

The Campus

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‘Tuesday, Sept. 11 will be remembered by all’ *A look back on ‘The Campus’ coverage of 9/11, 20 years later*

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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On Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, a terrorist attack brought the World Trade Center down and sent shockwaves across the United States. Following the event, on Sept. 13, 2001, The Campus covered the impact it had on the student body and the actions faculty took to support students through a difficult time.

Provost Ron Cole reflected on the school’s immediate response to the tragedy. Cole was a professor at the time.

“There were a number of faculty and our counseling center that became very active, others in roles of support became active, in the Dean of Students office were several faculty who had training in crisis management,” Cole said.

Chaplain John Colatch, in a 2001 interview with The Campus, described the goal Spiritual Life had in supporting the student body after the attacks.

“We knew right away we had to provide an opportunity for the community

to come together. We don’t have any answers, all we can do is come together,” Colatch said.

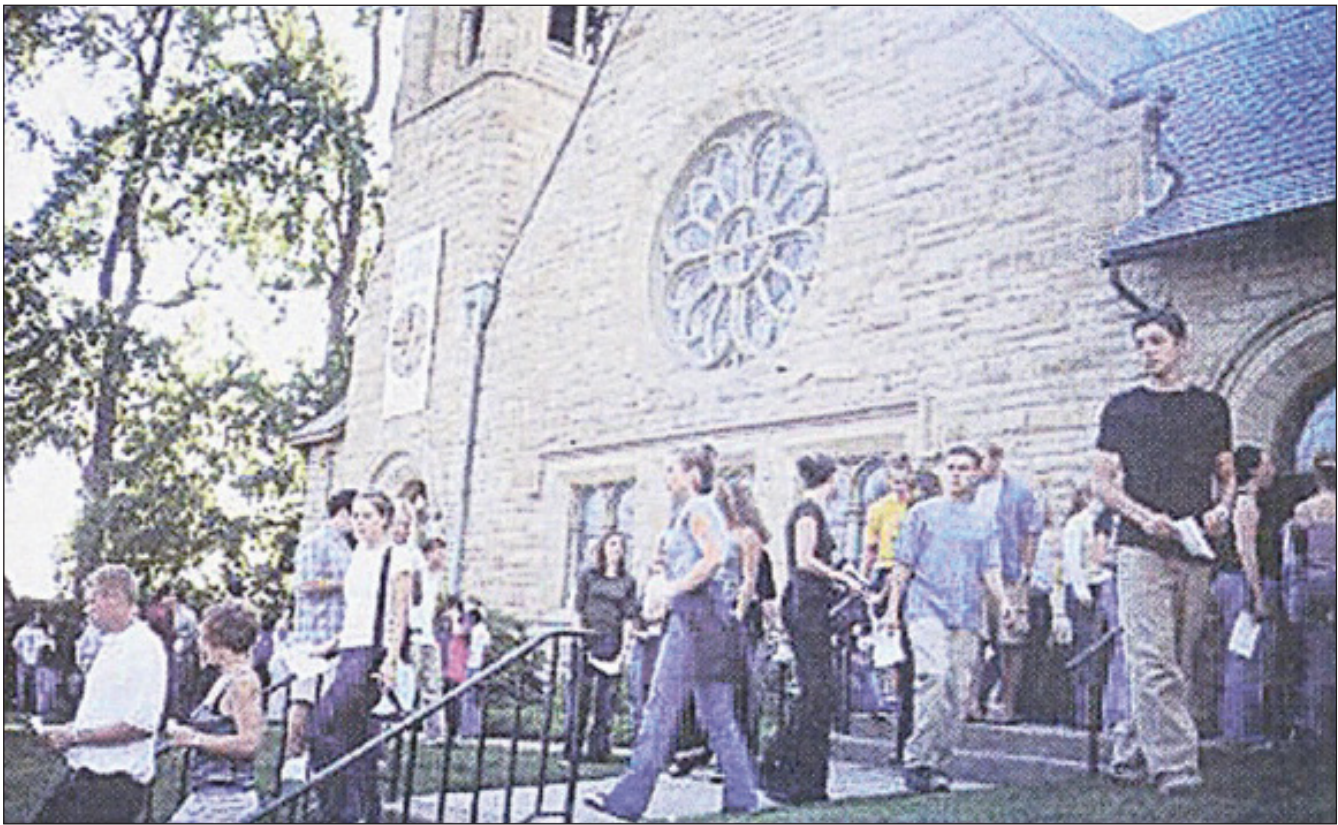
In its reporting at the time, The Campus emphasized the efforts students and faculty made to bring the community together in order to feel a sense of unity.

“Students packed into Ford Memorial Chapel Tuesday afternoon for a service of prayer and reflection, conducted by campus Chaplain John Colatch,” the Campus stated in the Sept. 13, 2001, issue. “The chapel, which seats 300, was filled to capacity, and still more students filled the foyer and spilled out onto the walkway.”

Students on campus all reacted differently and looked for ways to be brought closer together after the tragedy left many with a mix of emotions.

In a 2001 interview with The Campus, then Dean of the College Lloyd Michaels remarked on the diversity of emotions students felt and how the service at Ford Chapel helped people process the events.

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ERICA ERWIN/THE CAMPUS
Students file out of Ford Chapel the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001, after a memorial service for the victims of the day’s violence. This photo ran as the front-page photo of the Sept. 13, 2001 edition of The Campus.

Settlement reached in Title IX lawsuit

By ETHAN WOODFILL
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The lawsuit filed against Allegheny College by a former student for Title IX violations, negligence and emotional, mental and physical distress was settled Aug. 25, in a mediation session in the United States Western District Court in Erie.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed in the mediation statement.

The suit filed in Feb. 2020, claimed that Samantha Simonetta, ’21, a former Allegheny football team member, received “unwelcome sexual advances toward her during football practices.” The suit also claimed that Simonetta disclosed this information to former Head Assistant Coach Curtis Bailey. The suit claimed Bailey notified Simonetta that former Head Coach William Hammer would be notified of the situation, and Simonetta trusted this agreement, according to the suit.

The lawsuit also alleged Simonetta faced gender-based discrimination during the spring 2018 semester and continued into the summer.

“Spring football practices resumed in March 2018,” the lawsuit stated. “At that time, Ms. Simonetta was provided with a practice jersey but was not given access to a locker room. Furthermore, she was not assigned a jersey number like her male teammates.

Students, faculty reflect on post-9/11 world

By SARAH ALLISON
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September 11, 2021 will mark exactly 20 years since 2,996 individuals lost their lives in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93 which crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

“I was just starting graduate school, so I have a very clear memory of that Tuesday,” said Reem Hilal, assistant professor of Arabic at Allegheny College.

Hilal teaches a course called “Arab and Muslim Voices post-9/11,” which is, as the course description reads, “an investigation of Arab and Muslim literary and cultural responses to their position in the global community.”

“I remember being at work, and had

initially heard about the first plane,” Hilal said. “But like a lot of people, I thought it was an unfortunate accident.”

Soon, though, the reality of what had occurred set in.

“There were two things that sort of made me pay attention quickly,” Hilal said. “One was my boss when I was leaving to go to classes, and he said something to the effect of, ‘People won’t understand,’ and I didn’t understand what that meant. Then when I went to my car, the radio, all the channels were broadcasting the same thing.”

To her, it became “very clear that something traumatic had just happened.”

Even the younger generations who have no memories of or had not been born when 9/11 occurred are still feeling the aftermath of that fateful day.

Jack Parker, ’22, is the president of the Reserve Officers Training Corps on campus. He has no personal experiences of 9/11, but it has always been an essential part of his life.

“Personally, and this is more of a thing that I grew up doing with my dad, every 9/11, or the weekend of, I do a stair climb,” Parker said. “1,083 steps, I believe.”

Parker’s father is a firefighter, and 9/11 in their household has always been an event to remember.

“An inclination to serve and to utilize the strengths that I have for service, as opposed to personal gain, is something that spurred my decision to contract with the army,” Parker said.

Every year on 9/11, ROTC holds a commemorative flag raising and 21 gun salute to honor the fallen.

After the attacks, there was a definitive switch in how Americans treated Arabs and Muslims. Hilal talked of the hatred being expressed toward these communities.

“Documentaries of the FBI in 2002, I think, said that the hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims went up 1600%,” Hilal said.

In addition to this, these hate crimes have continued in an upwards trend, and these communities have continuously endured an immense amount of discrimination due to prejudices that arose from 9/11. Despite the fact that many Arabs and Muslims are victims of terrorism, they are the ones who are feared.

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Carr Hall Garden welcomes back volunteers



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
Kate Sosville, ’23, (L) leads volunteers in pruning blight from the Carrden’s beefsteak tomatoes on Monday, Sept. 6.

By SOFIA HASSAN
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Directly outside of Carr Hall is an expansive garden, known around campus as the “Carrden.” Boasting produce such as kiwi, tomatoes and eggplant, the Carrden does not limit itself in what it grows. There is a greenhouse in the middle of the space for those items — like the aforementioned eggplant — that require a little extra care. Two tables underneath the shade of two grand trees provide a couple of nice spots to observe it all.

A walk through the garden shows that there are many on campus with a

flair for the green. A lot of hands have a part in planting and maintaining and ultimately harvesting these crops.

What connects the garden to the students is explained on a sign at its entrance, so it is impossible to view the garden closely without becoming acquainted with its importance. The harvest is sold to Parkhurst, the campus dining service preparing food both at Brooks Dining Hall and at McKinley’s Food Court. 10 to 50 pounds of produce can be sent to the dining halls each week. Oftentimes it is indicated on the menu that what is being served, whether it be a vegetable side dish or ground cherries from the salad bar, comes from right next to Carr Hall.

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EDITORIAL: A ‘NORMAL’ SEMESTER

Peter Schellbach, ’24, reflects on returning to campus for his second year with much of the campus fully vaccinated.

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BIKEMAN PREVIEW

A look at the Playshop’s upcoming production of “Bikeman” by Tom Flynn, a series of narrative poems about the events on 9/11.

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FOOTBALL OVERWHELMS THIEL

Allegheny took down the Tomcats 42-14 in their season opener behind the four touchdown passes of Jack Johnson, ’24.

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CARRDEN

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The profits from the garden are put back into it for the purchase of equipment, seeds and labor. Leftover food scraps are composted, whereupon they become nutrients for the next crops. The process is full circle.

Kerstin Ams is the general manager of the Carrden and teaches in the Environmental Science department at Allegheny.

“(The Carrden) is a way to demonstrate sustainable methods and practices,” Ams said. “Our students can practice and try sustainable agriculture in addition to learning about it in the classroom.”

This fall, students are being chosen at random to receive five or six types of produce, along with a recipe to incorporate said produce. This was announced on a Carrden Instagram post made Aug. 27. For these students, the Carrden is becoming more intertwined with their food than ever, especially considering the fact that they have never been able to eat Carrden produce outside of the dining halls. Students need only fill out a Google Form to enter for a chance to win free Carrden vegetables that week.

Aside from this new vegetable lottery, chickens and two beehives have been introduced into the mix this year so that students can experience that side of agriculture. Ames explained that these new additions have allowed those working with the

Carrden to offer more kinds of produce.

According to student volunteer Kate Sosville, ’23, There are even plans to expand the Carrden to create a “food forest” in front of the space.

“We would probably have a lot more fruit trees and a more permaculture-type system,” Sosville said.

Sosville feels as though students studying in the Environmental Science and Sustainability department are initially more curious about this volunteer opportunity than others, but students outside the department have been showing up to volunteer as well.

“I’m glad that our school is able to broaden the group of people that are interested in sustainability methods,” Sosville said.

According to Sosville, there have not been these volunteer opportunities at the Carrden for a while — a complication created by the coronavirus pandemic. While a small-scale agriculture class offered at Allegheny (ENVSC-240) has had students working in the garden, out-of-class volunteering is being brought back after a hiatus through weekly volunteer sessions. Weeding, harvesting, and other maintenance jobs can be taken up by anyone — regardless of experience — who would like to lend a hand to the garden-to-table movement on cam-

pus.

“I hope people spread the word that it’s an opportunity for people to spend time outside and get to know people outside their majors or outside their dorms,” Ams said.

Even students who do not volunteer their time at the Carrden are oftentimes familiar with the role it plays on campus. Julia Imler, ’23, currently lives in an apartment. She explained that more often than not she eats at her apartment, but when she has had meals on campus she has seen the produce in the food.

“I feel like the produce gets used a lot at Brooks,” Imler said.

Imler said that this is the first year where she has gotten an opportunity to really walk around the Carrden.

“Visually, it’s a beautiful part of campus, but also I like the purpose that it’s there for,” Imler said.

According to Ames, every hand helps. She wants as many people to share in this bonding experience as possible.

“It’s nice to bond over doing something together, and then you get some fresh produce at the end,” Ames said.

Those who want to share in this purpose need only show up to the garden within the aforementioned timeframe this fall. The volunteer sessions are being held on Mondays between 3 to 5 p.m. through late October.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

TOP: A cherry tomato ripens in the Carrden. Among the activities taking place these first few weeks was the pruning of some of the beefsteak tomatoes (not pictured) to prevent blight from affecting the harvest.

BOTTOM: Raised beds are full of produce in the Carrden.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Sosville feeds the Carrden’s three chickens (L to R), Jill, Ali, and Deidre. Beyond growing plants, the Carrden has recently expanded to include chickens and beehive.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Jacob Braverman, ’23, turns over compost in the Carrden as part of the space’s holistic approach to sustainability and permaculture.

College working towards Middle State reaccréditation

By HASSAN JAVED
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As the school year picks up, so too does Allegheny College’s push to become reaccrédited. This process will continue until an outcome is determined in 2023.

Accreditation is a process administered by an evaluative body called an accrediting agency. Colleges are examined to ensure that they are offering a quality curriculum and education to their student body.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education is the accrediting agency administering Allegheny’s reaccréditation. Middle States will oversee the operations of Allegheny and determine whether or not Allegheny qualifies for reaccréditation based on federally approved standards and expectations according to Jennifer Dearden, professor of music, associate provost and interim registrar.

“We need (Middle States’) stamp of approval which says that Allegheny College provides quality education and is an institution that students should consider when looking for a college (to attend),” Dearden said.

Accreditation and reaccréditation is a legal requirement for colleges, according to Dearden.

“The federal government requires institutions of higher learning to be accredited according to set standards and expectations regarding different elements within an institution,”

Dearden said.

Accrediting agencies impose benchmarks and expectations for institutions to meet in order to achieve accreditation. The same method is used to reaccrédit institutions once they have obtained initial accreditation. Professor of History and Global Health Studies Kenneth Pinnow explained that reaccréditation takes place periodically.

“Once a college has become accredited by its accrediting agency, it must be evaluated on the same goals and expectations later on to become reaccrédited,” Pinnow said. “Reaccréditation takes place every five to 10 years.”

The standards and requirements established by Middle States are clear and consistent and can be found on the Middle States website. These are requirements like paying taxes and having an actively enrolled student body. Dearden discussed the details of Middle States’ standards and requirements.

“There are seven standards and 15 requirements of affiliation,” Dearden said. “The requirements are somewhere along the lines of meeting federal standards, having a publicly accessible curriculum or having an institutional mission.”

The College aims not only to gain reaccréditation under

the approval of Middle States but also to analyze and overview its functionality as of now and going forward, according to Dearden.

“Our goal with this (reaccréditation) is two-fold,” Dearden said. “We aim to not simply meet and exceed reaccréditation requirements but to also aim to look at our institution top to bottom and determine if what we are doing is what we want to be doing.”

Dearden and Pinnow are serving as co-chairs of the self-study committee and are responsible for overseeing the reaccréditation process at the College. They are also ex-officios for the working groups that have been established for self-study in the reaccréditation process. Self-study is the term given to the process in which the institution seeking reaccréditation produces a report on its performance and functionality. Pinnow explained the role of working groups in the reaccréditation process.

“We as an institution have certain priorities around which we will base our self-study and our working groups,” Pinnow said. “The working groups are based around curricular and assessment, student success, sustainable financial and institutional structures and communi-

ty engagement.”

Working groups consist of students and faculty and staff members. Each working group is focusing on its respective institutional value. Members of the working groups will work to collect data and view reports and other data to determine the level to which the College is meeting the given standards and requirements. Thion Lee, ’24, is part of a working group.

“I have learned so much about this institution from having my position in the community engagement group,” Lee said. “Our goal is to assist by looking at previous reports and observing whether or not the school kept its standards.”

Members of the working groups are chosen from different communities within the college to produce a diverse self-study report. The main role of the members of the working group is to provide authentic feedback in relation to the College meeting standards posted in previous reports.

“So far I have realized that the school did not meet a lot of standards in certain areas, as it was focused too much on certain areas and not enough in others,” Lee said. “Honestly, our job in these groups as students is to provide honest feedback to the school so that it can realign

itself with its standards.”

Lee remarked on the importance of student involvement in self-study working groups.

“I believe that I have been given a position where I can make an impact,” Lee said. “I am a student and I believe that we (students) deserve to have an opportunity to play a role in the running of our school.”

The reaccréditation process spans over the course of two years and requires a self-study report that will be written by Dearden and Pinnow with material from the working groups according to Pinnow.

“The working groups will be working till the upcoming May if not longer,” Pinnow said. “Once we have sufficient feedback from the working groups, Professor Dearden and I can start on our lengthy self-study report.”

Middle States will be doing a preparation visit on Tuesday, Sept. 14. There will be an open Zoom meeting with a Middle States representative. A link for the meeting will be posted on My Allegheny. Dearden emphasized the importance of the meeting.

“All those who are interested are highly encouraged to join,” Dearden said. “This is a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about our institution and more.”



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS
The boardroom in the Tippie Alumni Center, where some of the reaccréditation working groups meet.

ASG learns about reaccreditation process

By EVELYN ZAVALA
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The second Allegheny Student Government meeting of the fall 2021 semester brought a more in-depth look at the college’s ongoing reaccreditation process.

Jennifer Dearden, assistant professor of music, and Kenneth Pinnow, professor of history gave a detailed presentation on the purpose of reaccreditation and the process. Dearden and Pinnow are co-chairs of the Middle States on Higher Education Working Group.

“It is a way for us to look at who we are as an institution, what we have been doing, how we are doing it, how we want to continue moving going forward and what ways can we think of to continue things that are going well and also finding ways for improvement and innovation,” Dearden said. “In this institutional self-study, we are looking at the quality of the curriculum, how we are delivering it and how we are achieving our institutional goals.”

Dearden announced where the college is in the self-study process using a graphic of the self-study timeline.

After describing the plans the school has with the self-study, Dearden stated the school is not in danger of not being reaccredited.

“No one is thinking that that is an issue for us,” Dearden said.

Pinnow outlined the criteria the Middle States Commision requires for the school.

“A good institution has a mission and goals, a good institution is an ethical institution in terms of how it conducts its busi-

ness and how it interacts with students in the community,” Pinnow said. “They’re very interested in our curriculum, the design, student experience and how we support the student experience.”

The college is choosing to self-assess differently according to their own standards.

“We have chosen a more complicated approach,” Pinnow said. “Instead of writing it according to the seven standards, we are going to organize our self-study around four priorities that we have identified as an institution. At the same time, we have to show that we are meeting the seven standards.”

The self-study involves a large number of people working together on different parts.

“There are five working groups that are helping us run this self-study,” Dearden said. “Each of the four working groups have a priority. The steering committee communicates with the working groups and the working groups communicate with the steering committee.”

Dearden spoke about the goals the college has with self-improvement.

“One of the goals is to make this assessment loop just a normal thing, so that the next time the self-assessment comes around it is not a huge deal and just something we are already doing,” Dearden said. “Allegheny is already doing a number of assessments across campus but we would like to make it more noticeable so people know we are doing it.”

The administration is prioritizing transparency between the student body and the administration during the self-study process, according to Dearden.

“The self-study process should not be done behind closed doors,” Dearden said. “If we are holding a mirror up to ourselves it should be something everyone can see. We want you to know what’s going on and want student and staff voices to be involved.”

The effort to have more transparency has already begun with a communication plan.

“Very soon there will be a web page which will be a key way for us to communicate with you and others on campus,” Pinnow said. “There will be things about the events, timeline, you will be able to access minutes, find out what’s going on and so forth. We also plan to maybe have monthly email updates with what’s going on.”

The presentation ended and was followed by cabinet reports.

Chief of Staff Genesis Pena, ’22, proposed an idea to help senior students combat stress from their senior comps.

“I wanted to bring up the idea of comp buddies,” Pena said. “We would have underclassmen sponsor a senior and encourage them to get their mind off their and off the stress,” Pena said.

Director of Finance Lucas Biniewski, ’23, gave the current financial status.

“This week I spent \$116.37 from the general fund and \$4,868.55 from the surplus fund,” Biniewski said.

Director of Sustainability and Environmental Affairs Andi Reiser, ’23, shared plans to continue to promote sustainability on campus

“We have been discussing having a water bottle, tumbler and metal straw giveaway just because those tangible things really helped me remember to be sustainable,” Reiser said.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

REFLECT

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“9/11 cemented this discourse around these communities, but it didn’t weaken it,” Hilal said.

Between Sept. 10 and 12, there will be a theatrical presentation of “Bikeman,” the candid and surreal poems written by Thomas Flynn, a former CBS producer who covered the attacks as they happened.

After the first plane hit, Flynn “rode his bicycle down to the World Trade Center to begin filing reports,” Associate Professor of Theatre and Performance Mark Cosdon said. “Then when the first tower collapsed, he ran with another handful of people and got trapped for some time in an

underground parking garage as the debris piled up in front and they could not get out.”

Cosdon will be directing Allegheny’s take on “Bikeman”. The last time “Bikeman” was performed was in 2013, and now with the 20th anniversary of the attacks occurring, Cosdon thought it would be an ideal time to revisit and commemorate Flynn’s work. Cosdon also noted that on the 11th and 12th, there will be a talkback with Flynn, where students can engage in conversation with the writer and ask questions.

The college will also be holding a vigil on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 11:30 a.m. to noon in the Senior Circle.

Bikeman

By Thomas F. Flynn
Directed by Mark Cosdon

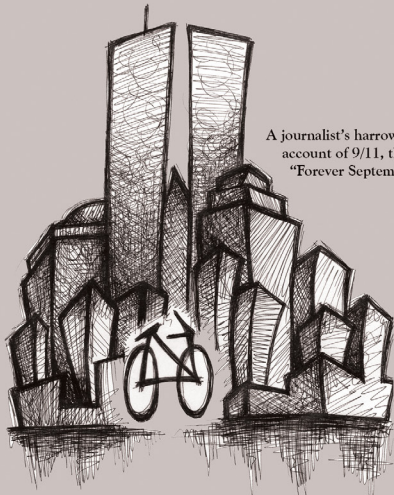


Photo courtesy of the Playshop Theatre

This poster for “Bikeman” references Flynn’s ride to the World Trade Center on 9/11. Performances are Sept. 10 -

RETROSPECTIVE

from page 1

“I hope everyone maintains the feelings they had in that chapel throughout the days,” Michaels said. “I especially liked the message about not rushing to judgment and universal compassion. That’s important.”

The student body and faculty experienced a shift in the campus atmosphere and emotions.

“I just remember there being this shocked silence and somberness and then senses of fear about what was happening to the world,” Cole said. “After that, there was a lot of the campus community looking for ways to support each other.”

Students were asked by The Campus in September 2001 about the effect the attack had on their lives and the fear they felt.

“Mark Klarnan, a junior who lives in Long Island, N.Y., about 45 minutes from Manhattan, was also anxiously trying to call home to family, but couldn’t get through,” the Campus reported. “His mother works in a building on 34th Street, across from the

Empire State Building.”

Rosa Diaz, ’02, , shared the personal impact the event had on her life and the lives of her loved ones in an interview with The Campus at the time.

“I have a friend who is a police officer who was on duty and is now missing,” Diaz said. “I’m devastated.”

In a “Viewpoint” section by Neetuh Sehgal, a former news editor, The Campus included insight on the effect outside news coverage of the terrorist attack was already starting to have on the lives of students of Asian and Middle Eastern descent.

“I spoke with about a dozen students on campus of Middle Eastern and Asian descent, are outraged at the media’s quick finger-pointing at the Islamic community,” Sehgal wrote in the Sept. 13, 2001, issue. “I worry that the media is affecting the mindset of the people and brainwashing them to think that their friends and neighbors may actually be terrorists or somehow linked to

such horrible activities, just because of where they come from.”

Cole recalled the aftermath of the events in relation to the Muslim community on campus and the conversations that were had about it.

“Some of the conversations were structured around how we best support those in the Muslim community,” Cole said. “I recall the event left some in the community at a loss for understanding how religion and spirituality affect them in the world in a different way. We sort of gravitated pretty quickly to how to show solidarity and support for people in the Muslim faith who were starting to become singled out in different parts of the country.”

The Campus concluded the article with a final statement on the impact that will follow the terrorist attack and the effect it will have in history:

“Whatever the response, the terrorism on Tuesday, Sept. 11 will be remembered by all.”

LAWSUIT

from page 1

The suit claimed that in April 2018, Simonetta had a grade point average “sufficient for her to remain eligible to participate (on the football team),” but Bailey placed Simonetta on academic probation. The suit also alleged this was in violation of the college’s athletic policies.

In July 2018, Bailey emailed Simonetta and suggested that she serve as a team manager instead of a player, according to the suit.

The suit stated that in August 2018, Simonetta and her parents met with Hammer, Bailey, Director of Athletics and Recreation Bill Ross, Assistant Coach Andrew Fragale and Nikki Newman, a “Third Party Witness to the incidents alleged in the Complaint.” The suit alleged that, though Bailey had informed Simonetta that he relayed the information to Hammer, “it was ultimately revealed during this meeting that this was

a lie.”

In fall 2018, according to the suit, Simonetta “learned that other members of the College’s faculty were aware of previous incidents of sexual misconduct by the perpetrating teammate.” Simonetta then “formally pursued action through the College against this student, ultimately resulting in a finding on Dec. 17, 2018, that her former teammate had violated the College’s Policy Against Discriminatory and

Sexual Harassment, Including: Sexual Assault and Other Forms of Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence and Stalking.”

The college offered the following statement regarding the settlement: “As noted on the Court’s docket, the parties have resolved the matter, and the terms of the resolution are confidential.”

CORRECTIONS

In the Sept. 3 issue of The Campus, in the story, “Link’s vision for Allegheny, administrative restructuring,” a statement from the Faculty Council was misquoted. The correct quotation is “The restructuring was done in order to support President Link’s vision and increase collaboration across various departments on campus. The downsizing was strictly a result of the financial situation of the college and the mandate from the Board of Trustees to close the budget deficit over the next four years.”

In the Sept. 3 issue of The Campus, in the story, “Taking the oath: Four students participate in ROTC contracting ceremony,” the contracting oath was improperly referred to as “the oath of enlistment.”

In the Sept. 3 issue of The Campus, in the story, “Gone but not forgotten: mask debate lingers,” Costume Shop Supervisor Miriam Patterson’s name was inadvertently omitted from a quotation.

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.

September 3, 2021
Alcohol Violation
Baldwin Hall

THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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Thoughts on a 'normal' semester

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As a returning sophomore, I am very excited for this new semester. There have already been many noticeable differences around campus compared to last year. Although this is not my first time on campus as a student, it is truly amazing to see how Allegheny College should be. Everything I heard throughout the recruiting process and on my campus visits is starting to show.

Right from the start, you can sense a different campus atmosphere compared to last year. This is true from the top down, all the way from President Link down to the student body and everywhere in between. Everyone is excited for things to be back to normal. The energy on campus is vibrant. This is how I always envisioned college. From the

“

Right from the start, you can sense a different campus atmosphere compared to last year.”

—PETER SCHELLBACH
Class of 2024

beginning, I have been able to hangout with all my friends without masks or the fear of a week of quarantine.

Moving in this year was a breeze. This year living in Caflich my roommate and I had a lot more room to work with while setting up our room. It was fun being able to figure out the possibilities we had. The room is looking good, although still not fully unpacked yet. And for the students that did not know what the rules were last year, it took a while for us to be allowed to leave campus. It was nice not having a campus quaran-

tine this year.

As students, we are finally able to do all the things we were not able to do last year and I could not be happier. Since arriving on campus, the college and Office of Student Life have already hosted many fun events such as the student-athlete pep rally, the Involvement Fair, the poster event and many other activities. My personal favorite was the pep rally because I was able to see many friends that I was not able to see right away. It was also nice to run into some of the faculty that was there. I was also able to get some very cool posters. I got a cool one from J. Cole, Kramer from "Seinfeld," Tupac and Snoop Dogg, and a couple more.

Being able to go to all in-person classes is a very nice way to take full advantage of Allegheny. Last year we were able to go to some of our classes based on each professor's individual preferences. We still had to be masked and sit six feet apart. I missed having the opportunity to meet new friends in the classroom, or sit next to friends I already knew. Having classes in person makes it so much easier for me to speak up and ask questions. It is also nice being able to listen to what other people have to say; maybe they too feel it is more comfortable to speak up. One thing that I did not do during the partly in-person semester was go to professors' office hours or ask them for any kind of help. I am excited this year to be able to do my best in classes.

Being back home in New York this summer really made me miss the many things I love to do in Meadville. I missed going on hikes at Woodcock Lake, playing spikeball on the lawn of North Village, shooting hoops in the Wise Center, doing homework in the Pelletier Library, exploring downtown and of course COVID-19 tests. All jokes aside, it is very exciting to have more opportunities this year than we did last year.

I am sure all athletes, including myself, are very excited about being able to play sports normally this semester. I am on the men's lacrosse team, so we are

not in season right now, but we are in our non-traditional fall season. Thankfully we do not have to stand six feet apart while standing in line and going through drills. Last year, we had weeks of just going through clearing drills and plays but not being able to practice them fully. Wearing masks while playing was uncomfortable and nearly impossible to breathe in if we got water on it. Having the opportunity to be able to play lacrosse normally has me excited to play again. I cannot wait for the spring semester to start and to be able to have a rematch against the teams we played last year. I am also very excited to watch football, soccer, field hockey and the other teams compete this semester. I was able to go to the first home football game and they had a great win. I am upset it is going to take so long to see them at home again, but I am excited to see them play again. They were also selling beer there, so that must be fun for the people that are of legal drinking age.

One thing that I find very confusing is Brooks Dining Hall. It seems that every semester they have changed the way that the swipes work and how they are counted. The system in place now is not terrible, but I have recently heard that pre-pandemic, Brooks was all-you-can-eat buffet style with a single swipe. That sounds kind of nice to me but still not that big of a deal since I never saw it in action. I am happy they put the ice cream machine back in. I do still wish that they had the to-go boxes in case I wanted to eat somewhere else.

Kins got a little more interesting this year, with the in-person McKinz Market, but I would like it if I could order everything online. However, I am very thankful for being able to eat with all my friends and teammates at once now instead of just a few at a time.

I like campus a lot more without all of the issues the pandemic caused that slowed everything down. I am happy to be back and I am excited to get my first sandwich of the semester from The Whole Darn Thing.

'Donda' album disappoints

By **OLIVIA MONROE**
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Kanye West has a long, complicated and controversial legacy. From interrupting people on award show stages, to bashing abolitionist heroes and multiple failed bids for the U.S. presidency, the shock and awe factor never completely fades from his public image. The release of West's tenth studio album "Donda" continues this trend.

Prior to the release of the album, West took up a residency at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, GA. Along with setting up a provisional recording studio to finish the album, West hosted two listening parties in the stadium. Social media feeds have been dominated by people sharing videos of and discussing the turbulent nature of these events. Multiple release dates had been given for the album: originally July 24, then Aug. 6, 13 and so on, until the album unexpectedly released on Aug. 29. There is also controversy that has risen from a post made on West's Instagram on Aug. 29 claiming that Universal released the album without West's permission.

At a final listening party in Chicago, many fans were unsure of what to think when West brought DaBaby and Marilyn Manson onstage, both musicians who have faced prominent controversy in the last year over homophobic comments and abuse allegations, respectively. This confusion is a theme throughout the album itself; named after West's English professor mother, Donda West, themes of Christianity and love are harshly juxtaposed with self-aggrandizement and sexuality. One gets the sense that this album was so heavily delayed because West was somewhat unsure of what he wanted to say with it.

Donda's 27 tracks span an impressive hour and 48 minutes, making it the longest project in West's discography. The runtime is a stark departure from his most recent projects. His 2018 album "ye," his "KIDS SEE GHOSTS" collaboration album with Kid Cudi and his 2019 "JESUS IS KING" album all clock in under 30 minutes. Donda is certainly a good example of the long-spoken phrase "more is not always better." Although there are some great gems on the album, it is ultimately dense and exhausting to sift through.

The album opens with the "Don-

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Although there are some great gems on the album, it is ultimately dense and exhausting to sift through.”

—OLIVIA MONROE
Class of 2025

da Chant," and as West's late mothers' name is repeated it enters the realm of semantic satiation, setting the tone for much of the album. West's history of amazing musical production and thought-provoking lyrics becomes a distant memory as he spits forgettable bars and provides sometimes basic production. Are these reflections of problems with Kanye's newer work in general, or is it just because this album is so damn long? If Donda is a concept album dedicated to West's late mother it ultimately misses the mark. It's half-baked like getting someone whisky stones as an anniversary gift.

The first few tracks on the album create a somewhat interesting introduction, but "God Breathed" begins to show the overarching problems with Donda. West comes close to endorsing his album as scripture as he repeats "I know God breathed on this" and the nearly three-minute outro quickly becomes repetitive and boring. The fifth track, "Hurricane," is one of the album's best. The Weeknd's magnetic voice singing the hook is supported by West's Sunday Service Choir, and Lil Baby and West's verses include some great songwriting. West's verse speaks on his difficulties during his marriage to Kim Kardashian and also includes one of my favorite lyrics on the album: "Dropped out of school, but I'm the one that Yale."

The next few tracks are pretty unremarkable, but "Jonah" has some nice vocal work by Kentucky-bred musician Vory. "Ok Ok" contains lyrics that highlight the contradictory nature of the album, like "Everything I do is solely for the broken youth, I just took her over

the mountain with my index." It reads like something that Bo Burnham would write parodying modern rap - think "Oh Bo." When West raps about wanting to be nailed to the cross in "Believe What I Say" one has to wonder if this was penned about West wanting to be selflessly or selfishly Christ-like. I am led to believe the latter, since the man calls himself "Yeezus".

The latter part of the album improves a lot from the first 10 tracks. "24" is a touching tribute to the late Kobe Bryant, whom West quoted as "one of my best friends" in an April 2020 GQ interview. It is undeniably the standout feature of the Sunday Service Choir on the album and one of the true gems on Donda's lengthy tracklist. "Remote Control" is an unnecessary song that ends with a confusing sample of the nonsensical "The Globglogabagabab" (a song from the horribly animated 2012 film Strawinsky and the Mysterious House that had previously become popular as a meme). God DEFINITELY breathed on that, Yeezus! I wish I could say I was caught completely off-guard by this, but after Justin Bieber sampled MLK on "Justice" and clipped it to sound like "You die when you refuse to believe in Justin," I realized sampling is for everyone, even the gremlins. Kanye is as Kanye does.

The middle section of the album, from "Moon" to "Jesus Lord" is when the album finally reaches its prime. I think that these tracks could be characterized as leading up to the thesis of the album: "Jesus Lord." Don Toliver, Kid Cudi and West join together for the most melodious chorus on Donda on "Moon." Kid Cudi has grown to have a sort of Midas touch with his music lately, even featuring Phoebe Bridgers on an album, so it's not surprising that this song is shaping up to be a critic and fan favorite. On the epic "Jesus Lord," West finally delves into his mother on this track and discusses her impact throughout his life.

Verses about the harsh reality of growing up impoverished cut deep and Jay Electronica's feature has some pretty good bars for Christian rap. We reach some of the most poignant lines on the album, where West describes his mother as the "life of the party" and wonders, "... if I talk to Christ, can I bring my mother back to life?" This is where Donda finally lives up to its namesake. some of the really stellar production we have come to expect from West. As the song continues, West includes a message from Larry Hoover Jr., the son of a Larry Hoover Sr., whom if you recall in 2018 West pleaded President Trump to grant clemency to. When Hoover Jr. thanks West, it feels more earned than it would somewhere previously on the album. There is finally a clear idea of West grieving his mother and thanking her for the impact she has had on his life, as well as committing himself to bettering the world to honor her.

Unfortunately, the album continues after "Jesus Lord " with a Pop Smoke song that has some of the worst production and mixing on the album, with horribly filtered and fading vocals put over two bars of piano that repeat for the entire track After the negative reception to Pop Smoke's recent posthumous album, why did West feel the need to keep this on the album? "Lord I Need You" and "Come to Life" give us a look into Kardashian and West's separation marked by clear introspective contemplation and acceptance. "Come to Life" features some of the best vocal work from West singing and rapping about the idea of reflection upon his marriage and his fear of passing away alone. "No Child Left Behind" features one of the most earnest choruses on the album, with West singing "He's done miracles on me" with reverie. It's an excellent way to end the Donda saga — or, it would be without the last tracks.

The final four tracks are remixes of "Jail," "Ok Ok," "Junya" and "Jesus is Lord." They don't really add too much to the album in my opinion, and especially not "Jail pt. 2" which features DaBaby and Marilyn Manson. At least Manson has the consideration to be barely noticeable on the chorus.

So do I recommend you give Donda a listen? Yes, but prepare for some skips. They are typically inevitable for an album of this size, and I wish Kanye West had given us the gracious gift of a shorter one, but who are we to expect anything average from Ye. If you can manage to look past the odd samples and throwaway tracks this is a decent album from one of hip-hop's greatest minds. I do fear, however, that because of West's ever-inflating ego, that we'll never come back to the greatness of Yeezus or "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy."

Evidence suggests supervolcano eruption within 100,000 years

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**
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According to a new study done from Oregon State University, there is a much higher chance of a catastrophic supervolcano eruption somewhere in the world within the next 100,000 years.

Associate Professor Martin Danišik spoke on this issue. Danisik and his colleagues studied Lake Toba, a body of water in Sumatra in which a supervolcano measured at 62 by 19 miles (100 km by 30 km) is located.

Scientists predict that this supervolcano last erupted 74,000 years ago, and believe that the eruption resulted in the release of six billion tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. Scientists believe that the global temperatures plummeted by 15 degrees Celsius, or 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

Their research has led them to believe that the eruption resulted in a genetic bottleneck in human evolution. In other words, they believe that between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago, the human population shrunk to between only 3,000 to 10,000 individuals.

According to Sky News, there are 20 known supervolcanoes on Earth, including one beneath Lake Toba and another beneath Yellowstone National Park in the United States.

Yet, the most recent super-eruption occurred roughly around the year 26,500 BC and came from a supervolcano that is located beneath Lake Taupo in New Zealand.

Knowing when these supervolcanoes last erupted is crucial in understanding and approximating when the next eruptions will occur. Professor Danisik spoke to this issue in a statement to Scitechdaily.

“Gaining an understanding of those lengthy dormant periods will determine what we look for in young active supervolcanoes to help us predict future eruptions,”Professor Danišik said, “Super-eruptions are among the most catastrophic events in Earth’s history, venting tremendous amounts of magma almost instantaneously. They can impact global climate to the point of tipping the Earth into a ‘volcanic winter,’ which is an abnormally cold period that may result in widespread famine and population disruption.”

Scientists are able to better understand when eruptions have occurred in the past by using particular minerals in regions near the supervolcano.

Professor Danisik and his team were able to investigate the fate of the magma from the explosion by using the minerals feldspar and zircon. These minerals hold records of time, which are determined by the accumulation of gases argon and helium as time capsules in the volcanic rocks.

“Using these geochronological data, statistical inference and thermal modeling, we showed that magma continued to ooze out within the caldera, or deep depression created by the eruption of magma, for 5,000 to 13,000 years after the super-eruption, and then the carapace of solidified left-over magma was pushed upward



Photo source: Creative Commons

A picture of the natural land bridge in Yellowstone National Park. The volcano rests dormant, for now, beneath the park.

like a giant turtle shell,” Danišik stated.

The events in Yellowstone National Park are making people wonder if the supervolcano hidden under the national park is likely to erupt anytime soon.

The volcano hidden under the surface of the park is said to stretch across a 43 by 28 mile section, and has been responsible for three cataclysmic eruptions. Scientists estimated that this volcano erupted 2.1 million, 1.3 million and 640,000 years ago.

After calculating the number of years between each eruption, scientists have averaged the number of eruptions to one eruption per every 725,000 years.

What is cause for concern, though, is that in July, Yellowstone National Park experienced more than 1,000 earthquakes, which is a four-year record high. The United States Geological Survey noted that this number is only a preliminary estimate, and that the number of tremors will go up. In a statement, the USGS addressed the large number of earthquakes that occurred in the area.

“This is the most earthquakes in a month since June 2017, when over 1,100 earthquakes were located,” the USGS stated.

These earthquakes all took place in different parts of the park. 764 tremors were detect-

ed under Yellowstone lake, 40 were detected about 12 miles east-northeast of West Yellowstone in Montana on July 19.

According to Express, these earthquakes are not a sign of a future Yellowstone eruption.

In fact, there are many different reasons why the number of earthquakes has increased this summer.

“Earthquakes at Yellowstone are dominantly caused by motion on preexisting faults and can be stimulated by increases in pore pressure due to groundwater recharge from snowmelt,” the USGS stated. “If magmatic activity were the cause of the quakes, we would expect to see other indicators, like changes in deformation style or ther-

mal/ gas emissions, but no such variations were detected.”

Yet, even with this statement, there is still a large number of US citizens, who are worried that one day, the nation might be blindsided by one of these cataclysmic ballasts.

In fact, there are several conspiracy theorists on social media platforms that have been spreading claims and conspiracy theories that the explosion in Yellowstone is overdue.

According to the USGS, there is no need for immediate concern, as there will not be another eruption in Yellowstone National Park for another 100,000 years.

Astronomers say ‘Planet Nine’ likely exists near Kuiper Belt

By **GABRIELLA BRADY**
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A group of astronomers discovered in 2016 evidence of a possible ninth planet in the Milky Way. According to Gizmodo, the planet formerly labelled as “Planet X” is now known internationally by the name “Planet Nine.”

While the exact location of this planet is unknown to scientists, they predict that it is most likely positioned in the outer reaches of our solar system.

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This research came from Mike Brown and Konstantin Batygin, both astronomers at the California Institute of Technology. In 2016 Gizmodo labelled Mike Brown as “the guy who killed Pluto and is proud of it.”

Some of the evidence pointing towards the existence of a ninth planet in our solar system is the close clustering of objects in the Kuiper Belt, a large circumstellar disc in the outer region of the Solar System.

According to ExtremeTech, the research of Mike Brown and Konstantin Batygin indicated that Pluto was one of the first Kuiper Belt Objects that was discovered.

In fact, Brown and Batygin created a map showing where they expect the planet to be.

In one of the images, the authors displayed a Mollweide projection — a map of the entire solar system, with lines of latitude and longitude and meridians represented by elliptical curves — mapped to an ellipse.

In the 1840s, Neptune was discovered when a group of astronomers led by John Couch Adams and Urbain Le Verrier noticed that Uranus was being dragged by an unseen object. Something similar is happening now with the Kuiper Belt Objects, which seem to be clustered in the same region of space as Uranus once was.

Some scientists believe this to only be a ring of debris large enough to impact the gravitational effects in a way similar to that of a planet. Others think

that this supposed “Planet Nine” is actually a primordial black hole, one that is too small to be seen with modern technological methods.

However, according to Scitechdaily, there is only a 0.4% chance that the evidence is just based on biased data.

In fact, a statement by the members of Brown and Batygin’s team, made it clear that there is strong evidence supporting the existence of another planet.

“Despite recent discussions, statistical evidence for clustering in the outer solar system remains strong, and a massive planet on a distant inclined eccentric orbit remains the simplest hypothesis,” the team stated.

To determine if “Planet Nine” really does exist, astronomers are focusing their research on a selection of debris in the Kuiper Belt to determine the mass, orbit, and gravitational influence of the planet.

Additionally, it is much harder to determine if Planet Nine actually exists because of its distance from the sun. According to News 18, the planet is 300 times the distance from the sun to the earth.

In a statement posted on his blog, Brown addressed the discovery.

“We couldn’t really give a range of uncertainties for where in the sky Planet Nine might be, how massive it might be,” Brown stated. “Now we can.”

The map created by Brown and Batygin shows a rough estimate of where the planet

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We couldn’t really give a range of uncertainties for where in the sky Planet Nine might be, how massive it might be. Now we can.”

—MIKE BROWN
Professor of Planetary Science,
California Institute of Technology

should be, but not where it actually is.

Brown spoke on this issue in a post on Twitter, as well.

“Sadly, the data only tells us the orbital path, not where in the orbital path it is (very sadly, actually),” Brown stated. “It is more likely to be at its most distant point from the sun, but only because it travels more slowly there. But this is where you should be looking.”

Based on the information relating to the Kuiper Belt and the map drawn out by Brown and Batygin, there is a chance that the planet is actually a lot closer than originally thought.

In a study, Batygin and Brown explained that the planet orbits the sun in 7,400 Earth years, instead of the 18,500 Earth-year orbital period that they originally placed it at.

The research done by this team and other scientists has made it possible to speed up the discovery process.

Brown and Batygin stated that the planet could possibly be discovered within the next two years.



Photo source: Creative Commons

An artist’s interpretation of the Kuiper Belt Object.

Bird Club offers birding experiences for enthusiasts

By KRISTEN CADHAM
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Ever since Bird Club was created, it has been a safe place where people can bond over our feathered friends — birds. The Founder and President of Bird Club, Joshua Heiser ’23, provided more information on its creation story.

“I was working with (former Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Benjamin Haywood) who also liked birds,” Heiser said. “I was taking a class with him and I just kind of went to his office hours talking about birds. He mentioned potentially starting a bird club and then it was like, ‘oh I’ll start one,’ so we (started) working together.”

Contrary to what was the case for many other clubs, the Bird Club actually prospered in the pandemic due to the natural safety built into the club.

“Fall semester (of 2020) is when we really started building our numbers because birding is a COVID-safe activity since it’s all outside, we can limit the numbers, everyone can be really spread out, and you don’t have to travel far to see birds,” Heiser said. “We were doing a lot of walks in the fall when there is a lot

of birds to be found so we were going out seeing birds and it became really popular.”

Heiser explained that the club holds campus walks and other experiences to bird-watch.

“We send them to walk to the Greendale Cemetery, then we do larger trips,” Heiser said. “We’ve been to Geneva Marsh, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, (and) then I know the Director of the Erie Bird Observatory, so they do bird banding at the Presque Isle.”

Ella Lunney, ’23, said she enjoys participating in Bird Club.

“I already held interest in most animals so I thought getting into bird watching must be a good idea,” Lunney said. “Like you can basically go on a walk, go on a hike even. There’s not any too major hiking locations, but it is a nice walk. Definitely getting the scenery, even just around campus, or even learning what’s close by.”

Members also get the chance to non-invasively observe the birds for science and then release them. Scientists band the birds, look at them up close and then release them. They are also trying to do more conservation work.

“We’ve generally just been focused on the more outreach

so sort of getting people interested in birds, but we would like to do more conservation work in the future,” Heiser said. “We are an Audubon Campus Chapter so we’re officially affiliated with the National Audubon Society which is a non-profit organization that works to preserve birds and the places they need across the United States. We have a lot of potential (and) we feel like we haven’t fully reached our potential yet, but we would really like to do that this semester.”

Alex Clifford, ’25, is new to Bird Club, but is a part of the growing membership the club is receiving.

“I’ve been into birding (for) a while,” Clifford said. “(I’ve been into it) since elementary school. I think it’s very cool that Allegheny College has this.”

Heiser is hoping to hold a variety of different events over the course of the semester, including bird identification workshops.

“(We will be) talking about how people can identify birds, maybe focusing on a particular family of birds, so like how to identify ducks or hawks,” Heiser said. “Last semester, we did some ‘Building By Impression’ workshops ... We do an e-bird workshop where we



KRISTEN CADHAM/THE CAMPUS

An image of a bird lies on the ground for a Bird Club activity.

talk about a public database that is free-use where you can store your bird-sightings that also contributes to science data. We bring in some speakers to talk about their own bird research.”

Those speakers have very diverse backgrounds with the common interest of birds.

“Last semester, a professor connected with us with a Ph.D. student that she knew who was doing research on Saltmarsh sparrows so we got to hear talk from her,” Heiser

said. “One of our members last year, he graduated, but his comp focused on birds so we had him talk about his comp. I’ll probably be talking about my summer research at a meeting at some point because I did some bird research over the summer.”

Bird Club also has game nights in order to combine education and fun.

“We’ll have bird trivia night, where we play kahoot and people can identify birds, we did jeopardy one time,

and some other games so it varies, but those are the three main stuff we do at meetings,” Heiser said.

Bird Club has the entertainment, variety and unique factor that makes it worthwhile. Even attending one meeting or trip, would expand many student’s views, provide fresh air, and a fun educational aspect.

Bird Club meets Mondays at 7 p.m. in Carr Hall 239.

People of Allegheny

Students talk hobbies, passions

By JORDAN GREYNOLDS
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Allegheny College is the home of the gators, but that unifying term fails to do justice to the diversity of interests and hobbies that each gator has.

Just because a person finds a hobby enjoyable does not mean they are necessarily a pro at it, though.

“Snowboarding’s fun and it’s what all my friends and I do when we’re home,” Noelle Kidd, ’24, said. “It’s the one thing we can all do together. We’re not good at it and we don’t really know how to do anything, but it’s just fun.”

For Kidd, there is nothing better than spending a day on the slopes with friends.

“We wake up in the morning and chug Monsters and take the trucks out to Boston Mills and Brandywine (Ohio) and f---ing snowboard all day,” Kidd said. “Then in the evening we come back and we have sunburns from the snow reflection and have the best sleep after.”

Sunburns are not enough to keep dedicated snowboarders away, though, as Kidd and her friends only intend to snowboard more in the near future.

“My friends and I are going to work at Boston Mills this year so we can get free passes and snowboard all the time this winter,” Kidd said. “We’re gonna be slummin’ it, we’re a bunch of college kids who just need some extra cash and something to do. We get all excited talking about how we should go out to Utah and Colorado but it’s like we’re not even that good.”

Kidd is not alone when it comes to considering her skills to be less than advanced

in her hobby.

“I really like cooking but I’m god-awful at it,” Katherine Stancil, ’23, said. “I’ve given my family food poisoning before, and like a week before we moved back in [to Allegheny] I started a fire. I was spraying the cooking oils while the stove was on very close to the pan and I learned not to do that the hard way.”

To avoid safety hazards, Stancil enjoys making meals that are sent to her through a company called HelloFresh.

“It’s a subscription and they’ll send you the meats, spices and side dishes and tell you step by step what to do with pictures,” Stancil said. “The little boxes they send you make the easiest meals and they give you specific instructions and so I haven’t really messed those up.”

Stancil is not entirely incompetent in the kitchen, however, as she has had her fair share of successes.

“I’ve had a lot of tragic cooking stories, but I can successfully make tacos if all I have to make is the ground beef and I can make spaghetti if the sauce is already made,” Stancil said. “I also make fire quesadillas, that’s an easy one.”

Stancil’s cooking endeavors are no new thing to her and neither are the tragic tales that come with them.

“In middle school I would have sleepovers with a friend and we would make pizza from scratch, but we were too lazy to let the dough rise so we made like yeast-free pizza,” Stancil said. “Homemade ice cream was a success, though.”

Others have also found hobbies in middle school that have stuck with them to this day. Ivory Marcucci, ’22, re-

calls the middle school memory that she shot with her first professional camera.

“I have a Canon camera that my grandpa gave me because I used to make videos and he had a whole wall filled with nice cameras,” Marcucci said. “He gave me a camera when I made a video and he thought it was so awesome.”

Despite her grandfather’s sentiment, Marcucci’s mother felt otherwise about the video.

“It was really embarrassing,” Marcucci said. “It was me and a bunch of my friends on New Year’s and we stayed up until like five in the morning making a video to the song ‘Hit the Lights’ by Selena Gomez. We were in my sister’s room and I put baby powder all over the fan. It really messed up the room and there was baby powder everywhere. My mom wasn’t happy.”

Some parental displeasure would not be enough to stop Marcucci from using her camera, though, as it seems that her photography hobby was bound to take shape eventually.

“My birth dad was an artist and my grandfather was a photographer so it’s in my blood,” Marcucci said.

Although she had secured a real camera and to go along with her artistic bloodline, it would not be until years later that her joy for making videos would turn to photography, ironically in the absence of a Canon camera.

“I feel like what started it was when I was in Canada and a fly landed on my leg and I just took a picture of it,” Marcucci said. “I’ve shown people the picture and they can’t believe I took it on my phone. You could see the little squares in its eyes.”

COMIC

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‘Bikeman’ returns, tells a cyclist’s harrowing 9/11 story

Tom Flynn to visit campus during 20th anniversary of 9/11

By **MO MANSOUR**
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For the 20th anniversary of 9/11 the Playshop Theatre is staging a production of “Bikeman,” a play that remembers and recounts in poetic precision that September morning. It returns for the first time since 2013 — when it was last produced at Allegheny — and while much has changed in America and around the world, the core of the production still resonates in a similar way as it did. The play was written by Tom Flynn, a journalist who witnessed the 9/11 attacks first hand.

“Flynn moved from being a reporter and neutral observer standing apart from the event, to a participant, survivor and defining chronicler of that fateful day,” the Playshop’s website states, illustrating the path that led from Flynn’s experience to the production now taking place.

“Bikeman,” directed by Mark Cosdon, professor of theatre and performance studies, is a play taken from a book of poems penned by Flynn, who wrote the poems using Dante’s “Inferno” as inspiration. “Inferno” follows Dante as he descends through the circles of Hell and eventually rises from their depths as the first part of his journey to salvation, and Flynn took this idea and applied

it to his own experiences of being on the ground in Manhattan right after the first plane hit the World Trade Center.

This production is different from others that the Playshop has done and other theater productions in general as the play has no set, no real costumes and one prop: the eponymous bike. The production is dependent squarely on the lighting — controlled and designed by Michael Mehler, department chair and professor of communications, film and theatre — as well as the cast of six people. Flynn himself is the narrator and gives voice to the people he encountered on 9/11.

Mehler explained that the lighting not only acts as a narrative device to convey the deeper meanings of the play but also as a practical way to show the audience a change in scene and location without an actual set. It helps paint the picture of what Flynn actually saw and experienced: people jumping from the burning tower, being trapped beneath ground in a parking garage after the first tower fell, escaping to the surface and witnessing the aftermath.

“The lighting is trying to take a similar journey (as Flynn) from being above the surface to feeling like we’re going below into this other landscape, and then coming out,” Mehler said.



Photo courtesy of Mary Dosch

The cast of ‘Bikeman’ prepares for opening this weekend. ‘Bikeman’ relies on lighting and a limited set.



Photo courtesy of Mary Dosch

The performers of ‘Bikeman’ look on during dress rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 8. ‘Bikeman’ opens this weekend.

While the production is different from the theater of the modern day, it harkens back to the ancient Greek tragedies of the past — the original theater — which was based around the tradition of oral storytelling, with many actors taking turns playing roles and relaying a story to an audience. “Bikeman” brings this tradition into the modern age and induces the same catharsis in the audience.

“Originally, the so-called ‘great epics’ of the Greeks, the ‘Iliad’ and the ‘Odyssey,’ were historical poems that would have been recited aloud, and gradually were dramatized and made into theatrical pieces and this is absolutely the case that we see with Tom’s ‘Bikeman’ too,” Cosdon said.

While “Bikeman” is a production that is deeply invested in various histories, whether they be ancient or fairly modern, this year’s performance is also invested in the recent history of the world, with the pan-

demical playing its own part in it. The COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the theater world since it struck and Allegheny was no different. The spring 2021 production of “Native Gardens” was a unique case itself as it was performed outside due to social distancing safety measures, but “Bikeman” is the first production in well over a year that is going to be held indoors in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theater in the Vukovich Center for Communication Arts.

“COVID presents its problems but we navigated a lot of that last year,” Mehler said. “Honestly, I think everybody is really excited to be doing a play, even if it has very simple production value, in a theater again with a larger audience.”

The reality of the pandemic was actually advantageous for the production in a way, according to Mehler, since most of the students involved with the production were either born after the tragedy or were

only just born when it had occurred and do not remember anything of it.

“The essence of theater is human connection,” Mehler said. “(This type of human connection is something) unique to the performing arts.”

Each person that Flynn met, saw or interacted with is portrayed with vivid detail and the horror of the day is reflected by them to the audience. According to Cosdon, the aftermath of the crisis and the play relay the same message that has been emphasized during the ongoing global health crisis.

“We need to take care of one another,” Cosdon said. “We need to take care of one another.”

The shows will take place Friday, Sept. 10 through Sunday Sept. 12, with the shows on Friday and Saturday being at 8:00 p.m. and the Sunday show taking place at 2:30 p.m. All shows require audience members to be masked regardless of vaccination status.

Gateway and Learning Commons merge into Maytum Center

By **JANE GRABOWSKI**
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If you have been to the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library this semester, you may have noticed the left side of the collaborative floor has undergone some changes, the displays of pre-professional packets and sheets of advice have disappeared. The walls are now blue and gold instead of the orange, yellow and green they were previously. The source for these changes is the reorganization of the Learning Commons and Gateway into the new Maytum Center for Student Success. The Learning Commons was a host for various programs to ensure all students could succeed academically, while The Gateway focused on preparation for future careers. The previous two departments have merged to form a more cohesive space for students to seek advice from.

While many of the resources in the Maytum Center existed prior to the reorganization, the class dean system is brand new. Class deans are advisors students can meet with to seek advice specific to their year. For example, the first-year dean may focus on helping students integrate into the college environment, while second-year deans will focus on helping students declare their major and minor. Niki Fjeldal, the first-year dean, clarified the goal of this system.

“The idea is for it to be about holistic student success,” Fjeldal said. “I’m that one-stop-shop ... regardless of what’s happening they can come here and I can either help them with what they need help with, or I can connect them to the bridge they need to help them through that process.”

Fjeldal has developed a few new projects on campus so far. She



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The walls of the former Gateway and Learning Commons — the section of the library now known as the Maytum Center for Student Success — have been painted bright blue gold to coincide with the college’s re-branding.

is visiting FS 101 classes to give presentations on time management, stress management, study skills and developing a four-year plan. Due to so many second-years being on campus for the first time, Fjeldal has also opened up the Navigator program for sophomores for this year, and initiated drop-in hours with the Navigator program. The Navigator program is a system where an underclassman is paired with an upperclassman who gives them advice about adjusting to college life. Fjeldal has also started Wellness Wednesdays, where students can drop by the campus center to play games, make crafts, eat lunch and socialize with one another.

The class dean structure is still being developed. The second-year

dean and third/fourth-year dean are in the process of being hired.

The root of these changes is President Hilary Link’s larger vision of restructuring administrative positions. Link hopes her strategic plan will make the best student experience the average student experience.

Jennifer McDonough, academic advisor and life coach who works with the Maytum Center said the new center will help achieve the goals of Link’s plan.

“I think that (Link) wanted to find the most effective way to streamline all the different programs and departments,” McDonough said. “We have to make sure that we’re all working together in ways that make sure any student who has any sort of need for resources is

found, and that those resources are given to them. We don’t want any students falling through the cracks.”

Dean for Student Success Ian Binnington also asserted that President Link hopes the reorganizing will emphasize Allegheny’s strengths. This includes the major and minor requirement creating distinct combinations and allowing students to begin research and internships in their fields of study early on.

Binnington elaborated on some other changes that have occurred within the new Success Center.

“What we have added is approximately half of what used to be the Allegheny Gateway,” Binnington said.

This includes pre-professional advising, International Education-

which assists students from other countries, and Global Education-which provides students with study away programs. Other aspects of The Gateway — such as Civic Engagement, Career Education and the Center for Political Participation — did not become integrated into the Maytum Student Success Center. These offices are now under the direction of the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Binnington said that this reorganization helps prioritize not only academics but also postgraduate opportunities.

“We’re not recruiting students, we’re recruiting alumni,” Binnington said. “We’re not educating students for a profession or job, we’re educating students for life.”

Binnington and the new Student Success Center, operate with the belief that when institutions use conventional advising models that focus only on academics, they end up ignoring other important aspects of a student’s college career.

“A significant part of the learning in college goes on outside of the classroom,” Binnington said. “Social integration and social engagement is also important. Students who don’t find friends, students who don’t feel included, students who don’t feel part of the community are less satisfied, are less often successful.”

The Maytum Center for Student Success is still evolving. Aside from the class dean system that is still in progress, staff are open to feedback so they can continue to improve the programs on campus.

“Our goal is that if we have a model that works, we repeat that model the year after,” Binnington said. “It will be an evolution — it won’t be a revolution — it will be an evolution of what’s gone before.”

Allegheny football takes season opener against Thiel

By ADAM COHEN
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Students, alumni and parents among many other Allegheny fans filled Frank B. Fuhrer field last Saturday as the Gators defeated the Thiel Tomcats 42-14.

Allegheny’s administration has been searching for new ways to bring fans to the stands. Besides promotional events to win a free t-shirt, Allegheny also provided a beer truck for those of the legal drinking age.

The Gators did not disappoint the largest crowd during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite a scoreless first quarter from both sides, Allegheny compiled two touchdowns to close out the first half, one touchdown in the third quarter and two more end zone celebrations in the final fifteen minutes of play. Meanwhile, the Tomcats were shutout heading into halftime but managed to pick up a touchdown in each of the last two quarters.

The Gators, who boast a 104-man roster, have 74 first-years and second-years on the team; many of these players have never played a collegiate football game before, as Allegheny’s last football game before Saturday occurred on Nov. 16, 2019. Nevertheless, Jack Johnson, ’24, led the team to victory. The first-string quarterback went 18-27 with 228 passing yards, four touchdown passes and zero interceptions.

“I was a little nervous in the beginning,” Johnson said. “But once we got the first couple drives out of the way, we really put it all together and did a great job.”

Johnson launched his four touchdown passes to Shane Cafardi, ’23, Anthony Steinpreis, ’22, Mark Torsello, ’22, and Jack Parker, ’22. The quartet combined for 14 receptions and 195



Wide Receiver Shane Cafardi, ’23, with one of his eight receptions last Saturday against Thiel.

yards.

Wide receiver Tre Worship, ’23, who had seven receiving and 55 rushing yards of his own, spoke highly of his offensive contributors. Worship was happy that the offense was able to win their first game of the season in front of the hometown crowd.

“We didn’t want to lose our season opener in front of everybody,” Worship said. “We practiced way too hard (to lose).”

Head Coach Rich Nagy gave a lot of praise to his team in his postgame interview and pointed out how much Worship has improved as a player.

“Watching Tre Worship run today was a lot of fun,” Nagy said. “You know, he’s a tough kid and a hard worker. It showed today and it’s been a couple of years for him to get to this point.”

In addition to Worship, John Ian Duron, ’23, compiled plenty of rushing yards. He had 97 rushing yards in 13 attempts, including a 57-yard rushing touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Nagy’s team has hit the ground running since arriving early to campus and has even

scrimmaged against Grove City twice before the season began. Nagy believes the first game of the season was a good litmus test for the Gators after the practices and scrimmages.

“I think anytime that you are able to play somebody else it gives you the advantage to see where (the team) is really at, as opposed to just playing against yourself,” Nagy said.

Not only have these scrimmages and practices paid off for the offense, but the defense did their part in holding off Allegheny’s future President’s Athletic Conference rivals.

Austin Ferguson, ’23, paced the Gators with seven tackles (three solo, four assisted). The South Granville High School alumnus also recorded a 41-yard interception that resulted in an interception return for a touchdown.

Ferguson praised his fellow defenders in the team win. “The rest of the defense played their roles,” Ferguson said. “They put me in the right spot to make a play. Without everyone else doing their roles, that wouldn’t

have happened.”

Ocean Parodie, ’23, and Maxwell Hammond, ’23, also shined defensively in the blue and gold. The two defensive linemen each contributed with their first collegiate sack. Additionally, sec-



Jack Parker, ’22, catches a touchdown pass in the second quarter last Saturday.

“

I think anytime that you are able to play somebody else it gives you the advantage to see where (the team) is really at, as opposed to just playing against yourself.”

—RICH NAGY
Football Head Coach,
Allegheny College

ond-year Justin Campbell, ’24, registered an interception and six tackles, while Azariah Beaugard, ’24, had an interception and a tackle. Beaugard commented on how he was able to be a part of the team’s victory.

“Man, it felt great,” Beaugard said. “I just want to win for my team, so it felt amazing to make plays for them.”

Allegheny’s special teams also performed well last Saturday. Punter/Kicker Marcus Wolf,

’22, issued five punts, averaging 35.0 yards, while his longest kick racked up a total of 43 yards.

Nagy was pleased with the team’s performance over the weekend but knows that the team still has the opportunity to grow during the remainder of the season.

“For a lot of them, it was their first time starting, and I thought they all did well,” Nagy said. “Sometimes you see the veteran part of them come out and sometimes you see the young part of them come out.”

Nagy added that although Allegheny should enjoy the win, the Gators have continued to train for their first conference matchup of 2021.

“We are excited moving forward,” Nagy said Saturday. “We got about 18 to 19 more hours to enjoy this win and then we got to get ready to play Denison.”

The Gators will be traveling to Ohio to face off against the Big Red at 1 p.m. on Sept. 11. The game can be watched online.

Club sports look forward to competition this academic year

By JAKE PETTI
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After a full academic year without competition and limited practice time, Allegheny club sports are beginning to look forward to resuming their activities. The college’s revised protocols will allow for these club sports teams to practice all together.

Because of the vast safety restrictions in place last year from the COVID-19 pandemic, club sports were forced to practice in small groups. Many teams even relocated practices because of the added health risks of competing inside.

“When we came back in the spring (last year) we would practice outside, but when regulation started to loosen a little bit, we moved back into the Wise Center dance studio which is our formal place to practice,” said Fencing Club Secretary Mary Rose Dosch ’23. “But it took a long time for us to actually group together and actually fence.”

While being able to practice was a major issue for club sports teams, another challenge last year was intercollegiate competition because of protocols handed down from each club sports organization. As members of USA Fencing, the fencing team was unable to compete in national, regional or local competitions.

As of Aug. 26, USA Fencing announced that they would have a full season, including all three levels of competition this year. The announcement of the season was followed by a list of rules related to the spread of COVID-19 in order to keep all participants safe throughout competitions this season.

“In addition to the USA fencing mask mandate, local, divisional and regional tournament directors must follow local and state COVID regulations, guidelines and restrictions,” said USAF Senior Director of Operations Christy Strong Simmons in a statement published on the USA Fencing website.

Another club looking forward to competition is the ultimate frisbee team. After being deemed a high-risk sport by the ACHA last academic year, none of Allegheny’s ultimate frisbee teams were able to compete or practice all together as a team.

Allegheny’s ultimate frisbee teams compete under USA Ultimate — the governing body of college Ultimate frisbee — which also did not allow for competition in 2020-21. Much like USAF, USAU has plans to go through with competition during 2021-22 with health and safety protocols.

By putting these rules into place, USAU hopes to stick true to their statement made at the beginning of the pandemic to keep all participants safe and healthy.

“As stated many times since the beginning of the pandemic, the health, safety and well-being of USA Ultimate’s members and the greater ultimate community stands alone as the organizations top priority,” USA Ultimate stated in their return-to-play statement.

As of now, USAU plans to begin the season as a continuation of last spring, with 2020 national competitions taking place in the fall this year. After the fall season

is complete, USAU hopes to get back on track and complete the 2021 season in the spring.

Because of this, Allegheny’s ultimate frisbee teams have a busy schedule ahead of them, as they hope to become the first Allegheny ultimate teams to reach the national tournament in December. In the meantime, the teams have already begun scheduling regional tournaments in order to hopefully qualify for sectionals, and nationals beyond that.

“We have three tournaments scheduled and potentially a fourth,” said captain of the men’s and mixed ultimate frisbee teams Owen Jacobsen ’23. “Last spring basically all national competition was canceled, tournaments were canceled, so they’re holding them this fall.”

Unlike the ultimate frisbee and fencing clubs, the Allegheny club volleyball team does not compete under an umbrella organization and relies on Allegheny’s approval to schedule matches. Although they were able to practice last year, the volleyball club was unable to compete because of the regulations and limited membership.

As regulations were lifted this year, the volleyball club hopes to be able to play matches against other schools, especially after jumping from around 10 members to almost 30 in a year.

“

The biggest perk right now is that we have so many people that it’s essentially impossible for us not to play against other schools because we have the numbers.”

—AUSTIN REARDON, ’23
Allegheny Club Volleyball

“The biggest perk right now is that we have so many people that it’s essentially impossible for us not to play against other schools because we have the numbers,” said club volleyball player Austin Reardon ’23.

This season will be the first for first-year students, but because of the inability to compete last year, second-year students will also be participating in their first competitions with their respective club teams. This infusion of fresh faces on the playing field is something that upperclassmen on the team have been really excited about.

“We’ve had a pretty high turnout this semester and a lot of that is freshmen or people who are otherwise new to frisbee,” said Jacobsen. “So I think people are really excited to play in their first tournament or to just get back onto the field.”



The Allegheny Hellbenders pose during the May 2021 High Tide Tournament in Myrtle Beach, SC. Pictured here, the team is carrying Jordan Wang, an opposing player from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Photo contributed by Owen Jacobsen