomers from all over the country, but at Allegheny College it is a different narrative as Belardinelli delivered for the team on countless occasions.

As a team, the season provided numerous obstacles that the Gators struggled to overcome. They started off the year dropping the first four contests, after opening day was postponed due to weather. After stringing together a couple of dominant wins over Keuka and Gustavus Adolphus, they followed up by dropping five out of the next six to kick off

the year with a 3-9 record. Their best stretch of play followed their mediocre start as they rattled off three wins in four games, including a tie. The season was full of ups and downs, and the team capped off their last 10 games finishing 3-7.

Another promising piece to the Gators roster is Sofia Genareo, '25. Genareo led the team in RBI’s this season as she was consistently hitting up in the lineup producing a .347 batting average and knocking in 22 teammates. Pairing her with Belardinelli, as well as other high impact players including Cameron Long, '23, and Hadley Horensky, '23, the future core is set in place for the team to build success.

With 11 first-years on the roster, the group was young and had no experience at this kind of level. However, they gelled together well, and although their 11-20-1 record was not the outcome they

were looking for, the future is bright as the team built chemistry and has young leaders to hopefully usher in a new era of Gator softball.

This would not be the case if it were not for the senior class. Despite only having three on the roster, each of them stepped up in a big manner taking responsibility for their role. The team would have events to bond and let everyone mingle together — one of the more popular ideas brought to the table was game and movie night.

“It really helps us as a team gel together,” Belardinelli said. “It was super important this year having as



It really helps us as a team gel together. It was super important this year having as many freshmen as we did.”

—ALEYA BELARDINELLI
Class of 2025