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Steam leak evacuates Walker Hall

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Residents of Walker Hall exited their building in response to a fire alarm on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 6. However, as students on the first floor returned to their rooms, they noticed something not part of a typical fire alarm: water pouring from an open ceiling tile in one of the floor's newly-renovated bathrooms, room 184A.

"During the renovation project, they had not properly capped some steam lines," said Director of Physical Plant Joseph Michael. "When we turned the heat back on in the building, of course there was a steam leak."

The alarm briefly went off again for the entire building later that morning, before continuing only on the second floor of the hall for several more hours. Michael said that there was no way to



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Water leaks from the ceiling of room 184A in Walker Hall on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 6.

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FH leads Alzheimer's march

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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The Allegheny College field hockey team led the "March to End Alzheimer's" on Saturday, Oct. 8, at Diamond Park in Downtown Meadville.

Allegheny College has not historically participated in the walk, but the decision to do so this year was impacted by the efforts of women's field hockey team forward Maya Francisco, '24.

"Alzheimer's is an issue that is very personal to me and something that I am deeply passionate about," Francisco said. "My father passed away due to Alzheimer's last year so doing this was very important to me."

The walk was organized by the Greater Pennsylvania chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Development Manager of Northwest Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Association Amy Ritzel said that the walk in Meadville is part of a broader awareness campaign.

"I am responsible for organizing four walks," Ritzel said. "These walks happen in Shenango Valley, Clarion County, Meadville and Warren."

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Photo contributed by **THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**
Members of the Allegheny College women's field hockey team walk together at the "March to End Alzheimer's" in Diamond Park on Saturday, Oct. 8.

New tuition support announced

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Allegheny announced its new Commitment to Access Program, which will be implemented starting in the 2023-24 academic year, in an email to the community on Thursday, Oct. 6.

The program "will cover 100 percent of tuition for Pennsylvania students from families earning an income of $50,000 or less" annually, according to the college's press release. CAP is available to both current and prospective students. Students only need to submit their Free Application for Federal Student Aid to be considered for the program.

Director of Financial Aid Natasha Eckart said CAP is the product of Allegheny trying to serve their population in a diverse manner.

"It's Allegheny's dedication to helping some of our higher-need students (afford an Allegheny education) and recognizing we have a commitment to those students," Eckart said. "Part of it is trying to draw attention to the fact that we are able and wanting to assist."

Vice President for Enrollment Management Ellen Johnson worked with Eckart and personnel in the marketing and communications department to develop CAP. One of Johnson's priorities during her one-and-a-half years at Allegheny so far has been assessing all of the college's financial aid and admissions programs to ensure they provide equitable access.

See ACCESS | *page 3*

Food Recovery Reborn

Pre-pandemic sustainability effort finds new life



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Rachel Pieto, '23, signs up for Allegheny's chapter of the Food Recovery Network during tabling hosted by London Dejarnette, '24, on Friday, Oct. 7.

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Students to "Make a Difference"

By **HASSAN JAVED**
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"Make a Difference Day" is an annual community service event organized by United Way of Northwest Pennsylvania and will take place this year on Saturday, Oct. 15.

This year's "Make a Difference Day" will be the first full-scale edition of the event since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Community Partner and Liaison for the Bonner Service Program and Office of Community Engagement Kyrié Doniz, '23.

"Last year and in 2020, many of the usual projects were not able to take place due to the restrictions imposed by (COVID-19)," Doniz said. "This year, we are back to our full scale of projects because people feel comfortable with volunteers entering their space."

Associate Dean and Director of Community Engagement Colin Hurley said that "Make a Difference Day" is about completing outstanding projects within the community.

Executive Director of United Way of Western Crawford County Marissa Lines discussed the schedule for this year's "Make a Difference Day."

"All the volunteers will gather Downtown to be briefed and to have breakfast," Lines said. "They will also be provided with a bagged lunch and then sorted into their project groups before parting from Diamond Park."

Although transportation from Diamond Park to project sites — which are dispersed around Crawford County — has been traditionally available, Doniz said that the program agenda this year does not include transportation for volunteers.

Hurley clarified that this does not mean that there will be no way for volunteers to reach their project sites.

"There will be transportation available for Allegheny students but perhaps not enough for every single volunteer," Hurley said. "Because of the effects of COVID-19, we were unable to estimate how many volunteers will join us so we cannot advertise transportation for everyone. However, I'm sure that everyone will be taken care of on the day."

Lines explained that volunteers will have a choice of 14 skilled projects and 35 general projects to choose from.

"Skilled projects are things such as construction, carpentry, electrical engineering and technical stuff like that," Lines said. "General projects include things like raking leaves, painting barns and even destroying buildings that are not being used."

"Make a Difference Day" is as much a celebration of the community as it is doing service around the community, according to Hurley.

"We have programs on campus, such as the Bonner program, through which Allegheny plays its part in the community daily," Hurley said. "'Make a Difference Day' is more of a celebration of everyone's continued hard work and an opportunity for exposure to our community."

Doniz added that "Make a Difference Day" is the main event celebrating community involvement and is done with the intention of "bridging the gap" between Allegheny and the community.

Another ongoing project similar to "Make a Difference Day," "Service Saturdays," allows students to do community service throughout the year on different occasions.

Lines said that Allegheny's collaboration with United Way for "Make a Difference Day" is invaluable.

"Around one-third of our volunteers are always Allegheny students," Lines said. "Without the college being involved, the event would not reach its true potential."

Lines has been organizing the event for the past eight years and mentioned that volunteers from Allegheny have been consistent in their involvement.

"Our numbers suffered significantly from (COVID-19), but Allegheny has always been an outlier in terms of community service involvement," Lines said. "This year is especially exciting as everyone wants to go out and get involved."

Along with Allegheny, Lines collaborated with the City of Meadville and the Meadville Medical Center to organize this year's "Make a Difference Day."

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In this week's Campus...

PROTESTS ERUPT IN IRAN

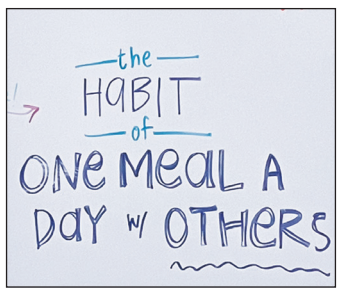
The death of Masha Amini, 22, for not wearing a hijab "properly" has roused protests in Iran and across the world for women's rights.

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"YOU ARE HOW YOU EAT"

Allegheny Christian Outreach met to discuss the spirtual and social aspects of eating with friends and classmates.

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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL PREVAILS

The Allegheny College women's volleyball team has continued its impressive run of form with a five-set victory against Geneva College.

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FRIDAY
H: 55° L: 45°
Rain: 15%
Sunrise: 7:32 a.m.
Sunset: 6:40 p.m.

SATURDAY
H: 62° L: 42°
Rain: 32%
Sunrise: 7:33 a.m.
Sunset: 6:39 p.m.

SUNDAY
H: 57° L: 42°
Rain: 17%
Sunrise: 7:34 a.m.
Sunset: 6:37 p.m.

MARCH *from page 1*

Francisco explained that she has been raising awareness about Alzheimer's since last year, but could not organize an event around it due to constraints imposed by COVID-19.

"I talked to (Field Hockey Head Coach Margaret Maclean) about how much raising awareness for this issue meant to me and she thought it would be a good idea to get others involved," Francisco said. "Last year was a tough season not only on the pitch but also off the pitch for many of us and things were very difficult to organize."

Saturday's walk is part of an ongoing awareness campaign by Francisco.

The women's field hockey team wore purple, the official color of the Alzheimer's awareness movement, to the Robertson Athletic Complex for their 3-0 victory over Oberlin College on Saturday, Oct. 1.

Francisco reached out to Ritzel to organize a collaboration between the Alzheimer's Association and the women's field hockey team.

"(Francisco) has been in contact with me since the beginning of the fall semester," Ritzel said. "I have been providing her with purple merchandise such as hairbands, and I helped her organize the 'purple game' against (Oberlin)."

Both Ritzel and Francisco hope that this collaboration will be a catalyst for further collaboration with Allegheny.

"I think it's a privilege that we get to lead the walk and represent Allegheny positively in the community," Francisco said. "I'm hoping that more students will support this and similar initiatives."

76 participants walked at the event on Saturday and raised $14,283.

After an opening address and briefing, participants set off toward Walnut Street down Diamond Square Park, past the Crawford County Courthouse and the Crawford County Judicial Center. The crowd then moved up Walnut Street before turning right onto Liberty Street. The participants went down Liberty Street before taking a right to Chestnut Street and ending in Diamond Square Park.

Ritzel emphasized the importance of such events to build college and community relations.

"There is a lot of potential for the Allegheny community and the Meadville community to collaborate which isn't being fulfilled," Ritzel said. "It's important that students feel confident enough to take something they're passionate about and find helping hands within the community."

Apart from their work in raising awareness for Alzheimer's, the women's field hockey team has been active off the field.

"We've also been focusing on things such as breast cancer awareness and mental health awareness for students and student-athletes," Maclean said.

Maclean said that it is important to her that her players feel confident enough to speak with her about their issues or things they are passionate about.

"I have a policy which presents me as my player's friend before their coach or mentor," Maclean said. "I believe that when players feel comfortable to be themselves, they play their best."

Francisco agreed with Maclean.

"I think that we are blessed as athletes to have others around us, in the form of team members and coaches, who care about us and our wellbeing," Francisco said. "I feel like that gives us a responsibility to look out for others."

Maclean believes that good team spirit is essential to on and off-the-field success as it instills joint responsibility within her players.

"Everyone on the team understands that they, firstly, have a responsibility to play their part on the pitch and, secondly, that they have a responsibility to be good people off the pitch," Maclean said.

Consequently, Maclean attributed the women's field hockey team's recent winning record of 10-2 to her team's chemistry and understanding.

"Winning was always a part of the plan but what's more important is the example the girls are setting for everyone and the positive light in which they have been representing Allegheny," Maclean said. "My focus is on sustaining this high run of form on and off the pitch."



Photo contributed by **THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION**

The Allegheny College women's field hockey team attends the "March to End Alzheimer's" at Diamond Park on Saturday, Oct. 11.

MDD *from page 1*

"I met with the organizing committee initially in May to discuss the event," Lines said. "It is the member organizations of the organizing committee that not only provide volunteers but also the partner organizations which benefit from the volunteers' service."

Doniz mentioned that she has been in contact with Lines throughout and since the beginning of the fall semester.

"Although my role is newly created, I have been working with (Lines) even before this year," Doniz said. "Because of my work in Bonner, I have made connections with community members and organizations which have been useful in organizing Allegheny's involvement in this year's event."

Hurley said that "Make a Difference Day" is a project he has been working on since his first day at Allegheny, although he has observed the event before during a visit to Meadville for Americorps.

"This is my first semester working at Allegheny, although I have been here in the past," Hurley said. "Since day one, 'Make a Difference Day' has been on my radar because of its significance to the college and to the wider community."

> There are many misconceptions that Allegheny students and community members have about one another that are often proven wrong through collaborative events such as this."
>
> — COLIN HURLEY
> Associate Dean and Director of Community Engagement, Allegheny College

"Make a Difference Day" serves a greater purpose than getting important work done as it promotes an understanding between diverse members of the Crawford County community, according to Hurley.

"For example, if a group of Allegheny students from different parts of the country and the world decided to rake the leaves of a local's yard, they would get to enter a space they would otherwise never have a chance or reason to do so," Hurley said.

Hurley believes that "Make a Difference Day" also promotes a sense of communal pride and knowledge across members.

"If you take a step back and think, there is so much to the community around us," Hurley said. "There are many misconceptions that Allegheny students and community members have about one another that are often proven wrong through collaborative events such as this."

Although the pandemic has affected this community gathering event in recent years, Doniz hopes that this year's edition will serve as a catalyst for positive change to come.

"I know that many students on campus are aware and passionate about different issues," Doniz said. "Let this event be an opportunity and incentive to do something about the things you care deeply about."

LEAK *from page 1*

shut the alarm off while the sensor was still connected to the system.

"The sensor was still going off, saying, 'hey, there's something wrong in here,' and that's why we couldn't do the reset on the panel, because there was still a fault," Michael said. "The only way to do it is to remove it from the system, and there's a high risk when we do that, so it's better that we do the proper thing and fix the problem at hand."

Smoke detectors can mistake steam as evidence of a fire, as steam and smoke behave similarly to the devices.

The source of the leak appeared to be the bathroom directly above 184A, room 295A. As water cascaded through an open ceiling panel in room 184A, the floor of room 295A, located on the second level of Walker, was coated in water, and one stall was marked with a sign that read "Temporarily Out of Order."

However, according to Michael, 295A's problems are unrelated to the steam leak that set the alarm off, though the two issues are linked by their broader overarching cause.

"We basically gutted those bathrooms completely, down to nothing, and started from scratch," Michael said. "Everything works in the design, but it doesn't always work in practicality, especially when you start putting a bunch of people in there and using it. It's unfortunately part of the process. We always hope it works perfectly when we start it but it doesn't always work out that way, so it's good to know when something isn't functioning as it should."

According to Isaac Hammer, '25, who used to live on the second floor of Walker, room 295A has had a rocky start this semester. Hammer moved out of the hall on Oct. 6.

"The state of the bathroom was not great even before that day," Hammer said. "I know a couple toilets had flooded for a while and stalls were out of order. There were a couple stalls that I just would not go into ever because the conditions were just constantly bad."

One stall in particular, Hammer said, flooded three times.

"It was just not really great trying to live in that space," Hammer said. "That same toilet, I don't know what happened, but there was like really gross water, just all across the floor, going out of the stall and into the rest of the bathroom."

Hammer also said that issues were not limited to the toilets.

"There was one time when the lights were actually out for a full day in the bathroom," Hammer said. "I think it was an issue with the motion sensor because they were out in both the main bathroom and the gender-inclusive one that's slightly further down."

Michael — who said he was not aware of any electrical issues in Walker bathrooms — said his office cannot solve a problem if they are not aware of it happening.

"We don't go in the bathrooms every day, because we try to respect peoples' privacy and space," Michael said. "As part of the head RA and RA training, we typically go through the checks and make sure the RAs understand that they really are Physical Plant's eyes and ears out there, because we try to respect that space."

Residence Life Coordinator Annie Custer, who oversees RAs in Walker, said she had not heard of any issues with the building's restrooms prior to being asked about them during an interview.

"If you ever see something on the weekend or throughout the night, please report it, because those are communal restrooms," Custer said. "Residence Life, and all the residents who live there, want to love where they live. It's no fun using a communal bathroom that other people use and are leaving dirty, so we're really committed to try our best to fix those in a timely manner."



SAMI MIRZA/**THE CAMPUS**

Water leaks through a large gap in the ceiling of the newly renovated room 184A in Walker Hall.

Hammer said they never reported these concerns to the Office of Residence Life, saying that they "kind of just tried to go about my day."

When Hammer decided to move, they initially wanted to stay in Walker, as it is one of the college's gender-inclusive halls, and were given a room on the first floor of the building. However, that room had its own issues.

"There were so many issues where the carpet was peeling up, there were weird, rust-looking stains on the ground," Hammer said. "There were drawers broken, there were shelves broken, there was a closet that was broken. It was just really bad conditions that I didn't want to live in and that kind of was upsetting because I wanted to specifically be in that building."

Throughout this process, Hammer said that the Residence Life team was "pretty good at communicating."

"I don't ever think I was sitting there waiting too long for any email," Hammer said. "Both times when I went to move, the email was sent out pretty quickly, the key was ready and it was a good process."

RECOVERY *from page 1*

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Most food produced by Allegheny College's kitchens winds up in students' stomachs. What is not eaten by the end of the day is thrown into the college's compost system and recycled into the Carr Hall Garden. One group — a revival of the Allegheny College chapter of the Food Recovery Network — is seeking to improve on this system by packing unused food and sending it to local community groups.

"As far as food waste management goes, the compost method is not terrible, but it is not closing a social feedback loop — meaning that the food could be serving a social purpose," said London Dejarnette, '24, the president of the revived FRN chapter. "It's not (serving that purpose) when it's being simply composted. Even though that is the green option, it doesn't necessarily mean that it's ethical or sustainable communally."

According to Director of Sustainability Kelly Boulton, '02, the problem Dejarnette is trying to solve is a byproduct of the way that Brooks Dining Hall plans for the amount of food needed per meal.

"They've got an educated guess (of how many students will eat each day), but they always have to plan for the most students that are going to come so they don't run out of food," Boulton said. "Unfortunately, there's always going to be some food waste, so if we can find a way to find a second audience for that, then it's not waste, it's just shared."

The FRN was founded in 2011 by students at the University of Maryland — College Park after they noticed extra dining hall food in the trash every night. In the 11 years since, the organization estimates it has donated just under 11 million pounds of food, or around 9 million meals.

Allegheny's chapter of the FRN was started in 2013 and lasted until just before the pandemic hit in 2020, donating a total of 5,371 pounds over the seven-year period. Among the locations they delivered to was the Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program.

"We would absolutely welcome the return of the program and would partner however is possible," said CHAPS Executive Director Lynn McUmber.

McUmber said that recovered food would go to CHAPS' Drop-In Center, a space she called the "cornerstone of our agency." It is a support space open to all, with computers for an online connection, a pool table and programs and communal activities. On the weekends, CHAPS offers some meals as well.

"Meals are really important to help people with limited means," McUmber said. "They're also very important because many people with mental health challenges or housing challenges are alone, and eating alone and preparing meals alone usually is not very fun. It's just much healthier for oneself to be able to break bread together and share."

Pre-pandemic, excess food from Allegheny's dining hall would support extra meals at the center up to two nights a week. The drop-in center's kitchen would be able to store and reheat food for extended periods of time

"We have a nice kitchen and we have plenty of freezer space, so it's always worked well," McUmber said. "Usually, we sign some sort of a memo of understanding or a collaborative agreement … there's always a manager on duty downstairs and they know to receive the food and put it in storage, and they know to give the students that deliver the now-washed containers — that's all in place if it were to happen again. Hopefully we would be able to make a connection with whoever was coordinating it, as not a lot has changed here."

According to Boulton, the key to the program's pre-pandemic success was a few core students who were the program's strongest supporters. These students kept in touch with where the food was going and provided transportation for the food. This model worked, so long as there were enough dedicated leaders to keep things going.

That supply of leaders seems to have run out by the 2018-19 academic year, when there were no recorded recoveries for the chapter — a far cry from the 908 pounds recovered in 2017-18. The last entry in the chapter's records show that 236 pounds were donated in the fall semester of 2019 to CHAPS, St. James' Haven and St. Agatha's Church.

"This is for our first semester of Food Rescue, which we considered a success, due to the consistent hard work from our volunteers and our growing network of partner organizations," state the notes for this last recovery.

Boulton attributed the lack of recovery to established leaders graduating.

"Of course, students turned over, and so even before the pandemic, the program had fallen apart just because there weren't students who were committed to it in a systemic — maybe just more consistent way," Boulton said. "So it was already kind of falling apart and then the pandemic of course, just put it to rest."

When Dejarnette came to Allegheny in 2020, they said they reached out to Parkhurst General Manager Stephanie Lang about the program but were told the program was no longer possible. After the college switched dining providers on July 1, Dejarnette wrote to Aramark and found them far more willing to accommodate the food recovery effort.

Dejarnette is currently in the process of gathering volunteers and educating students about the recovery process. They said that a lot of the students who have signed up to volunteer their time for the program are members of the college's Bonner Program, which offers students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds access to education. Bonner students receive a stipend equivalent to 10 hours of Federal Work-Study pay in exchange for 10 hours of community service at one of a few pre-designated "sites." Allegheny Bonner students work at sites like the Center for Family Services, the Meadville Market House and the Tamarack Wildlife Center.

Dejarnette is currently working to have the FRN chapter count as a Bonner site, which they say is why so many Bonners are flocking to volunteer.

"I think that identifies more of an issue with Bonner right now, because both of the Bonner coordinators quit last year, and we have a completely new staff and they're still trying to get acclimated to the entire system," Dejarnette said. "A lot of students have not been placed with their sites yet, and so a lot of students are just eager to get a paycheck at this point."

Boulton said that integrating the chapter with the Bonner program could help with some of the long-term consistency problems the program faced pre-pandemic.

"My sense is that that could help with the stability and the consistency of it going forward," Boulton said. "We haven't tested that theory, but I hope that it is integrated with the Bonner program. They could still recruit other volunteers, but those Bonners are already going, so it seems like we should build the program on what's already existing."

Dejarnette's current plan is to take food into Meadville one night a week, using a combination of the chapter's board and outside volunteers from Bonner and other programs that require service hours.

"What we see happening is that organizations that require service hours or sororities and fraternities, we could see them signing up for this — doing a week where they all come in and do this," Dejarnette said. "What we're hoping is that we just have like a group of students who, each week, come and help despite the fact that they have service hours to gain, or want Bonner hours."

Next semester the program may extend to two nights a week if enough students volunteer, Dejarnette added.

"It's just been a matter of making sure that everything internally is organized so that when we do start bringing in volunteers, it's not unorganized and unimpactful," Dejarnette said. "We want to make sure that we have everything internally organized prior to going to a community partner."

ACCESS *from page 1*

"We looked at our current student body trends and also that focus on our historical commitment as an institution for over 200 years ensuring we weren't just an institution that came from upper-class families," Johnson said.

With a sticker price of $67,406 for the 2022-23 academic year, Johnson said many prospective students who experience financial limitations immediately discount the possibility of attending Allegheny. To address this, Johnson designed CAP with two objectives in mind.

"First, to ensure we were making the college as affordable as possible for students," Johnson said. "Second, providing more transparency into the financial aid process."

Johnson said most prospective students from low-income backgrounds do not realize how much financial aid Allegheny offers.

"The reality is, for many of our students who meet this criteria right now, we actually are already providing full tuition in scholarships and grants," Johnson said. "They didn't realize it because it wasn't packaged in a way that made it very transparent."

In this way, Johnson sees CAP as a way to increase publicity around already-existing Allegheny financial aid packages.

Because Allegheny has already been covering much of low-income students' tuition, Johnson said CAP will not place a new financial burden on the college. For eligible students whose tuition was not already covered, the additional funds will come from donors, friends of the college and the institution.

"We will not be moving scholarships or grant funding from other students into this program, so it is on top of the financial aid that we already award to students," Johnson said.

Additionally, Johnson expects CAP to benefit low-income students of color who may not have otherwise considered Allegheny a viable option.

"In our outreach promoting this program, we specifically did outreach to some of the community-based organizations that we partner with for student recruitment that specifically work with students of color," Johnson said. "Definitely this should have a positive impact on our (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) population on campus, but I don't want to conflate the assumption that those are the same students always as well."

Meanwhile, Eckart said the proportion of students of color benefiting from CAP was not a central focus in relation to the initiative of the program.

"Our focus was just high-need individuals in general," Eckart said. "I suppose you could see a byproduct of that in a lot of different ways."

Cam Lesher, '24, would have qualified for CAP during all of his time at Allegheny, but said that despite his low-income status, Allegheny did not provide him with sufficient financial aid prior to the recent implementation of the program.

"I'm really frustrated because of all the narratives that I had been given about the financial situation of the college and the almost inability for them to provide me with anything," Lesher said. "I remember, probably, the meeting before last with financial aid, I was expressing my expected family contribution is $0 and (Allegheny) is not even close to that. And the response was that the college doesn't have an endowment that is sufficient to cover EFC."

Lesher is also a member of the Bonner Program and said there are frequent discussions among participants about financial limitations and not being able to afford an Allegheny education. Lesher said every single student he's known who dropped out of Allegheny would have qualified for CAP.

"For this to come about … it feels like, well, how long was I being lied to and where was this information earlier?" Lesher said.

There are approximately 100 current students who qualify for CAP, and Johnson said she hopes to enroll 50 first-years who qualify for the program in the 2023-24 academic year. There is currently no limit to the number of students who can enroll and benefit from CAP funding, and Johnson said Allegheny still plans to commit to a need-blind admissions process.

"If it really jumpstarts at a higher level than we would anticipate, maybe at some point we'd have to consider that, but at this time we don't have a cap in place," Eckart said.

Students who qualify for CAP are still expected to pay room and board and mandatory fees, which Eckart said add up to an average of $14,456 for the 2022-23 academic year. She said students have options for how to pay this sum, including taking out federal or private loans and receiving outside scholarships. Johnson hopes CAP will be of significant help for students struggling to afford higher education.

"We're really excited about the program," Johnson said. "I think it should have some really great benefits for our current students and future Allegheny students as well."

Despite his history with Allegheny's financial aid office, Lesher agreed CAP is a step in the right direction.

"I am completely happy with what they have done," Lesher said. "It's just a lot of frustration within me and happiness for the future and sadness that it wasn't here two years ago."

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.

October 6, 2022
Theft
Carnegie Hall
Unfounded

October 10, 2022
Theft
Bousson Nature Reserve
Active Investigation

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Scholarships are socialist

What fellowships can teach us about policy

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**
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I spent my fall break in an ultimately futile attempt to shake off Athens jetlag. I'm not complaining; the seven-hour time jump that had burrowed into my brain was a constant — if somewhat annoying — reminder that I recently spent a life-changing week in Greece.

Two weeks ago I, along with about 20 other students, attended the Athens Democracy Forum through the Global Liberal Arts Alliance. Throughout the entire week, our plane tickets, hotel rooms, meals and passes to the ADF were covered. At bare minimum, the only things we had to pay for were cab fare and dinner on the last night. In addition, we were given workspaces on the campus of the American College of Greece and participated in special programming for GLAA student delegates — lectures, workshops and the like.

It was a sweet deal, though not one-sided. All GLAA students in attendance went through an application process in the spring and, once selected, participated in fairly regular summer preparatory work. Now that the Forum is over, we are expected to generate reports about ADF panels. All in all, I found this work a small price to pay for the chance to spend a mostly-free week in Athens meeting new people and learning new things.

It was nevertheless difficult to shake the feeling that I was immensely privileged to be there — even though I applied, even though I worked hard and earned it. I was offered this opportunity by virtue of my being a student at a specific private liberal arts college. I am fortunate to have the support from both my family and my institution to afford such an education. I am sure that for every bright GLAA delegate at the ADF there were one hundred people, just as bright, who can't afford tuition. How are they supposed to live up to their full potential without the access that privelege provides?

That week, I did not have to worry about my hours at work or bills or mounds of homework or what was for dinner. I was free to spend hours of the day constructing actionable solutions to fix democracy with other students from across the globe.

I was amazed at the work that we got done in such a short span of time. The GLAA students were all intelligent and eager to collaborate; there was more than one time where I discovered a group of students huddled together at breakfast or dinner in a thoughtful political debate. We all worried about the schoolwork we were missing, of course — I still haven't completely caught up — but generally found in that week the freedom to push our philosophical and intellectual boundaries and the opportunity to behave as fully-contributing citizens of the world.

Sure, you can argue that this is because we were a group of high-achievers to begin with — a cohort of self-proclaimed nerds who got golden tickets to the nerd factory. But I think this points at a simpler, more universal truth: when people are freed from certain burdens and have their basic needs met, they are given the space to thrive.

Now transfer the principle to people less privileged than I am. The minimum wage is raised and undervalued workers are no longer barred from a livable income and the right to free time. A college student is relieved of the burden of crushing student debt and now feels that they have a right to study what they love, not what will make them money. A person suffering from a chronic illness does not need to choose between their life and livelihood to receive proper medical care.

It's not a new idea, and I'm sure this is already generating a fair number of folks who would accuse me of one any one of those terrible -isms: utopianism, socialism or, bless my heart, optimism. It feels nearly impossible to write about this stuff in the politically-charged climate of the 2022 midterms. Stick with me.

I think most people would agree that fellowship and scholarship opportunities such as the one I received are good, if not all for the same reason. At their core, these opportunities are a pact: you do your part in some way, through work, study or both, and we will make sure that your needs are met. Free from certain burdens of modern adult life — namely financial — you will have the opportunity to grow and explore as a person. It is a calculated investment in a person in the hopes that they may, through this opportunity, become somebody who positively impacts the global community.

> "At their core, these opportunities are a pact: you do your part in some way, through work, study or both, and we will make sure that your needs are met."
>
> —SYDNEY EMERSON
> Class of 2023

Plenty of people who celebrated the fact that I received such an opportunity are also opposed to things like universal healthcare, forgiving student debt or raising the minimum wage — policies which effectively operate along the same system as fellowships and scholarships. I would bet that if we invest in a people's health or eliminate their debt in the hopes that they may now be free to change the world we will see an awful lot of people doing incredible things. Or, at the very least, we will see a much happier global population. That sounds like an ideal worst-case scenario to me.

In the digital age, Broadway remains inaccessible

By **VICTORIA SMITH**
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It is no surprise to anyone that knows me, or has overheard me talking, or seen me loitering around the Vuk that I am a fan of Broadway musicals. In fact, some argue I am too much of a fan. But despite my never-ending opinions and expertise on Broadway musicals, I have only stepped foot on Broadway once; during my senior year of high school, 50 students from Arizona, myself included, flew to New York to see "Wicked."

"But Victoria," you ask, "how does such a devoted fan only travel to Broadway once in her 21 years of living?" Well, dear reader, it's quite simple — my middle-class family did not have anywhere near the extra money to indulge their overly-excitable daughter on a trip to New York. They took me to touring productions and I was an avid listener of cast recordings instead. When my Spotify playlists were not enough, I even turned to slightly less legal methods of consumption: bootleg recordings. From YouTube "slime tutorials" to Google Drive links distributed over Tumblr DMs, I have seen many more shows than my financial situation would have ever allowed.

This, however, is not an article about the complex understandings of bootlegs and distributing illegal recordings. It is quite the opposite, because my favorite method of watching the shows young Victoria only dreamed of watching is professional recordings. Affectionately called "pro-shots" or "pro-records," these are the gold standard of musical distribution. I mean, everyone and their mother watched "Hamilton" when it premiered on Disney+. When you look back at Broadway history, many important musical staples have a filmed version. Broadway legend Stephen Sondheim, may he rest in peace, gifted generations to come with recordings of "Sunday in the Park with George" and "Company."

The PBS series "Great Performances" has been living up to the name for decades, providing audiences from Pennsylvania to Arizona with high quality musicals to enjoy from their living room couches. I would never have realized the beauty that is the 2016 revival of "Falsettos" without watching it on PBS. During the pandemic and theatrical shutdown, these recordings became the lifeblood of the theatre industry. We relied on them; we loved them.

If these recordings are so beloved, why are there not more of them? The answer is far more complicated than it really needs to be. It all comes down to the economics of Broadway. When a musical comes to Broadway, the producers are worried about one thing and one thing only: making back their money with enough profit to roll over into the next investment. The shows that live are the shows that sell tickets, become tourist attractions and surpass expectations. Do we need to keep seeing "The Lion King?" Probably not. But will it survive, most likely.

There is a great concern that if a show gets recorded and distributed from coast to coast, no one will see it live. This is an absolutely false notion. As an avid consumer of live theatre, if I had the opportunity to see a show live on Broadway, I would not care if I had seen or heard or been in that show 700 times. I would go see it anyway. I own the "Phantom of the Opera" pro-recording on iTunes and can watch at the drop of a hat, but don't think I haven't considered finding a way to see it before it closes on Broadway next year.

Personal preference aside, this premise truly makes no sense in the game of Broadway. Audiences want to see productions, plots and people they know. A middle-class family from Oklahoma is not gonna go see some new, deeply personal musical from an up-and-coming playwright if they have never heard the songs, seen the actors or experienced it in some way. "The Lion King" sells because the tourists know exactly what to expect.

By having professional recordings regularly released, you encourage people to drop $400 on something they can trust. Professional recordings also introduce a new generation of theatre lovers and makers to the joys of live performances, especially live performances on Broadway. Let the films serve as an introduction to the world of professional theatre. How do I know I'm supposed to love Stephanie J. Block if I have never seen her command a stage in the flesh?

As a theatre-maker myself, there is one argument against professional recordings that tends to hit a little harder than the rest. To film a piece of theatre is to make it eternal. And while the attention-seeker in me loves that idea, it also terrifies me. Don't get me wrong, I am beyond grateful that I can watch a preserved performance of Bernadette Peters singing her heart out to a young Mandy Patinkin.

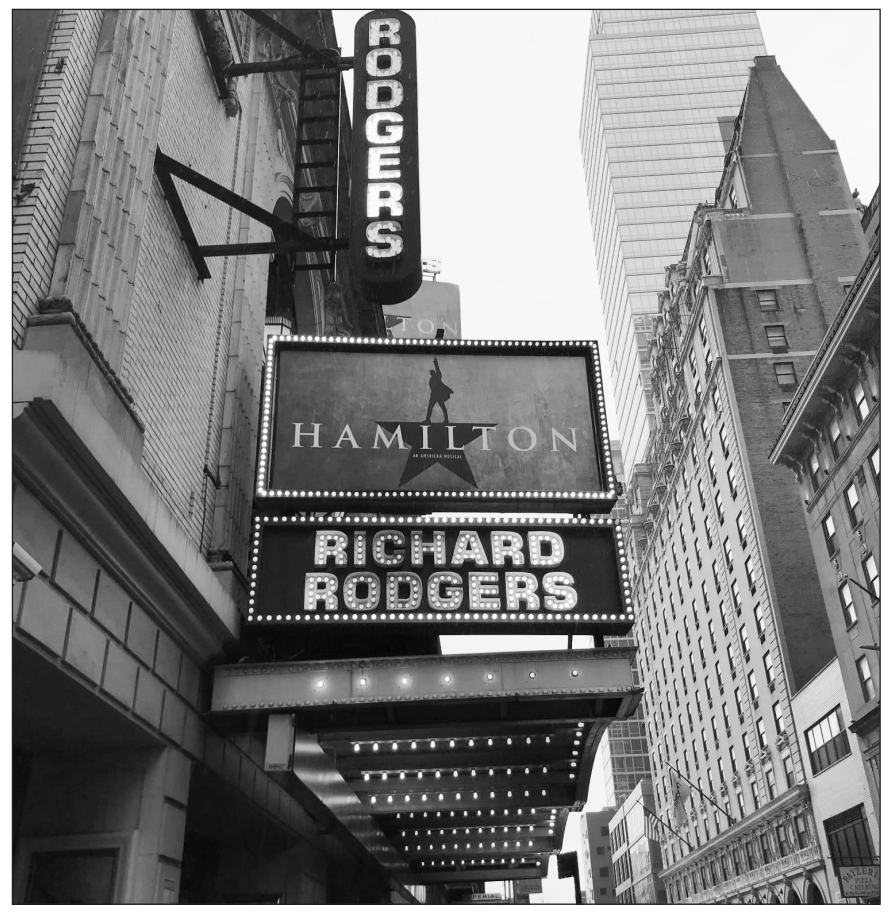


Photo contributed by Victoria Smith
"Hamilton," which opened at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in 2015, was professionally filmed and released on Disney+ in 2020. The blockbuster musical broke box office records in its first year on Broadway.

On the other hand, a show is not supposed to be immortalized. One performance, one interpretation, one decent night of theatre is not supposed to be able to be replayed over and over again. Rather, every night a show goes up, it is different. An actor takes a breath at the beginning of a line one night and at the end of the line the next. An audience reacts with laughter and applause at a joke on Sunday but on Thursday, you hear boos and gasps. That is the beauty of theatre — it evolves. Every time a new director lays hands on a script, it enters a brand new life, sometimes unrecognizable to an audience familiar with the original.

This here, this idea of temporality, is what will make Broadway live beyond professional recordings. We can watch the filmed version of some random Saturday night over and over again. But we also want to see Sunday and Monday and the Saturday after that too. Not only will we purchase the film, but we will purchase tickets ad infinitum when we fall in love. Once we get a taste, we will forever crave more. And theatre lives to sing "one day more" — Les Mis joke, anyone?

Broadway is an extremely classist presentation of theatre. If you are lucky and have the funds to buy a ticket or enter a lottery, you can see the show. This is not what the theatre industry needs. In Ancient Greece, performances of drama were mandatory religious festivals with audiences including the poorest citizens to the highest officials. It is an art form for everyone. If we want the joys of theatre to continue to be shared from generation to generation, it needs to be accessible. Don't worry, the rich will still pay their $200 to sip their themed cocktails and enjoy a night at the theater. But the rest of us, desperate for that connection we can only get by viewing a play or musical, deserve to enjoy the show just as much — from the orchestra, mezzanine or La-Z-Boy.

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Iranian protests: Fighting for women's rights

By **CAROLINE MAYE**
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On Sept. 13, Mahsa Amini, 22, was arrested in Iran for not wearing a hijab properly. Three days later, she died in police custody, sparking outrage and a series of ongoing protests about women's rights both in Iran and worldwide.

"The state hasn't made it a safe place for women to exist," said Treasurer of the Islamic Cultural Association Hussain Minhas, '24.

While it was ultimately Amini's death that set off the protests, the political climate in Iran has been unstable for a while. According to Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies Matthew Mitchell, a declining Iranian economy has been the cause for protests in the last few years.

"More recently, there have been protests almost every year since 2017 over prices for food and fuel, unemployment and so on," Mitchell said.

Alternatively, Minhas pointed to the strict authoritarian nature of the state for the reason behind the protests.

"They (the Iranian government) really don't care about people's lives," Minhas said. "It's just an authoritarian state trying to maintain control over the people."

The government has taken what some consider to be extreme steps in controlling these protests. According to the Washington Post, the Iranian government has shut down the internet in some parts of the country and sent out security forces that have beaten many protestors. These actions led opposition groups to pursue more extreme measures to share their messages.

According to the BBC, a resistance group known as "Adalat Ali" (Ali's Justice), hacked into state television, protesting the state with captions like "our youths' blood is dripping off your paws," on Oct. 8.

This message in particular was a response to deaths of more than 150 protestors, many being beaten by Iranian security forces, since Sept. 17, according to the BBC. One such death was that of Sarina Esmaeilzadeh, 16, who was killed while protesting. Later on, the government covered up her death, coercing her parents into saying that she was suicidal and jumped off of a building, according to the Washington Post. Esmaeilzadeh's death further fueled the outrage of protestors.

The government's abuse of power in responding to these protests has led many to condemn it. Religious Studies major Fenn Kathman, '23, believes that the government has handled the protests "horribly."

> I see this month's protests in Iran as part of a larger history of women around the world organizing protests against injustice, repression and violence."
>
> —MATTHEW MITCHELL
> Assistant Professor of History and Religious Studies
> Allegheny College

"People want to be free," Kathman said. "You can't really control how people act, dress, talk, everything and then not expect them to fight back."

They argued that the role of the government in reacting to protests is to keep people safe, not to shut down the protest entirely. Kathman connected the Iranian government response to these protests to similar Black Lives Matter protests during the Trump presidency, critiquing both governments of using force to overpower the people instead of working with them to make a change. They described such responses as "the complete opposite of a good idea."

"I think they could handle it a lot better in the sense that they could work with the people," Kathman said.

Kathman further condemned the government's law forcing women to wear hijabs. They cited opposite laws in France and argued that both countries' policies were wrong.

"There should be the ability to decide whether you want to wear (a hijab) or not," Kathman said.

Minhas shared this opinion, adding on that countries like France and Israel are hypocritical in their support of the Iranian protesters when their laws restrict women's choices in a similar manner.

Despite both viewing the laws as wrong, the two students held different views on their impact on women's rights.

For Kathman, these laws and subsequent protests are yet another event in a trend of declining women's rights worldwide.

"My friend likes to say that we are back in the sixties, but we don't even have the fun dresses or the fun music," Kathman said.

Minhas, on the other hand, believed that although these laws suppress women's rights, overall the advances in women's rights have outweighed the setbacks.

"Men in power are doing a lot to try and swing the direction of women's rights back the other way, but I think that eventually it will turn in the right direction," Minhas said.

Mitchell agreed with Minhas, stating that these protests showcase women working together to make a change in the world, and thus marking an important event in women's history. He remarked, however, that it is important to note that wearing a hijab is not a sign of women's oppresion.

"We shouldn't conflate wearing the hijab with women's repression generally," Mitchell said, "The case of Iran, however, is different. In Iran, the mandatory nature of the hijab is used as a method to control women's bodies."

Women choose to wear hijabs for many reasons, including religious, nationalist and other personal reasons. As the New York Times explains, in Iran, wearing the hijab became a symbol of support for the caliphate during the reign of the shahs.

During his rule, the shah banned women from wearing hijabs as he wanted Iran to look more Western. After the Islamic Revolution, many chose to wear the hijab to show their support for the newly established government.

The complex history of the hijab in Iran shows that the issue is not the hijab, but strict laws requiring or banning it.

Both Minhas and Mitchell agreed that despite international pressures, Iran is unlikely to make any critical changes to their legal code.

However, there are many ways to support protesters and put more pressure on the government to produce change.

"The best thing (to do) would be to directly contribute to women's organizations in Iran," Minhas said.

Minhas also advocated for people to become more politically aware and active. Kathman shared this sentiment, encouraging younger generation to become more involved.

"If you can't vote or don't vote, then you are just kind of complicit," Kathman said, "If you do vote and everyone else votes, then we can actually make change."

Ultimately, while there are many competing viewpoints of the Iranian protests, one thing is for sure. Women around the world are joining together to fight for change. People are putting their lives on the line to make a difference. How far they will succeed is yet to be seen.

Multiple members of ICA who wear hijabs declined to comment for this story.

Athens Democracy Forum

Opinion editor reflects on international conference

By SYDNEY EMERSON
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Two weeks ago, I was Allegheny's delegate at the Athens Democracy Forum, an opportunity granted through the college's membership in the Global Liberal Arts Alliance. Together with twenty-odd students hailing from Ohio to Slovakia to Ecuador and beyond, I spent three days around some of the most beautiful sites in Athens — the Stoa, the Academy, the Zappeion — listening to the 21st century's brightest minds unpack challenges democracy currently faces. Bookending the actual forum itself were lectures, discussions and workshops for the cohort of GLAA students through the American College of Greece. I met interesting people, I learned a few words in Greek and I ate my body weight in tzatziki. All in all, I had a great week.

When I first committed to writing this article, I told the editors that I would have "something" to give them about the ADF. I was hoping that I could report back about the state of democracy around the world or the groundbreaking claims made right before my eyes. I have quickly discovered that it is nearly impossible to write such an objective report in an engaging way without resorting to editorializing. Besides, there is much to unpack from my three days at the ADF. It would be a disservice to write a play-by-play account — the entire event has been published on YouTube by now and is free to all. I'm the Opinion Editor; opine I shall.

For three days, I heard again and again about an enigmatic gang — The Youth. The Youth need a voice. The Youth are unreachable. The Youth have a new way of doing things that we do not understand. The Youth are concerned with things beyond our ken. They seemed like a mercurial and terrifying bunch, able to effect change in the world yet too lazy or addicted to TikTok to care. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that I am a member of this horde.

Throughout the entire forum, The Youth were repeatedly and frequently mentioned but very rarely engaged in the events. It was hard not to feel as if we were there as props — demographically-mandated seat-fillers that allowed ADF attendees to rest easy in the belief that they are engaging in a truly democratic conversation about democracy. It is telling that, at a forum solely concerned with liberal, representative democracy, none of the so-called Youth were members of a panel entitled "Bridging the Intergenerational Gap" — they were only afforded the opportunity to ask the panelists questions. It is even more telling that one of the panelists argued that young people should not be given a seat at the political table and was met with applause by the room.

This is not to say that we were neglected. Over the summer, the GLAA delegates worked to synthesize our individual thoughts on panel topics into a one-minute-long video. A handful were selected to represent the "Youth Perspective" at the Forum and were played before their relevant panels. My video about banning the algorithm was shown before "Rethinking Media: Truthsayers and Naysayers," a panel about disinformation, journalism and social media.

As the saying goes, I was just happy to be nominated, and obviously glad that my opinions were shared before a wider audience of journalists, politicians and intellectuals. But there is something slightly insulting — some small bit of tokenism — that comes with your hours of hard thinking and writing being reduced to "The Youth Perspective."

> It is even more telling that one of the panelists argued that young people should not be given a seat at the political table and was met with applause by the room."
>
> —SYDNEY EMERSON
> Class of 2023

I do not believe that any single person at the Forum would declare themselves as representative of an entire larger demographic. Roger Cohen does not represent every journalist on the planet. Jeffrey Sachs does not represent all economists. Ban Ki-moon would not claim to represent all South Koreans, or even all former U.N. Secretaries General.

Likewise, my Youth Perspective was that the algorithm should be banned, but I am sure that there are plenty of people my age who think the algorithm is great — it streamlines their information intake and optimizes their time on sites like Instagram and TikTok. In the eyes of those who assemble an event like ADF, though, we are an intellectual and cultural monolith with our smartphones and slang. We are all The Youth — a demeaning title that, on top of everything else, makes me feel like I'm a delinquent in "West Side Story."

This is all part of a bigger problem with the ADF: It is designed, predominantly, as a round of applause for the democratic world. The panels were quick and snappy; they left no time for questions or comments at the end. There were plenty of scathing hypotheses put forth, from the United States's culpability for global conflict to the role of late-stage capitalism in destroying independent journalism, but there were few productive solutions attached to these sound bites — just a lot of enthusiastic applause.

I could not help but think that, aside from a few small-group workshops, the entire event was an expensive, bespoke gauntlet constructed to celebrate how much we love talking about collaboration rather than actually collaborating. I suppose that, given the state of democracy today, this was actually right on the nose — a lot of noise and no action.

Along the same lines, one of my favorite adages of the ADF was that we "need more education." Education will solve the voter crisis. It will eradicate disinformation from the face of the planet, end the war in Ukraine and halt climate change in its tracks. Sure.

I am not knocking the power of education — I agree that the abstract concept of delivering more knowledge to those who lack it is likely a way to combat the anti-intellectual bend of the problems democracy faces. However, I was hard-pressed to get anybody preaching about the need for education to outline just how, exactly, this education could be delivered. Do we reform public education? Drastically change our curricula? Drop informative pamphlets over rural areas from the sky?

Nobody knows, and nobody wants to think about it. At the ADF, it is enough to say that we need something and leave it at that. Hopefully, some bright upstart in the room — maybe even a member of The Youth — will latch onto the idea and go out and change the world.

The days I spent with the other GLAA delegates were more productive and insightful than the forum itself. In the library of ACG, we shared our perspectives on Forum topics — perspectives which, I might add, were almost always unique to individual experiences and backgrounds — and proposed practical, actionable solutions to the problems that plagued our cities, states and nations. I learned about democracy in Japan and Kenya. I taught people about the Electoral College — the collective opinion: It is outdated. As a group, we quickly discovered that there are no blanket approaches to democracy: What may work as a positive democratic tool in Greece may only lead to negative outcomes in Saudi Arabia; what may help somebody from Morocco may harm somebody from the United States.

The world is vast and complicated. I thought I understood the extent of its complexity before my time in Greece. I have never been more delighted to be proven wrong. If the ADF organizers could take a cue from the GLAA and the remarkable students with whom I worked for a week, then true progress may be within our reach. Until then, it will just be another litany of catered lunches and sedate speeches.

That is my Youth Perspective.

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ACO breaks bread, discusses 'you are how you eat'

By **ELANOR BONTA**
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Despite the chilly autumn weather and dark sky, Ford Chapel was brightly lit on the evening of Oct. 4. Allegheny Christian Outreach had congregated inside for their second meet-up of the semester, in which they dissected the topic of "You Are How You Eat."

The group started off the meeting with brief introductions. As an ice breaker, they played a game called "Happy Birthday." It was loosely related to musical chairs, as the goal was for someone to stand up and state something about themselves. Whoever could agree with that statement — spanning from "I like bread" to "I wear glasses" — had to stand up and switch seats. The person who could not find a seat had to ask the next question. To stir chaos, "Happy Birthday" was shouted to arouse everyone from their seats to switch, thus concluding the game.

Everyone then returned to their original seats, and two of ACO's leaders, Quynh Nhu Le Nguyen, '24, and Rebecca Caldwell, '24, opened up a discussion about why people should eat together.

The conversation was focused on Allegheny College students, and how it is often difficult to find time to eat with others due to schedule clashes and a lack of free time. Thanks to societal conditioning, they continued, students tend to focus on work and think of meals as an after-thought, leading to many meals alone or rushed.

"By eating alone, you're blocking off the communal aspect of life and building relationships," Nhu explained.

The topic also tied in with their religious beliefs.

"Cooking a meal, sharing food, telling stories, praying together — all of these values have a lot of insight into the gospel," Caldwell said. "It's a way to insert the gospel into daily life."

The chat also brought up points about how, as great as it is to eat with the same friends and family, it is also important to meet new people, even if that can seem nerve-racking.

"I usually see somebody who is constantly eating dinner alone, and I don't know — I feel like what I'm perceiving from that action is that they want to have their alone time, so I'm always debating whether they want to talk and eat together or not," Nguyen said.

For more personalized check-up discussions, everyone broke out into smaller groups of three or four. The questions were generally focused on what their eating habits were and how they planned to improve it in the weeks to come.

"My eating habits are not the best," Simon Jones, '24, said. "I don't always eat most of the meals during the day. I'll sometimes skip. I don't skip supper, though. I usually like to do homework during my meals because there's, like, tons of it."

Although some club members expressed their difficulty in finding time to eat with others, that did not take away from how much it meant to them.

"Eating together is a way for me to express love and care to others," said ACO Adviser Mollie Little. "I love to offer my energy and time to prepare something for people. Over a meal, it's just time for us to converse and listen — to hear about someone's day, to dig in with them, to see how they're really doing and that time together is love."

Following the discussion, everyone gathered around the piano to conclude with hymns and a prayer. The chapel was alive with song, and they sang "Come As You Are" by David Crowder, "We Believe" by Newsboys and "Great Are You, Lord" by Sons and Daughters.

"I learned a lot more about my own habits and how I implement my own schedule throughout my week," Caldwell said after the meeting. "It's just nice to reflect on it to see where I can make improvements and insert myself in the gospel."

When the closing prayer concluded, the leaders brought out some fresh bread with jam and butter for those who wanted to stay and socialize. The club members took the time to de-stress and chat amongst themselves, the meeting concluding only once everyone had headed home.

"I got a lot of things from the meetings, but it's also just about being in this community of Christians and worshiping our faith in such a positive and wonderful atmosphere," said Evelyn Griffith, '24, "It's amongst people who want to see you grow in your faith and see you improve in the things you struggle with. And we do a lot about learning more about God and his word, but also make sure that people feel supported in their faith. It's really important to have that community."

ACO meets each Sunday at Ford Chapel at 1 p.m. for a meal together, and all are welcome.

New podcast spotlights student research

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**
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For many students, research is one of the most defining factors of an Allegheny College experience. Students across a diverse variety of disciplines who choose to participate in a research opportunity are required to create and manage their research projects according to their field of study.

To explore the breadth and depth of student research on campus, Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Office of Undergraduate, Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Matthew Venesky created a podcast, "Gator Talking About Inquiry, Learning and Scholarship." The first episode of Gator TAILS released on Friday, Sept. 30.

URSCA's website explains that the podcast will feature students in various stages of their senior comprehensive projects and other research work to discuss student creativity and research at the college.

Emma Yesko, '23, was featured in the first episode of the podcast for her research of amphibian die-off at Allegheny's Bousson Environmental Research Reserve. Her research was not associated with her senior project, but led her to further branch off to another aspect of her research for her senior project.

"Over the summer, (Venesky) and I were kind of looking around at Bousson to try to find out what we were going to do for our project," Yesko said. "We ended up doing something completely different when we noticed the die-off of wood frog tadpoles."

For Yesko, speaking about her research in a 10-minute podcast helped her wrap up her research and bring it to a closing point for her summer research but also a jumping-off point for her senior project. Yesko described the benefits that could arise from sharing work at different stages of completion.

"If you talk to someone about your researc, it is like explaining it further than you really could by yourself because you're trying to teach somebody about what you are doing," Yesko said. "It can give you more insight because you can gain other people's perspectives and the things that they find interesting which could be looked into and alter your thought process."

When coming up with the idea to create a podcast, Venesky had many goals. One of his main goals was to give students the opportunity to showcase their research and to help students who are interested in research to find inspiration within the podcasts.

"A lot of student work gets buried in the senior comps or only a small group of folks get the opportunities to hear about what students are doing on campus," Venesky said. "This podcast might help them find their own voice and get their footing for what they want to do."

Venesky explained that despite having no experience with podcasting, he has found that he really enjoys being a host and has already made 8 episodes set to be released every two to three weeks. Venesky said he spends an hour before each interview preparing questions that tailor to each student who comes on based on their responses on a questionnaire.

"I love being a host more than I ever imagined, because it is so exciting to have these conversations with students and watching them go from being nervous to being excited," Venesky said. "I found that I only ask about half the questions that I prepare and the other half are just organic questions that kind of pop up as I have the conversation with the students."

One of the added benefits that is expected to come from having a podcast dedicated to student research projects is the connection that can be built between current students and alumni.

Senior Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Engagement Sara Pineo explained that one of the ways alumni continue to stay connected with the college is through an email newsletter, social media and a magazine that comes out every six months. Pineo said she plans on introducing the podcast in the October newsletter and will advertise on social media.

"I think it is really important for our alumni to see that Allegheny College is still a place where innovative research happens," Pineo said. "So many of our alumni, when you ask them about their experiences, speak very fondly about their comp and talk about how meaningful that was in terms of securing maybe their first position or helping them identify their pathway."

Looking forward, Venesky hopes that the podcast will become a project that is built upon on a weekly basis to capture all sides of the process of research projects. Through the process of making the podcast episodes, he wants students to have the opportunity to learn about themselves as they go through questions they never considered asking themselves before.

"Anytime we have conversations with people we learn more about ourselves," Venesky said. "They might discover something about themselves, their career path or a connection that they are making between their comp and something else they never thought of before."

The next episode will come out on Oct. 14, and will feature the project of Chemistry student Bill Nese, '23, who is researching silver nanoparticle reactions with imizadole.

CELEBRATING SEXUALITY AND GENDER IDENTITY

QPOC, AGES organize Coming Out Day event

By **REAGAN GRACE WHEAT**
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Students gathered in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center to celebrate National Coming Out Day with music, games, prizes and other attractions on Thursday, Oct. 13.

"Coming Out Day is an enlightening experience for me," said Lizy Chovatia, '26. "It connects people who identify with the LGBTQ+ community and I think that's special."

Planned by the All Gender Equity Society and Queer People of Color, the event provided queer students with many different activities and gifts to show pride.

"We wanted it to be very relaxed but also with things to do all over the place so you could find an excuse to hang out and not have to be loudly celebrating as a Pride event," Cam Lesher, '24, president of AGES, said. "It's really nice to have people walk through, grab a pin and flag, and the whole campus is colorful afterward."

While the event is only one day a year, many believe the importance of representing LGBTQ+ support on campus is crucial for students.

"I feel like there's not a lot of queer students on campus and a lot of closeted students," said president of QPOC Erica Fontan, '24. "Providing a comfortable space for people not comfortable in their sexuality is really important and throwing this event can hopefully get some people out of their comfort zone."

Lesher echoed a similar sentiment.

"I know a lot of people who have come to Allegheny and this was the first place where they've felt like they can be out," Lesher said. "Having a space where they can celebrate that identity and also feel safe to express things that they can't in other spaces is incredibly important to me. I want (students) to have a space on campus where, even if they come home they're going to go back in the closet, they can declare their identity here."



REAGAN GRACE WHEAT/THE CAMPUS

IDEAS Center Director Lisa Nicole Smith supervises tie-dying. Students could choose from a multitude of color combinations.

Supported this year by the new director of Inclusion, Diversion, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center Lisa Nicole Smith, Lesher said that they have been "super helpful" to the production and planning of the event.

"With the addition of the new director of the IDEAS Center, I think that, hopefully, we're going to open up to a lot more constructive programming and collaboration with the institution and with the IDEAS Center," Lesher said.

However, while the IDEAS Center provided support, the event was entirely student-run, operated and planned.

Currently, Allegheny does not have an operating Gay-Straight Alliance. According to the GSA's network website, these student-run organizations are usually responsible for "uniting LGBTQ+ and allied youth to build community and organize around issues impacting them in their schools and communities."

AGES and QPOC operate as representation and event planners for all queer students on campus.



REAGAN GRACE WHEAT/THE CAMPUS

A student aims for a round of "queer pong," earning the chance to take home a new sticker if the ball landed in the cup.

"Not having a GSA is difficult because we are more specialized in specific areas of LGBTQ+ pride and experience," Lesher said. "But we also try to make events and programming that are going to welcome all people to learn about those specific areas because BIPOC communities and also gender diverse communities tend to be overlooked a lot of the time."

However, both club presidents believe that student-run events still need the same support from the Allegheny administration.

"I feel like my past two years it (has) been very performative, supporting marginalized groups in this institution," Fontan said. "It's great that we have student organizations and the IDEAS Center but I feel like we could do more."

Fontan suggested the college could include more LGBTQ-specific funding and more support from administrators.

"I'm hoping the impact can be really positive and celebratory," Fontan said. "We never take the time to celebrate just us, so one of my main goals for the event is just for everyone to feel celebrated and happy."

The event was attended by dozens of students as they walked through the campus center and also provided sexuality flags to express students' individual pride.

"I have heard many people happy about the programming that we've done for Coming Out Day and also with picnics that we've had because when you come onto this campus people are still learning about themselves and figuring out who they are," Lesher said. "I just want everyone to feel like they can be themselves."

Volleyball dominates competition with winning streak

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Gators volleyball team has won six straight games while climbing the ladder in the Presidents' Athletic Conference, currently ranked third. They are carrying a 13-8 record, with a clean sheet of 3-0 in conference play.

"It's a really nice thing to be able to carry over wins, and have that group of girls that carry a lot of energy and continually bring it," said Team Captain Cheyenne Wilson, '23.

The streak started on Sept. 24, when the Gators took down the Golden Tornadoes of Geneva 3-0 on the road. The win dominoed into three more shutout victories on their home court, mowing down conference foes including Westminster, Thiel and Waynesburg.

The team hit the road again on Oct. 5, traveling 40 minutes Southwest of Pittsburgh to face the Presidents of Washington and Jefferson College, handling them 3-1.

Their most recent win was against Geneva on Oct. 7. Allegheny fell behind Geneva zero sets to two, and would end up winning the next three sets to earn the reverse sweep; this time in James H. Mullen, Jr. Arena.

After starting off season 3-6, the Gators have rallied off 10 of their last 12. Wilson stated that team chemistry has become a point of emphasis since their turn around.

"If we come in with a lot of energy we play a lot better" Wilson said. "And our bench was huge. They're a really good group of girls."

The team has gelled well, receiving contributions from multiple players on the roster with Wilson among the top of that list. In their last game against Geneva, Wilson set season highs in kills with 17 and digs with 23. Her leadership on the court and exemplary play has earned her back-to-back seasons of being named captain.

Wilson strives to put her own best foot forward on the court, however with her role it is also important that she is able to bring the best out of her teammates. Chemistry has been a focal point of the team this season, making sure everyone is on the same page and can connect with their teammates.

Wilson has been learning the communication styles of her teammates, figuring out what each player responds best to and how to get the most out of them. She has had numerous conversations with individuals as well as the team to see what is working and what is not. Additionally Wilson is in charge of setting up team events including movie nights, team dinners and a pumpkin carving special that will take place later this fall.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Left to right: Mila Anderson, '25, Emma Chambers, '24, and India McCruter, '24, celebrating after scoring a point during their home game versus Geneva.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Defensive Specialist Jacy Diaz, '26, in a ready position to attack the ball. Diaz earned a season-high 35 digs in the Gators' last match against Geneva.

"Last year I learned a lot from our senior captain on how to be a good role model," Wilson said. "This year I'm continually growing and I just feel really honored that my teammates look up to me in that way."

Another major contributor for the Blue and Gold this season has been India McCruter, '24. Standing at a towering 5 feet, 9 inches tall has allowed her to reach over the net and set a new season high in of 10 blocks during their most recent win against Geneva.

McCruter's defensive prowess is consistently felt by opposing hitters, as she was named PAC Defensive Player of the Week for the second week in a row. Her impact on offense has been just as noticeable, already boasting more kills than she had last season with 131. She gives all the credit to her teammates, stating she couldn't do it without them.

"The team is very focused," McCruter said. "I just try to go in and do what's best for them."

The volleyball team is active as comunity members as well. According to the Allegheny Athletics Website, Jacy Diaz, '26, and Alejandra Fernandez, '26, have set up a fundraising event to help their home country recover from the ravaging effects of Hurricane Fiona.

On Oct. 15, the Gators will be collecting donations at the entrance of the Wise Center, when they face off against Bethany College at 1 p.m. All funds gathered throughout the day will be put towards relief efforts to help communities in Puerto Rico.

Diaz has made her impact known off court, but her play on the court should not be overlooked. She has taken the term "first-year," and has thrown it out the window looking like a four-year veteran. While playing Geneva, Diaz bested her previous season high of 30 digs, adding an additional five to give her a new season best.

"We have to have the mindset that every team wants to beat us," Diaz said. "We still have to keep working hard and no matter if we win, go hard every game."

Women's tennis head to PAC finals



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Jean-Artlette Legrand, '24, swings for the ball in her doubles match with Ella Swan '23, in the semifinals of the PAC Championship. The Gators won Thursday evening to advance to the PAC Finals on Saturday, Oct. 15, at Robertson Athletic Complex.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Sabrina Rodriguez (left), '25, and Maria Lounder (right), '26, stand at the ready during their doubles matches with Ryan Cox, '26, and Katherine Marks, '23. Allegheny won all three doubles matchups in the semifinal.

Men's tennis win final match against Behrend

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The men's tennis team wrapped up their fall season — three non-conference dual matches and a pair of tournaments — on Oct. 6 with a 9-0 victory over Penn State Behrend. The win comes on the heels of strong performances in dual matches against other schools, and success for a pair of Gators sent to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Division III Men's Central Regional Championship in September.

Most athletics schedules at Allegheny are contained to a single semester, or flow from the end of the fall semester to the beginning of the spring semester for a winter season, with conference play sandwiched between contests with non-conference schools.

The tennis team, however, is unique, as they play additional matches far removed from their conference schedule. The men's squad played matches in the fall as preparation for spring matches in the Presidents' Athletic Conference, a setup that Head Coach Dave Hayden said gives him a better understanding of where the team stands.

"It allows you to kind of evaluate (first-year players), get a feel for how they may be able to contribute in the spring," Hayden said.

Hayden said that he is "super excited" about the members of his team, particularly with a strong recruiting class of first-years.

"We graduated four seniors last year, so that was a big loss," Hayden said. "They all played significant roles in the lineup. But this year, we had a good recruiting class plus the returning players — almost everyone to a T is better than they were last year — so they took their summers and really worked hard on their games. I really like the position we're in right now with the men's team."

While the men's team is in a strong position, the women's team has been nothing but dominant. After placing first in the PAC's pre-season poll, the squad went undefeated, outscoring their opponents 103-5 with in a perfect 12-0 season.

Hayden is no stranger to PAC success. He joined Allegheny in 2021 after six years at Westminster College, where he coached the women's tennis squad to two National Championship appearances and two PAC titles.

"We're very optimistic about how the season will go," Hayden said. "I used to coach in the PAC, so I know a lot of the coaches and some of the players. We're very excited about the men's prospects in the spring as well."

Among Hayden's athletes is Anton Hedlund, '25, currently ranked 23rd in the ITA's Central region in the singles division.

"I think it's been about 15 years or so since anybody from Allegheny was regionally ranked," Hayden said. "That's based off of his freshman year. He's off to a great start."

Hedlund said that the early matches allow for a productive offseason in the late fall and winter.

"We've learned some things in the fall that we'd like to continue working on during the fall, and then spring season should be a good season," Hedlund said. "If we do the right amount of work in the offseason, we have a good chance of doing well in the PAC, which I'm super grateful for."

Late last month, Hedlund and Ethan Carr, '26, made the 600 mile trip to the ITA's Division III Central Regional Championship, hosted at Washington University in St. Louis. Playing doubles, the pair of Gators lost their first-round match-up against a team from Case Western Reserve University that had played in the NCAA Division III Championships last year. However, Hedlund and Carr came back and won the regional consolation bracket for the tournament.

"The competition at ITA is very tough," Hedlund said. "It's all the schools from the region, and this region is really tough."

ITA's Central Region includes the University of Chicago — last year's NCAA Division III Champions — and CWRU,who lost to UChicago in the final.

Hedlund — an international student from Sweden — is attending Allegheny in part to play tennis.

"If you want to pursue tennis after high school (in Sweden), you have to go with club sports and it's more individual-based," Hedlund said. "But here in college, you play as a team, you travel as a team, and the scoring is based off the team, and I really like that. I really like being part of a bigger group, especially when we have such a good group of players, as we do right now."

This enjoyment of the sport — combined with the skill of his teammates — is what makes Hedlund excited to take on the PAC.

"Overall, it's a very good team," Hedlund said. "There's a good chemistry between the boys, and we always have a good time when we're playing, and it's going to be fun to run through the season with them."

The men's tennis squad will play their next match on Feb. 19, when they will travel to Cleveland to take on the CWRU Spartans.