1876 150 2025

The Campus

Volume 150, Issue 5
Friday, October 3, 2025

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

Microcredential program expands offerings

By **SHREYOSHI SHARBOJOYA**
Contributing Writer
sharbojoya01@allegheny.edu

Allegheny College is the first liberal arts institution in the U.S. to develop a comprehensive program of microcredentials, offering students a unique and marketable way to showcase the skills they acquire during their time at Allegheny.

The initiative, launched in fall 2023 by Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation Byron Rich and Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations Amber Pouliot, '07, includes 28 microcredentials ranging from artificial intelligence engineering to filmmaking and media production, German language and culture, and art history fundamentals.

Each microcredential awards students a digital badge they can post on professional platforms, such as LinkedIn, allowing them to pinpoint specific skills they have earned.

"Microcredentials don't change what students study in their majors or minors," Rich said. "Instead, they help students better showcase their specific skill set to automatically reach the top of the applicant pool for jobs."

Microcredentials are small credentials made up of 12 credit hours that portray students' skill set more concisely yet adequately to employers, according to Rich. Each microcredential works by bundling existing courses into a focused route, which students complete alongside their majors and minors. Students must earn a grade of C or higher in the course to earn the credential. Only one transfer course may count toward the total. The digital badges students receive help them directly connect their academic work to industry-recognized and -demanded skills. The digital badges also entail embedded keywords that employers' automated hiring systems recognize.

"Everyone who applies for a job may have a major, but a major doesn't detail out the specific skills you have gained through certain courses," Rich said. "Having microcredentials automatically lifts students to the top of the applicants' pile because it adds more to the polished resume, differentiating the student from the rest."

See MICRO | *page 2*

Reis Hall construction delayed by one month



JAY SHANK/THE CAMPUS

The interior of Reis Hall, once featuring a rotunda design created by architect Charles W. Bolton, will be transformed into two classrooms and a common space for students.

See REIS | *page 3*

Parking lot rezoning impacts North Village I & II

By **RAYMOND HOULE**
Contributing Writer
houle01@allegheny.edu

The recent removal of parking for Allegheny students on John Street by North Village was counterbalanced by a new allowance for students living in NV. Students are now permitted to park in Lot 11, the parking lot just south of NV that was previously reserved for Caflisch Hall. However, that lot is soon to see changes as well.

"We are planning on splitting Lot 11 to Lot 11A and 11B," said Mark Weindorf, director of Public Safety. "There will be enough spots to cover the loss of parking on John Street for NV residents. However, a majority of the lot will be solely for OC (off campus)." Weindorf noted that the adjustment is already in motion and will be implemented shortly.

"The rezoning will happen in the next coming weeks," he said. "We have all the signage, we just need to go and physically install and divide the area."

Before the introduction of Lot 11 and the removal of John Street parking, NV residents had access to three other designated parking zones: Lot 30, Lot 30A and Lot 10, with the former two reserved solely for NV parking. All the lots are located in the northern section of campus with Lot 30 and Lot 30A being adjacent to Highland Avenue and Lot 10 being adjacent to Limber Road. Together, those three lots contain 141 spaces, with John Street adding approximately 14 to 15 extra spots.

The addition of Lot 11 and removal of John Street parking brings the total number of spaces currently available for North Village residents to 175 — though some of those will be removed in the coming weeks as Public Safety divides the lot.

See PARKING | *page 2*

Outdoor classroom begins construction



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

An excavator sits next to the plot of land that the outdoor classroom will occupy next to the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library. The constuction is currently stalled, pending a building permit from the city of Meadville.

See CLASSROOM | *page 2*

ASG votes on new club

By **ANTON HODGE**
Staff Writer
hodge01@allegheny.edu

Allegheny Student Government met on Tuesday to consider the recognition of a new club, Rhythm Nation, and discuss regular reports and business.

This General Assembly was not livestreamed, despite Director of Communication and Press Jake Slater, '26, stating two weeks ago that he planned to livestream all GAs going forward to improve accessibility.

Cabinet Reports

Director of Finance Dominic Juliana, '26, reported that while the Finance Committee still does not have a set weekly meeting time, the committee will meet on Friday in the ASG office on the third floor of the Henderson Campus Center.

Juliana also reminded clubs and organizations that finance requests must be filed two weeks in advance of events. However, he said, events involving Grounds For Change open tabs should be filed a minimum of three weeks in advance, as GFC requires its own two weeks of advance notice after the ASG request is approved.

The Finance Committee approved 15 finance requests this week, totaling $7,790.83. The largest finance requests were from Outing Club, which requested $2,442 for a trip to Ohiopyle State Park and $2,000 for a "Budding Climbing" trip, and from The Campus, which requested $950 for licensing. The week's budget was approved unanimously.

Director of Communication and Press Jake Slater, '26, reported that ASG is considering switching from livestreaming GAs on Instagram to recording the GAs and posting them online later. Slater pointed to his desire to use microphones and a tripod as the rationale for the switch. Slater told The Campus that the Sept. 16 Instagram livestream garnered 50 viewers.

See ASG | *page 2*

In this week's Campus...

PINE MARKET CHANGES

Contributing Writer Lorena Silva Soares de Oliveira, '28, covers student opinion on the recent changes to Pine Market's operation.

Page 3

ALLEGHENY'S COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

President Ron Cole, '87, shares his thoughts on the value of college community during a time of unrest.

Page 4

C STREET BRASS PERFORMS

Contributing Writer Kessler Potter, '28, reports on the concert that C Street Brass, a visiting brass quintet, held for the college.

Page 7

FRIDAY H: 75° L: 50°
Rain: 1%
Sunrise: 7:19 a.m.
Sunset: 6:59 p.m.

SATURDAY H: 80° L: 53°
Rain: 0%
Sunrise: 7:20 a.m.
Sunset: 6:58 p.m.

SUNDAY H: 80° L: 56°
Rain: 0%
Sunrise: 7:21 a.m.
Sunset: 6:56 p.m.

MICRO *from page 1*

For instance, a student who completes the German language and culture microcredential demonstrates intermediate-level language proficiency, alongside awareness and proficiency within German cultural contexts. Those outcomes appear in the microcredential badge, making them visible to recruiters who may not otherwise be able to value or recognize the depth of a student's coursework to its fullest, explained Rich.

Additional microcredentials include cybersecurty risk analysis, accounting and psychological research design and analysis.

Rich said he began thinking about microcredentials for the first time in 2022, when he and Pouliot began brainstorming how microcredentials could be expanded beyond STEM fields and how a microcredential program could exist at Allegheny. Microcredentials, at that time, were primarily related to computer science and data-focused majors.

"We just started thinking about what it would look like in a liberal arts context," Rich said. "Soon after that, we were given a go-ahead, and we launched a pilot program in the fall of 2023."

For Rich — who is also an artist, scholar and researcher — microcredentials represent a way to showcase the real-world applications of liberal arts education.

"Art is one of those majors that people find impractical," Rich said. "If I had access to microcredentials early on, I would have been better able to tell the story of how many very employable skills I actually have, things like design, Photoshop, Illustrator, video editing and sound editing. On a resume, that doesn't always translate, but through a microcredential, it would have fast-forwarded my career."

Rich explained that without such tools, students must rely on their own abilities to articulate their competencies during interviews, which can be a challenge for undergraduates or recent graduates. Microcredentials, therefore, give students an effective way to communicate those skills they have gained.

The development of Allegheny's microcredentials followed the college's shared governance process, meaning faculty members provide ideas, design the structure of each microcredential and ensure that potential new microcredentials align with existing coursework. Proposals then move to the Curriculum Committee, which provides final approval.

> "Having microcredentials automatically lifts students to the top of the applicants' pile because it adds more to the polished resume, differentiating the student from the rest."
>
> —BYRON RICH
> *Assistant Provost for Academic Innovation*

"The faculty are ultimately the ones who decide whether a microcredential passes," Rich said.

Rich emphasized that the faculty review process ensures that microcredentials remain consistent with the values of a liberal arts education while also being responsive to the evolving demands of the job market.

Rich noted he has already observed the rising benefits for students entering the workforce. According to Rich, graduates who earned microcredentials last year found success in attaining jobs and positions that are much better aligned with their skills and goals.

"We've seen students land more lucrative and better-fit jobs than they might have without those credentials," Rich said.

Allegheny currently offers 28 microcredentials, but plans to continue growing the program and creating more innovative and creative microcredentials, according to Rich.

"We got microcredentials happening in the humanities fields, and to me, that's the most exciting part," Rich said. "We have taken this academic instrument and adapted it to show how a liberal arts education can be transformative."

CLASSROOM *from page 1*

By **PAIGE KAGENI**
Staff Writer
kageni01@allegheny.edu

Initial construction has begun on a new outdoor classroom next to the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library, but it is now stalled, pending a building permit from the city of Meadville. For those who have walked by the library this semester, the equipment and materials may have sparked some curiosity.

The classroom is being funded by the Allegheny Student Government. During the 2023-24 academic year, ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, and Vice President Sam Ault, '26, decided to allocate $154,000 of ASG's Surplus Fund to the project.

> "This project should begin progressing quickly over the next month or so as two pavilions are constructed in the area."
>
> —IAN BINNINGTON
> *Dean for the Student Experience*

In an interview with The Campus over Blue & Gold Weekend, Recio Bremer said planning for the project began in Fall 2023 when ASG deliberated on how to utilize surplus funds that accrued during the COVID-19 pandemic. Originally, the outdoor classroom was proposed for the site where Caflish Hall formerly sat; however, due to noise and safety concerns, Recio Bremer and ASG Vice President Sam Ault, '26, decided to relocate it beside the library, according to Campus reporting. Recio Bremer and Ault, in conjunction with Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley, approved $154,000 for the project. Ault did not respond to a request for comment.

The college has partnered with Illinois-based Associated Contractors Inc. and Pittsburgh-based LGA Partners to build the classroom. The space will feature two pavilions outfitted with features such as lighting and internet access.

In a written statement provided to The Campus by Vice President for Enrollment Management Jenn Winge, '96, Director of Facilities Joe Michael described the features planned for the space.

"The structures will feature concrete floors, lighting, seating, and outdoor wireless access, and will be located on the south side of East College Street," Michael wrote. "The site design also accommodates the potential for a third pavilion should future funding become available."

"Site preparation has already begun," he continued, "with vegetation cleared, fill material added, and initial grading completed."

Michael said Allegheny was "fortunate" to partner with Associated Contractors, Inc. and LGA Partners on the project.

"Both firms have a long history of working with Allegheny College and share a deep commitment to supporting our campus and students," he wrote.

The pavilions will be 875 square feet. The lumber for the structures was delivered to campus in early September. Though the college is currently awaiting a building permit, Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington, in a Sept. 3 email to The Campus, said there should be progress in the near future.

"This project should begin progressing quickly over the next month or so as two pavilions are constructed in the area," Binnington wrote, "but due to impending weather we don't want to make any promises on timelines at this time."

Recio Bremer said she remembered that ASG members during her administration wanted to have an outdoor location that could be used by students in all kinds of weather.

"It's a learning pavilion, reunion, student space that can be utilized by faculty for teaching, but also by student orgs to do different events on campus," Recio Bremer said. "Also, just students convening around campus, enjoying outdoor space or space that is still kind of outside without it necessarily being exposed to rain or other factors."

Recio Bremer said she is optimistic about the future since the project's construction has started. Although not on campus to witness the construction, she's happy about the impact of ASG and its continued mission to serve students.

"I'm looking forward," Recio Bremer said, "to leaving some legacy behind that students are happy to enjoy in future years and future generations.

ASG *from page 1*

Co-Directors of Student Affairs Lyra Lindsay, '27, and Iris Styers, '26, reported that the Dining Committee meeting time is being coordinated with Parkhurst to accommodate Parkhurst General Manager Maria Foxall's availability. Lindsay and Styers also reported they will order sexual health products for bathrooms.

Director of Community Relations Aubrey Carion, '27, announced several developments in local events. The Meadville Halloween parade will be on Oct. 25, with an "Under the Sea" theme. Additionally, the Meadville Children's Center, located in Oddfellows Hall, would like to hold its own mini Halloween parade in the campus center on Oct. 30, at 12:45 p.m. Carion reported she is also working on organizing shuttles to Robertson Athletic Complex for several home games on Oct. 18. Finally, Carion said the College Readiness Fair, an event focused on assisting prospective college students with considering college options, is still undergoing development with administrative personnel like Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley and Director of Orientation and Advising Programming Amy Herman.

Class Reports

Class of 2026 President Sydni Junker reported that the tabling on Sept. 29 and the Sept. 30 "Sippin' Into Senior Year" GFC open tab were successful.

Class of 2027 President Kirandeep Khroud reported the class is continuing to plan an event involving Parkhurst and is working on plans for Junior Appreciation Week.

Class of 2028 President George Asante clarified the GFC open tab event the class plans to hold on Oct. 8 will be open to all students, not exclusive to sophomores.

Class of 2029 President Niki Hineman reported the class is finalizing its fall event and discussing potential winter event ideas, including a snowball fight with hot chocolate.

Chief Executive Reports

President Chezka Quinola, '27, informed the GA that ASG is working with Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley and Physical Plant to move feminine hygiene dispensers around to more useful locations, as well as funding more condom dispensers for campus center bathrooms. Additionally, Quinola said the yearly accessibility walk is being planned.

Vice President Doug Malcolm, '26, reported progress on several ASG projects. Malcolm met with Foxall and Associate Dean of Student Life Gretchen Beck to discuss placement of televisions in McKinley's Dining Hall. Current frontrunners for placement are above the gluten-free options to the right of the Corner Mercantile station and above the trash cans near the entrance looking into the main seating. Malcolm reported that the Office of Marketing and Communication has been contacted to discuss technical details such as price and maintenance.

Malcolm said work is also being done in conjunction with Trey Williams, assistant director of annual giving, and Carion to coordinate a concert ticket raffle on the Oct. 18, with tickets being awarded for showing up to specific campus events before a final drawing.

New Business

ASG held the first round of voting to recognize a new club: Rhythm Nation.

Represented by Fatima Rabihi, '29, the declared purpose of the Rhythm Nation step team is to "bring students together through the art of step, blending rhythm, movement and creativity into a powerful form of expression," according to its constitution.

While the club was received positively, some outstanding issues with the constitution submitted to ASG were debated following a motion to discuss from Senator Simone Greene, '28. The mood of the room during the discussion was light and amicable. Senator Daniel Servey, '29, summarized the small concerns when asked to expand on potential issues.

"What I'd like to see isn't strictly constitutional stuff," Servey said. "I want to know how they'll track membership, plan their events, a rough budget estimate, that planning stuff outside of the small constitution things."

Attorney General Anna Kohler, '26, said the club will make the relevant changes to the constitution.

"She (Rabihi) knows what she wants to do," Kohler said. "It's just a new club so she needs to work some kinks out."

Ultimately, Rhythm Nation passed the first round of voting unanimously, with prospects for the second round of approval contingent on making the recommended changes.

The next GA will take place Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in room 301/302 of the campus center.

PARKING *from page 1*

Weindorf reported that 131 NV parking passes were issued this semester, meaning that there should be enough parking for residents.

Still, some students said it sometimes feels challenging to find a parking spot, especially during certain parts of the day.

"Every day when I come back late after practice, there are no spots I can find," Avarie Schott, '26, said. "With even fewer spots available to us, I am not sure what I am going to do."

Weindorf noted that the dividing of Lot 11 will make the lot comparable to the number of spots before the removal of John Street parking.

Some students also raised concerns about the price of permits compared with the availability of spaces, according to Schott. A permit costs $200 for the year.

"With all we pay for tuition and how sparse parking spots are, the parking pass should be cheaper," Schott said.

Parking enforcement has also become a point of frustration for some students. The amount of parking tickets given to NV residents has not changed with the allowance of parking in Lot 11, according to Weindorf. With tickets costing $10 for parking in the wrong spot and the boot removal fee increasing from $50 to $100, some students worry about finding a spot to avoid fines, especially because cars will be booted after five consecutive tickets.

To help alleviate the stress and address concerns, Weindorf has personally shown students where they are allowed to park.

"I drove around with a student the other day that already got a large amount of tickets," Weindorf said. "He wasn't quite understanding that he wasn't in the right spots. I explained to him why he was getting tickets where he was at, and then I showed him three other lots on campus he could park in that he didn't know about. There are a lot of hidden ones (parking spots) around the place."

Some students say the problem is not just the number of spaces, but also the distance from housing. Some of the NV lots are not paved, but rather gravel, which students say is slippery and unsafe during the winter, according to Wilson.

Meanwhile, commuter students stand to gain from the rezoning of Lot 11. Commuters often compete for spaces near academic buildings, and Public Safety said the reallocation is intended to ease their access.

"I understand why commuters need spaces too, but it feels like NV students are the ones losing the most," Wilson said.

Student frustration has also led to suggestions for long-term solutions. Wilson said the college should consider building an additional lot closer to NV housing.

"There used to be a building on Caflisch lawn, and I haven't seen any large events happening there," Wilson said. "It would be the perfect place for a parking lot. There is plenty of open space there."

While there are no future plans for any new lots or other parking changes, Weindorf confirmed that Public Safety welcomes emails and calls to address parking issues. He can be reached by email at mweindorf@allegheny.edu, or he can be called at extension 3357.

REIS *from page 1*

By **JAY SHANK**
Staff Writer
shank01@allegheny.edu

On their way to class, students peer over the green fence surrounding Reis Hall to see what might be going on outside the building.

Construction on the building began in January 2025 and is planned to be completed in two different phases, according to a February 2025 Campus article. Director of Facilities Joe Michael said that the first phase of construction — the exterior — should be done in the next month.

"We're almost done with phase one, we have a couple weeks left," Michael said. "Phase one was to focus on the exterior of the building, making sure we protect the interior of the building. It should take about a month and then we'll start in phase two."

Due to unexpected circumstances that arose during construction, the project is behind one month in the original timeline. When taking the interior of the building apart, contractors revealed that the former library stacks of Reis Hall were actually the foundation of the building. A challenging task had arrived: to find a new way to stabilize the building without the stacks. However, Michael predicts the renovations will be finished by the end of 2026, staying true to the original projected finish date.

"We projected that by the end of the fall semester next year we should be done with phase two. We're still on track for that," Michael said. "The goal would be once we start phase two, it's a 12-month project, so we're about a month behind overall but that'll still allow us to finish on time."

The renovated Reis Hall will serve as the new home for the computer and data science department, as well as the Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity. The ALIC labs will be on the bottommost floor, while the two upper level floors will host offices, classrooms and common spaces. The college is currently discussing if another department can be fit into the space, according to Michael.

"We are looking to see what departments would potentially move to Reis Hall," Michael said. "We said from day one it's ALIC and Compsci (Computer Science), but looking at the space and office sizes, we wanted to see if we can fit another department in here as well."

In a campus-wide email sent to students in July 2024, the college stated that "Reis Hall will become an integral campus space for Allegheny students to learn and innovate."



JAY SHANK/THE CAMPUS
This hall, located on the uppermost level of the building, will become office space for professors. An elevator will be installed for accessibility to this floor.



JAY SHANK/THE CAMPUS
The prior reading room of Reis Hall will be renovated into classroom space.



JAY SHANK/THE CAMPUS
The side of Reis Hall facing Brooks Hall will be renovated to have a multiuse amphitheater. The brick walls of the building will be replaced by large sliding glass doors.



JAY SHANK/THE CAMPUS
The pathway that students used before construction began has been removed and replaced by a new accessible entrance with a ramp.

Student opinions vary on Pine Market

By **LORENA SILVA SOARES DE OLIVEIRA**
Contributing Writer
silvasoaresdeolive01@allegheny.edu

One month into Pine Market's new 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. schedule and expanded inventory, student opinion about the store remains mixed.

Cozmo Gallegos, '28, goes to Pine Market every day.

"I love Pine Market, it's great," Gallegos said. "It has everything I ever need."

Gallegos was annoyed when Pine Market closed last semester due to theft and does not approve of the new schedule.

"When I want a midnight snack, (I feel) kind of annoyed," he said. "I would like it to be 24 hours."

Tristan Marinch, '27, also likes Pine Market and has a similar opinion to Gallegos on the new schedule.

"It is not as ideal and not as convenient, of course, because sometimes I do need a drink or something else late at night," Marinch said. "I come here (to Pine Market) a bit less because of it."

But Marinch said he does not have problems getting food after the dining halls have closed.

"I just try to get food before it closes," he said.

Ryann Fishel, '28, said that when the market closed last spring, it did not affect her because she lived in Crawford Hall, located on the opposite side of campus. Still, Fishel felt annoyed by the theft issues.

"I think it is annoying that people betrayed the trust of the college," Fishel said. "We are at college, are we serious? I think that's the worst part."

Now, Fishel goes to Pine three or four times each week. She said she is not annoyed by the change of schedule.

"I don't really mind, it's basically the same hours I would go to visit it," Fishel said.

According to Parkhurst General Manager Maria Foxall, the change of schedule has not appeared to interfere with Pine Market's sales.

"I think because we are open as long as we are, from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., the sales are about the same," Foxall said.

Parkhurst Director of Operations Randi Hovel said that Pine Market has been doing well since the start of the semester, when the new changes were officially implemented. She noted that the student dynamic with Pine Market has shifted since its reopening.

"It's different now without it being overnight," Hovel said. "Students who are studying overnight don't have that option anymore. But, we see a large increase while the students are able to go versus last year. During the day it wasn't as popular; it was more popular towards the evening. Now, I feel like it's more popular throughout the day."

According to Hovel, Parkhurst is addressing student concerns around food access, encouraging students to use the vending machines around campus, which she said have options of sandwiches and frozen meals.

One vending machine is available around the clock in Murray Hall. Another is located in the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library, which typically closes at midnight on weekdays.

"A lot of the food (at the vending machines) is frozen, so there's meals you can make at home and there's meals you are able to just microwave," Hovel said.

Foxall thinks food access should not be an issue for the students.

"Because of the meal plans we have with the college, I don't think there's a lot of food insecurity," Foxall said. "We are open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., so people can easily come and grab something before we close. It's not like we have super limited hours of food access."

The company does not plan to make Pine Market open 24 hours again, according to Foxall. It also does not plan on making any further changes to security measures.

"I think just having the cashier will be good, and we also have people assigned to stock the store in addition to the cashier," Foxall said. "I don't think we need anything beyond that."

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 Wednesday before publication.

No reported crimes this week

THE CAMPUS
Since 1876

EDITORIAL STAFF

Anna Westbrook	Editor-in-chief
Ben Stavnezer	News editor
Aubryanna Snyder	Features editor
Milo Watson	Opinion editor
Jay Shank	Staff writer
Anton Hodge	Staff writer
Paige Kageni	Staff writer
Joseph Klepeis	Staff writer
Alexander Nash	Sports writer
Ben Stavnezer	Layout editor
Noell Fritz	Layout editor
Anna Westbrook	Layout editor
Ray Krishtul	Social media manager
Emma Conti-Windle	"Ask Allegheny" producer & host
Joseph Klepeis	Copy editor
Anna Westbrook	Business manager
Michael Crowley	Faculty adviser

Advertising (814) 332-5386
Editors newspaper@allegheny.edu
Box 12, Allegheny College
520 North Main St.
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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

Allegheny College: a community of learning

By **RON COLE**
Contributing Writer
president@allegheny.edu

Last year, I asked hundreds of students, faculty and staff to participate in a simple word exercise — what three words come to mind when I say "Allegheny College?" Time and again, one word stood at the center of their responses: community.

Published definitions of community often include some variation of 'a group of people with shared interests.' At Allegheny, our shared interest is education — as such, I view us as a community of learning strengthened by its people contributing diverse expertise, experiences and perspectives. I believe, at the root of such a community is free expression with trust, respect and care for one another.

We affirm this with our Statement of Community, committing to creating an inclusive, respectful and safe learning community while challenging harassment and discrimination. All members of the Allegheny community should feel safe in their identity and in their ability to express their points of view respectfully, welcoming respectful challenges to their opinions while listening to the views of others. This is an important part of learning, particularly in the liberal arts where we find meaning by actively engaging different perspectives with curiosity and compassion, thinking critically about issues, disagreeing without dismissing and recognizing humanity in each other.

In this regard, college campuses are being tested by today's hyper-polarized world where there seems to be diminishing space for listening and learning that values engaging different views and ideologies with curiosity and compassion. The polarization seems especially entrenched with social media as a space where "facts" can be promoted and accepted without evidence, personal attacks abound and ideas are "debated" without context — in stark contrast to what we value as a liberal arts college.

And tragically, throughout history, entrenched ideological divides have turned to acts of violence and hatred as we've witnessed too often in our lifetimes. Nobody should live in fear of violence and hatred because of their identity, beliefs or opinions, and violence brings no victory.

I find a sense of grounding in the strength of higher education in America as it rests on the free exchange of ideas, leading to better understanding of others and fostering innovation and creativity to solve problems and resolve differences. At Allegheny College, we have a commitment to freedom of speech and inquiry while challenging harassment and discrimination, and I believe we have a willingness to be a community where learning, respect and belonging thrive. The Sustained Dialogue Institute provides us with tools for this as they remind us that true dialogue isn't about winning arguments, but about listening deeply enough to learn. Members of our campus community are trained facilitators for Sustained Dialogue and led multiple dialogues last year with more to come this year — I encourage you to learn more and participate as these are advertised. When we create space for authentic conversation, we strengthen our foundation of freedom of expression and inquiry.

As we move into Fall Break, I invite you to join me in renewing our long-standing commitment to education rooted in respect, inclusion and learning freely with the courage to learn from one another. When we stand united as a learning community, showing the enduring power of education, we strengthen not only Allegheny but the future of our democracy.

The wrong one percent

By **MARGARET DINEEN**
Contributing Writer
dineen01@allegheny.edu

Transgender people make up less than one percent of the American population, with even fewer of us taking part in sports, holding positions of power and working steady jobs, according to the UCLA Williams Institute. With a population so low, surely our existence won't matter too much in the grand scheme of political rhetoric. Yet, we are the center of attention when "everything" goes wrong. Executive orders earlier this year repealing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts and restoring "merit-based opportunity" have cost transgender and cisgender people access to jobs and government positions. False stereotypes, like that transgender men are "angry and aggressive" because of their testosterone levels and that transgender women "harass women in bathrooms," plague social media, news outlets and government reports, inducing statewide panic and creating an easy target to divert attention away from a suffering country riddled with political divide.

Now, with the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, the entire transgender community is under fire just because the white, cisgender, heterosexual suspect currently in custody for his assassination had a transgender roommate. People who truly believe they know what it is like to be transgender are parading through social media and communities, proclaiming we are violent, bloodthirsty, ill criminals. Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina said that we need to be institutionalized, according to The Advocate.

I am here to call out the elephant in the room: We are in the midst of a collective conservative movement to erase transgender individuals from all walks of life. Many Americans, fueled by the immense hatred spewing from the Trump Administration, have developed a learned, public stigma against us. Public figures with platforms reaching millions of people regularly label transgender people as "mentally ill," according to Mace, and a "deranged death cult," according to conservative podcaster Matt Walsh. The recent rise in anti-trans rhetoric has been not only alarming and depressing, but should make everyone (yes, EVERYONE) frightened for the accelerating crumbling of our society.

Why should this matter? After all, most of you currently reading this are most likely cisgender. However, transgender discrimination affects everyone. Recent reports show that some cisgender women are being targeted in bathrooms because they "look" transgender. Having broader shoulders, more muscle mass, increased body hair, taller stature and "traditionally" masculine features are some ways in which cisgender women become targets for anti-transgender violence. These features are normal for all women. However, just "looking" transgender can put you on someone's radar and endanger you, all the while promoting gender policing and enforcing unattainable beauty standards that put women and girls in boxes, preventing them from breaking these distorted "cultural norms." If your whole argument hinges on protecting women from violence and surveillance, why, now, are you making those you swore to protect vulnerable to these issues?

> "The culture war being waged against transgender individuals is a means of distracting America from the atrocities happening across the globe."
>
> —MARGARET DINEEN
> *Class of 2027*

What about transgender youth, who rely on hormone replacement therapy? The Jan. 21 executive order signed by Trump barring gender-affirming care for those under 19 now blocks transgender youth from fully reversible medications that pause puberty. This gender-affirming healthcare leaves room for identity evaluation, significantly reducing their anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation. Without it, transgender teenagers (who we know are mentally and emotionally capable of undertaking permanent decisions) are deprived of the autonomy to make determinations for themselves, leaving them at higher risk of workplace and familial discrimination, homelessness and abusive, parasitic relationships. Gender-affirming care is life-saving medicine, and should be accessible to all, just like insulin, EpiPens, inhalers and Narcan, without the hurdles of high prices and restrictions. These medications prevent children and teenagers from becoming at-risk for further discrimination and mental health issues. So much for that pro-life argument.

The culture war being waged against transgender individuals is a means of distracting America from the atrocities happening across the globe. Journalists and media personalities on both sides are being stripped of their platforms; in innocent Hispanic communities just looking for the "American Dream," Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents still plague the streets; the homeless are being threatened by Fox News hosts for socioeconomic struggles that are beyond their control; millions of same-sex couples' marriage equality is back up for debate; the Department of Education is being critically defunded, leaving students and teachers without the necessary equipment and resources to teach valuable lessons; groceries are still expensive; Palestinians are still being slaughtered for existing in their land; gun and political violence are rampant, with both Democrats and Republicans falling victim. Can't you see we, as a society, are crumbling? Is this hate making America great? They want to blame transgender people, but we are the wrong one percent.

Those who "should" be blamed are billionaires and those elected — and not elected — to positions of power. The wealthy have a tight grip on what happens behind the closed doors of the White House. Google CEO Sundar Pichai, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Microsoft Co-Founder Bill Gates met with Trump earlier this month to discuss his administration's artificial intelligence development. Elon Musk worked extensively in the beginning of Trump's second term to "reallocate" money with the Department of Government Efficiency. Billionaires without official government experience, like Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, are leading figures in his cabinet. A government run by billionaires does not accurately reflect the people's best interests. As former Harvard Business School professor David Korten writes in his piece "When Billionaires Rule the World", "any society that fails to limit both obscene levels of poverty and obscene levels of wealth cannot presume to be civilised. While some inequality is inevitable, the current level of human inequality exceeds human comprehension."

These billionaires in government, and Trump himself, have pledged to fight "the enemy within" without acknowledging that "they" are the enemy. They will do everything in their power to keep us complicit, blaming transgender and other minority groups for all of society's woes, without looking internally at how their legislation and misuse of power have put us, as a whole, in the predicament we currently face.

Transgender people are beautiful. We are created in our own image by seizing control from the invisible hands of arbitrary cultural norms that ache to dictate our every movement. We create art, music, books, poems, law and policy, grassroots campaigns and community. Transgender people are resilient. We have survived decades, trailblazed movements led by individuals such as Marsha P. Johnson have become teachers and agents of social reform like Sabre (@bottleneckloser on Instagram) and have created beautiful art like Ethel Cain. We want to live as free and equally as our cisgender counterparts, but misinformation and political finger-pointing continue to cement us as political opponents and easy targets for divisive thinking, fueling the culture war. Once the right cannot blame transgender people for the faults of government, economic and social policy, who will they blame then?

We will continue forward, embarking on a journey of social acceptance and reconstruction because we want to thrive. We want the same opportunities, love and acceptance that our cisgender counterparts receive. We want to be welcomed, not resented. Although many people want us erased, we continue to blossom like wildflowers in spring, for our roots are deeply embedded in survival, love and positivity. One day, we will be as cherished as our transgender brothers and sisters in the Greek, Roman and Egyptian past. Still, until then, we remain fighting for our right to live free, united and unapologetically proud.

A love letter to the Rustic Bridge

By **SETH NICHOLS**
Contributing Writer
nichols01@allegheny.edu

When I feel like I need to clear my mind, I always end up going for a walk around campus. I, for one, love Allegheny's older, classic architecture. Allegheny's much smaller campus size and older designs make us stand out compared to large state schools. When I am walking around campus, I always enjoy looking at all of the architecture, even though I've already been going to Allegheny for two years now. 90 percent of the time, I end up walking or chilling by the creaky old wooden bridge on the south side of campus.

I honestly did not even know that it was called The Rustic Bridge. I've been here for two years already and somehow managed to miss this part, which could be due to the fact that not many students talk about it much.

Knowing more about it now, I do wish that the college would highlight some more of their historic landmarks on campus so that other students can appreciate them as well. For example, back when it was first constructed, it was common for Senior Class Day speeches to be delivered from the bridge.

The bridge, made entirely out of wood with a few screws here and there, has been around for over 100 years. It, of course, has received multiple replacement parts since it was originally constructed, but the fact that it is still here for that long is impressive. The most recent reconstruction of the bridge happened in 1993 and had a couple of other ones before that.

Allegheny wanting to keep this structure around shows that they care about the history and longevity of the college. Since Allegheny has been around for about 200 years, the campus has seen incredible changes, but still has those old structures to signify where the college has come from.

One of my favorite parts about this landmark on campus is what surrounds the bridge. Personally, I greatly enjoy being outside and in nature, so this area is a great little place to relax and admire the scenery. It sits surprisingly high off the ground from the small grassy ravine below. The tiny creek on the side of the hill also adds a nice touch below the bridge. I enjoy the little canal that it flows through, which is surrounded by bricks, and the moss covering those brings them to life as well. This small area is a nice place to hang out sometimes or even just to walk through if I have a couple of minutes to kill. I remember going to the bridge one time last winter when it was freezing since I love being outside in the cold. Seeing how beautiful the campus looked and especially the bridge made me appreciate attending Allegheny instead of a lot of other schools.

Sometimes it's also nice to stop by and chat with people hanging out there. I've talked to people about simple things like how classes are going or their plans for the weekend, to much deeper conversations such as the conflicts in Nepal. It's nice that other people at Allegheny appreciate these spontaneous conversations like I do.

At any time of year, the bridge looks great. During the spring and summer, all of the greenery below and around is relaxing. During the fall, this area is one of my favorite places to admire changing leaves and the autumnal colors.

Even in the winter with snow and ice covering the entire bridge, it's beautiful to look around at the snowy expanse covering the ground. Sometimes the bridge is closed for safety reasons due to ice, but it usually clears up once it stops snowing.

One of my favorite times to go and see the rustic bridge is during sunsets. I personally love sunsets and was very surprised that Meadville and the surrounding areas actually have really good ones.

Right in the middle, there is a perfect little clearing where you can catch an amazing view of the sun setting over the hills in the distance. The canvas of trees and hills around Meadville and campus allows for great, clear views.

My parents, who both graduated from the college, have mentioned to me how they both like the bridge as well. They've also said to me how it still looks very similar to how it did around the time that they went to school here.

During their time there, they often thought that it was a nice touch being on campus and that my dad would often pass it on his way down to Carnegie Hall. In times where they've revisited campus they are surprised that it still is in pretty good shape and still exists.

There really are not any other places on campus like the bridge. While yes, many of the other buildings are beautiful, this is one of the only structures in Allegheny where you can enjoy the outdoors at the same time as staying on campus.

Lately I have noticed that the bridge has become a bit run-down, especially on some of the planks that make up the floor. A lot of them move around and are a bit shaky at times. It's even been a tradition for people to steal the 13th plank for years on the bridge which recently happened once again during Blue and Gold Weekend.

I personally hope that Allegheny will continue its upkeep on this structure, as well as the surrounding area, even though it is pretty old. This area still provides students of Allegheny with a quiet, calming space for those who might need it.

The bridge by no means has fancy colors or art on it. Even though it is not the most complicated architectural structure at Allegheny and has had missing planks or can be creaky, I have always been able to enjoy this area of campus since it allows me to take even a small break to relax and feel calm.

Out of all the buildings and areas on campus, the rustic bridge is the one that I enjoy the most, and I hope that you can find your spot, too.



The views reflected in Opinion articles are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the view of The Campus newspaper editorial board.

ALLEGHENY ACTIVISM

Examining Student Activism at Allegheny College Since 1960

Excerpts from a Senior Comprehensive Project by Kendra Stanton

Reviewing "The Wonder Years" Allegheny-Style

By KENDRA STANTON

Allegheny student activism of the 1960s and 1970s ran much like an episode of "The Wonder Years." Similar to the characters on this television program, an overwhelmingly homogeneous Allegheny student body, high atop a hill, was sheltered from much of the turmoil in other parts of the country. Despite their removedness, these impressionable minds tried to make sense of a violently changing world.

Understanding and taking action, are, of course, two different things. Allegheny student activists demonstrated a deep concern for the problems within their campus community and in their community-at-large. Much of the current turbulence was in reaction to the Civil Rights Movement and U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Some of the activists realized, however, that the changes sought were not attained overnight.

Students Join "The Movement"

A decisive day in U.S. student activism over the last half-century was Feb. 1, 1960. This day, four black college students were arrested for sitting at a whites-only lunch counter at an F.W. Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Racial segregation remained extremely egregious in parts of the United States, especially the South. The Greensboro incident marked one of the first examples of student participation in the Civil Rights Movement.

The year 1960 at Allegheny College, however, compelled little interest toward activism of any kind. *The Campus* featured a letter in which one student suggested Alleghenians should engage more in politics. "We needn't revolt, we can go out and campaign peacefully and still vigorously for the leaders who represent the causes in which we believe," he wrote.

Primary means for political organization on campus were through the newly-formed Young Republicans, the Young Democrats, and the Americans for Democratic Action chapter at Allegheny. These groups rallied students to register to vote, hosted speakers, and sometimes conducted mock elections.

Sandy Spence '63, a Political Science major, started the Young Republicans in 1962. Through Trustee Raymond Shafer (then-candidate for Pennsylvania governor), Allegheny was invited to attend the Young Republicans conference for Pennsylvania. "It was very exciting, getting to go to Harrisburg," Spence said.

Yet, some found the display of student activism at Allegheny to be sub-par. In February of 1962 student Mort Labovitz wrote to *The Campus* editor, dismayed that Allegheny was not sending delegates to a discussion on disarmament at Columbia University. "Alleghenians seem to think that they can keep their college name known by winning athletic teams and through high academic standards. But by being absent from such conferences…Allegheny can easily get a reputation as an apathetic, do-nothing school," Labovitz wrote.

In the next few years, however, a more innovative activism would emerge among Allegheny students.

Allegheny and Fisk Exchange

In 1962, the College participated in a unique exchange program with the all-black Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. The program sprang from the work of College Advancement Under Student Effort (CAUSE), an Allegheny student organization that sought to recruit more students of diversity to campus.

Rick Momeyer '63, one of the founders of CAUSE, said "When I got to Allegheny in 1960, one of things that struck me about the place was how highly segregated it was – there were virtually no students of color.

"The point [of CAUSE] was to help admissions go into the cities to recruit students - not just from the suburbs – we were very naïve," Momeyer said.

That spring, three Allegheny students, Momeyer, Jane Fair and Peter Schwartz spent a semester at Fisk University, and three Fisk students, Sherman Greene, Marilyn Madry, and Betty Taylor spent a semester at Allegheny. The exchange program responded to the segregation problem in a microcosmic way. Yet, the experiences of the student participants would expose them to exceptional forms of student activism.

Upon arriving to Fisk, the Allegheny students attended a welcome picnic. There, "people began talking about their experiences in the Civil Rights Movement. It was absolutely captivating. I learned a lot awfully fast," said Momeyer.

I thought Allegheny was a kind of smug bastion of white privilege.

—Rick Momeyer, '63

Momeyer said he faced "a lot of racial tension" in his interactions with Fisk students. These experiences forced him to reckon with the racial stereotypes he harbored, he said.

In March of 1962, Momeyer and Schwartz were injured in a sit-in at a drug-store near Fisk. They were joined by members of the Fisk Student Non-Violent Movement protesting racial segregation at public establishments. Momeyer was hit by a brick and Schwartz was kicked and beaten. Schwartz later reported in *The Campus* that "few Northerners know the extent of lawlessness in small Southern towns…There are countless examples of unheard violence."

Momeyer, Schwartz, and Fair received considerable support from their peers back at Allegheny. That November, six Allegheny students attended the annual conference of Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) - an organization that worked to help blacks attain equal services which they were denied because of racial discrimination.

Still, Momeyer said the return to Allegheny the following fall, "was very painful – I felt very alienated," he said.

"I thought Allegheny was a kind of smug bastion of white privilege," Momeyer said. "I thought fraternities and sororities seemed to dominate social life – and weren't interested in anything very serious.

"The other side is, . . . some of the faculty took me seriously, and helped me with my concerns," he said. "I think that was the best thing about Allegheny College – faculty could recognize an opportunity and care enough about this raw, unformed person with lots of passion and little sense, and work with me."

Protests against Vietnam

In the mid-1960s, Allegheny showed very few signs of surrendering to the prevalent culture of "sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll." Jeffrey Gold '70 said, "Even though the Summer of Love had happened, it took a while longer to get to Meadville; if you had long hair and hippie clothes, you stood out at Allegheny."

By the late 1960s, though, Allegheny students became increasingly attuned to U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. Gold said that every evening students would congregate around a lounge television in Cochran Hall to watch the news.

"The situation went from people not paying attention at all to paying a great deal of attention" to developments in Vietnam, Gold said.

Many were concerned with being drafted to serve in the war. The selective service system upset many young people who believed U.S. activity in Southeast Asia was merely unnecessary military devastation.

A 1968 issue of "Allegheny Anonymous," a newsletter published by some liberal-minded Allegheny students, said, "We would simply like to see an Allegheny student withdrawal from institutional apathy – it would be truly reassuring to see the Allegheny student do ANYTHING on his own. Please?"

By 1969, Gold and his peers were beginning to organize small demonstrations on campus, and in downtown Meadville. "It was an exciting, scary time for the campus," Gold said.

In association with Gold was Jonna Faulkner who attended Allegheny in 1970. "I was in sympathy with those protesting the Vietnam War," Faulkner said, who "canvassed" the campus with information about the Vietnam War. "I also went out to houses in Meadville. I canvassed the town. I went with a buddy door-to-door. It must have been a cordial thing even if we interacted with people who didn't agree with us," Faulkner said.

"It was a very meaningful, very intense time," she added.

The political heat was mounting to great heights on campuses across the country, as well.

On May 4, 1970, the National Guard was called in to Kent State University in Kent, Ohio to squelch student uprisings against the war. The National Guard eventually fired rifles into a crowd of students, killing four students and wounding nine.

After the Kent State shootings, few Allegheny students seemed to choose complacency, as indicated by reports from *The Campus*.

"We joined the call for a national student strike," Gold, who led the strike at Allegheny, said. "We tried to foment revolution right there at Allegheny. Those of us who went on strike didn't go to classes for the rest of the quarter," he said.

National news wires mentioned the College faculty as backing the strike. Gold was able to make up his schoolwork over the summer, he said.

"Political activity remained very high" at the College throughout the rest of the term, said Gold, "There were various kinds of teach-ins, people coming to talk.

"The next fall The Grateful Dead came. They were smoking pot onstage at Allegheny College. In the short time we had been there, the place had really been influenced by the times," Gold said.

Students and Scholars of Activism One in the Same

By KENDRA STANTON

Shelves upon shelves in Allegheny's Pelletier Library are devoted to the topic of student activism. Sociologists have studied it, but surely the activists themselves bear equal expertise. Here, former activists and other scholars share their testimonies and insights on student activism.

Allegheny Associate Professor of English Laura Quinn defines student activism as "going up against a power struggle. Student activists must strategize around that power. Sometimes these strategies are transgressive – violent to non-violent, symbolic, and aggressive. Ultimately, the students must come face-to-face with that power," Quinn said.

Philip Altbach was once one of these well-organized student activists. "I was the National Chairman of a group that was quite active in the 1960s – the Student Peace Union," said Altbach in during a phone interview.

Altbach, who serves as the Monan Professor of Higher Education at Boston College, now considers himself more of a scholar of student activism. He has written extensively about student activism, both in the United States and internationally. His works include the 1974 *Student Politics in America* and the 2001 I*n Defense of American Higher Education*.

There are a number of reasons, Altbach says, that contemporary students should study the history of student activism. "It is important to know how student movements develop. Lessons can be learned from a tactical standpoint.

"Also, student activists are notoriously ignorant of past movements. They try to reinvent the wheel. Of course, circumstances do change," Altbach said.

But teaching the history of student activism is easier said than done, said Allegheny Associate Professor of History Barry Shapiro. Shapiro teaches a class on the 1960s in American History – a vibrant decade for student activism.

As a historian,"It's hard to teach [the 1960s] because I'm a person who analyzes and distances myself from what I study…when it comes to this period, part of me needs to stay skeptical, but I also want to draw students in," said Shapiro.

Shapiro considered himself "more on the edges" of student activism in the 1960s, he said. "I was never a person who could fully commit to something, and this was a time that required full commitment. Consequently, I've ended up studying it – analyzing it from an academic perspective," Shapiro said.

Allegheny Professor of Political Science Bruce Smith taught a course on the future of the political Left last year. Smith himself was a former activist for the farm workers movement.

Smith said, "Young people come to college to try on different hats." In light of this, he said, student activism is attractive to students for three main reasons:

"First, student activism allows students a chance to change another part of the world. Second, it leads to self-transformation. Finally," Smith said, "student activism ailows students the chance to develop new ways of relating to their peers."

For Quinn, sustainability is critical for student activism to meet its goals. "The nature of activism on a four year campus like Allegheny is that students can come and go. Student activists must build a foundation, particularly around leadership, that others can step into. It is hard to do, but really important," Quinn said.

A brief analysis of the foundations student activists have built at Allegheny is featured in the "Synopsis of Student Activism" time-line on Pages 8 and 9.

INSIDE ACTIVISM...

Turbulence in 60s, 70s.....8
Divestment Key to 80s.....9
Make my Millennium.....10

A series of stories by Kendra Stanton, '02, examining the history of studentactivisim at Allegheny College since 1960 was published in the April 11, 2002 issue of The Campus (volume 125, issue 11). These are a few of those stories.

A SYNOPSIS OF STUDENT ACTIVISM...



1960 - Nov. 1960 - ASG explores ways to recruit more black students to Allegheny.

1960 - May 1961 - First peace demonstration in Meadville; 5 attendees - 3 from Allegheny; planted sign in Diamond Park "Stop the Draft War."

1960 - *Feb. 1, 1960 - Four black North Carolina students arrested for refusing to leave lunch counter reserved for whites at Woolworth.*

1960 - 1961 - Two Allegheny students arrested for participating in sit-in at Fisk University; some 300 Allegheny students sign statement of support.

1960 - *May 1960 - Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee formed; major force in civil rights movement.*

1960 - 1962 - 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. cancels speech at Allegheny twice.

1964 - *Nov. 22, 1963 - President John F. Kennedy assassinated, Dallas, Texas.*

1964 - Nov. 10, 1964 - AC hosts Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique.*

1964 - Nov. 22, 1965 - *The Campus* sponsors 1st Allegheny teach-in; invites several government officers; sentiment of teach-in very pro-war.

1964 - Oct. 29, 1965 - Article in *The Campus* dispels rumors that Bursar's office is sending names of men on academic probation to military draft boards.

1964 - 1966 - Allegheny Community Exchange (ACE) established; students perform community service through YMCA, local hospitals, NAACP.

1968 - June 1967 - NAACP establishes local chapter at Allegheny. Longevity of chapter existence uncertain.

1968 - Nov. 8, 1967 - 1st Allegheny sit-in at Campus Grill; protests U.S. involvement in Vietnam War.

1968 - *Apr. 4, 1968 - Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated, Memphis, Tennessee.*

1968 - Feb 16-22, 1969 - 1st African-American Week sponsored at Allegheny by ABC, University Christian Movement.

1968 - *Apr. 30, 1968 - Columbia University students overtake five university buildings contesting among other things the university's affiliation with a consortium that does military research for the government.*

1968 - 1969 - Experimental College introduced at Allegheny; student-led, non-credit bearing courses in topics such as yoga, New Left Policy.

1968 - November 1969 - Busload of Allegheny students attend Moratorium March in DC to protest Vietnam War.

1972 - April 1970 - Environmental Teach-In organized at AC; centers around first Earth Day.

1972 - May 2-4,1970 - *Violent anti-Vietnam War demonstrations at Kent State University; National Guard called in and fires rifles; 4 students killed, 9 wounded.*

1972 - May 5, 1970 - AC Women's Equality group hosts Gloria Steinem; condemns "jockocracy" in Allegheny Athletic Program.

1976 - May 1970 - Strikes on Allegheny's campus follow student shootings at Kent State.

1976 - Pro-Choice Movement manifests itself on campus with info sessions on contraceptives, reproductive rights in Campus Center.

1976 - *Jan. 22, 1973 - U.S. Supreme Court decision Roe*

1980 - 1982 - Women's Studies officially becomes Minor program at Allegheny.

1984 - *April 1985 - Columbia students stake four week protest against university's investments in South Africa.*

1984 - *Apr. 22 - 27, 1985 - Cornell students construct makeshift huts behind administration building to represent South African shantytowns; 1,000 arrested.*

1984 - October 1985 - Allegheny students construct shanty on CC walkway to protest College's investments in South Africa.

1988 - May 1988 - AC Board of Trustees votes not to divest from businesses with dealings in South Africa.

1992 - May 1990 - Steered largely by student protests, AC Board of Trustees votes to divest from businesses with dealings in South Africa.



1996 - *Summer 1998 - Students Against Sweatshops established.*

1996 - October 1999 - AC Students for Environmental Action organize "Shoeless for Justice" Campaign;protest sweatshops.

1996 - *Sept. 11, 2001 - World Trade Center and Pentagon bombed; U.S. retaliates in war against Taliban (government of Afghanistan).*

1996 - Fall 2001 - Allegheny student opinion split over war in Afghanistan; some sign petitions in opposition; College Republicans offer American flags to sign and post on campus in

2000 - *April - May 2001 - Harvard students refuse to leave administration building until the university yields to paying its janitors a liveable wage. March 2001 - Harvard agrees to liveable wage.*

All images featured on this page were sourced from the Wayne and Sally Merrick Historic Archival Center. The digitized Campus newspaper collection was made possible through a generous gift from Darrell "Skip" McIndoe, '52, and Carole McClain McIndoe, '52.

Making headlines since 1876: Alumni reflect on their time with The Campus

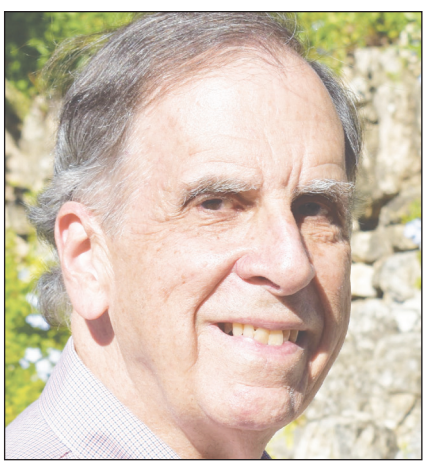
Did you learn any lessons during your time with The Campus that have stuck with you until today?



LOREN LAMY PENMAN, '74

Position: Staff Writer
Major/Minor: English / Drama
Career: Retired educator
Hometown: Stamford, CT
Current home: Batavia, NY

My weeks of submitting regular articles gave me an appreciation of writing for a specific audience, editing and re-editing, working on a deadline and creating effective headlines (short, present tense, attention-grabbing). Now I write endless press releases for my various volunteer endeavors.



LEWIS F. FISHER, '63

Position: Editor
Major/Minor: English
Career: Retired publisher
Hometown: Victor, NY
Current home: San Antonio, TX

Don't be too hesitant to call a situation like you see it rather than as how others would like it to be. Also, don't be intimidated by those in top positions, who can be quite helpful and gracious to those willing to approach them.



SUSAN E. COX, '80

Position: Editorial Board member
Major/Minor: History / Russian Language
Career: Retired federal judge
Hometown: Chicago, IL
Current home: Chicago, IL

The loudest voice is not always the one that should be given the greatest weight. Listening is more important than talking.



LAURA WHITE DILLON, '74

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: English
Career: Retired
Hometown: Whippany, NJ
Current home: Brooklyn, NY

1. Learn to edit yourself. Better still, be humble and ask someone else to edit you, too.

2. Find a way to do what you love, with people you respect and enjoy.



RHONDA CHOLLOCK, '97

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: English / Psychology
Career: Record promoter
Hometown: DuBois, PA
Current home: Charlottesville, VA

I'm glad I learned to publish a paper in a previous era. Even if it's no longer relevant to my or anyone else's approach to journalism anymore, it was a cool experience. Running The Campus for a year was probably the greatest responsibility I'd had in my life up to that point, so you can't beat that life experience. Not a lot of 21- and 22-year-olds have "the buck stops here" roles; becoming inured to that kind of pressure has surely been very valuable to me. And then just managing a large staff of smart, funny, talented but all different individuals probably taught me some people skills I still benefit from.



JUDY BARABAS, '75

Position: Advertising manager
Major/Minor: Art (ceramics)
Career: Graphic Design / Marketing consultant
Hometown: Medina, OH
Current home: Medina, OH

That you don't need a degree to succeed in your chosen path. I am self-taught. I owe my modest success to perseverance, willingness to learn and explore, some good mentors — many writers, designers and account directors from the real (late) Mad Men era — and being willing to do whatever it takes whether one knows how to do it — or not.

I'm starting to learn to say "no" now. Still working a lot and owe so much to David Newton, my patient husband of 39 years.



CODY SWITZER, '07

Position: Editor-in-chief
Major/Minor: English / History & Communication Arts
Career: Technical Writer, Salesforce
Hometown: Chicora, PA
Current home: East Amherst, NY

There are probably too many to name.

I learned a lot about writing, editing and hitting a deadline. I learned how to plan and work ahead when I'm responsible for something. I gained some design skills. I learned how to quickly fill a copy hole in a print product. I learned how to look up and read legal documents. I learned about ethics and making hard decisions.

I learned how to deal with failure and mistakes, because we made mistakes. I learned how to take a lesson from that and move on, though that took time.

I learned a lot about myself, too, I guess. I learned that I'm more intrinsically motivated by the work and who I'm working with than external motivators. Otherwise I wouldn't have spent all of that time working on The Campus for no pay or college credit, right? I learned how to lead and motivate people. I learned how to ask questions. I learned how to stop being the shy, anxious kid I was when I wandered into The Campus office freshman year.



KIRK HENDERSON, '89

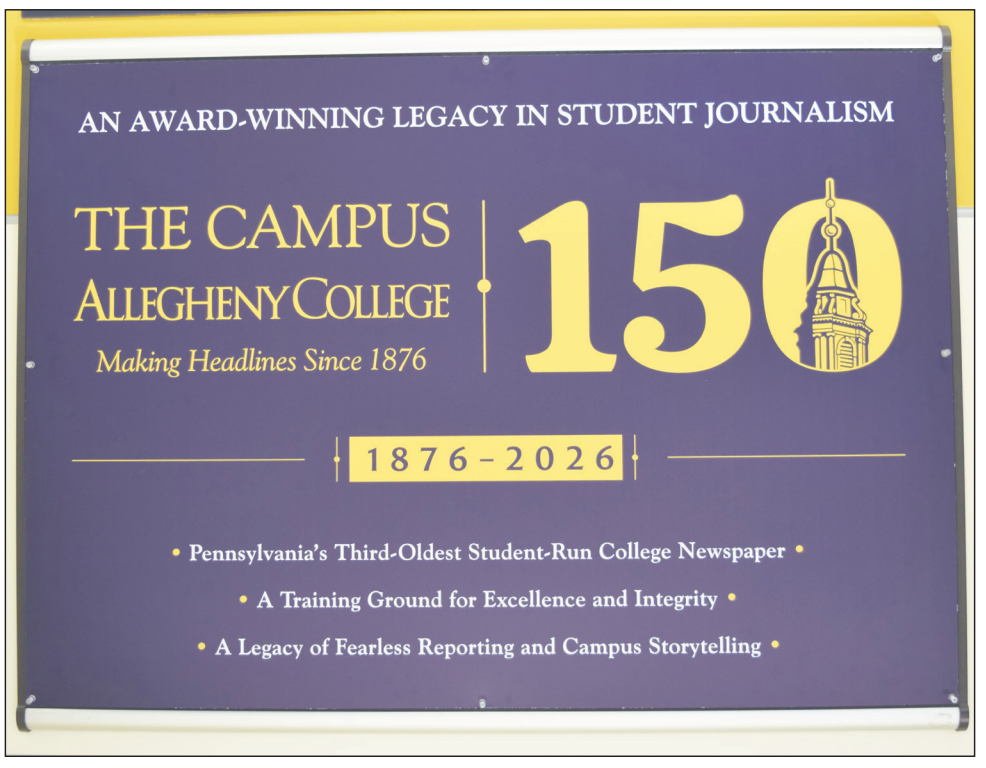
Position: Editorial Board member
Major/Minor: Political Science / Writing & Psychology
Career: Assistant Federal Public Defender / death penalty lawyer
Hometown: Bridgeport, WV
Current home: Pittsburgh, PA

Back in the day, the final edition of The Campus every year contained a satirical section called The Compost that made fun of the big campus news stories and personalities that year. Looking at it through a 2025 lens, it was awful. Back then, students mostly thought it was funny. In 1989, however, it was . . . too much. Though I did not write any of the pieces, I was on the Editorial Board. At graduation a few days later, President Dan Sullivan's speech was about how the First Amendment does guarantee free speech, but, with that comes the duty to speak responsibly. I actually slumped in my seat as he was delivering his address. His remarks were both an early salvo in the political-correctness movement and a foreshadowing of what ills social media would deliver to the culture in a few decades. It has stuck with me that just because something can be said does not mean that it should be said.

Campus Center begins to see 150th Anniversary decor



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS
(Left) The door of The Campus newsroom, room 314 in the Henderson Campus Center, displays contact information, quotes from previous editors-in-chief and posters from previous Campus-affiliated events, like a 2019 lecture on Ida B. Tarbell, class of 1880. As the year progresses, the door will bear more 150th Anniversary decor.



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS
(Right) A sign commemorating The Campus' 150th Anniversary hangs at the top of the center staircase on the third floor of the campus center. It was hung on Monday, Sept. 29 and will remain for the rest of the academic year.

C Street Brass combines circus skills and musicianship

By **KESSLER POTTER**
Contributing Writer
potter01@allegheny.edu

A night of jazz, juggling and jests by quintet C Street Brass graced students, faculty and staff in the Ford Chapel the night of Friday, Sept. 26.

C Street Brass, a brass quintet, were musicians-in-residence at Allegheny over the weekend. Before their two-act performance at 7:30 p.m., the quintet met with music classes during the day.

A crowd of approximately 50 filled the chapel pews. Audience members enjoyed the musical skill of the quintet.

"My favorite (piece) was 'Lullabye,'" Cristina Watkins, '29, said. "It made me tear up."

C Street Brass's set list for the night included pieces from American composers and pieces that highlighted the variety of music present in North and South America. Songs included "Lullabye" by Billy Joel, "It Ain't Necessarily So," a George Gershwin tune from 1935, selections from Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story" and "Contrabajeando" by Astor Piazzolla.

C Street Brass is a unique quintet. Traditionally, quintets are for string musicians, like violinists, viola players and cellists. Even traditional jazz quartets or quintets typically include a woodwind, like a saxophone or clarinet, or a percussive instrument, such as the drums or the piano. C Street Brass's five musicians, however, have mastered brass instead of the strings.

The players include founder Scott Nadelson, who plays trumpet and cornet; Micah Holt on trumpet, piccolo trumpet and cornet; Gabriel Colby, who plays trombone; Jon Carroll, who arranges some of their pieces and plays the french horn; and Hakeem Bilal on the bass trombone. Together, these five men create a unique, jazzy sound that has been heard around the world.

The group started in Nadelson's dorm room at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, part of Johns Hopkins University. From there, they went on to hold residencies in six different states, as well as Washington, D.C., and are currently on tour. After their visit to Allegheny, they are headed to the west coast, where they will visit venues in Washington, Oregon and California. Later in the year, they will travel to the Southwest to visit states such as Texas and New Mexico.

Despite being international travelers, C Street Brass is solidly connected to their collegiate roots. In fact, the band itself is named after a notable feature of their undergraduate campus.

"We all went to school at Peabody Conservatory, which is on Charles St. in Baltimore," Colby said. "It (Charles St.) is the longest road and runs through campus, so we decided to name ourselves after it."

"Plus, there's a C Street in almost every city we play in," added Bilal, laughing.

While at Allegheny, C Street Brass met with a variety of music classes, including the music seminar class and the upper-level private lessons students in Ford Chapel, where they discussed music and played a sample of their later show. That sample drew several interested students to the evening show.

"I play trombone myself," Cady Gleason, '29, said. "I just thought that it would be a really good opportunity to get out and listen to some music."

This sentiment was echoed across the audience.

"I went to the performance seminar today," Laura Obergefell, '26, said. "They gave us just a taste of what they were going to play tonight, and I wanted to see some more."

C Street Brass's residency offered Allegheny students the opportunity to interact with musicians who have played in venues ranging from Carnegie Mellon University and The Juilliard School to performing arts series around the country to international trips to Georgia and Qatar, Allegheny offered some new experiences for C Street Brass as well.

"I enjoyed playing in this wonderful space," Colby said. "And getting to work with the students. We started the band (C Street Brass) when we were in college, so now it is a full-circle moment."

Other band members also enjoyed the experience of playing in Ford Chapel, a smaller venue that emphasizes the acoustics and provides a unique experience for performers.

"This particular piece ("Because," by John Lennon and Paul McCartney) sounds really angelic on brass instruments," Bilal said as he introduced the peice. "The timbre, the colors, the wash of sounds, especially in this beautiful space."

C Street Brass's residency was enjoyed by the performers and audience members alike. After finishing the final song in their set (a version of Consuelo Velazquez's "Besame Mucho" arranged by Carroll), the band received a standing ovation. Their encore, an arrangement of "Tonight" from "West Side Story," also received a standing ovation.

C Street Brass's arrangements and performance highlight the versatility of brass instruments and the voices that they can produce.

"I really liked 'It Ain't Necessarily So,'" Gleason said. "That trombone feature was really good. It was like you could hear him singing."



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Jon Carroll watches as Gabriel Colby juggles and Hakeem Bilal plays the bass trombone. The other two members of the C Street Band quintet, Scott Nadelson and Micah Holt, watch from behind.

Jacy Diaz shatters Allegheny volleyball record

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
Editor-in-Chief
westbrook01@allegheny.edu

The team needed a timeout. After jostling with Hiram College for a leg up on the court on Friday, Sept. 19, the Allegheny volleyball team was slipping further behind on the scoreboard. Right as Head Volleyball Coach Kelly Barzak gathered the team on the sidelines, a loudspeaker rang out across the gym, packed with families and alumni visiting for Blue & Gold Weekend.

Jacy Diaz, '26, a libero, had just broken the Allegheny program record for career digs.

It took Diaz a moment to realize what the announcer had just said.

"When they said I broke it," Diaz said, "I was like, 'Oh my god.'"

For the past 21 years, Joy Kosiewicz, '95, held the record with 2,218 career digs, a skill in which a defensive player successfully receives an attack from an opponent and passes a ball to keep the rally alive, allowing the team to transition to offense. Not only did Diaz break the record, she also did so in just 74 percent of the sets Kosiewicz played during her career.

Volleyball team member Jayne Seth, '26, immediately recognized the significance of the announcement at the game.

"I got instant chills," Seth said. "I was like, 'This is crazy,' because you walk through the gym and you see all of these players with their names on plaques or pictures of them, and it's a crazy feeling to know that I got to play with one of those players and she's one of my best friends now."

Diaz took in the moment surrounded by her teammates.

"Seeing their faces just so happy for me, it fills my heart," Diaz said. "They're just so proud of me, it just makes me feel proud of myself."

During her time at Allegheny, Diaz has accrued numerous athletic accomplishments, including being named a Presidents' Athletic Conference 2nd Team All-Region player in 2024, defensive player of the year in 2023 and 2024 and two-time First-Team All-PAC player in 2023 and 2024.

Diaz has also been a team captain since her sophomore year, an accomplishment Barzak attributed to her "natural" leadership abilities. Last year, as captain, Diaz led the team to win the PAC Championship.

"She's one of the hardest workers I've ever had the opportunity to coach," said Barzak, who coached volleyball for four years at Thiel College before coming to coach at Allegheny in 2017. "She is always putting in extra time, working hard. She also tends to be a perfectionist because she always wants to do her absolute best in achieving those goals."

While initially hesitant about running for team captain, Diaz decided to throw her name into the ring at the encouragement of her coaches. Soon enough, she was in the leadership position, a role she never had since the beginning of her volleyball career at 13 years old.

"She does a great job with the team, making sure that she's setting high expectations for them and holding people accountable," Barzak said. "But she also brings just a great personality as well."

Diaz said her time on the volleyball team has led her to become her "true self," including by pushing her out of her comfort zone and growing her confidence. For the past three years, she has led the team by maintaining a healthy balance of fun and seriousness, all while making sure her teammates know she is not above them.

Lorena Oliveira, '28, an outside hitter on the team, said Diaz has "two personalities" on and off the court. Outside of games, Oliveira said, Diaz is goofy and fun, leading teammates in things like TikTok dances in the locker room, which Oliveira said is a great pre-game stress reliever.

"She's a really fun person to be around; she jokes around a lot," Oliveira said. "But when it's game time, she locks in and she's serious and she's really focused on the game."

Also important to Diaz is that all of her teammates feel able to speak up when they have thoughts or opinions they want to share. Izzy Gray, '26, a setter, said this is apparent in Diaz's frequent prompts for others to contribute to team conversations.

"She's not mean, she's not rude, she will never say anything that makes you feel bad about yourself," Gray added. "Everybody feels comfortable to bring their issues to her and help, and so she can help fix them."

Barzak first saw Diaz play during the recruitment process, and she knew Diaz could have received a scholarship to play at a Division II school. Her first impression of Diaz was that she was a "raw athlete."

"She will do anything to get a ball up," Barzak said. "She will sacrifice her body, she'll dive on the floor. She might be 10 feet from a ball, but she still thinks she's going to get to it before it hits the ground."

During her nine years coaching volleyball at Allegheny, Barzak also coached Terra Schall, '18, a libero who was just shy of beating Kosiewicz's career digs record.

"I thought at that time — I didn't think I'd be able to coach anyone in that position that was going to be better," Barzak said. "Then Jacy came around."

"What makes this achievement even more special is how she elevates the players around her," Barzak continued. "She's not only setting records, she's setting standards. I'm incredibly proud of her and excited to see how far her leadership and talent will take this team."

Diaz is very pleased with the milestone that kicked off her senior year. With a whole season to go, she is excited about the team's prospects and plans to cherish every remaining game.



DIAZ

"I want to live the experience and the moment," Diaz said. "I don't want to just think ahead of like, 'Oh, I want this game to be over.' No. I want to be in every single game, in my head, in the same space. Because I don't want to take it for granted. So every single moment, I just hope we just have fun this year."

Barzak also has high hopes for the remainder of the volleyball season and believes Diaz is a key player to steer the team to achieve those dreams.

"Jacy really is one of those athletes that might be that once in a lifetime athlete for a coach," Barzak said. "Because of how much she brings to the program, not only athletically, but just her leadership and her drive to be the best that she can."

The volleyball team is 3-2 in conference play this season. Their next home game is Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the David V. Wise Center.

Chipper's: The new 'pub'lic library

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Copy Editor
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

Libations and the pleasure of a good book are being mixed in a new type of programming piloted by the Meadville Public Library.

A chapter of the national Silent Book Club was established at the library hosted its first meeting on Sept. 10 at Chipper's Pub on Chestnut St.

"We're trying to foster a culture of reading and joy around reading," said Gabby Miller, '20, a community librarian at MPL. "The more we can get people reading in the community, the more people are talking about books, the more library books are being circulated. But in general, the more people reading, which is the goal."

Jim Fitch, program coordinator at the library, described the initiative as an attempt to "promote a culture of readers."

The pilot program initially started at the library, occurring every other week in the library's third-floor community space throughout the summer. The low attendance drove Fitch to relocate the program, expanding out of the library and into the community in order to attract a wider audience.

"We thought, if we can't bring the people to the books, let's take the books to the people," Fitch said.

A silent book club is different from a standard book club. Participants bring any book of their choosing and simply read, silently, with a group of others, with a dedicated time at the end to discuss what they read, if they choose to do so.

The goal of the club is to hopefully grow in attendance enough to become a weekly program, according to Miller.

The decision to host the club at Chipper's stems from a desire to have an evening location that works best for people after work.

"It would be interesting to develop overlap between the folks who are maybe going to Chipper's in the evening and also reading books," Miller said. "I think that that crowd is someone we want to intentionally reach out to and help generate more readers and more discussion about reading, especially in a lively social space."

Fitch agreed with Miller and added that the program is also meant to "stem back the tide of the decline in reading."

The establishment of the program comes on the heels of a New York Times article that showed a decline in Americans who read for fun over the last 20 years.

The study the article focused on was completed by researchers from the University College London and the University of Florida who reported that "reading for pleasure on a given day fell to 16 percent in 2023 from a peak of 28 percent in 2004 — a drop of about 40 percent. It declined around 3 percent each year over those two decades."

Meghna Vorisek, a member of the circulation staff at the library, was one of the attendees at the Chipper's Sept. 10 Silent Book Club.

"It was a small crowd, but it was a nice time," Vorisek said. "I think we actually stayed past 7:30 p.m., we just hung out for a while."

While a pub environment may not seem the most conducive to being able to focus and read, Vorisek did not think it was an issue when attending the Sept. 10 meeting.

"It got busy towards the end," Vorisek said. "Really, it was pretty quiet, nice atmosphere."

She hoped the attendance at the meetings increases in the future.

"I had a nice little time," Vorisek said in reference to the Sept. 10 meeting.

A Sept. 24 meeting of the group gathered a crowd of seven people, with five tucked in the corner reading and two at a table having a post-book club dinner. Eight patrons were seated at the bar, mingling and drinking with each other.

The event is also open to those under the drinking age.

"The 1,200 students at Allegheny College are part of the greater-Meadville community," Fitch said. "We would like them to know we are a resource for them, as well as the 13,000 people that live in Meadville."

Upcoming dates for the silent book club are Oct. 8 and 22, and Nov. 5 and 19 at Chipper's from 5-7 p.m. Happy Hour at Chipper's is from 5-6 p.m.

Wingfest 2025: Winner winner wing dinner



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

A student volunteer serves wings to Kenzi Hughes, '26, at Wingfest on Saturday, Sept. 27. This year was football-themed, sporting the slogan, "Win Some Wings."



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Aiden Beinhaur, '27, and Norm Ruder, '28, play spikeball on the Gator Quad at Wingfest.



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

One of the standout competitors of the wing-eating contest was Patrick Sharp, '26, who won decisively in the second round. "It's been two years," Sharp said. "I had to come out of retirement and show up, I had to win. Had to do it for Coach Mourer." Sharp's strategy was simple but highly effective. "Put the entire wing in your mouth and get all the meat at once," he said.



BEN STAVNEZER/THE CAMPUS

Brayden Devinney, '26, competes in the first round of the wing-eating competition. Competitors were challenged to eat 10 honey barbeque wings in two minutes. This year's Wingfest featured flavors such as hot, barbeque and ranch.

At Cussewago Square, construction gives way to commerce and community

By **MILO WATSON**
Opinion Editor
watson01@allegheny.edu

What does economic redevelopment smell like? One month after the frozen yogurt store Cup n' Spoon's soft opening in August at its second location just off Spring Street and Race Street in Cussewago Square, its interior is still characterized by the fresh, clean scent of cut lumber. Reclaimed timbers as wide as telephone poles run the length of its ground floor, supporting a pressed tin ceiling that glints in the sunlight that streams through five large wood-framed windows. Exposed brickwork makes up the store's interior walls. Together, these elements subtly pay homage to the building's previous life as a distillery in the late 1800s, even as the building's activities now center around a very different kind of flavorful treat.

Following extensive renovations over the past several years, the interior of Cup n' Spoon displays the result of Cussewago Square's transformation from an abandoned industrial complex into a lively public gathering space.

Even on a quiet Sunday afternoon, a steady drip of customers sidles up to Cup n' Spoon's counter for an order of frozen yogurt. Across the way, the art group Jetblack Press hosts an "Intro to Zines" art class in the French Creek Arts Collective building. People pause at the sign posted in the windows of the Penny Smith Theater advertising the Meadville Community Theater's production of "The Odd Couple," hitting the stage from Oct. 3 to Oct. 12. Jazz guitar rings out from the outdoor speaker system mounted to the walls of the Powerhouse, a large building in the center of the square that houses additional seating. Waitstaff come and go from the doors of Dominico, an Italian restaurant already open for lunch and dinner.

Plaques mounted on each building's door provide visitors with a snapshot of its history.

"A reconstructed brick building first built in 1895, expanded in 1935," the sign outside Cup n' Spoon reads. "Originally the Drying House of the Meadville Distillery Complex. After prohibition, it was used for barrel storage."

The Steinbergs, a local family visiting Cussewago Square for the first time on Sunday, surveyed the scene as they enjoyed the last bites of their frozen yogurt at an outdoor picnic table.

"My mom, actually, Ernestine Steinberg, she's the one that informed us of this one (location)," Michael Steinberg said, as Ernestine waved from across the table. "She told us, 'Hey, Cussewago Square,' and we still ended up down at the Meadville (Cup n' Spoon) location in town. I didn't even realize that there was even another location, and my wife, Erica, she said, 'Hey, I think she meant the other location.' I said, 'What other location?' We punched in the address, and here we are."

Their first impressions?

"Gorgeous," Erica Steinberg said. "The scenery is just breathtaking."

Michael Steinberg agreed.

"The music's really nice, the atmosphere, you know, a lot different from the hustle and bustle of, like, a downtown, more just kind of real relaxing, you know, laid back," he said. "Kind of gives me Italiano vibes, you know, Italy."



MILO WATSON/THE CAMPUS

Cussewago Square is characterized by red brick, white paths and manicured gardens. The development is located on Spring Street at 118 Cussewago Square.

Inside the French Creek Arts Collective's barnlike space on Sunday, the Collective's founder, Emily Cicora, reflected on the past few months. Around her, people sketched zine pages with a variety of art supplies.

"We started moving in June and started doing programs, like, July and August," Cicora said. "It's nice to have a dedicated space. Before, we were just doing pop-up events in different places, but it's nice to just have our own space where all of our stuff is and we have room to work and everything."

Cicora described the Collective's programs as "a really eclectic offering" that runs the gamut from structured classes to community drop-in hangouts.

"We have done some kids' classes, we've done some painting classes, the zine-making workshop," Cicora said. "We've done a couple of poetic evenings where it's like, poetry readings and people can read original works that they've written, and people have come and played songs and stuff. We also have done a few open jams for musicians where anyone could just bring an instrument and hang out and play music together."

Despite the bright interiors of open buildings and neat garden beds that border the square's meandering walkways, work is not yet done on Cussewago Square. A yellow excavator parked next to a sprawling collection of construction supplies under a long metal-roofed pavilion confirms that construction is still ongoing.

Liberty Rickenbach, '27, an intern with the MCT through Allegheny's service-scholarship Bonner Program, drops by the theater's new location at the square several days a week to prepare the building for a successful launch.

"Speaking as someone on the inside, you can tell the building was perfect in so many ways, and not thought about for theater in so many ways," Rickenbach said. "Our acoustics are awful. There was no lighting. There was no ethernet. There's no Wi-Fi, there's very little power."

Despite the challenges of setting up a theater in a building that used to function as a fermenting house, Rickenbach stated that in comparison to the MCT's previous location in Oddfellows Hall, the new building's proximity to its parking lot makes it much more accessible to people with mobility impairments.

"They were not very handicap-accessible in Oddfellows, so now they have a whole parking lot for it and a wheelchair-accessible ramp," Rickenbach said.

His current projects include planning and installing necessary hardware, setting up the soundboard and designing lighting displays.

"As of right now, I just financed and proposed an entire new camera setup, SDI cable and computer system, and anything that's involved in that," Rickenbach said.

Once approved, his plan involves running the SDI cable through the wall to hook the set camera up to a display in the room where actors prepare to go out onstage.

Rickenbach stated that raising enough funds for risers that elevate the back rows of seating is another ongoing obstacle.

"That is thousands and thousands of dollars that we need to fundraise or we need to come up with," Rickenbach said.

He emphasized that the amount of time and energy going into the building is no small task for a volunteer-run theater.

"As a community ourselves, it's hard because volunteer work is different than paid work within, like, responsibilities, respectabilities and accountabilities," Rickenbach said.

Rickenbach sees a reciprocal relationship between the theater and the community it aims to entertain.

"I think we're very lucky to have Meadville, because, going back to the computer project I'm working on, a lot of that we're just asking for donations," Rickenbach said.

He stated that the PC, monitor and keyboard setup used to display live stage feed into the theater's back rooms were all donated equipment.

"The camera — we're asking for money donations so we can purchase it," Rickenbach said. "We wouldn't be able to do this without our community."



MILO WATSON/THE CAMPUS

An excavator leans its claw on a pile of crumpled metal sheets next to the open-air pavilion.