

# The Campus



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Meadville, Pennsylvania  
www.alleghenycampus.com

## New hire: Haddad to succeed Cole as Provost in fall 2022



Photo courtesy of Allegheny College  
Angela T. Haddad, who will assume the position of provost and dean of the faculty on Aug. 1, 2022. Haddad will succeed Ron Cole, '87, who has served in the position since 2015.  
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## Montelle Brown sentenced for 2019 Ravine sexual assault



**BROWN**  
By **ETHAN WOODFILL**  
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By **ROMAN HLADIO**  
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Content warning: sexual assault, gun violence, rape  
The man who sexually assaulted a student at gunpoint in Ravine-Narvik Hall has been sentenced to 13 to 40 years in state prison.

Montelle Brown, 29, of Meadville will also be required to register as a sexual offender for life and face 12 months of probation when released.  
The sentencing took place at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the Crawford County Court of Common Pleas. President Judge John Spataro was presiding. Brown, who is serving an unrelated 14-month minimum to five-year firearms sentence at SCI Chester, attended court via video conference.  
The sentence follows a November guilty plea. Brown admitted to raping a student at gunpoint in her Ravine-Narvik Hall dormitory on Dec. 10, 2019. He pleaded guilty to two counts of rape. Spataro clarified that the consecutive rape sentences would run concurrent to any previous sentences Brown is currently serving.  
"Allegheny is such a peaceful college," Spataro said. "(Students) have every right to believe they are safe and secure. I am expressing our shock and disgust of the barbarity and cruelty of this kind of action."  
Then-Crawford County District Attorney Francis Schultz identified Brown's DNA sample as a match to the sample collected from the victim's medical exam the night of the rape. He was subsequently charged on Feb. 24, 2021, for his involvement in the Ravine assault.  
"(Brown) has had previous opportunities to curb his criminal behavior and failed in that regard," Spataro said before issuing the sentence.  
A report conducted by Brenda Manno of the Pennsylvania's Sexual Offender Assessment Board and presented in court found that Brown "currently and previously has been diagnosed  
See [RAVINE](#) | page 2

## Primary season: three tickets launch bids for ASG presidency



REISER



BINIEWSKI



GREEN



SCHULTZ-RAY



ALEGRE



DONIZ

See [ELECTIONS](#) | page 2

## IDEAS Center launches theme nights to boost engagement

By **HASSAN JAVED**  
News Editor  
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The Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice Center sports theme night took place on Monday, Feb. 21 in the IDEAS Center in the Henderson Campus Center.  
Students were invited to engage with the IDEAS Center by participating in activities such as board and card games. Refreshments were also provided along with a self-serve nacho bar. Students had the chance to win prizes, as competitive games and a raffle were also organized.  
Director of the IDEAS Center Darnell Tucker described the IDEAS Center as a home to many students and a space where students can feel comfortable being themselves.

"The IDEAS Center is a space that we want the students to utilize in whatever way they feel comfortable rather than confining it," Tucker said. "The staff at the IDEAS Center is very much the same in the sense that we're not only here to guide you professionally but are also here to chat with you as friends."  
Tucker mentioned that the idea of hosting a theme night was the result of a meeting with the Program Coordinator of IDEAS Center Mikka Hunt in Dec. 2021.  
"The reason why the idea of the theme night came up was (Hunt) and I noticed the same students coming in and out of the IDEAS Center," Tucker said. "Although having the same students is not a bad thing, we saw it as a challenge to encourage more students to interact with the IDEAS Center and see it as a place where they are comfortable

and valued."  
Tucker said that a goal of the theme night was to expand the IDEAS Center as a part of student knowledge.  
"A lot of the students who use the IDEAS Center are introduced to it by friends, faculty members or other staff members," Tucker said. "But we have to think about the students who aren't surrounded by people who know of the IDEAS Center."  
Hunt added the IDEAS Center staff wants to encourage students to take ownership of their experience within the IDEAS Center.  
"We just want students to come to the theme night and have a laid-back experience," Hunt said. "A lot of stress comes with the semester so we just want students to know that the IDEAS Center is a place where they can feel relaxed."

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Staff and students interact at the IDEAS Center sports theme night. The theme nights were created to invite students who might not otherwise join the IDEAS Center into the space.  
HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

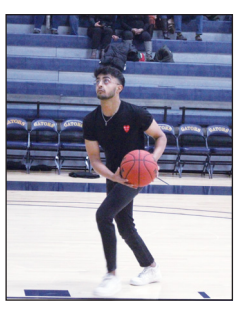
### In this week's Campus...

**BAN THE BIBLE, TOO**  
Staff writer Sydney Emerson, '23, argues that decontextualizing books to ban them would lead in some unexpected directions.  
Page 4

**WAR IN UKRAINE**  
An outline of the tensions that led to Russia's Thursday morning invasion of Ukraine from the occupied Crimean Peninsula to the south, Belarus to the north and Russia itself to the east.  
Page 5



**BASKETBALL RAFFLE**  
Two students had a shot at more than \$50,000 in cash during the halftimes of a Feb. 8 basketball doubleheader.  
Page 8



**FRIDAY**  
H: 32° L: 15°  
Snow: 72%  
Sunrise: 7:01 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:06 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
H: 31° L: 21°  
Snow: 7%  
Sunrise: 6:59 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:07 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
H: 32° L: 12°  
Snow: 36%  
Sunrise: 6:58 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:08 p.m.

# ELECTIONS *from page 1*

By **SOPIA HASSAN**  
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Election season has begun to select a new Allegheny Student Government president and vice president.

After students registered their candidacy via a Google Form, candidates had to “submit a platform detailing one’s reasons for running, a short biography of each ticket member (in terms of their involvement on campus), and a ticket photo” by 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 18 in order to appear on the ballot. By that date, two tickets had been formed: Peter Alegre, ’23, and Kyrie Doniz, ’23; and Veronica Green, ’23, and Rudra Schultz-Ray, ’23. By midnight, Feb. 21, another ticket had been created: Andi Reiser, ’23, and Lucas Biniewski, ’23.

“It was a decision I came to during ... the winter break,” Alegre said of his choice to run for president. “In my experience, my three years here, we’ve seen a lot of change that (has) happened on this campus. Some good, but a lot that has happened without student transparency or voices ... over the past year especially, it’s been quite egregious. We’ve seen a lot of discontent from (the) student body.”

This discontent, Alegre added, has come in a myriad of forms. Students have expressed concern over the administration’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and issues regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. There have also been questions surrounding ASG’s effectiveness as a whole. All of this dissatisfaction culminated to influence Alegre’s decision.

“I know that I can’t be a miracle worker and change everything that’s going on at this college,” Alegre said, “but I figure that through ASG I can give back to a college and community that ... has ultimately been instrumental in making myself a better person and leader, and to the students that make up who this campus is and made the person I am today.”

With everything that goes into the campaigning process, including the development of a platform and the outreach to students and stakeholders, Alegre has experienced some stress, explaining, “I already feel like I’m behind the ball already, and the election isn’t until ... March 30 to April 1.”

“I decided back in October that I was going to run (for president),” Green said.

She asked Schultz-Ray approximately a week later if he would be her running mate. A major reason why she made the choice to run was what she described as the “inaction of the current ASG,” the lack of response to problems on campus. She thought more effort could be put towards addressing said problems.

Schultz-Ray described himself as “essentially an outsider” concerning ASG. Last semester was his first being a part of student government on campus, and he entered with a notion similar to Green’s — that ASG had been stagnant for some time. When Green asked him to run as her vice president, he enthusiastically accepted.

One of the challenges that Green and Schultz-Ray have encountered in their campaign is what Green termed “being able to contextualize the scope of ASG.” She explained that student government has more power than people are generally aware of, that it is simply a matter of using this power effectively, something that her team had to realize and work with when creating their campaign and figuring out what they were going to promise should they be elected.

As for Biniewski and Reiser, they have been involved with student government at Allegheny since they were first-year students. This experience helped them make the decision to run for the highest office.

“We’ve seen ... the inner workings, but also what the students want to see and what they want changed,” Reiser said. “I think that what really made us want to run is because we’ve gone through this since we were first-years, so at this point we know what we can do and what actually is feasible for us and how we can make the students happier.”

As stated on their campaign poster, Alegre and Doniz are running on a platform that promotes “diversity, inclusion, and representation”; “accessibility and accountability”; and “student safety and well-being.” Alegre elaborated regarding specific initiatives they have in mind to make these ideals a priority.

Both Alegre and Doniz are already involved in various diversity, equity and inclusion capacities on campus. Alegre is president of the Association for Asian and Asian American Awareness, and Doniz is treasurer of the Green Students of Color Society. These experiences, Alegre noted, have allowed them to gauge student needs and feelings, even before running.

“A lot of people don’t really feel welcome in ASG, especially those who are of (non-white) descent,” Alegre said.

Alegre would like to change that by expanding the mutual aid closet in the IDEAS Center so that it includes more supplies that students can take if they need to; create a new, improved diversity lounge where students can get together and hold programming events; and inform students of ASG opportunities and positions at Culture, Inclusion and Leadership Coalition meetings. He also wants to work more closely with Meadville’s NAACP chapter.

Alegre hopes to increase the sense of accountability ASG has to the general student body and the accountability that the administration has to the general student body.

“With the administration, we’ve seen a lot of decisions happen without student involvement, and broadly speaking, I want these administrators at the very least to tell students about the decisions they’re making,” Alegre said.

Alegre explained that one way to make this happen is to feature administrators and trustees at ASG town hall meetings. In doing so, students can also place names to previously-unknown faces and voice any issues they may have.

Furthermore, Alegre wants to make ASG more accessible by empowering senators, who currently lack the formal power other cabinet members have. He would like to see a cabinet member such as the chief of staff assist them with initiatives and events.

Concerning the safety and well-being of students, Alegre hopes to work closely with Gilly Ford, Allegheny’s Title IX coordinator, and address issues that have cropped up with Title IX. He has programming in mind for sexual safety and healthy relationships to increase awareness of sexual assault on campus.

Green and Schultz-Ray are also prioritizing DEI in their campaign.

“Our main initiative is, if we are elected, in the weeks leading up to the involvement fair and obviously throughout our entire term, we want to work hand-in-hand with CILC organizations,” Green said. She intends on ensuring that these organizations have a voice in ASG, that they are visible, and that their cultural events are sufficiently funded.

Another item on Green and Schultz-Ray’s platform is improving mental health services on campus. The resources available, Green explained, are disproportionately low compared to the number of students. In addition, they want to start a dialogue surrounding current attendance and participation policies in classrooms.

“We would like to go to a faculty meeting at some point,” Green said, “and present a change ... to attendance policies throughout syllabuses so that people, if they are struggling mentally, do not have to worry further about attendance grades.”

Schultz-Ray pointed out that there are professors who volunteer their time at the Counseling and Personal Development Center, and that while professors in general play a role in students’ mental health and they should be made aware of this role, there are also paid, trained professionals to help students with mental health concerns.

“We should not make professors our therapists,” Schultz-Ray said. “That’s our whole thing ... we just need to really work on making sure that professors can help but aren’t (forced).”

Green expressed the importance of taking into account the unique hardships faced by international students and minority students at a predominantly white institution like Allegheny. Making sure that they have the mental health resources they need is another aspect of the ticket’s mental health initiative.

Green and Schultz-Ray are also intent on improving food and dietary options on campus. The ticket is particularly concerned with Brooks Dining Hall. They say that a lack of variety in the meat dishes offered, issues with mislabeling and few vegan and vegetarian options create issues for students with specific dietary needs.

“Some days, (Brooks’s) meat options are almost entirely pork, which is obviously not good for people who can’t eat pork,” Schultz-Ray said. “Some things are mislabeled, as in they don’t have gluten in them, but when you actually have them they do have gluten in them ... I have vegan and vegetarian friends that can’t eat at Brooks because the options that they are given are salads and soups.”

Schultz-Ray also drew a connection between being well-fed and being well mentally, indicating that their mental health vision and their campus dining vision are not completely separate entities.

A major aspect of Biniewski and Reiser’s platform is the student experience: ensuring that all students feel like they belong at Allegheny. Like the other tickets, they are concerned with issues centering DEI.

“(Reiser) and I both can see that not all students have their sense of belonging that Allegheny likes to bring to every community member that comes here, and that’s one thing we’re really going to hit home for our campaign to make sure that everyone feels that they have a home,” Biniewski said. “It’s up to us ... as ASG to support clubs, to help them with funding and obviously to reinforce them so that they have a good base of what they want to do.”

Reiser echoed Biniewski’s sentiments.

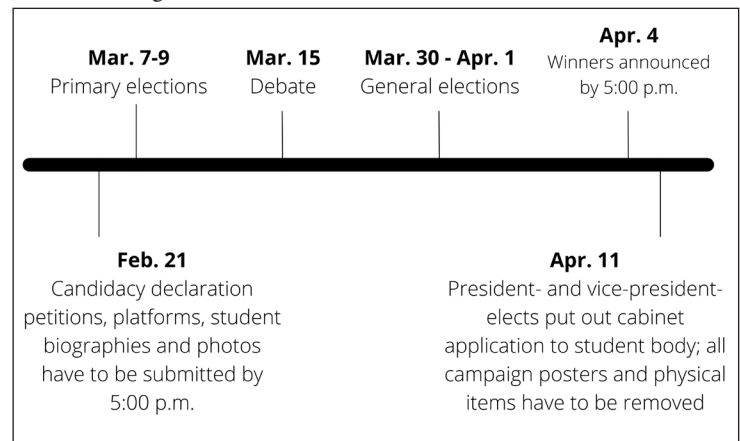
“For students who aren’t involved in clubs and things and are a little bit more timid to get involved, we want to be their voice and let them know that they can come to us with any concerns,” Reiser said.

Should they be elected, Biniewski and Reiser would like to continue the sustainability efforts that Reiser has initiated as the director of sustainability and environmental affairs. Being the director of finance, Biniewski also is aware of some financial issues and would like to address those next year.

Green and Schultz-Ray held a town hall Thursday, Feb. 24 in the Blue Lounge in Brooks Hall. Prior to the event, they explained that they wanted to catch people who might not otherwise get their voices heard at ASG, and reach those who might not have yet been aware about their campaign.

“We’re hosting the town hall as a way to connect with students on a more personal level, rather than just being like, ‘We are part of ASG. We are running to lead ASG next year,’” Green said.

The general election for ASG president and vice president will begin March 30 and close on April 1. A debate is scheduled for March 15.



SOPIA HASSAN/THE CAMPUS  
Elections timeline (per ASG election guidelines document)

# RAVINE *from page 1*

with anti-social personality disorder.” Manno expressed that in her opinion, the diagnosis aligned with the propensity to commit sexual crimes.

These findings warranted Brown’s sentencing as a sexually violent predator, according to Spataro. Brown will be required to register as a sexually violent predator quarterly and will be subject to monthly therapy sessions.

During the hearing, Crawford County District Attorney Paula DiGiacomo commended the Meadville City Police Department for their diligence on the case and praised the bravery of the victim for bringing her story forward.

Before the sentence was given, DiGiacomo also suggested that cases such as these feel “sanitized” in the court setting and it would be very different if people

I am expressing our shock and disgust of the barbarity and cruelty of this kind of action.”

—JOHN SPATARO  
President Judge,  
Crawford County Court of  
Common Pleas

watched the incident on video.

“It would be nauseating and no one would want to watch ... what (the victim) had to endure,” DiGiacomo said. “We need to make sure that when (Brown) does get out of prison, he is under surveillance for the longest amount of time possible.”

Allegheny College announced security changes following the incident, including the installation of security cameras, peepholes on dormitory doors, and relocating the Office of Public Safety. The victim sued the college for \$75,000 in 2020 for damages related to the attack. The litigation is still pending.

In her closing remarks, DiGiacomo said that the victim’s life is forever altered.

“There is never going to be a full 100% recovery for (the victim) in this case,” DiGiacomo said. “She accomplished so much by deciding to attend Allegheny and enjoyed classes and activities. ... She was having a great day that day, getting ready for finals ... her and another friend walked home, she was going to sleep, and then the defendant knocked on the door.”

Brown provided no statement prior to or during the sentencing.

# IDEAS *from page 1*

Hunt mentioned that an inaugural Pride theme night was held in Jan. 2022 and that more theme nights will be organized in the future.

“We will be organizing a theme night every month for the rest of this semester,” Hunt said. “The next theme night will be in March and the theme will be A Letter to my She-ro.”

Hunt explained that the next theme night will be an open mic poetry style night where participants will be encouraged to give thanks to a woman that they see as a hero. Theme-related activities, food and crafts will also be

available.

Rachel Olivares, ’23, who works at the IDEAS Center front desk, recalled her experience at the IDEAS Center throughout her time at Allegheny as highly engaging.

“I’m in my third year at Allegheny and I’ve been coming to the IDEAS since I was a freshman,” Olivares said. “There’s such an expansive range of people from all sorts of backgrounds that come here and so I’m always learning something new.”

According to Tucker, the IDEAS Center is a hub for diversity support services on campus.



HASSAN JAVED/THE CAMPUS

Rachel Olivares, ’23, sits at the front desk of the IDEAS Center. Olivares, who works in the center as a William C. Jason Fellow, has been coming to the space since her freshman year.

“We talk to students about how they can get involved within the diversity structure at Allegheny based on the different aspects of their identity,” Tucker said. “We have over 16 Culture, Identity, and Leadership Coalition organizations that students can affiliate themselves with whether it’s based on culture, ethnicity or religion.”

Olivares also said that she has noticed newer faces as a result of the theme nights.

“I’ve seen people at the IDEAS who aren’t frequent visitors since the beginning of this semester,” Olivares said. “It’s also nice to see that the second theme night is already showing signs of improvement from the last one.”

Hunt reinforced that the IDEAS Center is a place where students can not only find resources to help their school work but is also a place where they can garner new experiences and find resources to help them in their personal lives.

We just want students to come to the theme night and have a laid-back experience.”

—MIKKA HUNT  
IDEAS Center Program  
Coordinator,  
Allegheny College

“We’re here to help you in whatever way you need because we understand that things can get overwhelming sometimes,” Hunt said.

Tucker echoed the sentiment. He elaborated that while the IDEAS Center was constructed as a space in which students of color can feel safe and represented at a predominantly white institution, it is committed to a welcoming environment.

“Although the IDEAS Center is a place where students of color should feel welcome and supported, it is important to note that that is not where it ends,” Tucker said. “While we do host a lot of diversity groups and organizations, every single member of the Allegheny community is welcome.”

# ASG talks financial reports, new dining features

## Brooks returns to swiping at entry, McKinley's reduces mobile ordering

By **SOPIA HASSAN**  
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Allegheny Student Government began this week's General Assembly at 7:31 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

Director of Finance Lucas Biniewski, '23, said that due to other obligations, ASG's current bookkeeper, Stacy Gerber, is stepping down after Friday, Feb. 25, following four years in this position. Until a new bookkeeper is hired in the fall, Biniewski will assume the role.

Biniewski continued with a general financial update for the entire academic year. Throughout the whole year, general fund requests have totaled \$68,267.76; surplus fund requests have totaled \$48,306.58; speaker fund requests have totaled \$5,622.53; and fund requests for Culture, Identity and Leadership organizations have totaled \$39,843.33.

In addition, the diversity lounge has a \$20,000 budget. ASG has spent \$29,477.62 on club sports, but Biniewski noted that this figure is at least two weeks old and may not reflect current spending. ASG also took out \$12,000 from the student action fund to pay for the water bottle refill stations and \$13,000 for the new fire pit. The new green box station cost \$5,500.

Sweatshirts for the football and volleyball games from the fall totaled \$5,031. All of these expenditures came to \$455,321.42.

Director of Diversity and Inclusion Jennifer Peralta, '22, reported that she is working on a wishlist for furniture to go in the multicultural lounge.

"Artists, if you want to talk to me, please do so that we can create some art that represents the students," Peralta added.

Peralta also announced "Rookie Year 101," an upcoming event in collaboration with the IDEAS Center, the Counseling and Personal Development Center, and Career Education that will take place Friday, March 4 in the campus center lobby from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. She then reminded everyone about the Black History Month online panel that would take place the following day at 6:00 p.m.

Director of Communications and Press Ryder Sullivan, '22, met with on-campus organization Why Not Us? earlier that evening to talk about their Instagram takeover Wednesday, Feb. 23, and also to discuss further events beyond the one that they had planned for that week about writing a message to a survivor. In addition, she updated the cabinet on her other initiatives, including creating a Meadville page for the ASG website.

Director of Student Affairs Elizabeth Graham, '22, met with the Campus Life and Community Standards Committee that day, which decided to take on a project focused on mental health this semester. She also mentioned that the student life survey is still "in the works."

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Andi Reiser, '23, announced that she would be having a meeting the next day to continue the conversation about developing the green space. Furthermore, she said she would be meeting with Peralta some time during the week to talk about educating students on environmental racism.

Director of Community Relations Kyrie Doniz, '23, mentioned that she was working with Sullivan to create a Business of the Week social media post featuring McClure's Fish House, and that the Meadville Academy Theatre would be featuring a "Beauty and the Beast Ballet" Feb. 25-26.

Director of Organizational Development Crystal Hernandez, '23, revealed that she would be dismantling the "comp buddies" system, but if anyone was still interested in playing this role for a senior they should talk to her.

Attorney General Jack Parker '22, mentioned an upcoming meeting with the fishing club to discuss licensing issues for the not-yet-approved organization. He also announced that as of midnight on Feb. 21, the tickets for student government president and vice president had been finalized: Reiser and Biniewski; Veronica Green, '23, and Rudra Schultz-Ray, '23; and Peter Alegre, '23, and Doniz. As there are three separate candidates, a primary election will take place on March 7-9.

"It's a really commendable thing to run for public office in any realm, but to do it in front of the student body can often bring, as we know, scrutiny and difficulties that are related to being a college student," Parker said. "So I commend all of you guys for that."

The two winners of the primary will debate in either the Quigley Auditorium or the Shafer Auditorium, most likely during the week of March 15. General elections will then occur March 30 through April 1, and winners will be announced by April 4.

President of the Class of 2025 Abigail Estrada-Hernandez introduced Gater-Con, an event that will take place on April 14 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. Students and professors will be invited

to speak on any topic of their choosing. She also announced that the class was working with First-Year Dean Niki Fjeldal to hold a formal May 7 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Schultz Banquet Hall.

Vice President Sophie Adams, '22, reminded members of Service Saturday Feb. 26, for which volunteers would meet at Pelletier Library at 9:00 a.m. She also mentioned that she and President Noah Tart, '22, met with the CEO of Parkhurst the previous week, and he heard her request for the food to be better seasoned.

"He said he wants to partner with student organizations to 'authentically represent their distinct cultural cuisines,'" Adams said.

"We met for about an hour," Tart said, elaborating on the Parkhurst meeting that Adams had spoken of. "I'm sure that you've noticed some major



I'm sure that you've noticed some major changes in the last week with both of our dining establishments, how they're functioning, especially our dining experience, and the changes that you've seen are the product of that conversation."

—NOAH TART  
Class of 2022

## PROVOST *from page 1*

By **SAMI MIRZA**  
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Allegheny College recently announced the appointment of Angela T. Haddad as provost and dean of the faculty at Allegheny College in a press release.

The role has been held by Ron Cole, '87, since 2015. Cole will continue to serve in its capacity until June 30. Haddad assumes her new position on Aug. 1.

"I am delighted to join the Allegheny College community and feel privileged to serve the faculty, staff and students of a storied liberal arts college," Haddad said. "I look forward to working with the campus and local community to build upon the college's past successes and realize the institution's aspirations."

According to the press release, Haddad, who holds doctoral and Master's degrees in sociology from the University of Michigan, has previously served as an associate professor and department chair of sociology, anthropology and social work at Central Michigan University, associate provost at Barnard College and senior associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Hunter College.

"Angela Haddad is a visionary and dynamic leader who brings a wealth of insight and experience as both a faculty member and administrator to the role of provost and dean of the faculty," Link said in the statement. "She has a deep appreciation for the value and im-

portance of an interdisciplinary education that challenges students to seek new perspectives and solve problems, and we are very excited to welcome her to Allegheny's tradition of excellence and innovation."

Cole began his tenure under Allegheny's 21st President, James Mullen, with a standard four-year appointment.

"As my first four-year appointment was drawing to a close, President Mullen was retiring, and we had (Link) starting," Cole said. "(Mullen) asked me if I would stay on for another two years to help with that transition so there was some continuity, which I was glad to do. And then during the pandemic, (Link) asked if I would stay on for one more year just for continuity through the pandemic."

Staying during the pandemic, Cole said, also gave the college additional time to launch a nationwide search for his successor.

Cole's seven-year term is not unusual in length, he added.

"The provost prior to me, Linda DeMeritt, was in that post for 12 years," Cole said. "It's not atypical for somebody at Allegheny or elsewhere to have a post that goes between four and eight years."

Haddad will assume the position Aug. 1, a full month after Cole's last day on June 30. This gap, according to Cole, does not indicate a lack of transition or communication between himself and his successor.

"I look forward to welcoming (Haddad) to the Allegheny Community, and I'm committed to providing as smooth and successful a transition as possible," Cole said. "In that (transition), I'll be in communication with her leading up to my last day as provost and certainly before her first day, and I'll be available during July for questions that she may have or that (Link) may have."

For his part, Cole has not yet decided what to do after departing from his post.

"I plan to take time to consider my path in higher education," Cole said. "I am committed to higher education. I will always be humbled and honored to have served Allegheny as provost, and I will always remain inspired and grateful for the commitment and dedication that I've observed and felt from the faculty and staff at Allegheny in support of student learning."

The announcement of Haddad's hiring comes just under two weeks after the board of trustees voted unanimously to approve Cole's new staffing plan, which recently spurred students to action following the announcement of cuts to the Chinese minor.

While more than two dozen faculty will leave the college through resignations and retirements, the staffing plan does call for investment in four new faculty lines. These new roles will be filled by Haddad and others as the plan is carried out.

"I believe that (Haddad), as next provost, will have an incredible opportunity to build on that plan," Cole said. "We have

investments that we're making in terms of new faculty lines, areas of the curriculum that we're investing in; we're hiring replacement positions in some areas. (Haddad) is going to have opportunities to help shape and build on that plan by helping hire vibrant faculty for Allegheny's future."

Allegheny Student Government Vice President Sophie Adams, '22, sat in on interviews with all four finalists for the position as a member of the Finance and Facilities Committee.

"She seemed qualified and capable," Adams said. "I'm sad I'm not going to be around to see what she has to do for the campus but I think it'll be good for us. I think a change will be good and I'm looking forward to what she can bring (to Allegheny)."

Carmélione Majewski, '24, however, is wary of the idea of a new provost. She does not think very highly of the new staffing plan and felt that some of that ill will would translate to Haddad.

"(The staffing plan) was bad news to students who were expecting to see those faculty members (staying) on (with the college) and then hearing that we have this new (staff member) is just like, 'who's that, why are they so special?'" Majewski said.

At the same time, Majewski also expressed that she is open to seeing how Haddad will shape the college moving forward.

"Maybe I'm not as accepting of them now, but my opinions may change and they might actually do some good for the school," Majewski said.

## CRIME BLOTTER

*Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation.*

*Crimes listed below are collected the Thursday before publication.*

**February 18, 2022**  
**Criminal Mischief**  
Parking Lot 22

**February 18-21, 2022**  
**Criminal Mischief**  
Campus Center

**February 18, 2022**  
**Theft**  
Baldwin Hall

**February 21, 2022**  
**Criminal Mischief**  
Baldwin Hall

**February 18-21, 2022**  
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# Chinese minor supports DEI initiatives

## A5 president shares concern over cuts, administration

By **PETER ALEGRE**

Contributing Writer  
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On Feb. 5, Allegheny College's Board of Trustees (per Provost Ron Cole's recommendation) voted to discontinue four academic programs, one of which was the Chinese minor. This decision was made without notice as the Academic Review Task Force report did not recommend the discontinuation of the Chinese minor. Discontinuing the Chinese minor is a racist and short-sighted decision for a college that claims to be committed to a diversified curriculum, inclusive excellence for all students, and preparing lifelong learners.

President Link's strategic realignment, known as the "Renaissance Vision," has four interlocking priorities: Holistic Student Success/Inclusive Excellence; Owning Allegheny College's Distinct Academic Brand; Relevance to Global, Regional, and Local Social Context; and Financial Stability. These lofty goals have not materialized as we see a complicit administration undermining Asian students' safety and needs.

President Link's first priority, "Inclusive Excellence," seeks to create the best student experience for all members of our community. However, Asian students face racism daily on Allegheny's campus. There are constant microaggressions including permanent foreignization, fetishization, and stereotyping from the student body, faculty and staff. The Chinese minor provides a direct safe space where we can communicate freely and without fear of being

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We are simultaneously highlighted for admissions prospects but undermined when we need support the most.”

—PETER ALEGRE  
Class of 2023

misunderstood. For many international students, the Chinese faculty are the only committed advocates for their education.

Removing the only East Asian language will have a tremendous ripple effect. It means Allegheny does not value all voices. I; it means Allegheny will erase resources at will, and it means Allegheny will be complicit in racism towards its Asian students.

Speaking as the President of the Association for Asian and Asian American Awareness, also known as A5, I know firsthand the importance of the Chinese program outside of the classroom. My advisor, Professor Xiaoling Shi, has played an integral role in cultural programming. These events are broadly enjoyed by the student body but require significant dedication from the host organizers. President Link herself attended the Lunar New Year celebration but sent the email announcing the cut the same day.

We are simultaneously highlighted for admissions prospects but undermined when we need support the most. Ron Cole believes A5 doesn't need a

Chinese minor and vice versa. Is Ron Cole willing to spend evenings planning events, recruiting members, and advertising our events?

I have met with Ron Cole four times following his staffing plan announcement. When I have raised my concerns to him, he pointed out to me that other cultures are not represented in the curriculum; however, diversity is not a zero-sum game. Everyone at Allegheny benefits from having more diverse academic programs within our curriculum. What is not okay, however, is ignoring red flags because you hire another Dean, email more empty platitudes and hang cute flags in the Campus Center. Leaving marginalized students' cultures out of the curriculum is a tool for alienation and helps to erase their unique history, yet we tolerate this erasure at our institution. Removing the Chinese program is cruel, especially when the only commitment Asian students receive is an acknowledgment that it affects our sense of wellbeing.

The next priority in President Link's strategic plan is "Owning Allegheny College's Distinct Academic Brand," which aims to educate students for life. Allegheny's appeal lies in these unique programs that are the basis of the "Learn Outside of the Lines" brand campaign. For students to engage in multiple disciplines, the college must instruct students on an anti-racist ethos as a prerequisite for diverse learning. The interdisciplinary Chinese Studies minor, which incorporates students' varied interests, backgrounds, and experiences is an ideal example of this. The minor's courses are taught by faculty from the

Chinese, History, Religious Studies, and Political Science programs.

Ron Cole's staffing plan recommends maintaining the Chinese Studies minor without the language. He argues that students can take Chinese Studies without the language as it stands. But the program only has three professors, and removing the Chinese language component will render it useless. You cannot have an in-depth understanding of China without the necessary insight the language provides into the nuances of its culture and history. If a student took these advanced classes on Chinese culture without an understanding of the language, they would lack sufficient engagement with the material. It is deliberately more difficult and less rewarding to take Chinese Studies without the language. Allegheny cannot maintain its brand by eliminating essential liberal arts programs while also transforming others beyond recognition.

The third strategic priority is "Relevance to Global, Regional, and Social Context." However, Allegheny students cannot be cognizant of global issues when you remove East Asia wholly from the curriculum. This curricular blindspot also means International Studies and Global Health Studies will lose an East Asian focus. The importance of Mandarin is clear when over 1.3 billion people speak it, but will be even more relevant in the coming years. Its relevance in economics, international relations, and politics will only grow as the student body continues to diversify. The Class of 2025 exemplifies this given 29% of the class identifies as a student of color. A college committed to recruiting

diverse students must provide support in retaining these students. A diverse student population necessitates representation in its faculty. Firing Asian professors now will decrease retention and further homogenize the faculty.

Last but not least, "Financial Stability" is the primary cause for the program cuts. But the data from the Task Force Report suggests the Chinese minor should be maintained. Every language has seen decreased enrollment, but enrollment in Chinese remains consistent. Chinese enrollment rates are higher than the average decline in the WLC department and the college as a whole. This is indicative of a sustainable department. Removing it now would likely necessitate it being reinstated a few years later as interest grows in the East Asia region. Extraneous spending such as a complete college rebranding or countless new administrators should be on the chopping block rather than essential academic programs.

Financial stability will not come from eroding the Allegheny brand or erasing campus safe spaces. Austerity is a mistake; you cannot cut your way to success. Allegheny must instead uphold the core values that it loudly proclaims. I cannot think of anything more antithetical to "creating an inclusive, respectful, and safe residential learning community that will actively confront and challenge racism" than cutting the Chinese minor now. If the Statement of Community means anything, it would prioritize student belonging and safety during times of duress.

## "Ban the Bible, too"

### A commentary on book-banning

By **SYDNEY EMERSON**

Staff Writer  
emersons@allegheny.edu

I am disturbed by the filth that Americans are reading, and you should be, too.

Take, for example, a story in which two daughters live alone with their widowed father. They make a pact to get him drunk and trick him into having sex with them, after which they become pregnant and give birth to sons.

Or, if that is not to your taste, there is a story in which an angry mob surrounds a house, demanding to rape a male houseguest. Appalled, the homeowner instead offers up his virgin daughter and the houseguest's wife instead. The mob rapes them all night, and in the morning, the houseguest takes his wife home and cuts her into twelve pieces.

What about this sexual language? "When a man has an emission of semen, he shall bathe his whole body in water and be unclean until evening. Any piece of cloth or leather with semen on it shall be washed with water and be unclean until evening."

And, of course, there is the endless blathering about slavery, such as: "The male and female slaves that you possess — these you shall acquire from the nations round about you ... these you may possess, and bequeath to your children as their hereditary possession forever."

Sound familiar? All of these stories and quotations come from the same source material, a single book that has spread across the planet at a frightening pace. At any time, millions of American children have at their disposal an arsenal of smut, slavery and immorality, which will surely corrupt them for

good.

I am, of course, referring to the Bible, a book that has been mass-printed since the fifteenth century and relied on as the primary text of all Christian faiths for millennia. The verses which I have quoted or paraphrased, in order, are Genesis 19, Judges 19 and Leviticus 15:16-17 and 25:44-46.

How can we continue, in good conscience, to allow written material of this nature to have an honored place in our households, libraries and hotel rooms? As moral citizens who steer clear of pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth, how can we reconcile our virtues with this book full of vices?

It's simple, really. I know the answer, and I suspect you do, too. We have not yet banned the Bible because the parts which I have cherry-picked — and, yes, they are cherry-picked — are not the whole story. They are the questionable passages, the ones we now ignore or acknowledge are obsolete. Some passages may even be metaphorically interpreted to reveal a deeper, more profound meaning, a skill that is taught in any entry-level English class.

So, I must ask: What makes the text of Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye" any different from the tale of Lot's daughters in Genesis? What makes the sexual assault in Laurie Halse Anderson's "Speak" different from Judges? What makes "Stamped," a nonfiction examination of racism and slavery in America, different than the contents of Leviticus when examined as a historical artifact?

The latest book-banning craze that has swept the nation has been spearheaded by a generally conservative, Christian and white demographic. The moves are prescribed, practically

a stereotype by now: an outraged suburbanite wearing a custom graphic tee and a crucifix necklace approaches the podium at a school board meeting. She pulls her required mask down below her chin. She then proceeds to read selected passages from books like "Looking for Alaska" and "The Hate U Give," passages that inevitably involve no-no buzzwords like "masturbate" and "police brutality."

Out of context, anything can be made outrageous. (Have you heard the one about the two men who are "roommates" and live next door to a trashcan-dwelling hobo with anger issues? That's Sesame Street.) If the school board or parents in attendance have never read these books, they, too, will be appalled by the dirt which their pornography-peddling librarians — liberal, godless temptresses wielding stamps — allow, nay, encourage their children to read. They soon jump aboard the bandwagon, and it's off to the first amendment races.

This movement relies on misinformation and a ticking clock. It banks on the ignorance and emotional reactions of others, much like my own treatment of the Bible earlier in this article. The people getting up to read at school board meeting podiums across the country are wholly dependent on the fact that their captive audience has

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The people getting up to read at school board meeting podiums across the country are wholly dependent on the fact that their captive audience has not read these books and will not bother to do so...”

—SYDNEY EMERSON  
Class of 2023

not read these books and will not bother to do so, rather accepting what they are told from the outset and joining the movement without a second thought.

See, if any one of those newly-minted protesters bothered to read and subsequently think critically about the books read aloud at school board meetings, they would find that the "lewd" sections are, in fact, minor components of the book that lend themselves to a larger literary value.

"To Kill a Mockingbird," for instance, contains a description of rape. It does not, however, condone, encourage, or give instruction to commit rape. Yet, book banners frequently cite the rape plotline in their complaints, assuring Harper Lee's honor as one of the most-challenged authors in the U.S. for decades.

The fact of the matter is that reading books takes time and thinking critically takes even more. Proponents of book banning want their audiences gullible and scandalized. Their greatest enemy is critical thought and independence. In fact, this movement has become such a ridiculous game of telephone that most groups challenging libraries and school boards draw their list of illicit books from pre-made spreadsheets, complete with selected quotations to read at forums, which circulate on the internet. Much like most social move-

ments nowadays, book banning comes in an easy-to-assemble kit, instruction booklet and all. There is no agency in this movement, only self-righteous outrage addicts looking for their next hit of grandstanding.

I am certain of two things. One, if I described the above Bible passages as selections from an allegorical anthology about sexuality, morality and humanity written by a collective of Middle Eastern authors, it would be added to the banned book spreadsheets in an instant. This was never about protecting children; it has everything to do with prejudices already ravaging our society.

Two, this fad — and it is most certainly a fad — will fade into the ether in two to five months when a shiny, new boogeyman emerges for moral outrage addicts to fixate upon. Those involved in this movement are simply following the herd wherever it may lead — first critical race theory, then novels about gay teenagers, and next, school curricula. Forgive me if I'm wrong, book banners, but it seems to me as if there is no conviction or staunch belief in this movement. Instead, it is a national effort to generate even more political discourse and division over some books that you, in all likelihood, have never read. (You probably should — you might learn something.)

As Matthew 5:29 says, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away." Getting your way, book banners, must mean staunch adherence to your own proclaimed moral code. Until then, this is nothing more than posturing. So, let's start with the original sin. Go ahead and ban the Bible first, then we'll talk.

# Russia begins invasion of Ukraine, 80 strikes reported

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**  
Science/International Editor  
bradyg@allegheny.edu

Editor's Note: This article was last updated at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24. According to the Associated Press, Russian troops entered Ukraine's Donbas region early Thursday morning in response to a signal given by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In an speech broadcast that aired on Russian television, Putin spoke more about the reasons behind the premeditated attack.

"I have decided to conduct a special military operation," Putin said, "Russia cannot exist with a constant threat emanating from the territory of Ukraine."

In response to this move made by the Russian military, Alexander Vindman, a retired lieutenant colonel for the United States Army and director for European affairs for the National Security under former President Trump spoke about the invasion.

"Putin has declared war on Ukraine," Vindman said. "The objective is to demilitarize and pacify Ukraine. This is basically the worst case scenario. Putin wants to destroy Ukraine's armed forces and install a puppet regime."

CNN and The New York Times reported that several loud explosions were heard near Ukraine's capital, Kyiv following Putin's declaration of a military operation. According to CNN, there have been about 160 strikes targeting various sites near Kyiv.

According to CNN, these explosions were heard in other regions of Ukraine including the Black Sea port city of Odessa and the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

It is believed that the explosions that were heard near Kyiv and Odessa were likely missiles, while the ones that were heard in Kharkiv were likely artillery because of the proximity to the Russian border.

Tension between Russia



Putin has declared war on Ukraine. The objective is to demilitarize and pacify Ukraine. This is basically the worst case scenario. Putin wants to destroy Ukraine's armed forces and install a puppet regime."

—ALEXANDER VINDMAN  
Former Director for European Affairs,  
United States

and Ukraine has continuously escalated in recent years, sparking fear of potential war in nations across the globe.

According to a timeline produced by The New York Times, tensions began in 2014 when a group of protests in Ukraine overthrew the president at the time, Viktor Yanukovich in hopes that Ukraine would be able to form better relations with the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

These protests, which are also known as the Revolution of Destiny, resulted in the deaths of more than 100 people in the main square of Kyiv.

Later in 2014, Russia invaded and annexed Crimea, the southern peninsula of Ukraine, as a result of the removal of Yanukovich from office.

President Vladimir Putin sought to annex Crimea to protect the ethnic Russians living in this region from the far-right extremists, whom officials in Russia believe to have overthrown President Yanukovich.

"I told all my colleagues, 'We are forced to begin the work to bring Crimea back into Russia,'" Putin said in a 2015 documentary produced by VRPO.

According to Ukrainer, Russia is responsible for multiple human rights abuses, such as torture, detention,

forced disappearances, as well as discriminatory actions, including the persecution of the Crimean Tatars, a mainly Sunni Muslim Turkic ethnic group.

Additionally, an article from The Washington Post explained that the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine has resulted in the deaths of 14,000 people since its origin in 2014. Kenneth Pinnow, professor of history and global health, made this statistic more tangible, remarking that the number of people that have died since the Revolution of Destiny is the same size as Meadville.

Sasha Shafran, '25, a student from Ukraine spoke about the shifting tensions between the two nations.

"To be honest, unfortunately, nothing has changed since 2014," Shafran said. "The only difference is the publicity of the conflict. (Russia's continuous aggression towards Ukraine is) helping the world to open its eyes on the current events and recognize Russia as a violative country."

Putin continues to believe that Russians and Ukrainians were the members of one nation and that those in charge of Russia started an "anti-Russian project."

According to a Washington Post article from last December, the Kremlin started planning a multi-front offensive

attack.

An administration official from NATO spoke to the Washington Post about what could be expected from this attack in Ukraine.

"The Russian plans call for a military offensive against Ukraine as soon as early 2022 with a scale of forces twice what we saw this last spring during Russia's snap exercise near Ukraine's borders," the official stated. "The plans involve the extensive movement of 100 battalion tactical groups with an estimated 175,000 personnel, along with armor, artillery, and equipment."

However, President Biden has sought out a diplomatic solution in Ukraine.

Pinnow provided a few different solutions that might prevent the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"What the Russian government is asking for is legal guarantees that Ukraine will never join NATO," Pinnow said. "Putin is talking about litigating the end of the cold war. They're even calling for NATO to leave Eastern European countries like Poland, the Baltic nations or Romania."

NATO was founded in 1949 as an intergovernmental alliance between the militaries of 27 European countries, two North American countries, and one Eurasian country,

and is meant to ensure the freedom and security of its members through political and military means.

Putin has warned the current members of NATO that if Ukraine is permitted to join, they could be drawn into a full-scale war.

According to an article published by Independent, Biden warned Russia of what could happen if they were to invade Ukraine.

"I've had numerous discussions with the Russians, and particularly with Putin," Biden said. "I don't know that he knows what he's going to do, and I think he has to realize that it would be a gigantic mistake for him to move to Ukraine. The impact on Europe and the rest of the world would be devastating, and he would pay a heavy price." U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson also spoke about how an invasion of Ukraine would, "be a disaster for not just Russia,

it would be a disaster for the world," and discussed how, "the UK stands squarely behind the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine."

# Strained relations with China come to head at Olympics

By **JUNE GROMIS**  
Science/International Writer  
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With the 2022 Beijing Olympics Games having officially drawn to a close late last week, they stand to be remembered by the inflammatory discourse surrounding them, even as the games themselves were largely devoid of political occurrences.

From the start, the Chinese government and the International Olympic Committee sought to frame the games in a politically neutral light. However, the preemptive U.S. diplomatic boycott showed that the inflammatory debate regarding alleged Chinese human rights abuses would fall short at the olympics.

On Dec. 6 2021, White House press secretary Jen Psaki made the following statement regarding the United State's presence at the games: "The Biden administration will not send any diplomatic or official representation to the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games given the PRC's ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity in Xinjiang and other human rights abuses."

This move was in line with the Biden administration's policy to formally recognize and condemn the alleged mass detention and abuse of

the Uyghur ethnic minority in western China through declarations made by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken earlier last year.

At the same time, the question of Taiwan's sovereignty has once again gained traction as a political tool, especially during the Olympics. Since it is not recognized as an independent country by mainland China, Taiwan has been forced to compete under the banner of "Chinese Taipei" as a kind of diplomatic stalemate between the PRC and members of the international community who recognize Taiwan. The Biden administration has recently taken to offering more overt political and even military support to Taiwan, as a means of building pressure against Beijing.

According to the Chinese foreign ministry quoted in a Guardian article from October 2021, "For quite some time, the U.S. has been making negative moves by selling arms to Taiwan and strengthening official and military ties with Taiwan, including the launch of a \$750 million arms sale plan to Taiwan, the landing of US military aircraft in Taiwan and frequent sailing of US warships across the Taiwan strait." In the same article, Taiwan's executive branch also

confirmed an American military contingent being present as a training force for the island's military.

Departing from the IOC's guidelines of strict political neutrality during the games, a government spokesperson was asked about Taiwan's presence at the closing ceremony and an Olympic uniform manufacturer tied to the controversial region of Xinjiang, according to NPR.

The Chinese government's response was its usual stark reinforcement of its One China policy, the historical and political doctrine that includes the view that Taiwan, despite operating as an independent nation, is part of the People's Republic of China. It also included reassurance that there were no human rights abuses being committed in Xinjiang, a topic that the Chinese government had largely shied away from during previous Olympic press conferences.

In the aftermath of this year's Winter Olympics in Beijing, the political integrity of the games has been called into question by commentators in both China and the United States.

As with other political issues at the games, the IOC stood firmly as the primary party of responsibility, yet



The Biden administration will not send any diplomatic or official representation to the Beijing 2022 Winter ... Games given the PRC's ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity."

—JEN PSAKI  
Press Secretary,  
The White House

they remained hesitant to take a clear political stance in either direction. Its success in weathering controversy has largely defined the IOC's ability to follow through on its decisions undeterred.

Another issue more closely tied to the games is the position of Chinese-American athletes who held differing allegiances. In the United States, Chinese-Americans who competed for China were often ridiculed while those who competed for the US were celebrated. In China, Chinese-American athletes who competed for America were ignored and those who competed for China were viewed as icons of nationalistic pride.

"To be an American-born athlete of Chinese descent on sport's most prominent global stage is to be a lightning rod for patriotic, some

say nationalistic, sentiment," wrote New York Times International Correspondent Amy Qin in an op-ed. "Once held up as bridges linking the two countries, the Chinese American Olympians — and their successes and failures — are increasingly being seen as proxies in the superpowers' broader geopolitical tussle."

As geopolitical conflicts loom, the tension exercised on the athletes themselves forms a more tangible part of the olympic experience.

Despite these tensions, IOC president Thomas Bach set the tone of the games with the wish to "Bring us together in peaceful competition. Always building bridges, never erecting walls. Uniting humankind in all our diversity," during his speech at the opening ceremony.

Yet when Bach ubiquitously defended China's stewardship of the games in the months before, the impartiality of the IOC was already called into question, and as the organization grapples with doping scandals on top of diplomatic posturing, the future of the Olympics as an international destination remains unclear.

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was asked about Taiwan's presence at the closing ceremony and an Olympic uniform manufacturer tied to the controversial region of Xinjiang, according to NPR.

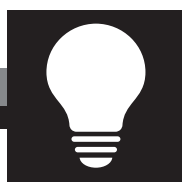
The Chinese government's response was its usual stark reinforcement of its One China policy and a publicly rebuke accusations of human rights abuses, but this time, on the Olympic stage.

In the aftermath of this year's Winter Olympics in Beijing, the political integrity of the games has been called into question by commentators in both China and the United States.

As with other political issues at the games, the IOC stood firmly as the primary party of responsibility, yet they remained hesitant to take a clear political stance in either direction. Its success in weathering controversy has largely defined the IOC's ability to follow through on its decisions undeterred.

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## ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

BRUCE R. THOMPSON  
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BIG IDEA

# Do You Have A Big Idea?

Do you have an idea for a new business or social venture?  
If so, the 2022 Zingale Big Idea Competition and its  
\$30,000 prize pool may be for you.



The Zingale Big Idea Competition is Allegheny College's version of the popular CNBC television show, Shark Tank.

#### Here's how the competition works:

- The Zingale Big Idea Competition will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30
- There will be a Student Track with \$20,000 in prizes and a Meadville Community Track for local entrepreneurs with \$10,000 in prizes.
- First place winning entries will also be invited to a consultation session with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central & Northern PA.
- All participants must submit a 3-page Executive Summary including financials, which must be received no later than April 15, 2022.

#### Competition workshop dates:

- Tuesday, March 1**  
Finding A Relevant Problem To Solve
- Tuesday, March 15**  
Creating A Big Idea To Solve The Problem
- Tuesday, March 29**  
Marketing Your Big Idea
- Tuesday, April 5**  
Developing Your Big Idea's Financial Plan
- Tuesday, April 12**  
Pitching Your Big Idea



scan for more details

To register for the competition and workshops,  
contact Sarah Holt at [sholt@allegheny.edu](mailto:sholt@allegheny.edu) or Chris Allison at [callison@allegheny.edu](mailto:callison@allegheny.edu).

# Math, family, and mental illness

## Playshop Theatre to present 'Proof'

By **MO MANSOUR**  
Features Editor  
mansour01@allegheny.edu

The Playshop Theatre is putting on a production of the Pulitzer Prize winning play "Proof" by David Auburn in the Gladys Mullenix Black theater, running from Thursday, Feb. 24 to Sunday, Feb. 27.

"Proof" is about a brilliant University of Chicago mathematician, who regrettably succumbed to what almost certainly was schizophrenia," said Mark Cosdon, director of 'Proof' and professor of theatre and performance studies. "He has a pair of daughters who must grapple with the legacy of his illness, but also with the legacy of his brilliant gifts. The play focuses upon the flourishing relationship of his daughter Catherine has both a creator of brilliant mathematical proofs, but also as a young woman coming into her own it's a wonderful play, and one that I think is really very complex and moving."

The play features a small cast of characters. Karen Gauriloff '22, plays the central figure of Catherine, a young woman with a brilliant mind for mathematics who takes after her father, Robert, played by Professor of Mathematics Jim Hollerman. Robert is a mathematical mastermind who was famous at the local Chicago university for solving complicated mathematical proofs, who also suffered from mental illness. Robert has another daughter, Catherine's older sister, Claire, played by McKenzie DeWolf, '24. Finally, Matt Dugan, '23, plays Hal, a former student of Robert and a love interest for Catherine.

Besides the director and cast the scenic and lighting design is put together by Professor of Commu-

nication Arts Michael Meheler, the technical director is LeeAnn Yeckley, and the costumes were put together by alex martin, '24.

The story follows Catherine in the wake of her father's death, as she spent a lot of time with Robert and cared for him as his mental health deteriorated. Catherine has the same affinity for mathematics as her father, but also shows signs of struggling with the same mental health issues, unlike the very normal Claire.

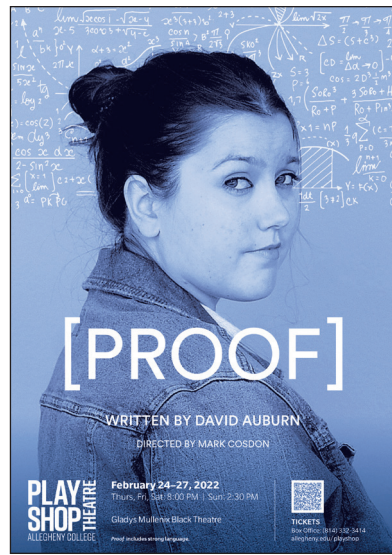
The production also doubles as Gauriloff's senior project.

"In terms of this being my comp I have put way more research and way more thought ... into this character than I have ever done for a character before," Gauriloff said.

"Having this performance be my comp has definitely made things different," Gauriloff said. "I did so much prep work; reading and rereading the script and pulling out all the little details that make Catherine who she is. This will definitely be the most unified character I have ever performed. I'm using the Adler method of acting for my performance which has a lot of focus on creating the world of the play, what happened before this moment and what happens after."

Gauriloff is referencing the techniques developed by 20th Century actress Stella Adler. The Adler method or Adler technique instructs performers to look beyond the interpretation of a director or the limits of what happens in the plot, encouraging them to use their imagination to a greater capacity in their performances.

"This means that I've basically created an entire imaginary life for Catherine and I'm using it as a starting place for my acting," Gauriloff said.



COURTESY OF MARK COSDON

The Playshop Theatre will present 'Proof' today through Sunday, Feb. 27.

The play itself runs just under two hours, and is only two acts, with the entire play taking place on the back porch of the family's house over two acts. The rehearsal process began in module 1 and continued into the first week of module 2 with the module 1 break also being a break for the production.

The Playshop Theatre's final show of its 91st Season will be "She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen. The show follows a young woman named Agnes as she goes on a Dungeons & Dragons quest to make sense of the death of her little sister, Tilly, according to the last page of the "Proof" Program. "She Kills Monsters" will be running from April 28 to May 1, 2022.

"Proof" will be shown in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts tonight and Saturday night at 8:00 p.m. The Sunday showing will be at 2:30 p.m. Masks are required for entry.

Masks will be required for all audience members regardless of vaccination status.

# Despite the Disney magic

## 'Encanto' lacks depth

By **JACK THIBAUT**  
Contributing Writer  
thibault01@allegheny.edu

"Encanto" was shown recently in the Shaffer Auditorium in the Henson Campus Center. So, being the movie person I am, I dragged some friends along to see it with me. The movie was a blast on the big screen and my friends had an especially good time listening to the songs on the auditorium speakers. From my perspective, it was a hit with the crowd and left a lot of smiling faces. All this made me all the more excited to review this undoubtedly fun movie.

"Encanto" is a movie about a magical family in which each member, except for our main character, Mirabel Madrigal, is given magical powers. The magic, born of a tragedy before Mirabel is born, creates a refuge for the family Madrigal to live in called the Encanto. Also, the magic manifests itself physically in the form of a house, which the family warmly calls "Casita," and the sparkly flame of a candle that does not go out. Soon though, the magic that has blessed the family begins to weaken and it is up to Mirabel, despite not receiving a magical "gift," to save the magic and the Encanto.

The House of the family Madrigal presents itself immediately as one of the smartest and brightest parts of "Encanto." Casita's conscious interaction with the family makes for some really fun and unique sequences that set the rest of the movie up really playfully. Casita really shines, though, with its magic rooms, specifically made for each gifted family member. These rooms can be as fantastical, outlandish and huge as they need to be depending on the traits and powers of the family member. Watching Mirabel enter and explore the rooms of Casita is a really smart way to give the movie a large and adventurous story while still keeping a small and focused scale on the magic, the house and the family.

The songs of "Encanto" were all written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and it is clear he stretched too thin after creating three other movies in 2021 alone. The first song of "Encanto" is entitled "The Family Madrigal," and while catchy and fun, I feel it should have been cut entirely. The song is completely expository and uses children asking direct questions of Mirabel as a vehicle for the audience to learn about the world of "Encanto." If the song was cut from the movie then the audience would have gotten to experience the imaginative world of "Encanto" with a greater sense of wonder and gain a greater satisfaction in learning about it. The audience, in exploring this new world, could have felt like children again. Instead, though, the movie reduces us to children in explaining the marvel of "Encanto" directly. The other songs of the movie do not fare much better. Instead of using its songs to reinforce or propel the story, "Encanto" uses music too often as a crutch to explain away new aspects of the movie or its characters. A few songs do break this pattern though, including "Encanto's" highlight, "We Don't Talk About Bruno." "We Don't Talk About Bruno" is not only, in my opinion, the best song in this movie musically, but it is also the best in terms of story. The song, using anecdotes, overlapping voices and a stronger bass, builds a shrouded suspense and curiosity around Bruno that makes the audience excited for the rest of the movie and Bruno, especially.

Bruno, when he inevitably comes into play, also serves as a highlight among the cast of characters. Both



'Encanto' creates a warm, satisfying feeling when the credits roll, but it does not leave much to think about."

—JACK THIBAUT  
Class of 2024

him and Mirabel are super likable. They are funny, insecure and quirky in ways that feel natural and are not tacked on to relay a message. Similar things can be said about Abuela Alma Madrigal, the grandmother and soul of the family. Although she is not funny or quirky, and is often cruel to Mirabel because of her lack of powers, she offers a real depth to her traditional ways and it is always clear she is trying to do what's best for the Encanto. Abuela offers a really great perspective on tradition which I have not often seen in movies aimed at children. Mirabel's sisters Isabela and Luisa also offer great perspectives but I cannot say that they hold quite the same profundity that Mirabel, Bruno and Abuela do. Both characters are extremely gifted and are seemingly perfect on the surface, but suffer from understandable insecurity under the weight of expectations. Obviously these are lovely traits for characters to have but they still come up flat for me because their feelings are, once again, explained directly through song. Isabela and Luisa are powerful characters and they should've been given the proper time to let their feelings build and be revealed. Also, the two sisters are essentially the same character, just with different powers, making their character arcs feel more predictable and less profound. Regardless of how I feel about them though, there is no doubt the characters of "Encanto" will do a lot of good for the children watching them.

The sisters, and most other characters with powers in the movie, will offer a lot of solidarity for children who have been given the "gifted" label. These labels can put a lot of expectation and pressure on children so it is good to have characters like Luisa and Isabela to show them that it is okay to be insecure or anxious. I do not think it is a coincidence that the powers in "Encanto" are called "gifts." However, these sorts of powered characters seem to be everywhere nowadays, especially in movies. This is why I think Mirabel is the perfect protagonist for "Encanto." She shows to children directly that even when surrounded by super powered role models, it does not mean you take magic to be a hero. Abuela will also help children gain new perspectives on their role models because of her surprisingly mature look at generational trauma. This may help children who are, as Mirabel is, negatively affected by older generations being tied to tradition.

Healthy messages and representation can only do so much for a movie though, and I believe "Encanto" is too reliant on these things, as well as its songs, to win the audience over. To me, because of all the explaining it does, "Encanto" feels more like a lesson than a movie. It feels like the plot just serves to sell its message rather than to provide a profound adventure for the characters to naturally find the end of their arcs. If more energy was put into the plot then this movie would've been just as good for adults as it is for children. Instead though, "Encanto" uses relatability, music and visuals as crutches to keep the audience entertained through the unmemorable and messy plot.

"Encanto" as a whole is a beautiful movie that has a lot to do and a lot to say, however it is also a movie that gets so wrapped up in its message and songs that it forgets to create a plot that makes the audience — especially its adult audience — take the message seriously. It does a great job making the audience hear the message, but it forgets to make us think about the message. "Encanto" creates a warm, satisfying feeling when the credits roll, but it does not leave much to think about. I'm excited to show this movie to my kids one day, but I do not think I would show it to my friends. If you have not watched it, I encourage you to watch it anyway though, and to form your own opinion.

7/10



# Panelists reveal the challenges of a PWI

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**  
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At predominantly white institutions, students of color face challenges and have had to adapt to circumstances in order to succeed. This Black History Month, the IDEAS Center has invited panelists of color to give advice and share their experiences navigating a PWI with students.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 23 the IDEAS Center held a panel over Zoom. Students were encouraged to submit their questions for the panelists prior to the meeting.

Director of the IDEAS Center Darnell Tucker, explained the purpose of the panel as a way for students to hear from those who have gone through similar experience at other PWI and at Allegheny.

"The desired outcome is for students to be able to look at someone who's gone through it already and ask them what they would do differently so that our students can learn from their own experiences and make their own experiences better," Tucker said. "I want Allegheny students to be better equipped to know what resources are available for them."

Assistant Director for Retention and Graduate Outreach at Case Western Reserve University Jennée



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—DARNELL TUCKER  
Director of the IDEAS Center

Kelly explained some of the ways minority students could be prepared to attend a PWI.

"It is a lot of community building," Kelly said. "What I am intentional about is bringing students into our office and if I see you wandering around campus I am going to say hello to you."

In agreement with Kelly, law student at Ohio State University Joey Oteng expressed the importance of students grounding themselves in their identity and in their communities to be able to have stable support systems that can help navigate the challenges at a PWI.

"You are capable in so many different ways. You have been through a lot and you are going to go through a lot," Oteng said. "Yet, you're still more capable of accomplishing what you need to because of these past experiences."

Allegheny President of the Association for the Advancement of Black Culture Jordan Pierce, '22, shared where he has been able to connect with people who have shared experiences.

"I remember the first meeting I went to for ABC was about coming up with a protest because a student of color had gotten called the N-word at a white party," Pierce said. "You have to go and find your place. We don't have a lot of them here but in those places we are in the masses for sure."

Mental health has been a stigmatized subject for a long time even though many college students face mental health challenges throughout their careers. The panelists respond to the stigmas associated with prioritizing mental health as Black individuals.

"There is so much stigma for men to talk about their emotions but it is hard especially for Black men,"

Oteng said. "I was so afraid to go to my first therapy session but I realized it was easy when I finally went. The hardest part was me setting up the meeting."

Most schools provide resources for students to have the opportunity to reach out and ask for help related to their careers and overall navigation of college life. Panelists listed career services, multicultural centers and diversity centers as ways students of color can succeed in their PWI and take advantage of the opportunities available.

"Our diversity center like IDEAS was a really big source this semester," Pierce said. "It's kinda like where you can just go and talk to somebody and it is a space where you could see all the beautiful people of color."

Kelly shared her experience with not feeling integrated into the campus community at Miami University. Her experience was mixed with some aspects being really positive while other instances did not make her feel like she was a part of the community.

"I made some awesome connections and I'm still friends with people there but I think diversity was more numbers based and who is gonna look good on the brochures," Kelly said. "It is not an experience where I felt integrated by the institution as a whole but I felt like offices in particular did care and incorporated me."

Closing out, the panelists were invited to share what they would do differently if they could go back to undergraduate school.

"I wish I realized that I don't have to mimic other people to be successful," Kelly said. "I think that will save you so much anxiety of trying to be perfect because then you are denying yourself of the privilege of being you."

## BUSY ON THE COURTS



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Faairs Cheema, '25, attempts to make a layup during halftime of the men's basketball game on Feb. 8. Cheema did not win the competition, but received a \$250 Visa gift card for participating.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Kylie Kasavage, '23, attempts to make a free throw shot from the foul line during halftime of the women's basketball game on Feb. 8. Kasavage did not win the competition.

## Basketball raffle gave chance to win year's tuition

By **SARAH ALLISON**

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Two students had the once-in-a-college-career chance to win a year of free tuition before module one ended.

The raffle occurred during halftime at the Feb. 8 men's and women's basketball games at the James H. Mullen Arena of the David V. Wise Center.

Assistant Athletic Director for Communications, Sean King, explained the logistics of the raffle.

"The winners (are) able to try to make a layup, free throw, three-pointer and half

court shot within 25 seconds for a chance at a cash-valued prize of \$51,910, paid by a third party insurance company," King said. The two raffle winners also received a \$250 Visa gift card for having their ticket pulled.

Odds On Promotions provides promotional insurance to schools and corporations with a certain type of contract so that schools and companies are not liable for the full amount of the promotion's grand prize.

"Essentially the school was simply facilitating the contest based on the contract stipulations that are handled

between the selected participant(s) and Odds On," King said.

King also explained that the college decided to work with Odds On after an anonymous donor purchased an insurance contract for \$1,019.00 from Odds On Promotions at a lower rate than the full amount.

"Think of it as auto insurance, health insurance or any other type of insurance," King said.

Before the two contestants attempted to make baskets, they had to sign a contestant agreement that outlined the rules and regulations of the

promotion and to verify that they understood the information after King discussed it with them and before they completed the promotion. King also said that it was a way to verify that they were eligible — students could not be a former or current collegiate, professional or Olympic basketball player.

The winner during the women's basketball game was Kylie Kasavage, '23.

"When they were reading the ticket I was thinking it wasn't gonna be me, but then as they kept reading the numbers, I thought, 'Oh god, don't do it,'" Kasavage said.

Despite her nerves, Kasavage stepped out onto the court and made the layup in the first try, but was unable to make the three pointer within the 25-second time limit.

After Kasavage's attempt to win the tuition, King exclaimed:

"Was that as much for you viewing it as it was for me?"

The winner at the second game was Faairs Cheema, '25. Cheema did not step down from the bleachers for a bit of time before finally making his way down to shoot his shot.

"I didn't want to do it," Cheema said. "I tried handing it to (my friend) Anton, but

he told me to go."

On the court, Cheema went to make the layup and, on the second try he made it into the hoop. Then he proceeded to make the three-pointer after his third try, but ran out of time to continue.

Since neither of the students were successful in the promotional contest, the third party insurance company, Odds On Promotions, did not pay the full amount of \$51,910 to either of the participants or to the college.

## Men's basketball falls to Wooster, season recap

By **KYLE CHANDLER**

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Editor's Note: This story was written after the Allegheny men's basketball v. Denison regular season game on Saturday, Feb. 19. The Gators fell to Wooster 86-79 Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the North Coast Athletic Conference quarterfinals. Allegheny finished the season 8-14.

The Allegheny men's basketball team is heading to the postseason after closing out their regular season in a loss to Denison on senior night, falling 56-72. The team finished 8-13, snagging hold of the 7th seed in the battle hardened NCAC conference. They face off in the opening round against the College of Wooster, ranking second in the conference.

"We understand what we need to do," point guard Brian Roberts Jr., '22, said. "We understand we had a hard loss to Denison, but the goal is about winning the next game. It's win or go home, we just have to be better for 40 minutes."

The senior out of Copley, Ohio has been a menace for opposing defenses all season. Finishing second in points per game in the NCAC conference, Roberts was dropping buckets left and right

averaging just under 23 each contest. It was his best scoring season while in a white and gold uniform, all under the reins of head coach Bob Simmons.

"To watch Brian grow mentally, academically, as well as athletically has really been awesome to be a part of," Simmons said.

Simmons explained that Roberts's ability to get to the basket at will and his competitive banter were some of his most attractive features while being recruited, as Simmons liked his edge.

Filling out the five in addition to being another spectacular player for the Gators offense was center Caden Hinckley, '23. Hinckley's large frame at six-foot eight-inches, 210 pounds allowed him to average slightly more than a double-double this season, finishing the year with 15.1 points per game along with being the top rebounder in the conference with 11.1 boards per outing. Hinckley's low post maneuvers and punishing finishes gave the Gators a great piece at the big man position with lots of highlights. His defense is not to be overlooked either, as the junior averaged more than three blocks per game, and was a presence not to be messed with on the floor.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Forward Caden Hinckley, '23, battle for the ball against Denison forward Turner Kurt on Feb. 19 in the James H. Mullen arena.

"I didn't really play basketball much until high school," Hinckley said.

After hitting a growth spurt during his tenure at Mount Lebanon High School, Hinckley decided to give hoops a try.

"With practice and game time you get used to what works and what doesn't work, and how to use your size," Hinckley said.

The Gators got off to a slow start during the Feb. 8 Wooster game, falling behind early in the first half. Then

Mr. Clutch came to the rescue and Roberts exploded for 26 points, shooting 7 of 15 from the field, including a pair of three pointers, and a perfect 10 for 10 from the free throw line.

Roberts was able to close the deficit for the Gators toward the end of the first half, and the entire Gators unit exploded to start the second half, running away with the game and securing a statement victory in their own building. It was the first time Wooster had lost in James H.

Mullen arena in 25 years.

For the third season in a row Allegheny has made the conference tournament — disregarding the shortened season last year where there were no playoffs. Also for the third season in a row, their first playoff game will be against Wooster. Falling to the Fighting Scots in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons, the team is hoping for a different outcome in the third edition of the saga. Coach Simmons says his guys have the experience in this kind of

atmosphere, and will look to rely on the core of the group to band together and fight for a win. The game takes place at Wooster on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

With a win on Tuesday, it would mark the college's first playoff victory in over a decade, dating back to when Allegheny took down Ohio Wesleyan 78-75 in overtime Feb. 24, 2009, in the quarterfinal round of the NCAC tournament. Their last playoff win also represents the only time a 7 seed has taken down the 2 seed in the NCAC playoffs.