

# The Campus

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## ASG holds final GA of the year *Expected major capital project stalls*

By **SAMI MIRZA**  
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Students are set to lose control of part of their surplus fund, after the Allegheny Student Government ended the year without approving any major capital projects. At the April 16 General Assembly, ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, said that she hoped to have a project presented at ASG's final meeting on Tuesday, April 23. However, that presentation did not happen, leaving the project — an outdoor classroom space next to Pelletier Library — in limbo.

ASG leadership were told by the college administration that they had to spend at least \$200,000 of this year's roughly \$530,000 Surplus Fund on major capital projects for student use — or else the funding would be absorbed back into the college's gen-

eral fund, according to Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley.

ASG's General Fund is funded through the Student Activities Fee, a payment of \$290 per year included in students' final tuition bill. The General Fund supports standard club requests like event supplies and consistent expenses. At the end of the year, any unspent money in the General Fund is rolled over into the Surplus Fund, to be used for one-time club investments like equipment and uniforms.

Pre-pandemic, the Surplus Fund typically hovered around \$125,000. However, when Allegheny implemented social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, clubs stopped spending out of the General Fund. The unused funds ballooned the surplus to more than \$500,000 in the 2021-22 academic year, before dropping down to \$365,000 last year

and then back up to around \$530,000 this year, The Campus previously reported.

"The idea is, we don't want the money to sit in an account that just sits there for future students to use when, you know, the students who have been currently paying into it should get some sort of benefit from that," Yeckley said in an interview Wednesday.

### February

At the Feb. 6 GA, student leadership heard a pair of proposals from Chief Information Officer Katrina Yeung to install outdoor Wi-Fi connectivity across campus and at the Robertson Athletic Complex. The proposals, which would have cost around \$50,000 each, were not voted on by ASG.

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## Vietnam War memorial rededicated



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

The memorial honoring Alleghenians who served in the Vietnam War was originally located in the ravine by Bentley Hall, but has since been moved to the sidewalk above.

By **SAM HEILMANN**

Opinion Editor  
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Nearly 50 years after the end of the Vietnam War, a plaque memorializing Allegheny alumni who served in the war is being dedicated in a prominent location on campus. The memorial was originally dedicated in 2002 but was, until recently, located in the ravine by Bentley Hall.

A rededication ceremony will take place on Friday, April 26, along with moderated discussion with a panel of alumni who served. The panel, which is titled "Alumni Perspectives of the Vietnam War and the Sixties," will take place in the Tippie Alumni Center and will be moderated by Associate Professor of History and Black Studies Alyssa Ribeiro.

"The sort of gist of the event is to really hear about some of the personal experienc-

es of the era of the 1960s and the Vietnam conflict," Ribeiro said.

Ribeiro teaches a history class titled "The Sixties in America" and was able to collaborate with the students in that class on possible questions to ask the alumni panelists.

"Some of the questions that we've posed are kind of asking our alums to think back to the climate of Allegheny's campus during the 1960s and early '70s — sort of what their individual experiences of the war effort were like," Ribeiro said. "My students were also interested in hearing about what it was like when they came back to the U.S. after serving in Vietnam, because we sort of know that some veterans didn't always get the most welcome reception upon returning from what was an increasingly unpopular conflict at the time."

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## DeRose, Colabawalla add to next year's cabinet



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The 2024-25 Allegheny Student Government sits together at the cabinet table towards the end of this year's final General Assembly on Tuesday, April 23. There were no nominees for either of the finance positions, a new parliamentarian or a director of organizational development.

By **SAMI MIRZA**

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The Allegheny Student Government swore in a new president and vice president and approved eight members of next year's cabinet at the final General Assembly on Tuesday, April 23. ASG also heard farewell messages from its outgoing president, adviser and the college president

Much of the meeting was taken up by the transition of power. Just before handing her office over, outgoing ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, offered a few final remarks as head of student government.

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## Hillel holds Passover Seder

By **EVELYN ZAVALA**

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The Social Justice Passover Seder gathered the Allegheny community for an evening of eating symbolic foods, celebrating the liberation of Israelites and fighting against injustice in the world today.

On Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m. Hillel and the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life hosted the Passover Seder in Schultz East Alcove to bring the community together and fight for liberation. Passover is celebrated every year during the month of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar which is around April or March.

The Seder had a 15-step structure that included singing, blessing, symbolic eating and drinking. The symbolic eating included bitter herbs, wine, vegetables, horseradish, salt water, matzah and haroset. Attendees were able to follow along with the Seder through the packets provided.

For the festive meal, Red Brick Catering served potato kugel, matzo stuffed chicken, vegan matzo ball soup, Gefilte fish and sorbet. During Passover, Jewish people do not eat food containing wheat, barley, rye, oats, spelt, and small foods like rice, according to an article by Reform Judaism.

Treasurer of Hillel Charlie Schwartz, '25, explained the significance of the foods during the Seder.

"On the Seder plate, all of the different foods like the bitter herb are talked about in relation to the Passover story but it relates to a wider idea," Schwartz said. "The bitterness is not just the bitterness of the oppression of our people but also the bitterness of oppression and injustice in general."

According to an article in Time Magazine, the Passover story is about when Israelites marked their doors with lamb's blood in order to protect their firstborn children so that the angel of death would pass over them.

President of Hillel Sydney Hammerman, '25, added that this Seder had added significance in relation to Israel's current war on Gaza.

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## Thanks for reading! *Bid farewell to our seniors and meet our next editor-in-chief*



MIKE CROWLEY/THE CAMPUS

The assembled staff of The Campus at our staff meeting on Monday, April 22. For a full list of staff see page 3, and be sure to pick up a copy next year!

See [HEILMANN](#) | page 2, and [SENIORS](#) | page 4

### "MADAN SARA" SHOWING

Staff Writer AB Snyder, '27, reports on a recent movie presented by the instructor of ECON 438, "Gender and Economics."

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### BOOK SWAP TO BUILD COMMUNITY

Staff Writer Paige Kageni, '27, previews the English department's upcoming book swap.

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### SPORTS EDITOR'S FINAL THOUGHTS

Sports Editor Kyle Chandler '24, reflects on his tenure at The Campus in his final edition before graduation.

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**FRIDAY**  
H: 69° L: 48°  
Rain: 4%  
Sunrise: 6:23 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:14 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  
H: 65° L: 58°  
Rain: 88%  
Sunrise: 6:22 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:15 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  
H: 78° L: 60°  
Rain: 55%  
Sunrise: 6:20 a.m.  
Sunset: 8:16 p.m.

# Caflisch site could reopen as soon as next week as ground settles

By SAMI MIRZA  
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Gators could have access to the former site of Caflisch Hall as soon as Finals Week, according to college officials. The lot has been off-limits since the dormitory was demolished in August 2023 due to low student interest and high operational costs.

Given that the site's soil was churned over during demolition, it has taken some time for the ground to "re-compact" and not sink when someone steps on it, according to Director of Physical Plant Joe Michael.

"Unfortunately with such a mild winter there was a lot of freezing and thawing, so the ground was still 'soft' in areas," Michael wrote via text message Tuesday. "There were a couple of spots that if someone walked or stood there they would sink about 7 inches. We walked to (the) site yesterday and most of those locations have been remedied. There are still a couple of 'soft spots' but the ground sinks (or compresses) less than an inch."

With the ground "settled," Michael said the hope is to take the fences around the Caflisch site down by next week, opening it up for student use.

"For now, the Caflisch site will remain green space with the goal to expand activities from the gator quad to include Adirondack chairs and 'yard games,'" Michael wrote, referring to the wooden chairs that dot campus. "No additional sidewalks will be installed at this point to study how the space is used by the Campus community."

In September 2023, as contractors were removing the rubble of Caflisch, administrators sent out a survey seeking student input for what to do with the space. The responses, which Dean



SAMI MIRZA/THE CAMPUS

The former home of Caflisch Hall, as seen from the parking lot to the north of the site.

for the Student Experience Ian Binnington presented to the Allegheny Student Government in the first week of October, focused on outdoor features like hammock stands, a multi-use pavilion, athletic courts, firepits, picnic tables and a fountain.

"I actually think this all coheres into the general theme of the students that responded wanting a space to kind of relax, to hang out, to enjoy themselves in the outdoors," Binnington told ASG on Oct. 3. "There is very little desire to simply have a new lawn."

Binnington declined to comment for this story and referred The Campus to Dean for Student Life Trae Yeckley, who Binnington said was more involved in site planning than he was.

Yeckley said that ASG President Nicole Recio Bremer, '25, and Vice President Sam Ault, '26, originally considered the site for an outdoor classroom space funded by ASG. However, Yeckley said

Recio Bremer and Ault chose not to use Caflisch in favor of a different location on campus.

"They've decided to not put what their capital project is going to be on the Caflisch lot — instead, put it on the lot next to the library, the green space next to the library for noise reasons and for, kind of, safety reasons," Yeckley said in an interview last week. "We didn't necessarily want a big, you know, kind of outdoor-type thing right next to North Main Street."

At the moment, there are no plans for a permanent replacement for Caflisch, Michael said — though when such designs are created, student input will be considered.

"I'll be meeting with the new (ASG) administration over the summer, and this will be part of that conversation to make sure that students have input onto that," Yeckley said. "It's prime real estate on campus."

# Sam Heilmann to serve next EIC



HEILMANN

Opinion Editor Sam Heilmann, '26, will be the next editor-in-chief of The Campus, Allegheny's student newspaper announced Friday. Selected by a unanimous vote of Campus staff in March, Heilmann takes the position with two years' experience writing for The Campus, including three semesters on staff editing the opinion section. This year, she received a pair of awards for editorial writing, including an Honorable Mention at the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association's Student Keystone Media Awards earlier this month and as a finalist for at the 60th Golden Quill Awards hosted by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania.

Though she will formally helm her first paper as EIC in the fall, Heilmann has moved past the opinion

section since her March election. She started by spearheading hand-drawn illustrations for The Compost, the annual April Fool's edition published by The Campus, before leading coverage of "Eclipse Fest" at the Robertson Athletic Complex. Alongside News Editor Anna Westbrook, '26, Heilmann developed a special Earth Day edition of The Campus, published on April 19.

In the classroom, Heilmann is interested in studying social constructs in media as a Communications and Media major and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Global Health Studies minor. She can also be seen in the library, where she works as a speaking consultant.

When not working, Heilmann enjoys painting, drawing and reading.

## ASG from page 1

"I want to say how grateful I am for everyone's hard work this year," Recio Bremer said. "I know it was a hard year for everyone in different ways, and so I thank everyone for that. I thank my cabinet members who were always having my back and for all your hard work, and seniors, we're going to miss you next year; thank you for all you leave behind."

After swearing in new Vice President Ray Colabawalla, '25, and her cabinet, incoming ASG President Ella DeRose, '27, said that being elected president was "the biggest honor" she had received so far.

"I promise you that ASG will remain a forum for everyone to be represented," DeRose said. "If anything, let this presidency, let this cabinet be a message of hope that everyone's voice matters, that as ASG, we're here to listen to those voices and those ideas and that this institution will continue to work toward a brighter future for Allegheny students."

### Cabinet nominees

The main event of the night was the nomination and approval of DeRose and Colabawalla's cabinet.

The first nominee was Senator Chezka Therese Quinola, '27, for attorney general. Quinola cited her work this year on the Rules Committee as why she applied to the role, adding that she hopes to use the attorney general's control over club constitutions to invite more students to pursue their interests.

Next was Senator Aidan McGrory, '26, for director of sustainability and environmental affairs. McGrory, an Environmental Science and Sustainability major, said he wanted to work with incoming dining service provider Parkhurst to limit food waste by cutting down on the amount of food produced. Another priority McGrory identified was working to further shrink Allegheny's carbon footprint; he noted that the school achieved its net-zero rating through the use of "carbon credits" and proposed working to add more solar

panels to campus and motion-detecting lights to further reduce energy consumption.

There were two nominees for the co-directorships of Student Affairs. The first, Ben Keefer, '27, said he had seen a lot from "the regular student side" and wants to foster greater connections between the student body and ASG and develop further mental health resources for students on campus.

The second nominee, Senator Kyr Jordan, '25, said she wants to further promote connections between students and faculty, as well as use of the Engage platform. Both nominees said they also want to continue the work of Iris Styers, '26, and London Dejarnette, '24, who led Student Affairs this year in providing sexual health resources and working on food insecurity.

Returning to lead ASG's diversity and inclusion department will be current Director of Diversity and Inclusion Kaleialoha Froning, '25. Froning cited her work this year with the college's Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as why she reapplied, adding that she wants to continue working on a land acknowledgement statement for the college.

The nominee for director of Community Relations was another familiar face. Hunter Goerman, '25, said he has worked with the college's civic engagement office and in Meadville over the last few years, and that he wants to continue building connections between the college and the city.

Goerman is returning to cabinet six months after leaving it; he served as ASG treasurer before abruptly resigning last October, kicking off a public debate about the workload of ASG cabinet members. ASG's Senate shot down Goerman's replacement before splitting the treasurer's position in two with a constitutional amendment in December. The two newly-created positions were not filled for another two and a half months.

In a March interview, outgoing

Co-Director of Student Affairs London Dejarnette, '24, alleged that Goerman had repeatedly said his workload as treasurer was too heavy and that he needed more support. ASG leadership has remained publicly quiet about Goerman's departure, while Goerman himself declined to comment on why he left.

"This is something that happened in October, the people who were involved are aware of what transpired and I do not feel the need to publicly state why," Goerman wrote in an email Thursday afternoon. "At the end of the day it was for the best, it was not a position that was right for me."

As for his return, Goerman wrote that the community relations portfolio aligns more closely with the civic work and summer research he has been doing over the last few years.

"This is something that I hold close to my heart and is more in my wheelhouse than finance," Goerman wrote.

Anh Nguyen, '25, was nominated to lead ASG's Communications and Press portfolio. A Communication Arts major focusing on Media Management, Nguyen said she took a break from ASG this year — having served as a senator last year — and is looking forward to returning to ASG.

Nguyen received the only "No" vote of the night, from Senator Arilyn Hicks, '24. Hicks did not respond to an emailed request for comment.

The final nominee was Joe Leszczynski, '25, for chief of staff. Citing two years as an ASG class senator and terms as president of the sophomore honors society and the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, Leszczynski said he knew how student organizations worked on campus and wanted to use that knowledge to support members of ASG.

No nominees were put forward to be parliamentarian or director of organizational development. Also notably missing were any nominees for either of ASG's finance positions.

"There were no applicants for the finance positions," DeRose said in an interview after the meeting. "What we're really focusing on now and throughout the summer is garnering that interest from the people who have been involved in finance. The next step's really going into classes — econ department, finance, things like that — to find people who may be interested."

In the same interview, Colabawalla expressed faith in the return of individual club budgets, which he said would soften the absence of dedicated treasurers in cabinet.

"Ultimately next year, there's going to be budgets brought back, so it's not like we're going to, per se, need a director of finance and treasury on day one of the job, but we will have one regardless," Colabawalla said.

ASG will put out a club budget application by the end of this semester before holding budget hearings in the first week of classes in the fall, according to DeRose, who noted that financial guidelines and processes will be changing from this year to next year.

At the end of the day, Colabawalla said student leaders should not be concerned about receiving financial support next year.

"I would not be worried about not getting my club budget or getting club funding because there isn't a director of finance or a director of treasury, because those decisions don't rest solely on those two positions," Colabawalla said.

### Senior sendoff

In addition to inaugurating a new president and cabinet, ASG bid farewell to its seven seniors — Dejarnette, Class of 2024 President Sasha Holguin, Senator Arilyn Hicks, outgoing Attorney General Will Lowthert, outgoing Director of Community Relations Cam Leshner, outgoing Parliamentarian Ankitha Pamula, and outgoing Director of the Treasury Lyndsey Robinson.

Yeckley told the assembly that they

were gifting each senior a keychain — something one of Yeckley's bosses at their undergraduate alma mater of the University of California Irvine did when they graduated 18 years ago.

"This is so that, no matter where you go, whether it's your first apartment out of college, your first car, your first job that you get your keys to, your first whatever — that your undergrad is always going to be a part of it," Yeckley said, noting that their UC Irvine keychain is still a touchstone hanging in their office in the Student Life suite.

In addition to the keychains, Yeckley handed out graduation stoles to each of the seniors.

ASG also heard from President Ron Cole, '87, who announced that Recio Bremer would speak at commencement as part of an effort to improve ASG's visibility on campus.

"In other words, the student experience is bookended; when you start it as a student at Allegheny during matriculation, you hear from the student leadership, the president of ASG," Cole said. "When you graduate from Allegheny, you hear from student leadership ... the outgoing president of ASG."

More broadly, Cole offered comments on student leadership and its place at Allegheny.

"Leadership is messy — that's OK," Cole said. "Trust is built up with small increments, small steps and I see that happening, I've seen that happen over the last couple of years. I've felt it as president here, working with members of ASG, others across the student body."

At the end of the day, Cole said, his desire is to see a stronger ASG involved in campus conversations.

"My hope is that, over time, ASG will more and more be felt as the representatives of this campus, of the student body," Cole said. "I'm trying to promote that, I'd like to see that happen more regularly, because that is the best way — I believe — that we're going to make change for the better of everyone."

# PROJECT from page 1

After Yeung's presentation, outgoing Vice President Sam Ault, '26, told the Senate that they would be hearing "a whole bunch of ideas" for where the surplus could be invested, and that they did not want ASG to feel rushed to make a decision on how to spend the money.

"We want this to be a process where you all feel really engaged and good about what we're going to be investing in," Ault told the Senate at the time. "You guys have time to go and ask your peers, ask your classmates, ask people in your residence halls,

"What matters to you, which would you prefer?"

The project intended to be presented this week was an outdoor classroom setting in the green space next to Pelletier Library, which Yeckley said was based on student input for what to do with the Cafilich lot. It began development in the first week of February, according to Ault's report at the Feb. 13 GA.

"After having heard some feedback about major investment, I'm currently working with Physical Plant to begin thinking about a plan for a pa-

vilions/potential outdoor classroom space as a possibility for major investment, to share ideas with you guys a little bit more concretely about something like that," Ault said on Feb. 13. "I don't have a timetable for when that'll be ready to show you guys yet, but it's in the works as of last week."

Yet apart from Yeung's presentation, no further projects have been presented.

Yeckley told The Campus on Wednesday that ASG had been looking at how to spend the surplus since last summer, with the

conversation heating up at the start of this semester.

"I think just between working with students, working with outside agencies, the focus on the concert kind of took some distraction away from this outdoor project — and then all of a sudden, it was the last GA," Yeckley said.

Neither Ault nor Recio Bremer responded to a request for comment for this story.

### Uncertain future

Moving forward, the planned Pelletier green space is still large-

ly undefined. Yeckley said ASG still does not know how much the outdoor space would cost, and did not present on Tuesday because they had not heard back from their architect.

"We haven't seen the final design, or even a couple of examples of certain final designs," Yeckley said. "We've just started talking now about what it might look like."

Yeckley is not sure what will happen next, given that ASG has been asked to fund the projects by the end of the fiscal year in June. They do not yet know if

the project will be funded over the summer, if it will be voted on by next year's ASG or when exactly the surplus will be out of ASG's hands.

"What I can say for sure is that Sam and Nicole have been very much a part of this conversation up until this point, Ella and Ray are going to continue to be a part of this conversation, as well as other members of their Cabinet, so that we will ensure that representatives of the student population is the driving force behind this (project)," Yeckley said.

# MEMORIAL from page 1

According to "Through All the Years: A History of Allegheny College," the start of the war created a deep rift among students and between students and faculty. Faculty was also divided in the spring of 1969, a division that was "much based on age and former military service," wrote author and former College Historian and Professor Emeritus of History Jonathan Helmreich.

While some faculty sought

the support of students and aligned with their views, many students at the time clung to the slogan "Never trust anyone over thirty" and "made clear their lack of interest in most faculty opinions," Helmreich writes.

A vocal minority of students demanded the college be closed to demonstrate opposition to national policy. The compromise with administration was to create a "moratorium," in which an

afternoon of classes on October 15, 1969 was set aside for discussion and panels on the war.

Professor of English and Director of Writing Alexis Hart, who also serves as the faculty advisor for Allegheny's ROTC chapter, explained that it was not until recently that Allegheny had any interest in partnering with the Army ROTC program again as a result of the high tensions in the '60s and '70s. Opposition to

the war is also why memorials for Vietnam specifically are less common.

"Lots of buildings and stadiums and other places on campuses were named in honor of World War I and World War II veterans," Hart said. "But in the case of the Vietnam War, because of the lack of support for the war, especially in higher education, there was a lot of contention or opposition that

dispelled producing patriotic monuments."

The remnants of this could be seen on Allegheny's campus before the Vietnam memorial plaque was relocated to the top of the ravine, as memorials for alumni who served in other wars were more visible. Hart's "Meadville Military Matters" class analyzed the presence of memorials on campus and in Crawford county several years ago.

"My students noticed that while the placement of the Vietnam War memorial here on campus was in a very peaceful, kind of contemplative place down there in the ravine ... it certainly wasn't very visible in the way that, say, the World War I and World War II monuments are," Hart said.

Five alumni will be present at the panel, all of whom graduated between 1965 and 1967.

# SEDER from page 1

The bitter food was meant to taste the tears of both Palestinians in Gaza and the tears of Israelites who were enslaved in ancient Egypt, Hammerman said.

"I think it makes people aware not only of Jewish traditions but also of the ways Judaism can be intersectional," Hammerman said. "I overheard somebody say they had never thought of the Seder like this before."

Vice President of Hillel V Belcher, '26, said that it is im-

portant to remember that the Jewish community has a lot of diversity and to incorporate those stories and perspectives.

"I think sometimes we think tradition as being static and that it is something that can't necessarily be changed," Hammerman added. "But that's why I love being Jewish and Judaism so much because it is fluid and it can be changed and molded."

An example of tradition being updated is the inclusion of

an orange on the Seder plate to include and specifically represent LGBTQ+ Jewish people, according to Belcher.

According to Rabbi Victor S. Appell's contribution to Reform Judaism, the orange was chosen originally by Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College Susannah Heschel. The ritual included taking a segment of the orange, saying a blessing over the fruit and spitting out the seeds as a rejection of homophobia.

Professor of Political Science Sharon Wesoky said focusing on freedom for everyone as the theme of Passover is important right now because it has been a difficult year in the world.

"I think that it is just important to note that Passover really is a festival that's about freedom and liberation," Wesoky said. "So talking about social justice for everyone is a really relevant theme."

Jewish people feel that it is their responsibility to help those who are not currently free because they were freed from slavery in Egypt, according to Hammerman.

"We, in a sense, understand the pain of this, and therefore we have the responsibility to work against injustice," Hammerman said.

A way people can contribute to the cause of liberation is to stay informed and give as much

of as themselves as they can, such as through fundraisers, protests and having a conversation with somebody who holds an opposite position, Hammerman said.

"Judaism has a huge tradition of asking questions and not taking things at face value," Hammerman said. "And I think that by questioning the systems we were brought up into and questioning the things that you were taught to believe is the most Jewish thing a person can do."

# Ask Allegheny

What are you going to do after graduation?



Left: Olivia Kraus, '24  
Major: Neuroscience and Psychology  
Minor: English  
**"I'm going to grad school to get my Ph.D in behavioral neuroscience."**



Right: Emmett Manning, '24  
Major: Environmental Science  
Minor: Geology  
**"Right now I currently don't have a job. I'm looking to get a job in the environmental sector. That's my plan for right now."**



Left: Kabir Jipp, '24  
Major: Environmental Science  
Minor: Energy and Society  
**"We're just gonna do a national park summer. It's going to be awesome."**



Right: Bianca Sanchez, '24  
Major: Environmental Science  
Minor: Political Science  
**"After graduation, I'm planning on moving to Maryland to work in the Chesapeake Bay and do some watershed research."**

## THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

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### 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.

April 20, 2024

Theft  
On Campus  
Referred to Dean

Advertising (814) 332-5386  
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# From the Editor: Three lessons from four years



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I've been thinking about this goodbye column for years now, and it's taken many forms in my head.

Sometimes, it's an emotional farewell, a litany of acknowledgements and thank yous that end my tenure with bittersweet tears. Other times, it's a pointed critique of the student body, exploring how the greatest opponents to The Campus are often overzealous students pissed off that we did our jobs and told the truth.

In every case, I've imagined this column to pass on whatever wisdom I've accumulated over my time. I'll let you decide if I accomplished that.

In true Sami fashion, I'm going to write this too long and use subheadings, so without further ado here are three lessons from my time with The Campus.

## Lesson One: Listen

If you've read my work, you might know that I'm a bit of a numbers guy. So let's run 'em: I've got 160 bylined stories online, with an additional 51 photo credits. Add to that 40-60 Instagram posts — depending on how you count

— and my name's on around 250 different pieces of media across 89 editions of The Campus. There's a decent case to make that I'm one of the more prolific staffers in our paper's history.

Yet I would characterize this work less as "writing" or "producing," and more as "listening." For all the stories and headlines I published, I saw twice that number of stories embedded in interviews and cut out for length and focus.

The work of a journalist requires not just regurgitation of facts, but a deep understanding of the context around those facts. You don't "produce" a good story; you weave it out of the stories of those involved, and you can't do that without understanding where everyone stands within the community.

To write this very column, I read the farewell columns of editors-in-chief past. Their influence shines through; like Marley Parish, '19, and Ethan Woodfill, '21, I've tried to quantify my time on staff. Like Roman Hladko, '23, I'm trying to impress the importance of listening and struggling to focus four years into a single column. Like Sara Holthouse, '20, I can't help but think of the "Hamilton" song "One Last Time" as I count down the days to graduation.

All this is to say: no matter where you go, listen before you speak, and understand that which came before you. In an age where it's easier than ever to shout, stay quiet to hear what others are saying and let the people around you empower your own perspective.

## Lesson Two: Trust Yourself

Once you start listening, you'll start noticing how patched-together leader-

ship often is. For me, paying attention in the newsroom taught me a lot about leadership and reporting — including the consistency with which you'll have no idea what to do, and how often the spitballed answer you give turns out okay.

Case-in-point, this very section. I knew I wanted to talk about trusting yourself and trusting the process, but I didn't know exactly how to say it, afraid of getting everything wrong or producing a crappy farewell column. I stewed in this anxiety, aware that my deadline is in five and a half hours and I've got a laundry list of things to do. I needed something, anything for this column.

So I just started writing, thinking about how I can at least connect the piece to the opening lesson. Honesty is always a good policy, so maybe I can talk a little about the struggles of this very paragraph. Slowly, some sort of section — not the strongest part of this column, nor my finest piece of writing — comes into fruition. A-ha! Some meta-commentary to disguise my anxiety and pass on some wisdom to the youngsters.

I'm not sure how much of this section will make it past our dutiful editors. But it's something, an answer.

What I'm trying to say is that it's okay to not know what to do. If you're in a position of responsibility where people are looking up to you and expecting great things from you, it's probably because you're supposed to be there, because you are the best person for the job.

So trust yourself to deliver. Trust your own experience and instincts to guide you to an answer, and then take stock of what you've got and see if it

can be improved. Gather feedback from your team, and see if they've got ideas, and then implement whatever solution you have.

At the end of the day, there are a lot more right answers than you think — so trust your own gut to find at least one of them.

## Lesson Three: Rely On Others

To be honest, I never actually thought I'd make it this far. I always believed that somehow I'd screw it all up, that I would crash out of the paper and end my career in quiet ignominy.

This pernicious self-doubt, this fear of a certain doom lurked in every corner. With every story, every publication, I waited for some unseen Sword of Damocles to fall — a major factual inaccuracy, a forgotten source, a mental breakdown. I was, and in some way still am, convinced of the inevitability of my own failure.

Yet, even when I never believed in myself, others believed in me. The 23 papers that fill the newsroom wall, my endless list of article credits, this very column — none of it would have been possible without a long list of people.

First and foremost, my fiance Piper, who knows my stories better than I do and never stopped pushing me to be better; who helped me design and redesign my comp; who picked me up every time I fell; who I ironically met the same week I started with The Campus. She believed in me, even when I never believed in myself. Thank you, my love.

This fantastic, award-winning staff — Anna, Sam, Kyle, Zaynab, Henry, Eve, Noell, Ben, Emma, Joe, AB, Paige, Ray, Piper — you guys are The Campus,

and I'm so proud of what you've accomplished and thankful that you believed in me. You have forged yourselves into one of the greatest teams in our newspaper's 148-year history, and I cannot wait to see what your future holds after graduation or into next year. Those papers on the wall are your hard work; hold your heads high.

My predecessors — Sara, Ethan, Roman, among countless others — believed in me, and pushed me to be a writer, an editor and eventually Editor-in-Chief. They saw the potential in an awkward, nerdy freshman and taught him how to be the reporter he is today.

My successor — Sam Heilmann — believes in me. Under them, I know The Campus will be stronger and better than ever, evolving and growing for future generations of Gators. They reminded a grumpy old editor how to have hope in a new generation of journalists, inspiring me for two years with their quiet determination and unstoppable will.

Our faculty adviser — the unforgettable Mike Crowley — believed in me, at least enough to answer my countless questions and field phone call after phone call about the nuance of a single sentence.

Anything I have been able to do with this paper, I owe to this Campus family.

The lesson here is, even when the world seems to be ending, when it seems the hammer is about to fall, people will believe in you. Maybe it's a professor. Maybe it's a peer. Maybe it's the person down the hall. Maybe it's a younger student looking for guidance. But if you can't believe in yourself, let someone else believe in you.

For The Campus, I'm Sami Mirza.

# The importance of others' memory

The idea of loss is not new to anyone. As we grow older, a deep pit forms in our stomachs reminding us that one day we too will have to face the loss of our family. Many have already experienced such loss in varying degrees, while others have been blessed with several more years with elder loved ones.

However, the implication is that you "know" these family members. You meet them at least once in your lifetime. At a minimum, they know of your existence, your accomplishments, and maybe your age. You see them at family reunions, hear tales of their life before you were born, and you can feel the love surrounding them. Once these family members die they live on in memory, yes, but the memory is one of your own.

I could relate to my sister when talking about Grandpa. We both had not known him, so we both felt the same way about him. We love Grandpa Booker as much as we can. We'll proudly tell people how he wrote letters to my Baba (Grandmother) during their 20-year separation; how he truly loved my Baba in every way he could. As a child, I always found myself hanging around Grandpa's old hangout room— his "Den" — a place that is now my bedroom. My sister and I can share the trauma and pain of not knowing him, and we move on.

When it comes to other family members, things grow tricky for me. My father's parents both perished in a car

crash in 2000, three years before my birth. My sister, who was six then, had spent a stint of her lifetime knowing Grandma and Grandpa Martinez. I was stuck with the oral memories from others; a situation no one else in my family had to maneuver.

Yet perhaps the hardest, and most painful means of "living through memory" is when you were alive, yet too young to remember.

My Baba passed away in 2005 just a month after I turned two. She had gone in for a simple surgery that was botched, and there was no way to save her. The death was devastating to every Booker in the family, especially my Mom, sister, and uncle.

Baba's death provided some grace to my memory, one would think. After all, I was alive: Baba died knowing that I existed. She knew my name, she got to babysit me, and there are several beautiful stories about our interactions. She sewed me pillows and dolls, items I still have today to remember her by. While there is grief knowing Baba never watched me grow up, it should be less than the grief of her not knowing me at all. Yet, it isn't.

I do not remember Baba. I do not remember her face nor do I remember any interactions with her. Though I was only two, there's an innate sense that the grief I face for Baba is meant to be similar to my sisters when it will never be: the grief that comes with memory. The

closest memory I have is from her living room after her death, when I sat by the television while my family cleaned out the house. The grief is only amplified by frustration, as if I am punishing myself for not being sentient while she was still alive. It is not as if I can even ask those close to her, with her siblings and close friends long since passed as well.

The only way I can remember my Baba and Grandpa is through other people's memories, including their own. I've gone through countless letters, cards, and miscellaneous memorabilia — some dating back to before my mom's birth. In these artifacts, I can "feel" their personalities. I can see the way my Grandpa would dot his I's, and how he wouldn't use proper English because he was raised as a farm boy. I can get a feel for how they would talk, see nicknames people would have for them, and laugh at whatever time-appropriate joke they'd make. I'm able to know them in ways that are deeply personal, and so meaningful. Despite what I thought for most of my life, memory is not just oral. It is physical, as well.

Working at Allegheny's Merrick Archives has only amplified how I view memory. I've viewed hundreds of artifacts from Allegheny students during their time at Allegheny. I see the joy of students with their friends, the love students had for professors, and the emotional moments where you can feel how tragedy impacted the community. I've

read almost every letter alumnus Levi Bird Duff wrote to his friend during the Civil War. I read how their friendship turned into love until their inevitable marriage; a marriage that ended with her untimely death in 1877. With physical memories, there is a sense of humanity you don't get from general biographic sketches.

This is why I decided to begin making a "This Week In History" column: to contextualize current events using previous newspaper articles. Sometimes, you get amusing quips — such as ASG antics and the ramblings of previous editors-in-chief — but you also get important information about what is going on in Allegheny history. What makes such details unique isn't just the events themselves, but how Allegheny students chose to write about them. These newspapers are such a joy to read, and there is so much history in them, in more ways than one.

As I leave Allegheny College, I can only encourage people to explore its history. Not just the generic "history of Allegheny" but the history of its students. You'd be surprised just how many similarities you may have with a theology student in the 1800s. If not for learning the history, for learning the memories of those long since gone from the college. After all, we all have something in common: we decided, for whatever reason, to come to Northwest Pennsylvania to this small, private liberal arts college.

# A writer's farewell

I wrote for the newspaper. For the first time, I had to reach out to people and ask them for something: their time. After every experience, I found myself surprised at how welcoming the students and faculty were.

One of my favorite parts of being on The Campus was that I persistently had a common goal to work toward with other students and every week we would have a finished product to celebrate. Additionally, I appreciated that being a part of the paper made me a part of the community in a way I could show to my family back home.

From this experience, I have learned that there are so many stories to tell within this small community and it inspires me to stay curious. Coming from a big city, I never thought I would have the opportunity to connect with a community I am a part of in a unique way.

Overcoming some of the challenges I faced throughout my time writing for

the newspaper changed me in a lot of different ways. One of the ways is that I have a higher sense of responsibility to my community and I want to be more involved.

Throughout this experience, I want to thank my Editor-in-Chief and fellow senior Sami Mirza especially. From the start of my journey, even when he was not EIC, he guided me through the process of becoming a reliable reporter and it made me feel more comfortable in continuing to learn. As he is one of the last faces left in the newsroom, I can see how much he and I have grown and I am proud of the work we have been able to accomplish through journalism.

Lastly, I want to say that to anyone who is considering whether they should join, I say give it a try for a semester and explore if it's for you. Whether you are an artist, writer, photographer or social media expert, there is a place in The Campus for everyone.



By **EVELYN ZAVALA**  
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The Campus Newspaper has been one of the only constants I have had during my time at Allegheny College. When I first joined The Campus, I was a first-year student who wanted to become less afraid of speaking to people and through my experience, I gained confidence and skills I could not have gotten anywhere else.

I still remember how nerve-wracking it was to interview people the first year



Photo courtesy of Piper Booker

From left: Piper Booker, her late uncle Bill Booker Jr. and her sister Michaela Francis in 2018. As Piper feebly attempts to get in the photo, Bill congratulates Michaela on graduating from Ferrum College in Virginia.

# Ramadan and Eid away from home: A first-year international student's reflection

By **AKIDA NOOHA**  
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Celebrating Ramadan and Eid as a first-year international student at Allegheny College, located a staggering 8,000 miles away from my homeland in Asia, has been an illuminating journey, blending the sweetness of new experiences with the bitter pangs of homesickness. The transition from a bustling household, filled with the laughter and warmth of extended family, to a solitary existence on a campus in a foreign land, has compelled me to confront the stark realities of distance and cultural disparity. The customs I held dear — sharing meals, exchanging gifts and the collective joy of togetherness during the holy month — suddenly seemed like distant memories, making me question my decision to pursue education so far from home.

The absence of halal- or kosher-certified meat on campus compounded the challenges, particularly during Ramadan. The ritual of preparing suhoor in the dead of night, while juggling the demands of midterm exams, was a test of resilience. It underscored the logistical and emotional hurdles that accompany the observance of fasting far from the support systems we often take for granted.

However, amidst these trials, my role as the event coordinator of the Islamic Culture Association at Allegheny College offered a glimmer of hope and a sense of purpose. Collaborating with a dedicated team that included Hussain Minhas, '24, Hanan Hamed, '25, and Shafia Bhatti, '25, we

embarked on a mission to recreate a semblance of home for our Muslim brothers and sisters on campus. With the invaluable support of the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life, we managed to organize iftar gatherings three times a week. These gatherings transcended mere communal meals; they were a manifestation of our collective will to foster a sense of belonging and togetherness amidst the backdrop of isolation.

The campus community iftar, attended by around 200 individuals, was a testament to the spirit of inclusivity and harmony that my religion advocates. This event, coupled with the overflowing participation on the last day of Ramadan at the Prayer and Meditation House, evoked memories of "Chaand Raat" back home. The sight of people coming together, much like the gatherings where we apply henna and prepare for Eid, was a poignant reminder of what we had left behind, yet also a testament to the new bonds we were forming.

A particularly memorable trip to Erie Masjid on April 10 offered a much-needed connection to my roots. Encountering Bengali family friends and participating in my first Eid prayer in a mosque — a practice not common for women in my home country — was profoundly moving. The kindness of Assistant Professor of Arabic and Chair of International Studies Sami Alkyam and Associate Professor of Arabic Reem Hilal, as well as the presence of both international and non-Muslim students, further enhanced this experience. Their efforts to create an inclusive environment were crystallized in our celebra-

tory breakfast at IHOP in Erie and a dessert-making event at their house, underscoring the beauty of shared moments and cultures.

As the moon heralded the end of Ramadan and the beginning of Eid, the joyous celebrations on campus were a vivid reminder of the beauty of shared humanity and the bonds forged in the crucible of shared experiences. The Eid-ul-Fitr celebration on April 17 was not just a day of feasting and joy but a culmination of a month's journey of faith, perseverance and community building. It underscored the possibility of finding a sense of belonging and creating a family away from family, even in the most unlikely of places. The culmination of our Ramadan and Eid celebrations was the Eid-ul-Fitr celebration on campus on April 17. Surrounded by figures who had become my family away from family — including my professors, and friends — I was reminded of the special nature of our community at Allegheny College. This event chronicling our Ramadan and Eid experiences promises to be a beautiful testament to our resilience, adaptability, and the vibrancy of our collective spirit.

As I pen down these reflections, the memories of Ramadan and Eid at Allegheny College serve as a beacon of hope and a reminder of the strength that lies in diversity and inclusivity. Reflecting on these experiences, I find myself buoyed by a sense of optimism and determination. Despite the initial hurdles and the tangible absence of my family, the support and inclusivity I've found at Allegheny College have provided a new perspective on what it means to be far from home. As I look forward to the next three years, my hope is not only to fulfill my duties on the Islamic Culture Association board as a Muslim but to contribute as an inclusive member of the Allegheny College community. In doing so, I aim to bridge the gaps between diverse cultures and foster an environment where every student, regardless of their background, can find a home away from home.



Photo courtesy of Akida Nooha

From left: Akida Nooha, '27, Hanan Hamed, '25, Hussain Minhas, '24, Julia Sonen, '24, Sami Alkyam, assistant professor of Arabic, Shafia Bhatti, '25.

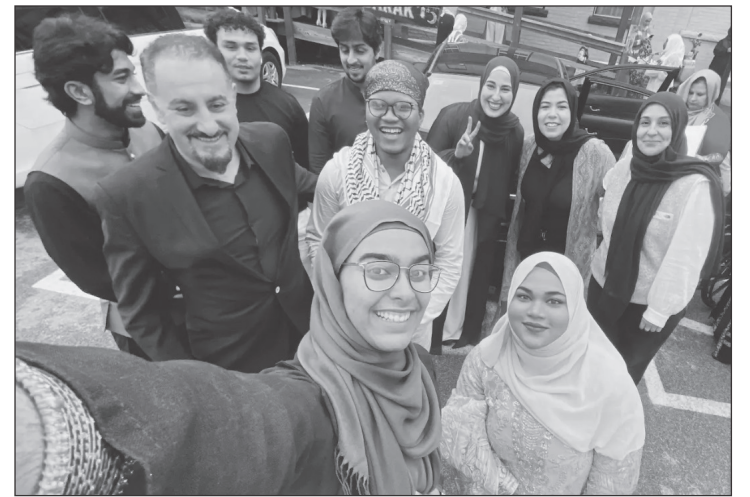


Photo courtesy of Akida Nooha

Students celebrate Eid in Erie on April 10.



Photo courtesy of Akida Nooha

Students serve food at the campus community iftar in the lobby of the campus center on March 22.

“

The joyous celebrations on campus were a vivid reminder of the beauty of shared humanity and the bonds forged in the crucible of shared experiences.”

—AKIDA NOOHA  
Class of 2027

## “Madan Sara” showcases economic power of Haitian women

By **AB SNYDER**  
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“Madan Sara” — a film about the tireless efforts of the Haitian women who distribute food throughout the nation's economy — was shown inside the Quigley auditorium on April 17.

The screening took place on account of Assistant Professor of Business and Economics Aisha Yusuf, as part of her ECON 438 class “Gender and Economics.”

The screening was also open to anyone interested, and a small group of students and faculty showed up to enjoy the film.

“I thought it was very insightful to see the daily lives of the Madan Sara women,” said Jackie DiGiacomo, '26, who is in Yusuf's class.

“It is so difficult for them to make a living when they have such little support from the government.”

The Madan Sara is a bird native to Haiti, known for its colorful plumage and birdsong.

“It's also the name lovingly used to refer to the women who serve as the economic bridge between buying produce and goods in rural areas and then bringing them to urban marketplaces to either sell themselves or distribute to other merchants unable to make the trip into the interior themselves,” according to a February news post from Medgar Evers College.

The 2021 documentary was filmed by director Etant Dupain and showed various women's accounts of the market, as well as their own livelihood.

“Madan Sara” won multiple documentary film awards, including the Berlin Indie Film Festival Best Director and Short Documentary and the Independent Short Awards Gold Award Best Women Short.

In one-on-one interviews paired with shots of vibrant foods and markets, the women told their stories. Each started with working from an early age and told their account of a hardship, violence and a risk to their lives.

As well as portraying the role of women in the economy, the film also examines the relationship between the government and the people by pointing out the complete lack of assistance for the markets.

“The women there are the backbone of the economy,” Yusuf said. “Many of them don't get recognized so I felt it was a good way to segue into that and also allow students to see firsthand what it looks like (in the working community).”

Yusuf felt that the film would be a good fit for the class as they had spent many sessions discussing the various challenges that women face from the divide between the job that they do in the labor market versus the job that they do at home. It was important to show students what women have to face just to be on par with what men have and deal with things such as gender wage gaps, Yusuf said.

“And so talking about the challenges that women face, I decided to show the movie just to show them what it's like in Haiti for women to do so much in society,” Yusuf said.

“It showcases their resilience and intercommunal activity, and for them to do all of that and in most cases to not be recognized.”

The “Madan Sara” screening was followed by a Q&A session in which audience members were joined by one of the film's producers, Lulaine Childs.

Childs was originally meant to attend the screening in person, but due to unforeseen circumstances he joined via Zoom.

One question that stood out to Yusuf was about the migration of students from Haiti. A part of the film showed that when students graduate from school they migrate to other places due to lack of opportunities and resources in Haiti. An audience member asked why this was, and if there was anything the government could do to bring people back in order to better the county.

Child's response pointed out that the fact that people migrating does not necessarily mean they don't want to be in their county, but rather that there are limited resources on top of having to look after their families.

Childs explained that staying might prevent them from pursuing certain opportunities, so people leave not in the spirit of abandoning the country but rather for access to resources that will help their family.

Childs also spoke to the filmmaker's and producers' desire for the film to appear very raw and authentically capture the everyday life of the Madan Sara women.

Yusuf wanted students and audience members to have the opportunity not only to familiarize themselves with the topic, but also to be able to ask questions and inquire about things happening in different parts of the world.

“There's so many things going on in the world, and sometimes you think you know but you don't,” Yusuf said. “I felt like showing the film would show them something that perhaps they had never seen, and I got the same feedback from the students. Some of them were shocked and very surprised by what they saw, but very grateful to see that.”

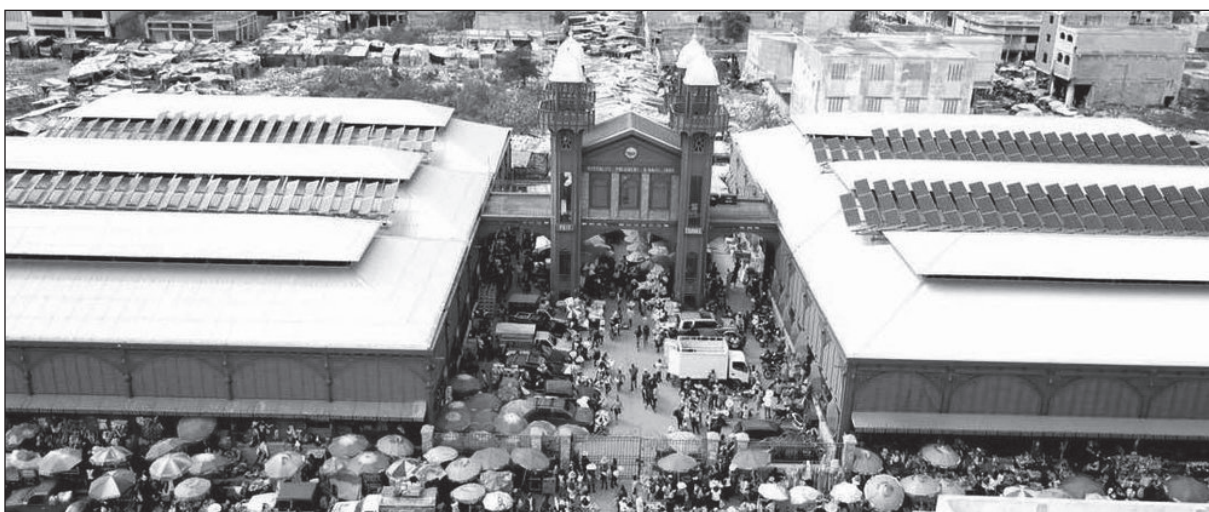


Photo source: madansarafilm.com

The Iron Market in Port-au-Prince, one of the many places where “Madan Sara” women drive the Haitian economy forward.



Photo source: madansarafilm.com

“Madan Sara” are Haitian women that connect the rural and urban economies of Haiti, and are the subject of a 2021 documentary of the same name.

# The Comedy Column: Rush, powdered gravy and drunk vultures

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**  
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The Meadville Tribune reported on April 17 that the Cambridge Springs Borough Council awarded contracts for paving and seal coating during their meeting on April 15.

“I’m glad we got the paving contract handled,” said one of the council members. “But why the hell have we given a contract to provide seals with coats? We don’t even have a zoo in town.”

A Vanity Fair headline on April 16 read “Republicans Rush to Defend Trump in Blatant Bids for VP Pick.”

Rush is from Canada. I highly doubt Geddy Lee or Alex Lifeson are aiming to be the U.S. vice president.

Three horses went missing from a Vernon Township farm in mid-February, according to the Meadville Tribune on April 19.

They are now believed to be stolen, according to the Meadville Police Department.

“I don’t buy into this kidnapping angle,” said Chuck,

an Assateague wild horse, whose cousin is one of the three stolen horses. “Ronny and his buddies are probably halfway down to the island to meet up with me and my pals.”

The Arizona Coyotes are headed to Utah, according to the Arizona Republic.

Owner Alex Meruelo can reactivate the hockey franchise if he can manage to find land and build a new state-of-the-art stadium in the next five years.

He spoke highly of the quality of players that have flocked to join the Coyotes in recent years.

“Everybody wants to play in Arizona,” Meruelo said (real quote).

The team’s record of 36 wins and 46 losses has not been up to par with the skills of the players.

“Sure, everybody wants to come here,” said the only diehard Coyotes fan. “But nobody wants to win here!”

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution on April 19 asked “What’s driving Georgians to vote?”

I would imagine most peo-

ple are using cars, some are catching the bus and a few going by train.

The Iowa legislature’s 2024 session has officially ended after an all-night marathon, according to the Des Moines Register on April 20.

“I’m glad they decided to work through the night to push some bills through,” said an Iowa resident. “I don’t see why they had to run a marathon while doing it, but whatever floats your boat I guess.”

China’s ambassador to Canada has left his post, according to Reuters on April 21.

Cong Peuwi has served since 2019 but has recently returned to China.

“It’s unfortunate that he left his post,” said the head of the mailroom at the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa. “He didn’t provide a forwarding address so I’m not sure what we’ll do with all his incoming post.”

ESPN reported on April 21 that former Pittsburgh defensive end Dayon Hayes has landed in Colorado from the transfer portal.

“I have no idea how I got to Colorado,” Hayes said. “I

was in my living room when a portal appeared and sucked me in. Next thing I knew, I was in the middle of Colorado.”

The Seattle Times reported on April 20 that the Washington GOP have endorsed Semi Bird for governor.

“He’s our best option,” said one of the delegates. “Whole Bird and No Bird were contacted first but both gave a Sherman statement, so we were left with Semi.”

The Toronto Police Service dispatched officers to the Ontario legislature on April 16 for reports of a suspicious package, according to CTV News.

The package was later determined to be powdered gravy.

“Thankfully we were quick to respond,” said a TPS officer. “We’ve set up a perimeter around the building as we wait for the package of instant mashed potatoes to arrive.”

Two vultures were found drunk and unable to fly in Connecticut, according to UPI on April 19.

The birds were taken in by an animal rescue group and

given treatment.

“I tried telling them I was good to fly,” said one of the vultures. “But they wouldn’t let me leave.”

They were released after an overnight stay.

“My head was throbbing,” said the other vulture. “Thank goodness we didn’t try flying home.”

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag attempted to downplay his team’s shortcomings on April 21 when it took a penalty shootout to defeat Coventry City after relinquishing a three-goal lead in the FA Cup semifinals.

In a post-match conference a media member called the performance embarrassing.

“I can’t see that word,” Ten Hag said. “We can’t look away from it but it’s not an embarrassment. As I say, it’s a huge achievement” (real quote).

I have to agree with Ten Hag. Being forced to go to penalties against a team that hasn’t been in the Premier League since 2001 and barely scrape by with the win isn’t an embarrassment. It’s grounds for termination.

Q: Do you enjoy being in service to the king?  
A: “Neigh.”  
Q: Why did you not inform the other soldiers of your plans?  
A: \*Squealing noise.\*  
Q: How would you describe the conversations of the Cavalrymen?  
A: “Whinny.”

## English Department to host book swap May 1

By **PAIGE KAGENI**  
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Allegheny’s English Department is hosting its inaugural Book Swap on Wednesday, May 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Students can stop by the lobby of Oddfellows Hall to swap out or simply pick up literature while enjoying a meal courtesy of the English department.

Haylee Pierce, ’25, had originally proposed the idea of a book swap as a final project for a communications course, citing the numerous textbooks left over from previous classes with no way to dispose of them.

“

Any students from any discipline can bring any type of book that they want.”

— JENNIE VOTAVA

Frederick F. Seely Associate Professor of English, Allegheny College

“No one wants to just take random books that they don’t need,” Pierce said. “So I figured that a book swap event would be the perfect thing for people who can’t afford books to get books that people had already bought for a class, or just for people like me to get rid of books.”

A common theme among the organizers seems to be building community with Allegheny students. Pierce was also inspired to organize the event specifically at Oddfellows to encourage students to go there more often.

The building, being farthest up the hill, finds itself isolated from the rest of campus activities.

“I spent a lot of time in Oddfellows,” Pierce said. “The community up there is good, but there’s not a lot of flyers in the buildings because of how distant it is from campus. So, the fact that the English department is also trying to foster community and then also get more people around the department, that added to what I wanted to do at the book swap.”

Pierce spoke with Frederick F. Seely Associate Professor Jennie Votava, department chair of the English department, to find out the requirements for hosting an event like this. Alexis Hart, professor of English and director of writing, who also spoke with The Campus, would respond and offer guidance on how to proceed with event specifics.

“The English department, we’re up at the far north end of campus, and so we don’t always get that kind of foot

traffic,” Hart said. “We did an event where we had folks reading during banned books week, reading banned and challenged books. That was a kind of way to make the English department visible on campus. The English department is generally trying to build community among our majors and minors.”

Votava also spoke to The Campus about the appeal of an event such as the Book Swap.

“The idea is that it’s not just for English students, although it’s hosted by us,” Votava said. “Any students from any discipline can bring any type of book that they want. You don’t have to bring books if you just want to come and browse the ones that others bring. You don’t have to be interested in books at all if you really just wanted to eat the free food.”

The English department will also be offering food and a space for students to relax after the end of the semester.

In the future, Pierce has plans to continue this event

every school year. The organizers are currently waiting for feedback from those who will attend to see what needs changed for next year. The goal is for students to keep books throughout the fall and spring semester, then bring them to the book swap for other students. In addition, graduating seniors can ethically dispose of books for incoming students.

“I proposed also that they put together a library based off the books that didn’t get given to anyone,” Pierce said. “So that people could go there even after the book swap.”

“This is the pilot, this is the first time we’re doing this, so we’re hoping to see what kind of engagement we get,” Hart explained. “We do have room in Oddfellows because there are fewer faculty using the offices there where we might imagine an open lending library. That is, for me, creating this space on campus where readers and learners get a chance to engage with each other.”

Several members of the British army broke free from the Household Cavalry on Wednesday morning, according to CNN.

The members are believed to have escaped during routine exercise, which consisted of six soldiers and seven horses.

Five of the soldiers took off after concrete fell off a conveyor belt in operation at a nearby construction site.

“Those buggers were nearly free, we should’ve let them leave,” said one of the soldiers who witnessed the escape. “One of them threw me off his back when he went trotting out the yard, he could have seriously maimed me!”

A press conference was held after the soldiers capture.

Q: Do you enjoy being in service to the king?

A: “Neigh.”

Q: Why did you not inform the other soldiers of your plans?

A: \*Squealing noise.\*

Q: How would you describe the conversations of the Cavalrymen?

A: “Whinny.”

For some students, finding textbooks or other written materials can be difficult because of certain financial constraints. Pierce, Hart and Votava are all optimistic about the future of the book swap. Because of this event, students can not only give away their old textbooks for students who need them, but will seemingly be contributing to a new tradition of goodwill and camaraderie on campus. It’s a great cause for all those involved, be it the literature, the food or the sense of togetherness it brings.

“I’d love to do this every year, or even start doing it every semester. Maybe having it at other times and trying to figure out when it’s the most useful for students to trade their books,” Votava said. “You could totally just pick up random books of interest to you. Having it at least once a year, maybe more often, and figuring out the timing are some downstream things we’ll think about.”

## Campus staff, alum, adviser finalists at Golden Quills

Two members of The Campus staff, a recent alum and their faculty adviser have all been named finalists in the 60th Golden Quill Awards. Hosted by the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, the “Quills” celebrate professional and student journalists from 29 counties in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

“Allegheny has been fortunate to attract a group of students with a talent and passion for journalism in recent years,” Mike Crowley, assistant professor of English and faculty adviser for The Campus, wrote in an email Tuesday. “I think the most recent awards reflect not only the hard work of those individual students but a culture of professional and ethical reporting fostered by the newsroom staff from year to year.”

News Editor Anna Westbrook, ’26, is a finalist in the student news category for their story “10 Years After Drug Charges, SAE Approved to Return to Campus.” Published in the Sept. 8, 2023 edition of The Campus, the story traces the planned revival of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Allegheny a decade after two SAE brothers pled guilty to possessing drugs and the fraternity voluntarily left campus.

“I remember what it felt like to be in The Campus’ Contributing Writers meeting for the first time, in the second week of my freshman year, and it seems like that wasn’t that long ago,” Westbrook said. “It’s really cool to have the opportunity to reflect on everything that I’ve learned over the past two years.”

Opinion Editor Sam Heilmann, ’26, is a finalist in the student editorial category for her story “‘Barbie’ is more than a blockbuster.” Published in the Sept. 1, 2023, edition of The Campus, Heilmann’s article examines the 2023 film “Barbie” as “accessible feminism” and a new cultural lens through which to see the world.

“I feel very honored and surprised and fulfilled,” Heilmann said. “It feels weird to have recognition for writing, when writing never really feels complete.”

Westbrook and Heilmann are no strangers to winning awards; both of their pieces were recognized at the Student Keystone Media Awards in Harrisburg on April 11. Westbrook’s story on SAE earned them an “Honorable Mention” in the “Public Service/Enterprise Package” category, while Heilmann scored an “Honorable Mention” for their “Barbie” piece and two

articles on how Wi-Fi issues impacted interpersonal connections last semester.

“It feels like I must be doing something right, even if in the moment that doesn’t feel true,” Heilmann said.

“I wrote a lot of big stories last semester, and a lot of them really tested my abilities as a journalist,” Westbrook said. “It feels nice to have the work recognized.”

A recent alumnus of The Campus has also been recognized: Roman Hladio, ’23, was named a finalist in the “Traditional Feature” category for a story on turtle racing in Ambridge, and in the “Medical/Health” section for an article on improvements in public health after the closing of the Shenango Coke Works on Neville Island. Both pieces were published in online outlet NEXTpittsburgh, where Hladio works as chief reporter.

“I’m really excited,” Hladio said. “I think I did a lot of cool work, especially after spending so much time as an editor and designer, getting to ditch being the details guy and just go out and do the boots-on-the-ground stuff was so much fun.”

Hladio spent two years as co-editor-in-chief of The Campus before graduating last May.

“Reading all of my peers’ work was a major crash course in what I think is good writing, having to make the decision on what to change and what to keep,” Hladio said.

Of his own 74 bylines in The Campus, Hladio cited one in particular — “Light in Odd Places” — as influencing his current writing style. The story, published in January 2023, profiles a theater production about Allegheny’s Oddfellows Hall.

“That’s just where I felt like I found the voice I’m still using in my reporting, and it makes sense that it’s a very traditional feature and both of the articles that are up for me are feature-y pieces,” Hladio said.

Crowley pointed out that a line can be drawn from Hladio to Heilmann and Westbrook in the lineage of Campus writers.

“Seeing Roman recognized for his work with NEXTpittsburgh at the same time as Sam and Anna — who were first-year staff members when Roman was a senior — is particularly cool,” Crowley wrote. “Only a few staff members will actually pursue a career in journalism, but they are carrying on an important tradition of serving the Allegheny community and

gaining valuable experience in the process. It’s easy to be cynical these days, especially for reporters concerned about the state of the news industry, but seeing The Campus staff do great things is a terrific antidote to that cynicism and definitely inspires me in my own work.”

In his own work as a full-time Meadville Tribune reporter, Crowley is no slouch. He has also been selected as a finalist for four of his own stories.

“I was pretty thrilled to see my stories recognized as well, particularly a series of stories I did on a Meadville public housing complex that has been plagued by bedbugs and strained relations between tenants and management and a long piece on conflicts over

“

It’s easy to be cynical these days, especially for reporters concerned about the state of the news industry, but seeing The Campus staff do great things is a terrific antidote to that cynicism and definitely inspires me in my own work.”

— MIKE CROWLEY

Assistant Professor of English and Faculty Adviser to The Campus  
Allegheny College

# This year in Allegheny history, as told by The Campus

By **PIPER BOOKER**  
Office Manager  
martinez01@allegheny.edu

## September 2023

- Campus Wi-Fi struggles as infrastructure update continues
- 10 years after drug charges, SAE approved to return to campus
- Smith out at IDEAS Center as DEI plans for the future
- College community remembers Cinna Krushel at vigil
- The emotional demolition of the Caflich dormitory
- Food Resource Center opens with fridge, food staples

## October 2023

- Local candidates visit campus to connect with students
- Cole inaugurated as 23rd president
- Paulson to race in Ironman World Championship Oct. 14
- Love at first 'cite': Allegheny's married couples
- 'Flesh Machines' review

## November 2023

- 'Engage' struggles to attract clubs
- Student Wi-Fi petition taken down after 700+ signatures
- ASG votes down Strobel for treasurer, Surplus set at \$503k
- AGES holds Gender Affirming Closet event
- Time capsule discovered in rubble of Caflich Hall
- Senior sendoff results in Gator win

## December 2023 - January 2024

- ALIC expands to serve Meadville community
- Allegheny recognized by DOE for commitment to sustainability
- As VP of Enrollment Management departs, demographic cliff looms
- New dean in town: Snyder starts as dean of library
- How to go home: Advice for first-years, from a first-year
- Nostalgia as a drug: Hollywood's fixation on the past
- Where art meets science: New installation in Steffee aims to inspire

## February 2024

- Students call for cease-fire: 80+ people rally for Palestine
- 'Allegheny is investing': Cole announces \$10m gift to renovate Brooks
- Stolar parts with college
- ICA hosts 'reopening' event in the PAM House
- Humphreys gives Weiss lecture on H. ducreyi

## March 2024

- Flo Milli to headline major concert
- Junior Appreciation Week: Food, fun and future plans
- The Comedy Corner: Unions, Filibusters and TikTok
- Baseball has thrilling weekend to go with set of wins

## April 2024

- Inside a tumultuous ASG: Students, adviser provide insight into difficult year in student government
- Parkhurst Dining to return after two years of Aramark
- 'Once in a lifetime': Hundreds from community celebrate total solar eclipse at 'Eclipse Fest'
- Student firefighters talk about their experience
- Krone to study Jewish community farming in Boston
- 'Wear and Tear' show features student textile art

# Relay for Life hosts all-night fundraiser

By **SAM HEILMANN**  
Opinion Editor  
heilmann01@allegheny.edu

Friday, April 19 was not an ordinary night in the Wise Center. In fact, 8 p.m. that night was just the beginning of a 12-hour fundraising event complete with games and prizes, a midnight buffet, an inflatable obstacle course and much more.

Hosted by Relay for Life, the all-night fundraiser was the first of its kind for the club. President and founder of Allegheny's Relay for Life chapter Dree Ziesler, '26, explained that all of the work put into the event was for a bigger cause.

"All of the money and all the proceeds that we get — from donations directly to the website and raffle and anything that we collect — goes directly to the American Cancer Society," Ziesler said in an interview prior to the event.

Funding, she explained, goes towards cancer research, "hope lodges," or housing for cancer patients and their families when traveling for treatment and emotional support in programs like ACS's 24/7 support

line. Last year's Relay for Life was the first of the club's and was held at Robertson Athletic Complex. The turnout, though, was limited.

"It didn't have a great turnout because it was hailing," Ziesler said. "So this is going to be our first time doing anything of this caliber, spending this much money, having this many people signed up— so it's really exciting."

Not only were there more signups and planned events, but the night proved to be a success early on in the evening, as donations had already doubled from the year prior.

"It's more than I could have asked for already and we're only an hour into it," said Secretary of Relay for Life Emma Cartney, '26.

Fundraising came through in several ways. A table with fair-like games sat in the lobby of the Wise Center, where attendees could pay to pick out small rubber ducks from a kiddie pool, each with a number that corresponded to prizes. On the blue courts, a basket raffle featured prizes of Squishmallows and handmade

blankets, a box of merchandise from Indigo Boutique and Botanica and a milk crate with Grounds for Change coffee and "coffee bucks," which can be used to purchase coffee at GFC. Attendees could purchase tickets for the raffle along with washers and beads on a string— something Alexis Pleskovitch, '23, explained is a tradition of Relay for Life.

"People can buy a washer with beads on, and every time they make a lap they get to put another bead on it," Pleskovitch said. "It's — to my understanding — a Relay tradition, so you bring it back every year."

Beyond the raffle tables, the blue courts were lined with luminaria bags memorializing family members and sharing sentiments like "screw cancer." Beginning at a balloon arch, individuals or members of pre-registered teams walked the paper bag-lined blue courts throughout the night.

"The point of a team is to attend the event together and kind of the ideal idea is to have someone walking the track at all times, kind of to support the idea that 'cancer never

stops," Ziesler said.

Caroline Maye, '26, was one of the individuals walking the court in the early hours of the event, and chose to bring along a book to read as she walked. Maye explained that she, like Ziesler, is a resident adviser, and came by to support the club and the cause.

"It's a good cause to support, and I figured, might as well get out and do something good," Maye said of the event.

Also in attendance was Associate Professor of Global Health Studies Becky Dawson, '00.

Dawson explained that she was in attendance "100% to support Dree who organized all of this, because she's my advisee and this is a super cool event, but also for a really good cause."

"I did train for triathlons pre-coming to Allegheny to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of my grandmother," Dawson added.

In the end, the club raised just over \$2,400 to be donated to the American Cancer Society.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

The fundraiser featured an inflatable obstacle course on the back of the Wise Center blue courts.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Andrew Germann, '26, fills out a raffle ticket for the Squishmallow and blanket after he donated to Relay for Life.

# Creek Connections holds annual Student Research Symposium



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

Attendees look at student research displays created by participants in the Creek Connections Program.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

The Creek Connections Symposium allows students of over 40 middle and high schools to experience hands-on science presentations.

## Sports Editor reflects on time with paper in last edition

By **KYLE CHANDLER**  
Sports Editor  
chandler01@allegheny.edu

Looking back on my time as a Sports Editor for The Campus, I cannot help but feel overwhelmed by the joy this experience has given me.

My first article for the paper came out in September 2020, titled “Keeping busy on campus.”

I began my career as a news reporter while working in the entry level journalism course at the college. Writing articles gave us an easy opportunity for extra credit in the class, so it was a no-brainer to sign up.

I wrote three articles that semester, and then took a year and a half off from the paper. When I returned, I came into a job on staff as the sports writer.

There is a long story behind my absence that would be a whole other article in itself, but my passion and desired future

of becoming a journalist drove me back.

Writing and speaking for a living runs in my family, and I wanted to continue the tradition from a young age — The Campus was a terrific opportunity.

I worked hard and wrote many articles before taking another step forward into the role of Sports Editor. Today, I have inked over 75 stories for The Campus.

Taking over the little nook in the back corner of our small office space for the past five semesters has taught me a lot about reporting, and at the top of the take home notes is how much work it requires.

Since filing in as the editor, I have operated the sports page alone for the last two years with minimal help and stories to be published weekly.

It does not look like much having one small page in the

back of the paper. But, having to manage one to three stories a week and layout when trying to balance academics, athletics plus the beginning of a broadcasting career adds up quickly.

There have been times where the work seems to pile on and days when I did not want to write. Still, I pushed on for two main reasons.

One, because it was my job and I signed up for the labor. Second, because of the incredible Editors-In-Chief The Campus has been blessed with over the past several years.

Ethan Woodfill, Roman Hladio and current man at the helm Sami Mirza have run the paper to the best of their abilities, and they all encouraged me to pursue this job further. I offer a huge thank you to each one of them in my final goodbye.

I am also thankful for the aforementioned workload.

It taught me to supervise my time, communicate better with my colleagues and gave me a chance to develop my craft. Deep down, I loved the grind.

Designing the page has grown to be my favorite part of creating the paper.

Having full control over the layout is nice. It allows experimentation with the look and creativity blossoms.

The page garners professionalism, but I have tried ideas now applicable in other passions of mine that enhanced my performance and ability.

One of my favorite builds is the photo collage stories of different events, piled together in one rectangle capturing several action moments. There are other designs that I will use elsewhere in the future as well.

It is hard to say what will happen to the sports section for The Campus in the coming years. Unfortunately, there

is no interest from others to continue writing in the sports department — a large reason why I have ran this section alone for the past two years.

It would have been a delight to mentor or work alongside other students here to reinforce the future of this department within the paper. I can only desire it to continue in some way, shape or form.

That is out of my control. All I have is the work created in prior years to look back on and be proud of.

This paper does not have the audience of the New York Times, but I hope my time here has informed, or perhaps even left a smile on the faces of a few individuals through the feel good success stories of one athlete or another.

Making a difference in the world matters, and my incredible journey with The Campus has left me wanting to do more



CHANDLER

of that in my future writing endeavors.

This position has opened the door for many possibilities, and it has already been a stepping stone towards writing for the local paper.

It has been my pleasure to write for The Campus. I thank God for giving me this chance, and wish for my next experience to be as enjoyable as this one has been.

## Hassenplug comes up big, sends Gators to Vegas

By **KYLE CHANDLER**  
Sports Editor  
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He has come through in the clutch on numerous occasions throughout his career. This time, on the biggest platform he has seen yet, Carter Hassenplug, '25, delivered a massive birdie on the 18th hole during the final round of the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championship to secure himself the individual win and the Allegheny men's golf team a conference title.

“I knew what the situation was,” Hassenplug said. “The shot went in, and all the emotions from the season were let out. Hugging the guys, tossing the club, taking the ball out of the hole, it was all surreal. We have been so close to winning so many times, and to finally get the job done was a really good feeling. The shot and scenes around it will be a great memory for the rest of my life.”

Allegheny had a one stroke

lead on the final hole. A par would have been enough, but the back-to-back PAC Player of the Year went out in style.

The event, taking place last Friday and Saturday, was played in Boardman, Ohio, at Mill Creek South.

After the results from the first two rounds of the tournament, held in the fall semester, Allegheny entered the weekend down one stroke.

Their deficit grew when the defending champions, the Washington and Jefferson Presidents, outpaced the Gators by five shots in the first round of the Spring portion.

Allegheny showed fight. The comeback began on day four, the final day of the tournament.

The team shot an impressive 293 on their march to first place, and three Gators finished within the top 15.

It was the first title for the men's team since 2006.

“I think the guys realized that they would be in the mix for a conference champion-

ship this season,” said head coach Jeff Groff. “The college golf season is a long journey from August until late April, and this team has maintained a level of focus and determination throughout the ups and downs.”

With the win, Allegheny earned a ticket to Las Vegas to compete in the NCAA Division III Championships.

Taking place from May 14-17, the Gators have two and a half weeks to get ready for the nation's best.

“All of us are really excited to be going to Vegas,” Hassenplug said. “We need to take it one round at a time. Making the cut is the first goal, and then once we do that, the obvious goal would be to win.”

While winning is important to the team, they also want to enjoy the opportunity.

“Overall, we all want to soak in the experience as much as possible and make memories revolving around the game of golf that will last a lifetime,” Hassenplug said.

## Men's basketball hires Sullivan as head coach

By **KYLE CHANDLER**  
Sports Editor  
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After a disappointing finish in the Presidents' Athletic Conference a season ago, the Allegheny men's basketball team wanted a change.

Earlier in the month, athletic director Bill Ross announced that Pat Sullivan was named the next head coach of the team.

“I was looking for a head coaching opportunity at a high academic Division III institution that also valued winning,” Sullivan said after accepting the role. “It is important to me that I am at a place where I know that the students are being educated at a high level and that they are being prepared for life-long success.”

Sullivan was also enticed by what the buildings could offer.

“Allegheny has an impressive campus and athletic facilities,” he said. “It really checked all of the boxes that I was looking for.”

Coming from the North Coast Athletic Conference, Sullivan has seen plenty of the Gators in years prior. He was formally the head coach at Wabash College and has strung together success over the recent years with the Little Giants.

Sullivan led his old team to three consecutive NCAC tournament titles and NCAA tournament appearances,

from 2021-22 to 2023-24. His first two years at the helm were in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was no postseason.

He amassed a 167-93 record in his five years at Wabash and also led the program to a record-setting 28 wins in the 2021-22 year. The Little Giants went to the NCAA Championships semi finals that season and were ranked No. 15 in the country at the Division III level.

“I learned that a player-led team is always better than a coach-led team,” Sullivan said. “The players have to be invested in the program if you are going to have championship-level success. It's a hard thing to achieve and not something that happens overnight. It takes a lot of hard work, commitment and trust.”

Sullivan also emphasized his piece in the puzzle as well.

“It's also on myself and the other coaches to create the right environment for this to happen,” he added. “We have to empower the players to become leaders and give them the tools and information they need to be successful.”

The Gators placed last in the PAC a season ago with a 4-18 record. In the 2022-23 campaign, they went to the conference tournament final, placing second behind Chattanooga University.

“We have to be consistent in our practice on a daily basis,” Sullivan said. “We will be organized and structured. We

will be very detailed in how we break everything down in practice and in preparation for games.”

His ideas of gaining consistency are centered around knowledge from his team.

“It's important that the players understand why we are doing what we are doing and how the pieces fit together,” he said. “It's a lot easier to be consistent when you are given the necessary information to understand what you are being asked.”

Understanding there was a lot of work to be done upon being hired, Sullivan wasted no time picking up the phone to make several calls.

“I knew the roster needed some work, as we had guys in the transfer portal that I knew I needed to try to get to stay,” he said. “The first thing I did after signing the paperwork was to start calling the returning players, and then once I finished calling all of them, I moved on to calling the recruits.”

Members of the athletic department told The Campus they were ecstatic to hear Sullivan was coming to Allegheny, and there is a buzz around the new look.

Hoops is in the middle of its offseason, but the grind has already begun for Allegheny.

“We have to be willing to outwork the teams we are playing against,” Sullivan said. “There's no substitute for hard work.”

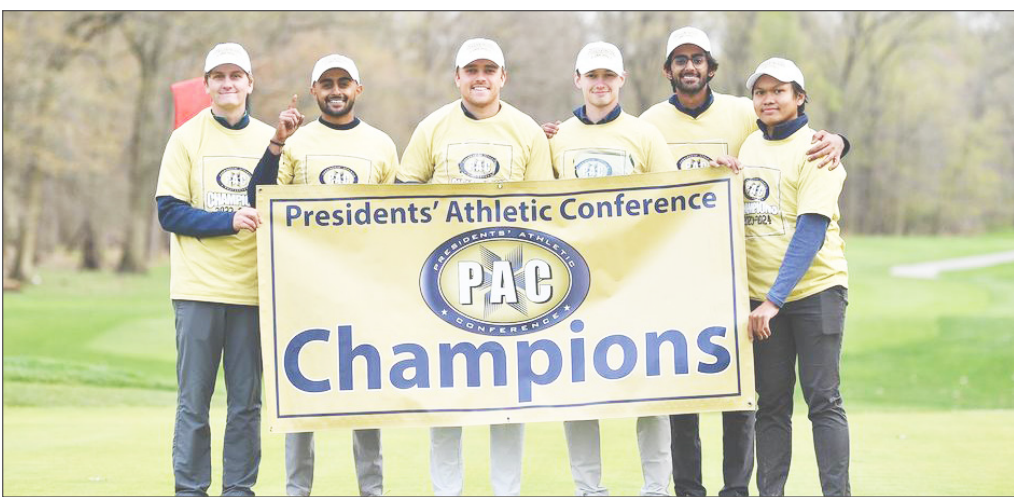


Photo courtesy of alleghenygators.com

The Allegheny men's golf team hoisting the champions' flag after winning the 2023-24 Presidents' Athletic Conference Spring Championships.



Photo courtesy of Travis Lerner

Carter Hassenplug (right) celebrating after chipping in on the 18th hole during the final round of the Presidents' Athletic Spring Championships.



Photo courtesy of alleghenygators.com

Newly hired Pat Sullivan in a huddle with Wabash during a timeout. He was hired by Allegheny on April 11 and will take over as head coach for the upcoming season.