

SAE approved to return

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**
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Recruiters will be busy on campus this fall, seeking new members for a fraternity that has been absent from campus for nearly 10 years following a raid by federal agents and charges of criminal drug possession against two members.

The Board of Trustees approved Sigma Alpha Epsilon in spring 2021 to return to campus, and in spring 2022, national leadership began delving into the necessary conversations with the college’s Residence Life, according to Assistant Dean for Student Leadership & Engagement Eric Stolar. SAE will reactivate its chapter at the college once they recruit enough members.

Two SAE recruiters tabled during the lunch hour in the lobby of the Henderson Campus Center on Tuesday and Wednesday. They declined to comment on the fraternity’s return to campus and referred The Campus to the national organization. SAE Director of Communications Dave Pascarella did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

In 2013, Meadville police flagged a suspicious package addressed to an SAE member, according to reporting by The Campus. Law enforcement intercepted the package on April 18, 2013 on its way to a house on the 200 block of Prospect Street, according to reporting at the time by The Campus. An affidavit filed by the arresting officer stated that the suspects allegedly ordered a shipment of MDMA, or ecstasy, from British Columbia concealed in a “Titanic” DVD.

Police and agents from the Department of Homeland Security then searched the house owned by the SAE fraternity at 585 North Main Street where the two SAE members resided. Affidavits reported that police found drugs, drug paraphernalia, and money order receipts, The Campus reported at the time.

The two members admitted to ordering the DVD, each pleading guilty to 3 counts of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to online court records.

Just a few months after the arrest, The Campus reported that the college and the Pennsylvania Omega Alumni House Corporation and Alumni Commission agreed to suspend the chapter until the fall semester of academic year 2016.

In an interview with The Campus on Sept. 1, 2023, Dean for Student Experience Ian Binnington said the Commission voted to suspend the fraternity on their own and that it was not the college’s decision to remove SAE from campus in 2013.

“That was a decision that their organization made,” Binnington said.

In a 2013 statement addressed to undergraduate members of the fraternity, the Commission explained that the organization

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Cole gives ‘State of the College’ to ASG



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

President Ron Cole, ’87, speaks during the first ASG General Assembly of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 5, in the Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center. Cole was present at the meeting to update students on the strategic planning process that began last spring.

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ASG revamps guidelines for club finances as surplus tops \$600k

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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Hundreds of students packed the Tillotson Room of the Tippie Alumni Center to standing-room-only on the evening of Tuesday, Aug. 29, as part of the Allegheny Student Government’s Club Leadership Training.

Included in the training were a number of changes and clarifications to the ASG Financial Guidelines, some of which reaffirm pre-COVID financial controls and some of which will significantly adjust how clubs do business.

“We are here to serve the broader student body, and so we want to distribute those resources and make resources

available for everyone,” ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, ’25, told The Campus in an interview Monday.

Club budgets

Among the biggest changes is the removal of club budgets. In the past, clubs would apply for budgets at the end of the spring semester for the following academic year, and be awarded an amount based on their application. That budget would be “approved” by the Budget Committee, composed of members of both the outgoing and incoming administration.

Yet the Budget Committee didn’t meet this past May, according to Recio Bremer, who said the call was made by

last year’s leadership.

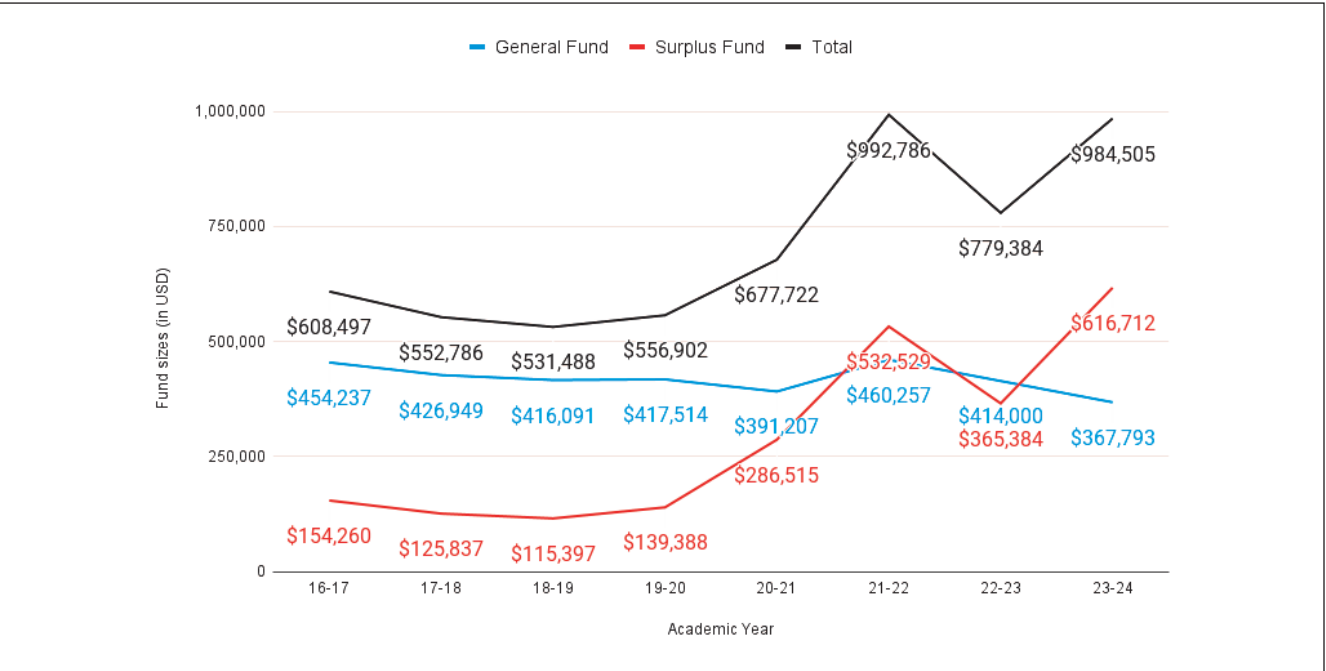
“That didn’t even happen with (former ASG President) Veronica (Green, ’23) and (former Vice-President) Rudra (Schultz-Ray, ’23),” Recio Bremer told The Campus Monday. “The budget hearings didn’t even happen last semester.”

And ASG Treasurer Hunter Goerman, ’25, told club leadership that there would be no club budgets; instead, all expenditures would be requested directly from the General Fund.

There are two reasons for this change, according to ASG.

First, Recio Bremer told The Campus that the decision stemmed from a conversa-

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SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

ASG’s Surplus Fund has ballooned since the COVID-19 pandemic and driven up the total ASG budget while the General Fund has stayed largely the same. Note that numbers for this academic year are estimates.

ASG holds Senate elections

By **SAMI MIRZA**
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The Allegheny Student Government swore in seven new senators at their first General Assembly on Tuesday, Sept. 5, bringing their total number of legislators to eight. It is the first step in refilling a 20-seat chamber largely emptied by promotions to the ASG Cabinet.

Of the 14 members of the Cabinet — including the president and vice president — seven are former senators, though ASG Attorney General Will Lowthert, ’24, said there are a number of reasons for the turnover.

“Allegheny College students do so much on campus and sometimes your interests get pulled different ways,” Lowthert said in an interview Saturday.

The only class with a full five senators is the Class of 2024, who will be represented by Arilyn Hicks, Sasha Holguin, Katie Wagner, Lyndsey Robinson, and Christopher Ratliff. Ratliff served in the Senate as a first-year and sophomore, but not as a junior.

“Senior stuff should be fun and seniors should be supported,” said Holguin, who will serve as the senior class president. “I’m just happy to help support my class, who got a pretty rough start, frankly.”

The only returning senator is Lorenzo Scarnati, ’26, who said he only realized his seniority as the only returning member of Senate when he sat down for the first GA.

“I just hope that my one year of experience can be used to help new members of Senate grow and develop their skills with student leadership and get a sense of how things operate here,” Scarnati said. “There’s a lot that I still don’t even know about the organization, about student government, which — I’m here to learn too and I guess I hope we can learn together.”

Scarnati will serve as sophomore class president, and will be joined by Lorenzo Tovanche and Aidan McGrory in representing the Class of 2026.

ASG was set to open up another round of elections for representatives for the first-year and junior classes on Thursday, though as of 5 p.m. The Campus could not confirm the ballots were live.

Those elections are set to close in time for the first-year and junior classes to be represented in the next GA on Tuesday, Sept. 12.

ASG typically holds Senate elections at the end of the spring semester, but that did not happen last May.

“Because the transition from cabinets was a little later than it usually is, elections would have occurred during finals,” Lowthert said. “We kind of made the decision that people would be pulled in a multitude of different ways, so it was probably not the best to have elections during finals, so we moved them to the beginning of the fall semester.”

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INTERNET AND THE ILLUSION OF CHOICE

Opinion Editor Sam Heilmann, ’26, explores how recent wi-fi connectivity issues have put a spotlight on her relationship with the internet.

INSIDE “MONTY’S” HISTORY

Features Editor Sarah Allison, ’25, delves into the rich history of the 127-year-old Montgomery Gym and learns about its significance to current Gators.

WOMEN’S TENNIS RANKED NO. 1

Last year, women’s tennis won the PAC championship. They’re ready to win another conference this year.



SAE from page 1

needed a suspension period to rehabilitate the chapter and prepare for the return of a healthy new group.

“Recurring incidents punctuated by the recent raid of our chapter house by U.S. Homeland Security bring to light deep-seeded problems within the culture of our chapter that cannot simply be fixed with workshops, mentoring or more direct alumni supervision,” the Commission wrote.

A national reputation

Sigma Alpha Epsilon is no stranger to facing sanctions from colleges. At least 10 deaths occurred between 2006 and 2014 in connection with hazing, drugs, or alcohol at Sigma Alpha Epsilon events, according to a 2014 Bloomberg report. SAE has been banned or sanctioned by Yale, Stanford, Chapman, UC Irvine, and University of Oklahoma — among others — for incidents involving sexual harassment, racism, binge drinking, and drug usage. SAE has even earned the moniker ‘Sexual Assault Expected’ at Northwestern University, according to the New York Post. And in 2016, SAE brother Andrew Lohse published a memoir about his rushing and hazing experience and then being a member of the fraternity at Dartmouth College.

“Lured by free booze and friendly brothers, Andrew pledged Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and soon his life became a dangerous cycle of binge drinking and public humiliation,” reads the book’s description on Amazon. “From chugging vinegar to swimming in a pool of human waste, Lohse’s pledge class endured cruelty and psychological coercion in the hopes of obtaining a bid.”

In an interview with The Campus on Sept. 4, Binnington said that while what happened with SAE here at Allegheny was unacceptable, current students should not be held responsible for past students’ mistakes.

“The reality is that pretty much every fraternal organization that dates back to — that dates back over the period that SAE does, and SAE is 150 years old at this point — every fraternal organization has a checkered past,” Binnington said. “It’s not just SAE. That’s not to defend SAE because I’m not going to, but they all have checkered pasts. We can’t make the current students responsible for that past. We can only make current students responsible for their own behavior. And we have made those — we do and we will and we will continue to make current students responsible for their own behavior.”

In 2017, SAE leadership met with members of the Allegheny community to discuss the return of SAE and address any lingering questions or concerns. During that meeting, Deran Abernathy, who works with the fraternity’s alumni engagement, pointed to the fraternity voluntarily closing between 20 and 25 percent of its chapters nationwide in 2014 as an opportunity to reset, The Campus reported at the time.

Abernathy said he “firmly believes” that 95 percent of the fraternity’s members live up to SAE’s organizational goals and that promoting self-policing would help alleviate behavioral issues. Steve Orkis, ’08, who was also present to represent SAE, said the national organization would be “driving home accountability” if it returned to campus.

SAE’s return to campus

Stolar said that the decade-long break is a large feature of why he’s optimistic about the fraternity returning to campus.

“We ended up talking a lot about how one of the reasons they took that whole — at this point, 10 years — to re-group, to re-think is they wanted to make sure — one, they had the supports in place for a new chapter to be coming back to the campus,” Stolar said. “Both through their national headquarters, through networks, through students as well because they wanted to make sure, ‘If we want to come back, we want to do it on the right foot. We wanted not (to) be the same organization that people might remember on Allegheny’s campus.’ So really focusing on turning a new leaf and starting with a fresh start on campus.”

Stolar said he received a more than 100-page document detailing the fraternity’s mission statements, position statements on harassment, human dignity, and the standards they hold the chapter to at this point, as well as information about why they want to be on Allegheny’s campus specifically. The document, Binnington said, is not something “they take off the shelf.” Instead, it’s something they customize for individual institutions, which requires a substantial amount of time and energy.

Those who are spearheading recruiting efforts are professional staff of SAE at a national level, according to Stolar. Because those staff members will have the chance to meet personally with students, Stolar said they will be able to ensure the students are good representatives and align well with SAE’s mission.

In addition to the expectations of na-



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

The college bought the former-SAE house from the fraternity in early 2023. While the building’s future use is still being debated, it will not be used for residential housing, according to Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington.

tional leadership, Stolar feels confident the fraternity brothers will hold themselves to the standards expected of Allegheny students.

“I know our students tend to hold themselves to a high standard and those would be the students going into that organization,” Stolar said. “I do have a lot of faith in our students as well to uphold the Allegheny community and our Statement of Community and the expectations we have for each other on campus and to bring it into that organization as well. And that’s something I would think would help make that organization be successful. They’re still using Allegheny students. It’s the folks we know and love and trust.”

Beyond having faith in students to uphold appropriate standards of conduct, Binnington feels strongly that the national organization will have no patience for misconduct since it reflects poorly on their brand. Sororities and fraternities, he said, understand that when they display their branding everywhere, each individual wearing the brand is responsible for upholding their organization’s reputation.

“We’ve had...exceptionally responsive leadership from the national chapters,” Binnington said. “The national chapters have no patience. No patience whatsoever.”

Panhellenic Council President Meredith Kyser, ’24, said that many of the

sorority members she has talked to are nervous about the return of SAE to campus.

“To sum it up, it’s very dangerous and reckless that they’re coming back,” Kyser said.

Kyser learned about SAE’s history at the college last spring, when her sorority spent an entire chapter meeting discussing the topic. She is concerned about pre-existing trends continuing to plague the new chapter.

“It’s very triggering, what they (SAE) did,” Keyser said. “They had a room for sexual assault, which is not great, and drug use, and all that stuff, which I don’t want to promote in any way. At least to the people that I’ve talked to and are close with in Panhel, none of us are happy about this.”

In addition, Kyser is worried that adding another fraternity to campus will negatively affect recruitment rates for existing fraternities.

Binnington and Stolar encouraged students who have reservations or questions about the return of SAE to engage with the recruiters who will be on campus throughout the fall semester.

“There’s nothing to hide here,” Binnington said. “Not from them and not from us.”

SAE will be the last fraternity or sorority to go through the college’s current fraternity and sorority establishment and expansion policy, which requires

the Board of Trustees and Residence Life’s approval. Going forward, student-run fraternity and sorority shared governance boards, like the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, will vote to approve or deny an organization’s application, and Residence Life will then make the final decision. This will give students on campus a more powerful voice and ability to shape their campus community, according to Binnington.

The college bought the former SAE house from the fraternity in early 2023, according to a campus-wide email sent Jan. 12. The building will not be used for residential housing, and while its future is yet to be determined, Binnington hopes it will provide benefit to the entire campus community in some way, shape, or form.

Both Stolar and Binnington are confident that SAE will be a valuable member of the campus community.

“I’m in favor of anything that increases the positivity of the student experience, that increases the sense of belonging that a student has, that helps them find their place, that helps them find their people,” Binnington said. “Fraternities are that for some people. It’s not for everybody, but it is that for some people and those can be very powerful and sometimes life-long bonds.”

Ready Player Gator



LAG hosts game night in CC



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Top left: Ethan Borsh, ’25, fixes the projector in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center ahead of a series of Kahoot quizzes for attendees of the Legion of Allegheny Gamers’ game night on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Bottom left: Borsh leads a Kahoot on taxes and financial literacy.

Above: LAG had a number of different video game consoles set up, including “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” on the Nintendo Switch.

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The task of filling Senate will likely continue after elections are over, and Lowther encouraged any students interested in serving for their class to contact him.

“If you don’t file on time for the elections and there’s still open seats, contact the class’s president to indicate interest in Senate,” Lowther said. “If there is still an open seat, they can start a discussion on how you could potentially fill that seat.”

Join



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BUDGET

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tion over the summer between her, ASG Vice President Sam Ault, ’26, and Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley.

The trio discussed the delay in knowing the size of the General Fund, which is dependent on the number of students enrolled. The total size of the student body is not known until “Count Day” — the 11th day of class, when the total number of students is tallied — and the budget announced after that. This year, Count Day is Wednesday, Sept. 13.

“I was worried that clubs wouldn’t be able to have money till the end of September — that made no sense to me,” Recio Bremer said.

Goerman also said that club budgets were not being used as a form of funding, and clubs were just making finance requests without properly using ASG’s seven different forms of funding.

“A lot of people didn’t know the difference between their club budget and a regular finance request from the general fund, so we just thought it makes it easier just to pull from the general fund,” he said.

For some club leadership, though, removing club budgets can make it harder to plan financially for the academic year.

“I think it just makes it more complicated in the way of, we don’t know how much we’re allowed to have, whereas before it was like, ‘Okay, you ask for this much, you get that much,” said Reagan Grace Wheat, ’26, who serves as the ASG treasurer for the student cafe Grounds for Change.

However, Goerman said that last spring’s budget applications will still be used as a monitor for judging the reasonableness of club requests — something that was not mentioned at the club leadership training.

“Whatever you requested last year, that’s what your baseline, or top ceiling, should be,” Goerman said. “That’s something I think is important, and we should be doing. It’s their club’s money to spend, but we want to make sure ev-

erybody’s not overspending what they projected. This kind of makes it easier for everybody involved.”

He has not yet decided if budget applications will open again in the spring to serve as a similar baseline in the fall.

Financial controls

Beyond the big change in club budgets, ASG also presented their Financial Guidelines to club leadership. Some of those guidelines included changes to existing norms — most notably, the requirement that all financial requests happen two weeks in advance of the event they will be used for. Once a suggestion, it is now a firm rule for all clubs.

“It’s to better use everybody’s time and be more respectful, because these are college funds we are using and we should be doing it in enough time,” Goerman said. “People shouldn’t be requesting funds with three days’ notice of their event — that just makes it harder for everybody.”

Other guidelines — like the procedure for charging admission for a fundraising event — were clarified, and many rules already on the books but not enforced in the past few years — like documentation requirements for certain requests — will be making a comeback. It’s part of an overall effort to make students more accountable for the funding they use, Yeckley said.

The presentation was also designed to head off unintentional misuse of funds, which last year came dangerously close to fraud, Yeckley told club leaders on Aug. 29.

Speaking to The Campus on Monday, they cited club retreats as the biggest source of poor controls, where students would unknowingly fail to follow the correct procedures to request funding for travel or lodging. Clubs are required to share hotel rooms and carpool as much as possible — though students would take their individual vehicles and not split rooms, Yeckley said.

And on any ASG-funded road trip,

students have to provide proof of insurance, license and mileage.

“I think I would start with the phrase that I hate on this campus: ‘Well, we used to do it this way,’” Yeckley said. “These are all things that we had been doing pre-COVID that we should be doing so, in case we get audited, we can look back and say, ‘No, this is how our funds were used.”

Yeckley also framed the renewed procedures as preparation for using funding in a job after graduation.

“Anytime that we spend college funds as employees, there are things that we have to do in order to ensure things are being spent appropriately — we are making sure the students are doing the same thing,” Yeckleythey said.

Grounds for complaint

Yet for some clubs, the added financial controls are confusing and complex. Student cafe Grounds for Change, for example, makes weekly purchases of supplies and are unable to submit itemized requests two weeks in advance because they buy based on their need.

“It’s just really jumbled and confusing,” Wheat said.

GFC leadership met with Assistant Dean for Student Leadership and Involvement Eric Stolar this week to discuss their budget. Speaking before the meeting, GFC President Erica Fontan, ’24, expressed cautious optimism about getting support for their organization.

“I think it should be good, but if not, then I think we as a board are really determined to set the law down like, ‘You need to help us,’” Fontan said. “This is not like, ‘Oh can you’ — we’re not asking you, we’re telling you, ‘You need to help us.’ Because we are a very important safe space to the community and we’ll continue to do so.”

Fontan added that concerns about finances can also snowball with the wider pressures of running GFC, which stands for many as an important pillar of the Allegheny experience.

“We just deserve that kindness and respect and grace because, again, not only that we’re all students, we’re all human at the end of the day, and we’re learning these new rules day-by-day, just like everyone else,” Fontanthey said.

Ultimately, Recio Bremer sees the implementation of the financial guidelines as a way to make spending more efficient — and open up more opportunities for more students.

“If we can find a way of reinforcing these rules that were previously put in place, that could help other students get more benefits, and in the long run, all of us benefit from it,” Recio Bremer said.

Surplus spending

This year, ASG will inherit a Surplus Fund of around \$616,000, according to The Campus’ analysis of ASG’s financial reports from the 2022-23 school year. This would be the largest surplus fund in the organization’s history and bigger than ASG’s entire budget in the 2019-2020 school year.

Two main factors have led to this. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when club events and gatherings were limited, the Surplus Fund roughly doubled to \$538,000. It dropped back down to around \$365,000 at the start of the 2022-23 school year, but exploded again after ASG spent just 20% of their funding over the last year — against a total budget of \$779,384, student organizations spent a total of around \$162,000.

Goerman, who served on the Finance Committee last year as a senator for the Class of 2025, said that club spending last year was all that came through.

“Pretty much every finance request we got was approved,” he said. “If there weren’t more events, that’s not something we really have control over. We just approved what we’ve already seen. It might seem low, but that’s still, like, whatever clubs were requesting.”

Yeckley said that he does not antic-

ipate the fund growing further, based on what he sees as increased student involvement and ambition, including at the fall Involvement Fair.

“Clubs want to do stuff, and students want to do things, and there’s this vibe on campus right now, that’s like, ‘Yeah, let’s have some fun,’” Yeckley said.

The college is also in the process of hiring a professional bookkeeper to manage student funds. Those responsibilities have fallen primarily on the ASG treasurer and Student Life staffers since the last bookkeeper, Stacey Gerber, left in early 2022.

“Part of their salary will be paid from our ASG budget — so some of that will go to that, not a whole lot,” Goerman said. “The bookkeeper position will help keep track of funds and make things easier as well.”

A Boogie, a firepit

To shrink the fund, ASG and Student Life are planning two major projects — the biannual Major Events Concert in the spring, and a campus beautification project that’s still currently under wraps.

“The only thing I can release right now is that we’re trying to work the nuts and bolts so we can release it for student input,” Recio Bremer said. “We want to hear about what people think, what people want to see, what people don’t want to see, and that’s going to come up soon, hopefully. But for now, we know a lot of our budget this year is going to that.”

The surplus fund has been used before for improvements to the campus itself; the fire pits installed in North Village and by Murray Hall were paid for with part of the surplus fund two years ago.

“It’s student money and it should be used for student things on this campus,” Yeckley said.

SOTC

from page 1

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The Allegheny Student Government kicked off their school year Tuesday evening with a presentation from the college president and a discussion on the future of Allegheny— though there were few students in attendance in the Tillotson room to hear his message.

President Ron Cole, ’87, updated ASG on the college’s strategic planning process, which began in late March to help plot the next decade of Allegheny’s development. As students arrived on campus last month, the strategic planning steering committee released a preliminary plan to students and the wider campus community for public feedback

“I can’t stress enough how important it is to me that this plan represents this campus community, which broadly speaking also includes our alumni,” Cole said. “A strategic plan, in my view, can’t be effective being done with a small number of people trying to shape the future of an institution that includes thousands.”

Cole also outlined the basics of the new plan, which focuses on five goals:

1. Academic excellence & strong outcomes for graduates

2. Vibrant and inclusive campus (student and employee experience)
3. Expand the reach of Allegheny (broader range of students)
4. Be part of and serve the greater Meadville region
5. Operational and financial sustainability

These goals and the strategies to achieve them are what Cole is seeking feedback on. Once the broader aims and pathways are defined, he said the planning process will shift to finding the day-to-day tactics of those pathways.

Q&A

After walking through the overarching ideals of the plan, he took questions from the handful of constituent students who were in attendance. Among them was Andrew Strobel, ’24, who asked what the college’s plans were in relation to investing and developing academic buildings. Strobel, an economics student, specifically asked about the Center for Business and Economics.

“I want to be careful about making promises that we don’t have definitive answers on,” Cole replied.

Cole did say that there were “significant gifts” in the works, and that renovations were being considered for Quigley Hall, the home of the business and economics and political science departments. He added that the college was also considering in-

vestments in Shafer Auditorium and the performing arts, as well as turning Reis Hall into a home for the Allegheny Lab for Innovation and Creativity.

“These are possibilities that we want to invest in,” he said.

Members of ASG also posed their questions, including Director of Sustainability Bianca Sanchez, ’24, who asked Cole why sustainability was listed as a core value of Allegheny, but there were no sustainability goals listed in the plan.

“There was actually some conversation around, should we identify specifically a goal or strategy that highlights sustainability?” Cole said. “Instead, we think that that’s a value — as the other values, we should see that woven in throughout.”

Some questions fell beyond the scope of the strategic plan; Senator Christopher Ratliff, ’24, asked Cole about the recent Notice of Non-Compliance the college received from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Cole replied that he was “declaratively” not concerned with Allegheny’s accreditation.

“We are fully accredited and I don’t believe that we’re at risk for losing that accreditation,” Cole said. “I’m firm in the academic quality that we deliver, the excellence we deliver — and, our ability to continually assess and improve that academic excellence.

He added that he had spoken with members of Middle States

leadership who also said that Allegheny was not at major risk.

“I could understand why the concern is; the wording of the Middle States findings looks pretty severe. When I spoke with senior leaders in Middle States, they said, ‘Oh it’s not such a big deal.’ I suggested that they change their wording.”

Provost Angela Haddad, also spoke up, and echoed members of the accreditation team that spoke with The Campus last month.

“We have the evidence, but we didn’t present it to them in the way that they were expecting to see it,” she said.

Haddad added that violations of Standard V were the most common citation for Middle States schools whose accreditation was being reaffirmed.

“Middle States has had trouble communicating that standard and their expectation, I would venture to say, and they are aware of that, that it’s the most common citation,” Haddad said.

Once the feedback period closes for the strategic planning process, the strategic planning steering committee will work with Pittsburgh firm The Hill Group — who have been hired to assist the process — to develop a final report and plan. That report will be delivered to the Board of Trustees in October or November, according to a timeline on the strategic planning website.

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.

September 6, 2023

Theft
Baldwin Hall
Active Investigation

THE CAMPUS

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Engage launches as alternative for event postings

By **EVE ZAVALA**
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For students at Allegheny College, the My Allegheny newsletter, Instagram and flyers in the Henderson Campus Center have been primary sources to learn about the extracurricular activities campus has to offer. Now, there’s a new method entering the mix.

Engage — which has been in the works since the fall of 2022 — is a program run by Anthology, a company that hosts software for colleges and other institutions of higher education.

Engage will allow student organizations to have one dedicated space to advertise their events and recruit new students, according to Assistant Dean of Student Leadership and Engagement Eric Stolar.

“One of the issues we are seeing is that folks might be feeling that there wasn’t a lot going on on campus and they couldn’t figure out what to do,” Stolar said. “But on our end, we knew student organizations that are constantly programming, constantly hosting events, meetings, going off campus to places but people are having trouble finding that information.”

Stolar said he envisions Engage helping students relieve the pressure of having to do all the legwork to get involved on campus.

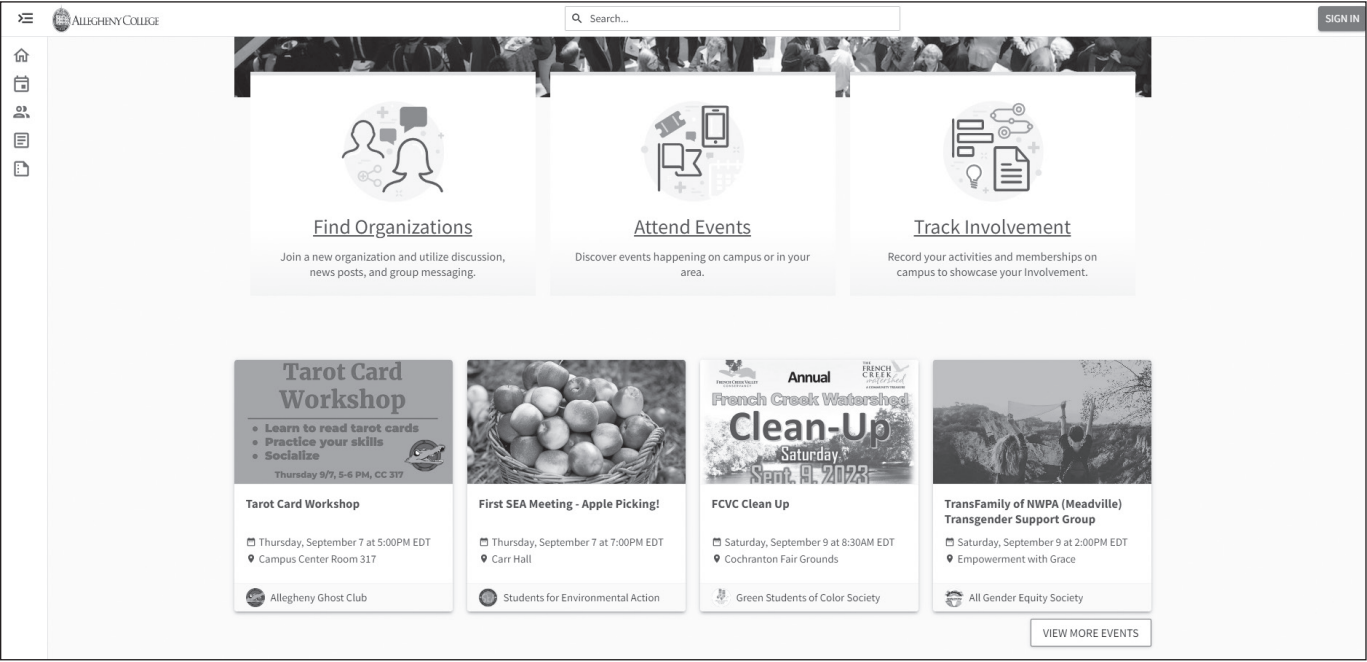
“It also means if you are bored on a random Thursday and don’t know what is going on, you can just pull Engage up and see that Outing Club has a cool excursion they are still accepting sign-ups for,” Stolar said.

Bike Share President Isaiah Davidson, ’25, said he really likes the idea of all the clubs having a central page where everybody can access events and club resources.

“Something I really like about Engage on the club leadership end of things is putting internal documents on Engage,” Davidson said. “For Bike Share, we have a big inventory because we have a lot of bike repair stuff and tools, and it would be really nice if we could get that list of stuff that we have on Engage.”

Bike Share Treasurer Emily Tekelenburg, ’24, recalled her personal experience of glancing over club events on MyAllegheny.

“I am not looking got events on MyAllegheny as much as I would a platform that is dedicated to events,” Tekelenburg said. “Instagram is always an easy one to communicate with students because you have that visual



Some student organizations have already started populating Engage with their events, as seen on the public landing page for Allegheny’s Engage system

way of communicating with people. I know I am a visual communicator so I think they are going to be similar, but you are able to diffuse more information over Engage than you are on Instagram.”

Tekelenburg said one way Engage can be improved is by having finance requests be submitted through the platform.

“It would streamline the process for ASG (Allegheny Student Government) immensely,” Tekelenburg said. “It is definitely an area where ASG’s connection to Engage could be improved upon and that would make it a lot easier for treasurers to request funds and also have a more solid understanding of how financing a club works.”

Stolar said that he will be working with ASG to get some finance information on Engage and will be improving the website based on where they notice weak spots.

“When we log into Engage, we have the highest level of permission, so certain things students see we won’t see because we skip it automatically,” Stolar said. “I don’t get to see the student side of the website, so sometimes I am creating things and just hoping it works and have to wait until I hear how students are looking at it.”

Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley added that improvements will be made to the site if students notice something is not working.

“If students can give us feedback on what needs to be improved, that would be incredibly helpful,” Yeckley said. “If students notice something with the website that isn’t working the way they expect it to work or that they think should work, to let Eric (Stolar) know so that we can get in to fix it.”

Some of the struggles with Engage have to do with the site being new for students, which means there is less activity on the site as it waits to gain traction.

Bike Share Secretary Julia Sonen, ’24, said she noticed that the involvement in Engage is uneven, with some clubs heavily engaging in the platform while others are not.

“Some clubs have put every single meeting on the platform, so if you look at the events page, it is filled with meetings for these two clubs for the rest of the year,” Sonen said. “I would want for a way to sort between regular meetings and events because it is something that I haven’t been able to figure out how to do and it is a little limiting.”

As Engage gains more active users, it will continue to alter and enhance the ways in which students interact with the campus community.

“I hardly ever like using Instagram and the only reason I go on there is because I am checking what clubs are doing,” Davidson said. “I would much rather do that on a website than on social media.”

Ask Ida: Second-week shenanigans *Wi-Fi, heat, and math, oh my!*

By **IDA TARBELL**
Contributing Writer
tarbell80@allegheny.edu

Dear Ida,

What should I do when my Wi-Fi goes out? It happens a lot and is really frustrating.

I’d love to tell you, but my Wi-Fi just went out!

All joking aside, Wi-Fi problems have been a serious issue on campus this semester with little to no end in sight. While we anxiously await better Wi-Fi, we unfortunately must try to adapt as best we can.

To start off, you should try to make sure all of your readings can be accessed offline. Whether that means downloading them or printing them, this will allow you to do your readings when Wi-Fi goes offline. Especially when you’re in class and Wi-Fi goes out, this is crucial!

For assignments that must be completed online, try to write your response in a non-online program first. This could be Microsoft Word (which you can get free if you use your Allegheny email) or Google Docs offline.

Otherwise, the only other thing to do is submit a ticket to the Help

Desk. While everyone is aware of the Wi-Fi issues on campus, having specific spots to pinpoint can be helpful.

Dear Ida,

I thought I was okay at math, but I don’t understand the entry-level class I’m taking very well. Got any tips?

I feel you with this. Math was not my strongest subject, and somehow Pre-Calculus made me feel even worse at math. Luckily, Allegheny has ways to help with this! There are plenty of tutors who may be able to help you, and Allegheny sometimes offers study sessions specifically designed for students to get help with math. Otherwise, do not hesitate to ask your professor for help! If all else fails, the internet has a wide variety of math tutorials.

Dear Ida,

My roommate has people over often, but she doesn’t always tell me and it’s kind of disruptive. What should I do?

First off, try to talk to your roommate about it. The two of you should have signed a roommate agreement when you first got here, and if that agreement doesn’t allow for this, it

should be addressed. It may be an uncomfortable conversation, but it’s important to talk to your roommate first. She may not know that it’s an issue for you. If the issue persists after a conversation with her, please talk to your Resident Adviser about it! Finally, if worst comes to worst and you just cannot take it anymore, talk to your RA about getting a room change. There may be another place for you with a roommate that is more suited to your needs.

Dear Ida,

My room gets really hot, especially in the evening or at night. Any tips for staying cool?

First off, I’d recommend keeping your window open at all times. This will allow any cool air from outside to come in and let any hot air out. Secondly, be sure to have a fan or two! If you have a fan and your room still isn’t keeping cool, try freezing a water bottle to place behind it. It’ll create cooler air and, at minimum, will help you stay cool in the short term. Finally, try to keep your door slightly open if all else fails. Allegheny has recently added air-conditioning units into the lounges of many dorm halls, so that means that the

hallways are going to be a lot cooler than your rooms. Remember, these buildings were designed to keep heat in, so your room will get hot fast! Keeping your door slightly open will help bring in some cooler air, but be sure to ONLY do it when you are awake, in the room, and if you feel comfortable doing so.

Dear Ida,

Should I join YikYak?

My complete and honest answer is no. YikYak has and will continue to cause harm on campuses. It has caused harm for the past few years; from causing a previous ASG presidential campaign to cease running due to rumors all the way to targeted harassment against students. There was even an incident last year where there was a perceived threat against the school, though it was later con-

“

Remember, these buildings were designed to keep heat in, so your room will get hot fast! Keeping your door slightly open will help bring in some cooler air, but be sure to ONLY do it when you are awake, in the room, and if you feel comfortable doing so.”

—IDA TARBELL
Class of 1880



SARAH ALLISON/THE CAMPUS
The upstairs dance studio is “better than therapy,” according to recent alumna Jenna Monteleone, ’23, and its windows offer “the best sunset view.”



INSIDE “MONTY”

The personal stories of historic Montgomery Gym, Allegheny’s dance hall

By SARAH ALLISON
Features Editor
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The 127-year-old Montgomery Gymnasium is as beloved in the 21st century as it was in the 19th. Ongoing appreciation for Montgomery from both students and faculty is mainly due to its home-like feeling and imperative resource center for all things creatively motivated.

“I know that when I’m in there I’m about to create, learn, brainstorm, investigate, move and most importantly feel good about myself for the time I spend inside,” said Sara Margo ’26.

The gymnasium was originally built in 1896, and the first blueprint plan for the building looked like an 11th-century medieval castle. Even if that plan did not go into fruition,

it had many other unique architectural elements and a plethora of uses that made the building so loved. Up until 1921 the building contained a balcony running track in the basketball area, before fire and safety regulations removed it, according to records of Montgomery kept at the Merrick Archives.

Many other activities occurred in this building for many years, including men’s varsity basketball games, physical education classes for women, entrance and final exams, a carnival, social dances, women faculty vs student basketball, pep rallies.

Due to growing enrollment in 1919, the gym was expanded and in 1920 it was remodeled.

“The student body was to raise the sum of ten thousand dollars while the balance of the expense was to be raised by President Crawford

and the Trustees,” a letter written to the trustees of the college at the time read. The total remodeling amount was \$100,000.

In 1954, the building was officially named after James Montgomery, and it became the first building to be named after a faculty member, rather than a president or donor. From there, the building was reserved for women’s sports in 1955.

Now in the 21st century, this building is as loved by the student body as it was for generations before.

“Montgomery holds a special place in my heart,” said alumna Jenna Monteleone, ’23. “The upper studio is better than therapy and has the best sunset view when you open the windows. It’s almost like a safe haven away from the business on the rest of campus.”

Dance classes in Montgomery are shaped around the student’s experience and ability. The building provides a sense of peace upon entering its doors, according to Margo.

“I know that when I walk in there, there is no judgment or feeling of the pressure my other classes put on me ... I’m happiest when I’m in Monty,” Margo said. “I also admire (Instructor) Betsy (Getshman) so much for everything she does for anyone who walks through those doors.”

This building feels like coming home, according to Fabich. Students can talk to Instructor Amber Mosbacher for advice in yoga, can take self-defense classes to ensure self-protection, and is an overall impeccable resource center for the campus for anyone who wants to get involved in the arts.

“People know this building, a lot

of people, they just don’t come inside,” said Beth Ma, ’26.

“That building has seen every side of me, and I’d like to think that it really knows me,” said Haley Fabich, ’24. “If walls could talk, these ones would be able to tell you about every single person who has ever entered through those front doors. Their struggles, triumphs, joys, sorrows, hopes, personal growth, and more.”

Montgomery and the dance program has shaped many student’s college experiences at Allegheny, both for those who have danced many years and for those who have never had any prior training. Montgomery welcomes anyone, according to Beth Ma, ’26.

“It would be a lot more different if I didn’t have this program,” Ma said. “The connections here are powerful.”



SARAH ALLISON/THE CAMPUS
Montgomery’s brick exterior hides a multitude of different artistic expressions, including these murals.



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Football finds win in season debut

By **KYLE CHANDLER**
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The Allegheny Gators football team took home a 39-36 overtime victory last Saturday versus the Waynesburg Yellow Jackets at John F. Wiley Stadium. The Gators thrashed the Yellow Jackets defense and combined for 498 total yards of offense en route to the season opening win.

For the men in blue, it was all smiles when they took a 26-7 lead into the locker room at halftime. But Allegheny had more work to do when Waynesburg’s late attempt at a comeback was successful during the fourth quarter — scoring 12 unanswered points in the last six minutes and 45 seconds to force additional play. The Yellow Jackets opened overtime with a field goal, but the Gators connected on a touchdown the next series to seal the deal.

While a team cannot start better than 1-0, and it was Allegheny’s first debut win since returning to the Presidents’ Athletic Conference, the team is keeping a cool head and staying level for what’s to come the rest of the way.

“After a day like Saturday, we view it as a glass half full,” Head Coach Braden Layer said. “Which means there is a lot to be excited about — 1-0 is the ultimate goal — but, implying glass half full for our guys means there is still room.



Photo courtesy of Allegheny Athletics

Jack Johnson, ’24, ready to let one fly during a home game last year.

There’s still room for growth, there’s still room for improvement.”

While the offense performed at an efficient level, they also registered 111 yards on 14 yellow flags. They fumbled three times and lost the ball once. Defensively, the Gators surrendered three 35-plus yard plays including a 99-yard kickoff return.

The future is bright with Layer at the helm, despite the week one hiccups. This is his first year as a head coach, but he is well traveled and has already made one pit stop at Allegheny, during the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

Layer also comes in with experience from Austin Peay University after working as the defensive coordinator and Denison University while performing as their quarterbacks coach. He got his first bid as an offensive coordinator with Sewanee University before getting the call from B.J. Hammer and the Gators. He followed Hammer up to Bowdoin College before receiving his latest job opportunity from Division I University of Dayton, where he was again the quarterbacks coach.

Layer expressed his desire to stay in one spot and said he was sick and tired of moving. He plans to be at Allegheny for the foreseeable future, but also has big plans in regards to revamping a program that has gone 10-20 since his last stint

here.

“I view this as an opportunity to reestablish Allegheny as a winner,” Layer said. “I was very lucky to be a part of that turnaround from 2-38 the four years before we got here as a staff to 6-4 by the end of our second season, so I think more than anything to take it because I know it can be done. I was really excited when I got the call and had the opportunity now to do it as the head coach. We got a ways to go, but it can be done.”

The pressure does not solely fall on Layer to get this team back to a respectable marker. While he has exposure to working on both sides of the football and takes the brunt of being the face of the coaching staff, there is a lot of trust that is put into the rest of the group. Layer hammered home the belief he has in his fellow staff stating that he does not want to micromanage other groups, and each assistant is the “head coach” of their own position.

There seems to be good chemistry between the leaders up front. Associate Head Coach Matt Cochran and Layer have already spent years working together at multiple different schools.

Another player that Layer will have to put a lot of trust in this year is Jack Johnson, ’24, who is into his third year at the starting quarterback for the Gators. The role of “QB

one” plays into more than just his own position — but Johnson has to know what the assignments for his teammates are for every play on the offensive side.

He had good rhythm on Saturday, as Johnson connected for 305 yards through the air with a trio of touchdowns. It was his fourth time throwing for at least 300 yards in his career and first since November of 2021. He completed just under 75% of his passes, and looked as though he had not missed a beat during the offseason. Even with his personal success, Johnson keeps his mind focused on the bigger goals.

“Coming out with a win is always a good feeling,” Johnson said.

Similar to Layer, Johnson conveyed the team’s goal of staying level-headed. While there were plenty of small victories that led to the ultimate win in the box score, Johnson realizes there is still work that needs to be done. To achieve their maximum potential, he discussed how the team is trying to stay away from a potential emotional rollercoaster. For the Gators, it is about taking the results for what they are, and not letting the highs get too high or the lows get too low.

Allegheny has an edge in bringing back as many players as it has with meaningful experience. There are 39 upperclassmen — including 19 seniors — which can help in maintaining a professional locker room while still getting an enjoyable experience. Many of these guys have seen collegiate action for at least a full season.

Of the veterans there is plenty of star talent, including Declan O’Brien, ’24, who has become a favorite target of Johnson. Last season O’Brien was an All-PAC Honorable Mention and averaged just under 70 yards per game. During the opener, he had 14 catches for 169 yards and a

pair of touchdowns.

“We have to take our matchups and put our weapons in the best place to win,” Johnson said. “Knowing where your playmakers are; you think of Declan, Austin White, ’27, in first college game made some plays, Ian Durci, ’25, on a slant, caught a touchdown. It has to do with them as much as anybody. (I) had a great time with the line up front — when it all comes together it’s easy for me to stand back there and throw it.”

Tre Worship, ’24, got the call for 34 carries on Saturday which resulted in 134 yards and three touchdowns. Worship came in as a fifth year senior during camp this summer, and was third on the depth chart despite starting all ten games the last two seasons. While Worship was able to lift with the team last spring, he was not able to practice when the new coaching staff arrived, which meant he had to shake some of the rust off.

According to Layer, he did not complain about being lower on the totem pole, and instead put his head down and got to work. He was able to impress the eyes of Layer, which earned him the right to start on opening day.

“He has emerged as a really good leader,” Layer said. “As a guy that the team really respects — when he talks, they listen.”

The Gators are implementing a new offensive scheme this year. Layer has given Johnson more freedom to throw the ball, while still keeping a good mix of the ground game in the equation. With new formations and new plays, typically comes more hiccups. But, Allegheny was able to limit that because they spend time in the huddle this year making sure they are ready for the next play.

Although it seems like a minor adjustment, it can make the world’s difference.

“

I view this as an opportunity to reestablish Allegheny as a winner.”

—BRADEN LAYER
Head Football Coach,
Allegheny College

Last year, Allegheny went no huddle, receiving their plays from the sidelines. With Johnson relaying the plays to the entire group, it gives the rest of the guys a chance to ask any last second questions to make sure everyone is on the same page.

It was not until the first week of August that this team could run plays together as a full group. Tempo and timing has been an emphasis for Johnson and company, and it paid off in week one resulting in a lot of enthusiasm for the team.

“Coach Layer always stresses that you have to have fun out there,” Johnson said. “That’s what keeps the energy alive and ultimately sparks big plays.”

Allegheny will be looking for more big plays this Saturday as they take on the Geneva Golden Tornadoes. It is the Gators home opener for the 2023 season, which has everyone fired up as they look to move to 2-0 on the year for the first time since 2010. The opening kickoff is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. at Frank B. Fuhrer Field at the Robertson Athletic Complex.

“We’re ready to get going,” Johnson said. “It’s been a long time coming and last year we didn’t have the season we wanted and we knew we were a lot better. With that whole year of preparation, conditions, workouts, we were all chomping at the bit to get out on our home field and we’re even more excited to do it again.”

High expectations for women’s tennis in 2023

By **SOPHIA GODZAK**
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The Allegheny women’s tennis team is ready to win another conference championship this year. The defending Presidents’ Athletic Conference champions were recently voted No. 1 in the PAC’s 2023-24 preseason coaches’ poll.

During the 2022-23 season, the Gators went undefeated in the fall and won 14 consecutive matches before defeating Franciscan University to win the PAC Championship. In the spring, the team continued to rally and won several more matches, including a win against Pitt-Greensburg in the first round of the NCAA Championships in May.

Five players were also highlighted in the coaches’ polls as players to watch this season for the Gators. Of the handful was All-PAC first team Jean-Arlette Legrand, ’24, along with two fellow returners Maria Londer, ’26, and Sabrina Rodriguez, ’25. Two first-year players Rei Estumi, ’27, and Emilia Grydniewa, ’27, made the cut as

well.

Emilia Grydniewa, ’27, was shocked to hear about how she was a highlighted player to watch for the season.

“It was weird and not something I expected at all,” said Grydniewa. “I didn’t know how to react.”

Grydniewa came to Allegheny College from Kyiv, Ukraine. She explained how her family had to move to France because of the war with Russia. Grydniewa’s father is still there and is not permitted to leave.

“The war has been difficult,” Grydniewa said. “Especially because my father cannot leave, but it’s important that I continue to tell my story and talk about my family to others.”

Grydniewa’s father was the main reason she started playing tennis. He introduced the game to her roughly six years ago. After some convincing, she gave it a chance. Since picking up the racket, it has been her goal to play at the collegiate level.

“I’ve always wanted to play in college, so when Head Coach Dave Hayden saw videos of me playing and reached

out I instantly knew this was my chance,” Gryniewa explained, “Now my new goal is to be able to play in big tournaments such as the NCAA and ITA.”

Not only were the Gators recognized by the PAC for their accolades, they were also acknowledged by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. The team was recognized as an All-Academic Team by the ITA during their 2023 season, and the ITA began its six-week 2023 tour at the Robertson Tennis Complex in Meadville.

Another standout player is Legrand. She made All-PAC first team in singles and doubles last season and was also an All-NCAC honorable mention for singles and doubles in the spring of her sophomore campaign. Being named as one of the captains this year, she has one big goal for herself and the team this year.

“We all want to win this year, but for my last year, my biggest thing for myself and what I’ll remind the team of is to have fun,” Legrand said, “We have some pressure on us this year since we are the

defending champions, but we just need to constantly remind ourselves to relax and play the game we know how to play.”

The preseason poll ranking is new to this women’s team, but their desire to defend their position is stronger than ever.

“We expected to get ranked first due to our performance last season, but it’s still a new feeling for all of us,” Legrandsaid. “We went from ranking seventh or eighth in the NCAC to being first in the PAC. It’s giving us more confidence

as a team to be able to play the matches our way and just enjoy what we’re doing.”

Over the weekend, the Gators played 27 matches and won 16 during their invitational. Hayden, who was unavailable to comment, ran the invitational and was responsible for recruiting teams such as Division II schools Daemen University and Edinboro University. The team was most successful in singles matches, where six Gators went undefeated.

Estumi, Grydniewa, and Rodriguez won their single

matches, and Arlette finished the weekend with six wins overall.

This season the Gators will be hosting seven events at the Robertson Athletic Complex. Their fall season started over the weekend with the Allegheny Invitational on Sept. 2 and 3, and the team will begin conference play against Geneva College on Sept. 13.

The women’s tennis team will travel to Gambier, Ohio to play at the Kenyon College invitational this coming weekend, Sept. 9 and 10.



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

Jean-Arlette Legrand, ’24, waiting to return the ball to her opponent during the Allegheny Invitational.