

Wi-Fi infrastructure work continues

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Three weeks into the academic year, Wi-Fi issues persist on campus, though work to optimize network connectivity continues. While most of the access points across campus are now tuned, the college's Information Technology team is still dealing with dysfunctional equipment installed by Wi-Fiber, supply chain delays preventing the installation of a critical piece of network infrastructure for another month, and a denial-of-service cyberattack that occurred on Friday, Sept. 1, at 7:40 a.m.

President Ron Cole, '87, expressed his frustration with the current network issues in a Sept. 13, campus-wide email.

"I want to start by thanking you for your patience, which is understandably wearing thin, as we work to bring our internet network to the standard of what is expected by everyone in our community, including me," Cole wrote. "I wish I had better news to share as you have not been provided the service that you deserve. We will continue to prioritize these improvements; please know that this is a top focus of mine and the entire leadership team."

Cole explained that the network update that was originally designed to improve user experience has "failed" so far

due to the previous network provider Wi-Fiber's handling of the project. Cole described Wi-Fiber as being unable "to meet the standards of what is needed for our daily operations and residences."

IT has determined that much of the network needs to be rebuilt in order to replace failing equipment and complete work that was unfinished — all of which is a huge endeavor, according to Cole.

"You may not see them (IT) around campus, as much of their work is behind the scenes, but rest assured that an incredible amount of work is being completed," Cole wrote.

Shaken to the core

Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung is aware of the myriad of network connectivity issues plaguing campus, including the network randomly "dropping" for about 30 seconds. She attributes this problem to the type of core switch that Wi-Fiber purchased.

Yeung described the core switch as being the basic brains behind the entire network.

"The one that we have, it just can't handle the traffic that we're trying to push through it," Yeung said. "Wi-Fiber should have known how to adequately purchase something that would handle the traffic we were going to pass through it."

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Students recover 1,070 pounds of trash from French Creek



Photo contributed by Students for Environmental Action

Among Allegheny's representatives at the annual French Creek Cleanup were these 44 volunteers, who helped clean more than 1,000 pounds of waste from the watershed.

By **THEGN PENROSE**
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Students removed around 1,070 pounds of trash from the French Creek watershed on Saturday at the yearly event organized by the French Creek Valley Conservancy.

"It's more than a win in my book," said Students for Environmental Action President Julia Sonen, '24.

The French Creek Cleanup is a yearly event organized by the French Creek Valley Conservancy and involves numerous other organizations from Crawford County and the surrounding

area. Allegheny College's contribution was organized by two groups: SEA and Creek Connections. SEA is principally a student-run activist group, while Creek Connections focuses on organizing community partnership events under the direction of Wendy Kedzierski.

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ASG swears in eight new senators



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Senators from the Class of 2025 (in front) and the Class of 2027 (in back) stand to be sworn in during the ASG General Assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 12

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government filled several empty chairs and saw Cabinet members begin their first initiatives in a swift General Assembly held Tuesday, Sept. 12 in room 301/302 of the campus center. In around 24 minutes, ASG roughly doubled the size of the Senate, approved weekly finance re-

quests, and discussed a number of other issues.

The meeting capped off an election season held months later than usual and with little fanfare. For the first time since at least 2017, first-year candidates did not give campaign speeches to their constituents, which Attorney General Will Lowthert, '24, said was intentional.

"A good way of thinking about it is universalizing elections," Lowthert said in an interview after the meeting. "I didn't think first-year elections should

be that vastly different than what occurs during any other class elections."

Lowthert added that all candidates agreed to the electoral rules when signing up, and therefore knew the bounds of running a campaign.

"It was within their ability to campaign how they liked," Lowthert said. "I do know that some of them did campaign, it just maybe wasn't as robust as you saw over other years."

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Title IX coordinator to leave Allegheny

By **NOELL FRITZ**
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Gillian Ford, the previous Title IX Coordinator, is stepping down to interim Title IX coordinator as Allegheny College looks for a new person to fill her shoes in the 2023-24 school year. The date Ford will be officially resigning remains undetermined.

"My husband had an employment opportunity out-of-state and we took advantage of that," Ford said, "It's just one of those opportunities we couldn't pass up and it's a good time in our personal lives to make a change."

Ford will be staying on as interim Title IX coordinator in a virtual capacity until the Title IX coordinator position is filled.

Title IX is a federal law under the Education Amendments of 1972 which states that no person shall be discriminated against based on sex. Title IX protects against sexual harassment and the failure to provide both equal athletic and academic opportunities. Allegheny's policy expands on Title IX by explicitly prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, color and age. For more information on Title IX visit sites.allegheny.edu/titleix/.



FORD

Ford has been with Allegheny for over 15 years in a variety of different capacities. She started in a fundraising role before transitioning to be a liaison for the President's Office. Ford had many other positions, including but not limited to being a member of the Board of Relations, dean of students and chief of staff in the President's Office. From the chief of staff position, she then became the Title IX coordinator.

"The reason why I did that (became the Title IX coordinator) is that, at that time, sexual assault on college campuses was a huge issue nationwide," Ford said. For 15 years Ford was an executive director at the women's shelter, a local non-profit organization that provides services to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

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In this week's Campus...

PARKING TICKETS ON CAMPUS

Contributing Writer Jasmine Williams, '27, shares her perspective on parking tickets and which parking lots students are allowed to use.

AFTER ROE

Contributing Writer Emma Conti-Windle, '27, gathers student opinion on the landmark case now more than a year after it was overturned.

MEN'S GOLF SHOOT FOR THE PIN

With the season in full swing, the golfing Gators are hungry to return to the PAC finals this year.



CLEANUP

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“We try to make people feel like they’re involved in a community, and that they’re safe.”

—WILLOW VOWLER
Class of 2025

The volunteers split into groups, each covering different stretches of the creek. Group #1 was led by Sonen and began its day by walking upstream, from downtown Meadville out into a residential neighborhood before encountering another group made up of workers from the Meadville Medical Center.

Sonen has been involved with SEA for three years, and has been in charge of SEA’s involvement with the French Creek Cleanup the entire time. She considers it one of her favorite SEA events of the year.

Despite how impressed she was with the cleanup, she was also very eager for feedback. Throughout the day, she made it very clear to everyone around her that criticism was not just welcome, but highly

valued. This includes a questionnaire sent to all participants asking how they felt about their part in the cleanup and how they think it could be improved.

“It’s just our way of making sure that we keep getting better at this,” Sonen said.

Willow Vowler, ’25, a member of Creek Connections was similarly impressed, but they noted a few specific points that could be improved upon.

“In comparison to the last two years, I think we have a bit of a lower turnout,” they said.

Vowler was hesitant to speculate about the reason, but they stressed the fact that student participation is key.

“Advertising more and trying to get other organizations on campus to par-

ticipate” were two of their main suggestions to increase future student involvement. Most of the student volunteers at the event were from SEA and other student-run environmental groups, as well as a few sports teams, fraternities, and sororities. But Vowler pointed out that there are many other organizations on campus that could be bringing in volunteers.

“The best way for any event to get people involved is to make it fun, and we have a lot of fun,” Vowler said “We try to make people feel like they’re involved in a community, and that they’re safe.”

Sonen agreed with Vowler that student involvement is key, and pointed out that most of SEA’s members, as well as most volunteers, were first- or second-year stu-

dents.

“By the time people get to senior year, they’re engaged in other things,” Sonen said. “Also, I think activism and club work of any type can be exhausting, especially once you get to the later stages of leadership.”

The students who did take the time out of their schedules to help clean up French Creek, though, made a positive impact on the local watershed.

“In my mind, it went really smoothly,” Sonen said. “No one got left behind, everyone seemed like they had a good time, and we got a huge amount of trash picked up. So from my point of view, everything went well.”

WI-FI

from page 1

Supply chain issues are delaying the procurement of the core switch, but Cole assured the campus community in his email that the core switches will be replaced in the next two to four weeks.

Once the network infrastructure is stabilized by the new core switch, Yeung anticipates that the Wi-Fi will become more stable for users.

In the meantime, IT is working to tune access points across campus in an effort to increase network connectivity speeds for users. To tune the access points, IT strategically placed them on varying radio channels so that devices can more easily identify where they are supposed to connect to.

Yeung and her team made a tuning pass during a scheduled outage at 4 a.m. on Sept. 1, and then made a second pass on Tuesday, Sept. 5, because they “didn’t like the results from Friday.”

“We’re hoping that that has improved some of the performance, and now we’re working on just making sure they’re all turned on,” Yeung said. “We did a walk of campus late last week and there are access points hanging on a ceiling that are not connected to anything, and they won’t work unless there’s a wire behind them and other randomness like that.”

In addition to tuning the access

points, Cole said that many of them will have to be replaced to improve coverage across campus.

Cyberattack

The Sept. 1, denial of service attack was unrelated to the ongoing network improvement project, though it did result in a multi-hour network outage that exacerbated connectivity issues for those on campus.

“Our new firewalls did their job and protected our systems by shutting down all connections,” Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung wrote in a campus-wide email sent out on Sept. 1. “The team restored connection around 10:00 a.m. We are working to adjust our firewalls to handle future attacks without the level of network disruption that occurred today.”

A denial-of-service attack occurs when malicious actors prevent network access for legitimate users by flooding a targeted host or network with traffic until the target cannot respond or simply crashes, according to the federal Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. The primary function of the attack is to cause disruption. Since the attack on the college succeeded in triggering the firewalls to shut down network

access for those on campus, Yeung said the attack succeeded.

“Cybersecurity is all in a day’s work,” Yeung said. “It’s not unusual for institutions to have denial-of-service attacks, but generally you have your firewall configured in such a way that it’s not as disruptive as it was here.”

IT was unable to identify the malicious actor who launched the attack because the firewalls reacted too quickly and severely. From the little information she was able to gather, though, Yeung could tell that the aggressor was outside of the college’s IP range.

The firewalls have already been re-programmed to have a more appropriate, less extreme response to similar cyber attacks in the future. Yeung and the IT team will continue to tweak the firewalls’ configurations going forward, which will allow IT to gather more information about malicious actors involved with potential future cyber attacks.

“It’s a continuous process,” Yeung said. “You’re never to a point of ‘done’ as it relates to cybersecurity because the bad guys are working just as hard to get in, and they only need to succeed once. And we need to succeed every time to keep them out, so there’s never a point

of ‘done.’”

Cyberattacks occur fairly frequently at large institutions, which is why it is important to have the necessary infrastructure and cultural practices in place to protect institutions’ data, Yeung said. Cybersecurity is high on Yeung’s list of priorities in her new role as chief information officer.

Ongoing projects

“Something else that we want to implement is something called ‘fast roaming,’ Yeung added. “Right now, your device will connect to an access point, and what we’re seeing is that your device wants to hold onto that access point for as long as possible, even if there’s another access point that has a better signal. As you get farther away from the one it originally grabbed on to, your speeds go down and down and down.”

Yeung said IT is actively working to configure the access points to engage in fast roaming.

“We just want to make sure that we test it well and we don’t break what we have,” Yeung said. “I don’t want to fix one thing to break something else. We’re trying to be a little slower and a little bit more intentional about what we’re doing.”

Carr Hall and Oddfellows are still the only academic buildings not connected to the campus’ fiber-optic cable system.

“We’re trying to determine — do we want to continue with the same access points that we’re currently using or do we want to pivot to something else?” Yeung said. “That decision will drive what kind of wiring we’ll need.”

27 that turned into more than a month-long struggle to get the internet functioning and the replacement of Wi-Fiber with two new network providers.

Leinart said the Wi-Fi issues were so far-reaching that the card readers at Ravine Hall at the end of the summer did not allow her access to the building. Additionally, the hotspots she and fellow Ravine residents were given did not work.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 5, the Wi-Fi was not working in Quigley Hall or the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts, the buildings she had classes in.

“I’ve been using my hotspot — my paid hotspot — since July of this year,” Leinart said. “That includes on my computer to do all my work and that includes when I take it to my classes to take notes, to do a project. I upgraded my phone plan because of this. It was expensive.”

To assist students, Cole said the college has deployed mobile hotspots, opened computer labs for classes and individual use and extended the hours of Pelletier Library which he says has had more stable connectivity.

Cora Wilkins-McKee, ’27, lives in Crawford Hall and has medical equipment that requires a Wi-Fi connection to function. The hotspot that the college provided also does not work reliably, Wilkins-McKee said.

“I’m not mad with IT,” Wilkins-McKee said. “They’re doing everything they can. I’m mad with whoever made the decision to (switch to) Wi-Fiber.”

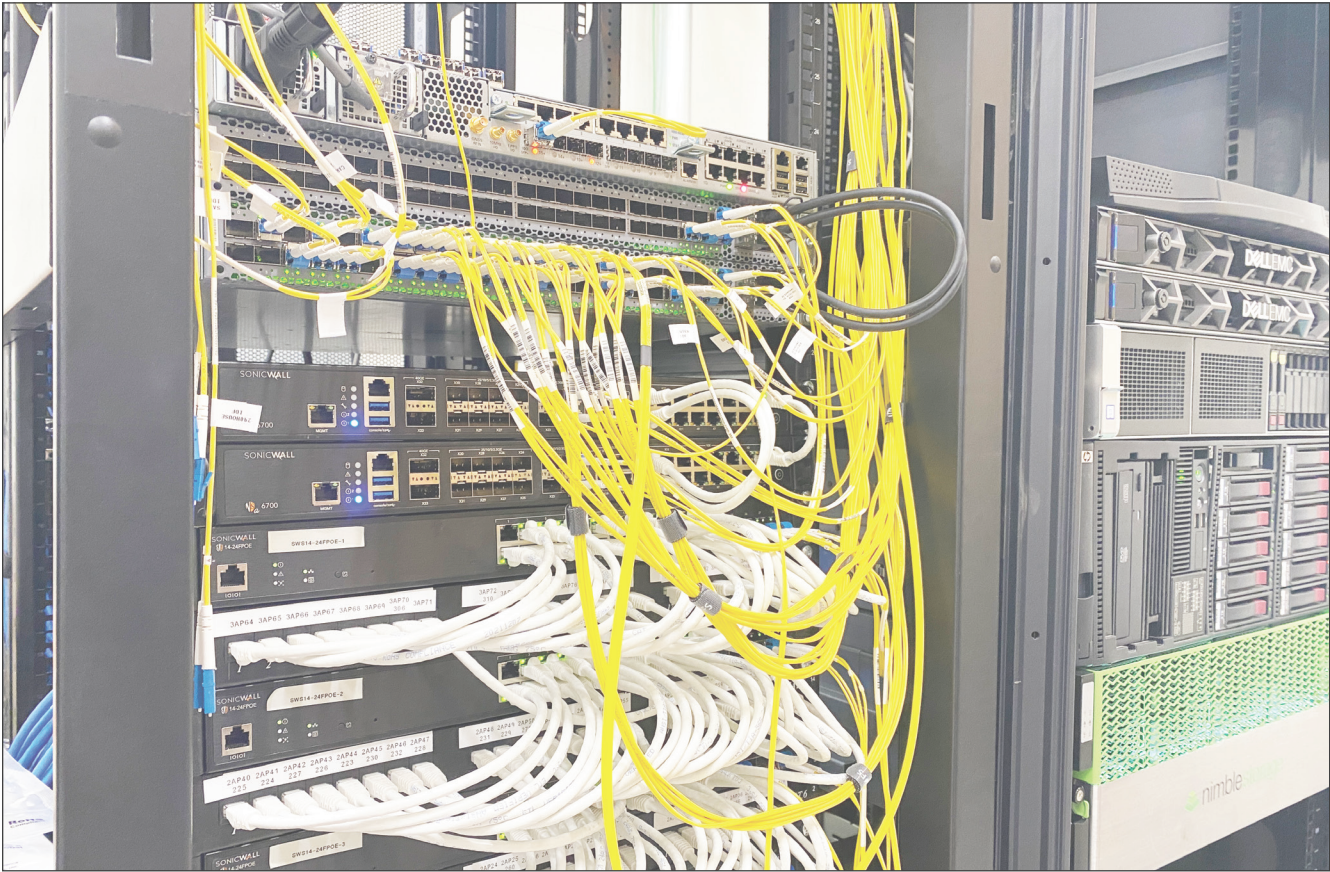
That decision was made by former Chief of Staff Kevin Kovalycsik, according to Yeung and Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley.

“He was the one that found Wi-Fiber, he was the one that negotiated the contract, he signed it,” Yeung said in an interview with The Campus on Aug. 25.

Kevin left the college in October 2022, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The selection of Wi-Fiber has generated IT’s heavy workload this semester.

“In the first three to four weeks when we initially did the rollover with Wi-Fiber, the team and I were here probably 20 hours each day just pushing and pushing and pushing them to get it done,” Yeung said. “Since we’ve exited them, it’s more like 14-hour days, just working to try and fix anything that we possibly can, but there’s a lot of things outside of our control.”



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

The core switches Wi-Fiber purchased cannot handle the amount of traffic generated by campus users, causing occasional crashes crash, according to Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung.

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AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS

Chompers paid a visit to McKinley’s Food Court on Wednesday, Sept. 13 to promote the volleyball team’s home opener against Penn State Behrend later that night. The Gators won every set — 25-15, 25-17, 25-12 —for a 3-0 sweep.

Parking problems

Why Allegheny's parking policies should be more lenient

By JASMINE WILLIAMS
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After a long first week of classes, I was looking forward to going home for the weekend. I packed a heavy bag, got into my car, started the GPS, turned on some music when suddenly I noticed these bright pink papers attached to my windshield wiper. I thought someone may be advertising something. To my surprise, I was incredibly wrong.

For the past three days, I received written warnings because I was parked in the “Gold Lot”. Now, I wasn’t neces-

sarily ignoring these very bright warnings. I just wasn’t as attentive to the notices on my car either because I had not gone to my car since I last parked it. It made me wonder how many written warnings they would have given me until they finally gave me an actual ticket.

Was it a strike policy? How many “strikes” would I have gotten until a ticket appeared on my windshield instead of a bright pink warning? The warning also said that if my car wasn’t moved, the police could tow my car or immobilize my wheels, and even make me pay fines.

I thought to myself, I can’t be the

only one receiving them. I saw people with parking stickers for Baldwin Hall, the building I live in, right next to my car. So, I sought out to ask my community what their experience was with the parking policies. I later met with Isaac Michalek, ’27, who experienced the same issue before classes started. His warning was different from mine and it said, “You are parked in violation of the parking rules and regulations. This vehicle will be ticketed next time.”

So, it’s clear that the penalty is more severe once classes actually start compared to before they start. There must’ve been a grace period for a while before classes began.

Many students have faced issues with parking tickets. Xander Malin, ’26, says he received five parking tickets just over spring break. This was all while he was in the hospital, so he was not even aware of the tickets he came back to. “I was completely unfit to drive,” Malin said. “My car was right outside Baldwin and got two parking tickets after two days.”

Public safety handles all written warnings and parking tickets students receive on campus. Malin tried to explain to the public safety officer since he was in the hospital and they suggested someone else move his car even though no one on campus that he knew was there because it was spring break.

“They were completely unsympathetic,” Malin said. “It was kind of insulting,

“

Things like parking should be convenient rather than a tedious task of figuring out where (students) can and cannot park, especially during the beginning of the school year and breaks.”

—JASMINE WILLIAMS
Class of 2027

I know that they didn’t mean to be.”

It’s possible that Public Safety could be more understanding of his situation but he paid the tickets regardless.

Luckily, parking tickets were only about \$10 so it wasn’t too much of a worry for Malin.

“It wasn’t the money, it was just trying to figure out what I did wrong,” Malin said.

It is something I think all students should be aware of. Where they are parking is important because it might not be the same for everyone. On top of that, not everyone has \$10 for every time something like this happens and it can become really inconvenient if it keeps happening.

“I don’t mean to characterize them at all,” Malin said. “None of them from my experience are bad people. I just think it’s silly, we already got enough debt.”

We are all at a stage in our lives where we have put education as a top priority. We all know money is something that is part of this education. Some of us do have to contribute to our tuition, so it

would be nice to get more than a few warnings before an actual parking ticket. Allegheny is not a cheap institution. The tuition is a hefty price many of the student body have to pay. Things like parking should be convenient rather than a tedious task of figuring out where they can and cannot park, especially during the beginning of the school year and breaks.

None of this is to make Public Safety look bad, I understand they are just doing their job. It is just important to bring this to students’ attention so that the same thing doesn’t happen to anyone else.

I understand that there are signs and rules for parking but I did not realize that where I was parked was even wrong at the time. I think there could be more signs or clearer directions.

With everything said, written warnings and parking tickets can be an inconvenience for students. While students are still adjusting, hopefully there is still some leniency as we are learning about our beautiful campus and the rules that come with it.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Allegheny's color-coordinated system means that students are limited to parking in certain lots.

• • • Changes to meal plans offer more options for students • • •

By MATT TALIANI
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Allegheny College’s big change to meal plans this fall may increase student’s number of swipes, but will greatly reduce their allowance of Munch Money.

Starting this fall, Allegheny College will implement some major changes to their student’s meal plan options. Allegheny will offer students the option of either “Gator Gold,” containing 21 swipes per week and \$300 in Express Cash (Munch Money) a semester or “Gator Blue,” containing 15 swipes per week and \$300 in Munch Money a semester.

This is a rather large switch from the school’s previous meal plan options. In the past, students could choose between meal plan A, which contained the largest combination of swipes and munch money, meal plan B, which had the second largest combination and meal plan C which had the lowest combination of the two.

Having these varying options gave students a chance to decide if they were going to be utilizing the school’s dining services consistently, or if they planned to be ordering out and cooking for themselves more often. While moving from three to two meal plans may not seem like a big step down, students who have chosen meal plan B for some time may feel like they’re caught in the middle, between the two options.

As for the plans themselves, the school’s main focus seems to be on equipping students with a greater number of meal swipes. While the standard Brooks dining hall swipe has remained the same, McKinley’s Food Court now allows students to use one swipe to purchase three separate entrées from any of the stations, and will include access to fountain drinks and as many sides as they desire.

However, while students’ numbers of swipes may have increased, their allowance of Munch Money has gone down significantly. With only \$300 of Munch Money a semester, students will have to

spend that money more sparingly than they have before. Students’ Munch Money will primarily be used to purchase the many frozen, refrigerated and pre-packaged foods and drinks that have been offered in the past. These products will be available at both Brooks and McKinley’s near their respective cash registers.

The new stations in McKinley’s this semester are “The Spread” which will serve primarily sandwiches and soups, “Limòn and Chile,” serving a Mexican style cuisine that offers burritos, quesadillas, bowls and other creations, and “Burgers + Fries,” serving the classic grilled foods such as burgers, chicken tenders, french fries and jalapeno poppers, to name a few.

In addition to the new stations, “Bento Sushi” and “The Fire Place” will both be making a return to McKinley’s. Although “Bento Sushi” can only be purchased exclusively with Munch Money, any entrée from “The Fire Place” can be purchased with a board swipe. McKinley’s will also be offering breakfast this fall at “Burgers + Fries” as another new

addition to the food court.

Students will still have the option to opt out of using a swipe and can elect to use their Munch Money on meals at McKinley’s as well. This can be a handy tool to get the most out of your meal plan. Instead of using an entire meal swipe on one entrée, it may be wiser to use your Munch Money then, and save a swipe for when you can use it for its full value.

One result of this new meal change may be a decrease of student’s diversity in where they choose to dine. Since the form of payment between both Brooks and McKinley’s is now the same, some students may elect to only eat at McKinley’s, or to only eat at Brooks. This is one aspect of the new meal change that those who are fans of one dining location over the other can get behind.

The main takeaways from this change are that students’ amount of Munch Money has dropped a good deal, but by using a swipe, they are able to get a much larger amount of food at McKinley’s than they could before. Student’s have also been given a sizable increase in the number of meal swipes they have, leaving them the choice if they want to alternate between Brooks and McKinley’s, or favor one over the other.

While students may debate whether or not they support the new change to meal plans, there is no doubt that it will take some time for everyone to get used to it. For more information or any questions on the meal plan changes, students can contact finsrv@allegheny.edu. For any questions regarding food insecurity, students can contact wellness@allegheny.edu.

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A year on, Allegheny students reflect on Roe

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
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Though it’s been 15 months since the overturning of Roe v. Wade, students opposed to the decision continued expressing their feelings on the issue and it seems that they are not done. Those in support of the decision also offered their thoughts.

The Supreme Court overturned the 1973 decision with a ruling in the case Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. According to the National Constitution Center, an American platform for constitutional education and debate, the Court stated that nowhere in the United States Constitution is there protection for a person’s right to an abortion.

Cause and effect

Upon hearing the news of the overturning, some Allegheny students have been forming more opinions and cultivating more open discussions on the topic.

Lexi Adams ’26, a political science major, is one of them.

“I think it’s the beginning of a larger attack on, like, female, reproductive rights and justice, especially for the people living in states that are extremely conservative,” Adams said of the ruling.

Adams is active with the Cleveland, Ohio chapter of Planned Parenthood, a prominent, left-leaning, provider of healthcare and sexual education, as well as other women’s movements, attending their rallies and education sessions.

The overturning has made it so that individual state governments can determine abortion rights and access within its borders. According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, a global human rights organization dedicated to the protection of reproductive rights, since the ruling, 14 states have made abortion completely illegal.

Adams, who is from Macedonia, Ohio — a state described by the CCR as “hostile” (having expressed a desire to fully ban abortion) — said that she is fearful for her home state. According to Planned Parenthood, Ohio state laws only permit abortions within six weeks of the first day of a person’s last menstrual period. There

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This is the government’s way of trying to control our bodies.”

—MADISON KERMIS
Class of 2025



Image source: Google Maps

The closest abortion clinic to Meadville is across the state border, on the outskirts of Cleveland, Ohio. Bedford Heights Surgery Center is roughly 72 miles away as the crow flies, or around 94 miles by car.

are also restrictions on such access such as informational wait periods that require multiple trips to an abortion clinic.

Pennsylvania is also considered a “hostile” state — despite having a governor that is for abortion rights — and allows abortion access through 24 weeks of pregnancy, or longer in some cases. Wait periods are necessary here as well.

Adams said she does not believe that this is as far as those in support of the overturning will go with this issue.

“I don’t think this is the end of what current parties are trying to accomplish in the name of taking these rights away,” Adams said. “I think that it’s going to lead to larger contraceptive bans... pushing the timeline back to pre-pill (birth control pill) era, which is super terrifying,”

Hitting home

Upon hearing of the possibility of the overturning, Adams followed the issue closely, as it connects to her personally. She worked as a nanny during the summer of 2022 for a mother who had struggled with miscarriages and other reproductive health issues.

“She (the mother) had an ectopic pregnancy...so it was a very, like, big discussion in that household,” said Adams.

An ectopic pregnancy occurs when a fertilized egg grows outside of the uterus, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

She was on a walk with one of the children she was nannying when she learned of the overturning of Roe from the mother, who had called her.

“We had only known each other for a few months, but it was something that, like, brought us together and we were crying at the dining room table,” Adams said. “It was just like this moment of, like, unknown and uncertainty. We were scared as to what was gonna come next.”

Circumstances in which pregnancies are a risk to the pregnant person are a large topic within the conversation surrounding abortion rights. Along with this, the freedom to access abortions in a safe way, regardless of the situation is also discussed.

Madison Kermis ’25, a psychology major and global health minor from New York — a state considered to have “expanded access” for protecting the right to abortion in state law and creating additional access to abortion care, according to the CRR. She said that she still struggles to feel like she or her loved ones have such rights.

“So many of my friends... have been in the situation where it’s like, ‘I might be pregnant. I might need to get an abortion,’ and knowing that we are in a country where that’s demonized a lot already...is very sad to me because it’s bodily autonomy and now it’s a legal issue,” Kermis said. “I’m privileged to live in a blue state where it’s still legal but I know in oth-

er places it’s just very sad to think that people have to go to an extent to get a legal and safe abortion.”

Local access

A person in Meadville is 72 miles from the nearest Bedford Heights Surgery Center in Bedford Heights, Ohio — around 94 miles by car; staying in-state, Meadville is 84 miles to Pittsburgh Abortion Services — around 91 miles by car — according to Planned Parenthood and Google Maps

“This is the government’s way of trying to control our bodies,” Kermis said. “It’s hard to feel, like, proud to be a woman or someone who has a uterus.”

Since the overturning, some states in the northern region of the country have seemed to offer more accessible reproductive health care, including abortions. Southern states tend to have less access to such services. For example, Texas’s trigger ban, a law that was set to become immediately effective in the event of Roe v. Wade’s overturning, prohibits abortion. Violators of the ban could face civil and criminal penalties.

Despite being a proud Texan, James Perez, ’27, reacted unfavorably to the state’s new abortion laws after learning more about the subject from his parents.

“I think personally it’s a little messed up...I feel like it’s not fair,” Perez said. “Everybody’s body is their body.”

Perez said the ruling robs women of their voice in the matter, but that he encourages them to take action.

“My hope is that the women in this country speak up... even more than they already have,” said Perez.

Both Adams and Kermis are doing so.

Following the ruling, Kermis spoke at a protest of the overturning that occurred on the Gator Quad in late spring 2022.

“I just kept it very short and simple. I said, ‘I’m here because I’m a woman. I’m angry. And I just want to have more rights than a gun.’” Kermis recalled, “A lot of people came out to support. People had a bunch of cardboard signs, there was chalking going on on the Gator Quad sidewalks. It was a really great turn out.”

Branching out

Another facet of the discussion surrounding the overturning and the topic of abortion-rights is access to contraceptives, sex education and reproductive health.

“I think sometimes when we go to college, higher education assumes that we had a proper sex ed. course in high school, or sometimes middle school,” Kermis said. “I think Allegheny could provide more resources to us.”

Kermis said that she knew of a women’s services center in Meadville, though she added, “I’m not entirely sure where it is or what resources they provide. I just know it’s there.

Women’s Services Inc, located at 204 Spring St. in Meadville is dedicated to helping victims of domestic and sexual violence, though their website does not provide information about abortion access.

Kermis also suggested the creation of a lecture series that clarified terms and taught about sexually transmitted diseases and ways to be safe. As an example, she pointed to a presentation that talked about common myths about sex given last spring by Why

Not Us?

“I thought that was very helpful, but a lot of people saw that as just a silly little thing, so people didn’t take it very seriously,” Kermis said.

This fall, Allegheny held another presentation for the incoming class of 2027 during Orientation Week, entitled Speak About It. The annual presentation put a somewhat of a theatrical and humorous twist on sex education, though at times, tackled serious issues like sexual assault.

Campus conversations

In terms of what more Allegheny could do to support students that have been negatively affected by the overturning, Adams has some ideas, particularly pertaining to discussion of the issue, student to student.

“A lot of our students here, or at least my friends and the people I’m surrounded with, they’re on the same side of the political aisle which I appreciate. I haven’t really encountered any firm, like, pro life people,” Adams said, adding that in her opinion it is important to speak with people you might not agree with.

Tommy Landsnes, ’27, is from Virginia — a state where, according to the CRR, abortion is accessible, but not protected by law. Landsnes said that he is on the more conservative side of the issue, though when he heard about the Dobbs decision, Landsnes said he was “indifferent.”

He elaborated, saying that while attending a Catholic high school, he was taught only of instances in which, “the fetus will kill the mother...That’s kind of the only time I’ve been told like, ‘Oh, abortion’s ok”

Since being at Allegheny, Landsnes said that he hasn’t yet found a situation in which the topic of the overturning or abortion has been discussed.

When considering an instance where he may share his views and perhaps receive some pushback, Landses said, “I feel like I would get some (pushback), but I also don’t see much of a point to bring it up in like my day to day life... it’s just kinda, like, it doesn’t really matter to talk about... I have my beliefs and people have theirs and it’s kinda just, whatever you wanna believe, go for it.”

That environment is present at Allegheny, according to Adams.

“Everyone is respectful,” Adams said. “Professors make sure that people with opinions are able to share them freely. If there is disagreement, it happens in a respectful and open manner. It’s not like pointing fingers.”

Tuning in to WARC: Allegheny’s radio station

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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Live from the Henderson Campus Center, WARC, Allegheny College’s student-run radio station, has been a way students have created spaces to express themselves at the college since 1963.

Tech Director Reece Smith, ’24, said WARC was the first station in the area to receive the news of then-President John F. Kennedy’s assassination.

“Since then, a lot of those things have died back and we do all the shows live,” Smith said. “We really don’t do any news, besides individual DJs talking about news.”

Smith said he will be hosting a news talk show — with topics ranging from global issues to on-campus concerns — because he enjoys keeping up with it and informing the community. However, he stressed that shows do not have to be content-heavy and could simply be a space where a student can share the music they are listening to while doing their homework.

Smith said he is trying to incorporate programming from more clubs on campus and has reached out to organizations like The Campus newspaper and the Allegheny Student Government.

General Manager Meredith Kyser, ’24, said the show they are hosting will feature Allgheny students. “I am doing a new show this year

with my friends,” Kyser said. “Every week we are going to pull in a special guest that one of us picked out and the other two have no idea who it is. Then we are going to interview them (the guest) and talk about what they’re doing on campus.”

Kyser said the radio station immediately felt like a safe place for them when they initially joined their first year.

“We really support each other and whatever they do,” Kyser said. “We are always rooting each other on and listening in while saying ‘great show,’ and just hyping each other up. We don’t really know how many people listen to our show so it is nice to get feedback and know we are doing a good job.”

While the radio station has a huge influence on students while they are in school, it has also had a lasting impact on alumni.

Bryanna Milbert, ’23, said being on the radio gave her skills she can use in her professional life that she may not have honed otherwise.

“I absolutely hated public speaking when I came into college and the radio essentially gave me more of an outlet to be able to publicly speak about things that are of interest other than my art,” Milbert said. “When I met a lot of new students and made new friends on campus I was nervous to talk about my interests so I would plug my show and they would enjoy it so much.”

Milbert’s shows frequently connected music to different themes like

cartoons and movies she was interested in at the time.

“A show I had was about ‘Phineas and Ferb’ — so I played ‘Phineas and Ferb’ music,” Milbert said. “This past show that I did, I essentially would choose an artist and would play their album or a discography from an artist and roll with it.”

Music Director Emmalee Brammer, ’24, described the connection the radio station has beyond the college and with the Meadville community.

“I think we probably have more listeners in the Meadville area than we do on the college campus,” Brammer said. “I know that there is a woman who works at the post office and lives in Meadville, and she always likes to tell me how her husband is a huge fan of WARC, and he tunes in as often as he can. I would like to think that we always provide entertainment to the Meadville area.”

Brammer encourages students to give being a part of the radio station a try even if they do not end up sticking with it.

“I know it can be really intimidating for some people — like the thought of having to talk on the radio and just the idea of having to handle the equipment,” Brammer said. “But it is not nearly as scary and difficult as it seems. Honestly, people don’t even have to talk if they don’t want to.”

The radio station will begin airing its first shows beginning Sunday, Nov. 17.



EVELYN ZAVALA/THE CAMPUS
While it looks like he is playing piano, WARC Tech Director Reece Smith, ’24, is actually working the station’s soundboard in this picture.

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Dissonance

The long walk: Do students feel safe on campus?

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Imagine this: You lost track of time studying in the library. Now it’s just past midnight, closing time, and you have to leave. On the streets everything is quiet except the distant sounds of highways. You look to be the only one out. How do you feel? Some students on campus feel perfectly fine making the walk home alone.

That’s according to an informal canvass of students in the Henderson Campus Center, six of whom spoke with The Campus to share their opinions.

While students at Allegheny grapple with many of the typical fears and discomforts that come with walking from place to place on a college campus, some maintain feelings of safety and feel protected by the school and community.

This appears to be a serious change from previous years when safety was a pre-eminent concern. Following an armed sexual assault of a student in the fall of 2019 semester, administrators hosted a forum where students expressed several concerns with public safety infrastructure — including malfunctioning card scanning systems on residence hall doors, inadequate lighting, and expertise and response time of Public Safety officers, according to reporting by The Campus at the time.

Now that most students present for those events have graduated, it seems the safety issue has begun to fade into memory. For some students who were not on campus during the Ravine disasters, Meadville represents a smaller, more relaxed corner of the world where danger isn’t as common.

“You know, in the Meadville area I don’t see no crimes or any of that,” said Johan Rivas, ’27, a student from the Bronx in New York. “Especially

from where I come from, that’s a daily thing I would see. But here it’s like a very calm, positive area where you will probably feel safe.”

For others, such as Anaya Harper, ’26, the calmness of Meadville is the exact factor that contributes to feelings of unease, particularly at night.

“I’m from New York, and it’s very busy at all times so I think that safety isn’t one of my biggest issues there, because there’s always something going on outside,” Harper said. “Meanwhile, Meadville is very quiet and at night, you don’t know what’s happening in the quieter areas so I would say it’s different.”

Regardless, students appear to have faith in their campus community to keep them safe.

“It seems that everyone has a slight bit of care for each other,” said Jazmine Thomas, ’27. “So far people have taken care of me and made me feel taken care of. So I haven’t felt threatened at all.”

Since 2019, the Office of Public Safety has installed peep-holes in interior residence hall doors, lights that stay on permanently or are motion activated and unable to be turned off via switch. They have fixed malfunctioning card scanning systems on exterior doors and installed alarms on some doors to sound if they are propped open. They have also increased outside lighting and added exterior security cameras on buildings around campus.

“We want to interact with the students,” said Director of Public Safety Jim Basinger. “We want to have community engagement. We want students to feel safe to come and talk with us if they have a problem.”

Basinger explained one way they try to connect with student’s perspectives to keep them safe. “Every semester we walk, usually with representatives from ASG (Allegheny Student Government) and Physical Plant, and we do what’s called a dark walk,” Basinger said. “We identify

areas that need improved lighting, shrubbery that needs taken down, lightbulbs that are out, all kinds of things like that. And we have input from ASG reps when we do that”

He also expressed Public Safety’s willingness and desire to meet with students, share the resources they offer, and hear their concerns.

If there is something making you feel unsafe on campus, Basinger recommends working with groups on campus to organize and get your voice heard.

“The administration here listens to the students,” he said.

While Public Safety has a variety of resources available, such as offering to escort uncomfortable students home at night, the 14 call boxes posted around campus and the Omnilert Safety App, some students are not aware of these provisions. Anyone who might feel more secure knowing about these resources should explore Public Safety’s website.

Women’s soccer — a photo collection of 2023

Photos courtesy of Ed Mailliard



By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny Gators Women’s soccer team has had its ups and downs throughout the young 2023 season, as they currently sit with a 1-4

record. While the roster has a handful of seniors, it is a young group that consists of 11 underclassmen including seven first-year athletes. Offensively, the club is led by Emma Miller, ’25, who has scored two of the the five

Gator goals this year. The tandem of Miller and Julieta Schworm, ’24, at the forward positions is strong, and the rest of the team will rely on them to find the back of the net consistently. Katherine Surdykowski, ’27, can also pose a strong

threat in the midfield, as the rookie brings a lot of potential to the table after being a three-sport athlete in high school while winning multiple sports awards. Defensively, it is Kari May, ’24, to guard the net for her fourth and final season. May

was an All-PAC Honorable Mention a season ago, and started seeing time on the field during her sophomore campaign. At the helm is Lacey Phillips, leading the Gators for her second season after taking over operations in April

of 2021. Phillips and company will look to turn things around and give Allegheny a chance for a playoff run. The Gators’ next home game is Wednesday, Sept. 20, where they will host Bethany.



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

Emma Milligan, ’26, gets support from her teammates during the announcement of the starting lineups for the Sept. 3 home opener against Wooster.



Photo courtesy of Ed Mailliard

Julieta Schworm, ’24, leaps over the opposing goalkeeper in pursuit of the ball during a 4-1 Allegheny victory over Alfred State on Sept. 6.

HIGH HOPES FOR LOW SCORES WITH MEN’S GOLF

By **JUSTIN OSBORNE**
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The Allegheny men’s golf season is in full swing, and after narrowly missing first place in the Presidents’ Athletic Conference final last year by one stroke, they look forward to the upcoming season and what it could hold for the program.

Led by 39th year head coach Jeff Groff, the Gators have a full roster of 14 with three seniors. Despite being made up of mostly underclassmen, the team has plenty of experience on the course. Leading the Gators are four juniors, Carter Hassenplug,

’25, Faaris Cheema, ’25, Zach Melzar, ’25, and Bergas Anargya, ’25.

The season began on Saturday, Sept. 2 at the Ted Barclay Invitational. The Gators placed fourth with a two-round total of 601, five strokes behind Otterbein University. Melzar led the Gators with a score of 4-over par and totaled a 148 on the card, with Cheema and Hassenplug trailing by two, each shooting 6-over at 150. Both Melzar and Hassenplug recorded a 73 during the first round, good for 1 over par.

Looking ahead, the Gators have a long schedule stretching deep into the spring of

2024. This provides ample time to prepare for the upcoming tournaments, but Groff takes it one step at a time.

“We take it, not just day-by-day, week-by-week, but match-by-match,” Groff said. “Try to take it one at a time. That’s an old sports saying but it’s very true.”

This training has harbored success, with two Gators earning spots on the PING All-Region 3 team last year in Hassenplug and Anargya. Hassenplug was also named a PAC Championship medalist and Player of the Year, scoring the lowest total for the conference tournament with

a 291 over four rounds. He ended his sophomore season with an average of 74.05 over 18.5 rounds, ranking fourth in Gators history. Standout performances at The Gauntlet and The Ruckus tournaments showcased Hassenplug’s play, scoring one-under at The Gauntlet with a 143 and going even at The Ruckus with a 144.

For this season, Hassenplug remains in stride, showing out at this past weekend’s The Gauntlet, shooting 5-under par over two rounds and tying for the second best score of the weekend. During his first round, Hassenplug recorded zero bogeys, a personal achievement few can claim.

The Gators as a team tied for sixth out of 14 teams in The Gauntlet, three spots better than where they were a season ago. Zach Melzar shot a 5-over par 149, while Faaris Cheema and Connor Bell each shot a 6-over 150. Anargya went 14-over with a 158.

Each individual’s score is important for where the team finishes. All institutions bring five athletes to a tournament to represent their respective college, and the two-round scores from each athlete are combined and used to rank

the teams. The team with the overall lowest score ranks first, while the highest ranks last.

The only tournament that is different is the PAC Championship, with two rounds taking place in the fall season and two rounds during the spring.

The core group to represent Allegheny has consisted of Hassenplug, Melzar, Cheema, and Anargya since their freshman year, each player holding their own respected successes and achievements. These four travel to each tournament, and Hassenplug emphasizes this group’s importance to a successful year.

“Those four people need to be able to play golf well at the same time,” Hassenplug said. “Getting everybody on their game at the same time is the overarching goal.”

Anargya expressed his sentiment towards the state of the team, and is confident for the future of Allegheny golf.

“Our team has never been stronger,” Anargya said. “I think this is our best shot at winning conferences this year. It’s shown right in the first two tournaments where we won two PAC Players of week.”

In the first tournament

of the season, the Ted Barclays Invitational, Melzar was awarded PAC Player of the week. After The Gauntlet this past weekend, Hassenplug was awarded the same honors.

The juniors started their collegiate athletic careers in the North Coast Athletic Conference, which had several nationally-ranked teams. However, the competition in the PAC is incredibly close, with the Gators inching closer to the top.

“It’s shown from conferences last year,” Anargya said. “The top three are separated by three shots. The competition in the PAC is much tighter than the NCAC.”

Twelve of the 13 conference championships that men’s golf holds are in the PAC, from before the college entered the NCAC in 1984; the last conference championship won in the NCAC was under in 2006. The Gators were named the PAC coach’s pick this year in preseason polling, meaning they are the favorite to take the PAC championship this season.

The Gators host the Guy & Jeanne Kuhn Invitational at the Country Club of Meadville on Sept. 24 and Sept. 25.



Photo courtesy of Allegheny Athletics

Carter Hassenplug, ’25, admires his shot after clubbing the ball with his driver at The Gauntlet golf tournament on Monday, Sept. 11.