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Barbera talks on consumer behavior

By **HANNAH SCHAFFER**
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Allegheny College's Center for Business and Economics welcomed Michael Barbera to campus to discuss consumer decision making on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020 at 12:15 in Quigley Auditorium.

"Our speaker today is most likely going to change the way you shop on your next shopping spree," Medha Nag, '20, said during her introduction of Barbera.

Barbera is an award-winning consumer psychologist and business strategist and is "a leading expert in complex factors that drive the entire consumer decision-making process, including consumer behavior, emotion and experience," according to Allegheny's website.

Barbera has worked with various companies, including Microsoft, Boeing, the Washington Post and the United States Department of Defense. Additionally, Barbera has had clients appear on ABC's Shark Tank, Bravo's Million Dollar Listing and Gordon Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares.

The White House recognized Barbera for his contributions to entrepreneurship in 2015. Barbera has also been a TEDx presenter, and presented his work on four continents.

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EMILY RICE/THE CAMPUS
James B. Basinger presents his plans for emergency preparedness while applying for job as director of public safety on Oct. 3, 2019, in Pelletier Library.

••• Getting Down to Business •••

Basinger begins job, director of public safety

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
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Allegheny has been without a full-time director of public safety for three years — last semester they filled the post.

James B. Basinger was hired at the end of the Fall 2019 semester. He officially assumed duties on Monday, Jan. 20.

Before coming to Allegheny Basinger was a member of the Pennsylvania State Police for 25 years. During the last 19 months on the job he was assigned to work in Harrisburg. As a resident of Meadville, this was a hard trip to make, according to Basinger.

"In my previous job I would have to leave on Sunday and drive to Harrisburg, and then come home Friday evening," Basinger said. "I had to keep an apartment down there. I had taken the position as it was a promotion, but I had no possibility of transferring home because there were no positions in the rank of major in this area. I became eligible to retire (from that position) in July. So I officially retired on Jan. 10 and started (at Allegheny on) Jan. 20."

Basinger added that a lot of people he worked with in the past have worked or are currently working at Allegheny, including Interim Director of Public Safety William Merchbaker.

Merchbaker first met Basinger when he was a teenager and then again when Basinger became a State trooper.

"We first worked together at the Meadville Police Barracks," Merchbaker said. "(Basinger) was my boss then as a State trooper, and now he's my boss again."

Merchbaker expressed how he thought it was great to be working with Basinger again, and that Basinger had a lot of innovative ideas for Allegheny's Department of Public Safety.

"He has a lot of good, progressive ideas," Merchabaker said. "I think he's going to really be able to move our department forward. He has a lot of experience in both law enforcement and administrative wise, and I think it will be nice to have (him) in this leadership role."

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ASG reviews possible Wise changes

By **ALANA SABOL**
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Tension rose at Allegheny Student Government's weekly general assembly meeting when discussions about security cameras on campus and issues with the new weight room in the David V. Wise Center unfolded.

With no guest speaker, ASG's general assembly began with cabinet reports at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the Henderson Campus Center room 301/302.

Director of Communications and Press David Roach, '21, commenced his report by announcing that the "How to: GA" video created by his committee will be debuting Thursday, Feb. 6, and that the ASG website will soon be updated to include new cabinet members.

Shortly after Roach, Co-Director of Student Affairs Genesis Pena,' 22, read the Diversity and Inclusion report, disclosing that Taylor Marzouca, '20, director of diversity and inclusion, had nominated two ex-officios, Patricia Gaxiola, '21.and Diana Zyanya Phillips, '23. Both of the nominees were approved as ex-officios by the senate.

Following Pena, Director of Community Relations Owen Jacobsen, '23, announced that he was also nominating two ex-officios: Gabby Miller, '20, former director of community relations, and Rahwa Weldemichael, '23. Both Miller and Weldemichael were approved.

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Connell Pensky explores perception through illusions

By **HANNAH SCHAFFER**
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Assistant Professor of psychology and neuroscience Allison Connell Pensky presented her research on perception as part of the Karl W. Weiss, '87, Faculty Lecture Series on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

Additionally, Connell Pensky's presentation focused on how sensations combine in the brain and how the visual system interprets images.

Before Connell Pensky began her presentation, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities James Niblock, '97, made the announcement that the Academic Support Committee was looking for faculty interested in being a part of the Karl W. Weiss Faculty Lecture Series during the 2020-2021 academic year.

"Tonight we will hear from Dr. Allison Connell Pensky," Niblock said. "She joined Allegheny psychology and neuroscience faculty in 2013, and she has established a behavioral and electrophysiology laboratory to study perception."

Connell Pensky began her lecture by defining sensation as detection of external stimuli by our sense organs. Whereas, perception was defined as internal experience of these stimuli by a process carried out in the brain.

The presentation contained a number of perceptual experiences and illusions to explore how different perceptions are created. Illusions are an important tool in helping scientists and scholars better understand how brains process information.

"If you can understand how to trick the brain, then we can work backwards to understand how we constructed this perception in the first place," Connell Pensky said.

Illusions also prove that perceptions do not always match what is happening in the world, according to Connell Pensky.

"Our perceptions are not necessarily reality," Connell Pensky said. "Not only that, our sensations don't necessarily meet the same perception."

> "Our perceptions are not necessarily reality. Not only that, our sensations don't necessarily meet the same perception."
>
> —ALLISON CONNELL PENSKY
> Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Allegheny College

What is in the world is not always what is in your mind. Sensation is not equal to perception, and perception need not equal reality, according to Connell Pensky.

Connell Pensky utilized a number of videos and images to illustrate the difference between perception and sensation throughout her presentation.

One example Connell Pensky utilized was a video from Jimmy Kimmel Live about Starbucks' Costa Rica Finca Palmilera, which is the company's most expensive cup of coffee. In the clip, Kimmel surveyed coffee drinkers to see if they could tell the difference between the "super premium" cup of coffee and a regular cup of coffee.

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IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS



BREXIT
Britain has officially left the European Union, but the controversy continues.

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GROUNDHOG DAY
The science behind the February holiday and the story of the groundhog.

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'PRIDE & PREJUDICE'
The Meadville Community Theatre to put on production of 'Pride & Prejudice.'

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FRIDAY	H: 27° L: 19°	SATURDAY	H: 27° L: 22°
	Snow: 70%		Snow: 20%
	Sunrise: 7:26 a.m.		Sunrise: 7:25 a.m.
	Sunset: 5:43 p.m.		Sunset: 5:44 p.m.

SUNDAY	H: 35° L: 32°
	Snow: 40%
	Sunrise: 7:23 a.m.
	Sunset: 5:45 p.m.

BARBERA

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Currently, Barbera serves as chief behavioral officer for Clicksuasion Labs, where he helps clients understand consumer influence and behavior.

Before beginning his presentation, Barbera handed out iClickers to each member in the audience to aid them in his interactive presentation.

Barbera began his presentation with a game he called "four lies and a truth." Audience members were presented with five options and had to guess the one fact that was true about Barbera.

The options included Barbera being arrested in college for streaking, got pulled over on the way to Allegheny, rode a motorcycle to the Arctic Circle, won $12,394 on Jeopardy and drove the pace car during a NASCAR race.

While most people predicted the truth was Barbera getting arrested in college for streaking, the actual correct answer was that Barbera has ridden a motorcycle to the Arctic Circle.

"If I was a product and you were the consumer, you just judged me," Barbera said. "This is how we judge our products and services and make purchase decisions."

Barbera also asked audience members which package they would open first; United States Postal Service, FedEx, UPS or DHL. A majority of audience members voted that they would open the FedEx package first.

Barbera explained that the average person will open the FedEx package first because they perceive the package to be more expensive and therefore more valuable. Additionally, Barbera noted that FedEx's orange and purple logo is an "awkward color combination," which makes it stand out among other pieces of mail.

"If you ever want to send a resume to someone, FedEx is the way to go," Barbera said.

During his presentation, Barbera also explored how consumers make purchasing decisions based on comparison, not the actual price of the item.

"Price is not always our primary decision making variable," Barbera said.

Barbera then posed another question to audience members — Why are flowers typically located towards the entrance of a grocery store?

Answer options included flowers being a high profit margin, they are on sale, they look pretty or because they look fresh.

Most people selected that they are either on sale or that they look pretty. However, the correct answer is because they are fresh, according to Barbera.

"If you walk into a grocery store and you see nothing but canned items as the first thing, you are going to assume cognitively that everything in that store is canned or preserved or not fresh," Barbera said. Barbera then explained that flowers cause customers to perceive that all items in the grocery store are fresh.

Barbera then shifted into discussing apples, and referenced the chalkboard signs that are often used to advertise apples.

Chalk signs are another tactic used by companies to help products appear fresh to consumers. Barbera also encouraged audience members to attempt to erase the chalk, because what appears to be a chalkboard is most likely printed by a manufacturer in order to give the impression that the produce is fresh.

"How old is the average apple in the grocery store?" Barbera asked. "14-months is the average age of an apple in the grocery store, but if you knew that, you would be less likely to buy an apple."

Time pressure and scarcity are another two factors that influence consumer decisions.



HANNAH SCHAFFER/THE CAMPUS

Michael Barbera presents on consumer decision making at 12:15 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, 2020, in Quigley Hall Auditorium.

Airlines and hotels commonly use time pressure and scarcity because they force consumers to act quicker.

Additionally, Barbera explained that menus are one of the most persuasive items in marketing.

"When you are seated in that restaurant, there is a 99.999% chance you are going to make a purchase," Barbera said.

Barbera also explained that companies attempt to sell confidence, since consumers make decisions based on who the customer is and who the customer wants to be.

"We buy things because we want to be that person," Barbera said. "Although I study consumer behavior and am a consumer psychologist, I am just as guilty as any other human."

However, trust is the one consumer decision making variable that stands out among the rest, according to Barbera.

Barbera concluded his presentation by presenting what he refers to as the retrust model. Retrust stands for remarkable, experiential, transparency, reciprocity, utility, social status and timeliness.

Finally, Barbera hosted a brief question and answer session before his presentation adjourned.

Krampus in process of getting re-recognized by ASG

By **MATTHEW STEINBERG**
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The Krampus, a satirical news source at Allegheny College, has been publishing content on campus since 2013, according to Associate Dean of Students for Wellness Education Gretchen Beck. The club's weekly publications briefly halted last semester after a controversial piece about the Meadville Mall, "Allegheny Student Traumatized By Meadville Mall," appeared in one of its October 2019 issues.

The club will resume publishing this semester, according to the President of The Krampus Lauren Fugate, '20.

The article that generated controversy details a fictional account of the Meadville Mall having a traumatic effect on an Allegheny student. In a November 2019 interview with The Campus, Fugate said the article was a punch down, not up.

It made references such as "moms with neck tattoos and way too many children" and said the shops looked like they had been "closed for years," amongst other references.

Fugate said The Krampus "missed the mark" and "made a joke that wasn't funny" in the November interview. The Krampus disbanded shortly following the controversial publication, and the club began publishing as The Trampus.

The Trampus was an "underground" satirical news source that published a few issues toward the end of last semester, according to Fugate. The Krampus — as of October 2019, a formerly Allegheny Student Government recognized club — had lost its ASG funding after its adviser resigned.

Fugate met with Beck after The Krampus' adviser resigned, and, in the November 2019 interview, said Beck told her The Krampus had to find a new adviser that would edit the club's work.

"That's part of the reason we wound up creating The Trampus, and doing (The Krampus) sort of underground as it used to be, because we didn't feel like the adviser's place was to tell us what we could and couldn't publish," Fugate said in the November interview.

In a November interview with The Campus, Beck said she did not tell Fugate The Krampus needed an adviser that would edit the club's articles, but just needed an adviser. All clubs that are ASG-recognized must have an adviser that is an Allegheny employee, according to Student Leadership and Involvement.

In a January interview with The Campus, Fugate said this miscommunication was frustrating, but nonetheless that Beck was supportive of The Krampus working to become re-recognized by ASG this semester. Members of The Krampus met in late January to discuss who could potentially serve as a new adviser for the publication.

In a February interview with The Campus, Beck confirmed The Krampus is currently in the process of becoming re-recognized by ASG, and said she's excited for the club's return.

BASINGER

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After the college not having an official director for three years, Basinger described the job as already being extremely busy, but that was what he expected."My initial impressions are that it is just what I thought it would be," Basinger said. "It's a very busy job and everyone wants to tell me everything that needs addressed. Not things that are wrong, but things that need to be addressed as there hasn't been a full time public safety director here for over three years."

Basinger added that he was on a tour of campus and heard from different department heads about how aspects of Allegheny can be improved. Basinger also said that because he is only two weeks into the job, major plans are still being developed, especially since public safety is short-staffed.

"To be a good leader you need to come in and assess what you have and what's going on, assess what resources you have and identify any deficiencies," Basinger said. "So we're still in that stage of the process. Public safety is currently running short-handed, and we have been for quite some time. Unlike any other job out there, this is a 24/7 operation. We have to have coverage for three shifts every day, and that's tough."

Basinger said that a main goal is to hire more officers, keeping diversity in mind. This includes making the position of officer more appealing to applicants to be able to hire "good, quality people."

Along similar lines, Basinger described part of his plan for equality and inclusion training for his officers, especially after the assault in Ravine-Narvik Hall last semester.

"With all of the incidents that have occurred this last year on campus, we want to make sure we have good people," Basinger said. "We want to make sure they're highly trained. … (Kristen Dukes, dean for institutional diversity) and I have discussed the possibility of bringing a recruiter from the state police who also conducts equality and inclusion training, but he does it from the police mindset."

Basinger added that if this happens, the recruiter and Dukes would lead this training jointly.

This training is one of several steps that public safety is working on to increase security around campus after the events of last semester, according to Basinger. Others include continued construction and cutting down of excess shrubbery around campus, along with the newly installed peepholes in doors and fixing door locks.

> "To be a good leader you need to come in and assess what you have and what's going on, assess what resources you have and identify any deficiencies. So we're still in that stage of the process. Public safety is currently running short-handed, and we have been for quite some time. Unlike any other job out there, this is a 24/7 operation. We have to have coverage for three shifts every day, and that's tough."
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> —JAMES B. BASINGER
> Director of Public Safety, Allegheny College

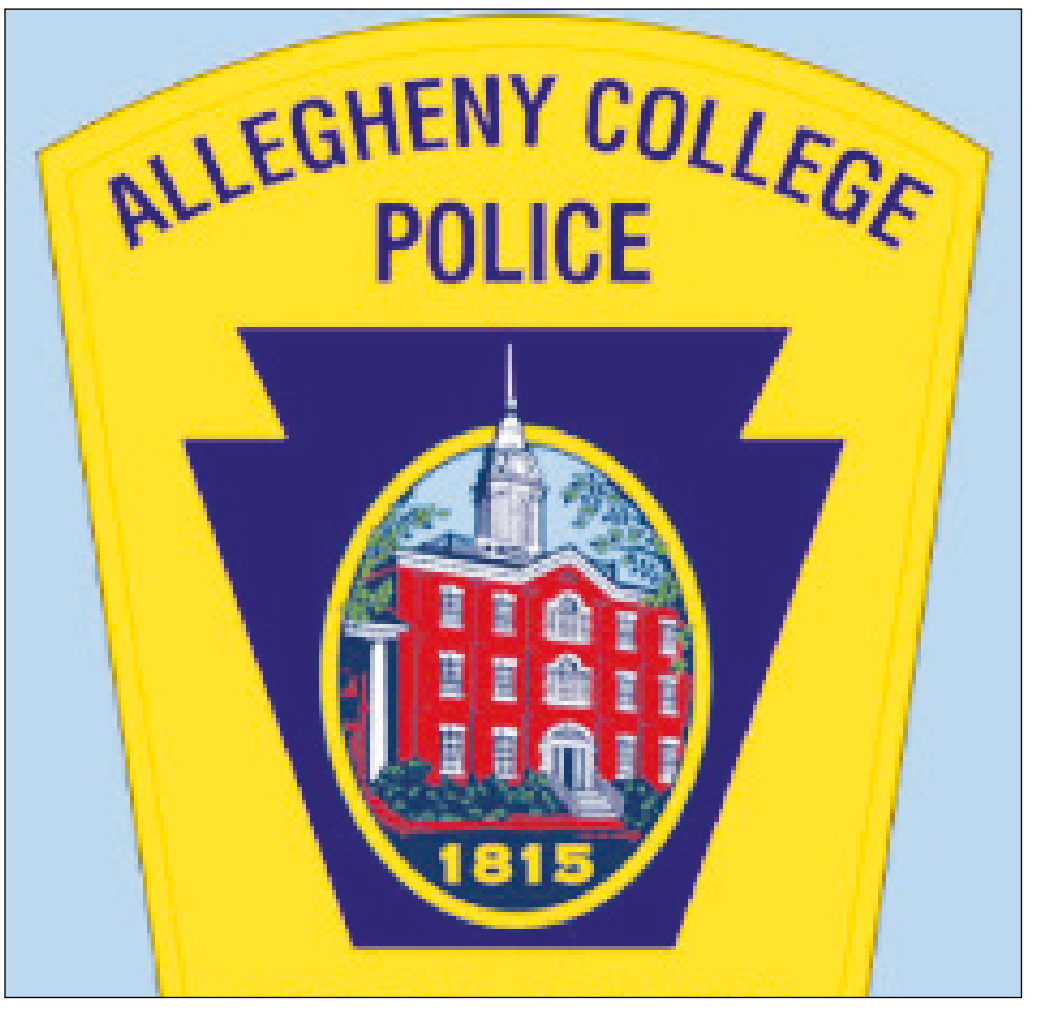


Photo courtesy of allegheny.edu

"We will continue to address (these problems) as we move forward," Basinger said. "We're going to make public safety a topic at orientation, and try to stress the importance of that."

He also expressed his excitement to be working at Allegheny, as he has seen what Allegheny means to the community after having lived in Meadville for 25 years.

"I've seen what Allegheny College has done for this community," Basinger said. "I'm a neighbor to this college, I think positively of it. I use it as a landmark when people ask where I'm from. I take pride in this community and I'm proud to be a part of the Allegheny community."

ASG

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To finish his report, Jacobsen said he sent out an email to both City Manager Andy Walker and Deputy Mayor Larry McKnight as an invitation to host a discussion about how the college can strengthen its relationship with the Meadville community.

Following Jacobsen, Attorney General Brandon Zabo, '22, revealed in his report that the Allegheny Socialists Club obtained an adviser and therefore the Senate would be voting whether or not to pass them for their second week.

Following the Senate's vote, Allegheny Socialist Club was approved for a second week.

Succeeding the vote, Chief of Staff Jared McHale, '20, announced that the Finance and Facilities Committee would be looking to make improvements to campus buildings and roads.

"They're going to look at the (uneven road) in front of Baldwin (Hall); just general maintenance, updating electrical panels." McHale said. "There's also going to be a resurfacing of the performance area in the Wise Center."

To conclude his report, McHale stated that the Curriculum Committee is planning on having a discussion about moving Gator Day to line up with Election Day in the next faculty meeting. The committee is also considering shortening finals to two hours, though the discussion is still in its preliminary stages.

Pena announced that the Indigenous People's Day Resolution was unanimously supported and that the Honor Code is officially up for vote this semester.

"Talk to your constituents, educate yourself and educate others," Pena said following her Honor Code announcement.

Co-Director of Student Affairs Kelsey Evans, '20, completed the report by adding that they had talked with Title IX Coordinator Gillian Ford and Why Not Us about collaborating for an event in the future.

"We're looking at maybe some self-defense training or rape culture education, things like that," Evans said.

After a few more cabinet reports, ASG moved into class reports. Reports included Class of 2021 announcing that they would be raising money for the Crawford County Special Olympics and Class of 2022 organizing a spring event for a mental health-themed chalk walk.

"We were hoping to do it around finals," President of the Class of 2022 Kathryn Phillippe said. "So maybe if that does happen we would (write) 'good luck on finals,' 'you're going to do great,' things like that."

Following class reports, Elyse Cinquino, '20, made a short announcement in her vice president's report reminding the attendees that ASG has not yet used the Student Action Fund of $10,000 for this year and encouraged them to think about possible uses the money could go toward.

Next, President Jason Ferrante, '20, announced in his president's report that Faculty Nomination Awards are available on MyAllegheny, and that the nomination window closes on Feb. 14. Ferrante also reported that the opening act for the major concert will be announced as soon as possible and that Springfest dates are set for April 3 and 4.

Moving into unfinished business, Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Caitlin Lord, '20, stated that they were planning on making a pledge to reduce greenhouse gases caused by food consumption.

Following Lord, Ferrante announced that he had a meeting with Director of Athletics and Recreation Bill Ross and Director of Recreation and Facilities Jared Luteran to address concerns about the new weight room in the Wise Center.

"The physical therapy equipment is being moved into (the varsity weight room) so non-varsity athletes will not be permitted to be in that weight room unsupervised," Ferrante said.

> "(Video cameras will be placed by) exterior facing residence hall doors only. They're not going to be in your residence halls. They're most certainly not going to be in your rooms. That's a huge invasion of privacy."
>
> —JASON FERRANTE
> Class of 2020,
> Allegheny College

Ferrante then clarified that varsity athletes will not be allowed to use the new weight room.

"(Ross) told us that if you see (varsity players in the new weight room), tell their coach and try to remind them that we have a designated space for each side now," Ferrante said.

However, some members expressed concerns. Roach said the varsity weight room is often locked around 4:30 p.m., forcing varsity athletes to use the new non-varsity weight room.

Vice President of the Class of 2020 Ashley Leonard also weighed in on the issue, saying that it could possibly promote social issues between students.

Ferrante ended the discussion by reminding the attendees that they can email their concerns to Ross and Luteran.

"They need to hear from students in order to make these changes, and we might even consider bringing them back in to have a face-to-face conversation," Ferrante said.

Additional concerns were voiced when Ferrante announced that security cameras are going to be installed on campus by the end of the spring semester.

"(Video cameras will be placed by) exterior facing residence hall doors only," Ferrante said. "They're not going to be in your residence halls. They're most certainly not going to be in your rooms. That's a huge invasion of privacy."

Attendees once again voiced their concerns on the issue, some saying that the cameras should only be used in the instance of a violent occurrence.

"If they're going to be installed regardless, we have to have a very specific policy that they are only used to protect students from violent attacks," said senator Quinn Broussard, '22.

Ferrante said there is a concern if public safety is not allowed to access the tapes, but assured the attendees that there will not be constant surveillance.

"(Constant surveillance) would require so much staff and a wall of cameras that I don't think we have the resources for," Ferrante said. "That could be a policy to push, if there is an incident then the tape is pulled."

After closing the discussion, ASG moved into new business and made a few announcements about possible changes to meal plans in the future. The meeting came to a close at 8:03 p.m.

PERCEPTION

from page 1

Kimmel then revealed that they did not even purchase Starbucks' new blend, but instead both cups were from the same average pot of coffee. However, each taste-tester, except for one, identified a difference between the two cups.



Photo courtesy of allegheny.edu
PENSKY

"(Kimmell) set that expectation," Connell Pensky said. "They changed the people's minds about what they should be tasting here, and then they constructed this whole reality that one of the coffees was far superior than the other."

Connell Pensky also explored auditory perception. Members of the audience heard a number of different words from the audio recording, including down hill, don't go, heel toe and landslide.

After, Connell Pensky revealed that there were no audible words in the audio file. However, the psychologist who created the file, named it "Hilda." Connell Pensky played the audio file one final time, to which every audience member heard the name "Hilda" being continuously repeated.

Things that are on your mind might come through in what you are hearing in from the audio file, because the brain is attempting to create meaning out of meaningless material, according to Connell Pensky. The

"We are all right, and we are all wrong," Connell Pensky said. "We are all wrong because there is no word in either of these files, so we are hallucinating, but we are all right because our perceptions are our individual idiosyncratic constructed realities given a combination of our sensations and past knowledge."

Connell Pensky shared a few more illusions with the audience before concluding her lecture with question and answer section.

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 31, 2020, issue of The Campus in the article titled, "Club strives to improve workers' rights on campus," it was stated in the lead that workers were having their wages cut by Allegheny. It was meant to say a budget cut that would have decreased worker's hours and therefore their pay.
Additionally in the same article, it says the workers having the budget cut were employed by Allegheny College. They are actually employed by St. Mortiz which is a company that works for the college.

CRIME BLOTTER

Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation.
Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.

February 3, 2020
Criminal Mischief
Hulings Hall

February 6, 2020
Disorderly Conduct
North Village B

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since 1876

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Miller's posthumous album released

By **BRIAN KLINE**
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A star died before his brilliance could be fully realized — Mac Miller died as a result of laced drugs in 2018, and the Pittsburgh native's music still manages to remind me of a loss beyond his grave. His posthumous album, "Circles," released Jan. 17, was his best-selling of all-time with the hit single "Good News" placing 17th on Billboard's Top 100. It was Miller's highest charting song as the lead artist.

To see such fame and success after his death feels like salt on a wound, exacerbating a scar not yet free of its scab. He grew up in Point Breeze, within walking distance from downtown Pittsburgh, less than 100 miles away from Allegheny's campus. He was a local celebrity and someone who kept to his roots through the community.

Helping to produce fellow Pittsburgh artists through his label REMember Music, Miller was both songwriter and teacher. On Sept. 20, 2013, Miller was handed a key to the City of Pittsburgh by then-Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, and the day was dubbed "Mac Miller Day" to commemorate his accomplishments.

While Miller as a performer served as a great inspiration to many aspiring artists, the man himself had a problematic past. Suffering from a long-held drug addiction, he had bouts of sobriety interspersed in his history of recreation. A Bojack-esque figure, many of his songs focused on the importance of mental health and how confusing an emotional psyche can be.

Arguably, some of his greatest works have been an investigation into the reasons for his own narcotic consumption. Songs like "Self Care," "Stay" and "Good News" would never have been made without the melancholic energy Miller channeled from his own experience. It is hard to either praise or blame the man for his consumption when it resulted in complex musical and lyrical subject matter centered on the very issue.

Miller's music carried a psychedelic element in its composition that made it impressionable, with lyrics to back up a brilliant mind battling a controversy of what he saw and what he understood in the real world. Some of Miller's mixtapes were released under a pseudonym, to allow him to experiment in other genres of music besides rap. "Run-On Sentences Vol. 1" was his first album to feature his own original instrumental soundtracks, released under his production alias Larry Fisherman in 2013.

Wielding a mind of both lyrical and instrumental talent, his perspective should be mourned for the loss of his distinctive eye that could point out pain you didn't even know you felt. Miller remains untouched as a genius songwriter and producer, who also laid a foundation for public recognition of mental health through his work.



Photo courtesy of **wikimediacommons.com**

It is a lasting pain to see that emo rap — a music genre that blends hip hop and rap — has had so many casualties attributed to its name. Miller, XXXTentacion, Lil Peep and Juice Wrld are members of a growing list of artists who have lost their lives in the last few years. While emo rap as a genre continues to grow and develop, its pool of talent seemingly cannibalizes its own content creators in a cycle of eulogies without end. Sadness compounds on sadness, and when so many artists bare their regret and despair in their music, to see them killed leaves an inarticulate sadness. It's unfair, and the tragic developing tradition in emo rap is also unfair. The genre is losing its best in the throes of its own expression. As an industry, it deserves more than what it gives to its creators.

There is not enough time nor space to do justice to everything the man has done and the legacy he left when he died. With the posthumous release of "Circles," the music and lyrics Miller made have an ability to live beyond the life of the man himself. The album is a worthy tribute to the sound of his character — rhythmic, blue, soft-rock rap that makes you wonder about the depth of his melancholic-party personality.

Miller died at 26, in the middle of his greatest success both as a producer and writer. His album "Swimming" had been recently released to glowing reviews on Aug. 3, 2018, and Miller planned on touring North America in October 2019. The 26 shows were cancelled following the news of his death, and all the ticket holders could do was cry and mourn. Additionally, Miller had planned a third album to compliment "Swimming" (2018) and "Circles" (2020), forming a trilogy. Unfortunately, the album can never be made, but we're left with Miller's legacy with "Circles."

Letter to the editors

By **MATTHEW RUSH**
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I read with interest your article "Professors Protest Winnowing Project," but was dismayed by the revelation that a professor at Allegheny is interfering with the library's deaccessioning project by physically vandalizing the work being done by the library professionals. Most of the article provided, in significant detail, the steps and criteria the library is using to make these decisions.

As an English major, I didn't have the pleasure of taking one of Professor Lo Bello's classes. As a tenured professor of Mathematics at my alma mater, I'm sure that he's a terrific teacher, with generations of students who love him. This does not endow him with the privilege of electing himself the sole arbiter of what the library may or may not do in order to best serve its patrons. If he, or any professor, student, or any other member of the Allegheny community, has a problem with the criteria being used, or the number of books being deaccessioned, or any other aspect of this practice which is standard operating procedure for any library, then let them bring their concerns to the library professionals making these decisions. Librarians have a responsibility to be responsive to their community and should be open to suggestions.

I understand Professor Lo Bello's sentiment that "a book is a work of art." But a library is not a museum. A library is a living, breathing organ, responsible for bringing its patrons the most current research, the most impactful works, the most useful resources. Librarians are trained, credentialed, experienced professionals. And most of them, in their spare time, are bibliophiles. The implication that, by deaccessioning materials, librarians are saying that a book is no good, is professionally misleading, and could be personally insulting. The job of the librarian is not to be a guardian of dusty reliquaries. The job of the librarian, what they've been educated and trained to do, is to serve their public using the best means at their disposal. This is especially true for an academic library of the caliber that I hope Allegheny students and faculty would expect Pelletier Library to be.

I have owned my fair share of books, and have had to get rid of a few, too, often much to my chagrin. I understand and applaud Professor Lo Bello's passion for books, but urge him to reconsider his tactics. After he has apologized to the librarians, perhaps he can sweet talk them into adding a few more criteria to the list described in the article and keep a few more titles in-house.

For better or worse: Britain decides to leave EU

Brexit becomes official despite years of drawn-out exiting process

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
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At 11 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, the world turned upside down. Well, Britain's world anyway.

After months of decisions and votes, Britain officially left the European Union after being a part of it since 1973, causing much controversy amongst the citizens of the United Kingdom.

Now I admit, everything I know about Brexit has mostly come from following British actors on Instagram. And from what I could tell, it was simply a significant decision that not everyone was happy with. So I decided to do some research after I heard about the decision on Friday.

According to an article published by Vox, Britain became worried about its involvement in the EU during the 2008 recession. America was hit hard during this recession, but every country who uses the euro as currency was also hit as the recession began to cause numerous problems with the eurozone system, so much so that it was thought to have the potential to collapse. While the UK does not use the euro, they were negatively impacted by being a part of the EU.

After that Britain believed that the EU only wanted to expand its power and feared being roped into something similar to the euro problem. Just looking at this, it is easy to see why they decided to leave.

At the same time, the controversy continued and was part of the reason it took so long to make a decision on Brexit. The EU has control over most of Europe's trade routes, allowing free trade in between most countries, which obviously helps keep the economy going. So the question now is, what comes next?

Now I am not a British citizen. Nor have I ever been to Britain, and no matter how much I would like to go, odds are I will never even step foot in the country. But as a history and journalism in the public interest double minor, I like to pay attention to events on the news that have a significant impact on the world. Brexit was something I watched at least a little bit.

Now there are moments in a person's life that if they also pay attention and watch the news for significant events like those mentioned above, that they can look back on later in life and realize they lived through history. It might not even have to be later in life. One example that I'm sure everyone can see that with, even if they do not watch the news, is the current impeachment trials. But I fully believe that Brexit is another one of those moments.

As a college student who has absolutely no knowledge of economics and how running a country works, I have no credibility to say what I think should come next after Brexit day, as I really have no idea what the country should do. A great deal of British citizens might be feeling the same way, whether or not they hoped it would happen or not.

To be honest, I expected to see a lot more on Brexit on Instagram from the actors and actresses that I follow than I did. I think I saw one post that day. That post was simply a picture of a man sitting on a branch of a tree. The man sawed on that branch that he sat on, the branch including a picture of a British flag across it. Only after looking rather closely did I realize that the man would end up falling to the ground after he finally successfully sawed through the branch. The picture had no caption, but it did not really need one. I stopped to read through some of the comments, and through them I was given insight into the fact that the controversy still continues, even after the decision has been made.



Photo courtesy of **flickr.com**

Sometimes people may think that American politics are a mess, and that other countries must look at us sitting over here with questionable people in charge and laugh. That thought has crossed my mind multiple times over the past few years. But if Brexit shows non-British citizens anything, it's that America is not the only place with governmental issues.

It seems to me that a lot of times when there is something that has to do with independence in some form or another, a lot of the time it involves Great Britain in some way. It may turn out that it was a very bad decision on the British government's part. Or it may turn out that it was the best thing they could've done. It all depends on what the country does next. Sounds sort of like America today, doesn't it?

So while I am not in any way affected by what happens in Britain, besides the things I see on social media or the news, I know I will be paying more attention to what comes next after Brexit. There are some moments that one can tell will go down as a notable moment in history. Brexit was one of those moments.

> "... if Brexit shows non-British citizens anything, it's that America is not the only place with governmental issues ..."
>
> —SARA HOLTHOUSE
> Class of 2021

Groundhog Day: Fact, fiction

Holiday to face ongoing strife as climate change increases temperatures

By **WILLY WALKER**
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Photo contributed by **RACHEL MONTGOMERY**

The crowd celebrating Groundhog Day gathers around the stage on which various musical guests perform on Feb. 2, 2020, in Punxsutawney.

A small mammal in midwestern Pennsylvania said that spring will come early this year — that mammal is Punxsutawney Phil, the famous weather predicting groundhog who decides the current year's weather patterns. According to a 133-year-old legend, that is.

Feb. 2, was already a notable date in several cultures before Groundhog Day was founded. In Celtic tradition, the people celebrated the "Imbolc" as the beginning of spring. This evolved into Candlemas; it was believed that 40 days of cold was brought on if it was sunny on Candlemas.

The first notion of small woodland creatures predicting the year's weather patterns came from German culture. It was believed the day would be sunny if the woodland creatures saw their shadows. Settlers carried this to the New World when they settled in Pennsylvania in the 1840s and narrowed down to one small animal: the Woodchuck, commonly known as the Groundhog.

The Groundhog is one of the largest members of the squirrel family and among the 14 species of marmots. The animals burrow into the ground as the weather gets cold and hibernate until it becomes warm enough for the marmots to return to the surface to resume their feast-or-famine lifestyle.

The first official Groundhog Day in the United States took place on Feb. 2, 1887, in Punxsutawney. The idea originated from Clymer Freas, a newspaper editor, and further developed by the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, which was formed in the 1880s. The ceremony took place (and continues to take place) at Gobblers Knob, a recreation park situated in the Jefferson County town. Thousands still venture to the event every February to see whether the small mammal predicts a long winter or an early spring.

The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club continues the tradition every year, welcoming spectators to the celebration and taking care of Phil and Gobblers Knob. The superstition is still revered in the present day, deeming that if the Groundhog casts a shadow, there will be an extended winter; if no shadow is cast, spring will come early.

Although the legend has stood the test of time, the groundhog has been proven wrong several years in the past. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website, only 40% of Phil's predictions have been correct from 2010-'19.

"In 2019, Phil forecast a 'short winter' when he did not see his shadow and predicted an early spring," the NOAA website said. "In fact, the contiguous United States saw below average temperatures in both February and March of last year."

The source pointed out that over the 133-year history of the holiday, the groundhog has only predicted an early spring 19 times and a longer winter 104 times. Ten of the years have no record.

Over time, the predictions have become less and less accurate. Tim Roche, a meteorologist at Weather Underground, said in the article from Live Science, that Phil's accuracy from 1969 to present day has dropped to 36%. He also noted that Phil is 47% accurate when predicting an early spring.

With the increasing threat of climate change and the continuation of global warming, winters are getting shorter and warmer. One source points out that an early spring is more likely to happen than a late winter.

"Warmer winters could even change entire global weather patterns," according to an article published in Grist magazine. "The jet stream, the giant atmospheric conveyor belt, is powered by cold air in the Arctic. As those Northern winters warm up, that atmospheric river could start to slow down and wiggle all across the hemisphere."

Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early spring for 2020 in front of a packed crowd. This is the second year in a row that an early spring was predicted, however last year was far from the truth.

In fact, there were actually several weather and temperatures broken by the end of the 2019 winter season. Among them was the infamous "Polar Vortex," a weather anomaly occurring a few days before Groundhog Day which smashed previous records and caused the closures of hundreds of schools and businesses, including Allegheny College.

As the climate crisis continues to intensify, the legend of Punxsutawney Phil and Groundhog Day will continue to be put to the test as the small marmot attempts to boost its accuracy while also factoring in a changing world.

Sunrise Movement chapter to begin at Allegheny

Organization plans events for Earth Day, 2020 presidential election

By **WILLY WALKER**
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To respond to the growing climate crisis, several activist groups have formed with the intent to empower young people to take action against climate change. One of these organizations has just begun to take root at Allegheny College: the Sunrise Movement.

The Sunrise Movement is a grassroots organization dedicated to advocating for environmental policies, mainly a Green New Deal. There are chapters of the organization located across the United States.

The Sunrise Movement is seeking to build "an army of young people to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics, and elect leaders who stand up for the health and wellbeing of all people," according to its website.

Akeem Adesiji, '20, noted a rise in the organization's popularity, especially amongst young people.

"They've been responsible for kind of pushing the idea of the Green New Deal and to the national news and into the opinions of people running for president and other politicians," Adesiji said. "They've done that primarily through really good grassroots organizing, a lot of demonstrations — they are really good at training their volunteers to grow their chapter, which just happened (at Allegheny), they're just beginning to start one of the new chapters."

Leading the charge at Allegheny College is Joel Zove, '23. He organized its arrival to campus without having previous experience with the movement before attending Allegheny. The group held its first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 29.

"I had heard about (the Sunrise Movement) in the summer but wasn't really familiar with them, and once the Climate Strike in September happened, that's when I became more aware than that," Zove said. "I signed up for a few trainings that involved video calls that I did throughout the fall semester."

A key part to the movement is the use of a Strike Circle, which is when a group of 5-15 people from the same area get together to train and learn about the program.

"Strike Circle participants will go through a six-week program together where you'll build relationships, learn how to win a Green New Deal, and take action to get your people at your school, workplace, or neighborhood to join a strike on Earth Day," according to the Sunrise Movement's website.

According to Zove, the movement sends him videos and presentations which discuss past social movements, successes, activism strategies and how to get more people engaged.

The primary goal for the organization is the development of a Green New Deal. This is accomplished from a multitude of fronts ranging from general strikes to contacting members of Congress.

"It's kind of hard to get excited for me personally about what a Green New Deal would be knowing that it has to get filtered through Congress and everything first, but they've been really successful in generating more news and coverage of environmental issues," Adesiji said.

Although the Allegheny chapter is still in its infancy, the Sunrise Movement does have a presence on campus. Adesiji pointed out that members from their organization visited campus two years ago.

"I had a few people come in and we hosted them at (the) Green Living (special interest house), brought them in to talk to students, the (Environmental Science) department and

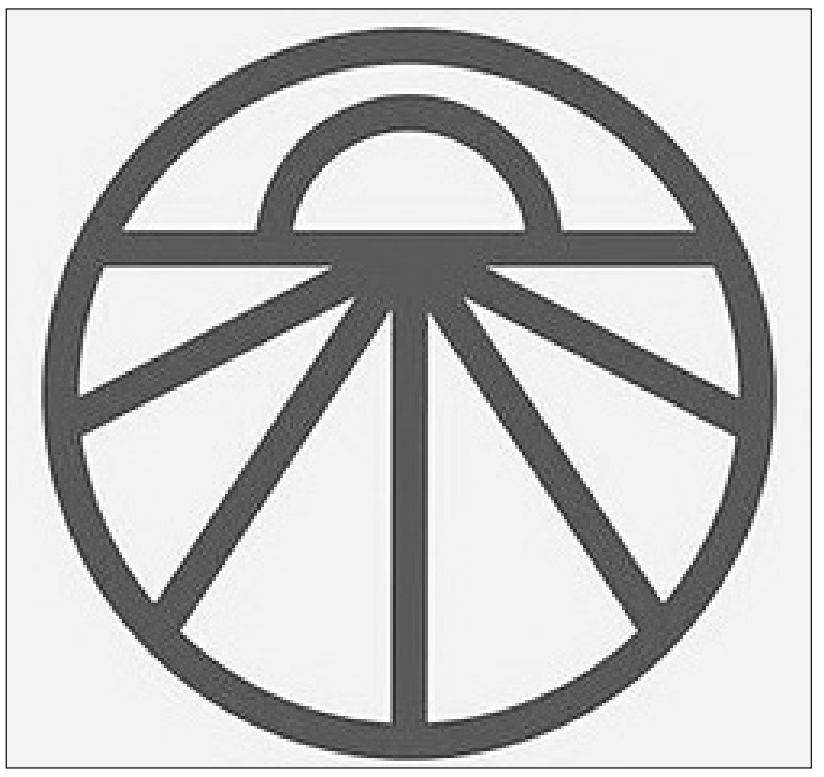


Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

stuff about the Sunrise Movement," Adesiji said. "If you see people with Sunrise stickers on their laptops and water bottles it's probably where they came from."

Adesiji has been involved with other climate organizations, but has yet to fully participate in the new movement due to studying off campus for a year.

One of the first events the Sunrise Movement will participate in this semester will be on Earth Day, April 22. Plans for the event and for future environmental events are in the works.

"The Sunrise Movement is planning to organize around for the 2020 (Presidential) Election in order to become politically involved, and then after the election to have some sort of sustained action in order to actually pass a Green New Deal, which is ultimately the main objective of the Sunrise Movement," Zove said.

As the organization develops, Adesiji emphasized their efficiency when it involves bringing more members into the fold.

"They do a really good job of getting training material out to people so that you can start a group, and it's a local group but you're usually doing things in line with the national agenda (of the Sunrise Movement)," Adesiji said. "They really do a good job of getting all of their networks all around the country to work together on whatever it is at that moment."

> "It's kind of hard to get excited for me personally about what a Green New Deal would be knowing that it has to get filtered through Congress and everything first, but they've been really successful in generating more news and coverage of environmental issues."
>
> —AKEEM ADESIJI
> Class of 2020

APO strengthens ties between campus and community

By **OLIVIA BLAKESLEE**
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The Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity recently initiated their 500,000th member at the University of California, San Diego. The January milestone marked the continued growth of one of the largest Greek-letter organizations in the nation, which says that it has accumulated over 400 active chapters in a history that began in 1925. In a small town across the country from the California campus that hosted the initiation of the 500,000th member, a chapter that formed 46 years after the initial founding — the Chi Sigma chapter — is working to enrich the Meadville community.

"We try to make a connection with students on campus and the community," said APO President Jack Van Meter, '22. "We don't want to just volunteer on campus and do different campus activities. We really want to make a connection with the community."

APO often makes that connection by participating in campus-wide service opportunities like Service Saturday and Make a Difference Day.

Vice President of Fellowship Bella Petitta, '21, said she sees the 2019 fall semester's Make a Difference Day as her favorite memory since joining during her first semester at Allegheny College. Brothers of APO went to the home of a recently-widowed local woman to assist with outdoor work on her home. Petitta said they cleaned the gutters, power washed the house and cleared out an overgrown picnic area that the homeowner had been unable to use. Afterward, the brothers went inside to visit with the woman.

"We were just hanging out in her kitchen and talking to her," Petitta said. "She was just the kindest woman ever. I think it was really fun because I was with brothers (of APO), and we were all together like a fellowship event, bonding (with each other) and bonding with this woman. It was just really nice to give her company and help her out."

APO also reaches out to the community by selecting different philanthropies with which the organization can have more sustained relationships. Most recently, APO worked with Common Roots, a local nonprofit organization that works to provide affordable housing in the Meadville area.

"They take these houses, and they renovate them," Van Meter said. "They try to fight housing discrimination in Crawford County. We supported them for a bit, and they asked for volunteers for early parts of the renovation."

Petitta was enthusiastic about the skills she was able to gain through those early stages of renovation as APO helped Common Roots turn a house into four apartments.

Van Meter shared her enthusiasm — he enjoyed the hands-on work of removing the insulation from the walls and cleaning.

"(The work) was just very dirty," Van Meter said. "It was messy. It was fun."

APO has transitioned away from working with Common Roots, according to Van Meter, as the organization gets into the more advanced stages of renovation, requiring experts to come in.

The transition is part of the cycle of Allegheny's APO chapter, which typically focuses on a new philanthropy each year, according to Petitta, and also receives new leadership in the form of a new board every year.

"That (transition) really changes (APO) because it's based on, 'how are those people motivated, what do they want to do?'" Petitta said. "So I think our motivations and passion to service have changed throughout the years. But I think recently with this board, it's really been picked up. I think there are a lot more service opportunities being offered now."

Those broader opportunities have included, according to Petitta, working with Lilac Springs, a Meadville Veterans Services support program, and with the French Creek Valley Conservancy, a land trust working to conserve the French Creek watershed in northwestern Pennsylvania.

Vice President of Service Jess Myschisin, '20, is hoping to use her role to further expand those opportunities and increase campus enthusiasm for them.

"I hope we can recruit a lot of new members and get more people involved in service projects," Myschisin said. "Rather than just working to complete the minimum number of hours, I want brothers to get involved with as much service as possible."

Myschisin was not alone in expressing her hope for multiple new members to join APO.

"We're really excited about getting new members all the time," Petitta said. "We're definitely trying to get more brothers in, because right now, it's mostly juniors … and primarily seniors, so we're kind of worried."

> "We try to make a connection with students on campus and the community."
>
> —Jack Van Meter
> Class of 2022

APO holds one initiation per semester. Once new members become pledges, they will be required to complete 10 hours of service in their first semester and 15 hours in each semester that follows. They will also be asked to attend chapter weekly at 8 p.m. in Quigley Hall Auditorium. Van Meter and Petitta stressed that this weekly commitment is a minimal one, with chapter usually running for less than a half hour.

Chapter often involves fellowship events meant to help members of the organization get to know each other and bond as a group.

"Maybe we'll just have a study session or watch a movie in Quigley," Van Meter said. "We made mugs last year. We made pots. We try to get together quite a bit."

The group also combines fellowship with campus outreach in events like the recent Cocoa and Cornhole event held in the Henderson Campus Center on Wednesday, Jan. 29. APO invited members of the campus community to join them in drinking hot chocolate and playing games to get to know the members of the group.

Ultimately, according to Van Meter, the group does keep most of its time together service-oriented. Petitta said that standing commitment to service in a formal organization has changed her college career for the better — she said this commitment has enriched her time at Allegheny.

Van Meter said the group has given him leadership opportunities and networking opportunities that he would encourage potential new members to seek out.

"If you're interested in doing volunteer work after college, after graduation, or just working for a nonprofit (organization), APO has so many connections," Van Meter said. "It's a national service opportunity that is recognized."

Petitta said that being part of APO has already helped her by making her feel more connected to the area. Myschisin agreed.

"APO helps make the Meadville community more like my home," Myschisin said.

Alumnus publishes book, talks modern journalism

By **OLIVIA BLAKESLEE**
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Victor Pickard, '95, sees the commercialized foundation of journalism as its crux.

"The commercial media profits by selling audiences to advertisers, and one of the most surefire ways to attract audiences is to foment conflict and controversy," Pickard said. "That's kind of the problem, to get at the core structural root of this media system — of a system where it's rational to amplify noise and it's irrational to try and amplify reliable information to audiences within a democratic society."

These conclusions take center stage in Pickard's recent book, "Democracy Without Journalism?: Confronting the Misinformation Crisis," published on Dec. 2, 2019. The book has been called, "(t)he first scholarly book to historicize the current American journalism crisis and situate it within long-term structural problems" by the Oxford University Press. It is Pickard's second independently written book and the fourth book in which he has acted as an author or editor.

Response to the book has been positive, according to Pickard — he said there was a period of time in which it was sold out shortly after its publishing.

According to Ben Slote, professor of English and a member of Allegheny College's Journalism in the Public Interest steering committee, the real value of the book lies in the issues Pickard examines.

"(Pickard)'s work and the way it historicizes the relationship between things like legislation and journalism and marketplace and anti-monopoly (and) all the various bills that have passed that have in large part encouraged the corporate sort of control of journalistic work (is) really important," Slote said.

As Slote suggests, Pickard is taking a look backwards in his book to place journalism in its present moment of conflict and transition. The argument he makes about the past — that American journalism was problematically built upon a foundation of advertising revenue — is further complicated by issues of the present, particularly Facebook.

Pickard argues that Facebook, as an "unregulated… information hotbed," has exerted enormous and dangerous influence over its roughly 2.5 billion users. He said that democratic societies like the United States have been forced to examine Facebook's place.

"That's kind of how my book approaches this, which is to see it as a very important and huge social problem that we have to confront, and we have to think in terms of creating a new social contract between platforms like Facebook, government and people," Pickard said. "I'm trying to start that conversation with my book."

A response to Facebook's presence in the media landscape will have to address two key issues, according to Pickard. The first is that Facebook is "amplifying and proliferating false information," often making profit doing so. The second is that outlets like Facebook and Google receive much of the ad revenue that would previously have supported "actual" journalism.

"It's kind of tragically ironic that at the very moment that Facebook and Google are proliferating misinformation, (they are) expecting news organizations to help fact- check misinformation, and simultaneously starving those news organizations while also profiting from their content," Pickard said. "So this is all part of the same problem."

Slote said that the unfortunate emphasis on "creating noise" rather than "actual" journalism, in Pickard's words, can also be traced back across the decades.

"Really, from the 19th century on, in the late 1880s, … these sort of newspaper wars between the two big newspapers in New York City were desperate to get more and more readers, and so the rise of sensationalism and giant scare headlines — that's been a part of American journalism for a really long time," Slote said.

Part of the answer to the modern journalism crisis lies, Pickard wrote, in government involvement in the press. While he stressed that the government should never have the power to select which voices appear in the media, the idea of total uninvolvement is an unrealistic interpretation of the First Amendment, according to Pickard.

"The whole notion that the government is not involved in our media system is really a Libertarian fantasy," Pickard said. "It's just a question of how it should be involved."

See **PICKARD** | *page 7*

'Little Women' shows fun changes to a classic story

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
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A little less than a year ago, I had hardly even heard of Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women."

All I knew was it's an old book, considered a classic and that my roommate had a tradition of reading it every single year in college. But when I first saw the trailer for director Greta Gerwig's rendition of the story, my interest was piqued.

I read the book a few months after first seeing the movie advertised, and went on to watch older versions of "Little Women" that had come before, specifically the most famous Winona Ryder version. After all of this I considered, and still consider, myself a huge fan. That said, I walked into the theater back on Dec. 28, 2019, expecting to see a fresher and newer version of the story I had grown to love. I was not disappointed.

"Little Women" focuses on the fictional account of Jo March and her sisters growing up in the 1800s. I first fell in love with March as a character while reading the book. She's described as a wild girl who does not necessarily fit the definition of a "proper woman" of the time. She is a writer trying to publish her first book, and does not want or expect to get married. In many ways, she reminds me of myself.

Needless to say, when I approached the 2019 rendition of the film, I thought I knew for sure everything that would happen, and that there would be no surprises — I was wrong.

The movie begins in the middle of the original story. March, played by Saoirse Ronan, walks into a publishing company, preparing to face yet another disappointment as she attempts to publish another story in a newspaper. After having her story torn apart by a publisher and edited for his purpose, she eventually sells him the story. As audiences learn later in the movie, this money is to help support her family while her father is off at war.

While March is undoubtedly the main character, and by many means my favorite character, the stories of her sisters and the overall family relationship is what makes "Little Women" a classic that can be told for hundreds of years to come. Each sister, — Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March — are each given fulfilling, individual storylines. Most of the time, the girls' desires cannot be obtained because of the family's poor finances, but each one finds a way to be happy in their lives, even when they can't have all that they want.

Seeing the story that I had grown to love on the big screen was a thrill, but Gerwig's direction made the movie much more thrilling than I had originally expected. Starting in the middle of the original story and flipping back and forth through the movie was at once surprising and also extremely enjoyable. It made me wonder which part would come next, even though I basically had the story memorized. This served to make the most heart-wrenching scenes, which I knew would come and had prepared for, even worse.

Spoiler alert: the youngest member of the March family, Beth, ends up getting sick twice in the movie, and ultimately dies of scarlet fever at a young age. As a person who knew the story, I was prepared for this part, and was expecting to make it through without crying. That is not what happened.

But beyond this emotional element the beauty of several scenes and the love between both family and lovers throughout the film had me in tears more than once. In stories such as "Little Women," I almost expect that the focus would be mostly on the romantic and cheesy storylines that so many people love — the ones where two people endure a significant number of struggles, but end up together regardless. But, just like March, this story defies even those expectations.

Besides the amazing additions to the story itself — which included the switching back and forth between the timelines and an emphasis on the scenes between March and the publishers — what stuck out to me the most was the additional aspect of portraying the strength of women. Since "Little Women" was written and set in the 1800s, the story, of course, has a lot of references about the societal role of women at the time. Women were told that the most important thing is for them to get married — even Jo ends up married at the end, but it's not because she compromises or changes any part of who she is.

There are many powerful scenes throughout the film, but my favorite scene had to be toward the end, which shows a conversation between March and her mother. March, an "older lady," according to the time's societal standards, has not yet married after she turned down her best friend, Theodore Laurence years before. As she's speaking with her mother, March realizes that even though she does not want to admit it, she is lonely and wants to be in love. And yet, she still hates how women are raised only to marry men.

"Women have minds, and they have souls, as well as just hearts," March says. "And they've got ambition, and they've got talent, as well as just beauty. I'm so sick of people saying that love is all a woman is fit for. I'm so sick of it!"

This scene, more than any other in the movie, shows me what the true message of "Little Women" is. Everyone has a purpose, regardless of if they are a man or woman, and no matter what the stereotypes are or what people think someone is supposed to be according to society. The only person who makes your life is you.

10/10



Meadville Community Theatre presents

Austen's classic story 'Pride and Prejudice'

By **SHAELYN URSIDA**
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A NEU IMAGE/ MEADVILLE PA

Above: The cast of "Pride & Prejudice" gathers for a cast photo in advance of the show beginning its run on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, in the Meadville Community Theatre.
Below: Keyera Zarembinski, playing Elizabeth Bennett in the show, poses for a photo prior to the start of the show's run on Friday, Feb. 7, 2020, in the Meadville Community Theatre.



The Meadville Community Theatre will be opening its production of "Pride & Prejudice" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb 7, at the MCT, located in Oddfellows at Allegheny College.

"Pride & Prejudice" is the third production in the MCT season.

Mitchell King, president of the MCT board, is also the director of "Pride & Prejudice." He debuted as a director in 2018 with his rendition of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," which was also shown in the MCT.

"My first head director job was 'The Great Gatsby,' so this is my second show where I am overseeing everything," King said. "It is running a bit more smoothly this time around because I have a wonderful crew of people who have done everything you see on the stage, and it just has been an incredible experience, much less stressful."

King grew up in Meadville, and attended college at Baldwin Wallace University. Since high school, he has always been involved with Allegheny.

"I did the enrichment program Allegheny does here for high schoolers, and my mother works in the Alumni Office," King said. "I have a lot of connections to Allegheny, so it is sort of a natural fit to be on campus directing this show."

King is a performer as well as a director — in fact, most of his theatre experience is as a performer.

"There is just something different about directing, where you sort of get to shape everything," King said. "You get to make sure everyone is reaching their full potential and really putting their best performance forward that I as a director know they are capable of."

One of King's performers is Dan Winston, '10, who plays Charles Bingley in the show.

Born in Pennsylvania, Winston moved to the suburbs of Pittsburgh during his elementary school years, and eventually moved to the Meadville area for high school.

After graduating from school, Winston helped to create, and now currently works at an independent elementary school in the area that teaches Kindergarten through eighth grade.

Winston heard about the production of "Pride & Prejudice" by seeing it advertised in the program at another MCT show.

"I try to see every play here because everything they do here is great, and I saw in the program for one of the previous shows that they were doing "Pride & Prejudice," and that it was directed by (King), who has been a friend of mine for 15 years, so as soon as I heard that, I got excited," Winston said.

When asked about his time working on "Pride & Prejudice," Winston praised his castmates.

"This sounds like a cliche but I promise you it is not — the cast is really, really wonderful," Winston said. "Everybody in the show is a wonderful person both on and off the stage. Very generous actors, very thoughtful performers and just very cool people, and that is not always the case," Winston said.

The script calls for actors of a wide range of ages, making the cast diverse. This also allows Winston to be in the production with a former student of his.

"It has been really fun to work with all the (actors of) different ages," Winston said. "It comes down to the fact that we are very fortunate in that all the actors of different age levels are so talented and so invested in the show, because even though one person might be 14 and the other person might be 50, we are all working together toward the same goal and a lot of credit goes to the director, (King), for that."

> I mean it's Jane Austen, and she was telling stories for women at a time when stories weren't necessarily geared towards women.
>
> —MITCHELL KING
> Director, "Pride & Prejudice"

Winston also said that the cast has formed a close bond and spends a great deal of time together outside of rehearsal.

"When we go out to dinner or do anything, we always try to get everybody involved because it is a group effort, it is a family," he said.

There are a number of elements that draw people to "Pride & Prejudice" — the characters are a crucial component to this production.

Winston said that he enjoys "Pride & Prejudice" because each character is dynamic and "has a very distinct personality."

"It is fun when you get two of them, or three of them or eight of them onstage together and you get to see how they bounce off of eachother," Winston said.

King agrees that characters are what initially drew him to "Pride & Prejudice."

"I thought this would be a perfect Valentine's Day show," King said. "I love character-driven pieces, and 'Pride & Prejudice' is very much that. It was just a natural fit."

Winston went on to say that the first scene of the show is his favorite. Fitzwilliam Darcy, Caroline Bingley, and Charles Bingley are all onstage for the first time. According to Winston, it is one of those scenes where the audience gets to see how three brand new personalities bounce off of eight other ones.

One of these additional personalities is Elizabeth Bennet, who is brought to life by Keyera Zarembinski.

Zarembinski is a longtime "Pride & Prejudice" fan who picked up a theatre major in college. She attended Slippery Rock University and is currently enrolled in Youngstown State University.

Auditions for "Pride & Prejudice" were open to anybody. Zarembinski heard about auditions from another MCT director and decided to try out for her dream role of Bennet.

"It was very nerve-wracking — I didn't know anyone except my best friend, who I basically forced to come along with me so I didn't have to do it alone," Zarembinski said. "I was nervous out in the lobby, but as soon as I met (King) and (the assistant director), I was like, 'wow they are really laid back and this is actually a lot of fun,' so the fact that they were so approachable right from the start helped me a lot with my social anxiety. I was able to break out of my shell a lot more."

King said his favorite part of the show is the collaboration with the many people who helped pull it off.

"That's not just the actors, that's my set designer, who had the frame of the set up before I was even done with auditions, my assistant director... who provided the majority of the props, and my (costume designers), who literally handmade every costume," King said.

King said the show is funny, sweet, sentimental — it's a classic story that highlights societal norms and familial dynamics of the time.

"I mean, (the author is) Jane Austen — and she was telling stories for women at a time when stories weren't necessarily geared towards women," King said. "It's just a great show. It really puts the focus of the show on family bonds, bonds between sisters, bonds between parents and children, bonds between husbands and wives, and it is nice to see that. I mean, it is heartwarming, it is funny, it is sweet, it is sentimental, it is all of those things. It is a classic."

It's a piece of classic literature, a story that everyone has heard of, according to Winston.

"I think that it is just that everybody has heard of 'Pride & Prejudice,' it is part of our culture, it is part of the English language, but many of us, myself included, have never read the book or seen a stage adaptation," Winston said. "But I think that you're never going to get another adaptation like ours because you'll never get these people, at these points in their lives, being directed by this person, ever again. So if you have never read it or seen it, then this is a great way to dip your toe into it and see what all the fuss is about. And if you are a lifelong fan of it, and you've read it and seen it 100 times, this will just be a unique take on it. Either way I think there is a lot of value in it."

Zarembinski said "Pride & Prejudice" centers on a love story, and that it's a great show to see around Valentine's Day. The showwill run from Friday, Feb. 7, until Sunday, Feb. 16. Friday and Saturday's showings will be at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday's is at 2 p.m.

PICKARD *from page 6*

According to Pickard, that involvement should mean supporting and generating investments in the infrastructure of the media so that it can continue to contribute to a vital democracy.

Pickard's path to making such arguments included four years spent obtaining a bachelor's degree in English at Allegheny College. He said he had a "very positive" experience, studying psychology and philosophy before eventually deciding on English and working with Slote as his adviser. Slote recalled witnessing the early stages of Pickard's career in his classroom when Pickard took a literary theory course.

"I think probably that class was actually kind of important to him," Slote said. "I think it kind of opened up his interest in thinking about writing and discourse from a lot of different perspectives."

Pickard said that his Allegheny education enriched his interests and helped him to find the path to his present success.

"In retrospect, I'm very thankful that it was a broad liberal arts education," Pickard said. "For me in particular, it allowed me to keep my interests very broad in the beginning."

After graduating from Allegheny, Pickard lived in Japan for three years and traveled for another year afterward. He received a master's degree in communications from the University of Washington and a Doctorate in Institute of Communications Research from the University of Illinois.

Pickard has since held various positions in academia and is currently an associate professor in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. He also servesis also currently serving as a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Slote said that seeing a former student attain Pickard's level of success has been rewarding.

"The best part about teaching is to see students who you had a little role in helping to encourage and flourish going off and doing these fabulous things," Slote said. "It's the deepest gratification."

Pickard said his path to those "fabulous things" did not begin with the most ambitious undergraduate career, calling his generation — himself included —"slackers" and "very disengaged."

He said he sees much higher, and very inspiring, levels of engagement in today's young people.

"It's often not a very steep hill to climb for me to try to encourage students to connect the dots," Pickard said. "They can intervene. They can create their own reality."

The vision of young people gives Pickard hope for the issues he articulates in his book. He said that the new generation of leaders in journalism can look beyond the market forces that have "constrained" the generations before them.

Ultimately, it is that vision that he believes can turn a present crisis into an opportunity to create "a new kind of journalism."

"That journalism is a journalism that I think should be based on public ownership and democratic decision-making," Pickard said. "I think for young people today, I think they get this. I think they get that we can't trust profit-driven corporations to make those decisions for us."

Gators bond over break, fall in conference match up

Rawls chases Allegheny College's all-time record for career points scored

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RAWLS



SNIPES



SIMMONS

The Allegheny College Men's Basketball team was defeated by No. 6 Wittenberg University during the team's Alumni Day on Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Wise Sport and Fitness Center.

Through the first nine games of 2020, the Gators have gone 4-5 bringing their overall record to 11-8. The team has struggled within the North Coast Athletic Conference, posting a 5-7 record in conference play.

With six games remaining before the NCAC tournament, Allegheny will look to improve its conference standing during its upcoming road trip to Indiana on Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8, against Wabash College and DePauw University respectively.

The Gators last faced Wabash on Jan. 4 and emerged victorious 76-70. The team was less successful in a close 58-63 defeat at the hands of DePauw on Jan 5.

Despite the difficult start to the spring semester, Head Coach Bob Simmons said that he is optimistic with the team for the remainder of the season and that they have the right mindset for success heading into the postseason.

"This is a special group of guys," Simmons said. "(They) have a refuse-to-lose mentality on and off the court."

With 11 wins through the team's first 19 games, the Gators have already surpassed their 10-15 record from the 2018-'19 season. Simmons said that in addition to winning games, it has been enjoyable to interact with the players throughout the season.

"(They are) a group of young men that came in and bought into our philosophy," Simmons said. "(They are) extremely hard-working and competitive, but at the same time very appreciative and entertaining. I am happy to have them."

Forward Jordan Rawls, '20, has been a large part of the team's success and said that he is currently 71 points away from breaking Allegheny's all-time record for career points scored, which stands at 1693.

Rawls has averaged a career high 19.2 points per game this season and has averaged more than 14 points per game throughout his four seasons as a Gator. In the game against Wittenberg, Rawls collected 10 rebounds and 12 points for his ninth double double of the season.

In describing his role for the team, Rawls said that he is "a big man who rebounds, defends and scores."

Alongside Rawls is forward Peter Snipes, '23, who said that he has spent the majority of his first year learning about basketball and bonding with his teammates. He said that winter break helped to facilitate team bonding.

"I got to learn the game more," Snipes said. "I played really well, got closer and bonded with the team more over winter break."

Snipes understands his role as a first-year on the team, but he said that his recruitment officer told him to pay attention to Rawls so that he could fill his role after Rawls graduates in May. Snipes will look for his role to expand after this season.

According to Snipes, the team prepared for their games over break and for the remainder of the spring semester as soon as they returned to campus and hit the gym on Dec. 29 before their Jan. 4 game against Wabash.

Off the court, Simmons said that winter break prepared the team for the spring semester. He described the team by calling them "brothers" and "family." The team used the extra time over break to schedule activities like meals, movie nights, wing nights, bowling and pottery.

Now nine games into 2020, the team faces six more opponents starting with their road trip to Indiana followed by a Feb. 12 game against Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio.

The Gators will be back at the Wise Center at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 against Denison University. Allegheny last faced Denison on Jan. 18 in Granville, Ohio and defeated the Big Red 72-69. Rawls scored 28 in the game, his third highest point total of the season, and grabbed 9 rebounds.

During the game against Denison on Feb. 15, the Gators will celebrate their Senior Day for Rawls, forward/center Zach Zoll, '20, and guard Brendon Urso, '20.

The Gators will look to get back on track during their Indiana road trip. Simmons said that although the team's success cannot be measured by their victories alone, he has enjoyed their winning record through the middle of the 2019-'20 season.

"(The team has) a special group of guys," Simmons said. "It is a great feeling of winning and seeing the hard work and sacrifices from teammates and coaches (pay off)."

> "This is a special group of guys. (They) have a refuse-to-lose mentality on and off the court."
>
> —BOB SIMMONS
> Allegheny Men's Basketball Head Coach, Allegheny College

Hockey team remains undefeated

Club team defeats conference champion 10-9

By **TRAVIS LUXBACHER**
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The Allegheny Club Hockey team is currently in the midst of a strong season and is hoping to bring home their third consecutive championship trophy.

The team defeated last year's division champion Case Western Reserve University 10-9 on Saturday, Feb. 1. Logan Koontz, '23, led the team with six goals and an assist, and team captain Cam Fisher, '21, tallied a goal and five assists in the win.

Fisher said the team has high expectations for the season after its sustained success throughout the year.

"Right now, the season is going great," Fisher said. "We are currently undefeated still, and we just recently beat one of the strongest teams in the league. We are very much together and are looking forward to finishing the season strong."

The Gators have added a strong batch of talented first-years to last year's cup-winning team. Each of them have made their own unique and important impact and have helped the team to a spectacular start to the season, according to Fisher.

"I really love the freshman class," Fisher said. "They are all really good players, and they all have had a big impact on our success so far."

Despite the Gator's successful start of five wins, zero losses and one tie, they know there is still a long way to go to capture the title once again.

"Our expectations for this year are pretty simple — we want and expect to win the championship for the third year running," Fisher said. "We know it will not be easy, especially with some stronger teams competing against us this year, but we know we have the players and the work ethic to reach our goals."

According to defenseman and team captain, Owen Harkins, '21, the team gets a much-needed boost from the strong support of their fellow Allegheny students.

"The camaraderie and the spirit around the hockey team (at Allegheny) is really something special," Harkins said. "Last weekend at our game against Case Western (Reserve University), we packed out the arena. It was really cool to see all our friends there and a lot of people supporting us from the fraternities and sororities and other sports teams out there, so it really just gives you a lot of energy and a lot of jump in your step."

Along with the energy generated from the team's fan base, Harkins also agreed with Fisher that the team's young players have really given the team a different look and an identity as they move closer to postseason play.

"We've got a lot of good new (first-years), such as Richy Froehlich, and Matt Good, and everyone is seeming to pick up their game," Harkins said. "Especially … Koontz … who is playing really well and actually scored six goals in our last win."

With the help of the strong first-year class and an equally strong experienced group of players, Harkins emphasized that the team is always playing for a championship, which is the team's ultimate goal.

"Going into the year, the expectation is always the same," Harkins said. "You want to have a good regular season, make it into the playoffs and make a run from there, and obviously, if your goals aren't to win the championship at the beginning of the year, then I don't know why you're playing."

Harkins said he is confident that this team has what it takes to make it all the way to the championship game this year. He said all members of the team work hard and have bonded throughout the season.

"Every year, we go in with the same mentality: that we want to win and do our best for ourselves and for the team, so I think our expectation for this year is to carry some momentum into the playoffs now and continue to build and carry on for a three-peat," Harkins said.

Another player for the team, Jack Barron-Sluga, '22, was also optimistic about the outlook of the season and beyond.

"I love being a part of the hockey team," Barron-Sluga said. "We have a lot of great guys on the team who have gotten really close, and being able to play the game of hockey with such great guys is incredible, and of course winning is awesome, too."

Barron-Sluga said the team has a more intense schedule this year, as it has moved up a division this season.

"Having won our division the past two years, we moved up into a higher division this year," Barron-Sluga said. "We knew that the teams would be tougher this year, but we came in with the same goal of winning the league. Having been so successful throughout the season so far, our expectations haven't changed and our goal is still to win the league."

With the title on their minds, the Gators will suit up again at 7 p.m. this upcoming Saturday at the George S. DeArment Ice Arena at the Meadville Area Recreation Complex against Robert Morris University.

> Our expectations for this year are pretty simple — we want and expect to win the championship for the third year running."
>
> —CAM FISHER
> Class of 2021

Upcoming games

Men's Track and Field
Friday, Feb. 7
Oberlin, OH

Women's Track and Field
Friday, Feb. 7
Oberlin, OH

Men's Basketball
Friday, Feb. 7
Crawfordsville, IN

Women's Basketball
Friday, Feb. 7
Meadville, PA

Women's Swimming and Diving
NCAC Championships
Wednesday, Feb. 12 - Saturday, Feb. 15
Granville, OH

Men's Swimming and Diving
Wednesday, Feb. 12 - Saturday, Feb. 15
Granville, OH