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One legacy ends & another begins

Mullen reflects on time at Allegheny, Link looks to the future

By **SARA HOLTHOUSE**
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MULLEN

President James Mullen has been a familiar face for students and faculty alike over his 11 years as president of Allegheny College, but now it has come to his last semester before retirement.

Mullen will officially retire on June 30, 2019, and Hilary Link will step into the role July 1, 2019.

Mullen has held the presidential position since July 2008. Over the last 11 years, Mullen said he has been instrumental in changes to the college and is grateful to be a member of the Allegheny and Meadville communities.

"I have been fortunate to be a part of a wonderful community that has collaborated on a range of initiatives to strengthen Allegheny," Mullen said. "I think things that we can all feel positively about include that we are a much more diverse campus than other times in our history. … The Allegheny College Prize for Civility in Public Life has earned the college tremendous national attention."

Mullen described other changes and initiatives he has been involved in during his presidency, including the new business majors, the comprehensive campaign and scholarships, and the recent renovation of Bentley Hall.

"But those have been community efforts, not just me," Mullen said.

While Mullen has made contributions to different projects over his time as president, his personality and demeanor are what faculty and staff close to Mullen, including Pamela Higham, assistant to the president, will remember the most.

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By **ETHAN WOODFILL**
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LINK

Board of Trustees Chair Mark Campbell, '82, announced via a Jan. 15 campus-wide email the unanimous recommendation and subsequent vote to elect Hilary Link as the 22nd president of Allegheny College and the first woman president in college history.

The announcement comes after a 10-month nationwide search to replace President James Mullen at the end of his 11th year at Allegheny. Seventeen members, including trustees, faculty, students, staff, administrators and members of the local community comprised the college's President Search Committee which presented the ultimate recommendation of Link to the Board of Trustees.

The search was assisted by Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, a search firm in Media, Pennsylvania. The committee reviewed more than 130 candidates, in what ex-officio selection committee member, Campbell, described as an interesting and significant process.

"The most important responsibility that a board of trustees has to its college is selecting the college's president," Campbell said. "It was a responsibility that each and every member of the search committee took very seriously."

Among the members of the search committee was Camila Gomez, '19, Allegheny Student Government president, who had a unique position on the committee — the only student representative.

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Link shares vision for the college, appreciation for liberal arts

By **MARLEY PARISH**
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Having lived in Manhattan and Rome, Hilary Link is no stranger to turning new places into a home.

Starting on July 1, 2019, Link will assume the position of president of Allegheny College — making Meadville her new home.

Members of the press were invited to a media meet-and-greet session at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Patricia Bush Tippie Alumni Center.

Link will serve as the 22nd president of the college and will be the first woman to hold the title in Allegheny history.

Chair of the Allegheny Board of Trustees Mark Campbell, '82, welcomed media representatives to the event and introduced Link during his opening remarks.

"Hilary is a visionary and dynamic leader who will bring bold ideas and leadership to Allegheny," Campbell said. "She has significant experience across a broad range of higher educational institutions, from large, public and private universities, to smaller, private colleges. Everywhere she's been, (Link has) strengthened programs, increased resources and created innovative curriculum. She will do the same here."

Campbell concluded by saying he is confident Link will advance Allegheny's academic reputation and commitment to innovation and excellence both nationally and internationally.

"We are truly excited to welcome (Link) and her family to the Allegheny community," Campbell said.

Describing Allegheny as a "perfect fit" for her, Link said she hopes to be a "perfect fit" for the Allegheny and Meadville communities, as well as the greater Crawford County area.

A wife, a mother of three boys and an interdisciplinary scholar of Italian art and literature, a teacher and an administrator, Link said the decision to move from Rome to Meadville was made by her family as a whole.



BRIAN HILL/THE CAMPUS

Chair of the Allegheny Board of Trustees Mark Campbell, '82, introduced President-elect Hilary Link during a media meet-and-greet at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, in the Patricia Bush Tippie Alumni Center. Mary "Missy" Feeley, vice chair of the Allegheny Board of Trustees moderated media questions after Link spoke about herself, her career and her vision for Alleghey College under her leadership.

Link believes all of her different roles and experiences have prepared her to take on a leadership role at Allegheny.

"Allegheny does what so few higher education institutions do right now which is put at the center of the education it provides a true interdisciplinary, liberal arts education," Link said.

To Link, interdisciplinary and liberal arts mean learning within a bigger, global context. She thinks these words mean understanding issues from multiple perspectives and using those skills to find creative solutions that bridge distances, cultures and opinions.

"I think a lot about writing skills, analyzing skills, problem solving skills, communication skills," Link said. "Having lived outside of the country for the last five and a half years, I've learned a lot and thought a lot about what it means to communicate with different people of different backgrounds and different ideas and different understandings of how the world works."

She hopes to bring these skills and perspectives into her work at Allegheny as president, a position she is "thrilled" to begin.

"There are lots of different perspectives here," Link said. "There are lots of different ideas about what the college might be, what it could be, what the community could be, and I think all of us together can work to find solutions that will work both for Allegheny and for the surrounding area."

One of the reasons why Link was drawn to Allegheny, she said, was because of its strength and ability to survive the "very complicated, changing landscape of higher education."

In Link's eyes, Allegheny can be a true leader in the conversation surrounding the value in a liberal arts education, specifically in the humanities.

Allegheny, Link said, has taken the time to do some "really hard thinking." She referenced Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole and said he has played a key role in evaluating the value of an Allegheny education and its strengths.

"Because Allegheny has done some really hard thinking, I feel like they're in a position that many, many other institutions are not," Link said. "To move forward, to really drive the conversation that will change how people perceive the liberal arts and liberal arts education move forward."

To Link, the value of an education goes beyond being successful in a career or personal success. Instead, she said it is dependent on the success of "our world."

"We need broad-based thinkers. We need interdisciplinary thinkers," Link said. "We need people who understand how to bridge gaps and how to make connections, and all of that comes from the exact type of education which Allegheny offers."

In a quickly changing world, Link thinks educational institutions need to teach students skills, how to gain skills and how to learn.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be the one to help collaborating with so many colleagues in this room and across the campus to help drive that dialogue, to help drive Allegheny to the forefront," Link said. "... There is a great story to this institution, and it just needs to be told more broadly because it's doing great things, and it needs to be recognized as such."

Moving from Rome to Meadville, Link said, is a transition she is looking forward to.

Link attended the community Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Dinner sponsored by the United Faith Fellowship Church of God on Monday, Jan. 22, with President James Mullen. She said the event was a "great introduction to what being part of Meadville and part of Allegheny" represents.

As president, Link wants to better the relationship between the Allegheny and Meadville communities.

"I know that there are great relationships with the local community, but those can be strengthened," Link said.

Link described her leadership style as being "what you see is what you get."

Describing herself as "pretty transparent" and "accessible," Link said she tries to listen to differing opinions when it comes to making decisions in a "collaborative" and "team-based" manner.

Overall, Link said she does not have concrete plans for institutional changes in mind yet; however, she is eager to begin her work as president.

"I am not naive to think this isn't going to be the hardest job I've ever had, but it is going to be the most fun," Link concluded.

IN THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS



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FRIDAY H 18° L 6° Snow: 40% Sunset: 5:26 p.m.

SATURDAY H 17° L 11° Snow: 20% Sunrise: 7:38 a.m. Sunset: 5:28 p.m.

SUNDAY H 28° L 17° Snow: 30% Sunrise: 7:37 a.m. Sunset: 5:29 p.m.

Bentley renovations aim to highlight original features

By **JAKE WAMSLEY**
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Photo by Alex Weidenhof

The "chalk room" in Bentley where students have been leaving their names since 1964.

The design stage of renovating Allegheny College's most illustrious edifice, Bentley Hall, is moving along with a thorough evaluation of the building's original components to determine what can stay and what must go. These findings will guide the design plan in an attempt to retain the building's historic charm before construction begins in the $14 million effort to restore and modernize.

"We started with preliminary design and then went to schematic design, and there are two more phases of design after this," explained Cliff Willis, Allegheny College director of major capital projects. "As we do each phase, the plans and specifications get more detailed."

The college has been working with architectural firm MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni to plan the project, which will focus on recapturing Bentley's original appearance as much as possible while including key upgrades to optimize functionality.

"I think if we do our job right, there actually shouldn't be much of an aesthetic difference," said John Evans, a principal at MCF who focuses on historic preservation. "Bentley is an iconic building, and one of our goals is to accomplish what we can to meet the college's needs for a central administration building without really changing the exterior appearance."

On the outside, tests are being conducted on Bentley's exterior walls to determine whether the red paint covering the building can be removed to return the facade to its original brick. Whether this can be done is going to depend on how much it costs, the challenge being that the building's chimneys — which were rebuilt in the mid-1980s — would have to be reconstructed with brick from inside the building in order to match the walls, Willis said. If the plan to return Bentley to its original brick turns out to be infeasible, the building will receive a fresh coat of red paint.

On the inside, Willis said selective demolition is being done to expose the building's structure so it can be examined by architects and engineers. So far, plans have been made to fill in gaps in the foundation stone and waterproof the outside of the foundation to strengthen the foundation and protect it from moisture. This foundation work will be completed in small sections of no more than 20 feet at a time to make sure the foundation's lateral support is not compromised.

Bentley's overall structure will likely not need any major repair, as it seems to remain strong.

"One of the biggest concerns of the structural engineer was the condition of the joists where they go into the masonry wall," Willis said. "They wanted to see if there had been deterioration over the years and there hasn't, they're very sound. So if we have to do any replacement it will be minimal."

The rest of the demolition will include taking down the ceilings to expose the underside of each floor along with limited demolition of interior walls to decide which ones will stay and which will go, Willis said. More detailed and extensive demolition is planned to be done throughout the building starting in February.

The demolition has exposed some surprises hidden inside Bentley's walls, such as several fireplaces that were filled in when they were replaced with other heat sources for the building. Willis said they hope to expose these fireplaces to provide quaint aesthetic features in some offices, and the only functional fireplace will be in the president's office. Several chalkboards were also uncovered inside Bentley's second-floor walls, many of which still have writing on them that is suspected to be from the early 1960s.

Bentley's third floor, which once housed the fifth-most extensive library in the nation, has been used for storage since 1964 when the city government said it violated fire codes and could not be used unless the college opted to build an exterior stairway.

Before it was abandoned, two literary societies had rooms on the third floor where they competed to have the nicer space, leaving behind decrepit remnants of deluxe features that once contributed to the floor's decor. One literary society's design will potentially be recreated, as a picture of one of the old rooms will be used to restore a room on the third floor that will be used as a large conference room, Willis said.

The bottom floor will be redesigned into office space and a new lobby that will make Bentley more accessible by providing easy access from an entrance from Hulings parking lot on the south side of Brooks Hall. To maintain the spirit of tradition, Willis said six panels from Bentley's famous "chalk room" on the third floor — where students have been writing their names since 1964 — will be removed and framed to be used as decorations in the building's new ground-floor lobby.

The "chalk room" itself will be made into a seminar room where classes will be taught.

In addition to the new lobby, Willis said the design plans include enhancing Bentley's accessibility with the installation of an elevator on the bottom floor, making the building fully handicap accessible for the first time ever.

The current design plans also look to address Bentley's restroom situation.

"One of the downsides of existing Bentley is that there are only two existing restrooms, a women's restroom, and a men's restroom — that's it for the whole building," Willis said. "Now, with the installation of the elevator … next to the elevator shaft will be restrooms on each floor."

Another convenience in the design plans is the addition of an energy efficient geothermal system that will provide both heat and cold air throughout the building, Willis said. This will be the first time in Bentley's history where occupants will no longer have to rely on opening windows to have cool air in the building.

Other modernization will include updating the building's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, some portions of which are over 50 years old, Evans said. Other general technological updates are also on the agenda, posing a new challenge for the old building.

"There's a lot of technology that exists now that didn't in 1820 or even when the building went through its last renovation," Evans said. "So figuring out how to route all of that technology through the historic building without major visual impact or destroying historic materials is going to be a big challenge."

Regarding the flooring, Willis said most of Bentley's office floors will be covered with new carpet, and some areas — such as the president's office — will feature the building's original hardwood floors.

In Bentley's bell tower, contractors removed 90 cubic yards of cellulose insulation, which they then bagged, advertised on Craigslist and gave away to people who wanted to use it in their houses, Willis said.

Bentley will also be given a new slate roof, replacing the current slate that has been on the building since 1924.

Given that the Bentley renovation project is still in the design stage, the process of analyzing costs has yet to be completed, so it is too soon to tell how all the design plans will fit into the project's $14 million budget, which was entirely funded by donors.

Patricia Bush Tippie, '56, and Henry Tippie are providing half of the funds with a $7 million challenge pledge, which means the college is responsible for raising the other half of the funds. The college has currently raised $6.5 million and is still fundraising for the remaining $500,000.

"Now we're just working to finalize all the different elements of and refining the process of the design," Evans said. "We intend to go into construction fairly soon … in May after graduation, construction on the building is going to start in earnest."

Dodge kicks off spring faculty lecture series, mathematics

By **CODY BAUMEISTER**
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As the spring 2019 semester begins, with it comes the Karl W. Weiss, '87, Faculty Lecture Series.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Craig Dodge delivered a lecture titled "What I Learned From the English Department About Teaching Mathematics Courses" at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center, kicking off the spring portion of the series.

The lecture primarily covered topics of language consistency and information transfer in the mathematics department and the difficulties of creating that environment for students.

For Dodge, the language in mathematics means more than creating universal definitions for terms.

"In terms of actually doing mathematics, language and the precision of language ends up being the entire way we produce knowledge within our field," Dodge said. "We are extraordinarily careful about the things we say and (it is) incredibly important that we understand language so that the reader is very clear about what (the) intentions are."

> In order to do a mathematical proof, the author must be absolutely clear. There is no room for interpretation whatsoever when I am writing a proof."
>
> —CRAIG DODGE
> Assistant professor of mathematics, Allegheny College

Knowing language is key when trying to understand how someone proved a math concept, Dodge said. If terms are not clear, students are left to interpret the information differently which is problematic.

"In order to do a mathematical proof, the author must be absolutely clear," Dodge said. "There is no room for interpretation whatsoever when I am writing a proof."

Dodge began understanding the challenges of teaching the consistency of language for his students after teaching Math 205 at Allegheny College. His primary concern was the multiple definitions certain words had for students that pertained to the course.

"How do I deal with this issue of different words connecting in essentially bad ways and in both good ways," asked Dodge. "How do I not cut off this good intuition but help students recognize when students are bringing in previous information that is actually to their detriment?"

It was noticing this that led Dodge to seek different ways to create consistent language in the classroom. Language consistency is the idea of having a standard definition of terms.

To do this, Dodge began talking to faculty, specifically, Valerie Prince, former associate professor of English at Allegheny. During their conversations, Prince gave ideas to Dodge about how to use the exploration of words to create awareness of certain connections in order to restrict the language used in the classroom.

"It can help them recognize, 'yes, I do have these connections,'" Dodge said. "Some (words) are useful and be very aware of the ones that aren't."

Understanding the connections that are present with the language was not the only technique Dodge implemented in his classroom. He also continued to look for more ways to make sure his students fully grasped the importance of language.

Continuing with the theme of faculty assistance, Dodge used information from other courses to aid in the transfer of knowledge for students going through the mathematics curriculum.

"The entire prerequisite structure here of mathematics is built on the idea of strip transfer," Dodge said. "Knowledge that you are going to gain in one course is going to transfer to the next one, and you are going to be able to use that."

However, this does not mean that students are always able to see the connections certain classes have with each other.

"There are a number of resources available on campus, and this time it came in the form of FS 101 and 102 workshops," Dodge said.

These workshops helped Dodge connect the consistency of language to the transfer of information for his students, and by using FS courses as a reference, Dodge was able to improve the overall understanding of his students.

Tomoka Mano, '22, was impressed by the lecture and is now considering taking courses with Dodge.

"It helped me feel a little bit more comfortable with what I am getting into … it was helpful to hear this presentation" Mano said.

Professor of Mathematics Rachel Weir was also in attendance and said she was impressed by the level of commitment and care he puts into his work for his students.

"I think for me, having worked with Craig, it's about how thoughtful he is about his teaching and how much he cares," Weir said.

Dodge ultimately wanted students to know that learning is important in any discipline.

"You end up learning from unexpected places," Dodge said. "The number of times I added to my own knowledge and learned something new, from someplace I didn't actually expect to, has been tremendous."

Mullen

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"Working for President Mullen the last nine years has inspired me in so many ways," Higham said. "The complexities of his position are enormous, yet he always finds time to listen to anyone who has a problem or suggestion — or just wants to say hello. His leadership is founded in care and concern. I'm sure he'll go on to still make a difference in the lives of many. I will miss him, Mari, Franki and James dearly."

The one thing that everyone on campus knows about Mullen is that he does not have to know a person's name and he will say hello to them.

"The relationship (I get to have) with students has been the most important and joyous part of being president of Allegheny," Mullen said. "I know you've all heard me say that I love you all, and I truly do. You are a source of great happiness for me, and I'm so very proud of you. I'm remarkably grateful for what you all mean in my life."

Provost and Dean of the College Ron Cole has seen the care Mullen has for the students and the Allegheny community as a whole.

"President Mullen is energized by our students and the hope that they represent, placing them at the center of his presidency," Cole said. "He cares deeply for Allegheny and the broader Meadville community and it's been my privilege to learn from him and serve under his leadership."

Mullen described the one major thing he would like to do before he retires in July is to spend as much time with students as he can. He also plans on helping with Link's transition so it can be as smooth as possible for her and the community.

Mullen had good impressions of Link, and got to meet her during the election process, even though he was not a major part of the process.

"I am so excited about our new president," Mullen said. "She is a tremendous scholar, committed deeply to the liberal arts … a great listener, has great energy, and we are very, very lucky to have her as president. And I'm very excited that she will be my president."

Mullen described how great and exciting he thought it was to have the first woman president of the college. He hoped it would reinforce to incoming students that Allegheny "is a community committed to diversity and inclusion."

"I think it is once again Allegheny stepping forward, and living the best of its values," Mullen said.

Upon Mullen's retirement, the Mullen family plans to move to Asheville, North Carolina to reflect on their next steps in life.

"You know I've been a college president for 20 years, that's one-third of my life," Mullen said. "Mari and I are looking forward to the chance to step back and reflect on our next steps. I might also do some writing, and I would like to continue to support Allegheny and Dr. Link as she arrives."

Above everything else, Mullen wants students to know how grateful he has been to be their Allegheny president.

"I hope they will remember how grateful I have always been for them, and how they have inspired me," Mullen said. "I hope they know that they have made me not only a better president but a better person, and I am eternally grateful to you all, and for what you mean in my life. And even though I won't be here, I hope students from the past 11 years will stay in touch with me, and continue to share with me what's happening in their lives. And if you're coming through Asheville, North Carolina, I hope you all visit."

Link

from page 1

"The way that I tried to express student opinion was in looking for qualities in candidates which I've observed that students want," Gomez said.

Gomez believes that students fundamentally want visibility, sincerity and trust in a president.

"I tried to repeatedly express that students appreciate presence, that a president cares and is a member of the community, and above all, the president should be dedicated to Allegheny: today, tomorrow and forever," Gomez said. "What students really want is someone sincere, trustworthy and someone who is doing what is best for the college."

This sentiment was mirrored by other committee members, including Eddie Taylor, '87, trustee and chair of the search committee.

"The search committee looked for a collaborative, strategic leader and scholar capable of engaging the entire community and continuing Jim Mullen's dedication to the college and surrounding community," Taylor remarked in the college's online statement.

Link, the six-year dean of Temple University Rome, a school of about 600 pupils in Italy's capital city, has created recruitment programs resulting in the highest enrollment in Temple Rome's history.

Along with these programs, Link has expanded and redeveloped curriculum and developed new courses and internships with Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication, College of Liberal Arts, College of Science and Technology, College of Engineering and School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management.

Link previously served as the vice provost at Barnard College, Columbia University, where she oversaw curriculum and international programs. Link has also served as assistant and associate provost and dean for international programs at Barnard College. Prior to Barnard, she also taught at Temple Rome, Columbia University, New York University and Yale University.

> The search committee looked for a collaborative, strategic leader and scholar capable of engaging the entire community and continuing Jim Mullen's dedication to the college and surrounding community."
>
> —EDDIE TAYLOR
> Board of Trustees, Class of 1987

Link received her Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and graduated from Yale University, where she earned her Master of Arts and doctorate in Italian language and literature.

Among her professional and academic achievements, as written in Allegheny's online release, include membership of Stanford University Associates honoring her tenure there. She was also selected as a Presidential Fellow of the Association of International Education Administrators, the Administrator of the Year Award from Barnard College Student Government Association, the Elizabeth Deering Hanscom Fellowship in the Humanities at Yale University and the Pi Mu Iota Award for the highest achievement in the Italian department at Stanford University.

Link also currently serves as the vice chair of the American Overseas School of Rome Board of Trustees and is a member of the Centro Studi Americani (Center for American Studies) Board of Directors.

Some students are impressed with the president-elect's experience, including Jessica Weston, '22.

"I'm excited for Dr. Link to take office because she has incredible credentials based upon what I've read in posts throughout the school and The Meadville Tribune," Weston said.

Campbell also emphasized Link's professional career.

"I see a breadth of experience and rich academic background," Campbell remarked upon Link's most distinguishing qualities. "I see an understanding and experience in the potential for internationalization of a higher education degree. And, I see a real enthusiasm for Allegheny and for its students."

One of Link's groundbreaking qualities for Allegheny is that she is the first woman to ever hold the college's highest office in its nearly 204-year history.

"[A female president at Allegheny] is somewhat overdue," Gomez said. "We all knew on the committee, that that would be a part of the decision. If we were to have the first female president, it would have to be someone like Dr. Link. Somebody so intelligent, poised, interesting, really, more than qualified. We were really excited by the prospect of having our first female president be somebody as distinguished as Dr. Link."

The 22nd president faces new challenges in the next decade, especially, as Campbell noted, in the realm of liberal arts education.

"The value of a liberal arts education is under challenge," Campbell said. "In a world that is more and more fixated on skills and transference of education directly to the job marketplace, I think that people increasingly wrongly underestimate the importance of a liberal arts education."

Committee members are optimistic, however, that Link will overcome this challenge and further the innovations made during Mullen's tenure.

"I think Dr. Link brings great promise to Allegheny and I'm very excited for her to begin her service and build upon the very, very rich legacy of Jim Mullen," Campbell said. "Jim Mullen has done magnificent things for Allegheny in his 11 years. He will be handing over a school to Dr. Link that is as well prepared as any private liberal arts school in the country to take on any of the challenges that Dr. Link faces."

Gomez echoed the importance of Mullen's legacy, and said she hopes Link will bring new opportunities to the College.

"I think that the entire community loves President Mullen, but I'm very confident that the campus community will come to love Dr. Link with the same affection," Gomez said. "I hope that she's able to give us a new life. When you've been around for 200 years, it's for good reason, but it's always good to have something fresh and new, and I really think she's just the person to do that."

Link and her spouse, Jeff Link, have three sons, Jason, Alexander and Zachary.

Link will assume the presidency on July 1, 2019.

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.

Jan. 19, 2019
Rustic Bridge
Drug Possession.

Jan. 20, 2019
Brooks Hall
Alcohol violation.

Jan. 22, 2019
Brooks Hall
Fondling.

ASG appoints new members to CCC, swears in Cinquino

By **MARLEY PARISH**
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In its first meeting of the 2019 spring semester, Allegheny Student Government welcomed both new and old faces into its ranks — Elyse Cinquino, '20, Tin Le, '21, and Peyton Capristo, '21.

To kick off general assembly, ASG Vice President Gillian Greene, '20, swore in Cinquino as the Class of 2020 president.

Cinquino formerly served as the director of communications and press. Last semester, she did not serve on ASG because she was studying abroad in Mexico.

When Jason Ferrante, '20, was appointed ASG chief of staff last semester, he said one of his major goals was to fill every position on the College Committees Council, and during Tuesday's meeting, that goal was achieved with the appointments of Le and Captisto.

Le was appointed to the academic standards and awards committee, and Captisto was appointed to the finance and facilities committee.

Class of 2019 Vice President, John Seiber asked Le and Captisto why they were interested in the positions. Both said they were looking to become more involved on campus and thought they were viable candidates for their respective roles.

"Our CCC is full for the first time this year," Ferrante said.

Co-director of Student Affairs Catrina Steckler, '19, spoke to the search for a new director of public safety, saying there were no new updates about the position; however, she did say interviews for a fourth counselor have been conducted within the last week.

Once a new hire is made, the Counseling and Personal Development Center will be what Allegheny considers to be fully staffed, according to Ferrante.

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Cat Lord, '20, explained the campus-wide recycling changes that will be ongoing this semester.

"It's a global market issue, and it's completely out of our control," Lord said. "China doesn't have room for our waste anymore."

The main changes consist of the college not being able to recycle glass and only being able to accept plastic materials labeled 1 and 2.

"Everything will be relabeled soon around campus," Lord said.

To conclude the meeting, Greene said she and ASG President Camila Gomez, '19, will be meeting with the Allegheny College Board of Trustees and will have further updates on their discussions at next week's meeting.

As a member of the presidential search committee, Gomez was unable to attend the ASG meeting because she was meeting with president-elect Hilary Link.

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since 1876

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>
> —SHANE OSTROM
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Modern life in the 21st century brought change into nearly every facet of life. Smartphones, for instance, are essential to the modern citizen and allow them access to more knowledge than any single individual could have possibly known at another point in history.

Without looking up from their phone, one could manage their finances, schedule appointments, network with friends and employers, play a game and read the news, all while listening to their choice of music.

Unfortunately, this convenience and accessibility proves to be quite addicting, and tech companies know how to exploit this fact. For instance, microtransactions were introduced to games, encouraging money to be spent over longer periods of time. However, most concerning is arguably the distinguishing algorithms of social media that confine us to our own little bubbles, hybridized with a constant flow of sensational news.

Not only are social media users spoonfed the sort of content they have already engaged with, undoubtedly leading to hyperpartisan ignorance, but almost all information presented to consumers is condensed into a three minute video clip, a short article, or an effortless meme.

Modern warfare, it appears, is fought with information and misinformation more than soldiers and guns. There is, however, a sliver of hope for honest, accessible discourse that we never missed until it was gone: podcasts.

Podcasts are generally streamable audio segments with an infinite number of applications. True crime mysteries are popular, as are fictional stories, political and economic analyses, paranormal and esoteric streams, interviews, and the list goes on. Podcasts tend to be between 30 minutes to an hour in length, but can be five minutes or several hours.

Much of what makes the medium so appealing is that any podcast host can discuss anything they wish, so a healthy number of "experts" on a massive range of topics are able to produce streams with relative ease — and for this reason, I believe podcasts have the potential to restore complete and thoughtful discourse to the world.

Take for example "The Joe Rogan Experience." Each episode lasts nearly two hours with a simple premise: a complete discussion with another person. Throughout the nine years of production so far, Rogan has invited an impressive array of comedians, writers, philosophers, political influencers, athletes and all sorts of scientists and scholars. As a host, he is undoubtedly not an expert in every topic discussed on his show, but his naivety is charming and he is nonetheless extremely good at teasing out information from his guests through an extended, chummy, often hysterical discussion.

Despite the unusual lengthiness of the episodes, "The Joe Rogan Experience" is surprisingly digestible and is very accessible to everyday listeners. In the same way it feels nice to watch a 40-hour complicated narrative story like "Game of Thrones" or "Breaking Bad" instead of 40 hours of a sitcom, Rogan's podcast, among many others, feels breathable and complete. This model of podcasting shows that longform discourse is not only still alive, but in high demand — "The Joe Rogan Experience" tops over 11 million monthly downloads.

It is possible that the nature of podcasts might facilitate the spread of misinformation and harmful conspiracy theories, but thus far, it seems the medium has been less touched by the sorts of corporate algorithms on social media that push rhetoric of this sort into the mainstream. Rather, podcasts are listener driven, often sponsored by one or two small companies at the discretion of the individual or small team of producers. This helps to limit the tight grasp that advertisers have on producers in other forms of media such as cable television.

For heavily invested corporate advertisers, the old proverb "there's no such thing as bad publicity" rings true. For example, on Facebook, radically partisan media will attract both happy people from one side of the political spectrum and angry people from the other, netting the maximum number of viewers for the sponsor. This only becomes more lucrative for the advertiser as the public becomes more partisan, as the politically moderate are less likely to engage in radical media.

As of right now, podcasting sponsors and creators are not nearly as invested in division, and are instead more concerned with a stable listener base, which ultimately rewards high-quality, thoughtful podcasts.

By no means are podcasts the most popular or mainstream form of media consumption, but that has allowed the medium to be true to listeners who increasingly seem to be seeking out meaningful discourse within a media environment in which information has been masterfully engineered to maximize profit by coddling consumers to engage the most number of eyeballs.

In today's age of informational warfare, substanceless media, and superficial coverage, perhaps the best thing one could do for their own sanity, if not the greater good, is support independent producers of high-quality informative podcasts. There is something for everybody.

Using writing as a way to cope with feelings, loss

By TAYLOR RENK
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On Sep. 17, 2018, I was abruptly woken up by a phone call that shattered my world in a split second. I can still hear the tone in my dad's voice when he told me my grandpa had passed away. For the first time in my 20 years of life, I was left speechless, hopeless and completely disoriented. I had lost my best friend.

Unable to speak or comprehend what I was feeling , I picked up a pencil and a sheet of paper and I wrote a letter to the person I wish I could have -- has a chance to talk to one more time my grandpa. As a way to help my mom mourn the loss of her father, I gave the letter to her to read. Five days later I was reading the letter as a eulogy. That was my goodbye.

People often find themselves wishing they had one more minute, one last phone call, a chance to say "I love you" one more time — I know I did. No one truly knows what to say to someone who is mourning the loss of a loved one to make the situation easier.

In all reality, everyone mourns differently and at their own pace, so healing on your own without the help of others can often be the only way to feel complete again. Nothing is wrong with not being alright, but there are ways to find a light at the end of the tunnel, because there is a light. That is why I write.

Everyone reacts differently when they hear that someone dear to their heart has passed away. No matter what the reaction is, nothing can ever prepare you for the rush of emotion that pummels you in an instant.

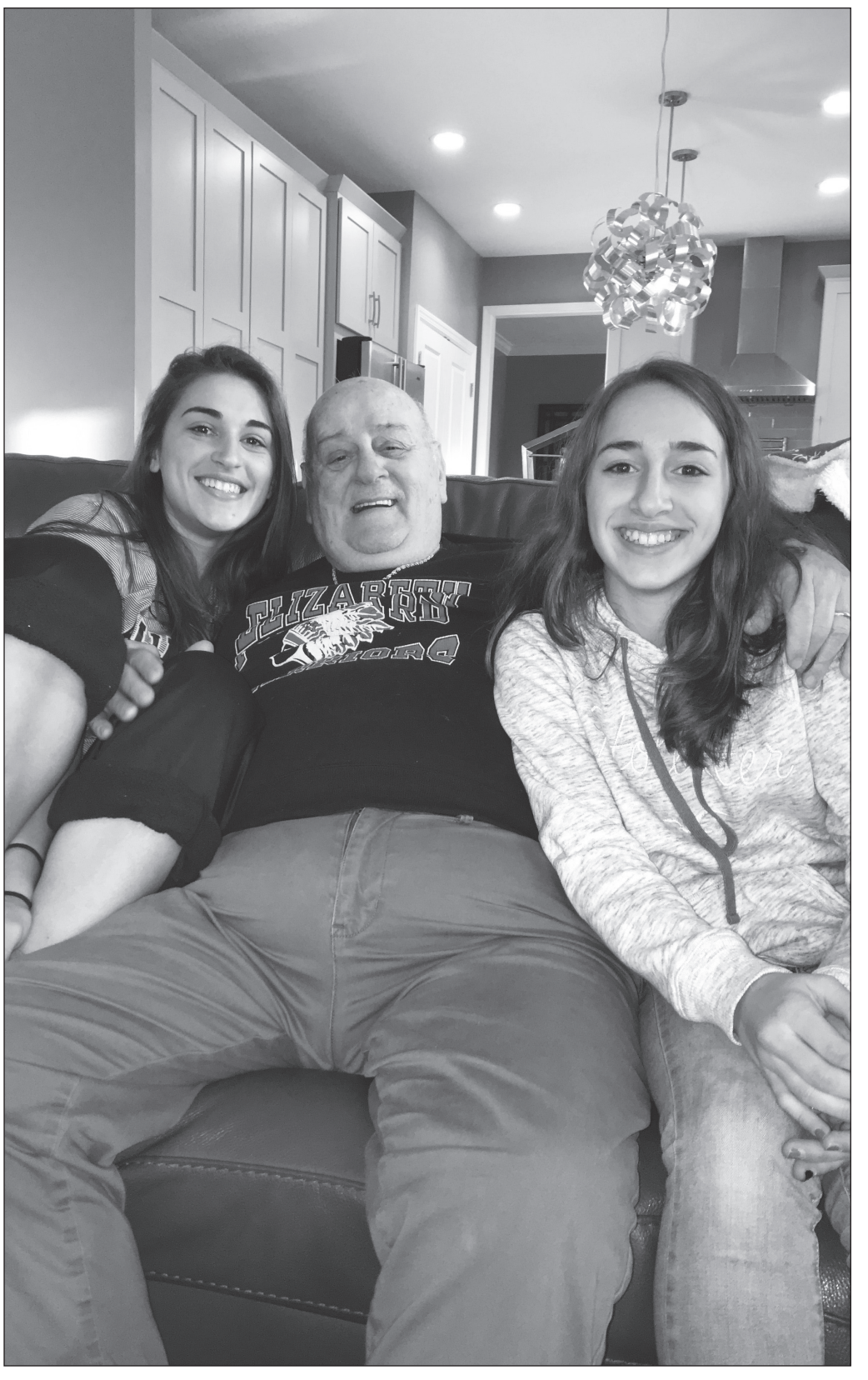
People may lash out with great resentment, or they may shut the world out in disbelief. Similar reactions can come from any type of situation in life. You may be in a heated argument with your mom, you may have lost the biggest game of the year or you may have failed your final exam, leaving you angry and distraught with no idea how to get your emotions out. My advice to you would be to write.

When it seems like there is nowhere left to run, and the ground seems to be crumbling beneath you, grab a pencil and some paper and let go of everything inside of you that needs to be said. Holding in stresses and anxieties not only will hurt your overall well-being, but it will also slow down your healing process, making a difficult situation seem impossible. Writing is a way for you to express yourself in a productive way, while also creating a calming atmosphere to slow down a world going in fast forward while you are stuck in quicksand.

In times of anxiety, heartbreak, and disbelief, let your writing become your safe haven, and in turn it may liberate you from the theoretical chains that is your life in that given moment. At these moments you have a choice — to let life get the best of you or make the most of your life, and through writing and expressing yourself you just might feel free enough to let the heartbreak, anxiety and stress mold you into a much stronger version of yourself.

In a society that preaches self-empowerment, there is no better way to feel secure in yourself than to make your feelings and emotions a part of history. When words hit paper, no matter what emotion is attached, they are preserved and can be used in any way you feel comfortable using them. Your words can be used for personal therapy or to assist those around you as well. The power you have at the tip of a pencil has no limit and provides an opportunity to change the way you view yourself and the world around you.

In those times of heartbreak or love, sadness or hopefulness, regret or comfort, take control of your own world. I can honestly say that writing has changed my life for the better. I can look back on Sep. 17, 2018, and see a glimmer of hope through the darkness because I got to say goodbye to my best friend . Writing was my way to find closure. Something as simple as thoughts on a page can go a very long way, just take the time to try.



Global citizens scholars visit United States, Mexico border

By **HANNAH SCHAFFER**
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Photos by EMILY EVANS/THE CAMPUS

Above: During their visit, the students participated in a desert hike. They walked seven miles to leave food and water for immigrants at the border.
Right: In Nogales, Mexico, residents decorate the Mexican side of the border wall with artwork.



During the 2016 Presidential election, then President-elect Donald Trump committed to building a border wall with Mexico. Trump's promise is now the reason for an ongoing partial federal shutdown.

"If we don't (build a wall), this country is going to be worse than at any time in our history in terms of drug infestation and in terms of crime," Trump said on Jan. 23.

Twelve Allegheny students had the opportunity to visit the border and see the current situation. From Jan. 7 to 12, Allegheny's Global Citizen Scholars witnessed the situation at the border first-hand.

Allegheny's current Global Citizen Scholars who attended the trip include all seniors: Cristin Archer, Sherrell Daley, Noah Dawgiello, Emily Evans, Jacob Gagliastri, Danny Larson, Asia Robinson, Erblin Shehu, Emily Smith, Merryn Spence, Barry Tevrow and Erin Zehr.

Global Citizen Scholars is a program that aims to educate students in civic engagement, global learning and United States diversity.

The program and trip were led by professors Laura Reek and Dave Roncolato. Roncolato explained the trip was an idea formulated almost three years ago.

The scholars stayed in Tucson, Arizona, with a program called BorderLinks. BorderLinks is a nonprofit organization in Tucson that focuses on educating about migration and life along the U.S.–Mexico border.

"It was really important to see all of the partnerships that BorderLinks had who were providing great resources for these people," Spence said.

The Global Citizen Scholars Program is currently organizing an event to discuss some of the major takeaways from their visit.

"I think, in retrospect, we were very lucky to get ourselves scheduled in because right now, especially in terms of education, there's a high demand," Reeck told the Meadville Tribune.

President Trump's promised border wall has resulted in the longest United States government shutdown ever recorded. The wall is a $5.7 billion protection against what Trump insists is a "humanitarian and security crisis." Currently, the government has been shut down for over four weeks.

However, many democrats strongly oppose the construction of the wall, claiming that it is a waste of taxpayers' money and a "manufactured crisis."

During the 2016 election, Trump promised voters a 2,000 mile fence to "protect" the border.

BBC reports that since Trump entered the White House, Congress has approved $1.7 billion in funding for new and replacement barriers along the border. Forty miles of replacement barriers have already been constructed and the rest are assumed to be completed sometime this year.

A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center reports that a 58 percent majority of Americans oppose expanding the barrier, while only 40 percent support the project.

Trump initially demanded his "big, beautiful wall" be made from concrete, but now Trump is suggesting steel so border agents can see threw it.

Prior to the government shutdown, Trump posted a picture on Twitter of a wall constructed from steel slats instead. Trump captioned the photo, "A design of our steel slat barrier which is totally effective while at the same time beautiful."

The Department of Homeland Security reported that in 2017, a total of 303,916 people were caught trying to cross the border illegally on land. However, 606,926 people were caught attempting to illegally enter the country through air or sea.

In addition, DHS and the Center for Migration Studies report that the number who outstay their visas has been larger than the number who cross the border illegally since 2007. DHS reports that in 2016, 739,478 people outstayed their visas, while only 563,204 people crossed the border illegally. This figure includes the Canadian and coastal borders.

The Cato Institute reports that no one who has crossed the U.S.–Mexico Border from 1975 to 2017 has been responsible for a terrorist attack while in the United States.

However, Trump still considers the border to be a "humanitarian crisis."

An article published in The Guardian states, "Immigration policy is usually driven by perception much more than it is by reality."

On their first day at the border, students took part in a seven-mile guided hike. Each student carried two gallons of water with them to leave at the border for those making the dangerous journey.

"As we were walking, we saw personal effects that had been left behind — backpacks, cosmetic products, toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, shoes — just of the most everyday nature," Reek said, in an interview with the Meadville Tribune.

The students also had the opportunity to listen to a presentation by the Sierra Club. The presentation discussed environmental concerns surrounding the potential border wall.

"Two-thirds of the border is actually the Rio Grande River. The idea would be building a wall, whether you build it on one shore or the other, is actually a pretty significant environmental hazard, in terms of the flow of water and in terms of animals and preserved land," Roncolato told the Meadville Tribune.

In addition, the students also visited Nogales, Mexico, a town that is split in two by a wall along the border.

"At one point, I was looking through the wall and the fencing, and I saw an Arizonan Nogales city truck for street cleaning, but on the emblem on the truck there was both the Mexican flag and the U.S. flag," Reeck said.

The students also also participated in a legal immigration simulation and two students had the opportunity to sit in on a Tucson district court proceeding dealing with Operation Streamline.

Operation Streamline is a policy created by the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice that allows for the criminal prosecution of illegal entrants with misdemeanor charges for first offense and felony charges thereafter.

"I find a lot of hope in college-age students that are willing to engage in the complexity of this, and I have a lot of confidence they can really go out in front of the movement to find effective, humane policies that both protect the United States and also respond to the very serious humanitarian crisis going on," Roncolato said.

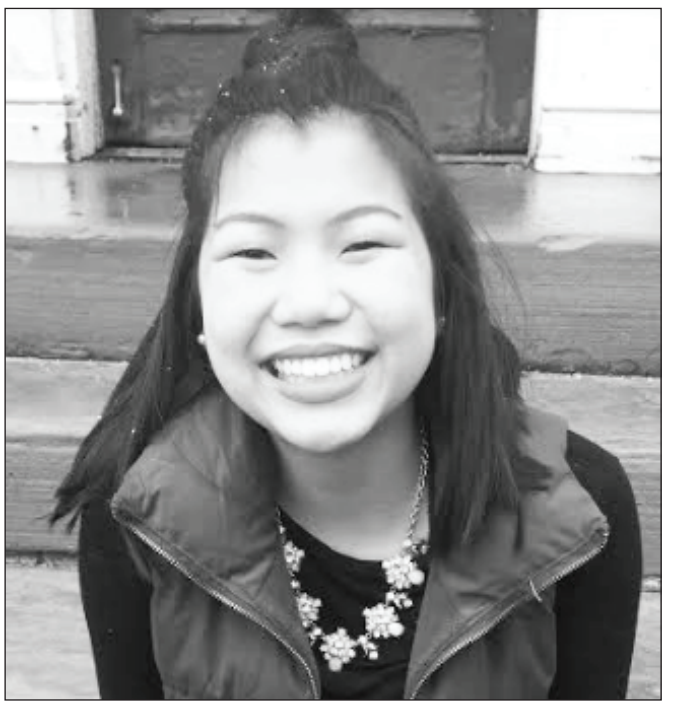
Campus Asks.....

"What do you think about the government shutdown?"



Matthew Kim, '19

"By not paying our TSA workers, (Trump) is pretty much opening our country for possible threats."



Elyse Cinquino, '20

"(Trump) said he wanted to really help out workers, but I really think he's not doing that, especially because a lot of our American people aren't able to be paid."



Matthew Baldeosingh, '20

"It's the longest government shutdown ever. There's no progress being made, and the best solution is to bring the government back."

Campus recycling shifts with global markets

Waste Management limits plastic collection, eliminates glass collection

By **ELLIS GIACOMELLI**
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As winter greets us with gifts of snow and ice, and the campus community seeks warmth and refreshment in Allegheny dining halls, change is upon us.

Recycling guidelines, outlined by the college's trash and recycling hauler, Waste Management, now prohibit the recycling of glass and plastics labeled 3-7 as of December 2018.

"People want to do the right thing when it comes to recycling, so there are questions, and we have to make sure that we're talking through it with everyone," said Kelly Boulton, '02, Allegheny College's sustainability coordinator.

Plastic materials labeled 1 or 2, metal and paper will still be accepted by Waste Management, however, Boulton clarified, shredded paper will no longer be accepted.

The changes were announced via a Dec. 16 My Allegheny post, which reads in part, "While we like to think recycling is a virtuous, environmental act, the reality is it's an imperfect process driven by market economics rather than environmental ethos."

Campus compost, which is managed by the college, as well as Waste Management trash guidelines have not changed. Food waste and Parkhurst Dining Services packaging are still compostable, and receipts and non-Parkhurst packaging belong in bins marked for trash.

Allegheny began contracting Waste Management for trash and recycling hauling in June 2016 after its contract with Tri-County Industries ended that year. Boulton said campus houses on Meadville city streets still follow the guidelines of Tri-County Industries, the city's waste hauler.

Global recycling markets have been shifting for more than a year, according to Boulton, who said Waste Management notified the college of the changes a few days before the My Allegheny post announced them to the campus community.

In 2017, the People's Republic of China submitted two separate notifications to the World Trade Organization outlining new guidelines for its intake of global recyclables.

In July 2017, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection submitted an official notification to the WTO stating it would no longer import certain types of solid waste, including some plastics, unsorted paper and vanadium slag, a waste product of metal alloy production.

"We found that large amounts of dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes are mixed in the solid waste that can be used as raw materials," the July 2017 notification reads in part. "This polluted China's environment seriously. To protect China's environmental interests and people's health, we urgently adjust the imported solid wastes list, and forbid the import of solid wastes that are highly polluted."

A November 2017 notification submitted to the WTO by China's Standardization Administration described plans to decrease the level of contaminants allowed in imported recyclables. Contamination refers to any non-recyclable product or material being discarded among recyclables.

Contamination standards for recycling industries typically range between 1 and 5 percent, according to a Jan. 21 Washington Post article.

"Many Americans now have access to single-stream recycling, which spares them the trouble of sorting and separating plastics, paper, glass and metal," the Washington Post reports. "But single-stream recycling has created headaches for Chinese processors. Even after sorting at a U.S. recycling facility, a plastic container might make it into a shipment of tin cans. Glass breaks, and shards are mixed in with pieces of paper."

Based on its November 2017 notification, China's new contamination standard for an acceptable amount of contamination among recyclables is 0.5 percent, a standard that took effect March 1, 2018.

These global market changes have impacted local recycling operations — here at the college, in Crawford County with the closure of its blue bin program in 2017 and in Erie County with the phasing out of glass, plastic bag and shredded paper collection across Erie County municipalities.

Boulton explained possible reasons glass recycling guidelines have shifted. Two significant factors, according to Boulton, are cost of glass transport and challenges in the recycling process. The weight of glass recyclables, relative to plastics and metals, makes shipment of glass materials more expensive.

The melting of glass occurs at higher temperatures than the melting of plastics, thus requiring more energy in the process. Boulton also said glass placed in recycling bins is often separated from other recyclables and crushed to be used as a barrier between layers of waste in landfills.

Adjusting to Waste Management's new guidelines, Boulton said, mostly involves updating signage across campus, especially in McKinley's Food Court and the Henderson Campus Center where several waste stations offer recycling bins.

As the sustainability coordinator, Boulton is responsible for other campus initiatives, inventories, research and programs, especially in the first few months of each calendar year when national sustainability organizations expect reports to be filed, and she said the recycling signage adjustments will hopefully be made within the next few weeks.

Boulton has been working on the college's greenhouse gas inventory update and said Allegheny is more than halfway to its 2020 carbon neutrality goal set in 2010 as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge.

"We still heat with natural gas, we still travel to conferences, we still study abroad," Boulton said. "There's a lot of emissions that will continue, so what we are working on now is developing a carbon offset portfolio."

Compiling a carbon offset portfolio, Boulton explained, means finding ways to reduce emissions elsewhere in the world to compensate for emissions, like conference travel or study abroad, that cannot be feasibly reduced at Allegheny.

Boulton works with students to research offset options and maintain sustainability projects and initiatives, including the annual October Energy Challenge. Boulton also connects with Allegheny Student Government and Cat Lord, '20, ASG director of sustainability and environmental affairs, who emphasized the importance of sustainable actions, even when environmental issues, like recycling processes and shifts, seem too overwhelming to tackle.

"We're told pretty often that what we do on a personal level doesn't matter anymore, but in reality it does because if we all stopped doing all these little everyday things to better the environment, things would still get worse," Lord said. "Even if your small actions aren't quite validated on a big scale, they're still important."

Campus recycling shifts will be reflected in the signage changes, but Boulton said she hopes the shifts also inspire the college community to think about our collective waste.

"Recycling is an act of sustainability, but as a stand alone, it is not sufficient," Boulton said. "We have to re-educate people on what they can recycle, but I think this is also a moment for us to step back and say, why are we relying so much on this?"

DID YOU KNOW?

Plastic grocery bags are not accepted as a recyclable by waste haulers in many municipalities, including the City of Meadville and at Allegheny College. Allegheny College recycling guidelines have changed since December 2018 based on new rules outlined by the college's waste hauler, Waste Management.

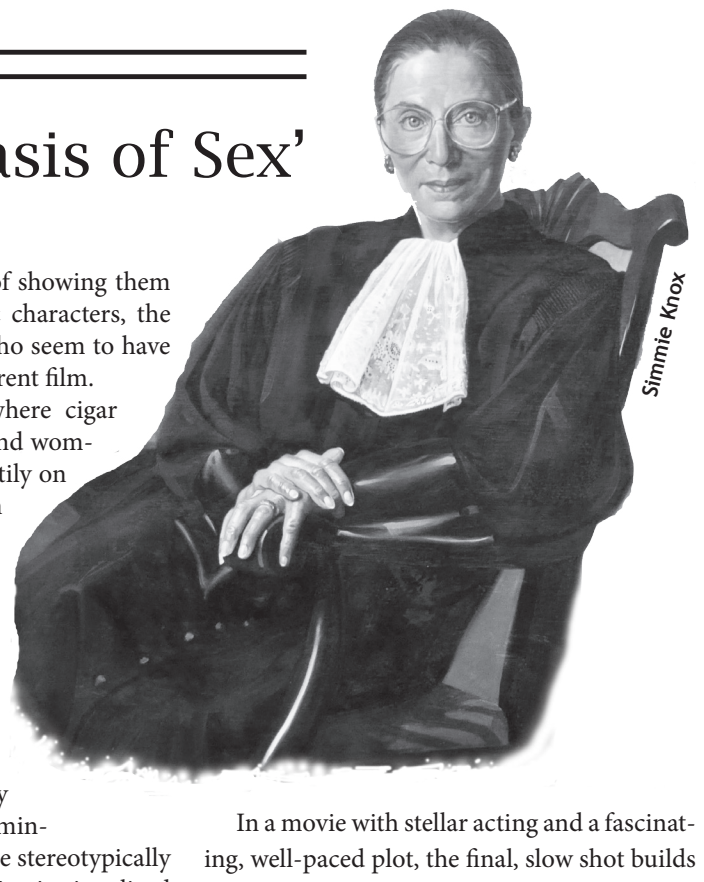
Recyclable materials now include:
-Plastics labeled 1 or 2
-Steel, tin or aluminum cans
-Flattened cardboard
-Paper (nonshredded)

For more information about college recycling guidelines, contact Kelly Boulton at kboulton@allegheny.edu.

A legend is born

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's story told in 'On the Basis of Sex'

By **LAUREN TRIMBER**
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Simmie Knox

Who was it all for, if not for me?

The powerful question is asked by Jane Ginsburg, played by Cailee Spaeny, in Mimi Leder's Ruth Bader Ginsburg biopic "On the Basis of Sex." The film follows Ruth, played by Felicity Jones, as she navigates the challenges of being a woman in a male-dominated law career. Ruth's frustrations, discouragement and desperation to pursue her dream culminates in a single question from her daughter: Who was it all for, if not for me?

In that moment, Jane represents all girls for whom Ruth had fought and would continue to fight throughout her long career. Jane becomes the hope her mother needs to argue her case and the sincerity the audience needs in a story that centers around the trials of women fighting for gender equality.

Covering over a decade of Ruth's life, the film opens with the future Supreme Court justice walking amidst a veritable sea of men while a hardy male choir sings a Harvard University song. Ruth enters her first classes as a Harvard University student, and challenges based on her sex immediately present themselves.

Balancing her home life with husband and fellow Harvard University student Martin Ginsburg and her academic studies with professors who refuse to take her seriously, Ruth's fast-paced life only becomes more demanding when Martin is diagnosed with testicular cancer. Ruth begins attending both her classes and Martin's, taking care of their young daughter during the rare, quiet moments.

However, her challenges do not stop with graduation.

In remission from cancer, Martin, played by Armie Hammer, graduates from Harvard University and is hired at a law firm in New York City. The Ginsburg family moves to the city, where Ruth, now a Harvard and Columbia University graduate, is denied a job by over 12 law firms. As she grows increasingly desperate, Ruth eventually accepts the position as a professor at Rutgers University.

Although she teaches legal cases, Ruth feels as if she is giving up, buckling beneath the pressures of a system that challenges women more than it does men. Martin offers his unerring support, but he does not fully understand why his wife feels as if she is abandoning her ambitions.

These moments of the film, when Ruth feels she is at her lowest point, show the strength of her marriage. While Martin does not completely grasp the challenges Ruth faces, he is willing to listen to her and learn. In a few scenes that showcase the sometimes tense relationship between Ruth and Jane, Martin acts as the maternal figure toward his daughter, an interesting parallel to the film's argument that men are able to be primary caretakers of a household. He never dominates a scene, but his quiet strength and constant faith in his wife make him one of the best supporting characters in recent film.

Ruth begins to practice law when she learns of Charles Moritz, a bachelor who takes care of his ailing mother but was denied the caregiver tax because he is not a woman and has never been divorced. Since the case is an example of a man who has been discriminated against because of his sex, Ruth believes challenging it could help the fight for gender equality.

Ruth seeks help from her old friend Mel Wulf, an employee at the American Civil Liberties Union, who first deems the case unwinnable but eventually agrees to help her represent Moritz. With Wulf's help, the Ginsburg family begins to prepare their argument.

Between scenes of the Ginsburgs working on the case, the film's final antagonists are introduced. Erwin Griswold, former Harvard University dean, and Ernest Brown, former Harvard University professor, conspire with young lawyer James Bozarth. All three think of ways in which they can maintain the country's status quo and end all legal talk of gender equality.

Here, the film's tone struggles. While the men who plan their argument against the Ginsburgs refuse to acknowledge the very apparent gender inequality, the portrayal of the lawyers is excessive. Instead of showing them as deeply flawed but realistic characters, the film paints them as villains who seem to have walked out of an entirely different film.

Hidden in dark rooms where cigar smoke curls lazily in the air and women are only allowed to sit prettily on the couches, the men speak in angry, authoritative tones as they build their case. Their desire to fight the Ginsburgs is no deeper than their need to maintain a strongly patriarchal society.

Although the film can be forgiven for lacking three dimensional villains since they do not appear until the final minutes, the men do not have to be stereotypically evil. Seeing Ruth fight against institutionalized sexism so ingrained in society that those who perpetrate it do not fully realize they are wrong would have been far more interesting than the moustache-twirling villains the film provides.

Despite this, the final scene, which takes place in the courtroom, is a wonderful resolution to Ruth's hard work. While she fails to make an impact on the appellate court judges when she first speaks, Ruth's rebuttal against Bozarth is wonderfully portrayed by Jones. Jones manages to convey Ruth's fear, embarrassment and anger, and she shows how the famous justice channeled her emotions into a brilliant speech.

The Ginsburgs, Wulf and Moritz leave the courtroom triumphantly.

As text appears on the screen to inform the audience that the Ginsburgs won the Moritz case, the film cuts to Ruth climbing the steps of the Supreme Court building. She wears an outfit similar to the one she wore at the beginning of the film, but this time, Ruth walks alone.

Recordings of the real-life Ruth arguing various cases play as she steps closer to the Supreme Court building. The camera's view is momentarily obscured by a pillar, and when Ruth steps into the camera's frame once more, it is the real Ruth rather than actress Jones who walks into the Supreme Court.

In a movie with stellar acting and a fascinating, well-paced plot, the final, slow shot builds to the reveal of the real-life Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Her appearance in the film reminds the audience that while parts of the plot adhere to the typical Hollywood formula, the core of the story is true: Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a revolutionary figure who was and continues to be a voice for the downtrodden.

Jones does a remarkable job of portraying the brilliant, self-conscious, determined Ruth, and her chemistry with Hammer's Martin is easy and realistic. While the film suffers a bit beneath its villains, the message was powerful — even the most influential public figures had to begin somewhere, and Ruth started at the bottom.

"On the Basis of Sex" uses Jones' talent to show that Ruth's near-legendary status did not come easily, and the setbacks she encountered nearly broke her spirit. But with the single question from her daughter — Who was it all for, if not for me? — the audience is given a clear message.

This film, and Ruth's work, always has been, and always will be, for all of us.

8/10

Annual Spiritual and Religious Life Week to celebrate 'Connections'

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The smells of hot coffee from Tarot Bean Roasting Company, which calls Chestnut Street home, are set to welcome campus and community members to the Midwinter Festival Saturday, Jan. 26, in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center.

Featuring bead making and games for all ages, as well as popcorn from the Movies at Meadville and donuts from Clark's Donuts, the Festival marks the start of the annual Spiritual and Religious Life Week. Coordinated by the college's Meaningful, Open, Spiritual and Interreligious Collaborative, MOSAIC, SRL Week will be observed from Jan. 26 to Feb. 1 at various locations across campus.

Allegheny College has celebrated SRL Week — previously titled Religious Awareness Week and Faith Week — for more than a decade, and the week-long schedule of events has evolved to be more inclusive and develop partnerships between campus religious groups and non-religious groups, according to Jane Ellen Nickell, Allegheny College chaplain and MOSAIC adviser.

"Society just feels really disconnected right now, there's just a lot of partisanship, and we thought about, in general, the way we're disconnected from the earth, from other people, so we came up with that broad idea of connections," Nickell said.

"Connections" serves as the 2019 SRL Week theme, which has inspired the eight events hosted by campus religious groups and their partners. When planning began for the 2019 SRL Week in October, each campus religious group, Nickell explained, was tasked with collaborating with another club or department at the college to develop an event for the week.

Themes in recent years have centered around the campus-wide theme, including the 2015-16 Year of Meadville and the 2016-17 Mindfulness themes. The 2018 SRL Week was titled "Just Us for Justice" and focused on several types of social justice, including racial and environmental justice.

Maximus Levinsky, '21, works as an interfaith intern with SRL. The interns and MOSAIC were responsible for the general planning of SRL week, which included scheduling the week's events and selecting the theme, Levinsky said. He added that the theme came from a desire to collaborate with other organizations and people on campus.

> "I feel like religion sometimes is put in its own bubble, but it doesn't have to be, so we're trying to work on breaking that stereotype."
>
> —STEPHANIE FELTON
> Class of 2020,
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"Because college campuses on a whole throughout America are becoming less religious, it's important for us to remember that not everyone wants to be involved in events that are inherently religious, but people still are interested in other things and topics that are tangentially related to religion," Levinsky said. "We kind of wanted to bring in people who maybe don't think of themselves as religious or as belonging to a religious group on campus, but still might have an interest in being a part of an activity or community."

Lauren Kanavy, '20, president of MOSAIC, emphasized the importance of MOSAIC's role as a bridge that facilitates such collaboration between campus groups.

"The combinations that we see this year are interesting, to say the least, so I'm excited to see how it's going to turn out," Kanavy said.

Levinsky echoed Kanavy's thoughts on the importance of MOSAIC's role. Multiple groups are coordinating events, each partnering with other organizations or faculty members.

"Each group planned their own event," Levinsky said. "It's not something that's centralized in the SRL office. We're just there to make sure everything goes smoothly and people have the resources they need. We also make sure people are talking about it and have a plan."

Hillel will be partnering with the Southeast Asian Student Society to cook Indian food and discuss Jews in India, an event Kanavy is particularly excited about.

Along with a midweek MOSAIC lunch Wednesday, Jan. 30, in campus center 206, SRL Week has organized events with Hillel, the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Islamic Cultural Association, Allegheny Christian Outreach and Sojourners Christian Fellowship.

The lunch MOSAIC is hosting will focus on the dynamic of interfaith relationships and marriages and will include a panel of faculty members, according to Levinsky.

"We're partnering with a few faculty members who are in interfaith marriages to talk to them about their experience and see what it's like to be in a constant interfaith space all the time in a marriage or relationship," Levinsky said. "One of our MOSAIC goals for the year is to discuss topics people really encounter in real life."

MOSAIC, formerly known as Interfaith Fellowship, began as a religious life council that facilitated event planning SRL Week planning, as well as discussion among representatives from campus religious groups, Nickell said. In recent years, Nickell continued, MOSAIC students have become more interested in discussion-based meetings.



Contributed by Jane Ellen Nickell

Students gather in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center for the 2018 Spiritual and Religious Life Week kick-off event, the Midwinter Festival, on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2018.

Along with the event for SRL week, MOSAIC has fostered conversations concerning religious expressions in school and, around Halloween, discussed cultural appropriation, especially in a religious context, Levinsky said.

"(MOSAIC) is an inherently collaborative organization," Levinsky said. "We don't all come from the same backgrounds, but we still are able to do productive and enjoyable things together. It's about making sure that's possible inside our group and also on other spaces on campus."

Stephanie Felton, '20, MOSAIC treasurer and religious studies major, said she first became involved with MOSAIC after attending a MOSAIC discussion on atheism.

In addition to classroom and textbook religious studies learning, Felton said she wanted to experience more of the "real-life" religious aspects of her coursework. By becoming involved in MOSAIC and working in the SRL Office, Felton said she has had that hands-on experience.

"What I've been trying to help do is make MOSAIC an inclusive space, especially for people who maybe aren't part of a religious group on campus or are looking for one, or just want to be part of the conversation," Felton said. "I feel like religion sometimes is put in its own bubble, but it doesn't have to be, so we're trying to work on breaking that stereotype."

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE WEEK 2019

Jan. 26
Midwinter Festival
CC lobby, 2 to 4 p.m.

Jan. 28
Saints and Charity, hosted by Newman Catholic Campus Ministry and UNICEF
CC 206, 8 p.m.

Jan. 29
Blanket making for Women's Services. hosted by Allegheny Christian Outreach and Alpha Chi Omega
ACO house, 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 30
Lunch and discussion on interfaith families, hosted by MOSAIC
CC 206, noon

Science and religion, hosted by Sojourners Christian Fellowship and Biology and Global Health Studies Professor Becky Dawson
CC 206, 5 p.m.

Jan. 31
Matball, hosted by Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee
Wise Center, 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 1
Indian dinner and discussion, hosted by Hillel and the Southeast Asian Student Society
Jewish Community Center, 5 p.m.

Screening of "BlacKkKlansman," hosted by the Islamic Cultural Association and Phi Beta Sigma
IDEAS Center, 7 p.m.

Ballroom dance lessons engage Meadville and college communities

By **LAUREN TRIMBER**
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Tucked into a cozy office with two of her assistants, safe from the freezing temperatures of Meadville's winter, Allegheny's Dance and Movement Studies Instructor Betsy Sumerfield discussed the community dance lessons that allow Allegheny College and Meadville community members to warm up together.

Sumerfield, who has been working full-time at Allegheny for four years and part-time since 2000, began helping with the community lessons, which have been offered by the college for at least 10 years, before she took over as primary instructor. There are 10 lessons altogether, and the classes begin with the waltz then move to a dance chosen by participants.

Lessons focus on one dance for about two to three meetings, and the age range of participants varies from high school age to 80s, Sumerfield said. Two of the oldest participants, a married couple in their mid-80s, attended one of Sumerfield's academic ballroom classes to demonstrate the swing dance for Allegheny students.

Although the number of participants varies from year to year, Sumerfield said she and her class always have fun, and she considers that to be a sign of their success.

"It's fun to watch people come back (to the lesson) and go, 'Oh, that's what we were trying to do last time,'" Sumerfield said. "So that's fun for me. Just getting to be in community is gratifying."

Allegheny College Professor Scott Wissinger, partnered with his wife Sue Wissinger, has taken the dance classes multiple times. In a similar fashion to what Sumerfield described as her most gratifying moment, Scott said he struggles with the dances for a few sessions until his muscle memory begins to work.

"I really felt quite awkward the first time we did the waltz," Scott said. "It was like I'd never done it before, and then about two sessions in, it was like 'oh yeah, this is starting to come back.'"

As a dancer who helps participants with the dance while their muscle memory begins to work, Michaela Schlichtkrull, '19, is beginning her second semester assisting in Sumerfield's classes and lessons. Schlichtkrull is also a teaching assistant in Sumerfield's Ballroom I classes.

> We feel more comfortable dancing, and we feel alive when we're doing it."
>
> —SCOTT WISSINGER
> Professor of biology and environmental science and sustainability,
> Allegheny College

"The most gratifying part (of the community lessons) is being around other people who are not on campus," Schlichtkrull said. "It's getting to see other people who are part of the community and who I wouldn't normally see when I'm walking across campus."

During numerous lessons, Scott said he saw the creation of such relationships within the community.

"We've met some people through the class," Scott said. "I have seen couples come into the class, not know each other, become friends because they were in that class, and then go do things together, including dance."



Scott and Sue first became interested in the dance class because it offered a chance for them to spend time together outside of their busy schedules, Scott said. However, as they started dancing outside of the classes, they realized they were more comfortable dancing in public.

"It's a relief from the day-to-day work schedule," Scott said. "It allows us to have a scheduled together activity. And there's this other benefit … it's nice to be comfortable with having a choice of things to do to music, depending on the beat."

During a trip to a scuba diving resort, Scott and Sue attended a dance party and, because of the community classes, were comfortable performing more complicated steps, such as the foxtrot, in front of others, according to Scott.

"We feel more comfortable dancing, and we feel alive when we're doing it," Scott said.

Both Sumerfield and Schlichtkrull agreed that teaching Allegheny classes and community lessons are entirely different experiences. Sumerfield said she teaches the academic classes and community lessons differently, which leads to a different attitude in participants that she and Schlichtkrull have observed.

"In the classes I teach for the students, there's an academic component related to it, and they're being graded, so it's very important to me that they get the material the way they're supposed to get the material," Sumerfield said. "For the community class, the goal is to get them around the dance floor and be able to do it and have fun and show off a little bit. Ultimately, in Ballroom I, that's also the goal, but because I have to put a grade on it, there's more to it."

Schlichtkrull said she sees a similar change in the level of stress from the Ballroom I classes to the community lessons.

"When the students are taking the class, they tend to be more stressed out at times, especially right before a test day," Schlichtkrull said. "They end up losing a little bit of the dance … (Community lessons are) more about having fun with the dances and just enjoying it, and they're not necessarily as focused on perfecting their move."

Sumerfield echoed Schlichtkrull appreciation for how fun the community lessons can be.

"The participants get very serious about it, but not so serious that they don't have fun," Sumerfield said. "(It's) just about how much we laugh."

Hammer resigns as head football coach

Athletic department begins national search process for new hire

By **OLIVIA BLAKESLEE**
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Contributed by KELSEY EVANS

Former head football coach William Hammer throws a football during team practice. Officially named to staff in January of 2016, Hammer has spent three football seasons at Allegheny College. Hammer was the football program's 34th coach and will be moving on to a new position at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Head Football Coach William Hammer will be leaving Allegheny College after three increasingly successful seasons.

Hammer announced his resignation on Monday, Jan. 14, 2019. Hammer began his new position as head football coach at Division III Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine this week.

In his three seasons at Allegheny, Hammer was instrumental in bringing victory back to the field, according to Assistant Athletic Director for Athletic Communication and Media Relations Sean King.

"Coach Hammer inherited a program that was winless, won one game his first year, three games his second year, and then this past season the Gators won six games, which is a remarkable improvement from a team that was winless whenever he first arrived," King said.

Hammer cited the excitement of "getting winning ways back to Allegheny College" as the best part of his time at the helm. According to Hammer, the fall 2018 season, which included a major win against the highly-ranked DePauw University, was particularly exciting.

"A lot of that credit — almost all of it — goes to the players," Hammer said. "That's the hardest part about leaving is the young men that I got to coach and mentor. But they've been left with the tools to do it, and I know they're going to continue to do well here."

Hammer said announcing the decision to his athletes was "awful" because of the bond he has developed with them during his time here.

"What I think a lot of people don't understand is we're with them every day nonstop, hours upon hours," Hammer said. "When our guys are having a problem, they come see us. All that mattered was them."

Vann Hunt, recruiting coordinator and member of the coaching staff, said the team took the news well and have remained focused in the off-season.

"The players are doing a great job of working hard in the weight room and they've really rallied together as a group," Hunt said.

Hunt said he and the other members of the coaching staff struggled with the news but are excited for Hammer to have the opportunity to be closer to family in Maine in his new position.

"It's a little tough obviously for us because we know how much success we've had under coach Hammer's guidance and leadership," Hunt said. "The great thing is because of the job that Coach Hammer did, the program is in a fantastic place right now."

Hammer, Hunt and King all said Allegheny and its athletic program have already proven to be appealing to several candidates who are seeking to fill Hammer's position.

"We've been very impressed with the interest so far — quantity and quality of applicants," King said.

Hammer said "quite a few" applicants have already reached out to him personally.

"They're all high-caliber coaches that would do great here," Hammer said.

Interim Athletic Director Bill Ross is in the initial stages of the hiring process as he works with a search committee to select candidates for phone interviews from their resumes. According to King, ensuring the process happens as quickly as possible is a top priority. He was unable to provide a specific timeline for the hiring of a new head coach.

"In any search of this magnitude, there are multiple variables," King said. "We want to move quickly because we realize that this a vital time for recruiting."

Hunt said he and fellow coaches have complete confidence in the athletic department's ability to navigate these variables.

"They have a great thought process in terms of what they're looking for so we just put our full faith in them," Hunt said. "I'm sure they're going to do a great job of finding someone who is going to come in and keep this thing going exactly the way we want it to."

In the interim period, Hunt will be serving as the "primary point of contact" for the football program. King said the department feels "very comfortable" with Hunt assuming additional leadership duties, citing his years of experience with Gator football.

Hunt and the team will continue off-season work as usual as the hiring process progresses.

"Our players are still here," Hunt said. "Those guys are going to continue to grow and develop, and that's going to be our focus moving forward."

Hammer said he had few concerns about his athletes' ability to continue the success they enjoyed under his leadership.

"What I love about them is they're a resilient group," Hammer said. "They're going to be in great shape. The new head coach is going to be a lucky guy because he's got a team that knows how to win and knows how to work."

Allegheny swim and dive trains, bonds on winter trip



Contributed by MAXWELL NIGGEL

The swim and dive team smiles during a break in training at Florida International University. The team spent a total of eight days practicing in Miami, Florida.



Contributed by HUNTER PIETRZYCKI

Hunter Pietrzycki, '21, practices a dive in Florida International University's diving well during the team's January training trip. Pietrzycki has brought the Gators five first-place finishes during the 2018-19 season.

By **WILLY WALKER**
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> "The team bonding that occurs on the training trip sets the tone for the rest of the semester."
>
> —MAXWELL NIGGEL
> Head coach,
> Allegheny swim and dive

While most of the students at Allegheny College spent their winter breaks at home inside from the cold, the swimming and diving team was hard at work training in the Florida heat.

Every winter break, the swimmers and divers head south on their annual training trip in someplace typically warmer than Meadville. This year, they spent eight days in the Miami suburbs.

"We stayed in a Residence Inn about 15 minutes away from the pool, which was at Florida International University," said Hunter Pietrzycki, '21.

The team attends these trips to train and strengthen team bonds. The coaches typically select places with warm weather in the winter so the team can swim outdoors, an advantage they cannot experience in January at Allegheny.

Even though the trip is optional due to monetary costs, all members of the team typically attend, which allows the teams' bond to strengthen, according to the attendees of the trip.

"We sacrifice a big piece of our Christmas break, so to help with that loss, it helps the team to be in a nice and sunny environment," said Head Swim and Dive Coach Max Niggel.

Training away from home and being in a different atmosphere has proven beneficial to the team, according to Pietrzycki.

Pietrzycki pointed out the benefits of training away from home rather than training on campus during winter break.

"It's usually more positive because the place you train at home can sometimes be a negative headspace, because you just associate it with only practice, whereas if you go somewhere different it can be a little bit more positive on what you do," Pietrzycki said.

The eight-day training trip consisted of two hour practices in the mornings and afternoons each day, but the team often had afternoons off. Team members played video games, took trips to Muscle Beach and even went snorkeling and fishing at Biscayne National Park.

"When we're not in the pool, we have some time to look around the area and hang out at the beach," said Rachel Montgomery, '20. This was her third training trip for the swim team, previously attending trips in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona.

"It's mainly to still keep us in shape for our conference meets coming up in February, but it's also to have fun, train outdoors and get some sun," Montgomery said. "It not only helps with our physical activity levels or performance in swimming, but also mentally helps to get away from the snow and cold and just have a lot of fun with our teammates."

The training pool in Florida is also bigger than the pool the team uses on Allegheny's campus.

"We get to train in a long course pool, which is what you would see in the Olympics," Niggel said.

The diving well was significantly deeper than the one on campus, 15 and three quarters feet deep compared to the 14 feet deep pool on campus.

"When the pool was short course it was huge, but when it was long course, it was about an eight to 10 lane pool," Pietrzycki said. "They had a separate diving well and a weight room."

Even with several afternoons off, the team's main goals were to train and stay in shape before the semester started. They often spent half of their practice sessions in the weight room.

"We train a little bit more when we're down there because we don't have the stress of classes, and we can be training like professional swimmers," Niggel said.

While some college teams attend training trips purely to train, the swim team prioritizes the bonding that occurs over the course of the trip.

"My two reasons for being here is training first, and the second is having fun, bonding as a team and growing closer," Niggel said. "The team bonding that occurs on the training trip sets the tone for the rest of the semester."

The team members and coaches agreed it was a successful trip, both training-wise and bonding-wise.

"It was a perfect balance of really hard training and a lot of fun," Pietrzycki said.