

MTV executive honored at Allegheny Hall of Fame

Records from Hreha's diving career highest still today

By JOSEPH TINGLEY
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John Hreha, '03, was honored this year for his athletic achievements at Allegheny College when he was inducted into the Allegheny Hall of fame on June 27, 2014.

Now an account executive at MTV in New York City, Hreha dove at Allegheny, qualifying for the national championships meet all four years and placing second in nationals each year. Hreha's three-meter record of 597.00 still stands as a school record and his one-meter score of 597.35 is the highest in school and conference history.

The committee that chooses alumni for the hall of fame is comprised of 10 members, many Allegheny alum-

ni themselves, explained Jim Berger, director of athletic communications. Berger explained that in addition to athletic achievement at the college, the committee looks for athletes who had an impact at the national level. According to Berger, Hreha fit that description.

"He was clearly, if you look at his résumé, he was the most successful diver in Allegheny history," said Berger.

Kelley Anderson, '04, Hreha's teammate and fellow diver who now works at the University of Pittsburgh medical center in sports medicine, described Hreha as someone who always kept the team motivated and inspired them to do better.

"If moral was down, he was definitely the one to pick us up," said Anderson.

Hreha said that he still tries to get on the diving board from time to time and practices with a team in the city, but that often times other commitments get in the way.

"I do miss it," said Hreha. "It's definitely a sport that is just stuck in my DNA and I can't seem to let it go, but my career comes first."

An international studies and Spanish major, John Hreha began his career after graduation working for MTV in Chicago where he stayed for a little over two years before getting a job at AMC Networks where he stayed for seven years, before transferring to the New York office. Hreha is now back at MTV as an account executive in the Manhattan office, where

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CONTRIBUTED BY JOHN HREHA

Hreha instagrams his attendance at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards.

Provost candidates present ideas for upcoming year

By CHRISTINA BRYSON
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Provost candidates Ron Cole, professor of geology, Scott Wissinger, professor of biology, and Sharon Wesoky, professor of political science, gave presentations Monday Jan. 26 through Wednesday Jan. 28, respectively, on the challenges and opportunities in Allegheny's academic setting.

Each candidate presented their ideas for about 20 minutes, then answered audience questions for the next 30 minutes. Students, staff and faculty were all in attendance at Quigley's Henderson Auditorium, almost filling every seat.

Linda DeMeritt, the cur-

rent provost and dean of the college, is Allegheny's chief academic officer who works with President James Mullen and other faculty members to shape the college's academic program.

DeMeritt began her appointment as dean of the college in 2003 and will conclude her tenure at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year.

"She'll conclude an extraordinary tenure as provost," said Mullen. "Fortunately we'll have some time to work to have conversations with the new provost on the issues."

The next provost will be announced this semester. Mullen explained that there is not a specific date to finalize the process.

"We're going to have a process now of allowing the community to reflect on what they've heard and the conversations that happened," said Mullen. "I'm going to take some time and have some conversations with the candidates and come to the best decision. I don't have an exact date for you but certainly understand that this is an important decision."

In the fall of 2014, students were informed, through a campus-wide email, that a search for the new provost would be taking place into the spring semester. Mullen explained that an internal search for the next provost would best suit Allegheny's needs.

"...we need a provost who

is deeply connected to our culture and values," wrote Mullen in an email on Oct. 2, 2014. "I am convinced that we will be best served by a colleague who has lived the Allegheny experience and whose leadership will grow from the deep awareness and commitment that comes with that experience."

In addition to explaining the importance of searching within the college, Mullen also wrote that every campus constituency would have a voice in the selection process.

Profiles of each provost candidate will be included on the following page.

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Greek life encourages inclusivity and safety training

By AMANDA SPADARO
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While an influx of new members join Greek life this semester, Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council will be encouraging the new members, as well as any currently untrained members, to participate in Bystander training and Gator Safe Zone training.

As part of the recent Action Plan for Diversity and Inclusion released by president James Mullen on Jan. 23, Bystander training and Gator Safe Zone training were to be encouraged, and perhaps eventually required, specifically groups and organizations on campus including Greek life, Allegheny Student Government and Gator Athletics.

In a move designed to target the largest groups of the Allegheny community, the Action Plan reads:

"To ensure that training reaches not only the 'choir' but every student and all employees, we will require specific student and employee groups to attend Bystander training, starting with leadership groups such as ASG, Greek life, Athletics, etc."

Devised at the University of New Hampshire, Bystander Training is an attempt to prevent sexual assault by creating positive, safe method for intervention in potentially harmful situations.

Originally created out of a \$75,000, two-year grant to the Women's Services of Meadville from the Pennsylvania

Department of Justice, the Bystander program brought trainers associated with creating the original curriculum at UNH to train faculty and staff at Allegheny. Allegheny's future trainers underwent a 13-hour program to prepare them for teaching members of the Allegheny community the "Bringing in the Bystander" program.

I think it encourages more people to do it if they're doing it with their Greek organization...

Jayne Piskorik, Adviser to Panhellenic Council

In the program's first year, academic year 2012-2013, 231 students participated in training. The next academic year saw the training of 38 staff members to be facilitators with 656 students and 11 staff members going through the training. Another 22 first-responders, such as those with Residence Life and Safety and Security, also underwent the training.

However, as the original grant has run out, Katie Pope, Allegheny's Title IX coordina-

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AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS

President Mullen introduced each candidate prior to their presentations Jan. 26-28. He prompted them to speak about the challenges and opportunities within Allegheny's academic setting.

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he has been for two years now.

“I happen to love working for a company that has so many different networks that we can really target and speak to all the demographics out there,” said Hreha.

As an account executive, Hreha has over 100 clients whom he works with, including companies like Apple, Beats by Dre and H&R Block to get the brand out through various forms of media.

Hreha explained that MTV also creates a very accepting and welcoming environment and allows him to do work that betters the community in which he lives.

“I am also the co-chair of our LGBT group, east coast, and it’s really great to be able to come to work and have my normal nine to five, but then also to do something that benefits the community at large,” said Hreha.

Though his current field is not precisely aligned with his major, Hreha said that his time at Allegheny was important to his career.

“I think going to a smaller school like Allegheny definitely helped me become more successful,” he said.



CONTRIBUTED BY ALLEGHENY ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

John Hreha ‘03, four-time National Championship qualifier, still holds two school diving records.

Hreha also said that despite the workload at times, he is happy in his job. He explained that what he likes most about MTV is that he never gets bored.

“I’m lucky that I get to not just have focus on one area of interest in my life. I got a job that satisfied many different ones. I’d have to say that is the thing that has been the most rewarding, is that I have found the right job for me,” said Hreha.

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AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS

Ron Cole

Following his formal education at the University of Rochester, Cole, a 1987 Allegheny alumnus, returned to his alma mater in 1994 as an assistant professor of geology and has been teaching at the college for the last 20 years.

To Cole, one of the most important aspects of the provost’s position is their role in the community.

“We need to have a community with ongoing education about what it means to be a strong community and I think we’re on the right track for doing this,” said Cole in his presentation Monday, Jan. 26. “We need to build community to provide access and success for these students.”

Cole also mentioned the importance of maintaining a strong and welcoming community in his letter of interest for the position.

“Allegheny is often cited by prospective students and new employees as a welcoming and friendly place and we should ensure that this is consistently true,” wrote Cole. “...without a strong community, other priorities cannot be as effective.”

Other than community, the other topics Cole prioritizes as integral to shaping Allegheny’s future in his letter include teaching and learning excellence, integrating

academics with the Gateway, curriculum, student retention and advising, staffing plan and explore shared resources. Cole also brings to attention the under enrollment of the class of 2018.

“An immediate challenge for the next Provost is to advance our priorities while navigating the five year budget impact of the smaller class that matriculated in fall 2014,” wrote Cole. “...it is time to re-evaluate, prioritize and even modify the plan as needed, particularly in our current fiscal climate. A strategic plan needs to be nimble and adaptive and as we approach the mid-term of our plan, this is an ideal time for review.”

To Cole, the provost is a position to not only help shape academic goals, but to measure how those goals are being achieved.

“In closing, I’d like to share that I’ve never quite viewed myself as a leader, yet through my career at Allegheny I have found myself elected into or asked to serve in leadership roles...I would not be writing this letter if I was not fully confident with my ability to serve in this role.”

To see Cole’s presentation or read his letter of interest, visit: sites.allegheny.edu/provost-search/

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tor, will be potentially re-designing the formatting of Bystander training, according to Jacquelyn Kondrot, associate dean of students for wellness education. While specific Bystander training sessions were planned for the fall of 2014, no sessions are currently planned for this semester and training will likely be conducted on an as-requested basis, according to Kondrot.

On the other hand, Safe Zone training, designed to provide a support network for Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Plus students and members of the Allegheny community, already has a schedule for the spring semester. The Action Plan describes the training:

“The three-level training...allows participants to gain valuable resources and knowledge over time while creating supportive networks for all identities.”

Again, the Action Plan outlines its goal of reaching student beyond the ‘choir,’ including the Faculty Council and the Administrative Executive Committee as required audiences along with Greek life, ASG and athletics.

Greek life in particular has shown great dedication so far to this future plan as it is currently being discussed in IFC and Panhel. Steve House, ’16 and president of IFC, is continuing the work of previous IFC President Marcus Webster, ’15.

“I know Marcus Webster encouraged it last semester, I’m just continuing to encourage it more strongly. I think that it’s important for people to get trained,” House said.

As for sororities, Panhel will also be strongly encouraging new and current members to attend training sessions, according to Panhel President Brianna Martig, ’16.

“We, as [Panhellenic Council] are going to try to facilitate the chapters to do it. We’re going to see what the chapters are thinking and we’re probably going to go from there,” Martig said. “Greek life in general seems to really support Bystander and SafeZone training.”

Jayne Piskorik, assistant director of student involvement and adviser to Panhel, believes that working through the Greek system is a strong method for training those who might not otherwise seek the training out.

“I think it encourages more people to do it if they’re doing it with their Greek organization...There are a couple fraternities and sororities that do that, they’ll have the whole chapter go through Bystander or Safe Zone Training,” Piskorik said.

This was demonstrated by Jake Ballinger, ’16 and member of Phi Gamma Delta, who expressed that he felt his chapter should seek to be trained both in Bystander and Safe Zone training.

“I think that’s a real statement of leadership that [Greek life is] going to do that...That is what leadership in a community is about. I’m very pleased by that.”

President James Mullen, Allegheny President

“I literally just made a Google Doc of everyone in the fraternity and said ‘Safe Zone trained: Level One? Level Two?’ and ‘Bystander trained: yes or no?’ I sent it out and said, ‘fix it,’” Ballinger said. “I literally said, ‘this should be done.’ Most of them went to Safe Zone Level One and we went to Bystander training as a group.”

While not every member of FIJI ended up with full training, Ballinger feels that the vast majority of the members received the training and hopes that it makes Greek life more accessible for the rest of the community.

“There’s sexist and heteronormative attitudes, the domineering group mentality of masculinity that you get

with fraternity life...I think that [Bystander and Safe Zone training] would be a formal gesture of saying, ‘we want to be open to people of different backgrounds and just because you identify some certain way doesn’t mean we’ll exclude you because that can be not helpful to both of us,’” Ballinger explained, hoping make the Greek community more accessible to the general Allegheny community as Ballinger is also in charge of public relations for IFC.

As part of the nationwide conversations regarding sexual assault and LGBTQ support, Ballinger expressed the hope that encouragement of these training sessions would create a more positive environment on campus through addressing a large percentage of students on campus.

Mullen expressed positivity toward these changes as pivotal movements that will only increase the safety and well-being of the campus.

“I think that’s a real statement of leadership that [Greek life is] going to do that. I think the fact that they’re stepping up to do that is what leadership in a community is about. I’m very pleased by that,” Mullen said. “We want to extend that to other key groups on campus and we’re talking about who are those other groups and how they can become part of that process.”

Sharon Wesoky

Since joining the Allegheny staff in 1998, Wesoky has been a professor in multiple departments at the college, including political science, Asian studies, Chinese studies and women’s studies.

Being a firsthand example of multifaceted teaching, Wesoky emphasized the importance internationalization, integrative learning and interdisciplinary in her presentation on Wednesday, Jan. 28.

“Studying economics might help you understand why there is not yet a cure for diseases like Ebola, while someone in global health can explain why there absolutely should be one and someone in biochemistry will have the skills to go out and invent it,” said Wesoky. “Studying political science can help you understand the value of freedom of speech, while studying religious studies, history or mastering a foreign language can help you understand that just because you can say whatever you’d like in some societies, doesn’t necessarily mean you always should. A psychologist might tell you why some people resist vaccinating their children, but it takes a biologist to clearly explain why these days, if you are going to Disneyland, you really shouldn’t plan on giving Mickey a hug. Considering

these sorts of relationships can help us clearly articulate why interdisciplinary approaches are important to all of our students.”

She not only stressed the importance of a variation in academic life but how relationships also foster learning.

“It is the quality of our personal relationships that lead to meaningful and fulfilling lives,” said Wesoky. “It is the quality of our communities that lead to a robust and healthy democracy, and it is the quality of our interactions with our students that lead to their academic successes.”

In her letter of interest, Wesoky presented ideas she considers integral for the future of the position.

“Part of the next Provost’s task should also be to consider integrative ways of accomplishing our institutional goals so as to allow all members of the College community to embody a genuine work ethic, able to fully dedicate our attention to each other and to our work more generally.

To see Wesoky’s presentation or read her letter of interest, visit: sites.allegheny.edu/provost-search/



YUTONG WANG/THE CAMPUS



YUTONG WANG/THE CAMPUS

Scott Wissinger

After earning his doctorate at Purdue University, Wissinger began teaching at Allegheny College in 1986 as an assistant professor of biology and environmental science.

According to Wissinger’s letter of intent, the priorities of the next provost should include managing and minimizing the shortfall of enrollment, implementing and assessing the strategic plan, finding resources and upholding the honest culture among staff.

“The ‘internal challenge’ for the next Provost is, in my opinion, the size/scope of the job,” wrote Wissinger.

To Wissinger, it’s not the individual aspects of the job that makes the provost position a challenging one, but it’s the culmination of and the entirety of the job.

“My understanding of the provost and chief academic officer is to coordinate and manage and make sure that the academic platform is running,” said Wissinger during his presentation on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

During his presentation, Wissinger mentioned the importance of relationships in a job of this scope.

“It strikes me that one of the natural consequences of working with a group of peo-

ple who are really smart and convicted to knowing what’s right and wrong...that’s why working with faculty, and I’ve worked with faculty my whole life, is such a visceral process,” said Wissinger.

Wissinger also brought up the topic of Allegheny’s undervalued image.

“The truth is that this college is better than it’s ranked,” he said. “My biggest frustration at being at Allegheny has been that I know, I know the liberal arts colleges, I’ll just be arrogant and say that...I’ve been in and around liberal arts colleges my whole life. I grew up on one of those campuses and I always thought that we were undervalued...when I go and do consulting work...I don’t see faculties and I don’t see programs and I don’t see infrastructures any better than ours and they’re often not as good and they’re ranked better than we are.”

Wissinger was adamant during his presentation about Allegheny’s opportunities for improvement and success in the realm of liberal arts education.

To see Wissinger’s presentation or read his letter of interest, visit: sites.allegheny.edu/provost-search/

THE CAMPUS

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Tu B-Shvat Seder
Friday, Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center
Hillel invites you to celebrate the “New Year of the Trees” with this ceremonial meal that uses various fruits of the earth in observing the changing seasons of the year.

Pre-Dental Club Info Session on Oral Health Fair for Children
Friday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m., Quigley Hall Auditorium
Learn about how you can help with the oral health fair for children that the Pre-Dental Club is sponsoring on Feb. 21, in conjunction with the Meadville Medical Center.

High School Band Concert
Saturday, Jan. 31, 1:30 p.m., Shafer Auditorium
The seven high schools of Crawford County will present the culminating event in the 32nd annual Allegheny College-Crawford County High School Band Festival. The concert will feature 133 student musicians under the direction of Professor of Music Lowell Hepler.

Imbolc Festival
Saturday, Jan.31, 2-4 p.m., Schultz Banquet Hall
Allegheny Community for Earth-Based Spirituality, along with other religious clubs, celebrates Imbolc, a midwinter reminder that spring is on the way, with games, food and other activities.

Alpha Phi Omega Information Session
Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., McKinley’s Private Dining Room
Learn more about serving in the community. An additional info session will be held on Monday, Feb. 2 at 12:15 p.m. in Campus Center 206.

“Rocky Horror Picture Show” at GFC
Saturday, Jan. 31, 10 p.m., Grounds for Change
GFC will provide prop bags to the first 25 participants.

Fifth Annual Summer Employment Fair
Monday, Feb. 2, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Campus Center Lobby
A list of employers who will be at the fair can be found on the Career Education website.

Panel Discussion on Political and Religious Difference in a Modern Democracy
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 4:30 p.m., Grounds for Change
Professors Jackie Gehring and Younus Mirza will lead a discussion sponsored by Interfaith Fellowship, which will provide free beverages for those attending.

Lunchtime Slide Talk: “The Quilt Maker’s Voice”
Wednesday, Feb. 4, 12:15 p.m., Carnegie 101
Fabric artist Louise Silk will give a presentation titled “The Sound of a Needle: The Quilt Maker’s Voice.” Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

International Film Festival: “Three”
Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., The Movies, 11155 Highline Drive, Meadville
The International Film Festival opens with the German film “Three.” Admission is free with an Allegheny ID. General admission is \$7. Free van shuttle service departs from North Main Street at Brooks Walk at 6:10 and 6:30 p.m.

CRIME BLOTTER

Jan. 16-23, 2015
Schultz Hall
Student had an item stolen from his room.

Jan. 24, 2015
North Village II
Three underage students had been drinking and then went into the residence hall and ripped items off of doors.

ASG UPDATES

ASG to vote on Student Activities Fee next Tuesday, Feb. 3. The updated proposal will be released soon. The meeting will take place in the campus center lobby.

CORRECTIONS

In last week’s issue, a features’ article did not include a portion of a quote by John Christie-Searles. The correct quote is, “I think it’s always good to raise awareness, both of otherness and also similarities, and in a lot of ways, particular with this one exhibit that we saw about redheads eating bananas, we saw extinctions as not just a white phenomenon...”

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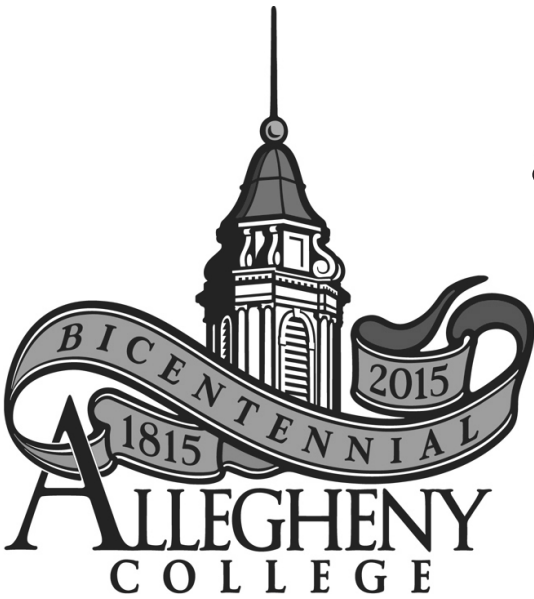
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Upcoming graduate: Making the choice to teach

By ANACELIA GOMEZ
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Going down memory lane and thinking about my experience at Allegheny, I can't help but reflect on some great memories, from being a Bonner Scholar to working with the Association of Caribbean Students and the African Students Association.

Yet, in the midst of it all, I think about that question that always lurked in my mind: What in the world am I going to do after I leave the place I have called home for four years?

Although it is a question that can quickly and easily get any senior's heart pounding and muscles tensing, I have actually thought of a

few ideas. I could move to a new place and work in an after-school program, or I could get a job in business to gain experience or I could start my own. I have plenty of choices.

But the question of what I could do after graduation actually has a second part – what should I do? And as I thought over each choice, none felt fulfilling enough.

I took into consideration many realities. As a first generation Latina about to have a college degree, I now have access to opportunities that many kids growing up like me do not. I think of my relatives whose ambitions were just as great as mine and their intelligence often greater, who did not have the same opportunities as I did and now struggle

to live enjoyable lives in jobs that aren't fulfilling.

I worked hard to get to and through college, faced struggles along the way, but I also knew that it was the hard work of many others that got me to this point. If just a few things were different—a different teacher, a different group of friends—I might not be an Allegheny student.

These challenges aren't unique to my family. Too many kids growing up in diverse communities across the country lack the opportunity to imagine a successful future for themselves. For students in our lowest-income communities, just six percent will graduate from college by the time they're 25. Knowing the disparities that exist, I also

know that I can use my experiences to address them.

For me, a great place to start is in the classroom. I applied to Teach For America because I believe that we all have a role to help one another. I grew up with a bed to sleep on, food to eat each day and a loving family to support me in all that I did, but our system does not deal every-one those advantages.

When I think about what I can and should do with my past experiences, working with kids for a more equitable system is the answer that fits. I did not decide to teach because I think I am going to be a hero. No hero can do the work of an amazing teacher. This work will be incredibly challenging, humbling and

I will have to push myself harder than ever to give my students the education they deserve. I know I will need to work in close partnership with the parents, teachers and community members who have been working towards justice and equity long before I arrived.

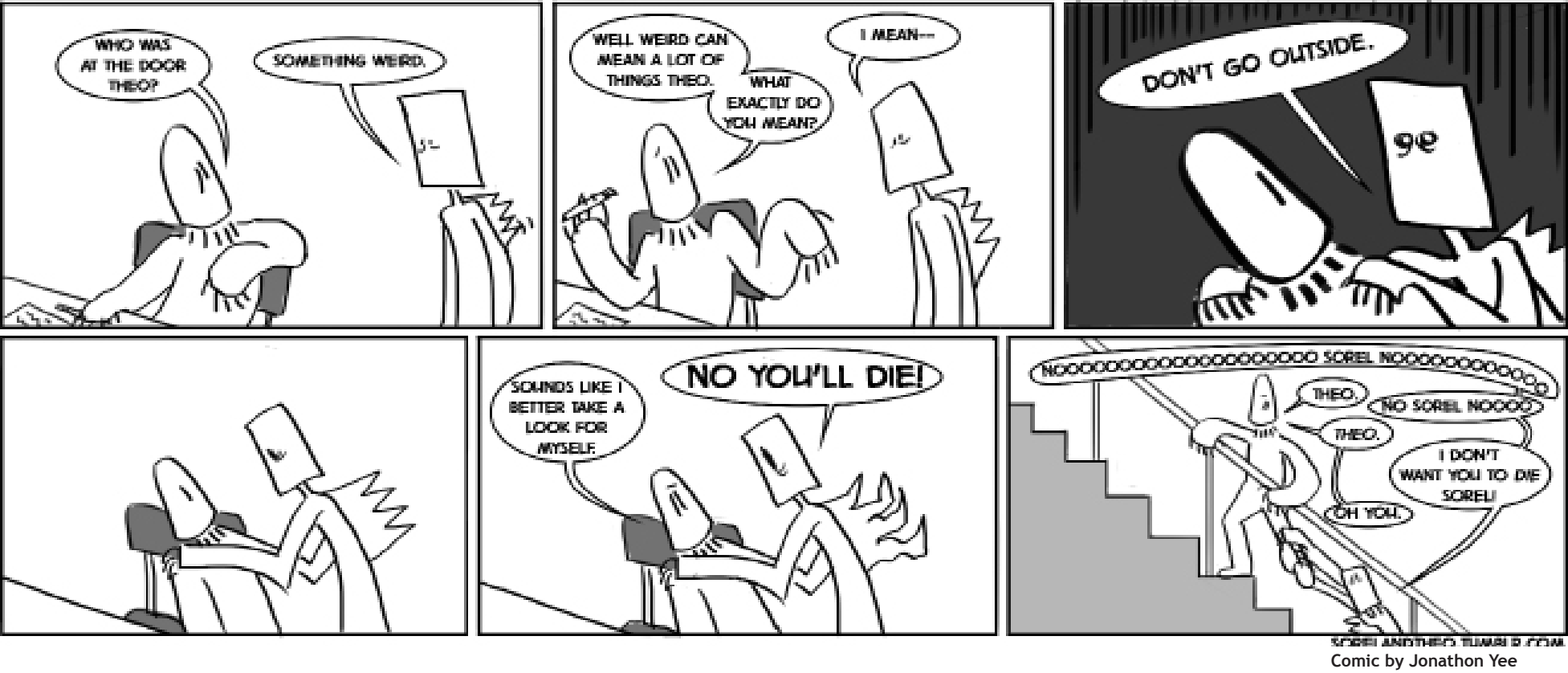
But, I don't want a job that lets me turn a blind eye to the injustice children and teens face every day.

I want a job that forces me to look injustice in the face and fight it head on. I want one that holds me accountable for the injustices that plague our communities – because, although I did not create them, I'd still bear responsibility if I chose not to address them.

As I become a Teach For America corps member after graduation, I'll be joining a network and community of more than 47,000 people working relentlessly to make access to opportunity equitable. It's a network of leaders that is greatly diverse in background and experience, which is also working across sectors to create change.

We are all united around the fundamental belief that a quality education is not a privilege – it is a right. We can fight to ensure all students get to exercise that right. As you think about what in the world you're going to do after you leave here, I hope you'll join us.

THE SIMPLE THINGS



Just the Tips: Mr. Grey is not Mr. Perfect

Bestselling book and upcoming film, 50 Shades of Grey, fantasizes abusive sexual relationships

By JANELLE CARLSON
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“No really, let’s.”

As a majority of you may know, 50 Shades of Grey is an “erotic” novel that was released in 2011. I put this in quotations because I’ve read fan-fiction more sexually appealing than the series...funny, considering the novel was originally a Twilight fan-fiction. It is now a trilogy, with a movie set to release this Valentine’s Day.

50 Shades of Grey follows the relationship between Anastasia Steele, a senior in college, and Christian Grey, a 27-year-old entrepreneur. The two enter into a contracted sexual agreement that is supposed to be devoid of romance. The book has received a lot of slack since its release, ranging from general criticism of its horrid writing (The Daily Telegraph, The New York Times, and The Huffington Post), to

outrage over its explicit sexual scenarios. More troubling however, is the book’s portrayal of BDSM relationships and practices.

Before we delve into this, it is important to understand on a surface level what BDSM is. BDSM stands for “Bondage and Discipline/ Dominance and Submission/Sadism and Masochism”. The first thing that comes to most people’s minds is probably something involving lots of leather, chains, whips, maybe even a dungeon setting.

While these things are certainly a part of BDSM, the term actually covers a range of sexual kinks. This range can go from gentle nibbling or fuzzy handcuffs all the way to intense role-play and higher risk sado-masochism. Most important to understand about BDSM is that it is a community that highly values consent, comfort and communica-

tion between partners. Considering this, for Anastasia to consider getting through her first “BDSM” encounter as “surviving” it is in itself a critical example of why the book does not portray actual BDSM.

Consent is always necessary, no matter what type of sexual interaction you are taking part in and BDSM practices are no exception to this rule. During a scene, Christian gives Anastasia copious amounts of alcohol while staying sober and then has sex with her. He tells her that he got her drunk because she “over thinks” and is not “honest” when she’s sober.

Later in the same chapter, Christian is angry with Anastasia and she tells him, “You scare me when you’re angry.” So, in just one chapter, we’ve got a lack of consent due to him getting her drunk, as well as a blaring signal for an abusive relationship

considering one person is afraid of their partner because they are angry.

There is also an event in the series where Anastasia uses the safe word, an agreed upon word that the submissive says if they feel that their physical and emotional boundaries are being approached, thus stopping whatever action is happening, yet Christian ignores her. When a safe word is used, consent is being retracted; Christian not adhering to that rule makes him a rapist. Rape does not happen in a true BDSM relationship.

There is a lot of misconception surrounding dom/sub sexual relationships, 50 Shades further fuels these problematic ideas and frames dominants as inherently abusive. First off, in the contract Christian wants Anastasia to sign, it states that she will not talk to/ seek help from anyone regarding what they do. Isolation is a sure sign of an abusive relationship.

At various points in the series,

Anastasia is clearly afraid of Christian and hides things from him so she does not anger him. He’s easily prone to jealousy and even tracks her cell phone at one point. To this, Anastasia’s internal dialogue thinks, “stalker,” but this is brushed away without a second thought. If these few examples don’t scream, “abusive relationship” I must have the wrong idea of what a controlling, manipulative, physically and emotionally abusive person is.

If you’d like to read more about this, Amy Bonomi published a study in 2013 that compared the interactions of Anastasia and Christian to the CDC’s standards for emotional and sexual abuse, as well as intimate partner violence. Spoiler alert: the results found that almost every one of their interactions was abusive.

This is not a dom/sub relationship; this is a textbook case of abuse. Proper dom/sub relationships in fact put the submissive in control. The dominant’s job is to please the submissive because that’s how the dom gets their pleasure. The sub always has the power to stop whatever is going on.

“50 Shades” also gives Christian the back-story of being abused as a child, making the connection that because he was abused he enjoys BDSM...extremely problematic, no?

I would love to say I appreciate “50 Shades” for bringing the idea of kinks and non-vanilla sex to a wider audience, but simply cannot get past the abusive tendencies of Mr. Grey. The thought that so many people possibly consider this abuse to be proper BDSM is extremely concerning.

International discussion tables held for first time



MEGHAN HAYMAN/THE CAMPUS

Nafisa Alieva (right) had books on the English language at the English speaking conversation table, and shared them with Rebecca Dickinson (left). At the first ever international conversation tables, there was ready an English converstaion table and a Spanish conversation table.

By ANGELA MAURONI
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International discussion tables were held for the first time on Jan. 27, 2015, featuring a Spanish-speaking table and an English-speaking ta-

ble. While the turnout did not offer much in the way of English-speaking students or international students wanting to practice their English at the table, the Spanish-speaking table was quickly filled and

full of conversation. These conversations are aimed to offer an opportunity for students to connect across cultures and practice their non-native languages. At the English speaking table for this session was seat-

ed Nafisa Alieva, previously a teacher of English as a foreign language in Uzbekistan and currently an instructor of modern and classical languages at Allegheny. As the discussion tables began, she was joined by Re-

becca Dickinson, the director of the learning commons. Alieva had at the table several books about the English language ready for viewing by anyone interested. “Studying a language at the college level is a lot more in-

tense,” Dickinson said. Following this meeting, the international tables will continue on a nearly daily basis and will feature different languages every day, including German, Chinese, French and more.

French student prepares for life as an international lawyer

By ANGELA MAURONI
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Messê HOUNGNIKPO, who has just begun her second semester at Allegheny and her second semester in America, is feeling more comfortable in her routine. Even during the fall semester of 2014, HOUNGNIKPO found that being immersed in American culture made adapting easier. “Sometimes I don’t realize that I spend my whole day speaking English and not French,” she commented. Most of HOUNGNIKPO’s studies have focused on U.S. law and history because she wants to be an international private lawyer once she finishes her education. This semester, she finds her courses somewhat more chal-

lenging and attributes this to the rise in class level. Whereas she was previously taking 100 and 200 level classes, she is now taking 300 level classes, those being constitutional law: powers of government, and rights in comparative perspective. Despite her classes being more difficult than last semester, they are closer to what HOUNGNIKPO is used to. She graduated from the University of Nantes in 2014 and she has found the classes she took there were more challenging than the two she took in fall of 2014 at Allegheny. She found her finals less challenging as well. That degree is called her licence in France and she is planning on then doing two more years of school of specialized schooling to achieve



Messê HOUNGNIKPO
French teaching assistant

her master. This being her last few months here, as she will be returning to her hometown of Chaudron-en-Maugesin, France, at the end of the spring 2015 semester, HOUNGNIKPO is

trying to spend as much time as possible with her friends. She is reaching out to other students less in order to focus her attention on those she is already close to. “We love each other--we like being with each other,” HOUNGNIKPO described. The affectionate feeling is mutual according to Stefanie Cuadra, ’15. “A common French stereotype is that the French are rude snobs who don’t like to speak English,” Cuadra explained. “Messê is the prime example that stereotypes are reflections of fear for the unknown and sometimes ignorance because she may be one of the sweetest and considerate people I have met in my life.” As well as finding friendship in HOUNGNIKPO, Cuadra

feels that she has been enlightened on French culture in a personal way as a result of their time together. “From everything she has told me, I’ve learned a lot about the education system in France, the gastronomy of the country, differences in social etiquette and much more,” Cuadra said. Brian Harward, associate professor of political science and HOUNGNIKPO’s constitutional law professor this semester, feels that he gains a better understanding of foreign law when he has international perspectives in his class. “It’s nice to have students in the class who have a much deeper understanding of the role of law, courts and legal processes in those countries than I do,” Harward said.

“They can be important resources as we compare legal institutions and patterns of judicial or litigant behavior in other countries.” Professors such as Harward and Howard Tamashiro, who is an associate professor of political science as well as HOUNGNIKPO’s rights in comparative perspective professor, seem to agree that being exposed to international perspectives is often a give and take system. “She provided a valuable international... perspective on U.S. policies that are not often available in Allegheny political science class discussions,” Tamashiro explained. “Conversely, I believe Messê was exposed to U.S.-centered interpretations of European... events and policies that she found interesting.”

Yuchun Huang recognizes differences in social norms

By ANGELA MAURONI
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In Taiwan, few students would think of leaning back and putting their feet on the desk in class. Educators may frown upon the slouching students and think they are not taking the class seriously. However, Yu-chun Huang, a Chinese international student, said she has seen this since coming to America, which initially surprised her. She attributed this behavior to the individualistic nature of Americans. She believes that in America, it is more acceptable to slouch in class because more professors see students as responsible for their own behavior and quality of learning. Conversely, in Taiwan the professors may feel it is their responsibility to prevent such behavior. Huang said that students frequently go places on their own and complete tasks on their own, whereas in Taiwan students would work or

travel together. As well, Huang has noticed that people seem to be happier with who they are, particularly those who do not fit conventional ideas of body image. “You don’t really need to worry about what others think about you,” Huang explained. “You can dress how you want. You can walk how you want.” Vesta Silva, department chair of communication arts and Huang’s advanced public speech professor, has found that there are many things American students have been taught that they take for granted. Doing presentations in other countries requires different things of students than in America and American students often think these things are implied. “When international students are comfortable contributing to class discussions it can have an enormously positive impact,” Silva said. “Specifically, it can highlight

the ways that ideas, customs, or norms that we take for granted as ‘natural’ or ‘common sense’ are in fact deeply cultural and particular.” As well as her social and educational surprises, Huang was apprehensive about experiencing Meadville weather. Being from Taiwan, an island off of the southeast coast of China, Huang is used to winter temperatures only falling to about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Though Huang is still not enjoying the weather, she does feel she has become more tolerant of it. She is used to regularly wearing layers and tries to stay inside as much as she can to avoid the cold and snow. The Alex Foundation is a program that allows universities to connect with native Chinese or Japanese speakers to create a more effective language program at the university. Allegheny College was connected to Huang through this foundation.

Huang was chosen by the Alex foundation from a pool of others who also had a bachelor’s degree and was also chosen because of her test scores. When her semester in America draws to a close, Huang plans on going back to Taiwan and teaching full-time. Samantha Wanko, ’15, who took advanced Chinese language and culture I with Huang, believes that her experience was enhanced because the class was taught by a native Chinese speaker. “I think it is more authentic coming from an international teacher than, let’s say, a teacher who udnerstand the culture and language but is not native to that region,” she said. “I know that in my Chinese language class with Professor Huang she would include cultural insights into Chinese and Taiwanese culture that you might not get from the average teacher.”



MEGHAN HAYMAN/THE CAMPUS

Yuchun Huang has noticed a distinct independent nature in students since coming to America and feels it gives many of them confidence.

GFC hosts first Open Mic Night of spring semester



MEGHAN HAYMAN/THE CAMPUS

Trey Durst, '16, performs original songs during Grounds For Change's first Open Mic Night for the spring semester on Jan. 29.this is a caption.

By MADISON SIEBER
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Snapping in a coffee shop seems cliché, but at Open Mic Night at Grounds For Change, the performances were anything but.

Sam Sobus, '17, was the champion of a previous poetry slam and saw the first Open Mic Night of the semester as a great opportunity to share her poetry.

"It was a way to branch out," said Sobus.

Singers and songwriters also performed. The musician's colorful guitar complemented the tapestries that hung casually on the wall. The smells of 'Vagabond' coffee being served added to the experience.

Jon Alcantara, '18, a board member for GFC, attended the event to hear new music.

"I came to see if there was any original music being played," said Alcantara between acts of various guitar duets.

Steve Milcarek, '15, a student involved in the set up of the event, always enjoys Open Mic Night for its welcoming atmosphere.

"It's a very open environment," Milcarek said.

Open Mic serves as a medium for the thoughts and sounds of Allegheny student body, and is an opportunity for students to share their interests. GFC hopes to offer monthly Open Mic Nights spring semester.

Reviewer: 'The Theory of Everything' tells a real story

Film offers unique look at Hawking's personal life

By AURLEY MORRIS
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4 out of 5 stars

I went into the theatre knowing very little about 'The Theory of Everything' when I saw it this weekend. I was under the impression that the movie was primarily about Stephen Hawking's life and the relationship he had with his wife, Jane Hawking.

Otherwise, I had very few preconceptions about the plot or premise of the film. I left the theatre with a better insight into Hawking's life but I also initially found myself at a loss for their choice to focus the plot heavily on his relationship with Jane.

The movie gets its title from Hawking's search for a singular unifying equation of everything in the universe, a

literal 'theory of everything.' This is the theory that Hawking was pursuing eagerly during his years as a young graduate student.

While he never ultimately finds such an equation, his astronomical work is heavily portrayed in the film which begins while Hawking is pursuing his PhD from Cambridge.

The biggest takeaway from the production is definitely Eddie Redmayne's performance. He captures Hawking's biting intelligence and quirks early in his life but also captivates the audience with his adept ability to portray Hawking's degrading health during the advancement of his disease, Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

His performance initially begins with small signs, such as clumsy chalk handling

or stumbling while walking across campus, but slowly advances to more serious symptoms to the point where Redmayne is left unable to move and finds himself constrained to a chair, in line with Stephen Hawking's current condition.

This portrayal was enchanting as it provided a rare opportunity to see life at various stages of such a debilitating disease. It provides the audience with an insight to a Stephen Hawking we've never had the chance of meeting.

Through the film, we are reminded that despite declining mobility, Hawking gets married, has three children, completes his PhD, and even authors books.

While I very much enjoyed getting to learn more about Hawking's personal life from a film he deems "broadly true" (Variety.com), I questioned

the directors choice to focus the movie on his relationship with Jane.

At the end of the day, his relationship with Jane was not particularly romantic. They married, struggled immensely, and eventually divorced. While this is not surprising considering the struggles involved in coping with a disabled partner, I found it odd that a film was made to portray it.

The marketing materials implied a love story or romance of some cinema worthy nature. It advertised a love story we see in fairy tales, and this was not the case with their real lives and there was no fairy tale love in the film.

That being said, in some ways I really appreciated the relationship as it was portrayed in the film. Their love was refreshing in the sense



Photo contributed to THE CAMPUS

Eddie Redmayne's performance in 'The Theory of Everything' won a Screen Actors Guild award for Best Actor. In his acceptance speech, Redmayne talked about how he physically and mentally prepared for the role.

that it wasn't romanticized or elevated to an unrealistic level, as is often the case in silver screen love stories. It was an honest love.

Additionally, a close look at the life he lead with Jane may be the best way to portray Hawking's personal life. While many of us know him for his great achievements in the scientific community, or his published works such as A Brief History of Time or The Grand Design, very few people truly have access to his personal side.

Through Jane Hawking's memoir, and this film based off of that work, we see the side of this scientist we may have otherwise lost.

What do you think about the movie American Sniper?

The Campus asked some students and faculty for their opinions on a recently released film

Reporting by Yutong Wang
Photos by Amasa Smith and Meghan Hayman



STEVE MILCAREK, '15

"From the trailer, it appears to glorify the act of war and killing. I don't really want to see it. And every time I see a trailer, I feel like I am being recruited into the military."



JOCELYN SERAFIN, '17

"I think it should win the Oscar for best movie."



FRANK TEED
Cashier,
McKinleys

"I'm not into those types of movies."



OREILLE HENRY, '16

"Amazing."

BAILEY GAWLEY, '17

"I haven't seen it but I honestly think that it's a story that needs to be told. Because a lot of people struggle with coming home from the war."



ALEXIS DICKMAN, '16

"It creates a broader conversation about our countries armed forces."



History faculty candidates visit campus

By EYLIE BUEHLER
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Allegheny will be hosting three candidates for a full-time faculty to come to campus and give a presentation on their main focus of study before choosing a professor to join the history department.

Kalè Haywood, chair of the history department and a historian of colonial Latin America, said that every professor in each department goes through a similar process in which they must present a ‘job talk.’

“It’s standard process when hiring faculty to hold a job talk in which the candidate is invited to speak, it’s slightly different for every department, but we ask our candidate to speak on his or her research project at a level pitched at a junior seminar level,” Haywood said.

Haywood said having the candidates participate in a job talk helps others to learn more about the candidate’s work. It gives the search committee insight into both the applicants teaching style as well as an opportunity to see how they relate to students.

“We make this event open to the campus community... this is not a surprise to the candidate, they have a very clear schedule of what is expected,” Haywood said.

The history department’s student advisory board is in attendance and their opinion plays a role in who is chosen for hire.

Jessie Lamb, ’15, and Taylor Shaw, ’16, members of the history department’s student advisory board, were both in attendance.

“...That’s part of what we do: come and listen to all of the candidates and give our input to the search committee,” said Lamb.

Sydney Fernandez, ’17, attended the event because of her interest in the topic being presented entitled “The People’s Power.”

“I’m thinking of self designing a major in black studies and part of what she is presenting has to do with Civil Rights and black history,” Fernandez said.

Lamb said that this talk was timely and important

because of all the events of the fall and the overarching discussion of race in the country.

“It is important to notice our historical roots and know what is going on contemporarily today especially everything that has been happening across the country with hash tag black lives matter,” Lamb said.

It’s standard process when hiring faculty to hold a job talk in which the candidate is invited to speak.

Kalè Haywood, Chair of History Department

“The idea of political participation is not something that’s new and that we’re just experiencing now. It’s something that has long historical roots and I think understanding the history behind it is important to creating a better future and a more understanding society.”

The history department is looking to hire a professor who has a background in teaching black studies. Haywood said that this has become an area of student’s interest and a subject that could end up attracting more students to the history major or minor.

“Especially with what happened last semester with the open forum and a lot of the issues that have been brought to light, this topic is extremely important to any students on this campus,” said Shaw.

Dr. Alyssa Ribeiro was the first candidate to give her presentation on Jan. 29. The next two candidates Dr. Lauren Pearlman presenting “The Fight for Civil Rights in Washington, D.C.” and Dr. Lauren Helton presenting “\$5.00 for a letter written by a Negro.” These candidates will give their job talks on Feb. 3 and 5 in Schultz Banquet Hall.



Ryan Tipker, ’18, aims the cue during a daytime visit to the game room. Pool is one of the most popular games amongst students and faculty alike.

Students beat the winter weather with fun in the game room

Photos and story by Rodolpho Camargo

When the wind blows outside and walking around campus becomes no fun at all, the game room is a inviting place. Students can escape from both the low temperatures and the busy coursework they face.

Although Bryn Wallnau, ’18, and James Rynes, ’15, do not go there very often, they do like playing basketball. “We just literally started those games two days ago,” said Rynes. As they play and we talk about the options the game room has to offer, Wallnau agrees about their favorite game: “Basketball, for sure.” They have been there only a few times, but they also enjoy ping-pong and air hockey.

While some students keep score and compete against each other, Wallnau and Rynes play as partners. “Usually we try to beat the record,” said Wallnau. They both like the atmosphere and Wallnau herself has already rented several movies since the beginning of the semester.

However, there would be no movie-renting or basketball-playing without the people who work there. Morgan Hazzard, ’18, is one of them. She has worked at the game



Students can find a basketball game, pool table, ping-pong and a Wii gaming station in the game room.

room since last semester and according to her, besides the students playing, “events are held by clubs here all the time.” However, they face some frequent problems, such as movies getting scratched

and their racing arcade machine being frequently down. However, “they try to get them fixed as soon as they get broken”. According to Hazzard, the new movies are the top rented DVDs.

Claire’s Kitchen: Apple Coffee Cake

By CLAIRE TEAGUE
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Ingredients:

7 tablespoons butter
½ teaspoons vanilla
1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
1 ½ cup sugar
2 cups cake flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
3-4 cups sliced granny smith apples
½ cup raisins
1 egg and 2 egg whites
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup sour cream

Instructions:

Melt 3 tablespoons in butter in the skillet, add apples and raisins and cook slightly.

Add the cinnamon and the ½ cup sugar. Then mix baking soda into the sour cream. Let

that set undisturbed for ten minutes and it will double in volume.

Next, cream the four tablespoons of butter with a cup of sugar. Add the egg and sour cream, flour, baking powder and vanilla. Beat the ingredients together for two minutes.

Then spread half or a little less of the batter into a greased 13 x 9 inch pan. Take the apples and pour them over top and spread them evenly across the pan. Finish by covering the apples with the remaining dough.

Top the cake with 1 cup chopped pecans, 1 teaspoon cinnamon and 4 tablespoons of brown sugar. Bake the cake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees Fahrenheit.



CLAIRE TEAGUE/THE CAMPUS

This cake reheats really well which means it’s the perfect thing to make the night before and reheat for breakfast.

Tune-In to WARC

Any interest in following a certain show on WARC?
This is the schedule of shows and their DJ’s for the upcoming week, starting Feb. 2 through Feb. 8.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM		Tyler Allen					
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Sam Palmer				TJ Eamon	Milton Guevara	
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lesly Mei-ji-Flores, Walter Cowles-Costigan		Nathaniel Blake		Chris Lundberg		
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM				Audrey Trotta, Meg (Becca) Duch		Joseph Crouse, Jordan Shimmin	
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Kris Troy	Janelle Carlson	Maggie Stanger, Sierra Hall		Lauren Dominique, Rachael Robertson	Jeremy Loewer	Kyle Ros, Will Tylor
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM		Breanna Mendiola, Kelsey Keister, Emily Cancilla	Bradley Pollock, Jared Pollock	Bennet Gould	Mike-N-Ike	Emily Rahraven	DJ Davey Dave
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Julie Paynor, Hannah Seawall	Dylan Boucher	Cait Driscoll, Madeleine Zimmerman	John Watt	Megan Greig	DJ Boof	
10:00 PM – 12:00 AM	Amy Currul	Danielle Frank, Taylor Sherbine, Kim Seymour	Sean Gannon	Lee Scandinaro			
12:00 AM – 2:00 AM			Allie Condon				

Men’s basketball works to finish season on a high note even with an injury in the starting line up

By EMERALD WRIGHT COLLIE
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Since losing starting junior Brandon Smith, ’16 to a torn ACL and MCL in an overtime loss against Kenyon on Dec. 9, the Gator big men have had to step up to fill Smith’s shoes. In the overtime loss, Smith was 10 for 10 from the field with three defensive rebounds. Smith, a forward and one of the team captains, contributed a total of twenty points to Allegheny’s final score of 72 points. Although the Gators fell to the Lords in overtime, Smith was 10 for 10 from the field. Smith went from scoring in single digits to doubling his points per game at the start of the season. “My focus changed and I put more effort in,” Smith said. “I started going to the gym after practices, plus its just a confidence thing. We were growing better as a team and that made me want to work harder.” The game against the Kenyon Lord’s was more than just another home game for Smith, it would be the last game of his season. In the second half of the game, Smith injured his knee going up for a layup. Smith soon had to consider options on how to deal with his injury. He had to decide

whether to get his surgery in his hometown, Gahanna, OH or here in Meadville, PA. “I decided to get the surgery done here because the surgeon had more experience,” Smith said. Smith got surgery on his ACL and MCL on New Year’s Eve while his teammates were focusing on how to adjust in the wake of his injury. Andrew Sestina, ’16, Chris Milon, ’16 and Leslie Jamerson, ’15, all matching Smith’s height, have had to step forward in Smith’s absence. “A lot of players on the team stepped up to take on some of his roles as a starter and team captain,” Jamerson said. Milon was one of the players forced to rise in the wake of Smith’s injury, the forward had an increase in his minutes per game. “In the pre-season we worked very hard to get in basketball shape. During the season it is the same story, we make sure to go hard in the drills in practice so that we are ready to play as many minutes as coach needs us too,” Milon said. Stepping up to the plate, Milon has doubled his points per game. Milon has averaged eight points per game this season, a career high in his time as a Gator.

“I can accredit my increase in points to trusting the offense that the coaches came up with. The offense is put in place so that everyone can be successful if they cut hard, and look to score when their time comes,” Milon said. Josh Valentic, ’15, has been averaging 14 points per game this season alongside Evan Zabriski, ’17, averaging 18 points per game. Combined with Milon, these players have been able to build up the Gator offense. All three players often hit double digits per game. Both Valentic and Zabriski are top ten scorers in the North Coast Athletic Conference, ranked 10 and three respectively. “Josh is a smart basketball player, and knows the offense well so it is natural for a player like him to be able to build chemistry on the court with others. Evan is a very skilled swing man that can put together runs better than any other player in the conference, so as long as I keep my head up when I get the ball it is easy to them,” Milon said. The Gators have posted the most conference wins this season since their 2009-2010 campaign. They currently stand forth in the conference with an 8-9 record.



AMASA SMITH/THE CAMPUS
Brandon Smith, ’16, and Chris Milon, ’16, watch teammates Evan Zabriski, ’17, and Andrew Sestina, ’16, fight for a basket against Hiram College on Jan. 28.

Men’s and women’s track and field teams look back on last season and plans for the season ahead

By EYLIE BUEHLER
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Allegheny Men’s and Women’s Track and Field spring season has officially begun. Taylor Throckmorton, assistant coach, along with multiple members of the team believe this season will prove to be one of their best. Throckmorton is an Allegheny graduate who competed while he attended the college and has been coaching for two years. “We’re kind of where we want the team to be,” Throckmorton said. “Two years ago our women’s team finished last at the conference championship and last year we finished fourth, so significant

improvement on that side but we’re still improving further.” Throckmorton said that last year getting second place was plausible but a big stretch so their goal this year is to attain that second place finish. “This year we have a really strong class of freshman so I think our team is really hungry for that second place. This year we’re really going for that second place finish,” Throckmorton said. Alex Simon, ’15, a men’s distance runner, said the team is looking very strong and there is a lot of potential. “We definitely have a lot of talented runners and throwers and sprinters... the conference is getting better every year though so it will definitely be a challenge no mat-

ter how good we are,” Simon said. “We still have to do our best to go out there and compete well.” Nathan Taggart, ’15, runs the heptathlon, the decathlon, hurdles and jumps for the men’s team. He wants to push his team to reach their full potential. He said they have consistently placed third at meets in the past year and that it is time to move up in the ranks this year. “Our main goal is to try and get over 100 points at the conference meet,” Taggart said. Taggart said the team needs to maintain the attitude of “we’re all in this together” and to stay focused in order to reach their goals. “When you’re on the track

as an individual, just like a team sport, everyone else has your back and is standing behind you cheering for each other,” Taggart said. “I never really hear them because I’m so focused on the race but we always try to have some people out there cheering for every event.” Throckmorton said based on a meet they attended in December he expects the season to go significantly well. “We had some really good marks, a lot of PRs, which are personal records, and even a school record got broken by a freshman so that was a really great preview of how the season will go but now this is the point where we hit the period where we’re competing every weekend from here on out so

we really get to see where people are at and how we’ll show up for competition,” Throckmorton said. Throckmorton said based on the results of the cross-country season, they have qualified to the national championship nine years in a row, they know that they have a strong distance program as well as a strong throwing program. “In those two event groups we are looking to score a lot of points, we are kind of hoping they will put us in a good spot,” Throckmorton said. “In the last few years our weakest point has been sprinting and jumping so thankfully we now have some great key recruits in those event groups. That will shoulder up some

of those issues but those are some events we need to improve on.” Sara Von Dolln, ’17, a thrower for the women’s team, said the team needs to continue to push one another, which they seem to be doing very well at this season already. “We need to encourage each other to work harder and set PRs and hopefully win the conference,” Von Dolln said. “We need to continue pushing not just for throws but overall.” According to Throckmorton and track athletes the teams main goal to get back on top and to continue improving in all event areas.

Women’s softball prepares for first game of 2015 season

By CHLOE KEDZIORA
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Monday, Jan. 26 marked the beginning of Allegheny’s women’s softball season. The women are practicing indoors at the Wise Center due to winter weather conditions. The Gators are preparing for their first competition against Shenandoah University in Salem, VA in March. Head coach Beth Curtiss described the difficulties of playing a spring sport indoors. “Obviously, we are limited with what we can do with our outfielders and the floor is much different than playing in the dirt and grass, but we make the best of what we have inside,” Curtiss said. “We have two cages and lot of space to run full infield practice, as well as long throwing for outfielders. We do a lot of live hitting and even play some live indoor games, so we are still getting so much accom-

plished.” A different approach to practices and the basics to the sport has been adapted by the Gators due to weather conditions. “The first week has included a lot of speed training workouts,” said Curtiss. “We are also lifting in addition to our regular practice routines. The pitchers have begun their more intense workouts with Coach Green and we spend plenty of time batting off the machines and tees. We are focusing right now on the basics of defense, making sure our footwork is correct, as well as throwing motion and how they get in position to field a ball.” In addition to speedy and agility, the Gators focus on the mental aspects of the game. Loryn “Belle” Mazurik, ’16, shares the new program. “This year we also tried something a little different,” Mazurik said. “We had a program that focused on our

mentality and targeting mental toughness. As a team, we came up with team goals and expectations. We are all about having a positive mentality going into all softball related things.” Mazurik describes the team’s aspirations for the 2015 season. “Our team is really looking to work together, and form a supportive atmosphere this year,” Mazurik stated. “We expect that there will be failure, but we are going to use that failure to motivate us. We have our sights set on the conference tournament, and then it’s up in the air as far as that goes. Anything is possible. We are just taking it one day at a time right now.” The softball team is determined to integrate new team members and build on previous seasons. “We have a lot of incoming freshmen that can fill some gaps that left us out of playoffs last season,” said Mazurik. “I

am excited to how they adjust at the collegiate level, and to see how far we go. My freshman year left us wanting more when we were defeated in the championship game before the DIII College World Series.” Jaricka Simmerman, ’18, shares her goals for the upcoming season. “I hope to bring a positive attitude and just to fill in a position, whatever it is, that will benefit the rest of the team,” said Simmerman. The Gators focus as a team is to bond and work together. “Our vision for this season is ‘Building a family that believes in moving forward together to reach our goals and create the legacy,’” stated Curtiss. *Women’s softball will compete in their first game on March 13-14 at the Roanoke College Bash in Salem, VA.*

Upcoming Events

Fri. 1/30
Men’s & Women’s Track & Field
@ SPIRE Indoor Open

Sat. 1/31
Women’s Basketball
@ Kenyon College
1:00 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
@ Kenyon College
3:00 p.m.

Men’s & Women’s Track & Field
@ SPIRE Indoor Open